

Dear Deputy Commissioner Butterworth-Carr:

I write in my capacity as the Director of Police Services for the Province of British Columbia and on behalf of the men and women of Policing and Security Branch concerning the recent decision of Surrey Council to seek changes to its policing model.

As you know, the Police Act provides various options for municipalities when fulfilling their obligations to provide policing within their municipal boundaries. While Surrey has historically been policed by our provincial police force (the BC-RCMP), their duly elected council has decided to pursue a municipal police option.

It is worth noting that one of the proud hallmarks of Canadian policing and indeed the RCMP, is that of serving the public interest without fear, favour or prejudice while standing apart from political considerations. To that end let me offer my thanks to the members and employees of our provincial police for the resolute adherence to this principle in these past weeks. I am acutely aware how this discussion will impact the morale of your employees while the process unfolds over the coming months and years so permit me to also thank them through you for the professionalism and dedication they display each and every day while serving British Columbians.

Moving forward, my Branch will be working with Surrey senior municipal staff, Public Safety Canada and RCMP E-Division to understand the various considerations and implications of this decision. The Police Act places a number of obligations on municipalities to provide policing that is both adequate and effective. Ultimately the Branch will provide advice to the Solicitor General who must approve the model and plan. Many considerations germane to Surrey (and British Columbia policing) will be canvassed and thoroughly analysed in the interest of all British Columbians.

This work, due to its complexity and scope, will take considerable time. As Surrey is Canada's largest RCMP detachment there are no precedents. As I have noted, we are aware of the strain of this period of uncertainty on your employees and will do all that we can to ensure fulsome communication with you.

Please permit me in closing to state how proud the province is of the men and women of the Provincial police, BC's RCMP. Through the recent unprecedented wildfire season, the ongoing province-wide gang conflicts or the very difficult work of serving our remote communities that pride has been well earned.

Thank you

Clayton J.D. Pecknold, LLB, MOM  
Assistant Deputy Minister & Director of Police Services  
Policing and Security Branch