

## Maintenance, Safety and Parking Committee 2024 Whitehorse Safety & Crime Survey Summary



### Business Participation:

- 60.78% of businesses (31 out of 51) agreed to have their names included in the survey results.
- Participants included various local businesses, such as Signature Home Yukon, Advance Security, and Yukon Nissan.

### Crime Costs:

- Reported crime and theft costs to businesses varied significantly, with estimates ranging from \$100 to over \$100,000.
- Some businesses outside the downtown core reported minimal direct impact, while others downtown reported significant expenses for repairs, security enhancements, or losses due to theft and vandalism.

### Crime Impact:

- Businesses located in downtown Whitehorse reported higher rates of theft and vandalism compared to those outside the core.
- Many respondents highlighted the broader community effects, even if they were not directly affected by crime.

### Desired Solutions (Ranked by Importance):

1. Harsher consequences for repeat offenders (29.41% ranked as most important).
2. RCMP task force dedicated to theft prevention (27.45% ranked as most important).
3. Increased punishment for theft under \$5,000 (23.53% ranked as most important).
4. More RCMP patrols (21.57% ranked as most important).
5. More enforcement of existing laws (19.61% ranked as most important).
6. Trespass Act (15.69% ranked as most important).

### Comments from Participants:

- Many participants called for stronger and more effective consequences for criminals, including the use of manual labour restitution for damages.
- Concerns were raised about the growing aggression of thieves and the increased use of weapons during thefts.
- A significant number of respondents criticized the catch-and-release policies, believing these contribute to higher crime rates.
- A **recurring suggestion** was to improve social services, including mental health and addiction support, to address root causes of crime.

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- Several business owners expressed frustration with inconsistent RCMP responses and advocated for better collaborative efforts between law enforcement, businesses, and social services to prevent and address crime.

**General Sentiment:**

- While law enforcement and harsher penalties were seen as immediate remedies, many respondents highlighted the need for long-term solutions such as housing support, mental health services, and addiction treatment to tackle the underlying causes of crime.
- Participants were clear that without addressing these root causes, policing efforts alone would not provide a sustainable solution to Whitehorse's crime problems.