

The Future of RCMP Policing in B.C.

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The Future of RCMP Contract Policing

UBCM Convention 2026

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Policing & Security Branch

September 14, 2026

Police Act

The *Police Act* regulates the delivery and oversight of policing and law enforcement services.

Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Ensures adequate and effective level of policing
and law enforcement

Director of Policing & Law Enforcement Services

Superintends policing and law enforcement in
B.C. on behalf of the Minister

Role of Policing and Security Branch

The Policing and Security Branch is responsible for:

- ✓ Establishing provincial policing standards
- ✓ Monitoring the finances and operations of the provincial and municipal RCMP
- ✓ Administering First Nations policing agreements and programs
- ✓ Providing training and support to municipal, First Nations and other police boards
- ✓ Developing and coordinating policing policy and legislation

Federal & Provincial Policing in BC

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Federal Policing in BC

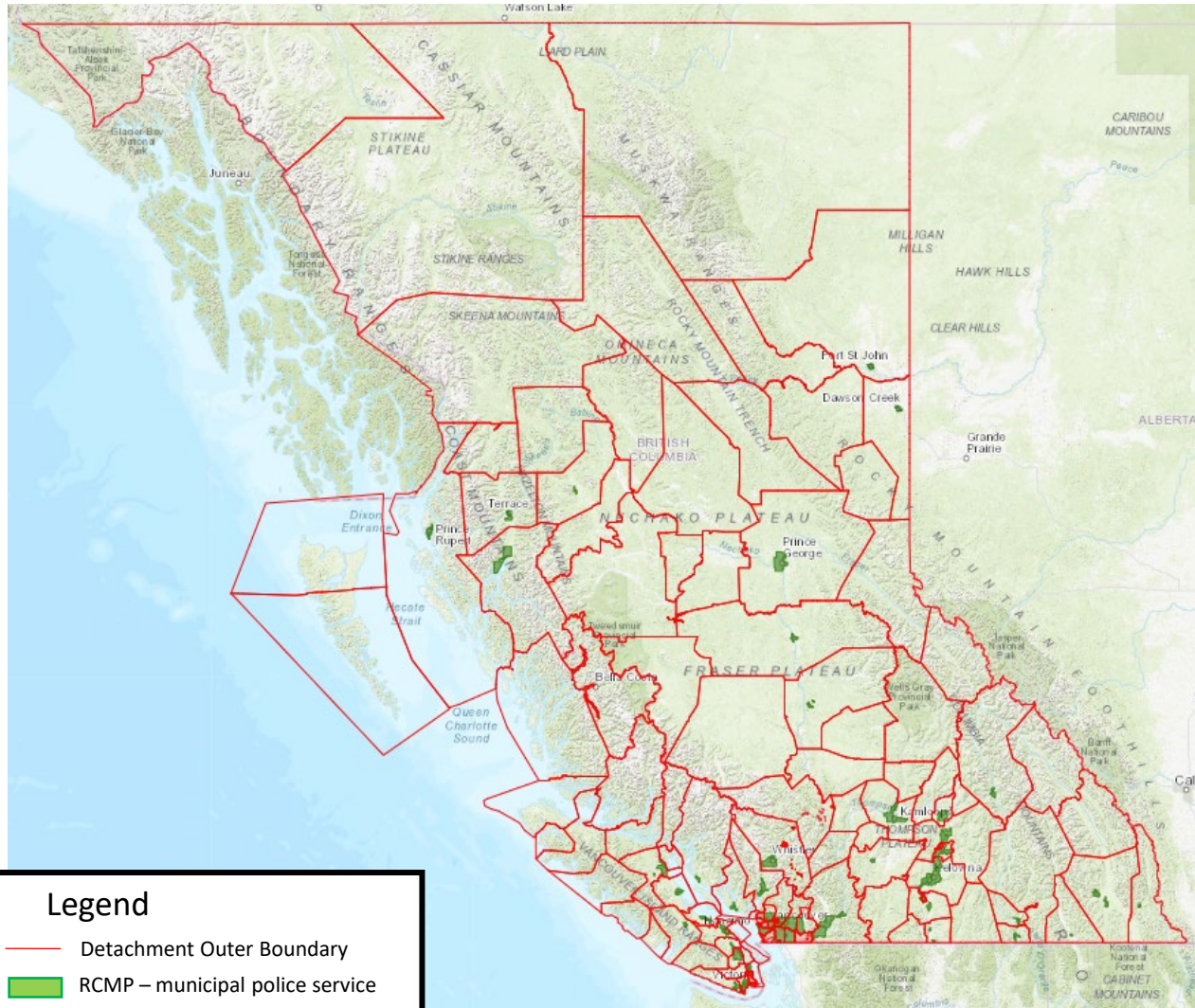
- ✓ RCMP is Canada's National Police Service
- ✓ Enforces federal laws in BC and handles border integrity and national security, drugs, and organized crime, financial crime and international policing

Provincial Police Service

- ✓ PSA with federal government
- ✓ Municipalities <5,000 population & unincorporated/rural areas of BC

Municipal Policing

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Municipal Policing

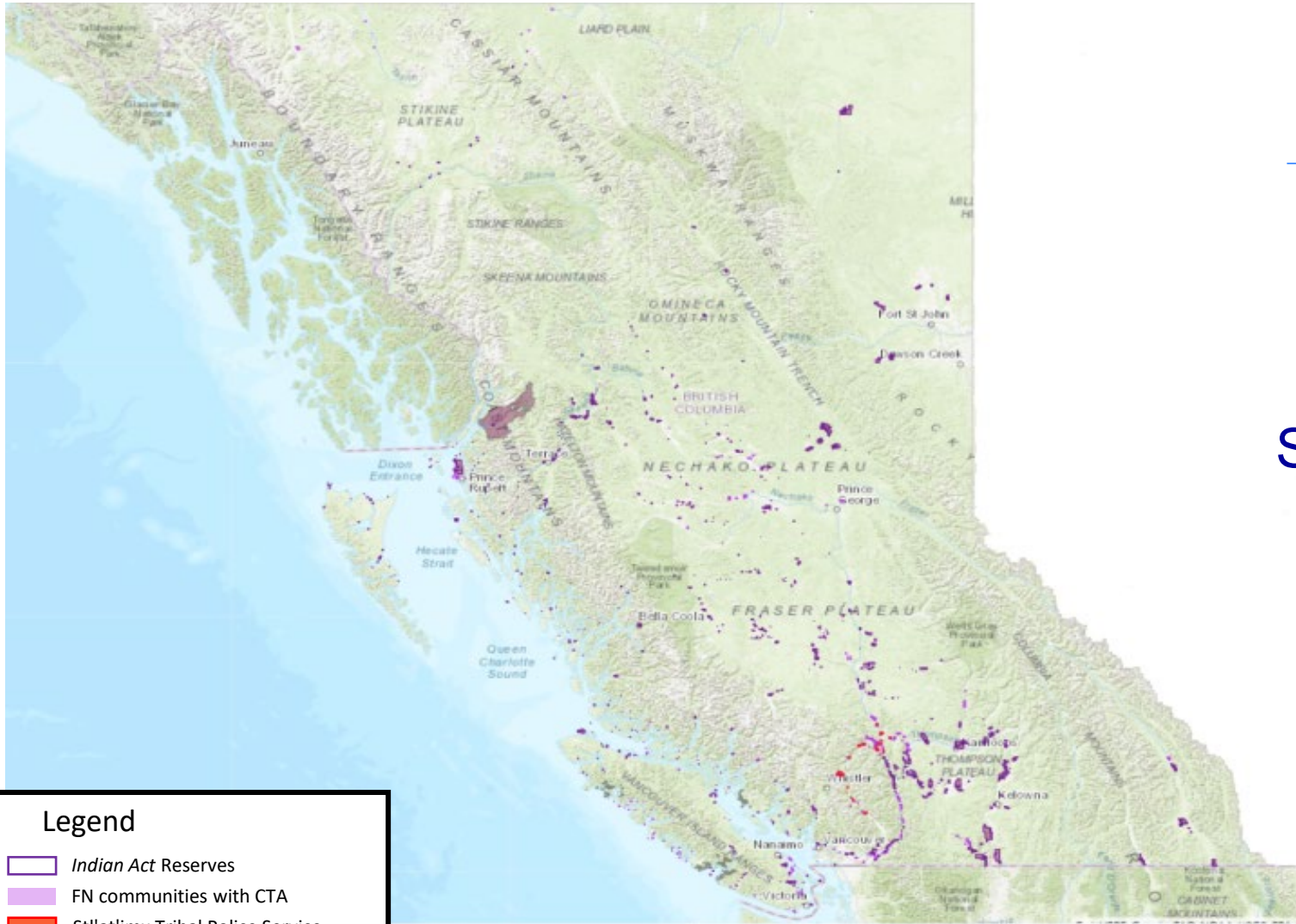
- ✓ Municipal Police Units – RCMP (67)
- ✓ Municipal Police Departments – non RCMP (12)

Delivery Options

- ✓ Municipal Police Department (100%)
- ✓ Agreement with Province for RCMP Service - MPUA (*cost shared*)
- ✓ Agreement with another Municipal Police Department (100%)

Indigenous Policing

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Provincial Police Service
171 First Nation Communities

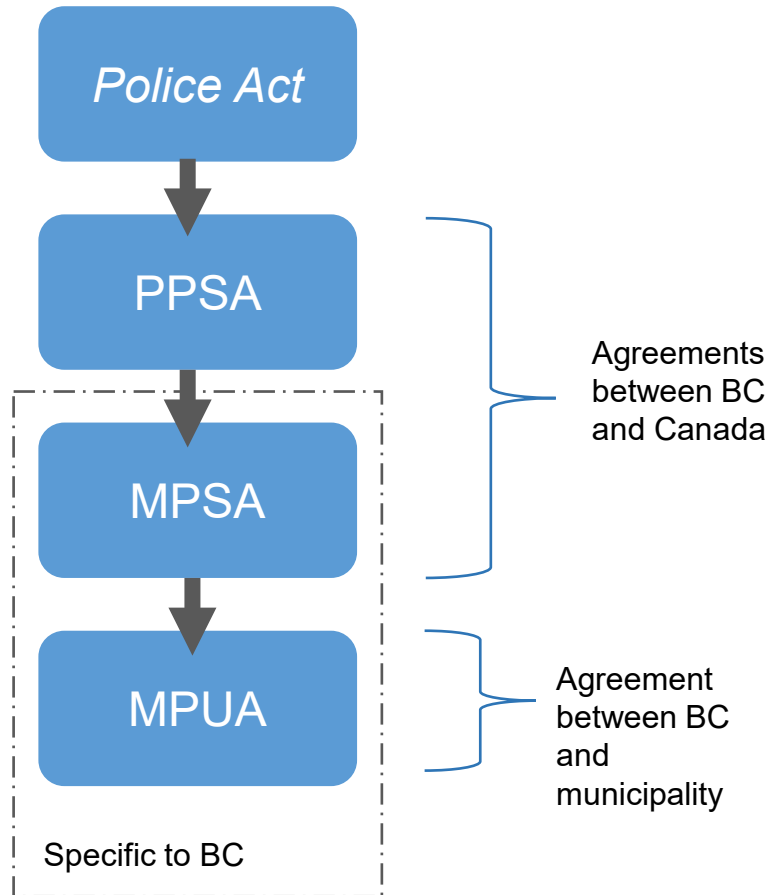
Municipal Police Service
23 First Nation Communities

Stl'at'imx Tribal Police Service
10 First Nations

Enhanced Policing
Agreements
59 Community Tripartite Agreements
(CTAs) serving
135 First Nations &
1 Quadripartite Agreement

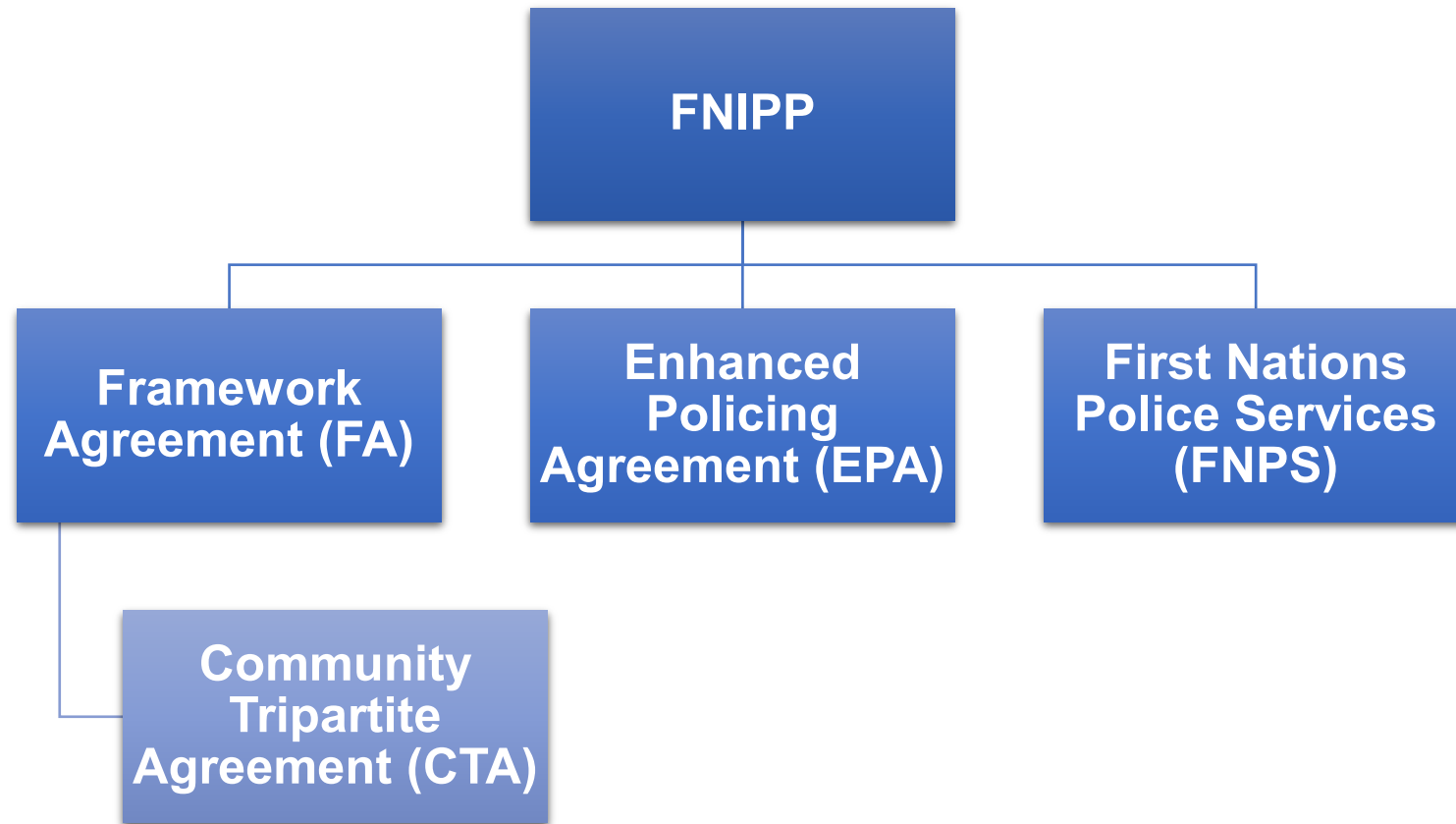
Current Structure of Police Service Agreements in BC

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- Municipalities in BC may enter into MPUAs with the Province as their contract partner. Ministerial approval required.
- BC is the only province that contracts directly with municipalities for RCMP policing services.
- The MPSA enables BC to **sub-contract its Provincial Police Service** and **establishes a Municipal Police Service**.
- Municipalities work with the Province on the oversight and management of their MPU.
- RCMP also provides enhanced policing services to First Nations through the Framework Agreement/ CTAs.

Indigenous Policing Agreements & FNIPP



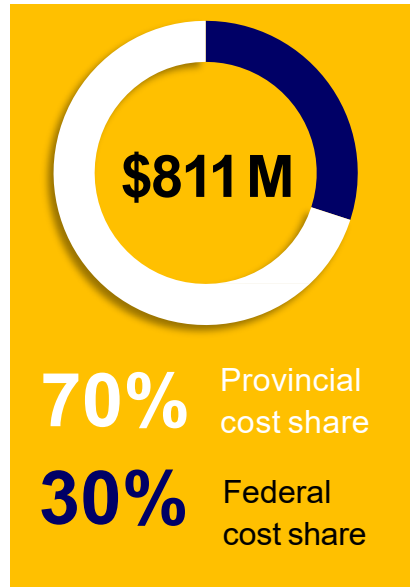
2012 Police Service Agreements

- Current Police Service Agreements (PSAs) are 20-year agreements that came into effect in 2012 and set to expire **March 31, 2032**.
 - Negotiations lasted 7 years.
- All Provinces and Territories that participate in contract policing were represented at table.
- BC worked with UBCM and local governments to ensure local perspectives were considered in negotiations.

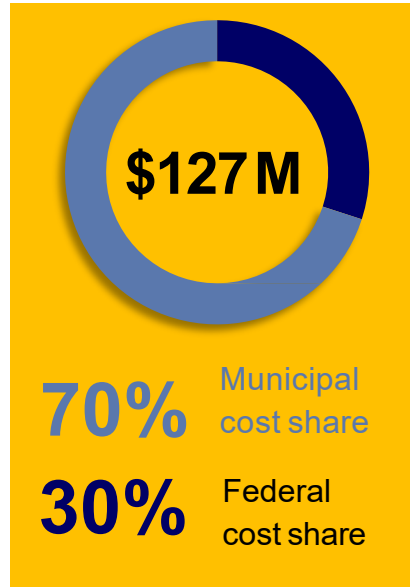
Cost of RCMP Contract Policing in BC (2024)

13

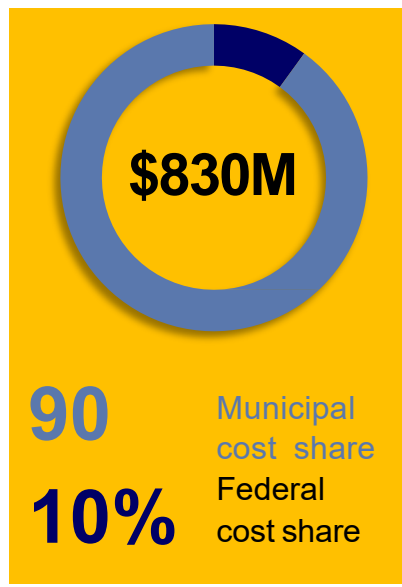
RCMP Provincial Service



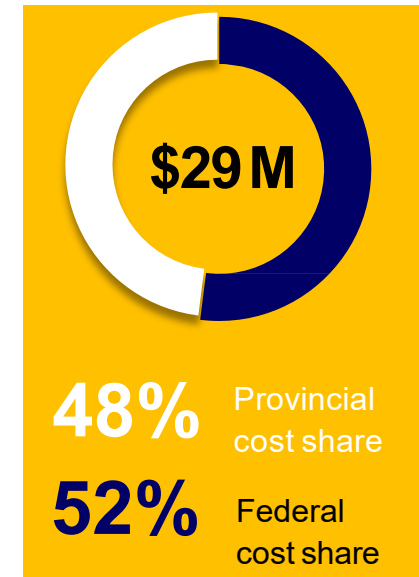
RCMP Policed Populations 5,000 – 14,999



RCMP Policed Populations 15,000+



RCMP Indigenous Policing Services (CTAs)



Total cost of contract policing in BC: \$1.8 Billion

The Future of Contract Policing - BC Considerations

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- BC is the largest contract policing jurisdiction in Canada with **2602** RMs and **59** CTAs.
- Canada has indicated intention to continue contract policing program beyond 2032.
- No formal commitment or negotiating mandate has been shared.
- Provincial Minister has highlighted the need for new PSAs to consider:
 - Interplay between PSAs and FNIPP; and
 - Interplay between federal and contract policing.

The Future of Contract Policing - BC Considerations

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- Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act recommended:
 - “Transition to a new BC provincial police service that is governed by the new Community Safety and Policing Act.”
 - Local governments and UBCM were not supportive.
- No Government direction to establish a BC Provincial Police Service at this time.
- The Province will participate in the RCMP Contract Policing program beyond 2032.
 - Doesn't preclude Government from making future policing amendments.

The Future of Contract Policing - BC Considerations

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- BC considerations:
 - Jurisdictional flexibility and control
 - Oversight and accountability
 - Police model transitions
- BC's unique relationship with municipalities and First Nations (*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*).
- As timelines and next steps become available, information will be shared with municipalities through LGCMC and UBCM.

Questions?



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The Future of RCMP Contract Policing

Current State of RCMP Policing in British Columbia

Presented by: Assistant Commissioner Elija Rain
LMD District Commander, CROPS Core Policing — BC RCMP



The Road to the Current Contacts Agreements

The current Police Service Agreements are the latest chapter in the RCMP's policing relationship in the Province, spanning more than 75 years.

1928: Beginning of Contract Policing

Beginning with its first contract with Saskatchewan in 1928, the RCMP was contracted to provide provincial policing in Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island in 1932.

1952-1972

BC enters into its first standardized 20-year Police Service Agreement with Ottawa

1992-2012

This contract solidifies the modern cost-sharing splits (70/30 for the province and small towns; 90/10 for large municipalities).

2032

The current contract is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2032

1950: Provincial Policing

After RCMP takes over British Columbia provincial policing duties in 1950, E Division assigned to British Columbia, with headquarters in Victoria

1972-1992

The contract is renewed for another 20-year term.

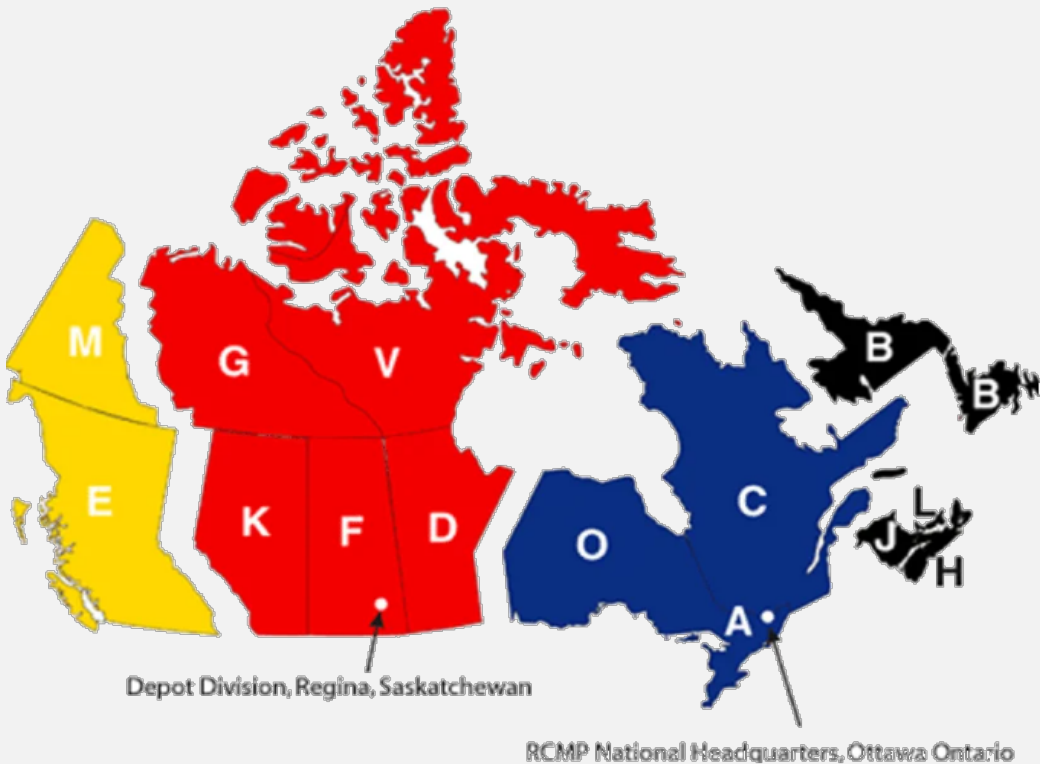
2012-2032

BC signs the current 20-year agreements (PPSA, MPSA, and MPUA).



Contract Policing Across Canada

Through the RCMP, Canada has a police service delivering policing at the federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous levels.

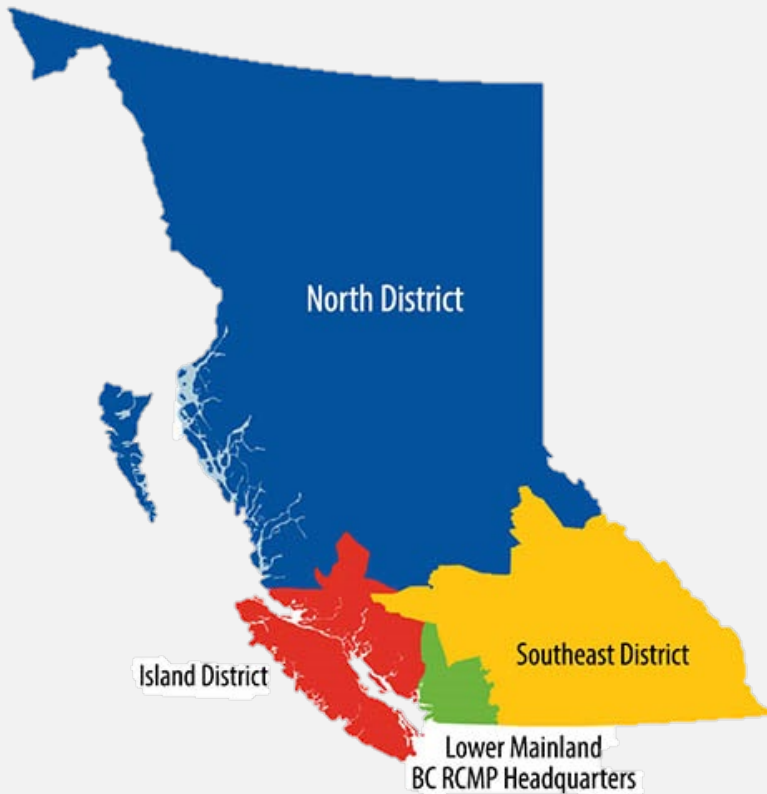


- **8 Provinces: Contract Policing Agreements**
- **3 Territories: Territorial Policing Agreements**
- **150+ Municipalities: Municipal Police Service Agreements**
- **Frontline Community Policing: To over 22% of the Canadian population and 75% of Canada's landmass**



Contract Policing in British Columbia

The BC RCMP delivers frontline policing services through four districts across the Province.



99%

of BC's geographic area

72%

of BC's Population

150+

municipalities

200+

Indigenous communities served

1M+

calls for service every year



How Policing Operates in British Columbia

More than 9,000 employees support municipal, provincial, Indigenous, and federal policing services across BC.

Municipal

Municipalities of 5,000+ that choose the RCMP as their local police, under a Municipal Police Unit Agreement



Provincial

Rural and unincorporated areas and municipalities under 5,000 people, under the Provincial Police Service Agreement.



FNIPP

59 Community Tripartite Agreements, 133 Indigenous Communities Served

Federal

National security, transnational & organized crime, financial crime, and border integrity.

What Contract Policing Delivers

Communities receive local policing services supported by province-wide expertise, specialized resources, and operational capacity.



Source: RCMP



Source: RCMP



Source: RCMP

Local Service Delivery

- Municipal policing
- Provincial policing
- Indigenous policing

Specialized Expertise

- Specialized units
- Major investigations
- Emergency response

Province-wide Support

- Four operational districts
- Regional capacity
- Provincial coordination

Scalability

- Surge capacity
- Support during critical incidents
- Support during emergencies

Specialized Resources Supporting Communities

No community stands alone. Specialized capacity reaches you through your District, through province-wide units, and through fully integrated teams that pool resources.



Source: Ladysmith Chronicle

RCMP-policed jurisdictions rely on a pool of:

- Critical incident response teams
- Specialized investigative units
- Technology, intelligence, and forensic capacity

Examples

- Major Crime, BC Highway Patrol, Critical Incident Response (ERT, Explosive Disposal, Police Dogs, Crisis Negotiators), Provincial Support Team, Forensic Identification, Air Services, CFESU-BC, CRU-BC

Demand for these services has grown in:

- Volume (more calls for service)
- Complexity (digital evidence, mental health, coordinated operations)

The Policing Landscape Has Shifted Since 2012

The public safety environment has changed significantly since the current agreements were signed in 2012.

Affordability & Sustainability

Policing has become more expensive everywhere, including significant negotiated salary increases across services.

Evolving Threats

Cyber-enabled crime, organized crime, and complex investigations demand more specialized resources.

Technology & Innovation

New tools and, such as body-worn cameras, bring new workload and disclosure demands.

Recruitment & Retention

Every police service is competing harder to recruit and retain officers than it was in 2012.



Responding to Complex Community Safety Needs

Increasingly complex public safety challenges often require coordinated responses.

Challenges

- Mental health-related occurrences
- Check well-being calls
- Vulnerable persons
- Substance use
- Multi-agency response requirements

Responses

- HealthIM expansion
- Crisis Intervention & De-escalation Training
- Community and health-sector partnerships
- Enhanced information sharing
- Improved data collection and reporting

Surging for Emergencies And Major Events



Source: RCMP



Source: TSN



Source: CBC News

Public order: The Critical Response Unit–BC manages prolonged civil unrest and public-order events across the province.

Major events: Supporting integrated, large-scale policing operations for events such as the 2010 Olympics, the Invictus Games, and the FIFA World Cup 2026.

Wildfires & floods: The Operational Readiness & Response Unit coordinates logistics and keeps communities served during disasters.

Provincial Surge Capacity: Personnel and resources can be redeployed to support major incidents while maintaining policing services in communities across the province.

Responding to Workforce Pressures

The RCMP is implementing initiatives to strengthen workforce sustainability and support future service delivery.



Source: RCMP

Modernized recruiting initiatives are helping the RCMP attract, assess, and prepare future police officers.

- Modernizing recruitment processes
- Improving applicant engagement and experience
- Reducing barriers to entry
- Cadet allowance increased to \$1,000 per week
- Project Red Serge recruiting pilot
- Expanding recruitment pathways through EPO and ExPO programs

Modernizing Recruitment: Project Red Serge

Project Red Serge is streamlining recruitment and strengthening the applicant experience in BC and the Yukon.



- BC/Yukon regional recruiting pilot
- Applications managed from intake through troop placement
- Earlier fitness and eligibility screening
- Enhanced engagement between recruiters and applicants
- Streamlined and applicant-focused process
- Improved processing timelines

Source: RCMP



Expanding Recruitment Pathways

Multiple recruitment pathways are helping BC RCMP attract experienced candidates and build the workforce of the future.

Experienced Police Officer (EPO) Program

- Attracting experienced officers from Canadian police agencies
- Recognition of prior policing experience
- Access to over 150 RCMP specializations

Experienced Peace Officer (ExPO) Program

- Accelerated pathway into RCMP policing
- 3.5 months of paid training at the PRTC
- Placement into frontline positions in BC and Yukon
- Competitive benefits and career opportunities



Looking Ahead to 2032



Canada

Public Safety Canada leads the negotiations. In October 2025, the federal Minister confirmed the government's intent to negotiate contract policing beyond 2032.



The Province of BC

Enter into agreements with Canada.



The RCMP

Does not negotiate agreements. As the policing service provider, the RCMP is responsible for delivering policing services under the agreements and supporting discussions related to operational policing requirements.





Thank You





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Local Governments and the Future of RCMP Contract Policing

Councillor Craig Hodge
UBCM Metro Vancouver/GVRD Representative
September 14, 2026



Why is this important?

- E Division (B.C.) is the largest contract jurisdiction in Canada.
- Almost all municipalities and unincorporated areas in B.C. are policed by the RCMP.
- Policing and law enforcement represent the biggest budget line item for many municipalities.



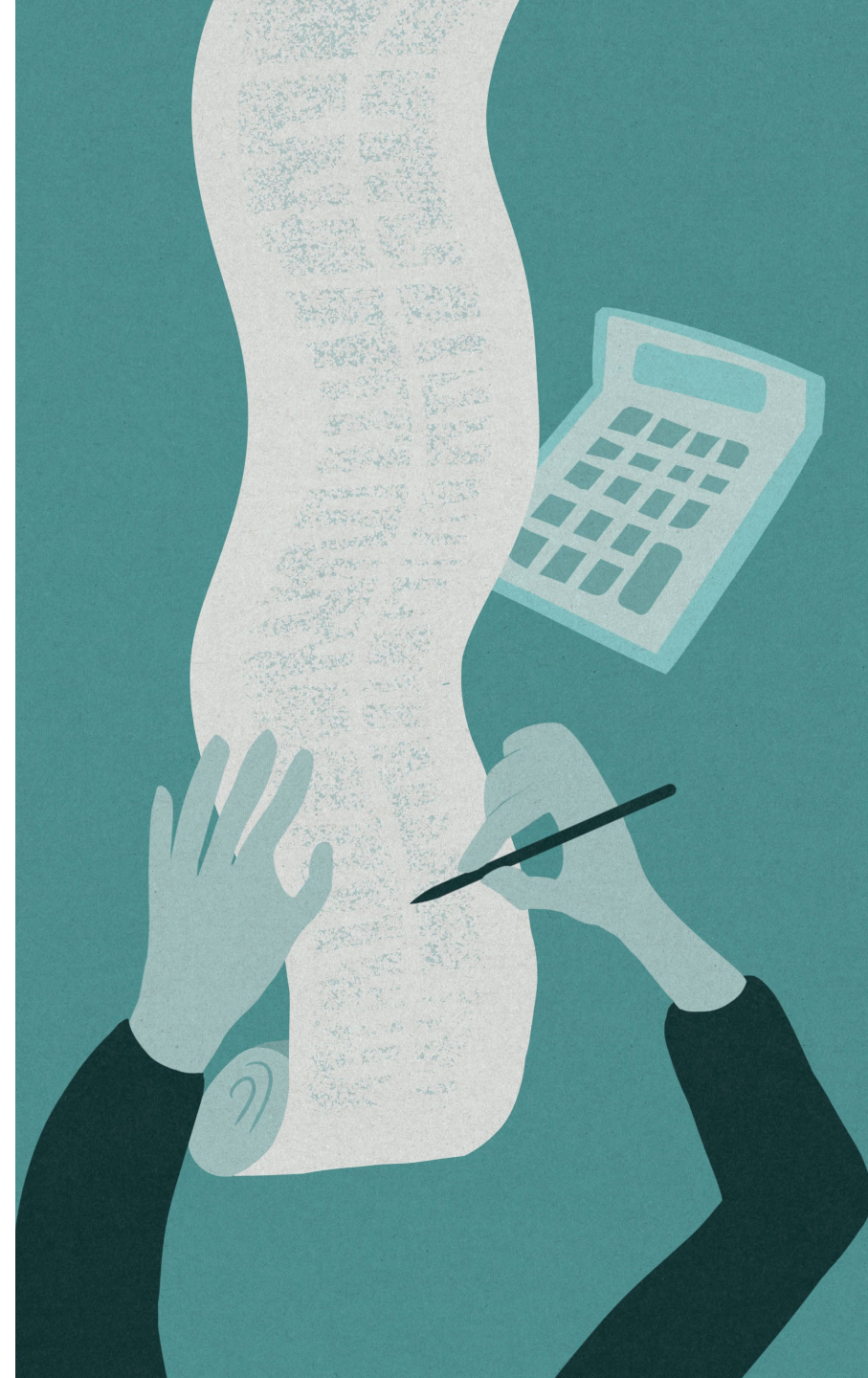


Federal Assessment of RCMP Contract Policing

- Began in 2022. Summary report released in 2024.
- Input provided by contract partners, including local governments from across Canada.
- **Focused on four areas:**
 - Program Sustainability and Costs
 - Governance and Accountability
 - Service Delivery
 - Long-Term Vision: 2032 and Beyond

1. Program Sustainability and Costs

- Many contract partners concerned with vacancies and recruitment.
- Uncertainty regarding ability to sustain rising cost of RCMP police services.
- Small communities are challenged by increased costs associated with surpassing the 5,000-person population threshold.



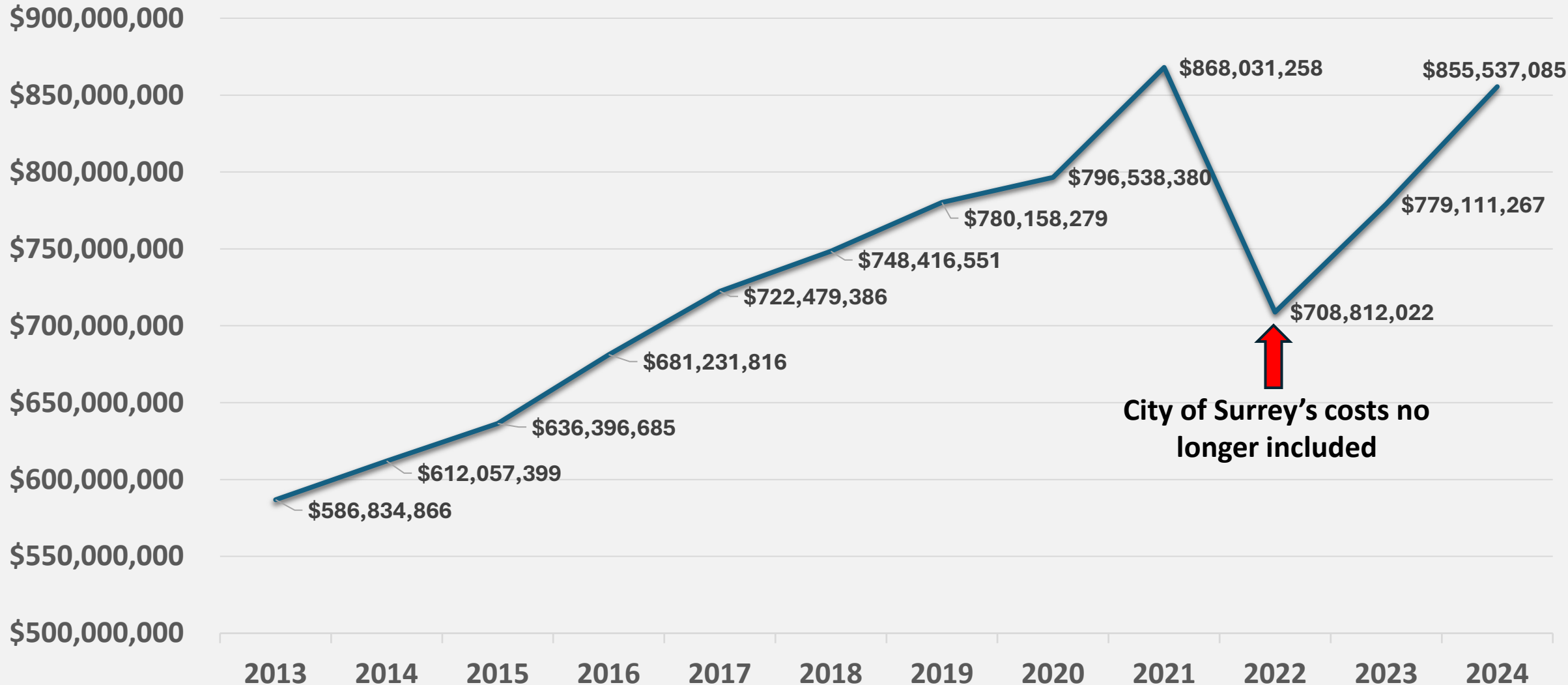


Rising Costs in B.C.

- In 2013, 63 B.C. municipalities over 5,000 in population spent \$586.8 million.
- In 2024, 67 B.C. municipalities over 5,000 in population (excluding the City of Surrey) spent \$855.5 million.
- Residents of municipalities under 5,000 in population and unincorporated areas also pay the provincial Police Tax.

RCMP Policing Costs Since Signing of MPUA

B.C. Municipalities over 5,000 in population



Source: Police Resources in B.C. (Province of B.C.)

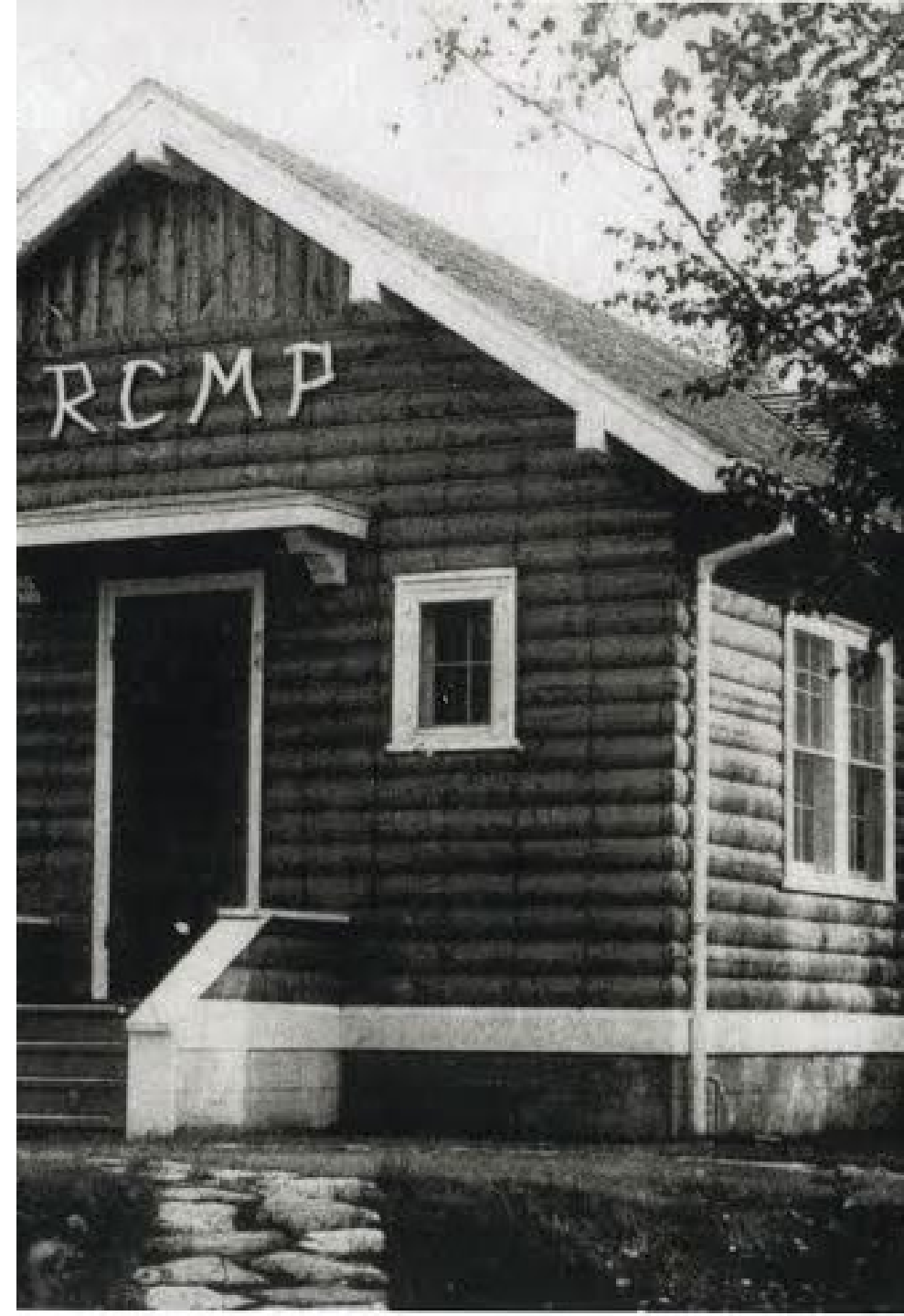


2. Governance and Accountability

- **Disconnect between those making key decisions and those paying the bills.**
- **The need for access to RCMP business data and intelligence to support decision-making and reporting.**
- **Seeking flexibility and greater consideration for local government and community priorities.**

3. Service Delivery

- High level of satisfaction with the quality of RCMP policing services.
- Some partners expressed interest in alternate service delivery approaches.
- Challenges with consultation and engagement on matters impacting RCMP police services.





Consultation / Engagement

- **Broader engagement is often reactive, as opposed to proactive.**
- **Unwillingness of some federal partners to meet and discuss key issues.**
- **Thus far, there has been minimal consideration for the role of local governments with respect to any future negotiation of the Police Service Agreements (PSAs).**

4. Long-Term Vision: 2032 and Beyond

- Partners expressed their intent to continue contracting RCMP policing services.
- Seeking the federal government's formal position regarding its future role in contract policing.
- UBCM continues to support the RCMP's role as B.C.'s provincial police service.





UBCM Position – Resolution 2025-SR2

- That the Province of B.C. and federal government directly involve UBCM and B.C. local governments as part of the process to negotiate new PSAs, including the Municipal Police Unit Agreement.
- And, that local government priorities are thoroughly considered and incorporated into a new Municipal Police Unit Agreement for B.C. local governments.

Next Steps

- **Federal government has signaled its intent to negotiate, but a formal mandate has not been finalized. It is unknown when one may come.**
- **UBCM continues to seek information regarding the scope of any future negotiations; and, to be included as part of negotiations.**
- **Inclusion as part of any future negotiations also means creating opportunities for the UBCM membership to provide input.**





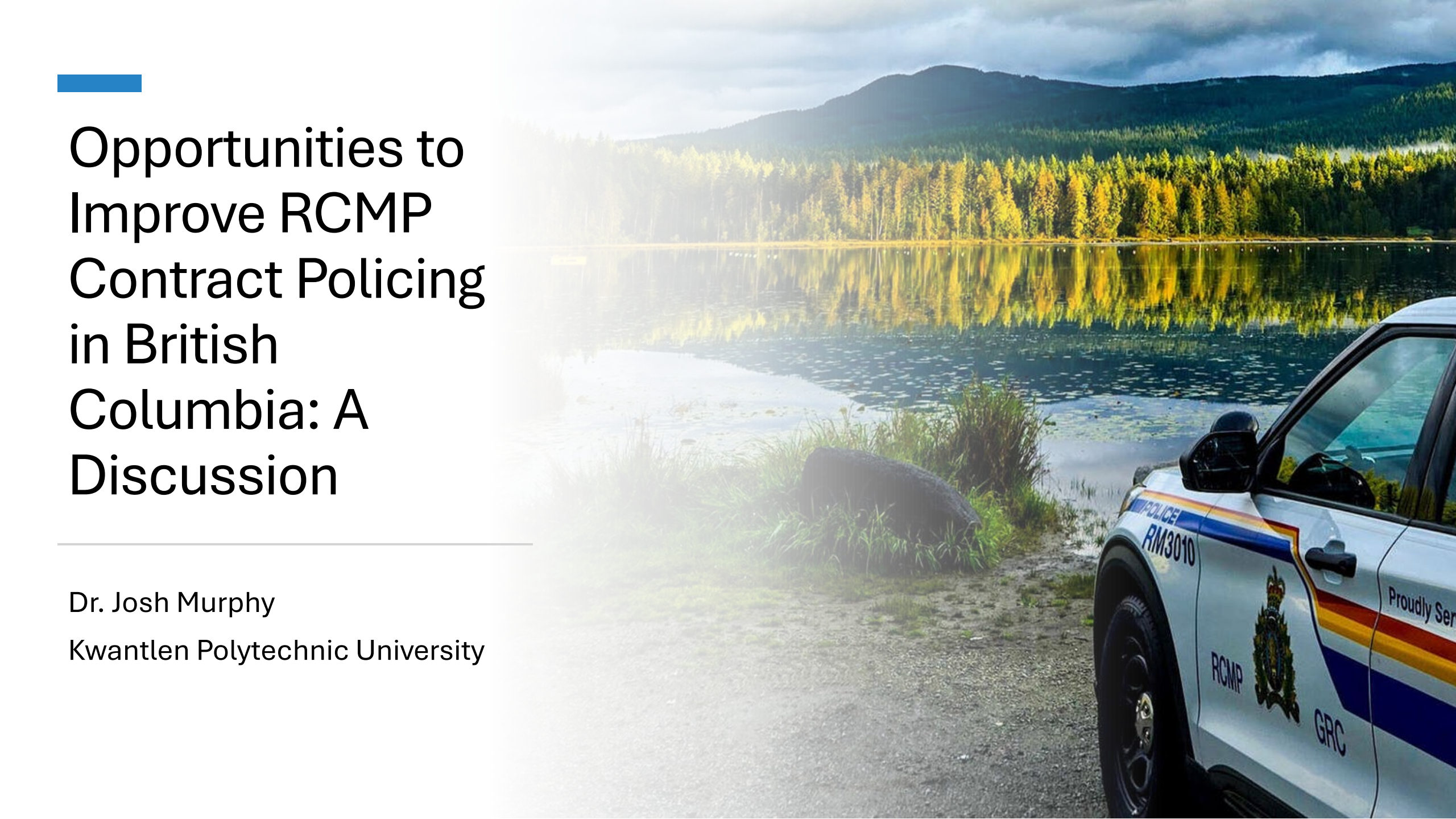
Get Involved Through the LGCMC

- **The B.C. Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee has been established in accordance with Article 18 of the 2012 Municipal Police Unit Agreement.**
- **A forum for communication, engagement, and consultation between the Province, RCMP, and local governments.**
- **In early 2027, the UBCM Executive will be tasked with appointing new local government members.**



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Opportunities to Improve RCMP Contract Policing in British Columbia: A Discussion

Dr. Josh Murphy

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Beyond Renewal: Improving Municipal Contract Policing with the RCMP

- Important to explore how the next agreement can produce better local policing in RCMP contract jurisdictions
- Three key questions:
 - **Accountability** — How can municipalities have greater input into the policing they fund?
 - **Responsiveness** — How can RCMP contract policing better reflect local priorities and community needs?
 - **Partnership** — How can municipalities and the RCMP build a more effective relationship while preserving the benefits of a national police service?
- 2032 should be treated as an opportunity for modernization

Key Areas of Focus



Local Governance & Accountability



Community Safety Planning and Priority Setting



Transparency and Performance



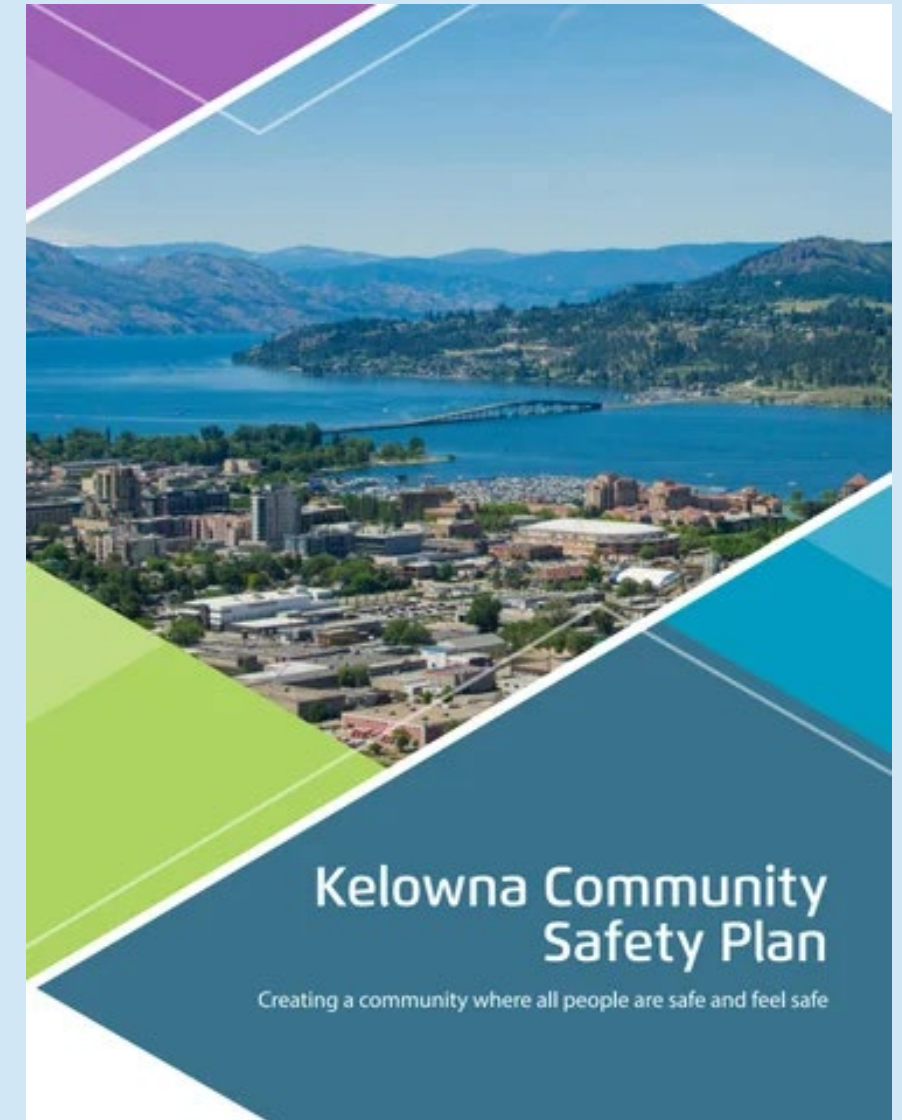
Modernized Service Delivery

Local Governance and Accountability

Establish	Give	Make	Require
Establish a local police board or council, drawing on the Yukon model. • The Yukon Police Council	Give municipalities a formal role in OIC selection and vetting. • Municipalities already have a say in this, but do not always exercise that ability	Make the existing requirement that community priorities become RCMP priorities meaningful and enforceable.	Require regular engagement between RCMP senior leadership and community stakeholders.

Community Safety Planning & Priority Setting

- The Provincial government is mandating the development of community safety and well-being (CSWB) plans
 - Municipalities have an opportunity to leverage CSWB Plans to identify local safety priorities
 - Note that several municipalities with existing CSWB plans are policed by RCMP under contract – see Kelowna as a key example
- Bring together police, local government, health, social services, schools, Indigenous partners, and community organizations
- Use the CSWB plan to establish a shared, evidence-informed understanding of local safety challenges
- Key idea: Community safety priorities should drive policing priorities



Community Safety Planning & Priority Setting

Translate relevant CSWB priorities into RCMP detachment priorities and annual policing plans

Kelowna provides a strong model: its comprehensive community safety planning demonstrates how communities can identify priorities, coordinate partners, and develop concrete strategies

Make the RCMP policing strategy part of the community's broader public safety strategy; not a stand-alone plan

- The CSWB plan becomes a blueprint: “This is what we do here.”



Transparency & Performance

- Lessons learned from Prince George RCMP Resource Review
 - Municipalities don't necessarily understand how their police service operates – both inside and outside the building
- Municipalities need a clearer picture of what they are paying for, and what they are receiving
- Require the RCMP to provide a detailed, multi-year budget and resource plan
- Improve reporting on actual operational capacity, including the number of deployable officers

Transparency & Performance

- Establish consistent annual reporting on key measures:
 - Calls for service and workload
 - Response and service times
 - Staffing and deployability
 - Proactive policing initiatives
 - Community partnerships
- Link reporting to the community priorities identified through the CSWB plan
- Move beyond simply reporting crime statistics toward measuring service delivery and progress on local priorities

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Modernize Service Delivery

- Move beyond the assumption that every public safety problem requires the same police response
- Develop tiered policing models that match the right personnel and resources to the right calls
 - Leverage existing entities such as Bylaws and Community Safety Officers
- Expand co-response teams for complex social issues such as mental health, substance use, and homelessness
 - Should municipalities hire their own social workers/psych nurses?
- Use partnerships identified through the CSWB planning process to reduce reliance on police

Modernize Service Delivery

- Opportunities to expand civilian capacity
 - Use civilian professionals to support functions that do not require a sworn police officer
 - Bring specialized expertise into detachments — e.g., data/analytics, community engagement, victim services, communications
 - Free sworn officers to focus on work that requires police powers and specialized police training
- Make evidence-informed policing a core expectation
 - Programs and strategies should be informed by research, data, and demonstrated effectiveness
 - Regularly evaluate whether initiatives are actually achieving their intended outcomes
- Municipalities should develop mechanisms to ask for, assess, and monitor the evidence behind policing strategies and investments
- The new MPA could establish clearer expectations around evaluation, innovation, and continuous improvement

The Value of Operational/Organizational Reviews

KELOWNA RCMP AND POLICE SERVICES RESOURCE REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Curt Taylor Griffiths, PhD

Nahanni Pollard, PhD

Joshua J. Murphy, MA

and

Brent Jette, BA

Curt T. Griffiths, Ltd.



Thank You!





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Vancouver Food Runners

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to the Vancouver Food Runners. Building connections between local businesses, nonprofits, and volunteers to ensure surplus food reaches essential community food programs. Vancouver Food Runners believe in turning surplus food into meaningful change. They believe good food belongs to people, not landfills!