



MEMBER RELEASE

October 21, 2010

TO: Mayor & Council, Chair & Board, Senior Staff

FROM: Union of BC Municipalities

RE: RCMP Police Costs and Accountability

At the UBCM Convention members endorsed resolution *SR1 RCMP Police Costs and Accountability*. The resolution highlighted two key local government issues about RCMP police costs. The first issue was the rapidly increasing cost of RCMP police services and the affordability of these services in the future. The second issue was the accountability of the RCMP to local governments for the delivery of police services at the local level. The resolution laid out a strategy to make the federal and provincial governments fully aware of local government concerns.

One of the key elements of the strategy was the need for local government to write:

- their local Member of Parliament
- the federal Minister of Public Safety, Honourable Vic Toews
- the federal President of Treasury Board, Honourable Stockwell Day

The letter should highlight local government concerns regarding the need for financial accountability, the need to develop an effective partnership, and the need for local accountability in the delivery of police services. Local examples should be used to highlight problems that have occurred related to these general issues.

UBCM is in the process of undertaking the other elements of the strategy:

- organizing a meeting with the Honourable Stockwell Day, President of Treasury Board and the Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety to discuss local government concerns with the rapidly increasing costs of RCMP services and the need for increased accountability of the RCMP;
- organizing a meeting with the federal BC Conservative Caucus to discuss local government concerns;
- organizing a meeting with the Honourable Mike de Jong, Attorney General and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss local governments concerns and identify measures that the province can take to assist in addressing these issues.

UBCM needs local government support to make this strategy a success. We would encourage local governments write to your local Member of Parliament and the key federal and provincial cabinet ministers identified outlining the need to address financial accountability, partnership and local accountability in the delivery of police services. UBCM would request that you write as soon as possible to the federal and provincial representatives to support the actions we are taking on this initiative.