

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9
p: 250.561.7600 | www.princegeorge.ca

April XX, 2021

Supt. James McLaren
Acting District Officer, North District RCMP

Transmitted by email:
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RE: Funding Formula for a Northern BC Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT)
Model

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Prince George, the largest city in northern British Columbia, is located more than 800 km north of Vancouver and serves as the hub for northern BC's population of greater than 300,000 people through the provision of recreation opportunities, access to amenities, employment, education and healthcare.

The RCMP North District, with its headquarters located in Prince George, represents the upper two thirds (72%) of the province of BC with over 40 detachments and 1100 RCMP employees. With increased constraints placed on police services related to administrative tasks, delays in lab forensic services, and limited court capacity for prosecution, the City of Prince George is considering ways to relieve some existing pressures on our officers and is interested in the development of a specialized investigation team, similar to that of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) of the lower mainland, who would be responsible for investigating, in northern BC, homicides, suspicious deaths, and high-risk missing persons where foul play is suspected.

Within the current 2012 Police Service Agreement, municipalities with a population of less than 15,000 is billed at a 70/30 provincial/federal cost-share whereas for municipalities with a population greater than 15,000 are billed at a 90/10 provincial/federal cost-share. In a letter dated May 15, 2020, then Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Brenda Butterworth-Carr stated "Effective April 1, 2019, the existing LMD IHIT is to be included as part of the RCMP Provincial Service with the 70/30 provincial/federal cost-share applied to all LMD IHIT costs. This means that all municipalities participating in LMD IHIT will benefit from the 70/30 cost share." There are also provisions in the Settlement Agreement that allow, subject to specified conditions, for future IHITs to be cost-shared at the 70/30 provincial/federal cost-share.

With the varying sizes of communities served by North District RCMP and the already substantial police service expenditure impacting municipal budgets and tax payers, we request that federal and provincial governments work with RCMP management to develop a fair funding formula for an IHIT model to be established in Prince George in order to serve northern BC communities.

The City of Prince George thanks you for your consideration and looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager
City of Prince George

cc: RCMP BC North District Municipalities
North Central Local Government Association

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