

MAYOR REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: April 5, 2023

TO: COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Simon Yu, Mayor

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution to Prioritize Municipal Input in Future RCMP Contract Policing Decisions

ATTACHMENT(S): Proposed Resolution

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council ENDORSE the proposed resolution that is attached to the report dated April 5, 2023 from the Mayor, titled "Proposed Resolution to Prioritize Municipal Input in Future RCMP Contract Policing Decisions", in support of the City of Prince George joining the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to commit to ensuring that local governments are meaningfully consulted, fully informed, and at the table on issues related to policing costs given the municipal role in keeping our communities safe.

BACKGROUND:

Despite months of municipal advocacy led by the FCM, provincial-territorial associations, and local leaders across Canada, the federal government has indicated in the 2023 Budget that it will not be meeting the request to absorb the retroactive costs associated with the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement.

The federal 2023 budget further confirmed that communities across Canada that are dependent on RCMP services for local policing are expected to cover these costs and offered details on a repayment period for municipalities. This falls well short of the call from municipalities to fully absorb the costs.

This decision is an example of a federal commitment that deeply impacts municipalities without municipalities being properly consulted or involved. Municipal governments are paying a growing share of policing costs, but they cannot run deficits and have limited revenue tools.

Councillor Garth Frizzell has submitted the attached proposed resolution in support of prioritizing municipal input in future RCMP contract policing decisions.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

The 2023 opening balance of Safe Restart was \$3.069 million. Council directed Administration to use \$100,000 of this to fund the Fire Training Facility and the remainder was to be spent on the RCMP retro pay. The City has already budgeted for and set aside \$5.268 million of the required \$5.374 million retro payment.

The result of using the Safe Restart fund to pay for \$2.969 million of the retro means that much of the previously earmarked funds will now flow into the City's general surplus.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Simon Yu, Mayor

Meeting Date: 2023/04/12