

School Resource Officer Factsheet

Prepared by Westlock Elementary School Advisory Council - February 2015

A School Resource Officer (SRO) is an RCMP officer who works in the school with students, administrators, and teachers to provide a safe and respectful school environment. SRO is a broad based program that focuses on crime prevention, builds positive relationships between RCMP, students, and staff and, if necessary, provides law enforcement.

FACTS—

- Discussions between PHRD (Pembina Hills Regional Division) and local municipalities, including the Town of Westlock, regarding an SRO have been occurring for years.
- The Westlock SRO, if created, would serve WES, RF Staples, Busby School, Eleanor Hall in Clyde, and the Pembina North School in Dapp.
- The model in Barrhead (where PHRD pays 50% of the SRO's salary cost and the municipalities share the other 50%) has proven to be a valuable partnership. PHRD believes that a partnership on the Westlock side would also be very valuable.
- PHRD, Westlock County, and The Village of Clyde are already committed to funding 76.3% of the SRO position!
- The Town of Westlock would need to pay only 23.7% of the cost of an SRO. This cost is approximately equivalent to 180 meters of sidewalk (the length of a block) or ¼ of the cost of a traffic light.
- What are other communities doing? Wetaskiwin, Trochu, Elnora, Delburne – funded 100% by their municipalities; Barrhead, Fort Assiniboine, Dunstable – funded 50% by PHRD, 50% by their municipalities; Parkland School Division – 25% by School Division, 25% by County, 25% by City of Spruce Grove, 25% by Town of Stony Plain.
- The Town of Westlock recently informed PHRD that they do not believe supporting an SRO is their fiscal responsibility.

Show Your Support for a School Resource Officer!

You can support this initiative by writing to, emailing, or speaking with the Mayor (Ralph Leriger - rleriger@westlock.ca) and town councilors (<http://www.westlock.ca/contact>) and asking them to invest in our children, our schools, and our community by supporting an SRO.

For more information about SROs contact: Jan Hoffart, PHRD School Board Trustee, at 780-349-5353 or jan.hoffart@phrd.ab.ca or RF Staples SAC executive members Amy Bizuns (amy.bizuns@phrd.ab.ca) or Stacy Howse. Thank you.