



# Counter-Terrorism Strategy

EDMONTON  
**POLICE**  
SERVICE

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

- The Vision of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) is to make Edmonton the safest major city in Canada and for the EPS to be recognized as a leader in policing.
- In order for our communities to be considered safe, it is not enough to reduce the frequency and severity of crime, but we also must reduce the fear and perception of crime. Terrorism is a crime that thrives on fear.
- Our Counter-Terrorism Strategy has been created to focus our activities and work toward ensuring that we reduce fear and maintain safety and security for our citizens and our communities. By working through programs focused on community outreach, intelligence gathering and criminal investigations, we will ensure that we have strong communities and remain resilient against the threat of terrorism.
- This Strategy is synchronized with the Public Safety Canada Counter-Terrorism Strategy and ensures alignment with our partnering agencies.

## Introduction

Terrorism is a serious and persistent threat to the safety and security of Canada and its citizens. *Terrorist activity includes an act or omission undertaken, inside or outside Canada, for a political, religious or ideological purpose that is intended to intimidate the public with respect to its security, including its economic security, or to compel a person, government or organization (whether inside or outside Canada) from doing or refraining from doing any act, and that intentionally causes one of a number of specified forms of serious harm. (Public Safety Canada)*

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has the primary legislated responsibility for national security-related criminal threats in Canada in partnership with intelligence and other law enforcement agencies. The EPS works with the RCMP through the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET) and contributes significantly to developing and sustaining an effective integrated national security network.

The EPS Counter-Terrorism Strategy focuses the efforts of law enforcement to ensure decisive action is taken toward threats that pose a risk to our community. To succeed, efforts are not limited to operations directed at groups or individuals already involved in terrorist activities, but are also preventative and aimed at keeping at-risk individuals from being drawn into destructive ideology.

**The core objective of the EPS Counter-Terrorism Strategy is to build resilience against terrorism.**

## The Strategy

### Understanding the Threat

There are many terrorist organizations that are designated as security threats and known to be operating in Canada. Terrorist threats have evolved into being more decentralized, as seen in recent lone terrorist attacks, and include threats that are increasingly diverse. Threats manifest themselves in a variety of ways, including:

- Domestic or home-grown extremists are citizens or long-

term residents of Canada that identify themselves with extremist beliefs. Extremists may contribute to the problem by:

- Participating in disseminating propaganda and/or demonstrations;
  - Providing capital or instrumental resources;
  - Assisting to recruit others; or
  - Through criminal activism.
- High-risk travelers are radicalized individuals who travel abroad to participate in terrorist related activities. As the number of persons identified as possible or past high-risk travelers increases, so does the risk of terrorism incidents occurring in our communities. Revoked passports of potential high-risk travelers may further increase risk to our communities.
  - Domestic criminal incidents are events that may result in injuries, deaths, or property loss. Potential targets for domestic incidents of terrorism include critical infrastructure, which refers to processes, systems, facilities, technologies, networks, assets and services essential to the health, safety, security or economic

well-being of Canadians and the effective functioning of government. A potential target would not necessarily be focused on critical infrastructure or a location designated as a key asset. Other targets may include largely populated events/locations or those that may be of high political or media exposure. Recent terrorist events within Canada and internationally also illustrate that targets may appear to be more isolated and random.

## Key Components

The EPS Counter-Terrorism Strategy has three key components which are necessary to achieve its core objective of building resilience against terrorism. The ultimate goal is a city where individuals and communities are able to withstand violent extremist ideologies, and where society is resilient to a terrorist attack, if one occurs.

### Prevention

#### Community Outreach / Prevent

This component focuses on the motivations of individuals who engage in, or have the potential to engage in, terrorist activities at home and abroad. In order to be effective, the EPS must build and maintain relationships and partnerships with diverse communities to establish mutual understanding and trust.

Community outreach and engagement will work toward public safety and address threats by building law enforcement's knowledge and understanding of diverse communities. This will help establish trust and build a conduit for positive communication.

Citizens also have a responsibility to act, and to build strong and supportive local communities. Together we can make certain all of Edmonton's communities are respected and treated equally.

The EPS Equity, Diversity and Human Rights (EDHR) Section was developed to focus on building relationships with Edmonton's diverse communities. It is not about simply targeting individuals that may be susceptible to being radicalized to violence; rather it is about building respect, confidence and providing support so our city is inclusive of everyone in support of public safety. This is not a role only for EDHR, as relationship building is a duty for all EPS members.

### Intervention

#### Intelligence / Detect

Historically, intelligence has focused on identifying terrorists, terrorist organizations and their supporters, their capabilities, and the nature of their plans. As the terrorist threat changes it is important for law enforcement to be responsive to that change. Drivers, such as globalization, rapid technological change, and an increasingly networked society create new and different vulnerabilities that terrorists seek to exploit. It is important to keep pace with a changing cyber environment, the proliferation of more sophisticated weaponry, emerging telecommunication trends, and the accelerated flow of people, resources and ideas around the world.

By focusing efforts on intelligence, the EPS will stay abreast of current trends and risks, as well as ensuring communication flows between the EPS and its agency partners.

The EPS Strategic Intelligence Unit (SIU) is the conduit between police information and intelligence to the RCMP-led Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET), other law enforcement partners and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). SIU ensures there are no gaps in sharing information and ensures Law Enforcement efforts are coordinated, deconflicted, and the integrity of investigations are maintained.

## Suppression

### Investigations / Deny and Respond

Terrorist activities are criminal acts and the investigation of those acts will continue to be led by police. In order to guarantee a proportionate and measured response, the actions taken will be carefully designed to manage the actual threat, while minimizing interference with the public as people go about their daily activities.

The EPS currently has members seconded to INSET. INSETs are multi-agency teams made up of specially trained members of the RCMP and other law enforcement and national security partners at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. The INSET model provides a cohesive, integrated approach to ensure prevention, early detection, and investigation of any potential national-security criminal threats to Canada and the public.

Preparedness is another key factor to success. Dedicated resources are essential to complete and augment an effective and efficient response to terrorism threats. This area of focus further enables a rapid return to ordinary life and reduces the impact and severity of terrorist activity.

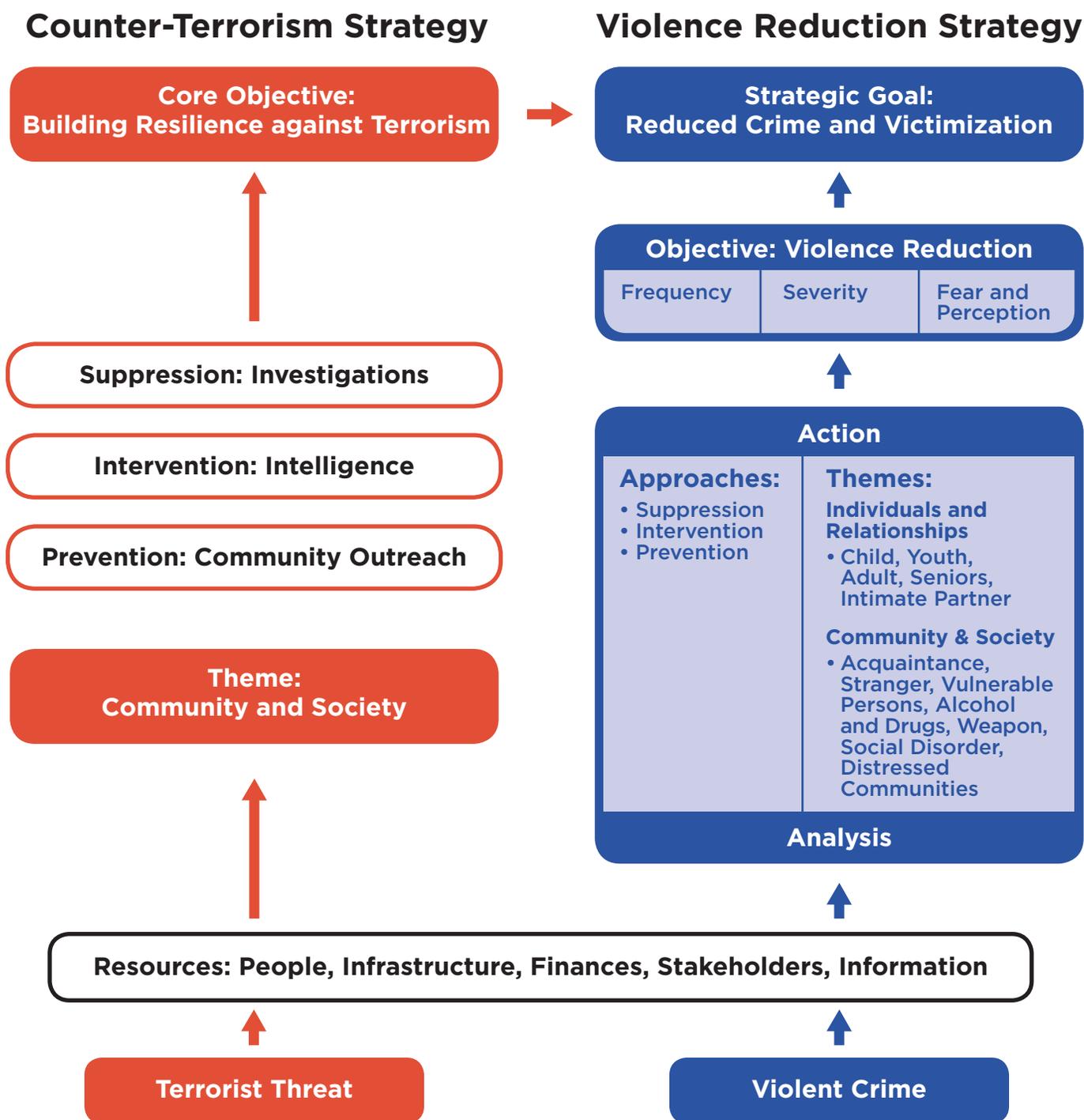
## Policing Activities

The key components of the Strategy are to incorporate a broad range of policing duties that are the responsibility of every police officer and not just specialized areas. For example, police first responders could participate with community engagement, routinely gather intelligence or be required for an active police response or investigation at any moment. The Edmonton Police Service has formalized work processes to ensure effective prevention, intervention and suppression processes are in place.

## Alignment with other Strategies

The EPS Counter-Terrorism Strategy is closely aligned with Public Safety Canada’s Strategy on Counter-Terrorism. Public Safety Canada has four mutually reinforcing elements identified as Prevent – Detect – Deny – Respond. The functions of these elements are aligned to the EPS Counter-Terrorism key components of Prevention – Intervention – Suppression.

The EPS Counter Terrorism Strategy fits within the organization’s Violence Reduction Strategy (VRS). The VRS is based on the premise that if we work to impact root causes of violence, we will be successful in decreasing violence overall within our community.



The logo for the Edmonton Police Service. It features the word "EDMONTON" in a small, red, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word "POLICE" is written in a large, bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word "SERVICE" is written in a small, red, sans-serif font. The background of the logo area is a light blue gradient with faint, overlapping geometric shapes.

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