



April 16, 2021

The Hon. Kaycee Madu
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
424 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
EDMONTON, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Madu:

Re: Town of Morinville Support for RCMP

Our Council is not supportive of the Government of Alberta's initiative to replace the RCMP with an Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS). Our opinion is that there are other, more effective ways to achieve the outcomes identified through the *Police Act* review. Indeed, improving the public's trust in policing, ensuring an effective complaint process, and improving Indigenous peoples' relationships are important objectives.

There are, however, several considerations that cause justifiable concern:

- The Fair Deal Panel recommends establishing an APPS despite 65% of respondents indicating non-support;
- The necessity for a new model is unclear when there is little substantiated dissatisfaction with the RCMP but rather some areas for improvement have, rightfully, been identified;
- Transition costs are poorly understood, and ongoing operating costs will inevitably rise. Municipalities currently bear the majority of policing costs and are not able or willing to accept any additional increases. As you know, municipalities have limited means to increase revenues, receiving only 8-10 cents for every tax dollar collected. Continuing to do more with less is untenable.

There has not been compelling evidence that an APPS would result in better outcomes, particularly with the expected increase in costs. The Town of Morinville has a collaborative relationship with the local RCMP detachment and is satisfied with the level of service and degree of responsiveness received. As such, Council encourages the Government of Alberta to abandon the transition study and redouble efforts to work with the RCMP to achieve better outcomes.

Sincerely,

Barry Turner
Mayor

10.b.

CC The Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier
Dale Nally, MLA for Morinville-St. Albert
Dane Lloyd, MP for Sturgeon River-Parkland
Curtis Zabolcki, Commanding Officer for Alberta, RCMP
AUMA Members
RMA Members

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