



JAN 06 2020

December 30, 2019

Maja Tait
President
Union of BC Municipalities
60 - 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W9

Dear Maja Tait:

Thank you for your letter dated October 2, 2019, regarding the endorsement of a provincial call answer levy for cellular devices by the Union of BC Municipalities Executive.

I recognize the roadblocks to 911 service provision that some communities in British Columbia face and I have requested that ministry staff engage with key stakeholders in an effort to examine collaborative opportunities to bolster the 911 system in BC. I understand that UBCM is engaged in these efforts and I appreciate receiving your recommendation on this matter. I recognize the benefits that a new revenue source would allow for the enhancement of services to all British Columbians. As we continue our exploration of options for improving 911 services in BC, I have requested ministry staff consider your suggestion for a provincial call answer levy and for an independent body to manage funds raised by the proposed levy.

Thank you once again for your input and ongoing support. We look forward to working with UBCM on this initiative further.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General