

May 15, 2023

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
P.O. Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2
Email: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Policing Transition – Impacts on Local Governments

Dear Minister Farnworth,

I write to you regarding your recent recommendation for policing in the City of Surrey. As the representative for all local governments in British Columbia, the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) is interested in the impacts of any large-scale policing initiative on its members. As such, we are seeking additional information from your Ministry regarding potential impacts to local governments.

As you are aware, vacancy management is a significant issue for local RCMP detachments, as well as independent police agencies. It is important for UBCM's members to know how they might be affected if the Surrey RCMP ramps up or dissolves. There are a number of factors that we would like to better understand including but not limited to the capacity of the Justice Institute of B.C. to train new members, recruitment trends and initiatives, and timelines and expectations for filling necessary positions.

There are also services that RCMP detachments share, sometimes with other police agencies in B.C. Changes to integrated teams, divisional administration and national programs will all have financial and operational impacts on local governments. It is understood that the Province and RCMP have been developing high level scenarios for shared costs, which could be communicated to local governments.

We would also appreciate further information regarding local and provincial levels of authority as they pertain to providing law enforcement and policing. Clarification regarding the authorities that exist within the *Police Act* will be helpful for other local governments that may face similar decisions in the future.

UBCM is seeking information beyond what is provided in the Director of Police Services' report. An in-depth response regarding the above issues and other impacts that may be identified by your Ministry will help provide much-needed clarity and serve to benefit public safety in our province.

Thank you for considering our request for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JCFord".

Jen Ford
UBCM President

cc: *Glen Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General*

Jamie Lipp, Acting Associate Director of Police Services, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General