

July 17, 2019

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 2C2

Re: Auxiliary Policing in British Columbia

Dear Minister Farnworth,

We write to you regarding auxiliary policing, and in particular the future of the federal Auxiliary Program in British Columbia. UBCM and the RCMP Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) do not support the Province's proposal to temporarily implement the federal Auxiliary Program. Furthermore, given the RCMP's refusal to address local government concerns, we re-iterate our request for a provincial program.

At the May 2019 LGCMC meeting, provincial representatives proposed implementing the federal Auxiliary Program on a temporary basis. The local government members of the LGCMC, representing communities from throughout British Columbia, unanimously rejected this proposal, maintaining their support for the provincial government to establish its own program.

While we agree that auxiliary policing is a much-needed community law enforcement tool, UBCM and the LGCMC simply cannot accept the federal program for several previously stated reasons. The proposed uniform, with the word "volunteer" prominently displayed, does not visually convey the professionalism and authority held by Auxiliaries. Additionally, this type of uniform also places an unnecessary safety risk on Auxiliary Members.

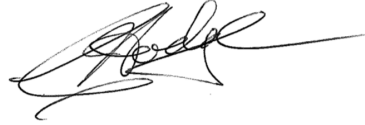
UBCM's Executive recently endorsed a motion supporting "further research and analysis into the possibility of implementing a provincial Auxiliary/Reserve Constable Program for RCMP-policed jurisdictions." In rejecting the provincial proposal for temporary implementation of the federal Auxiliary Program, we continue to support provincial action related to the establishment of a BC-only program.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the establishment of a provincial program, in an effort to both adequately recognize and protect Auxiliary Members, and rebuild a key component of law enforcement.

Very Best,



Arjun Singh
President, UBCM



Craig Hodge
Co-Chair, LGCMC

cc: *Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General*

Brenda Lucki, Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Jennifer Strachan, Deputy Commissioner and Commanding Officer, "E" Division, Royal Canadian Mounted Police