

February 17, 2022

Mayor Lyn Hall  
City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Blvd  
Prince George, BC, V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor Hall:

**Re: RCMP Response to 2021 Resolution**

Please find attached responses from the RCMP to resolutions 2021-EB10 and 2021-NR5 put forward by your local government and endorsed at the 2021 Convention.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you. Please feel free to contact Jamee Justason, UBCM Resolutions and Policy Analyst with any questions. Email: [jjustason@ubcm.ca](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca)

Sincerely,



Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg  
UBCM President

*Enclosure*

## 2021 EB10 Increased Capacity at the National Forensic Lab Services

Prince George

Whereas the RCMP are tasked to preserve and organize information and evidence collected in the course of their investigation, in consideration of the Crown's obligation to disclose and in recognition of the benefits of early disclosure;

And whereas in accordance with the *Crown Counsel Act*, Crown Counsel is required to "examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate";

And whereas the demand for, and backlog of, biological and other forensic service at the National Forensic Lab Services negatively impacts the efficiency and effectiveness of an investigation and ability to proceed with the laying of charges:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to increase working capacity within the National Forensic Lab Services for the provision of forensic services in biology, firearms, toxicology, and trace evidence in order to better meet the necessary timelines of RCMP investigations across Canada.

**Convention Decision:**                      **Endorsed**

### Other Response

#### **RCMP**

*The RCMP NFLS has continued operations throughout the pandemic, and while there were implications for operations in 2020 that impacted caseload backlogs, all three sites have been operating at 100% capacity since early 2021.*

*The upward trajectory for forensic services pre-pandemic was strong and sustained. Quantitatively, the period between fiscal years 2016-2017 to 2018-2019 were represented by a 9%, 25% and 41% increase in service for toxicology, biology and firearms disciplines, respectively. These significant increases affected the ability of the program to provide timely results and court support to all clients. NFLS continues to adapt to the various disruptions and re-alignments due to the COVID-19 environment (e.g., supply chain issues, support of technical services delivered by contractors, and process delays).*

*Mitigation and modernization efforts are underway to increase efficiencies, maximize resources, and leverage available technology. For example, in toxicology, a modernization initiative due to be fully operational in the fall of 2022 will increase efficiencies in process workflow. In addition, the dedicated work of the toxicology team has the NFLS moving steadily towards the opening of two lines for the processing of drug-impaired driving cases in the spring of 2022. Efforts to add new services to the biology discipline are ongoing (e.g., adopting probabilistic genotyping software, assessing phenotyping/biogeographical ancestry, incorporating Rapid DNA processes). Other administrative mitigation measures, such as providing most court testimony virtually, have also provided marginal benefits to the operations of the program.*

*Despite these mitigation measures, the ability to manage the increased demand will continue to be challenging without additional resources.*

Whereas RCMP costs are borne by local governments, as well as the provincial and federal governments;

And whereas the Municipal Police Services Agreement between BC and Canada includes costs for RCMP training;

And whereas local governments have different policing and training needs based on factors such as crime rates and patterns, population size, and cultural, social and economic circumstances;

And whereas law enforcement officers have increased needs for specialized training to safely respond to complex and challenging situations in multi-cultural urban and rural environments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that both the provincial and federal governments increase funding and training specific to the provision of mental health resources (such as Health IM app) and the development of a comprehensive training model for RCMP members that includes components applicable to a detachment's service region and/or local government.

**Convention Decision:**                      **Endorsed**

#### Other Response

##### **RCMP**

*As the world around us is constantly changing, police officers must be able to adapt and respond as required. For this reason, RCMP training materials are updated on a regular basis. Ensuring that we equip our officers with appropriate tools to respond safely and effectively is of the utmost importance.*

*The training of RCMP members follows a comprehensive approach, which provides national consistency and alignment, in support of operational readiness and deployment in various jurisdictions across the country. As per the Police Service Agreements, jurisdictions establish their respective policing priorities and budgets, which include in-service training.*

*In-service training provides police officers with the skills required to support their primary duty of preserving and protecting life. Knowing that the primary objective of any intervention is public safety and that officer safety is essential to public safety, in-service training focusses on the skills required to safely handle the wide range of situations that can occur within a policing landscape.*

*At the national level, the RCMP has updated the Incident Management Intervention Model (IMIM) annual re-certification training and the IMIM graphic to place more emphasis on communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation. The IMIM is the framework used by RCMP officers to assess and manage risk in all encounters with the public, whether it is verbal de-escalation or the use of an intervention option: De-escalation is the preferred result of any interaction. The IMIM is introduced in the second week at the RCMP Training Academy (Depot) and is integrated into all other relevant aspects of training for the remaining 24 weeks. After leaving Depot, annual IMIM re-certification training is mandatory for all regular members.*

*For mental health-related calls, it is important to recognize that police officers are not medical professionals and cannot diagnose individuals. However, it is also important for the police to have an understanding of mental health illnesses, including signs and symptoms of distress.*

*The RCMP is committed to working with jurisdictions that wish to invest in training and other resources, which will aid officers when responding to mental health-related calls.*