

# COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** April 30, 2021

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

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

**SUBJECT:** Proposed 2021 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Resolutions

**ATTACHMENTS:** Schedule "A" - City of Prince George Resolutions regarding:

1. Increased Capacity at the National Forensic Lab Services;
2. Capacity in Federal and Provincial Court Systems;
3. Improved Efficiencies in Policing and Prosecution of Criminal Offence; and
4. Comprehensive Training Model for RCMP Members.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. ENDORSES for submission to the 2021 UBCM convention, resolution number 1 titled "Increased Capacity at the National Forensic Lab Services" set out in Schedule "A" to the report dated April 30, 2021 titled "Proposed 2021 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Resolutions";
2. ENDORSES for submission to the 2021 UBCM convention, resolution number 2 titled "Capacity in Federal and Provincial Court Systems" set out in Schedule "A" to the report dated April 30, 2021 titled "Proposed 2021 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Resolutions"; and
3. ENDORSES for submission to the 2021 UBCM convention, resolution number 3 titled "Improved Efficiencies in Policing and Prosecution of Criminal Offence" set out in Schedule "A" to the report dated April 30, 2021 titled "Proposed 2021 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Resolutions"; and
4. ENDORSES for submission to the 2021 UBCM convention, resolution number 4 titled "Comprehensive Training Model for RCMP Members" set out in Schedule "A" to the report dated April 30, 2021 titled "Proposed 2021 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Resolutions."

## PURPOSE:

For Council consideration and decision.

## BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION:

The Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions has been meeting monthly since the start of this year. At their meeting held on April 29, 2021, the Committee considered the resolutions attached as

Schedule “A” and recommends that they be submitted for debate at the 2021 UBCM Convention in September.

The following four proposed resolutions highlight the importance of increasing capacity for policing and criminal prosecutions and the promotion of public safety and justice. As demonstrated through reports to Council by the RCMP over the past year, there is a need for training and support in the area of mental health resources, and increased capacity in services that support the laying of charges against those involved in a criminal offence. Delays in charges being approved by Crown Counsel exacerbates the number and frequency of police interaction with prolific offenders in the community.

#### **Resolution One: Capacity in the National Forensic Lab Services**

This proposed resolution calls for the UBCM to petition the provincial and federal governments to increase the 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. The aim of the increased capacity is to aid in addressing the demand for and backlog of biological and other forensic services at the National Forensic Lab Services, thereby improving efficiencies and effectiveness of RCMP investigations and the ability to proceed with the laying of charges. Some progress has been made in BC, as in February of this year the province opened its own forensic firearms lab to help address organized crime and gun violence.

#### **Resolution Two: Capacity in Federal and Provincial Court Systems**

This proposed resolution calls for an increase in funding to improve capacity in the provincial court system for the laying and prosecution of criminal charges. Within Prince George, in 2020, there were over 200 instances in which charges were not laid and prosecution did not proceed. This was in large part due to the lack of capacity to manage the prosecution of criminal charges in the court system. Additional funding will support investigations conducted by the RCMP to be advanced.

There is also a recognized need for the availability of resources to address rehabilitation and the many social and economic factors that may lead to the committing of a criminal offence.

#### **Resolution Three: Improved Efficiencies in Policing and Prosecution of Criminal Offence**

The purpose of this resolution is to provide for changes to minimize delays in the laying of charges by Crown Counsel following police investigations. It calls for the UBCM to petition the BC Prosecution Service, in consultation with police services in British Columbia, to improve efficiencies around the disclosure and information management practices defined in the Disclosure Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Prosecution Service, the Public Prosecution Services of Canada (BC) and all BC police agencies.

#### **Resolution Four: Comprehensive Training Model for RCMP Members**

This proposed resolution calls for increased funding from the provincial and federal governments to address the need to develop a comprehensive training model for RCMP members. It would include consideration for mental health resources and training components applicable to a detachment's service region and/or municipality. This would also provide RCMP members with the ability to better respond to increasingly complex and challenging situations in multi-cultural urban and rural environments across Canada.

The next UBCM Convention is scheduled for September 13 to 17, 2021 in Vancouver. The deadline for submitting resolutions is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The report recommends the attached resolutions be advanced to the UBCM 2021 Convention for consideration.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Councillor Brian Skakun, Chair  
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions

Meeting Date: 2021/05/10