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JUSTICE FEB 14, 2025 – 3:23 PM EST

Iqaluit RCMP 'specifically targeting' suspects in drug, firearm crimes

Acting detachment commander updates city council on recent seizures, staffing needs

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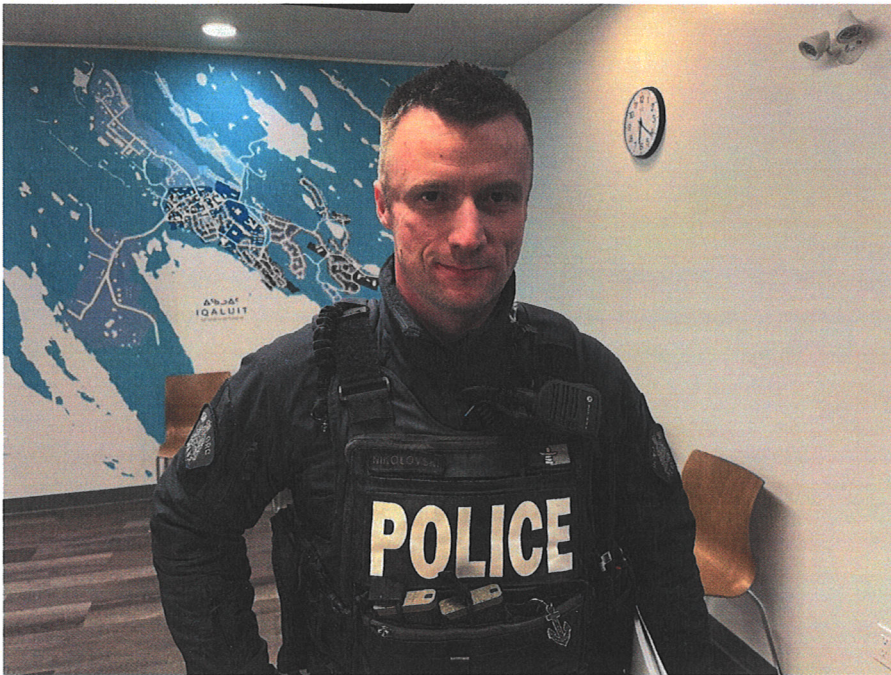
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Sgt. Vlatko Nikolovski of Iqaluit RCMP says the detachment is regularly short on staff, but frequently dealing with a high volume of calls. (Photo by Jeff Pelletier)

By  Jeff Pelletier - Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Iqaluit RCMP are on a mission to “put the bad guys away” as officers continue crackdowns and seizures of illegal drugs and weapons.

That’s according to Sgt. Vlatko Nikolovski, the detachment’s acting commander, who provided the RCMP’s November and December monthly updates to city councillors this week.

“We’re going to be specifically targeting offenders that we know that are trafficking drugs or in possession of firearms,” Nikolovski said at Tuesday’s council meeting, adding that his officers are doing a “great job” gathering information on suspects.

“We use that information to write search warrants and get into those [residences], and take those guns and




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The Nunavut Impact Review Board is hiring the following positions:
Screening Officer (NEW) • Interpreter/Translator

Priority consideration will be given to qualified beneficiaries of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Canadian Navigable Waters Act
West Kitikmeot Resources Corp. hereby gives notice that a submission has been added to the Common Project Search (under registry number 12409) pursuant to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act described herein and its description.
On ice geotechnical drilling at Grays Bay, Coronation Gulf, Arctic Ocean, Nunavut

Search

take the drugs and of course, put the bad guys away for as much as we can.”

He continued, “It’s not a secret that there is increased volume of drugs that are coming through the community, and we’ll do our best to encourage people to give us more information.”

Recently, Iqaluit RCMP announced two arrests after weapons and drugs were seized in a Jan. 24 search. Then on Feb. 4, two more firearms-related arrests were made after police stopped a vehicle in Iqaluit.

Coun. Kyle Sheppard thanked Nikolovski for the RCMP’s recent seizures and said it’s “concerning” how many illegal firearms are coming into the community.

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Continued...

COMMENCEMENT OF REVIEW

On February 14, 2025 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) commenced a Review of West Kitikmeot Resource Corp.'s "Grays Bay Road and Port" project proposal.

All information pertaining to the NIRB's Review of this project proposal can be accessed online from the NIRB's public registry at www.nirb.ca

MORE INFORMATION

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“I just hope that you guys are safe and doing all you can to get those off our streets,” he said.

Nikolovski spoke of the RCMP’s current staffing and the number of calls officers respond to. That was after Deputy Mayor Kim Smith asked how the RCMP is enforcing traffic and motor vehicle-related laws.

“The detachment is running short, pretty much all the time,” Nikolovski said.

“The watches are short, considering people are leaving, sick, and helping different communities around the territory below the minimums with members. And that stretches with the call volume that they’re getting.”

For both November and December, Iqaluit RCMP had 26 constables, five corporals and one sergeant available, according to a written report provided to council.

The number of calls for service varies throughout the week, Nikolovski said.



Sundays and Mondays may bring in 10 to 15 calls for service over an entire day. Starting Tuesdays, there might be around 30 calls per shift, and on Friday and Saturday nights that number could increase to 40 calls.



“You have, depending on the day shift or night shift, four or five members responding to those calls,” Nikolovski said.



L Posted by Maq-Pat on Feb 15, 2025

On paper RCMP are resourced to do traffic with out support from bylaw. In practice bylaw does almost all of the traffic.

The city is covering for a lack of support to the RCMP. Higher levels of government need to step up.

 15  7

[Reply to this message](#)

L Posted by Hard to hire on Feb 17, 2025


RCMP have the same problem that the medical profession does, and that it is hard to convince people to uproot their lives to move here. Many officers down south that have worked in the north tell others how difficult it is and how the police are viewed and treated in the north, and that is not encouraging if you have a shortage in the north.

 18  2

[Reply to this message](#)

Posted by Frodos Parka on Feb 14, 2025

My thanks to the Iqaluit RCMP. You have a very difficult job, and I want you to know that this member of the community supports the work you are doing. Thank you.

 80  6

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Posted by Job on Feb 14, 2025

Isnt targeting breakers of the law kind of their job?...