

Surrey Policing Transition

Additional Information for Municipalities

Financial Impacts for RCMP-Policed Municipalities Over 5,000 in Population

In accordance with section 15 of the *Police Act*, municipalities with populations over 5,000 are responsible for bearing all the necessary expenses for policing and law enforcement within their municipal boundaries. By virtue of the RCMP Agreements, those municipalities contracting the RCMP to deliver their police services receive the mutual benefit of a 70/30 or 90/10 cost-share with the federal government. Common services/resources are made available to these municipalities and the costs are pooled among contract partners. Some examples of these common services/resources include Divisional Administration (e.g. financial management, human resources, special leave), and national programs (e.g. recruiting, cadet training, police dog training centre).

If a contract partner decides to terminate their MPUA, there will be changes to the shared costs among the remaining RCMP contract partners. In this case, the City of Surrey's transition to its own police service will have a downstream impact on distribution of shared costs among RCMP policed municipalities.

So long as the City of Surrey's MPUA remains in effect, the City will continue to contribute to the applicable shared costs as per the terms of the MPUA. The potential financial impacts to Divisional Administration resulting from Surrey's eventual MPUA termination are anticipated to be minimal as it is expected that Divisional Administration cost components (Health Services, Special Leave – over 30 days, Divisional Administration Core Units, etc.) will likewise decline. The Surrey Police Service will also continue to participate in the Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams, and as such, costs related to these teams are not anticipated to change as a result of Surrey's police model transition.

A significant mitigating factor to the potential impacts of the City of Surrey's police model transition is that the transition implementation will be gradual and measured. A transition of this scope and scale will take time to achieve.

As more information is known through the implementation of transition plans, the RCMP will develop projections of the anticipated changes to shared costs amongst the RCMP contracted municipalities. In the meantime, the Province is working with the RCMP to develop high level scenarios that can be shared directly with affected municipalities. Broader updates will continue to be delivered through existing forums, such as the Local Government Contract Management Committee. Further, affected municipalities should also expect to see projections reflected in their multi-year financial plans, which are typically delivered in May/June.

Staffing and Attrition from Police Agencies

It is reasonable to expect that experienced officers or those with specialized skillsets may view the SPS as an attractive employment opportunity. While the extent of officer attrition is unknown, it is important that the RCMP, municipal police departments, and municipal police boards have robust strategies to assist with succession planning, officer retention, and future recruitment.

The Director of Police Services is monitoring this issue and receives regular reports on the number of SPS hires. The Province is also engaged with the RCMP, municipal police departments, and their Police Boards through forums such as the BC Association of Chiefs of Police and the BC Association of Police Boards, regarding the continual need for robust recruiting and retention planning.

Justice Institute of BC and Recruit Training

Since 2017, the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) Police Academy (PA) has been experiencing budget issues and provincial government has historically responded by working closely with JIBC leadership with the goal of addressing immediate financial challenges related to recruit training. An external financial analysis was completed in order to understand the actual costs of recruit training at the JIBC PA and to understand what is driving the deficit.

The report, which was shared with Chief Constables, Municipal Police Boards and UBCM, recommended that the Province balance the PA budget through managing expenditures within the existing funding framework and through finding additional funding sources (e.g. increased provincial contributions, higher tuition fees, and/or transferring part of the financial responsibility to local governments). As part of addressing the report's recommendations, the Province will be requiring municipal police department (MPD) policed municipalities to contribute to the costs of recruit training at the JIBC in the upcoming years.¹²

Due to the unique and unprecedented nature of the City of Surrey's police model transition, Surrey will begin contributing to the costs of recruit training as soon as SPS sends new recruits to the JIBC PA. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Policing and Security Branch (PSB) will continue to provide the annual grant of \$1.995 million to support the delivery of the recruit training program at the JIBC PA. As a part of this process for the new funding model, there will be new opportunities for the Police Boards and Chief Constables to be more involved with the financial decisions and increase accountability of the JIBC PA.

¹ UBCM has delivered a response to this decision, which can be found here:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2021-10/2021-06-29%20UBCM%20to%20Minister%20Farnworth%20re%20Policing%20Costs.pdf>

² The Minister's response to UBCM's correspondence can be found here:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2021-10/2021-07-27%20Minister%20Farnworth%20to%20Brian%20Frenkel%20re%20Policing%20Costs.pdf>