

DATE: April 20, 2021

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Councillor Brian Skakun, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions

SUBJECT: Funding Formula for a Northern BC Integrated Homicide Investigation Team Model

ATTACHMENT(S): Draft letter to the North District RCMP in Support of a Funding Formula for a Northern BC IHIT Model

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Council APPROVES the Acting City Manager to sign the letter attached to the report dated April 20, 2021 from the Chair, of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions titled "Funding Formula for a Northern BC Integrated Homicide Investigation Team Model."

PURPOSE:

For Council's approval to authorize the Acting City Manager to sign the attached letter to the North District RCMP requesting the establishment of a funding formula for an integrated homicide investigation team to serve northern BC communities.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

At the March 10, 2021 meeting of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions Superintendent Shaun Wright, Prince George RCMP attended the meeting to discuss advocacy issues related to the RCMP, service delivery and public safety. In that discussion, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) model was highlighted as a critical need. These specialized teams are responsible for investigating homicides, high risk missing persons cases where foul play is suspected and suspicious deaths. The Superintendent highlighted that they would help relieve existing pressures on the current officers by providing for the development of a specialized investigation team. It would be similar to that of the IHIT operating in the lower mainland.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

By agreement between the provincial and federal government, the RCMP provides policing services to unincorporated areas of the province and to selected municipalities such as Prince George by contract. Effective, March 23, 2021 and retroactive to April 1, 2019 all BC municipalities will benefit from the 70/30 cost share formula between the federal and provincial government regardless of population size.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Prince George RCMP Superintendent Shaun Wright at a meeting of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions advanced the merits of forming an Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) for the RCMP North District. From the Committee's discussion and deliberations on the topic,

it was recommended that the City request the Government of Canada and province of BC to work with RCMP management to develop a fair funding formula for an IHIT model to be established in Prince George.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Councillor Brian Skakun, Chair
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/04/26