



MB COPP Conference Report - Nov 12, 2022

The day started with a beautiful buffet breakfast of eggs, hashbrowns, bacon, sausages and fresh fruit.

Registration was completed with 47 in attendance plus 3 Law enforcement members from WPS, BPS, RCMP and Cassandra Dokken from Manitoba Justice and Mr. James Teitsma MLA for Radisson.

The meeting opened with opening remarks by Margaret Potts, chair of the Official board. She introduced all the board members Dustin Brown, Joan Neumann, Ernie Dyck, and Detlef Hindemith the Program Administrator.

MLA Mr. James Teitsma brought greetings from the Government of Manitoba. He thanked all in attendance for their dedication to the MB COPP program.

The law enforcement officers from Winnipeg City Police, Brandon City Police and the RCMP gave projector presentations followed by Q &A.

Cst. Paul Human from the Selkirk and Area RCMP stressed for us to use our abilities as much as possible, communication with your detachment is very important, and to report any strange activity in your area even if you are not on patrol. He suggested that we stop while on patrol open our windows and smell, hear and see what is going on around us.

Cst. Jason Medwechuk from the Brandon Police Service, who is a school resource officer, spoke to us that documenting a situation is more help than being directly involved in the situation. He also told us to be observant about cctv or doorbell cameras in the area where the situation occurred. He also stressed that confidentiality issues are very important to good patrolling. Picture is worth a thousand words in most cases. When using a dash cam or personal camera be very careful about privacy issues. Cameras capturing crime images may be confiscated if required.



Conference Report continued...

Cst. Garnie McIntyre from the Winnipeg City Police Service spoke to us about how important personal safety is for all patrollers and people. Trust your instincts and use common sense. It is best to stop—think—act. Do not allow yourself to be a victim, use the buddy system and no matter where you go let someone know when you are going and when you plan to return.

Stay alert, travel in daylight hours or in well lit areas. It is illegal to carry a weapon for personal protection. If you do run into trouble, use personal alarms such as your horn, car fob alarm, a whistle or make as much noise as possible. If you are being followed change direction, cross the street, enter a business ask for help or contact the police. Never confront the person or persons following you. If you carry a purse keep it close to you, fasten it to a grocery cart with the child restraint buckle. Check your vehicle before entering it.

When dealing with panhandlers avoid those on a boulevard at a stop light. They would love for you to let them see the inside of your vehicle to see where things are located and how easy they are to access. Some of them are also violent so could punch you and steal your vehicle. If you are confronted by a robber, give them what they want and then contact authorities with a description. Call 911 if a crime is in progress, people or property is at risk and in a medical emergency.

We then had a short break and proceeded to the AGM.

Report compiled by Joan Neuman

Secretary, Manitoba Citizens on Patrol Program