



MEMBER RELEASE

December 8, 2011

TO: Mayor & Council | Chair & Board | Senior Staff
FROM: UBCM Secretariat
RE: **UPDATE: RCMP Contract Negotiations**

1. Purpose

This communication is being forwarded to inform local governments about the status of the negotiations to renew the RCMP Policing Agreements.

On November 30, 2011 Solicitor General Shirley Bond announced that the Deputy Minister's negotiating team was able to reach an Agreement in Principle with the federal government.

On November 30, 2011 all of the Deputy Ministers from the Province/Territorial (PT) block (BC, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) indicated to the federal Deputy Minister their formal intent to forward the Agreement to their respective Cabinets for consideration.

UBCM Executive has indicated its support in principle for the renewal of the proposed RCMP Agreement.

Minister Bond also reaffirmed her commitment to work with UBCM to consult with impacted local governments as part of the Provincial government's decision making process and move forward with the implementation of the new RCMP Agreement.

2. Improvements Compared to the Current Agreement

The Province has provided the following information on the new RCMP contract. Detailed information about the new Agreement has not been released at this time as many of the Provinces/Territories have not yet submitted the new contract to their respective cabinets for approval.

a) Clarity

The federal government accepted Provincial/Territorial (PT) recommendations to provide clarity around the:

- management of the Agreement;
- inclusions and exclusions of cost items/national program budgets;
- intent and/or meaning of language;
- technical operation of the Agreement; and,
- control/oversight cost control mechanisms contained in terms of consistency with other parts of the Agreement.

b) New Relationship – A Partnership

The federal government agreed to re-define the relationship between the parties. PTs have now achieved an agreement that will enhance Local Government and PT oversight and governance with respect to both National RCMP Programs and their local Police Service.

c) Accountability

The PTs achieved many new processes and mechanisms to report, plan, monitor, review, and evaluate the financial and operational aspects of local and national RCMP police services and programs.

d) Cost Containment - Control

All Contract partners will face increased costs with the new Agreements. The current estimate of the first year cost increase to BC Local Governments related solely to contract renewal is less than 1.5% over 2011/12 budgets, this does not include salary increases and other costs that were earlier identified by the RCMP. The PT negotiators focussed on gaining more control over all costs so that we may improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of contract policing in Canada. There is now a balance between what we pay and our ability to contain and control our costs.

e) Term

The PTs agreed to continue with existing provisions respecting the twenty year term, two year opt out provision and five year review mechanism. It is anticipated that feedback and input from the BC Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee will feed into the five year review process.

f) Independent Investigation of RCMP Complaints

The BC Independent Investigation Office that has been created to review all serious complaints involving the RCMP will be operational by mid 2012. The Province worked with the federal government to develop draft legislation that would give the force of law to current RCMP policy, whereby incidents involving a serious injury or death and an RCMP Member are investigated by a non-RCMP police force or investigation office created for that purpose by a Province. Once passed, that legislation will also improve the existing mechanisms for civilian oversight of RCMP conduct complaints. The Province continues to press the federal government to reintroduce and pass that legislation.

g) Companion Document

UBCM will be working with the Province to develop a Companion Document to the Municipal Policing Unit Agreements that will serve to inform Local Government about the operation and management of the RCMP Agreements. This will be a living document that can be amended/added to over time as required.

3. Next Steps

UBCM and the Province are planning detailed briefings for January 2012 in Vancouver, Kelowna and Prince George. Further details will follow in the coming weeks regarding those meetings.

The Municipal Police Unit Agreements will be prepared and distributed following those briefings and well in advance of the March 31, 2012 expiry of the current agreements.

UBCM Contact

If your local government has any questions regarding this communication, please contact Ken Vance, Senior Policy Advisor Email: kvance@ubcm.ca; Tel: 604-270-8226 ext. 114.

Please contact Mayor Peter Fassbender, City of Langley, at 604-514-2801 or by email at mayor@langleycity.ca if you have further questions about the negotiations.