

# Where The Rivers Meet Community News Letter

Provided by Tk'emlúps Indigenous Policing Services



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

May 2024

**Tk'emlúps IPS RCMP Mission Statement:** The Tk'emlúps Indigenous Policing Service members purpose is to lead and bring proactive, culturally sensitive policing to Indigenous people and the communities in which they live, and to improve relations between Indigenous people, the RCMP and the Criminal Justice System through the strong and effective Indigenous policing compliment.

## Your Indigenous Policing Unit

The unit is comprised of four members:

Constable David Bigcharles, Constable Mark Janus, and Constable David Dixon.

As most of you know, Cpl. Toye is retiring as of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The RCMP are in the process of filling the corporal position for the IPS. Hopefully this process will be done by the end of May, but no official time line has been set.

**Please remember to invite Indigenous Policing to your community events.**

## Role of Indigenous Policing Unit:

The IPS members mandate is to provide service programs for your communities. If you have a need in your community, please reach out to us to arrange a talk / presentation / etc. We have access to many different resources to share with your community / group.

## What's New?

**Don't forget about: "Coffee With A Cop"** We host in each community. Events scheduled as follows:

**TteS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at Moccasin Square Gardens at 10 am

**WPCIB:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at band office annex building at 10 am

**Skeetchestn:** last Wednesday month at Band office gym at 10 am

Please come out to Coffee With A Cop and visit with us, ask policing questions, share stories while we share some refreshments! This is your opportunity to

come and ask us your policing questions in an informal environment! We look forward to seeing you.

## Policing Stats:

For the month of April, the breakdown for calls for service within each Indigenous community is as follows:

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc - 158

Skeetchestn Indian Band – 15

Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band – 3

## Upcoming Events:

Cst. Dixon has partnered with Skeetchestn Community School to deliver an Introduction To Law course for the remainder of the school year for the high school students. This has been well received thus far.

Cpl. Toye will run the “Top Cop Reader” program at the Skeetchestn Community School for the month of April. All classes competed for “top class” as well as each grade had “Top Cop Reader” in each class. The work of the children will be celebrated with a Pizza Party on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mrs. Zutz’s class excelled with reading over 12000 minutes for the month of May!

**May 1-31 Cst. Dixon will be running the “Top Cop Reader” program at the Skelep School of Excellence.** Three classes have agreed to partake and will compete for both individual Top Cop Reader and top class.

**May 4-5 – Deadman Creek Rodeo at Skeetchestn** – IPS have been asked to attend this annual event.

**May 31 at 6pm – Family Night at WPCIB** community Hall. The RCMP will be hosting a BBQ for the community, followed by sports / games / etc. at the community hall. **Please remember to reach out to our office should you have a need with your community / group / class to have a presentation.**

## How to Call The Police:

The Tk'emlúps office has office staff Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. Please call the [250-314-1800](tel:250-314-1800) number during these times

## In an emergency call 911.

After hours, please still utilize 250-314-1800, however it is very important that you listen to the prompts. **PRESS 1 TO BE TRANSFERRED TO NON EMERGENCY DISPATCH .**

If you require police assistance, please ensure you **DON'T LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THIS NUMBER** as it won't be checked until the next morning or until after the weekend. Again, if it is an emergency, please call 911.

**CRIMESTOPPERS** – can report crime **anonymously with Crime Stoppers**. To make a report you can go online to their site ([www.bccrimestoppers.com](http://www.bccrimestoppers.com) ) where you complete a secure and encrypted “online tip form” or you can call **1-800-222-TIPS** (8477).



## OKANAGAN RCMP RECRUITING YOUTH CANOE JOURNEY 2024

The West Kelowna RCMP Indigenous Policing Unit is conducting an Okanagan RCMP Recruiting Youth Canoe Journey on Okanagan Lake August 26 to 30, 2024. Our goal is to help build better community relationships with the RCMP and aboriginal communities, to further enhance recruiting of indigenous people in the RCMP, and to bring education to Indigenous youths regarding the importance of water safety.

The journey will start at Penticton and will end in Vernon. Centralized camp will be set up in Westbank First Nation Traditional Land.

If you have any questions or wish to help, please contact Cst. Rolly Williams 250 718-7717, Cst. Wes Sundstrom 250 575-2745, or School Liaison Officer Cst. Sherrie Lund 250 488-9442.



**Please save this date in your calendar. August 26 to 30, 2024. We are looking for drummers, elders, IPS members, and adult volunteers to help assist in this event.**

## Goodbye from Cpl. Toye:

Hello, I will be retiring from the RCMP after 27 years of service on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. I have had the privilege of working in TteS, Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band and Skeetchestn Indian Band since August of 2012. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the people and leadership in each of these communities. I have been able to make some great friendships and these friendships will be life long! I am sure I will see many of you in the future as my family and I will be remaining in Kamloops for now, but who knows as Mexico is always calling me!

No big future plans for me as of yet. I will be golfing a lot, as well as enjoying riding my motorcycles and making time to visit my family.

I very much appreciated each community taking time to recognize my service in your community. I have been very touched by the nice words and wonderful ceremonies and gifts that you put on for me. It has been my honor to serve your communities!

Sincerely,

Jim Toye

