



August 21, 2024

Councils and Boards

UBCM Member Organizations

Dear Councils and Boards:

RE: 2024 UBCM Resolution - Fail to Appear Charges in Policing Statistics

I am writing to bring to your attention a resolution that will be considered at the 2024 Union of BC Municipalities Convention, and to respectfully request your support when the resolution is presented.

As described in the attached backgrounder, Fail to Appear is a *Criminal Code* charge brought against an individual who fails to attend a scheduled court appearance. These charges do not impact police resources because they are simply an additional charge against the individual.

Despite having extremely minimal impact on police workload, these charges are counted alongside all other *Criminal Code* charges attributed to municipalities with courthouses, regardless of where the original offence occurred. Particularly in smaller jurisdictions, this practice significantly inflates the policing statistics for communities with courthouses. In the case of the City of Duncan, 80% of the Fail to Appear charges attributed to our community originated from outside of our jurisdiction, and causes a 23% increase in the City's total 2023 *Criminal Code* cases. This inflated number has a significant and corresponding impact on the requests for the number of officers, particularly when a community is transitioning past the 5,000 and 15,000 population thresholds.

The City of Duncan recognizes that the impact of the Fail to Appear charges is felt differently across BC communities. We appreciate your consideration of the disproportionate impact of including Fail to Appear charges in policing statistics for jurisdictions in which courthouses are located, and respectfully request your support for our resolution to remove these charges from policing statistics, similar to traffic related *Criminal Code* offences.

Sincerely,

Michelle Staples

Mayor

Encl. Backgrounder: Fail to Appear Charges

cc: Duncan City Council