

March 31, 2020

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 2C2

Re: Options for Auxiliary Policing in B.C.

Dear Minister Farnworth,

We write to advise that the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) Executive, at its February 21, 2020 meeting, endorsed the following motion:

That, due to the RCMP's decision to discontinue the old Auxiliary Program on April 1, 2020, UBCM accept the temporary implementation of the new Auxiliary Program (Tier 3) while a BC-only program is under construction.

The RCMP Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) is supportive of the UBCM Executive motion.

This motion does not change UBCM's position, as expressed in our July 17, 2019 letter, that the provincial government should develop and implement a BC-only auxiliary policing program. In fact, this request is made with that outcome in mind.

Provincial staff members have indicated that it could take upwards of 2 years to develop and implement a BC-only auxiliary policing program. With the current federal Auxiliary Program ending on April 1, 2020, this could create a situation whereby B.C. is without auxiliary policing services for upwards of 18-24 months. We are hoping to avoid that situation.

While the Province works to develop a BC-only program, we feel the best short-term option is to offer local governments the ability to decide whether they wish to continue providing auxiliary policing services. We remain concerned with certain aspects of the new Auxiliary Program, in particular the uniform, and as such do not see this as a long-term solution.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with the provincial government, as it continues to work on developing a BC-only auxiliary policing program.

Yours truly,



Maja Tait
UBCM President



Craig Hodge
Co-Chair, LGCMC

cc: *Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services,
Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General*

Brenda Lucki, Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

*Jennifer Strachan, Deputy Commissioner and Commanding Officer, "E" Division, Royal
Canadian Mounted Police*