



August 22, 2023
Ref: 656179

Craig Hodge
Co-Chair, Local Government Contract Management Committee
c/o UBCM
60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W9
Email: chodge@coquitlam.ca

Dear Councillor Craig Hodge:

I am writing to provide the Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) with an update on the impacts of the current wildfire situation in the province on local governments who receive RCMP policing under a Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA).

The Province declared a state of emergency on August 18, 2023 as a result of the evolving wildfire situation. This situation constitutes an “Emergency” as defined by the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) and the Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA). As you know, evacuations and firefighting efforts are underway.

While emergencies under the Policing Agreements are rare, it is imperative in this instance that police, as first responders, have access to extra resources as necessary. Under the framework of our Agreements with Canada and local governments, resources can be redeployed from another Unit elsewhere either within the Provincial Police Service, a municipal or federal Unit within the Province, or, if necessary, RCMP resources from a different province or territory. At this time, significant resources within the Provincial Police Service have already been deployed or are under deployment directions.

Local RCMP detachments across the province may be called upon to redeploy some municipal members to assist the wildfire response. As this situation evolves, local Detachment Commanders will be assessing their local needs and operational ability to assist and will be consulting with Mayors or delegates. I want to emphasize that the Commanding Officer is acutely aware of the need to ensure continued adequate and effective policing in all communities under RCMP jurisdiction, and their staff will work with affected local governments.

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Pursuant to the Agreements, the Province is obligated to pay the costs of the redeployments, including salary, transportation, and maintenance at the applicable cost share. The jurisdiction supplying the members (i.e., municipality, province, territory, or Canada) will not bear the costs directly related to the redeployment; however, jurisdictions are encouraged to work with their local Detachment Commanders to manage any indirect impacts.

I trust the information outlined above provides the LGCMC with clarity on the steps being taken to ensure the safety and security of all British Columbians. The RCMP "E" Division and Policing and Security Branch staff will provide ongoing communication and consultation with you regarding the situation as it evolves.

I would like to thank you, UBCM, and the LGCMC for your support in responding to this emergency.

Sincerely,



Jamie Lipp
A/Deputy Director of Police Services and Executive Director, Indigenous, Core Policing and Contract Management Division

pc: Glen Lewis, A/Assistant Deputy Minister And Director of Police Services, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald, Commanding Officer, E-Division RCMP
Billy Castillo, Executive Director, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Gary MacIssac, Executive Director, UBCM
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