



MEMBER RELEASE

March 3, 2011

TO: Administrator & Senior Staff

FROM: Ken Vance, Senior Policy Advisor

RE: Keep of Prisoner—Survey of Costs

This communication is being forwarded to local government to collect information on the costs of keeping a prisoner in a municipal jail. UBCM intends to have discussions with the Province about increasing the rate for the Keep of Prisoner program and requires detailed financial information to pursue this issue.

1. BACKGROUND

The present the Keep of Prisoner program (KOP) was implemented by the provincial government in 2002, as a result of provincial cutbacks introduced at that time. The Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General stated that the Province was establishing a provincial prisoner rate, based on the available budget. Historically municipalities had used a variety of measures to establish prisoner costs and there was no standard process for determining the cost for the keep of a prisoner. The provincial intent was to establish an equitable hourly or per diem reimbursement rate for all provincial prisoners once the information was available. Accordingly the Province established data collection standards for the purposes of determining a reimbursement rate for keeping a provincial prisoner in a municipal jail.

Local government under the RCMP agreement is identified as the party responsible for the formal establishment of local jails and the costs associated with operating them. The determination of who is responsible for the costs of a prisoner is made according to the legal status of the prisoner—whether the prisoner has been formerly charged with a federal or provincial offence. The federal and provincial government only pay for keep of prisoner costs from the time the prisoner is formerly brought before a Judge and charged with an offence.

The KOP rate is based on the total provincial prisoner hours per fiscal quarter divided into one quarter of the provincial prisoner budget. The Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, Corrections Branch Operating Budget is allocated a fixed amount for housing provincial police prisoners in municipal lockups. Also included in the budgetary

allocation is a fixed amount (historical average) from the provincial police budget to pay for housing provincial police prisoners in municipal lockups who were arrested outside municipal boundaries by provincial police force members.

The payments under the Keep of Prisoner program also include reimbursement for federal prisoners housed in municipal facilities. The rate paid by the federal government for reimbursement will vary depending on the classification of the prisoner (i.e. immigration or corrections etc.).

Provincial funding for the KOP program currently is not intended to cover the actual costs of keeping a prisoner in a municipal jail (i.e. wage costs, meal costs, cleaning and maintenance etc.).

2. INFORMATION REQUEST

Survey

As mentioned above, UBCM requires detailed financial information in order to embark upon discussions with the Province about increasing the rate for the Keep of Prisoner program.

Local government staff is asked to fill out the following survey of costs for the keep of prisoners, on behalf of their municipality, by **March 25, 2011**. Link to survey:

<http://www.surveys.civicinfo.bc.ca/v2/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=p2K179I>

Reports or Background Information

In addition, please forward any background information or reports that may have been prepared by your local government on the Keep of Prisoner program to the UBCM by **March 25, 2011**.

3. CONTACT

Reports or background information should be sent to the attention of:

Ken Vance
Senior Policy Advisor

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Tel: 604.270.8226 ext. 114

Please feel free to contact Ken with any questions about the information gathering process.