

President
of the Treasury Board



Président
du Conseil du Trésor

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0R5

SEP 25 2017

Murry Krause
President, Union of BC Municipalities
60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, British Columbia
V6X 2W9

Dear Mr. Krause:

Thank you for your letter, dated April 10, 2017, regarding Bill C-7, *An Act to amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act, the Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board Act and other Acts and to provide for certain other measures*. I appreciate you taking the time to write to me.

First, I want to assure you that the Government of Canada's interests in compensating Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) members reasonably, while ensuring the prudent use of public funds, is consistent with those of your organization, as well as, municipalities, provinces, and territories across Canada.

As you know, the Government of Canada entered into 20-year contractual agreements with most Canadian provinces and territories (except Ontario and Quebec) and over 150 municipalities in 2012 to provide RCMP policing services to these communities. Under these agreements, the Government of Canada is responsible for consulting with contract parties through the Contract Management Committee on matters that impact the cost, governance, quality or capacity of RCMP police services.

In August 2015, with a view to achieving this objective, Public Safety Canada officials led consultations with provincial and territorial jurisdictions regarding the draft legislation, which later became Bill C-7, including items that could be subject to collective bargaining and binding arbitration. During consultations, these jurisdictions were asked to share their views with the federal government. In January 2016, additional consultation documents outlining key elements of draft legislation for the RCMP's new labour relations regime were sent to all contract jurisdictions.

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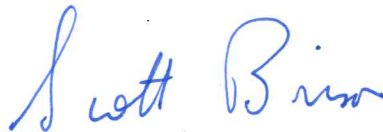
I am pleased to note that Bill C-7, *An Act to amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act, the Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board Act and other Acts and to provide for certain other measures*, received Royal Assent on June 19, 2017, following open engagement and thorough consideration by Parliament.

Bill C-7 provides RCMP members and reservists with a labour relations regime within which they can pursue their interests through collective bargaining, if they choose to do so. Importantly, the Bill reflects the preferences of RCMP members by providing a regime that ensures any bargaining agent certified to represent them will be a single national union focused on RCMP members, and by providing for binding arbitration in the event an agreement cannot be negotiated.

The Bill will allow the Government and any future RCMP member bargaining agent to engage in meaningful discussions in good faith on topics of importance to RCMP members and reservists. The Government is committed to continuing to support the RCMP and its members so that they can continue to provide the highest quality of service to Canadian citizens.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Brison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Scott Brison, P.C., M.P.