



MEMO TO MEMBERS

September 10, 2010

TO: Mayor and Council, Chair and Regional Board and Administrators
FROM: UBCM Secretariat
RE: **RCMP CONTRACT UPDATE BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

A workshop session focused on providing participants with information on the status of negotiations related to the renewal of the RCMP contract for BC local governments will be held as part of the 2010 UBCM Convention Program as follows:

**RCMP Contract Renewal Update Workshop
Tuesday, September 28, 2010
3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Harmony A&B, Whistler Conference Centre**

Opportunity will be provided at the workshop for questions and discussion related to the interests and concerns of those present. Mr. Kevin Begg, the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Police Services, will be present at the workshop to provide information and take questions. Mr. Begg is the lead negotiator for British Columbia in the contract renewal process.

A spreadsheet is attached to this communication, entitled **"RCMP CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – Review by Local Government Working Group and UBCM"** (see Appendix B for details), that lists the issues/concerns that have been identified to date by RCMP-policed BC local governments and that have been forwarded by the UBCM to the Province for consideration relative to the RCMP Contract Renewal Negotiations. The

spreadsheet includes a brief summary related to each of the issues/concerns and a description of the provincial action being taken on the issue/concern at this time in the contract renewal negotiation process.

The issues/concerns are categorized under three broad themes that have been established by the Province for the Contract Renewal Process. These are:

- Partnership (the Province and local governments want to be viewed as a partner rather than a client);
- Governance and Accountability; and
- Cost Containment / Affordability.

The "Partnership" theme covers all of the issues and concerns of local government. Local governments want to be viewed as partners in policing rather than clients. This means that they should be given meaningful and timely opportunities for input into decisions that will affect the costs of and delivery of police services by the RCMP.

In general, reasonable progress has been made in negotiations to date in relation to the local government issues and concerns under the "Partnership" theme and the "Governance and Accountability" theme. Negotiations in relation to the "Cost Containment" theme are just getting underway;

however, given the financial pressures that the Federal government is experiencing, it is fair to say that negotiations in this area will be “tough slugging”. There has been little progress in this area to date.

Some of the key issues highlighted in the spreadsheet are outlined below:

- Funding Formula – need for adjustments in the formula as policing costs are becoming unaffordable to local government;
- Financial Planning and Reporting – need for the RCMP to provide 5 year financial plans;
- Accommodations and Equipment – development of guidelines to outline accommodation requirements and establishment of a dispute resolution mechanism;
- Staff Vacancies – need for RCMP human resource plans to meet their staffing requirements, address vacancy rates and seasonal demands; and
- Performance Measures, Audit/Evaluation – need for local government role in setting RCMP performance measures and the ability to audit and perform program/service evaluations on their municipal forces.

Background and Contract Renewal Process:

The provincial and federal governments are in the process of negotiating a renewal of the Agreements (or contracts) under which the RCMP provides police services in B.C. The renewal of the Agreements is referred to as the Contract Renewal Process. There are three inter-connected Agreements (“the Agreements”) that are being addressed through the renewal process:

1. **Provincial Police Services Agreement (PPSA)** – this provincial-federal Agreement engages the RCMP as the provincial police force;
2. **Municipal Policing Agreement (MPA)** – based on the PPSA, this provincial-federal Agreement contains the terms and conditions under which the Province is able to sub-contract Provincial RCMP police services to municipalities; and

3. **Municipal Police Unit Agreements (MPUA)** – this municipal-provincial Agreement allows municipalities with populations in excess of 5,000 people to contract through the Province for the delivery of local police services by the RCMP.

The term of the current Agreements runs from April 1, 1992 to March 31, 2012. Each of the three (3) Agreements is quite similar in terms of content.

The Contract Renewal Process is being managed in three phases. The first phase was the “information-gathering” phase. This phase was completed in early 2010. The second phase, which is currently underway, is the “negotiation” phase. It is anticipated that an agreement-in-principle will be concluded between the federal and provincial/territorial governments by the end of 2010.

Once an agreement-in-principle has been concluded, the provincial-municipal phase of the contract renewal process will begin. The Province:

- Will forward a draft of the MPUA agreement and a related Companion Document (that provides more information regarding the interpretation of each of the clauses in the MPUA agreement) to each local government with a population over 5,000 that is policed by the RCMP, to review the agreement and to consider what action to take in relation to renewing the MPUA; and
- Will establish a Local Government Contract Advisory Committee to assist in the management of the RCMP contract in the province and to discuss provincial-local government issues that need to be addressed as part of the on-going contract management process.

The UBCM has continued to ensure that local government issues have been considered in the process through:

- the appointment of a local government representative to the Province’s Contract Renewal Team - Murray Dinwoodie, CAO/ City Manager. City of Surrey;

- the appointment of a local government working group (LGWG) to assist in developing information in support of contract negotiations on behalf of B.C. municipalities (see Appendix A for details);
- the establishment of a small advisory committee of local government elected officials to assist the UBCM Local Government Representative on the provincial negotiating team, as negotiations on the RCMP contract renewal progress (see Appendix A).

A UBCM local government representative has attended all the meetings of the Provincial/Territorial Contract Advisory Committee (P/TCAC) with the Federal government negotiating team to observe the negotiations and provide the Province with advice on local government issues and concerns.

Since May 2008, the LGWG has met regularly to discuss the development of a draft mandate for negotiations and a communications process to ensure that the interests of affected municipalities are well understood and properly balanced in developing the mandate. In addition, the working group has met on several occasions with the Assistant Deputy Minister for Policing and Community Safety, Mr. Kevin Begg, to discuss issues and concerns raised by B.C. local governments. Mr. Begg chairs the Provincial Territorial Contract Advisory Committee (P/T CAC), which is comprised of representatives of the eight provinces (not including Ontario and Quebec) and the three territories that have an RCMP contract for police services. The P/T CAC is negotiating the new Agreements with the Federal government.

In 2009 UBCM undertook a survey of local government concerns regarding policing costs and the RCMP contract. A policy paper was presented at the 2009 UBCM Convention entitled paper Police Services in British Columbia – Affordability & Accountability and the recommendations in the report were endorsed by the members.

UBCM organized a meeting to discuss contract issues on January 20, 2010 for municipalities with populations over 5,000 that have chosen to

be policed by the RCMP and are required to enter into a Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) for the use of RCMP services with the province. There are currently 60 municipalities that have an MPUA with the province. A copy of the presentations made at this meeting and the issues discussed were also posted on the UBCM website for viewing.

Local governments in B.C. with a population under 5,000 are provided with police services by the Provincial RCMP police force. There are more than 80 such local governments in B.C. These local governments do not have an MPUA agreement with the Province for police services; however, they have raised concerns to the UBCM about the manner in which police services are provided to them, particularly with respect to RCMP accountability. The UBCM LGWG includes representatives from these small local governments. Consistent with the “Partnership” theme mentioned earlier in this communication, the Province has agreed to establish on a permanent basis a Local Government Contract Advisory Committee that will meet on a regular basis during the term of the new RCMP contract and will be responsible for discussing and resolving issues and concerns related to local government interests in the management of the new RCMP contract and related to shortcomings in the delivery of local government police services by the RCMP in the Province. This Local Government Contract Advisory Committee will include representatives of small, medium and large local governments along with Provincial representatives.

Need for Continuing Local Government Involvement:

Local government participation in the UBCM process related to the renewal of the RCMP Agreements is critical to assist in ensuring the best possible outcome of these negotiations.

UBCM Contact:

If you or your local government has any comments or input related to the information contained in this communication, please forward such input to Ken Vance at the UBCM Offices in Richmond at 604-270-8226 or at kvance@civiconet.bc.ca.