

Community Policing Centres



What is Community-Based Policing?

Community-based policing involves the police working with local community groups and established community organizations to address public safety and security issues.

Community-based policing takes a proactive approach to safety concerns by addressing the social stresses that often lead to crime. This involves City departments co-ordinating their efforts with social agencies and the community through Neighbourhood Integrated Service Teams (or NISTs) to take a preventative approach to problems. This prevention effort can involve family counselling, youth support and/or recreation programming.

Community Policing Centres (CPCs)

CPCs are operated, run and maintained by individually registered societies with core funding from the City of Vancouver. Each CPC has an Operating Agreement with the City of Vancouver and with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD). CPCs are assigned a Neighbourhood Policing Officer (NPO), have a paid coordinator, and are staffed by community volunteers. There are nine Community Policing Centres in Vancouver.

CPCs are places where the Police and the community come together and, with community volunteers, engage in the delivery of crime prevention programs and activities.

These include:

- Block Watch
- Bike and foot patrol
- Speed Watch
- Community clean-up
- Senior safety education
- Community fairs
- Safety audits
- Pooch patrol
- Child ID
- Translation services
- Anti-graffiti programs
- Anti-fraud education.

There are two CPC offices that serve the Mount Pleasant area.

Collingwood CPC

The Collingwood Community Policing Centre (CCPC) is located at 5160 Joyce Street. The main crime prevention and enforcement programs offered by the CCPC include: Seniors Safe Tea program educates seniors on safety and security. Adopt-A-Block program combats litter in the streets and laneways. Bike Rodeo provides both police and youth interaction in a fun and safe environment to learn about bike safety, maintenance, rules of the road and how to share the road with other vehicles.

The **Collingwood BIA Guardians Program** is an initiative of the Collingwood BIA and the CCPC. The Guardians patrol the business areas in Collingwood to reduce and deter crime and address other issues such as panhandling, loitering, and suspicious activity. **Garden Watch** encourages people to get outside and be more active through gardening. Residents plant and maintain street and boulevard

gardens, meet their neighbours and share information. **Movie in a Park** brings residents out for fun filled nights in a park. It encourages neighbours to come out and meet members from the CCPC office as well as meet others in their neighbourhood. This program also extends into Mount Pleasant.

The **Whistle Blower** program was created by the CCPC, TransLink, Metro Vancouver Transit Authority Police Service, and the Vancouver Police Department for public transit commuters to increase personal awareness of their surroundings, especially for seniors or women walking alone at night and during the early morning hours.

Other crime prevention and awareness services at the CCPC programs include:

- Drug Awareness
- Constable Chip
- Court Watch
- Growbusters
- Meth Lab Awareness
- Community Outreach
- Community patrols: Bike, Pooch and Foot
- Bait Car (VPD)
- Block Watch (VPD)
- Speedwatch (ICBC)
- Safety and Audits (ICBC)

The CCPC also has an information kiosk in the Kingsgate Mall to provide greater neighbourhood connections into Mount Pleasant. Call the CCPC at 604-717-2935.

South Vancouver CPC
The South Vancouver CPC (SVCPC) is located at 5657 Victoria Street and serves the western portion of Mount Pleasant. The following crime prevention and awareness programs are unique to the SVCPC:

The **International Student Safety Project** develops tools to improve student safety and assist new students who may speak little English, are away from home for the first time and are particularly vulnerable as potential targets of crime.

Special Projects are developed and launched by the SVCPC as new initiatives and volunteers address current issues.

Other crime prevention and awareness services at the SVCPC include:

- Community outreach
- Community patrols: Bike, Pooch and Foot
- Bait Car (VPD)
- Growbusters
- Block Watch
- Meth Watch
- Speed watch (ICBC)

For information call the SVCPC at 604-717-2940

ICBC

ICBC provides on-going funding for many of the community-based initiatives operated out of the local CPC offices. These include: the pooch, foot and bike patrols, Speed Watch and Safety and Audits programs and the Stolen Auto Recovery (SAR) program.

Other Community-Based Policing Initiatives in Mount Pleasant
The Vancouver Police Department, in addition to supporting the local CPC offices, offers city-wide crime prevention and awareness programs:

Block Parents

Homes identified with an official Block Parent sign provide a safe haven for children in emergencies. The program involves members of the community, police, school board and senior levels of government.

Citizens Crime Watch

Volunteers patrol neighbourhoods looking for suspicious activity. Information is passed along to police coordinators who investigate. Currently, individuals who volunteer are assigned to an area in the city where they are most needed.

Other programs that the VPD offer include:

- International Student Safety
- Personal Safety
- Home Security
- Helpful Hints for Senior
- Crime Prevention Home
- Auto Crime Prevention
- Safety for Children/Teen
- Small Business Security
- Graffiti
- If you leave it, thieves won't

To find out more about these programs and services or the role that the Police Department plays in the City, please refer to the Fact Sheet on *Police Services*, or call 604-717-3535.

Sources

Vancouver Police Department
Collingwood CPC
South Vancouver CPC
ICBC