



MEMBER RELEASE

May 17, 2011

TO: Mayor & Council | Chair & Board | Senior Staff
FROM: UBCM Secretariat
RE: **UPDATE: RCMP Contract Renewal Negotiations**

This communication is being forwarded:

- to remind local government to provide input into the Terms of Reference for a provincial and local government RCMP Contract Management Committee. A request for input was sent out on May 3, 2011; and
- to provide an update on the RCMP contract renewal negotiations.

RCMP Contract Management Committee

One of the recurring themes that local governments have identified in the RCMP Contract negotiations is the need to develop a working partnership between local government, the Province and the RCMP in the delivery of police services. In 2009 UBCM undertook a survey of local government that sought input about various aspects of the affordability and accountability of police services. One of the accountability measures identified in the survey was the "establishment of a Provincial Committee on Policing".

The Province has agreed to establish an RCMP Contract Management Committee. The RCMP Contract Management Committee will be formalized in the new RCMP Contract and will be a permanent committee. The Committee will facilitate regular input/feedback between local governments that have local police services delivered by the RCMP and the Province as well as local government input into the 5 year RCMP Contract review process. The Committee will also address issues and concerns related to the RCMP contract and to the on-going delivery of local government police services by the RCMP.

Your local government's input on the Terms of Reference would be appreciated. Please forward your comments by **June 10, 2011** to the UBCM office.

Local Government Working Group RCMP Contract

Negotiations in relation to local government issues and concerns under the "Partnership" theme and the "Governance and Accountability" theme are continuing.

Some key issues where there has been progress are the following:

- **Financial Planning & Reporting** – The parties have agreed that under the new contract that the RCMP will provide rolling 5 year financial plans to local government;
- **Accommodations & Equipment** – The negotiating team on behalf of local governments is pursuing the development of guidelines in relation to RCMP accommodations and the establishment of a dispute resolution mechanism; and,
- **Staff Vacancies** – The negotiating team is pursuing embedding provisions within the contract to address the development of RCMP human resource plans with a view to better addressing RCMP staffing requirements, succession planning and seasonal demands.

Negotiations in relation to the “Cost Containment” theme are also progressing. The current focus of these negotiations is on “cost base” issues (i.e. medical costs, pension costs, member benefits and legal costs etc.). These are some of the key cost drivers in RCMP costs and the goal is to contain these costs in the new contract. Negotiations in this area have been far more challenging, likely do to the intention of the federal government to reduce its budget deficit.

Provincial/Territorial Meetings

A meeting of provincial/territorial Assistant Deputy Ministers will take place on May 17th to 19th to confirm the direction and strategy of the RCMP Contract renewal negotiations going forward, particularly in view of the recent announcement by Alberta that it has endorsed a new contract for RCMP services.

A meeting of provincial/territorial Deputy Ministers will take place on June 23rd and 24th to finalize the strategy before further negotiations are held with the federal government on the RCMP Contract. The negotiations process was put on hold during the recent federal election.

The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General when she met with the UBCM Community Safety Committee in April and advised that her intention was to keep the current block of provinces/territories together to negotiate further changes to the RCMP Contract and that the province is not wanting to rush a settlement and will continue to negotiate some of the key issues still on the table. The Minister also indicated that, once the new federal ministers (Treasury Board and Public Safety) are chosen, she would be willing to lead a delegation to Ottawa to discuss the RCMP contract and other community safety issues of interest to local government with the federal government.

UBCM Contact

If your local government has any questions regarding this communication, please contact Ken Vance, Senior Policy Advisor. Email: kvance@ubcm.ca; Tel: 604-270-8226 ext. 114.