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Centre of Responsibility newcomer brings a federal flair



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Community Mobilization Prince Albert's newcomer to the Centre of Responsibility, RCMP Sgt. Constance Roussel, is seen in downtown Prince Albert.

Inter-agency connectivity is key to the Community Mobilization Prince Albert model -- something newcomer Constance Roussel brings in spades.

Formerly a Pierceland RCMP Sergeant, Roussel was seconded to Community Mobilization Prince Albert's Centre of Responsibility (COR) earlier this year.

"After doing 26 years of reactive policing -- which is what we do, really -- it's very nice switch to do the proactive policing, now," she said. "It's not been really policing, but it's much more proactive and that's a total change in mind shift from being reactive all the time."

Roussel's ongoing involvement in the National Managers' Community helped land her the job at Community Mobilization Prince Albert, she relayed, noting that the National Managers' Community is similar in a number of ways.

The National Managers' Community connects managers in various federal organizations across Canada to work on promoting their needs and sharing best practices -- "Similar to the COR where we sit with various agencies to see where our issues are, and what's new within our departments and how we can help our departments to function better," Roussel said.

"For me, I'm the only federal person at the COR level, so it involves a different set of rules and policies to engage my other federal partners if we need to, because we have CORs now in different places in Saskatchewan."

While the COR links various agencies together to tackle underlying community issues, it's the Hub table that's brought the kind of immediate results that Roussel said she's been surprised to see.

"I was floored the first time I went to a Hub meeting, just to see what it was like," she said.

It's not been really policing, but it's much more proactive and that's a total change in mind shift from being reactive all the time. Constance Roussel

The Hub table meets twice weekly to address specific situations regarding individual issues, with various organizations starting work within 24 to 48 hours.

"Here, if we have something that's acute and we need to deal with it, we have every partner at the table -- How much better do you want it?" Roussel said.

At the COR table, Roussel's keen on helping bring the community's' alcohol strategy to light.

"I think it's great," she said of the organization's focus on developing an alcohol strategy. "To be honest, I think it needed to be looked at, it needs to be dealt with, it needs the community's input and I think at some point it's become a norm, and we need to change that. We need to have a mental shift.

"It's not a norm -- It's an issue. It's an obstacle to healthy living."

In addition to that, she's working on improvements to mental health in the province. Both projects are currently in the data collection stage, she said.

Underlining both efforts is the importance of gathering together as many agencies' input as possible under the Community Mobilization Prince Albert model, she said.

"It's a good mindset, but it's different agencies, so there's so much more that we have to learn about one another."

The Daily Herald will continue to profile the new members of the Hub and COR in coming days.