



Campus Safety & Emergency Services

Annual Report

2026

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Director – Campus safety & Emergency Services

CSES Overview

In support of Western's academic and research mission, Campus Safety & Emergency Services (CSES) are values driven services, focusing on collaborative, community-centric, problem-solving approaches to create, maintain and support an environment of safety, security and well-being for students, faculty, staff and visitors at Western.

CSES consists of the following units Western Special Constable Services (WSCS); Emergency Management & Continuity of Operations (EM); Fire Safety (FS); Foot Patrol (FP); and, Building Access Control (BAC). The CSES organizational chart can be found in **Appendix A** of this report.

Highlights of CSES activities & achievements during 2025 include:

WSCS

- 6,756 calls for service
- 311 investigations
- 656 building / office / interior space insecurities
- 57 CSPTED Assessments
- 181 Community Services events / engagements
- Replacement & update of mission critical communications hardware & software

Emergency Management & Continuity of Operations

- Active assailant response training and tabletop exercises for the University's Emergency Operations Control Group
- Campus Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program
- Management of AlertWesternU emergency notification system

Fire Safety

- Fire safety systems upgrade at Lambton Hall, Bayfield Hall, Supports Services Building and Talbot College
- Multi-year initiative to upgrade in-building fire hoses and associated valves across campus locations
- Key training reviews and hands-on training exercises for the HAZMAT Team
- Renewal of the third-party fire alarm monitoring contract

Western Special Constable Service

The Western Special Constable Service (WSCS) provides safety, security and well-being for our campus community on the property of Western’s main campus, Kings University College and Huron University College.



In April 2024, Ontario Regulations under the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA), 2019, came into effect. As well as specifying authorities that may be granted to WSCS Special Constables by the London Police Service Board (LPSB), the Regulations require that Western University be designated as a Special Constables Employer by the Ministry of the Solicitor General to provide special constable services on the University’s property. Western University was granted Special Constable Employer status in June 2025.

The appointment of WSCS Special Constables and the authority for the provision of special constable services on the property of Western University (and affiliate University Colleges) is granted to WSCS Special Constables by the LPSB through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the London Police Service Board (LPSB) and Western University (2025).

The overall complement of the WSCS is forty (40) members, consisting of 28 appointed Special Constables and 12 non-appointed / administrative staff. The WSCS organizational chart can be found in **Appendix B** of this report.

The WSCS provides safety & security for our campus community 24/7 through Patrol Operations consisting of 1 Staff Sergeant, four (4) Patrol Sections, each with two Sergeants, three Special Constables, and one Communications Operator (dispatcher). Patrol Operations are responsible for responding to calls for service, investigations, community centric problem solving and proactive, high visibility, patrol to provide and maintain an environment of safety, security and well-being for students, faculty, staff and visitors at Western.

WSCS provides community-based services through the Community Services Section consisting of 1 Staff Sergeant, 1 Sergeant and 4 Campus Community Resources Officers (CCROs). Community services provided including managing over 1800 security surveillance cameras across campus, Campus Safety Provided Through Environmental Design (CSPTED), personal safety planning, safety presentations, safety programs, represent WSCS on various campus wide safety committees, and enhanced community engagement.

The WSCS operational and community services statistics for 2025 can be found in **Appendix C** of this report.

Proactive Safety & Security Measures on Campus

Campus Safety Provided Through Environmental Design (CSPTED) and recorded security surveillance video cameras are key elements to the safety and security umbrella at Western. On average WSCS conducts approximately 60 CSPTED assessments annually and there are over 1800 security surveillance video cameras deployed throughout campus.

CAMPUS SAFETY PROVIDED THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CSPTED)

Campus Safety Provided Through Environmental Design (CSPTED) has been successfully applied on Western's campus since 2006. There is a significant and ongoing demand CSPTED service with the continuing development of new buildings and spaces on campus as well as the need for ongoing safety and security audits and updates of existing buildings and spaces.

CSPTED assessments are conducted by the WSCS Community Services Section. CSPTED assessment consider how the physical environment of a building, office or other space can be altered to improve and promote safety and security.

CSPTED assessments provide strategies to mitigate safety and security risk by identifying vulnerabilities and insecurities related to the physical aspects of a location and making recommendations related to enhancing safety and security.

Typically, CSPTED assessments are conducted for buildings under construction / renovation and other locations throughout campus such as an office, study area or work area that has been identified as high risk, has some safety/security vulnerabilities, has been subjected to unauthorized activity, or where a person may feel unsafe.

CSPTED assessments are also completed for exterior walkways, roadways, parking lots and areas where the community may congregate as well as isolated spaces where an increased safety risks may exist.

CSPTED recommendations may include security of perimeter access points; lighting; target-hardening; improve lock hardware; install access control systems; alarm monitoring and response protocols; improving lines of sight and natural surveillance opportunities; increasing security patrols; and, installation of CCTV video monitoring and recording technology.

When implemented, CSPTED recommendations have been proven to enhance safety and security; mitigate unwanted and illegal behaviour; and provide an enhanced sense of safety and security for our campus community.

VIDEO MONITORING & RECORDING TECHNOLOGY

The WSCS Community Services Section is responsible for the overall management of the Video Monitoring and Recording Technology (VMRT). The security video cameras and VMRT have proven

successful in deterring unauthorized activity, improving safety and security, and supporting investigations.

CCTV cameras and VMRT are utilized on campus in strict accordance with Western's Video Monitoring and Recording Policy. Accessing and viewing video records is strictly controlled and video records are destroyed after a 30-day retention period (unless retention of the video record is required for a specific, authorized, purpose) in accordance with Western's Video Monitoring and Recording Policy and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

Building Access Control

BUILDING SECURITY

Building Access Control (BAC) is responsible for providing and managing card access for approximately 73 buildings and approximately 392 alarm systems, including high-risk locations, campus wide. BAC also supports and is a resource for other departments that manage their own card access systems, like Research Park, Engineering and Schulich.

BUILDING ACCESS CONTROL SUPPORT

BAC is a resource to support the card access administrators throughout campus (Departments and Faculties) to ensure required user access is provided, buildings lock and unlock on master schedules, as well as provide for unique classroom-booking automated unlocking and locking.

During 2025, BAC responded to over 13,100 emails, sent to the card access email account (Not including emails and phone calls sent directly to the members of BAC).

The requests for support include hardware / system service; user access (often for 100 or more users) additions, deletions, or changes; and, automated unlock / lock schedule additions, deletions or changes.

BAC SERVICE CALLS

In 2025 BAC logged 308 calls for service (card access and alarms) ranging from equipment and hardware failure to battery changes.

BAC also supported several small projects, supporting FM project managers with renovation/construction projects,

NEW AFx ENTERPRISE ICT (card-reader) SYSTEM

During 2025 BAC continued to support Facilities Management with a major conversion project to update and enhance the building card access system.

Card access conversion is complete for Labatt Health Sciences Building, Fims/Nursing, Weldon Library and Althouse College, in progress is Law building, Ivey Business School in Toronto and WIRB.

Emergency Management & Continuity of Operations (EM)

EM is responsible for projects focusing on life safety of Western’s students, faculty, staff, monitoring threats to infrastructure and environment, planning, preparing and practicing responses to major or critical events on campus.

ALERT WESTERNU

AlertWesternU is the University’s emergency notification system. EM is responsible for the management of the AlertWesternU with the emergency notification system provided by a third-party vendor.

Emergency notifications are sent out by WSCS. Emergency notifications are received by community members by way of email (automatically), SMS text message, and through the emergency notification app.

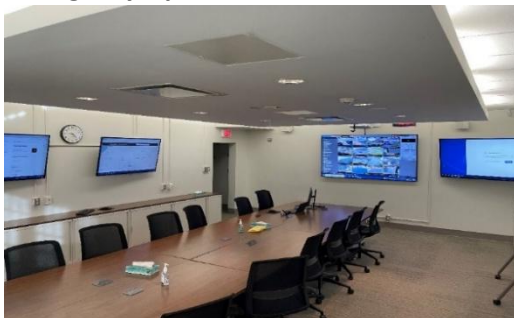
To receive emergency messages by way of SMS text message community members must add their cellphone number to the AlertWesternU system. To receive emergency messages by way of the emergency app community members must download the app.

Instructions for adding contact information into the AlertWesternU system or downloading the app can be found on the AlertWesternU webpage: <https://alert.westernu.ca/>

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

EM is responsible for management of the University’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in Lawson Hall in the WSCS offices as well as activation and support of the Emergency Operations Control Group. The EOC is opened and the EOCG is stood up to support and Manage the University’s response to major events and critical incidents.

Emergency Operations Center



Mobile Operations Trailer



WESTERN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS PROGRAM

With Ontario Bill 141 (Defibrillator Registration & Public Access Act 2020) which imposes certain requirements respecting installation, maintenance, testing, and availability of automated external defibrillators (AED) on premises such as Western in mind, in 2024 and 2025 EM led a group of student volunteers in the mapping and identification of AED locations on campus.

There is now a total of 56 AEDs deployed throughout campus, all of which have check, received maintenance or replacement as required and are “rescue ready”.

The University’s AED deployment and maintenance program is now fully under the purview of CSES. All AED devices on campus have been loaded into the Pulse Point App for quick location in an emergency. AED mapping data was uploaded into the *Ready for Action* tracking tool to assist with monitoring best before dates of devices, batteries, and pads to source replacements before they expire. Cabinet decals have been applied to all AED cabinets across campus to increase awareness of available support.

In addition, Naloxone safety kits have been placed in all AED cabinets throughout campus

AED cabinet in Stephenson Hall



Foot Patrol



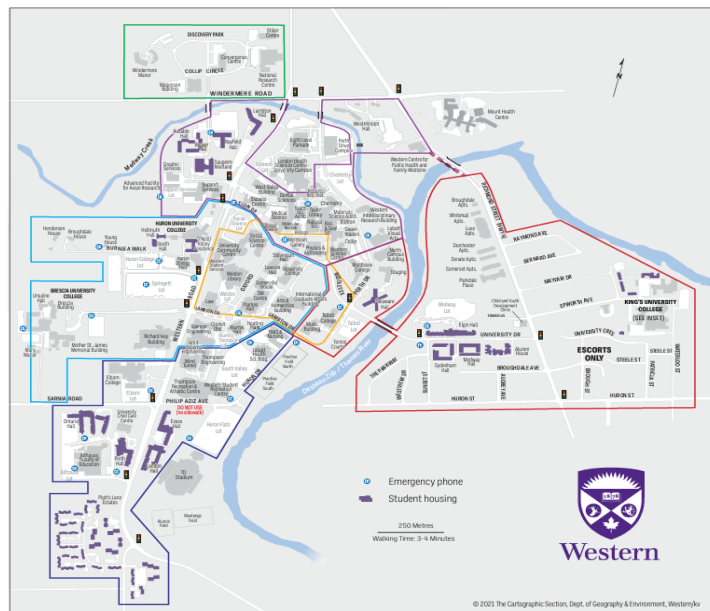
Western Foot Patrol (FP) is a student volunteer-based service, supervised by a full-time manager. This team of volunteers provide uniformed or plain clothes escorts, both on foot and by vehicle, wear high visibility vests to deter crime, and report safety concerns, across the main and affiliate college campuses. These services are delivered by over 150 volunteers each year.

In addition to Foot Patrol escorts, the team also completes weekly emergency blue phone and monthly exterior light audits. These services assist in reducing crime and enhancing campus safety. Foot Patrol also operates Western’s main Lost & Found, handling over one thousand inquiries each year.

Program videos, highlighting services and volunteering, can be found at:

<https://www.uwo.ca/footpatrol/>

Campus Foot Patrol – Patrol Areas



Fire Safety

Fire Safety (FS)

FS provides expertise in fire safety and fire prevention to ensure safety, security, and quality of life for the Western Community. FS members are responsible for the testing, inspection, and maintenance of fire and life safety equipment such as fire alarms, sprinklers, standpipes, kitchen suppression systems and fire extinguishers. Fire Safety is responsible for the testing and inspection of 84 Fire Alarm Systems, 21,383 Fire Alarm Devices, 65 Sprinkler Systems, 10 Pre-acting Suppression Systems, 27 Kitchen Suppression Systems, and 4,299 Fire Extinguishers. FS members also provide education and training to faculty, staff and students. FS Personnel are accredited through the National Fire Protection Association and technicians are certified through the Canadian Fire Alarm Association.



Fire Alarms

In 2025, total fire alarm occurrences increased to 121, above the five-year average of approximately 112 (from 2020–2024 data). Actual fires rose to seven, all extinguished appropriately with no serious injuries reported. Additionally, there were four occurrences related to natural gas odors.

Of the seven actual fires, four were cooking-related, with three occurring in commercial kitchens on campus—this trend highlights the need to prioritize enhanced fire safety training and prevention efforts for staff in these high-risk areas.

The fire at the Social Science Centre was deliberately set (deemed suspicious, with an arrest for arson) and proved more significant than typical minor incidents, involving notable flame and smoke damage (particularly on the 8th floor, affecting air quality) as well as water damage from firefighting efforts using hoses; one individual experienced smoke inhalation and was shaken up but required no serious medical treatment. This event reinforced that prevention efforts must address both accidental and intentional fires. In response, FS collaborated with campus partners to strengthen policies on combustible storage in public corridors, specifically restricting bulk wastepaper bins (used for recycling) to short-duration deployment in public-facing areas, with immediate removal to the loading dock afterward; bins should be used sparingly to minimize risks.

Residence buildings maintained strong results: malicious FA occurrences stayed low at 3 in 2025 (continuing the downward trend from higher levels in prior years). Cooking-related FA occurrences in residences did not emerge as a primary concern this year, attributable to sustained proactive initiatives. FS continues close collaboration with Western colleagues (Housing, FM, FD&E, CSES) and the London Fire Department to advance fire safety and prevention strategies, reducing nuisance alarms and real fire risks across campus.

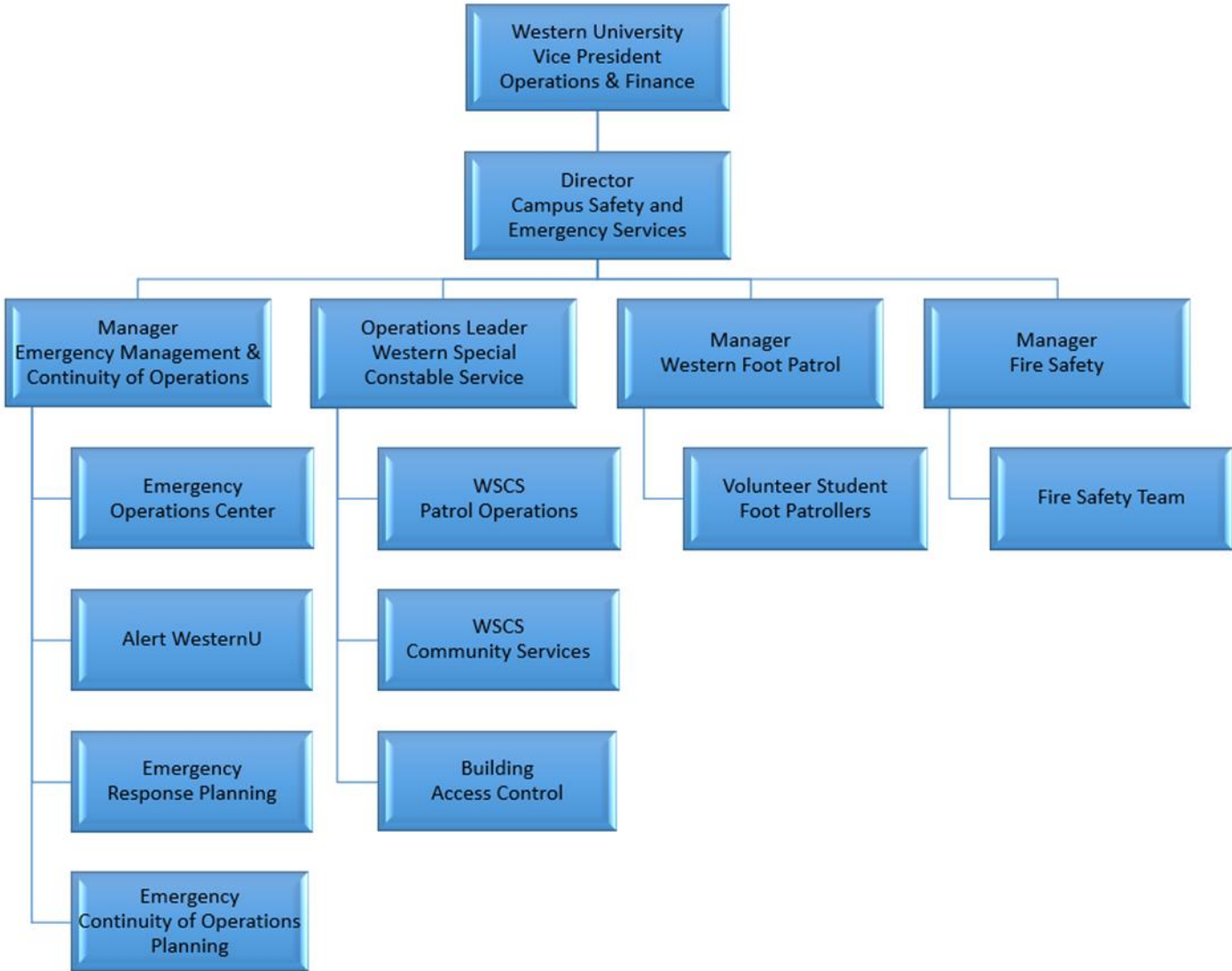
In the fall of 2025, there was a discharge of the fire suppression systems with the University's main data center which resulted in a significant outage of Western's technology systems. FS led troubleshooting of the unintended discharge in the data centre suppression system to identify the root cause, implemented fire watch protocols during repairs, coordinated testing and safe reinstallation of suppression gas cylinders, and applied integrated system enhancements across multiple platforms based on lessons learned.

Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Team

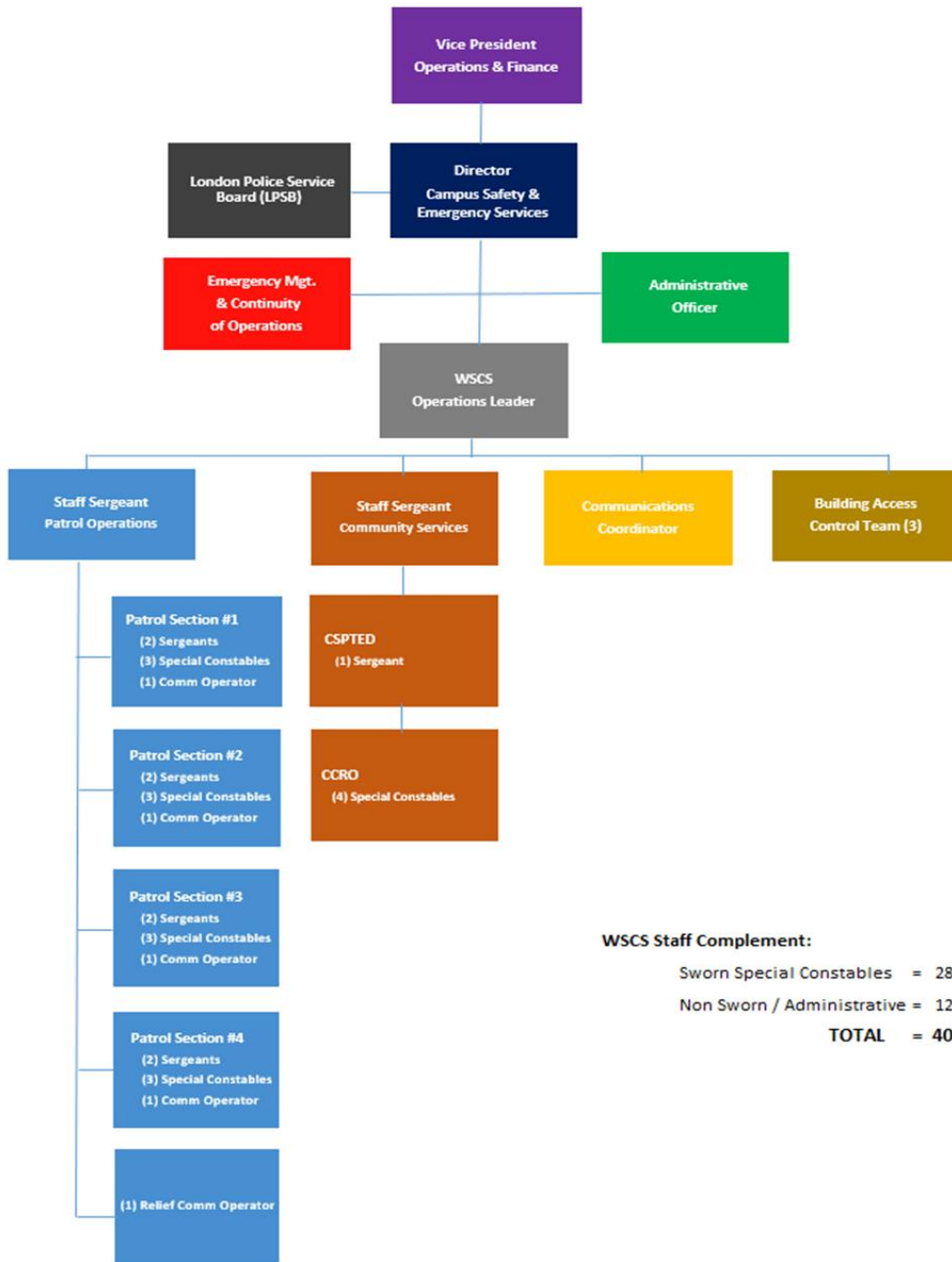
Western's HazMat Team consists of one full-time leader and approximately 16 volunteer members with diverse backgrounds and expertise in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, confined space, and mechanical/electrical hazards. The team maintains a comprehensive inventory of specialized equipment and resources to support campus research operations and emergency response.

Services provided by Western's HazMat Team on campus include 24/7/365 hazardous materials emergency response, spill assessment and remediation, air quality and natural gas odor assessment and remediation, and confined space emergency response and support.

**APPENDIX “A”
Campus Safety & Emergency Services
Organizational Chart**



APPENDIX “B” Western Special Constable Service Organizational Chart



APPENDIX “C”

Western Special Constable Service Operational Statistics

Table 1 below provides an overview of the calls for service and occurrence reporting of the WSCS in 2025. In 2025 there was a total of 6,756 calls for service to the WSCS which generated 2,300 occurrence reports, including 311 criminal occurrence reports. Protest activity on campus and labour disputes were significantly lower in 2025 (8) compared to 2024 (114).

Table 1

Calls for Service and Occurrence Reporting	2023	2024	2025
Calls for Service (CADs)	6,315	7,425	6,576
Occurrence Reports	1,886	2,658	2,300
Criminal Occurrence Reports	281	345	311
Protests and Pickets	7	114	8

Table 3 below reports the nature and number of criminal complaints reported to the WSCS in 2025.

Table 3

Criminal CAD Types	2023	2024	2025
Totals	281	391	311
Theft	167	187	209
Property Damage	63	132	68
Harassment	5	19	12
Assault	9	11	6
Break and Enter	7	4	3
Threats	2	3	3
Fraud	9	19	1
Sexual Assault	2	2	1
Other	17	14	8

Table 2 below indicates the top 10 types of calls for service responded to by the WSCS in 2025.

Table 2

Top 10 Types of Calls for Service	2024	2025
Assistance	2,000	1,864
Trades Call-Ins	739	773
Suspicious Persons, Vehicles or Activities	488	437
Lost and Found Property	484	353
Intrusion Alarm Responses/Investigations	338	317
Criminal	391	311
Community Services	232	238
Office Insecurity occurrences	259	211
Fire Responses	117	125
Traffic	158	105

Table 4 reports the nature and number of criminal charges laid by WSCS in 2025. All WSCS reports in relation to criminal complaints / investigations are submitted electronically to LPS via the Versaterm Records Management System. WSCS occurrence reports are audited by the LPS Report Auditing Unit. All charges, Criminal or Provincial offences, laid by members of the WSCS are submitted and processed through the LPS Support Services Division.

Table 4

Types of Charges Laid by Special Constables	
Criminal Offences	
Assault	1
Criminal Harassment	1
B&E - Business	3
Theft – Other/Trailer Under \$5,000	3
Mischief Under \$5,000	4
Bail Violations	2
Mischief – False Name/Report	1
Provincial Offences	
Trespass to Property Act	2
Careless Driving	1

Table 5 below reports the nature and number of Provincial Offence matters responded to by WSCS Special Constables in 2025.

Table 5

Provincial Statutes and Municipal By-law Occurrences	2023	2024	2025
Totals	153	155	79
Trespass to Property Act	87	82	48
Mental Health	41	34	17
Noise By-law	22	29	13
Liquor License Act	2	7	1
Other	1	0	0

Complaints

The WSCS maintains a complaints process for receiving and investigating complaints regarding service or conduct of WSCS members. Complaints relating to the status as a Special Constable or allegations that a Special Constable failed to provide adequate or competent service are investigated by the WSCS and copies of the report are forwarded to the LPSB. Any allegation of criminal conduct involving a WSCS Special Constable is investigated by the LPS.

Table 6 reports complaints made to the WSCS in 2025.

Table 6

Complaints	2024	2025
	8	5

Community Services Section

Table 7 reports on the activities of the Campus Community Resource Officers (CCROs) and WSCS Community Services Section.

Table 7

Community Services	2023	2024	2025
Totals	160	232	238
CCRO Event	0	117	153
CSPTED	70	51	57
Golf Cart Training	8	5	15
Women's Self Defence Training	9	3	7
Other	73	56	6