



VIA EMAIL

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January 11, 2024

His Worship Mike Hurley  
Mayor of the City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2  
Email: [Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca](mailto:Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca)

Dear Mayor Hurley:

I would like to thank you and Leon Gous for such for an engaging meeting at the 2023 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention. I am writing to follow up on our discussion regarding policing costs and the Surrey Police transition.

As you are aware, the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* (the "Special Committee") released its report with 11 transformative recommendations in April 2022. In particular, recommendation #6 of the Special Committee is to create a fair and equitable shared funding model for municipalities.

The Public Safety Transformation Team (PSTT) within my Ministry is taking a phased approach for the policing and public safety modernization initiative, which includes making progress on Government's response to the Special Committee's recommendations. This approach will allow for adequate time for meaningful consultation on policy development and co-development of the new policing and oversight legislation with Indigenous Peoples and local governments, as called for by the Special Committee.

Last year, the Ministry began comprehensive and broad engagement with partners, including the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable (LGPMR), on policy that will form the foundation of new policing and oversight legislation. The engagement and policy development process will analyze and consider a number of reforms to create a fair and equitable shared funding model for municipalities. As you may be aware, Dave Critchley, General Manager of Public Safety and Community Initiatives with the City of Burnaby, is a member of the LGPMR.

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As a result of this initial engagement, I intend to bring some targeted legislative changes to the *Police Act* in spring 2024. This will enable government to lay a foundation towards broader legislative reform. The changes will address topics related to municipal police governance and oversight.

Should you have further questions pertaining to the policing and public safety modernization initiative, please contact Ardys Baker, Executive Director, PSTT at: [Ardys.Baker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ardys.Baker@gov.bc.ca) or 778-974-4044.

During the meeting, you also cited concerns related to the Divisional Administration cost impact to your City. After I communicated my decision and direction that the City of Surrey continue its transition to the Surrey Police Service in July 2023, I wrote to the RCMP Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for E Division indicating my expectation that they mitigate any impacts to the fullest extent on RCMP policed municipalities. It is my expectation that RCMP Members released from the Surrey Detachment remain in E Division to staff existing vacancies, thereby reducing a Divisional Administration financial impact to other RCMP policed jurisdictions. Ministry staff are working with UBCM to provide Divisional Administration information to the Local Government Contract Management Committee and local governments more broadly.

I am confident we can continue to work together to strengthen our communities and find solutions to the concerns and challenges you brought to our meeting.

Sincerely,



Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
and Deputy Premier

pc: The Honourable Raj Chouhan, MLA  
The Honourable Anne Kang, MLA  
Janet Routledge MLA  
Katrina Chen, MLA  
Glen Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Policing and Security Branch  
Megan Harris, Assistant Deputy Minister, PSTT  
Jamie Lipp, A/ Deputy Director of Police Services and Executive Director, Policing and Security Branch