

Schedule “A”

City of Prince George 2021 UBCM Resolutions

1. Increased Capacity at the National Forensic Lab Services

WHEREAS the RCMP are tasked to preserve and organize information and evidence collected in the course of their investigation, in consideration of the Crown’s obligation to disclose and in recognition of the benefits of early disclosure,

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Crown Counsel Act, Crown Counsel is required to “examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate”;

AND WHEREAS the demand for and backlog of biological and other forensic service at the National Forensic Lab Services negatively impacts the efficiency and effectiveness of an investigation and ability to proceed with the laying of charges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to increase 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.

2. Capacity in Federal and Provincial Court Systems

WHEREAS the Attorney General through the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) promotes public safety, justice, and respect for the rule of law by making principled charge assessment decisions and conducting fair and effective prosecutions and appeals;

AND WHEREAS Provincial Crown Counsel prosecute all offences and appeals in British Columbia that arise under Canada’s Criminal Code and British Columbia statutes;

AND WHEREAS there is an increasing demand within the current system of justice resulting in major procedural delays and reduced public confidence and concerns about public safety and justice;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Attorney General to increase funding and improve capacity in the provincial court system for the prosecution of charges laid for all types of criminal and regulatory offences.

3. Improved Efficiencies in Policing and Prosecution of Criminal Offences

WHEREAS the BC Crown Counsel Policy Manual's guidelines regarding charge assessment states that unless impracticable to do so, police will lay an Information charging a person with an offence only after approval of charges by Crown Counsel has been given;

AND WHEREAS police responsibilities regarding disclosure in criminal and regulatory offence proceedings is defined in the Disclosure Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Prosecution Service, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (BC) and all BC police agencies, Crown Counsel's responsibility in accordance with the Crown Counsel Act, is to "examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate";

AND WHEREAS the costs and man hours required to prepare a fulsome disclosure before charges are approved by Crown Counsel, can result in delays in charges being laid;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the BC Prosecution Service to work with all police agencies in British Columbia to improve efficiencies in disclosure and information management practices and the advancement of policing and the prosecution of criminal offences.

4. Comprehensive Training Model for RCMP Members

WHEREAS RCMP costs are borne by local governments, as well as the provincial and federal governments;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Police Services Agreement between BC and Canada includes costs for RCMP training;

AND WHEREAS local governments have different policing and training needs based on factors such as crime rates and patterns, population size, and cultural, social and economic circumstances;

AND WHEREAS law enforcement officers have increased needs for specialized training to safely respond to complex and challenging situations in multi-cultural urban and rural environments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that both the provincial and federal governments increase funding and training specific to the provision of mental health resources (such as Health IM app) and the development of a comprehensive training model for RCMP members that includes components applicable to a detachment's service region and/or local government.