

**HAMLET OF FORT LIARD**  
**COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT**  
**COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER PILOT PROJECT**  
**FISCAL YEAR-END REPORT**  
**2023/24**



***Fort Liard, a hamlet in the Dehcho Region of the Northwest Territories, Canada, is a unique community with a rich history. Its Slavey name, which translates to 'people from the land of the giants', reflects its residents' strong connection with the land. Completing the Liard Highway in 1984 opened this remote community, making it more accessible to the rest of the country.***

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## **Councils Strategic Vision Statement**

“The Hamlet of Fort Liard is a progressive, healthy, and safe community that balances municipal services and programs to provide opportunities to the community while respecting the traditions and culture of its residents. We are leaders in fostering social integrity, economic development, and environmental sustainability.”

## **Councils Mission Statement**

The Council and staff of the Hamlet of Fort Liard are deeply committed to preserving our community’s rich culture while ensuring a prosperous future for all our citizens. We achieve this through quality leadership, accountable government, sound fiscal management, strong partnerships, and the delivery of high-quality programs and services, as well as the provision of core infrastructure.

# Together *for* Safety.

## Respond – Resolve – Prevent

**Community Safety** is a concept that aims to achieve a positive state of well-being among people within social and physical environments. It is about reducing crime and building a strong, cohesive, vibrant, participatory community. This means that the perception of safety is as important as measuring crime rates.

### Fort Liard as a safe community .....

**Leaders** and organizations have come together to plan and create programs that reduce injury and violence and improve community health and well-being.

**Where** people can lead an everyday cultural, social, and economic life, apply their skills, and enjoy well-being and the receipt of adequate services. Where people, individually and collectively, are sufficiently free from a range of natural and perceived risks centring on crime and related misconduct.

**Where** people who cannot cope unaided are sufficiently well-protected from the consequences of risks.

**Where** people can live, work, and play without fear or risk.

**That** is resilient, unified, and responsive during a community disaster.

**That** is safe and attractive to live and to visit.

## **Community Safety Statement**

“To have a progressive community free of crime, where residents feel they are valued, treated fairly, and are listened to and understand they have a role to play in promoting safety, preventing crime and social disorder.”

## **Objectives**

For a safe and engaged community where residents of all ages feel safe and supported.

For a community free of crime, where residents feel they are valued and have a role to play in preventing crime.

For a safe community of all cultures, the values and principles of The Dene Laws guide.

For a community where residents are listened to and are treated fairly through positive and non-judgemental support.

The Council recognizes a community safety officer as a professional with a level of training and designated responsibilities that promote safety, security, and support.

Build and maintain a working relationship with the RCMP and other Enforcement Agencies. Respond to non-violent, non-criminal calls. It functions as a reference for anyone needing outside support.

**Community Safety Officers** are crucial in maintaining safety and fostering positive community relationships.

**CSOs** provide operational support to front-line officers.

**CSOs** conduct obvious day and nighttime patrols throughout the community.

**CSOs** design and coordinate projects to reduce crime and disorder in specific areas.

**CSOs** provide a uniform presence in the community.

**CSOs** liaise with Acho Dene Koe, the school, the RCMP, and community groups to ensure the community's safety.

**CSOs** respond to safety concerns raised by residents, councillors, and agencies.

**CSOs** are essential to the response to community response to emergencies.

**CSOs** advise on community safety policies and initiatives.

**CSOs** oversee safety projects.

**CSOs** attend meetings with partner agencies and groups.



The Fort Liard Hamlet Council has enacted a bylaw appointing the community safety officers, recognizing them as qualified professionals -

**“WHEREAS** the Hamlet of Fort Liard desires to enhance public safety by maintaining a visible presence within the community, assisting the local policing authority in responding to ongoing, emerging public safety issues, assisting with criminal and non-criminal matters, and representing the Hamlet when there is an imminent and severe danger to public health or safety.”



Provide a physical and visible presence in the community.

- \* Conduct regular patrols.
- \* Provide contact information.
- \* Communicate the objectives of the program.
- \* Attending community events and meetings.

Respond to public concerns.

- \* Immediately respond to non-criminal safety concerns raised by residents, agencies, and the council.
- \* Report back to the complainant on the response.
- \* Communicate and interact effectively with multiple stakeholders in service delivery.
- \* Prioritize issues raised by the public.
- \* Explain processes to the complainants to further address their concerns.

Provide a safe environment for community residents.

- \* Raise awareness of the community's safety.
- \* Identify situations where there is a safety concern.
- \* Obtain a collective commitment to addressing safety concerns.
- \* Providing a safe ride home for vulnerable people
- \* Assisting in finding safe accommodation.
- \* Assist and communicate with elders to ensure their safety.
- \* Connect social assistance providers with persons in need.

Education

- \* Promote awareness of safety issues and concerns.
- \* Promote safe practices for vehicles, boating, and ATVs.
- \* Provide information on assistance for victims and social services.
- \* Provide information on pet care and safety.

Promote and Build community relationships with the RCMP.

- \* Meet with members to review issues affecting community safety.
- \* Share information.
- \* Look at ways to collaborate better to achieve each other's priorities.

## Develop and implement community safety initiatives.

- \* Prioritize initiatives that meet the strategic objectives of the council.
- \* Collaborate with high-risk groups such as elders and youth to develop initiatives responsive to their perspectives and needs.
- \* Identify how these groups will participate in initiative development.
- \* Oversee various innovative works that will reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- \* Participate in the development of community safety and Well-Being plans.
- \* Access external funding for community safety initiatives.
- \* Collaborate with ADK First Nations and other agencies and partners to meet mutual priorities.

## Elimination of Public Health and Safety Dangers

- \* Identify situations that are a danger to public health and safety.
- \* Represent the Hamlet to act or take measures to eliminate the danger.
- \* Give written or verbal orders to provide labour, services, equipment, or material to eliminate the danger.

## Participate as a member of the Hamlet Emergency Response Committee.

- \* Provide an emergency response to protect public health and safety by minimizing the event's impact on the community and its residents.
- \* Conduct regular patrols of the community during an event.
- \* Ensure residents are aware of specific emergency responses.
- \* Identify and report safety issues to the HERC.
- \* Assist in the protection of property during an event.
- \* Participate in Emergency Response Exercises.

## Manage all required safety program documentation.

- Maintain files of all officer logs and event reports.
- Prepare a monthly report on program activities.
- Submit necessary reports to Government Agencies.
- Administer the Community Safety Officer Program.





## SECOND YEAR STATISTICS

### STATISTICS ON INCIDENTS CSOS HAVE RESPONDED TO OR REPORTED

Incident Type	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	YTD
<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	3	3	1	11	11	3	4	5	14	21	12	20	108
<b>FALSE/NON-URGENT CALLS</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO WHILE ON PATROL</b>	11	1	2	3	16	8	9	7	8	10	4	13	92
<b>ASSISTING ANOTHER AGENCY</b>	0	1	0	7	1	2	1	5	1	1	1	7	27
<b>CRIMINAL INCIDENTS REPORTED TO RCMP</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	7
<b>SOCIAL DISORDER INCIDENTS</b> (Intoxicated Persons, Mental Health Crisis, etc.)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
<b>SAFERIDE'S</b>	7	1	1	2	23	8	11	5	11	19	8	18	114
<b>MINOR DISTURBANCES</b> (Noise Complaints, Fights, Person(s) Unconscious in Public, etc.)	2	1	0	5	1	0	1	0	6	2	2	5	25
<b>PUBLIC ASSISTANCE</b> (Welfare Checks, Elder Assistance, Stuck Motor Vehicle, Transport to Health Centre, Missing Persons, Safety Concerns, Escaped Pets/Livestock, etc.)	3	1	1	5	3	0	1	2	5	7	4	2	34
<b>EDUCATION</b> (ATV/Snowmobile Safety, Littering, etc.)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
<b>OTHER</b> (Fires, Problem Wildlife, MVA's, Vehicle Blocking Roadway, Dog Concern, etc.)	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	5	0	2	1	7	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	13	4	3	14	27	11	13	12	22	31	16	33	199

TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO. **199**

TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS FOR SERVICE. **108**

TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ENCOUNTERED WHILE ON PATROL. **92**

TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED TO ANOTHER AGENCY.  
(FIRE DEPT, RCMP, ENR) **7**

TOTAL NUMBER OF TIMES ASSISTING ANOTHER AGENCY.  
(FIRE DEPT., RCMP, ENR, etc.) **27**

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### APPROXIMATE TOTAL NUMBER OF KILOMETRES(KM) PATROLLED

MONTH	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
<b>KM'S PATROLLED MONTHLY</b>	1429.4	NIL	312	1269.1	3307	1943.7	3107.4	1937.9	1510.6	1791.1	1773.2	2161.60
<b>APPROXIMATE TOTAL KM'S PATROLLED FOR THE YR</b>												<b>20,542.9</b> km

Financial Statement

Fiscal Year 2023/2024

GNWT DEPT. OF JUSTICE FUNDING	303,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<hr/> 303,000.00
WAGES AND BENEFITS	227,384.59
STAFF TRAINING	15,233.89
CLOTHING ALLOWANCE (Annual)	600.00
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - Audit Financial	1,000.00
COMMUNICATION - Cell Phone	2,279.99
OFFICE - Rent	8,099.35
MAINTENANCE - Safety Officer Vehicle	11,517.34
FUEL - Safety Officer Vehicle	7,360.83
INSURANCE - Safety Officer Vehicle	1,030.00
RENTAL - Safety Officer Vehicle	2,433.43
GARAGE - Safety Officer Vehicle	1,000.00
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	490.50
STAFF UNIFORMS	3,299.66
PROGRAMS - General	880.42
ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	20,390.00
<b>Total:</b>	<hr/> 303,000.00

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY/CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVES**

### **Elders Signage Program**

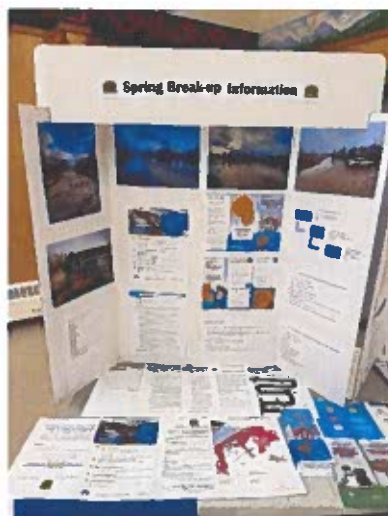
In the 2022/23 fiscal year, Community Safety Officers established our elder safety signage program, a simple numbering system for service providers to identify vulnerable elders more easily within the community in emergency and non-emergency situations. With the simple numbering system, we could establish a list containing the physical address of the dwelling, household members, contact numbers, health problems/disabilities, and first language. With the implementation of this program, the Community Safety Department aims to provide a feeling of safety for our senior population and deter crime targeted at vulnerable elders, ensuring their protection and well-being.



## Safe Ride Program

In December of 2022, Community Safety Officers officially advertised our Safe Ride Program due to the frigid temperatures. We have been providing this service since the start of our program, but it was just not advertised. The Safe Ride program offers transportation to those who feel unsafe walking under certain conditions, those susceptible to the cold, or those who are heavily intoxicated and having a tough time making it home. We record their name, the time we pick them up and drop them off, the location we pick and drop them off, and the start and end mileage of the trip. We are only operating this program within our standard working hours, hoping to expand these hours by onboarding a 3<sup>rd</sup> CSO and during extreme weather events.





## LOCAL EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION

The LEMO established under the community emergency plan provides overall direction and oversight during an emergency.

**Community Safety Officers are** LEMO members who will carry out their agency emergency responsibilities

- Assess and report on possible consequences associated with an emergency.
- Support site security and protection of life, property and evidence.
- Manage availability/access to emergency communications during emergency operations.
- Support the RCMP with coordination/control of ground search and rescue.
- Traffic and crowd control
- Emergency site management, when required to assist.
- Support evacuation operations.
- Assist with flood watch monitoring.
- Oversee support services to vulnerable populations during an emergency.

Every year, Fort Liard experiences flooding, prompting our Community Safety Officers to take proactive steps to provide the community with information on

preparing for natural disasters. Packages on emergency preparedness and our local emergency response plan, targeting residents with dwellings in the Natural Floodways as per NWT ATLAS mapping and those affected by the May 2022 flooding.



This year, there was little rain in the area, and drought conditions exist. These conditions are expected to exist into 2024 with an extreme risk of wildfires. The safety officers will play a vital role as members of the local emergency response preparations. They will be responsible for ensuring residents are safe and feel safe and that if the community residents evacuate, their homes will be free from vandalism.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships prove to be a fantastic way to be visible in the Community, to be able to connect with the residents and to answer questions about the ‘Community Safety Officer Pilot Project.’ In the continued development of this program, we hope to become more involved, especially with the RCMP. We are looking into crime prevention initiatives that promote community safety, which could be through environmental design, education, community watch programs, signage, and much more. Community Safety Officers want to be better connected and partner with the community to effectively respond to Social Disorder, prevent crime, and encourage safety.

- In the past year, Community Safety Officers have partnered with the Acho Dene Koe First Nation on various events to provide visibility, deter crime, and promote a safe environment for all attendees. Events have included pancake breakfasts, where CSOs volunteered to cook, Cabin Fever Days, National Indigenous Peoples Day, treaty celebrations, and many more.
- Community Safety Officers have partnered with the Hamlet Recreation Department to assist with many events, including cross-country skiing and Canada Day celebrations. CSOs also regularly attend recreational sports, including soccer, volleyball, and softball.
- Our CSOs have maintained a strong partnership with the Fire Department, collaborating on events such as Fire Prevention Week and responding to Fire Calls to provide scene security/crowd and traffic control. They have also actively participated in other events organized by the Fire Department, ADK, and the Hamlet, such as ‘Skate with Santa’ and the ‘Christmas Parade.’



- CSOs continue to work with Environment and Climate Change Officers to respond to wildlife concerns within the community.
- Our CSOs demonstrated their readiness to support law enforcement during a critical incident in July 2023. When RCMP ERT members were dispatched to the community, our CSOs were on hand to assist them in transporting them from the airport to the scene.
- CSOs partnered with the Fire Department and the RCMP to host a Bike Rodeo for youth aged 5-12. Prizes included a bike and gift cards for those in attendance. With help from Home Hardware Fort Nelson and the RCMP, bicycle helmets were given away to youth. We plan to make this an annual event.
- On February 27<sup>th</sup>, CSOs, the RCMP, and the Community Justice Committee signed a letter of collaboration outlining essential activities to address crime through prevention, community safety, and policing.
- CSOs have also been working with MADD Canada to promote their campaign against impaired driving.
- CSOs assisted the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer with monitoring dogs placed on quarantine due to biting people.
- CSOs partnered with the RCMP to hold a Community Check Stop on March 19<sup>th</sup> for National Impaired Driving Prevention Week. RCMP members conducted enforcement while CSOs provided education on Impaired driving and handed out MADD Canada material.



## TRAINING

To achieve the goal of being recognized as a Community Safety Officer as a professional, Hamlet would see the following training completed.

### **Training completed.**

The Community Safety Officers were trained in a 10-day customized “Solution Orientated Situation Management” training syllabus focusing on:

- De-Escalation
- Crisis/Mental Health Intervention
- Trauma-Informed Practices
- Fundamentals of Daily Operation

This training took place in January 2022.

CSOs attended the Community Justice Training Symposium in February 2023, which took place in Yellowknife.

Community Safety Officers also completed a 3-day training session on Rural Crime Prevention and Community Safety Planning through the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention.

LCSO. Steeves and CSO. Klondike attended a 4-week Level 1 Safety Officer Training program with the province of Manitoba. Assiniboine Community College Public Safety in Brandon, Manitoba, delivers Manitoba’s Safety Officer Program. This training was held from November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Both CSOs graduated from the training.

These were the topics covered.

1. Safety Officer Role and Responsibilities
2. Criminal Justice System
3. Criminal Code/Charter of Rights and Freedoms
4. Powers of Arrest
5. Provincial Statutes
6. Crime Prevention Strategies
7. Search and Seizure
8. Statements and Interviews
9. Writing Provincial Offence Notices
10. Restorative Justice
11. Note Taking
12. Supporting Police of Jurisdiction
13. Mental Health First Aid
14. Use of Force
15. Missing Person
16. Impaired Driving (Including Scenario)
17. Cultural Awareness
18. Gangs
19. Victim Services
20. Crime Scene Management
21. Child and Family Services
22. Missing Persons
23. First Aid
24. Criminal Intelligence Submission
25. Vehicle Stops
26. Surviving Cross-Examination
27. Court Room Testimony
28. Professional Ethics
29. Officer Wellness
30. Sharing Circle and Practical Exercises

From January 16<sup>th</sup> until January 20<sup>th</sup> LCSO. Steeves and CSO. Klondike travelled to Yellowknife to attend training on De-escalation and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To make the Community Safety Program a working partnership with the Community of Fort Liard residents. Engagements would include:

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, CSOs held a Forum on the Community Safety Officer program to ask and answer residents'

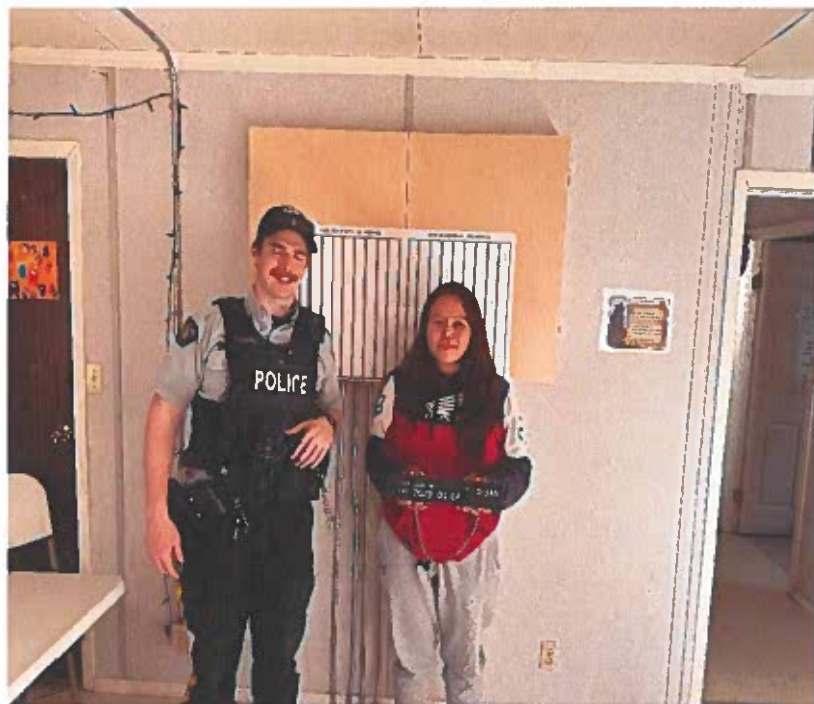
questions about the program and get an idea of what safety means to them. We held a lunch and had door prizes for those who attended. LCSO Steeves also delivered a presentation on the Community Safety Officer Program.

Subsequently, CSOs held a Community Survey on the CSO program that covered questions from the CSO Forum. CSOs also went door to door with questionnaires. These initiatives helped us gauge what the Community thought of the CSO program and what Community Safety meant to them.

**2022/2023 Fiscal Year in Pictures** CSOs participated in an annual Jail and Bail fundraiser for the Gathering Place, a safe place for youth to participate in recreational activities.

April 2023





Jail and Bail Fundraiser April 2024







MAY 2023 Forum on the CSO Program



On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, CSOs partnered with the Fire Dept. and RCMP to host a Bike Rodeo.



LCSO. Steeves assisted with one of the many pancake breakfasts Acho Dene Koe First Nation put on.



**CSOs alongside Fire Dept members during the New Year's Firework show.**



**L-R Community Justice Coordinator. Robert First, Cpl. James Charles and LCSO. Dylan Steeves with signed Letter of Collaboration.**





**CSOs alongside RCMP during impaired driving check stop for National Impaired Driving Prevention Week**

