



Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service Christmas Community Update

Christmas Newsletter 2025

A Message from the Chief of Police

Dear Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory Community,

As we enter the Christmas season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to every family and community member across Wikwemkoong. This time of year invites us to pause, reflect, and appreciate the relationships, traditions, and shared values that make our community so strong. It is a season rooted in kindness, compassion, and generosity—principles that continue to guide the work of the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service each and every day.

This winter, our officers and community partners have been working tirelessly to enhance safety and wellbeing across the Territory. We continue to support individuals and families through the Situation Table, strengthen our presence in schools, prepare new safety initiatives, and invest in training, technology, and long-term planning that will benefit our community for years to come. These efforts reflect our commitment not only to responding to calls for service, but also to building meaningful relationships, preventing harm, and supporting community wellness from every angle.

We are grateful for the trust placed in us and for the strong partnerships we share with service providers, educators, leadership, and the many community members who work alongside us.

Together, we are fostering an environment where families feel supported, youth feel seen and valued, and everyone can take part in a safer, healthier, and more connected Wikwemkoong.

WTPS extends appreciation to Ogimaa Tim Ominika, Chief of the Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Band Council, and all community partners whose collaboration is vital to enhancing safety and stability in the Territory.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, I encourage each of us to carry forward the spirit of giving and togetherness that defines this time of year. Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, and collaboration.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, peaceful, and blessed Christmas season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J.", with a stylized flourish.

Sincerely

Chief Ron Gignac
Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service



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Christmas Newsletter 2025

Calls for Service Update

WTPS continues to experience a significant rise in calls for service across the Territory, reflecting both increased community reporting and the police service's proactive enforcement efforts. According to the latest available data, total RMS occurrences have risen to 5,751, representing an 8.7% increase over the same period last year. This upward trend highlights growing community trust in reporting concerns, as well as the increased workload placed on frontline officers and partner agencies.

Several categories have seen notable increases:



Traffic Complaints:

Up 47.2%, rising from 320 to 471 occurrences.



Motor Vehicle Collisions:

Increased by 43.4%, from 76 to 109 collisions.



Bail Violations: Up 63.8%, rising from 69 to 113 occurrences — reflecting ongoing efforts to monitor recidivist offenders.



Unwanted Persons Calls:

Increased by 34.8%, growing from 187 to 252 occurrences.



Trespassing:

Up 23.9%, from 88 to 109.

Despite rising demand, WTPS has remained highly responsive and effective in enforcement. Charges laid to date have reached 986, far surpassing the 5-year average of 582 and demonstrating proactive policing efforts across the Territory.

These trends reinforce WTPS's continued focus on targeted enforcement, intelligence-led operations, and strong collaboration with community partners to maintain safety and address high-risk behaviours.

Addressing Repeat Offenders in Our Community

WTPS continues to address a significant rise in recidivist (repeat offender) criminal activity throughout the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Over the past 12 months, recidivist crime has increased by 136% compared to the previous year, placing considerable pressure on frontline officers, partner agencies, and the judicial system. This rise reflects the challenges posed by individuals repeatedly violating judicial release conditions and engaging in high-risk behaviour.

As of November 25, WTPS has laid 1,022 charges, far exceeding the 5-year average of 582 and representing a 48% increase in Criminal Code charges compared to the same period last year. These figures highlight the tremendous amount of work being carried out by officers to keep the community safe.

WTPS is employing a multifaceted, intelligence-led approach to combat repeat offending, including:

- Targeted interdiction (stopping and interrupting criminal activity) zones and timing based on crime patterns
- Intelligence-led interdiction operations
- Combined-forces collaboration with partner organizations
- A strengthened Offender Management Program with physical compliance checks
- Implementation of the provincial Bail Compliance Program
- A community-driven drug strategy supported by enhanced investigative capacity
- Advanced officer training to expand interdiction capabilities
- Leadership-driven planning by the Inspector and divisional commanders to identify new enforcement opportunities

Community safety is a shared responsibility. WTPS continues to lead significant enforcement and prevention efforts, and we encourage all community members to remain vigilant, report concerns, and work with us in keeping Wiikwemkoong safe.

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Christmas Newsletter 2025

Supporting Our Community Through the Situation Table

The Wiikwemkoong Situation Table continues to be an essential support system for individuals and families facing urgent or complex needs—especially during the winter and holiday season. The Table brings together local agencies every week to coordinate services, share information, and ensure people receive timely and meaningful help.

Since mid-September, the Situation Table has convened 13 meetings with 23 partner agencies, resulting in 12 successful referrals and accommodation actions. These outcomes reflect the strong coordination between service providers and demonstrate how early-intervention efforts are directly improving safety, stability, and support for individuals and families across Wiikwemkoong.

WTPS recently hired a dedicated Administrative Coordinator, a retired OPP officer, thanks to grant funding. This new role enhances our ability to manage referrals, organize information, and maintain strong partnerships across all participating organizations.

“*The Situation Table is essential to supporting our community, especially during the winter and holiday season when needs are often more urgent. Our weekly meetings unite agencies, enabling us to respond quickly, share knowledge, and strengthen support for families. This year, improved communication, consistent referrals, and a coordinated approach have led to better outcomes. Our partnership with the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service has been invaluable and demonstrates that working together makes our community safer, more supported, and recognized.*

— Jennifer Fox, Ontario Works Administrator

“*The Situation Table helps our schools support youth (and families) who face urgent challenges. By connecting the education system with community partners every week, we can respond quickly to complex needs—whether it’s food security, mental health, or safe housing, so students can focus on learning and well-being. Bringing youth concerns to the Situation Table sparks a coordinated response that makes a real difference... and builds stronger connections between families and community resources.*”

— Maureen Peltier, Education Director, Wiikwemkoong Board of Education

“*KGCFS views the Situation Table as a support for community members during the winter and holiday season as an important service where we can collaborate as a team to assist families in need. Weekly meetings keep momentum going with planning, allow us to address urgent matters quickly, and provide a coordinated approach where every service at the table plays a role. Each agency brings a different perspective and knowledge of the community member being discussed. We’ve seen the volume of referrals increase since the early meetings, and we value working alongside WTPS to assist with community wellness.*”

— Christina Ferris, Service Supervisor NAC1, Kina Gbezhgomi Child & Family Services

Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service Christmas Community Update

Christmas Newsletter 2025



Winter Safety Reminder

As the snowmobile and ice season begins, WTPS urges all community members to stay safe while enjoying outdoor activities. Preparedness and awareness help protect you and ensure first responders can assist quickly if needed.

Please remember to:

- ✓ Travel with a buddy whenever possible.
- ✓ If you go alone, inform someone of your route and expected return time.
- ✓ Bring a fully charged cellphone in a plastic or waterproof bag. Bring essential supplies including emergency food and survival blanket.
- ✓ Wear reflective or bright clothing.
- ✓ Check ice conditions before travelling on frozen surfaces.



Enhancing Road Safety and Reducing Impaired Driving

As we enter the winter months, WTPS typically sees an increase in impaired driving, especially in January and February.

To address this, we are:

- ✓ Facilitating additional RIDE Programs that will be deployed throughout the season.
- ✓ Conduct RIDE sobriety checks at all hours of the night and daytime upon all modes travel with motorized vehicles throughout the year.

These operations will begin in December and continue periodically throughout 2026. Community safety is a shared responsibility—please plan ahead and never drive impaired.

Additional Service Enhancements and Capacity Building

This year, WTPS welcomed 11 new officers, special constables, and civilian specialists, reflecting our ongoing commitment to strengthening service delivery and meeting community needs.

Additional initiatives underway include:

Emergency Response Training: WTPS is training new Emergency Response Team officer candidates as part of long-term capacity building.

Emergency Management Plan (2026–2028): Inspector Duffy is leading a full modernization of the Police Emergency Management Plan, scheduled for completion between 2026 and 2028.

Strategic Plan (2026–2028): WTPS will launch its new strategic plan to guide priorities, resourcing, and long-term community safety objectives.

Drug Strategy Expansion: A new Drug Detective position will be added to the Crime Unit, with a formal announcement coming in December. This role will support combined -forces operations and the community's long-term drug strategy.

Offender Management Program: WTPS continues to participate in the provincial dashboard program to monitor individuals released on judicial conditions and curb repeat offending within the Territory.

Supporting the Wellbeing of Our Members: WTPS will launch new Peer Support and Wellbeing Committees in January 2026. These programs focus on improving the mental health, resilience, and overall wellbeing of our officers, staff, and their families—an essential foundation for strong policing.

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Christmas Newsletter 2025

Modern Policing Technology Updates

WTPS has recently implemented several major technology upgrades to strengthen frontline policing, including:

- ✓ Mobile Patrol System (MPS) workstations in 11 frontline vehicles.
- ✓ Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) for real-time intelligence.
- ✓ Access to NCIC (National Crime Information Centre) data across North America.
- ✓ Fully deployed in-car camera systems.
- ✓ Body-worn cameras coming in 2026.

These upgrades ensure WTPS officers have access to state-of-the-art tools that support rapid response, informed decision-making, and enhanced community safety.



Coming Soon: Community Events and Initiatives



Ice Fishing Derby: WTPS will once again lead the annual Ice Fishing Derby, scheduled for late February or early March. This event will be hosted in partnership with our community partners. More details will follow in the new year.



Community Health Fair: WTPS will collaborate with the Wellness Coordinator and Health Responder to deliver a Health Fair focused on wellness, prevention, and education in November 2026.



Youth Engagement and School Programs: The School Liaison Program continues to grow and make a meaningful impact, with WTPS officers completing 43 school visits in the autumn of 2025 and connecting with students through safety lessons, activities, and informal conversations that build trust and support.

WTPS also participated in the last parent-teacher night at the high school by hosting a booth to speak with families and strengthen relationships across the community.

Looking ahead to 2026, WTPS will deliver education sessions for students and staff, run curriculum-aligned presentations throughout the year, and officially reintroduce the DARE Program in Fall 2026—its first offering in six to seven years.



<https://wtps.ca/>



Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-8477

