# 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.**



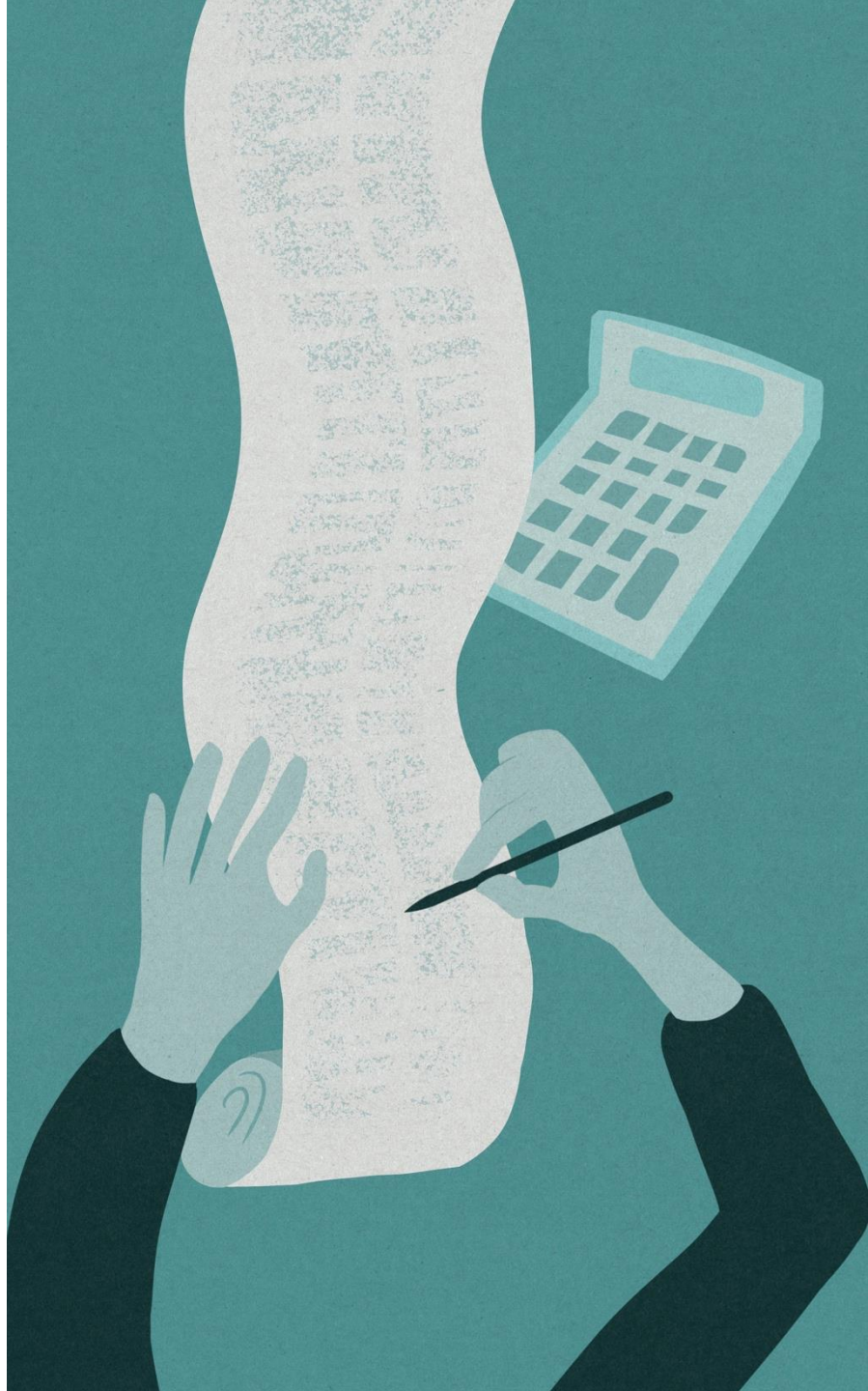


# Federal Assessment of RCMP Contract Policing

- **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.**



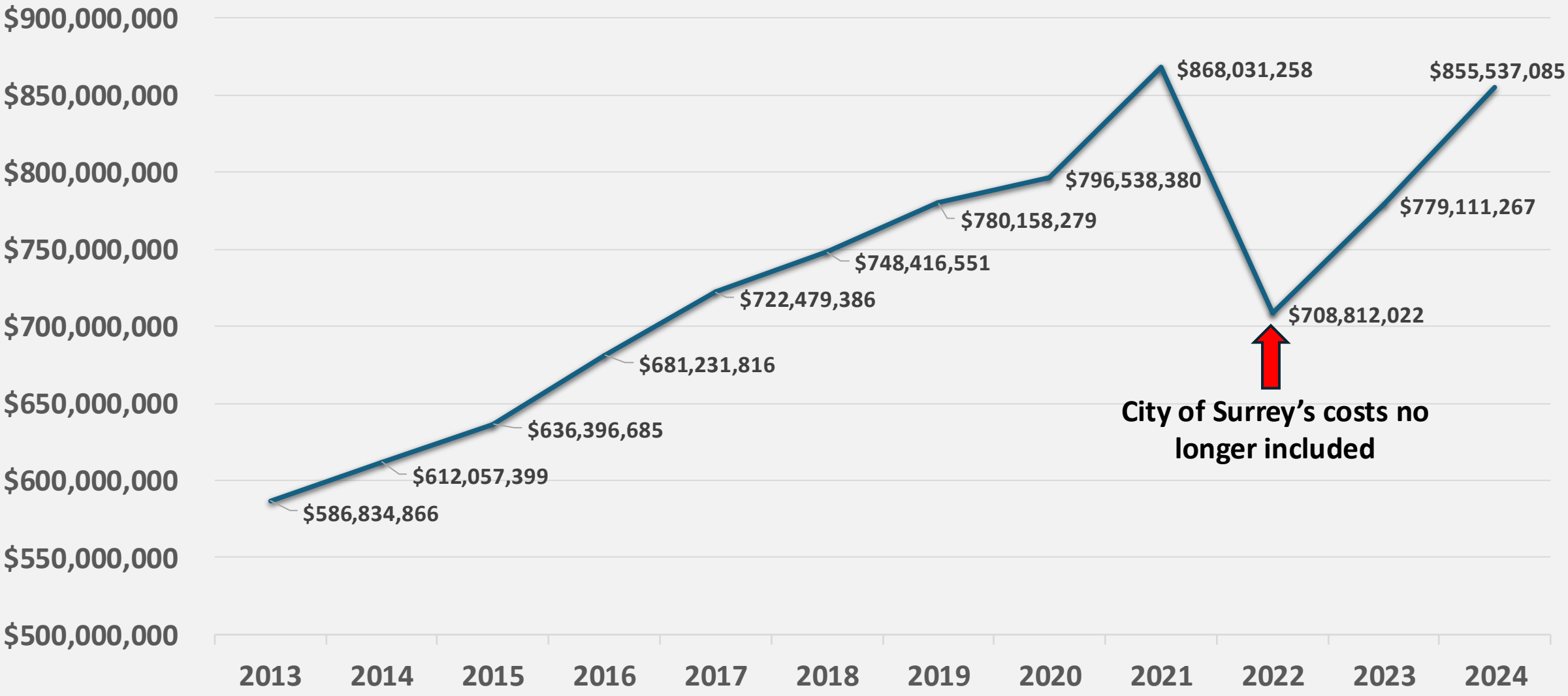



# Rising Costs in B.C.

- **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.)

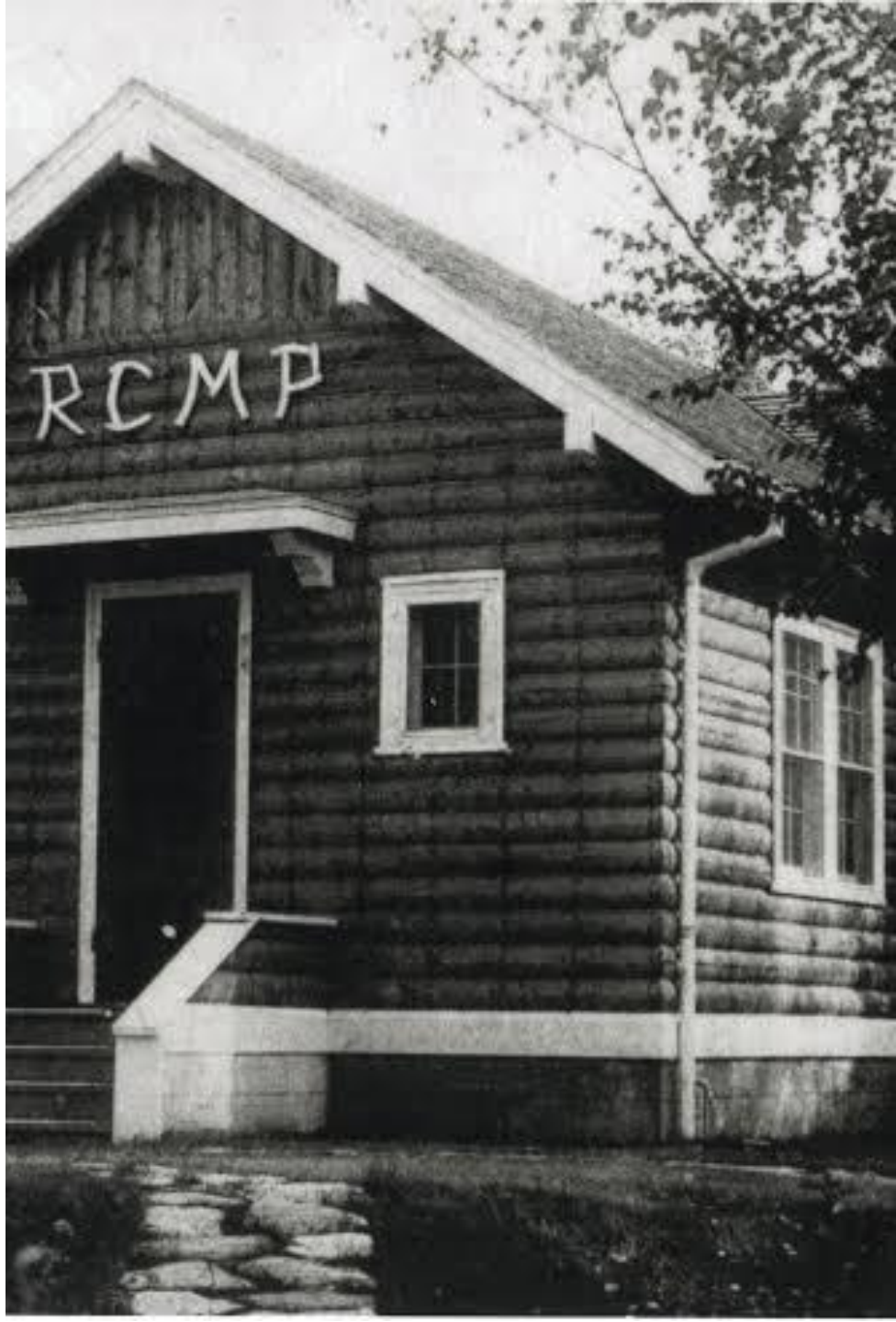


# 2. Governance and Accountability

- **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.**