

Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Commissioner



Gendarmerie royale du Canada  
Commissaire

Guided by Integrity, Honesty, Professionalism, Compassion, Respect and Accountability

Les valeurs de la GRC reposent sur l'intégrité, l'honnêteté,  
le professionnalisme, la compassion, le respect et la responsabilisation

**SEP 26 2018**

Councillor Bruce Hayne  
Co-Chair, LGCMC

Director Wendy Booth  
President, UBCM

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Union of B.C. Municipalities  
60-10551 Shellbridge Way  
Richmond, British Columbia  
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Dear Mr. Hayne and Ms. Booth:

Thank you for your correspondence and feedback of August 29, 2018, regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) Auxiliary Program uniform. I acknowledge the particular interest in the Auxiliary Program by the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) and the B.C. RCMP Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC).

The Auxiliary Program is important to the RCMP and to a number of communities and, consequently, decisions related to the Program, be they related to duties, authorities, or kit and clothing have only been made after extensive consultation and purposeful consideration. In relation to the former, the RCMP's policy centre responsible for the Program consulted with municipalities, provinces, territories, and a myriad of subject matter experts over numerous months in order to address all concerns and interests.

This comprehensive review commenced following the tragedy in St. Albert, Alberta, in January 2015, and has continued since that time with input being received from several stakeholders and partners, including our Auxiliaries. In relation to the uniform, the principles underlying our approach have been predominantly aimed at displaying a high degree of professionalism reflecting their authorities (similar to the Province of British Columbia, in many jurisdictions, Auxiliaries are granted some peace officer powers), and properly identifying these individuals to ensure that they are not mistaken for armed police personnel, all with a view towards maximizing their safety and that of the public.

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Recognizing the importance of the Auxiliary Program to British Columbia and given the long history of the Program in your Province, RCMP personnel were particularly attuned to the perspectives provided by your officials. When we received their input identifying concerns with the proposed markings on the high-visibility jacket and vest, we immediately consulted with the RCMP's National Occupational Health and Safety Committee — a body with statutory responsibilities pursuant to the *Canada Labour Code* — for advice on a way forward. While multiple options were considered by this Committee, ultimately its advice was to ensure that the word “Volunteer” be the most prominent on the uniform, and that “Auxiliary” remain front and centre given the nature of the duties carried out by these individuals.

This approach is necessary and strikes the proper balance given our current environment, permitting members of the public who wish to volunteer to work with the police to address crime and disorder, to strengthen communities, and to be safe while doing so. That said, given that uniforms and our environment are constantly changing, I do not see this configuration as static, but rather could be subject to evolution after some time. To that end, I will direct my officials to re-assess the safety and other considerations of the Auxiliary uniform after an 18-month implementation period.

The RCMP, like you, is proud of and fully supports those in our community who are willing to give of themselves and volunteer to better their communities. It is therefore my hope that we can work together to implement the changes to a modernized Auxiliary Program and rebuild its place as an important part of community safety and well-being in the Province of British Columbia and across Canada.

Yours sincerely,



Brenda Lucki  
Commissioner

c.c.: Mr. Clayton J.D. Pecknold  
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Deputy Commissioner Brenda Butterworth-Carr  
Commanding Officer, “E” Division