

# Investigating Public Safety Reform: The Local Government Perspective

Councillor Craig Hodge

September 12, 2022

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- UBCM Metro Vancouver / GVRD Representative
- Chair, UBCM Community Safety Committee
- Co-Chair, Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable
- Co-Chair, Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee



# Presentation Overview

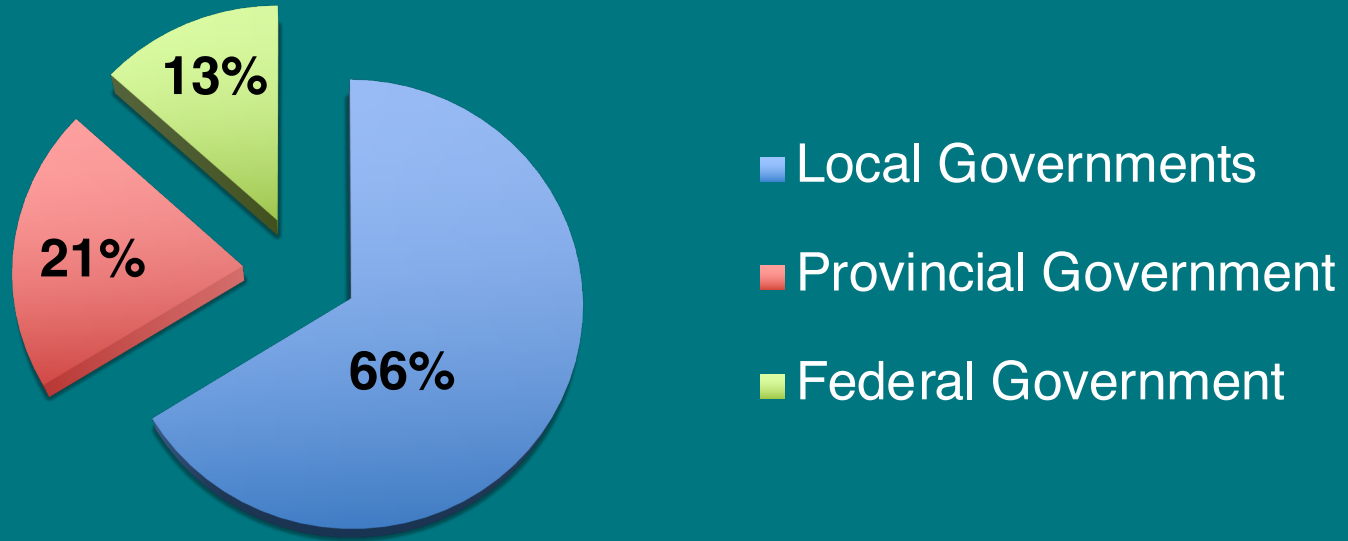
Today's presentation will examine three key items:

- 1) 2021 UBCM presentation to the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act.
- 2) Formation and purpose of the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable.
- 3) Last month's UBCM submission, *Preliminary Input into Public Safety Modernization*.

# Context

- Public safety and policing are very important issues for local governments.
- UBCM supports the decision to examine public safety modernization, including thorough a review of the *Police Act*.
- Many local governments sought to provide input to the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act during the engagement process.

# Police Spending (2020)

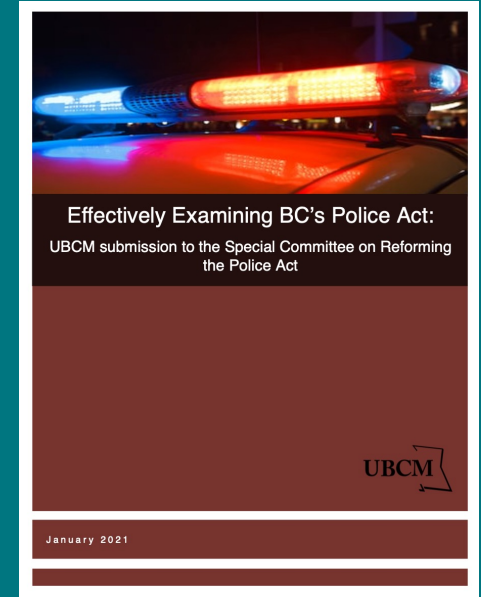


**Local governments spent over \$1.39 billion on policing in 2020**

# 2021 UBCM Submission

Informed by:

- UBCM policy (e.g. resolutions).
- Prior input into policing, including UBCM Executive correspondence and meetings with MLAs.
- The work of the Local Government Contract Management Committee and other related committees to which UBCM is a member.



# 2021 Submission: Themes

- 1) **Support for Public Safety.**
- 2) **Public Trust and Accountability.**
- 3) **Responsibility and Resourcing for Services.**
- 4) **Efficiency and Effectiveness.**
- 5) **Coordination and Communication.**
- 6) **Ongoing Engagement / Process.**

# LG Policing Roundtable

- UBCM Executive approved the creation of the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable.
  - A mechanism for local government input.
  - A forum for local government priorities and concerns to be raised and discussed.
- Chaired by UBCM and the Province.
- Fifteen (15) representatives appointed in January 2022.



# Roundtable Members

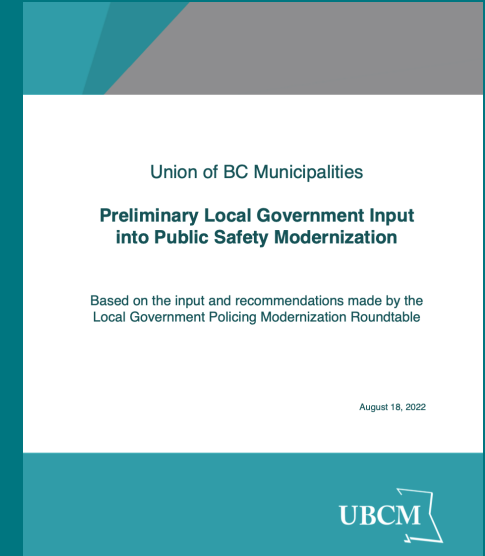
- Councillor Craig Hodge, UBCM Executive (Co-Chair)
- Councillor Christine Boyle, City of Vancouver
- Mayor Malcolm Brodie, City of Richmond
- Councillor Vickey Brown, Village of Cumberland
- Mayor George Harvie, City of Delta
- Councillor Dean Jantzen, City of Colwood
- Councillor Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John
- Councillor Jennifer Leach, District of Lillooet
- Mayor David Wilks, District of Sparwood
- Francis Cheung, City of Langley
- Dave Critchley, City of Burnaby
- Steffan Klassen, Town of Creston
- Byron McCorkell, City of Kamloops
- Paul Gill, UBCM
- Bhar Sihota, UBCM

# Initial Feedback

- Roundtable tasked with analyzing the Special Committee final report, and developing its own positions / recommendations.
- Virtual meetings held during the summer months.
- Positions / recommendations developed and subsequently endorsed by UBCM in August 2022.
- UBCM / Roundtable report sent to the Province for consideration.

# Broad Summary of Feedback

- Agree with comprehensive approach.
- Importance of engaging local governments and Indigenous nations in drafting new legislation.
- Additional analysis and work required.



# SCRPA Recommendation #1

*Summary: Develop new public safety legislation, ensuring Indigenous nations and local governments are engaged in the drafting of new legislation.*

- Strongly support engagement with Indigenous nations and local governments.

# SCRPA Recommendation #2

*Summary: Transition to a new B.C. provincial police service, while also ensuring that mayors cannot serve as police board chair and that police services are amalgamated where it makes sense.*

- No support to transition away from the RCMP.
- Support to examine governance weaknesses.
- Support local government participation in the ongoing federal review of RCMP contract policing.

# SCRPA Recommendation #3

*Summary: Ensure Indigenous communities have direct input into the structure and governance of their policing services, including self-administered services.*

- Support for this recommendation.
- Support the provision of self-administered services to neighbouring non-Indigenous communities if the local government is seeking this type of arrangement.

# SCRPA Recommendation #4

*Summary: Create and fund a continuum of response to mental health, addictions and complex social issues, including through increasing coordination among service providers and integrating mental health within 911.*

- Full support for the Province to create and fund a coordinated continuum of response to mental health, addictions and other complex social issues.
- Suggested that the Province prioritize this recommendation.

# SCRPA Recommendation #5

*Summary: Ensure equitable access to policing and public safety services, including through community input, implementing different categories/tiers of policing, and expanding culturally appropriate restorative justice programs.*

- Significant support for ensuring that all public safety services are coordinated, responsive to and informed by the community.
- Support for different tiers of policing.
- Broad support for expanding restorative justice programs with long-term provincial funding and support.



# SCRPA Recommendation #6

*Summary: Develop a fair and equitable shared funding model for local governments that considers local needs and the size of a service area, while also exploring options to phase in local government policing costs.*

- Strong support for the development, in partnership with local governments, of a more fair and equitable shared funding model between **all policing partners** in B.C.
- Address / reverse downloads in areas that are not local government responsibility (e.g. healthcare).
- Examine population thresholds for RCMP contract policing.

# SCRPA Recommendation #7

*Summary: Address police culture through standardizing police education and training that reflects key values and competencies.*

- Strong support for examining ongoing police education and training.

# SCRPA Recommendation #8

*Summary: Require police agencies to address systemic racism, including through collecting and publicly reporting disaggregated race-based data.*

- Strong support for this recommendation.
- Must address data-related issues to ensure successful implementation.

# SCRPA Recommendation #9

*Summary: Establish an independent, civilian-led oversight agency responsible for overseeing police conduct and disciplinary matters.*

- Strong support for this recommendation, noting that the proposed agency must be properly resourced to meet expectations.

# Recommendations #10-11

- Two additional SCRPA recommendations directed towards the Legislative Assembly, seeking additional legislative bodies to address issues raised in the final report.
- Recommendations were not relevant, and as such not discussed.

# Next Steps

- UBCM report has been submitted to the Province, for consideration.
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to seek Cabinet direction regarding next steps.
- Additional Roundtable work to commence in the coming months.

# Thank You!

We welcome any questions from the audience.



**VALUE OF ONE** UBCM  
**POWER OF MANY** 2022