

Citizens Take Action New Member Information Package

Who are we?

- We are a group of concerned citizens from Dawson Creek and surrounding area. We come from a variety of different backgrounds such as: local business owners large and small, property owners, mothers, fathers, community leaders, utility managers, landlords, and more. Our group consists of men and women, young and old from different backgrounds, races, and religions. We all have one thing in common – we care about our community, and we will stand up for it.

What are our goals?

- **Our primary goal** - to restore peace of mind to the hard-working residents of Dawson Creek and surrounding area by stopping property crime. Property theft and drug related crime has escalated in our community to what we believe are unacceptable levels.
- **Secondary goals** -
 - Hold our RCMP detachment to task to ensure they are doing everything in their power to help us achieve our primary goal of stopping / preventing crime in Dawson Creek.
 - Grow our group to as many like minded individuals as possible. The more people looking out for their community and others, the better.
 - Hold our Mayor and Council to task to ensure they are doing everything they can to aid the RCMP to offer max value to the taxpayers of Dawson Creek.
 - Put pressure on all levels of government and the crown for realistic punishment from the courts.

What have we been doing to accomplish these goals?

- Perform daily / nightly patrols in and around Dawson Creek and local communities – having a constant presence is key!
- Create a database of known criminals, vehicles and properties being used for crime in and around Dawson Creek
- When we witness something out of the ordinary, suspicious, or clearly illegal – notify RCMP of the situation
- Perform periodic “protests” in front of known thief / drug houses to prevent them from becoming too comfortable
- Help local landlords with evictions / uncomfortable situations with unruly tenants
- Show up to periodic Council meetings to discuss our concerns and goals with Mayor and council
- Write letters to RCMP officials / Sergeants/ Staff Sergeants and administrators regarding the lack of support / drive from our local RCMP
- Staying in contact with all Citizen Take Action members via our “Signal App” group chat and patrol chat, to keep the flow of information continuous, up to date and available to our whole group at all times
- Being there to support each other in situations that arise

Other accomplishments:

- Eviction of thieves / drug addicts from Alahart Hotel

- Discovery and recovery of a large amount of stolen property (trucks, quads, trailers, tools, generators, etc)
- Have made the RCMP more aware of who is committing crime, where they are committing crime, and where they are staying
- Noticeably reduced theft wave in Dawson Creek
- Putting pressure on city council. They recently agreed to write a letter to the Attorney General in hopes that criminals will stop getting a mere slap on the wrist

Safety First

What is patrolling?

- Patrolling with our group looks different from person to person. There isn't a set-in stone method, so if you have spare time to take a drive, that's where it all starts. We have radios available for use with other members patrolling at simultaneous times.
- Most activity tends to take place between 11:00pm and 7:00am. This isn't the only time things happen, however it's when most theft takes place due to the majority of people in town are sleeping.
- Some members use they're normal commuting time to make patrols. When picking up their kids or running around town, they'll take a detour past some of the known areas of activity, or a recent hotspot. There may be an active missing vehicle that they look for, or other stolen property. They may take the time to watch for new vehicles in and out of the known hot spots and take some pictures or videos of license plates or suspicious events or people.
- Some members will head out during busy times and patrol for 2 to 6 hours, hitting every street, alley, industrial area they can, or driving around some of the rural areas that are known hotspots. They may investigate some known heavy activity areas or pursue known crime in progress to gather information / report ongoing activity to RCMP.

You may come across suspicious people, people clearly on drugs, or people committing crimes. What to do?

- Depending on your comfort level, if you see someone suspicious, feel free to ask them what they're up to. Don't come off as aggressive because you don't want to start any unwanted altercations. If you're uncomfortable talking to people, you can message the group with radios or the signal group and let them know what's going on.
- Depending on comfort level, if you witness crime in progress, call the RCMP first. Use protocol below. You can follow from a distance if able to do so and wait for police. You don't have to try and detain them or put yourself in danger. It's always best to patrol with at least one more person if possible. Some cases, you may be able to scare the thieves away and stay at the scene until police arrive. Every instance is different, so always lean on the side of caution.
- If it's a serious situation, don't hesitate to call 911.
- Try your best to document everything if you can. When you witness something going on, take pictures, write down license plate numbers, descriptions of vehicles and people, what time and where. Everything you can. The more you can relay to the group or the police, the better chance we have of taking them down.

Note: At times, we've convoyed as a group in front of known drug houses and theft houses to let them know they're being watched, and there is a presence in town. This isn't always the case, however it's best to keep the criminals worried that they're being watched. Constance presence is key.

Group Communication

“Signal” (Secure messaging App used by our group)



- Once you have attended a meeting, we will retrieve your contact information. One of our group Admin's can invite you to our two group chats on the app – Signal.
- You can download the Signal App on your respective phone (i-phone or Android). You will have to enter your actual cell phone number to verify your signal account. It is free, encrypted, and secure.
- Once you have the Signal App running on your phone, you can use your invitation to join our group chats.
- We have two chats: Citizens take action forum (used for general information and discussion) & Citizens patrolling (used for patrolling and any information regarding current patrols) We ask that all non patrolling related issues stay within the forum chat.

How, and what to do when you're contacting the RCMP:

1. If it is a serious emergency – dial 911
2. If not, call 250-784-3700 – press 1
3. You will speak to a dispatcher. Inform them of the situation and what's going on. Provide as much information as you can to get their attention and help them know how to deal with the situation.
4. They will ask for your information. Provide them with it.
5. Most importantly, once they have your information- demand a file number. You will be the only person able to request information regarding that file once it's created and it will be added to their database.
6. If you can, wait for an officer to arrive and see how the situation is handled.
7. The RCMP makes change based off of statistics and metrics. The more File numbers in our town, the more help the detachment may receive in the future.