

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

## Greater Victoria School District Seeks Input on School Police Liaison Officer Program

**VICTORIA, BC** – The Greater Victoria School District is reviewing the School Police Liaison Officer (SPLO) Program. The District is asking for feedback from all members of the learning community through a survey to gather input on people’s perspectives and experiences with the program.

In September 2020, the Board of Education passed a motion to form a committee to review the SPLO Program. The committee represents students, parents and guardians, key stakeholders, Indigenous groups, police officers, senior administration and trustees.

Over the last year, the committee has participated in educational learning opportunities on anti-racism and culturally committed approaches. The committee hosted a speaker series informed by school communities and members of the public about their interactions with the SPLO program, including the collection of written and recorded submissions that could be shared with the committee to review.

As part of the next steps, the District wants to hear from the community about the future direction of the SPLO Program, including individual experiences and perspectives. The results of the survey will inform recommendations for the Board’s consideration by spring 2022.

“The Board is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment for all of our students and staff,” said Ann Whiteaker, Board Chair. “We are working hard to understand how best to move forward with the program to meet the needs of our diverse community, in partnership with the policing community. It is important we hear the perspectives and experiences of our learning community and encourage participation in this survey on the SPLO Program.”

For more than 30 years, police liaison officers from multiple departments have served as resources to District schools. They assist with education and drug prevention, school safety drills, community and sports events, and addressing school violence. Currently, there are 12 police liaison officer positions serving elementary, middle and secondary schools in the District.

The survey is open for two weeks. It will close on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 4 p.m.

**SURVEY:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SD61-SPLO-Program>

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### For more information contact:

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One *Learning* Community



# School Police Liaison Officer *Backgrounder*

School Police Liaison Officers (SPLOs) work in collaboration with the School District and School Administrators to tailor services for schools. Tri-District meetings with all liaison officers and supervisors take place five times a year, and individual School Police Liaison Officers meet routinely with their assigned school teams.



The SPLO program has been in the Greater Victoria School District for 30+ years



There are currently 12 SPLOs in the Greater Victoria School District



The Greater Victoria School District has more than 20,000 students across six communities and two Nations\*

\*Victoria, Esquimalt, Saanich, Oak Bay, View Royal, Highlands, Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation.

## The role of a School Police Liaison Officer includes:

- Relationship building
- Program development
- Completing Violent Threat Risk Assessments with School and District Teams
- Supporting schools during aftermath of Critical Incidents (i.e. student deaths)
- Training and drills for Lockdown and Hold and Secure Procedures
- Guest speaker in subject specific classes (i.e. Law 12)
- Class discussions on topical issues such as Substance Use, Consent, Bullying, Cyberbullying, Sextortion, Age of Consent, and Halloween Safety



## The role of a Police Officer includes:

- Police Officers focus on patrol and enforcement
- They are contacted through emergency or nonemergency lines (having no prior relationship to schools) in the event of any illegal activities impacting the school (trespassing, threats, potential weapons, assaults etc.)

**Police Officers and SPLOs wear the same uniform but perform different roles in our school community!**

# School Police Liaison Officer Backgrounder

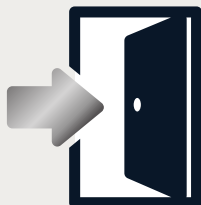
## School Police Liaison Officers (SPLOs) are in the following schools:

POLICE DEPARTMENT:	ELEMENTARY:	MIDDLE:	SECONDARY:	OTHER:
<b>VICTORIA / ESQUIMALT</b> <i>Currently no SPLOs*</i>	Macaulay Vic West George Jay Oaklands James Bay Quadra South Park Margaret Jenkins Sir James Douglas	Rockheights Central	Esquimalt Vic High SJ Burnside	Victor
<b>SAANICH</b> 4 SPLOs 1 supervisor 2 Youth Team Officers	Braefoot Lakehill Rogers Strawberry Vale Marigold McKenzie Northridge Tillicum Hillcrest Torquay Cloverdale Doncaster Campus View Craigflower Frank Hobbs	Cedar Hill Colquitz Glanford Arbutus Gordon Head Lansdowne	Spectrum Reynolds Mt Doug Lambrick Park	Ledger
<b>OAK BAY</b> 1 SPLO	Willows	Monterey	Oak Bay	
<b>RCMP</b> 1 Supervisor 1 First Nations Policing Position 2 Constables for Schools	Eagle View View Royal Craigflower (First Nations Policing Position, supporting Songhees and Esquimalt Nations)	Shoreline		

\*Note: In the 2018/19 school year, budget restraints in Victoria PD required deployment of officers to the front lines. Since the removal of SPLOs in the municipalities of Victoria and Esquimalt, patrol officers now go into the schools.

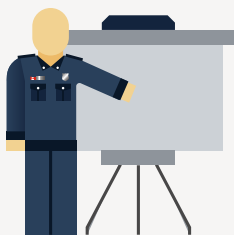
# School Police Liaison Officer *Backgrounder*

## What is Required to Become a School Police Liaison Officer?



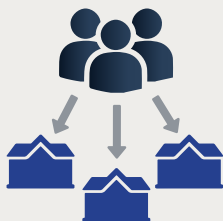
### Applications are Taken

Each department invites police officers to apply for a term position as a SPLO (terms may differ in length depending on department).



### Specialized Training

Successful candidates are then given specialized training in Violent Threat Risk Assessment for Youth, Critical Incident Responses in schools, Digital Threat Assessment, Critical Incident De-escalation etc.



### Assigned to Schools

Police are generally assigned specific schools for on average, three-year terms, to support relationship building with specific school communities.