

December 10, 2021

The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Re: Implementation of Body Worn Cameras

Dear Minister Mendicino,

I write to you today, on behalf of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), regarding your government's intent to outfit RCMP officers with body worn cameras (BWC). In addition to outlining reservations with this decision, UBCM is requesting that a long-term funding solution be developed to assist contract partners in addressing new costs and responsibilities associated with this federal initiative.

A primary concern is that the move to implement BWC was not an evidence-based decision, but rather a federal government reaction based on recent events. UBCM does not dismiss BWC as a viable option, but is calling for a more thorough review of existing evidence and consideration of all available options before an initiative of this magnitude is implemented. The objective is to find the best solution to improve accountability, transparency and trust in police.

Should the federal government proceed with its plan to implement BWC in 2022, a long-term funding solution is necessary. Your government's decision to scale back the original 3-year funding commitment, which itself was not a viable long-term solution, will only increase the financial pressure on contract partners. The affordability and sustainability of RCMP contract policing must be taken into consideration given that local governments are already facing significant policing costs, including those associated with the RCMP collective agreement.

UBCM would appreciate that these issues and other concerns be addressed immediately through the Contract Management Committee, to which UBCM is a member. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss this issue, please be advised that Bhar Sihota, UBCM Senior Policy Analyst, may be reached at (604) 270-8226 Ext. 114 or bsihota@ubcm.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LA Roodenburg', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg
UBCM President

CC: *The Honourable Mona Fortier, President of the Treasury Board*

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

*Wayne Rideout, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Ministry of
Public Safety and Solicitor General*

Commissioner Brenda Lucki, Royal Canadian Mounted Police