

Where The Rivers Meet Community News Letter

Provided by Tk'emlúps Indigenous Policing Services



Servicing the Indigenous communities of
Tk'emlúps te Secwepmc, Skeetchestn Indian Band and
Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band

What's New?

Good day and welcome to the first issue of "Where The Rivers Meet" news letter. Some have asked why is it named this, well that is where the Tk'emlúps Rural RCMP detachment is located so we thought what a great name!

This news letter will be to try and keep you updated on what is happening in the three Indigenous communities the rural detachment provides service to.

Your Indigenous Policing Unit

The unit is comprised of four members:

Constable David Bigcharles, Constable Mark Janus and our soon to be here member Constable David Dixon and Corporal Jim Toye. Below is a small biography for each member.

Constable Mark Janus: Hi I am a proud member of the Trondek Hwechin First Nation located in the Central Yukon Territory. My hobbies include mountain biking, working out and kayaking. I enjoy a good movie as well as being outdoors with my dog. I look forward to continuing our important work in the communities.

Constable David Dixon: As a new member to the area, I am very excited to get involved with all of the communities we serve. With 14 years of experience, some of my favourite memories have come from participating in community events and various sports. Looking forward to meeting everyone!

Constable David Bigcharles: I am a member of the Swan River First Nations. I was born and raised in the Fort St John area. I have been a member with the RCMP for 6 years and have previously served at Coquitlam Detachment and Tsay Keh Dene detachment prior to arriving at Tk'emlúps Detachment.

Cpl. Jim Toye: I am a proud member of the Stz'uminus First Nations on Vancouver Island. I have been a member of the RCMP for almost 24 years. I enjoy working in each community and visiting with community members, especially youth and Elders.

Tk'emlúps RCMP Mission Statement:

The Tk'emlúps detachment members are dedicated to providing a culturally sensitive policing services in a timely manner to all residents and businesses within the Tk'emlúps Detachment area.

Role of Indigenous Policing Unit:

The IPS members are mandated to provide service programs for your communities. In the past the majority of the programs have been run through the school, but with Covid-19 protocols in place this has been very difficult.

Currently Cst. Bigcharles has "The Minnie Moutie" program going which provides safety information to school aged children. He is working on expanding this program.

For the month of February, the Top Cop Reader program at the Skeetchestn Community School is being run, and hopefully Skelep School of Excellence, however we need to work around their Covid-19 protocols.

Cst. Janus is researching and preparing to start a community watch at Ttes. Training for this will likely have to be done virtually. More to come on this.

Cst. Dixon is transferring in from Penticton. Hopefully he will be in our office by mid March. He has a great back ground in community policing and I am happy to advise he is DARE trained so we will be able to have the program back in the schools.

How To Report an Incident:

The Tk'emlúps Rural RCMP are available to serve your policing needs at any time.

In an emergency you need to dial 911.

For a **non emergency situation, you need to call the detachment at 250-314-1800**. If the phone isn't answered at the detachment, it will switch over to the Operation Communications Centre (OCC) where you will be assisted. An officer will be dispatched to the complaint.

Safety Warnings:

BENZODIAZEPINE ADVISORY

Date issued: February 8, 2021

In effect until: March 8, 2021

ALL INTERIOR HEALTH COMMUNITIES

Description of drugs:

Multiple drug samples in communities across the region have been found to contain benzodiazepines

(benzos). These samples are often sold as “down”, heroin, or fentanyl - a wide range of colours and

textures have been identified.

INSERT BRIEF DESCRIPTION of what is known - what the

Risk:

High risk of overdose and can cause prolonged sedation, sleepiness, muscle relaxation, slurred

speech, loss of consciousness, black outs/memory loss. May not respond to naloxone – continue to

give breaths and seek medical attention.

Overdose response:

Naloxone does not work on Benzos, BUT naloxone will work on the opioid overdose symptoms. After

giving breaths and naloxone, the person may begin breathing normally, but may not wake up. More

doses of naloxone should only be given if the person is not breathing normally (less than 10

breaths a minute). If the person is breathing normally but remains unconscious, place in recovery

position and stay with them until emergency services arrive.

Reduce the risk

- Get your drugs checked - Benzo testing is currently available at the following the locations:

- o ASK Wellness: Kamloops – 778-257-1292

- o Supervised Consumption service: Kamloops, Kelowna

- o UBCO Harm Reduction Program: Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon 250-864-1431

- o Vernon Overdose Prevention Site: 250-503-3737

- o ANKORS: Cranbrook - 250-426-3383

- o ANKORS: Nelson - 250-505-5506

- o MHSU Overdose Prevention Nurses - Penticton - 250-462-1050

- Avoid using different drugs at the same time or using drugs and alcohol together.

- Don't use alone or ask someone to check on you. If you must use while alone, consider using the

Lifeguard app which can connect you with 911 emergency responders if you overdose. Download at the

App Store or Google Play.

- When using your substance start with a small amount, and then go slow.

- Use at an Overdose Prevention or Supervised Consumption Site, if one is near you.

- Know how to respond to an overdose - call 911, give rescue breaths and naloxone.