

# **RCMP Local Government Contract Management Committee**

## **Summary of the December 10, 2019 In-Person Meeting**

The Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) meets regularly with provincial and RCMP representatives to discuss issues related to the RCMP contract and policing in British Columbia. The following summary highlights key issues discussed at its most recent in-person meeting:

### **RCMP Labour Relations**

The National Police Federation has been certified as the RCMP's sole bargaining agent. The NPF has since served Federal Treasury Board with a notice to bargain. Union representatives will assume their roles on January 1, 2020, and the collective bargaining process is expected to begin soon after. LGCMC members remain concerned with potential cost impacts and the ability of local governments to accommodate any new operational requirements.

### **RCMP Auxiliary Program**

The LGCMC was advised that the current Auxiliary Program would cease to exist as of April 1, 2020. Provinces and Territories may enter into an MOU with RCMP National Headquarters to operate the new auxiliary program with the updated uniforms. The LGCMC agreed to consider short- and long-term options available to BC local governments.

### **Vision 150**

Members discussed Vision 150, a modernization process introduced by the RCMP Commissioner in advance of the RCMP's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2023). In particular, there is a desire among contract partners to provide input into this process. Contract partners have also requested more information regarding timelines and cost implications.

### **RCMP Uniforms**

As part of Vision 150, the RCMP may be looking to introduce new uniforms. RCMP members recently received a survey, requesting input on shirts, pants, hats and faith-based headwear. Feedback is currently under consideration. It is expected that cost estimates will eventually be communicated to partners.

### **Conversion of Civilian Members**

The federal government recently eliminated this category of RCMP member. Local governments and the Province are working to ensure there are no negative financial

repercussions resulting from this decision (e.g. an increase in local government division administration costs).

### **Android Team Awareness Kit**

This Vision 150 initiative could see Android phones using GPS tracking to monitor the whereabouts of RCMP members once they've left their vehicles. This initiative has not yet been approved for implementation, as the RCMP is still considering its options.

### **Resource Planning and Demand / Vacancy Rates**

The RCMP is working on a new regular member demand methodology, to better capture vacancy rates. A related pilot project will soon begin in Saskatchewan. Some divisions are actively seeking more accurate metrics to help capture and address vacancy issues.

### **Reserve Program**

This program gives recently retired police officers (from the RCMP and other police agencies) an opportunity to provide temporary assistance in areas experiencing vacancy or seasonal pressures. The RCMP has increased this program to 800 reservists, with 250 available positions in BC.

### **Member Recruitment**

Recruitment remains a primary concern, as it continues to impact the number of graduates being sent to British Columbia to address vacancy issues. The RCMP is working to modernize its hiring process, in an effort to boost the number of applicants. RCMP representatives indicated that BC is open to taking as many graduates as possible.

### **Federal Policing**

This area is currently undergoing a re-alignment that could impact the level of federal resources devoted to areas such as airports and drug enforcement. An ongoing review seeks to examine whether the federal policing budget is at an appropriate level.

### **Major RCMP Operational Issues / Initiatives**

There are a number of major operational issues/priorities the RCMP is working to address, including but not limited to:

- Homelessness;
- Legalization of non-medical cannabis;
- Protests;
- Wildfires;

- National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;
- Missing persons investigations;
- How sexual assaults are investigated;
- Investments into front line policing;
- Administration of the new provincial support team; and,
- Prisoner transportation.

### **RCMP Building Lease Agreements**

LGCMC members discussed next steps in the process to develop a new approach to the negotiation and re-negotiation of RCMP Occupancy Lease Agreements. All three organizations agreed on the formation of a working group.

### **Keep of Prisoners**

Provincial and local government representatives discussed reimbursement for costs associated with keep of prisoners. The provincial budget was significantly reduced in 2004, and reimbursement rates do not align with actual policing costs.

### **Surrey Policing Transition**

The Committee discussed the ongoing work of the Joint Transition Committee, who at the time of the meeting was still working on their final report to the Province. The cost impacts (e.g. division administration and training costs) associated with reducing the RCMP complement in BC are still to be determined.

### **Policing Transition Evaluation Framework**

The Province indicated that this framework would be finalized shortly, and used to evaluate the City of Surrey's work to date. The intent is for the provincial government to use this framework, along with adjusted performance metrics, to evaluate all future local government requests.

### **Integrated Teams Cost Share**

The LMD Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) cost share is one of three outstanding issues to be resolved with Public Safety Canada. The Province indicated that it hopes to resolve this issue by the end of the year.

### **Provincial Policing Resources**

Local governments and UBCM have previously requested that additional front line resources be added to the provincial police force. Provincial representatives

acknowledged the need for additional investment, and are working to make the best use of available money in the public safety budget.

### **Murder Investigation Costs**

An LGCMC member requested that the Province consider reviewing how homicide costs are allocated, especially in the scenario where a crime is committed in one jurisdiction but a body is found in another. It is hoped that better technology can help monitor these types of costs.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, this update was not provided at the originally scheduled release date. Any questions may be directed to Bhar Sihota, UBCM Senior Policy Analyst ([bsihota@ubcm.ca](mailto:bsihota@ubcm.ca)).