

Wetaskiwin's Crime Severity Index Ranking Has Increased

October 30, 2018

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) –Wetaskiwin's annual Crime Severity Index (CSI) ranking has increased due to several high-profile violent offenses that occurred within the City over the past year.

As a result of these occurrences, the City of Wetaskiwin is expected to feature within the top five spots in Maclean's Magazine's *Canada's Most Dangerous Places 2019*. This is an increase from the municipality's ranking of number eight for the 2018 edition. Community safety continues to remain a top priority for Wetaskiwin City Council, who allocated additional resources to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police during the 2018 budget cycle, and is pursuing creative engagement opportunities to help build community pride—another important component of a safe community.

"While the optics of this ranking are very frustrating and disheartening, it's important to remember that a high Crime Severity Index ranking does not automatically mean Wetaskiwin is unsafe," said Mayor Tyler Gandam. "The individuals involved in the violent offenses were known to each other, making them targeted attacks. Concern for the public's safety in these instances is very rare."

Despite its ranking last year, it is worth noting that the City of Wetaskiwin saw an overall decrease in crime from 2017 to 2018. While there are over 3,500 municipalities in Canada, Statistics Canada's Crime Severity Index—which Maclean's Magazine uses to calculate their rankings—is only available for 229 of them.

The results for *Canada's Most Dangerous Places 2019* are expected to be posted online at www.macleans.ca/canadas-most-dangerous-places/ in November. The 2018 rankings will remain viewable until the data is updated by Maclean's Magazine.

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For more information please contact:

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Backgrounder:

- The City of Wetaskiwin ranked No. 8 out of 229 in Maclean's Magazine's *Canada's Most Dangerous Places* publication last year.
- A high Crime Severity Index (CSI) ranking does not automatically mean that a community is unsafe. The high-profile violent acts that took place in Wetaskiwin over the past year occurred between individuals who knew each other. Concern for the public's safety in these instances is very rare.
- Wetaskiwin City Council dedicated financial resources for additional RCMP officers in the 2018 budget cycle to ensure Wetaskiwin remains a safe community.
- The RCMP's Crime Reduction Unit continues to target prolific offenders in the local area.
- Wetaskiwin City Council has dedicated more resources toward local Enforcement Services, which allows the RCMP to focus on more serious criminal code offenses.
- Wetaskiwin City Council will be deliberating the 2019 municipal budget the week of November 19th. Dates and times will be advertised on our municipal website at www.wetaskiwin.ca. Budget-related suggestions can be directed to any member of Council (visit www.wetaskiwin.ca/council for their contact information).