



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 665534

May 3, 2024

All Mayors of RCMP Contract Policing Municipalities

Dear Mayors:

I am writing to you today following concerns raised about the impact that Surrey's policing transition may have on other RCMP-policed municipalities. More specifically, I understand concerns have once again been raised about the potential for increased Divisional Administration costs with the transition from the Surrey RCMP to the Surrey Police Service (SPS). It is important for me to respond to these concerns directly and to address any misunderstanding that may exist.

You will recall that I wrote to you on July 19, 2023, advising of my decision that the City of Surrey must continue its police model transition to the SPS in accordance with s. 2 of the *Police Act* to ensure adequate and effective policing in the City of Surrey, and the province as a whole. In my letter, I made it clear that I was aware of concerns that some municipal RCMP contract partners have raised about divisional administration costs. I maintained and still maintain that mitigating potential impacts would continue to be a fundamental part of transition planning. I also advised that I had written to both the RCMP Commissioner and RCMP Deputy Commissioner of "E" Division expressing my expectation that the RCMP work collaboratively to ensure that any impacts related to the police model transition are mitigated to the fullest extent possible. This included an expectation that the RCMP would expedite and prioritize staffing of existing vacancies across all BC business lines.

Divisional Administration costs are based on the overall number of Members within a Division. As the Province works with the RCMP to staff existing vacancies in BC, it is my expectation that RCMP Members released from the Surrey Detachment would remain in "E" Division to fill existing vacancies and growth. In this way, there would no reduction in Members in the Division as a result of the transition and therefore, no attributable increase in Division Administration costs.

It is important to clarify that Divisional Administration costs are susceptible to change for a variety of reasons, including for example, the number of Members in the Division, vacancies, Special Leave, or increases to establishment resulting from emerging municipalities. I do not expect that Divisional Administration costs for RCMP policed municipalities would increase from this police model transition.

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In closing, ministry staff continue to engage the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), through the Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC), to provide additional information to RCMP-policed municipalities. The Province remains committed to engaging with UBCM, LGCMC, and RCMP-policed municipalities to provide information related to the City of Surrey's police model transition. I encourage you to engage LGCMC to receive the most current information on Divisional Administration and associated costs.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to public safety in the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
and Deputy Premier

pc: All Chief Administrative Officers/City Managers  
Dwayne McDonald, Deputy Commissioner, RCMP  
Douglas Scott, Deputy Solicitor General  
Glen Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services