



# Effectively Examining BC's Police Act:

UBCM submission to the Special Committee on Reforming  
the Police Act



January 2021

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## 1. Introduction

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) represents 100% of local governments in British Columbia (BC), as well as eight First Nations members, and has advocated for policies and programs that support its membership's needs since 1905. The *Police Act* is of critical importance to local governments, both in terms of its effect on community safety and its budgetary impacts. Public safety is a core service directly provided by many local governments, and policing is a highly expensive component. Currently, policing costs continue to increase while polls show public confidence is in decline.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, police accountability and public trust are at the forefront of public discourse in many parts of North America, including B.C.

In June 2020, Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, announced the Province's intent to review the *Police Act*, with particular focus on ensuring legislation adequately addresses issues such as harm reduction, mental health and systemic racism. The subsequent decision to establish the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act provides an opportunity for the Province to work with local governments and other key stakeholders as part of a comprehensive review of public safety in BC.

In preparing this paper, a number of sources were considered, including:

- UBCM policy (e.g. resolutions);
- Previous input, including UBCM Executive correspondence and meetings with MLAs;
- The work of the RCMP Local Government Contract Management Committee; and, other related committees to which UBCM is a member.

Key issues have been organized into broad themes, although some issues overlap between themes. These six broad themes are:

- Support for Public Safety;
- Public Trust and Accountability;
- Responsibility and Resourcing for Services;
- Efficiency and Effectiveness;
- Coordination and Communication; and,
- Ongoing Engagement.

The Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act is asked to examine these themes in greater detail, and identify solutions that are viable for local governments and other key stakeholders. Solutions should be developed through a partnership approach.

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<sup>1</sup> Leger and the Association for Canadian Studies (2020) *Weekly Pandemic Tracker – Trust in Police Services*, June 15, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://leger360.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Leger-National-Weekly-Pandemic-Tracker-June-15-2020.pdf>

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## 2. Support for Public Safety

This section seeks to outline some of the broader issues impacting public safety, and the overall need to expand the scope of the *Police Act* review to include factors beyond policing. It is also important to provide a spectrum of resources and policing options to best serve the needs of communities and help address broader issues.

### 2.1 A More Coordinated Approach to Public Safety

Police agencies frequently respond to calls for service outside their core expertise because they are one of the few public service agencies available at all hours. Communities are increasingly spending resources on specialized police services to manage issues associated with mental health, substance abuse, homelessness and other issues. Over the past several years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of police officers that specialize in dealing with mental health-related police calls. For example, the Vancouver Police Department's mental health unit has grown from 3 to 12 members since 2012.<sup>2</sup> This scope creep diminishes the ability to effectively delivery front line policing, and also represents a direct download of health-related costs to local governments who pay the majority of policing costs.

If police are responding outside their core area of expertise, it is likely that the person on the other end of the call is not receiving the necessary assistance. Additionally, first responders are frequently responding to repeat calls for service. These inefficiencies prevent police officers from performing other policing duties. For example, if responding to a call related to mental health, substance or abuse or homelessness, a police officer must wait with the affected individual until appropriate help is provided. Under this very common scenario, deficiencies in health, addictions and housing services are reducing available policing resources, which is ultimately a poor use of taxpayer dollars. The Special Committee should review the nature of these calls, including repeat calls, and provide recommendations on preventative and proactive investments required in health, addictions and housing, to reduce inefficiencies.

UBCM's Executive raised the increasing demand on police officers to address mental health issues as part of its 2015 Advocacy Days meetings with MLAs.<sup>3</sup> The following requests were submitted to Cabinet members and other MLAs:

- Implement a province-wide agreement between police and mental health officials on the management of mental health patients in emergency wards;
- Develop integrated teams of health, police, and other officials on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to manage individuals with mental health issues; and,

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<sup>2</sup> Hagar, M. (2020). Vancouver Police Department wants more mental health officers, but city declines new funding. *The Globe and Mail*, August 11, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-vancouver-police-department-wants-more-mental-health-officers-but/>

<sup>3</sup> Advocacy Days is an annual series of meetings between the UBCM Executive and MLAs to raise awareness of key local government policy priorities.

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- Introduce additional long-term care beds to deal specifically with mental health illness cases.

While local governments are doing their best to work with health agencies (e.g. through Car 67 and similar programs), these Executive requests were based on the need for a collaborative approach to effectively address mental health issues while reducing policing costs. Resolution 2015-A2 was subsequently endorsed, building on the UBCM Executive's proposed approach by requesting that the provincial government:<sup>4</sup>

- Develop a long-term, multi-faceted strategy to help individuals dealing with mental health and addictions issues, including integrated health and psychiatric care, criminal justice reform and access to affordable housing; and,
- Increase the resources allocated to providing mental health and addiction services throughout BC, with the intent of increasing access and treatment for those dealing with associated issues.

This year, UBCM's membership endorsed special resolution 2020-SR8, which includes a similar request.

In alignment with UBCM advocacy and policy, it is recommended that the Special Committee undertake a comprehensive, cross-departmental and cross-governmental review to ensure necessary resources are available in all service areas (e.g. policing, healthcare, housing, etc.) when police respond to calls for service. It is also important to ensure that all impacted agencies respond in a coordinated manner, and that solutions in one area do not create negative externalities in others. For instance, housing solutions for some of the most vulnerable individuals require 24-hour support from other agencies, notably health. Where this support is not provided, the individual does not get the needed assistance, the housing solution is undermined, and negative externalities are created in the community.

## **2.2 Supplemental Policing Options**

In addition to examining issues broadly and across service areas, the Special Committee should evaluate the spectrum of resources that are available in the various service areas, to determine appropriate changes. For example, in the area of policing, the Province of Alberta utilizes provincial sheriffs to gather evidence and enforce traffic safety laws. Alberta has also implemented a *Peace Officer Act*, authorizing the use of Peace Officers to perform a number of law enforcement duties (e.g. parks enforcement, protection services for designated individuals, traffic enforcement, and enforcement of other provincial statutes). The *Police Act* review should examine the merit of other supplementary policing options, including those implemented in other provinces and territories.

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<sup>4</sup> For more information regarding this and other resolutions referenced in this document, please see Appendix B.

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Recent UBCM resolutions support a more comprehensive approach to policing by requesting that the *Police Act* be amended to provide another supplementary policing option similar to Alberta's Peace Officers; and, that the Province examine the role of peace officers and sheriffs in other jurisdictions, as a potential solution to assist with RCMP law enforcement in underserved rural areas.<sup>5</sup>

Recently, UBCM has advocated for a BC-only auxiliary policing program, to replace the national Auxiliary Program and better serve the needs of communities.<sup>6</sup> With British Columbia having lost approximately half of its RCMP Auxiliary Constables over the past several years, UBCM continues to seek the creation of a provincial program to restore and enhance this supplementary policing option.

Overall, the availability of a spectrum of resources in each service area would assist in meeting the public safety needs of communities.

### SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

1. Undertake a comprehensive, cross-departmental and cross-governmental public safety review to ensure necessary resources are available in all service areas (e.g. policing, healthcare, housing, etc.).
2. Examine opportunities for preventative and proactive investments.
3. Ensure that a spectrum of resources is available in each service area.

## 3. Public Trust and Accountability

Police accountability and public trust are at the forefront of public discourse in many parts of North America, including British Columbia. This section will focus on system improvements to enhance and maintain public confidence in BC's public safety services.

### 3.1 Addressing Bias

Systemic and individual bias exists in Canada's policing system. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki are two key figures to have publicly acknowledged the prevalence of systemic racism in policing, with the latter indicating that the RCMP is developing a strategy to address the issue. CBC's Deadly Force database, which documents deaths caused by police, found that Black and Indigenous people form a disproportionate percentage of victims

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<sup>5</sup> Resolutions referenced in this paragraph include 2013-B89 and 2018-B88. Additional information regarding these resolutions is available in Appendix B.

<sup>6</sup> As Auxiliary Constables are appointed under the *Police Act*, the Province has the authority to create its own program.

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compared to their share of the Canadian population.<sup>7</sup> However, despite this information, more data is needed to truly understand the depth of this problem. The *Police Act* review should examine ways to obtain the necessary information to better define, understand and address systemic bias (e.g. racism, sexism).

Additional changes must be contemplated to provide the public with confidence and assurance that those responding to their calls for service have the knowledge, skills and training to assist them in an unbiased manner. In particular, first responders and their managers must be properly trained to understand and address existing systemic biases. Furthermore, the public must also be assured that when they submit concerns regarding the services they receive, there is a system in place to manage their complaints in an independent, fair, timely and transparent manner. The Special Committee should review the existing complaints system to examine opportunities to address these issues.

### **3.2 Data and Business Intelligence**

Although police agencies have made significant investments in technology, they remain challenged in providing data-driven responses to public and local government requests pertaining to the allocation of resources. For example, when asked how much time officers are spending at hospitals monitoring individuals in need of attention, police agencies are often only able to provide anecdotal responses as opposed to evidence-based supporting data. To improve transparency and accountability, data and business intelligence systems must be reviewed to ensure they are meeting the needs of service providers, as well as the public and governing bodies responsible for policing services.

### **3.3 Public Input**

The public and governing bodies responsible for policing services must also be offered avenues for delivering meaningful input into policing priorities. The current method of providing input into policing priorities is haphazard and relies significantly on the Officer in Charge (OIC) or Chief Constable (CC), and her/his relationship with the local government and community. If the relationship is strained, the OIC/CC may feel unsupported, while the council/board and community may feel as if the police are not considerate of their priorities.

This underscores the importance of maintaining equal or greater local elected representation on existing governance structures (e.g. police boards, policing committees) to maintain the direct link between public input and accountability for delivering services that are locally funded. As noted by former Attorney General Wally Oppal, “policing is way too important to be left for the

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<sup>7</sup> Singh, I. (2020). 2020 already a particularly deadly year for people killed in police encounters, CBC research shows. *CBC News*, July 23, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/fatalpoliceencounters/>

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police. It is up to the community to decide what you want, what your priorities are.”<sup>8</sup> The Province should consider additional options to improve local-level accountability through opportunities for meaningful dialogue and feedback between the OIC or CC and key stakeholders (e.g. public, local government).

One particular area where the public has been calling for greater input is regarding how resources are allocated to improve public safety. In recent months there has been a call by some to “defund the police.” It is currently unclear as to whether this implies the need to reduce police resources, or if it is a call for additional investments in other critical areas? The Special Committee should explore and find avenues to garner public input regarding the interpretation of this request as it pertains to British Columbia.

### **SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

1. Ensure the necessary data and information is available to better understand and address systemic bias (e.g. racism, sexism) in policing.
2. Ensure that those responding to calls for service have the knowledge, skills and training to assist individuals in an unbiased manner.
3. Develop a complaints system that can handle complaints in an independent, fair, timely and transparent manner.
4. Ensure that data and business intelligence systems meet the needs of internal and external users.
5. Create avenues that provide the public and governing bodies meaningful dialogue and input into policing priorities.

## **4. Responsibility and Resourcing for Services**

In addition to seeking clarity around responsibility for policing and associated governance structures, this section will examine the resourcing and funding of police services.

### **4.1 Responsibility for Individual Policing Services**

The division of responsibility for certain policing services can seem arbitrary and irrational when examined at any depth. For example, in the Lower Mainland, the Integrated Gang Task Force is the responsibility of the Province, while local governments are deemed responsible for the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team. Both of these units are specialized and work across

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<sup>8</sup> Bolan, K. (2020). Oppal says new Surrey police force would be more accountable to locals. *The Vancouver Sun*, February 26, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/oppal-says-new-surrey-police-force-would-be-more-accountable-to-locals>



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local government boundaries in high-risk areas. Nonetheless, their governance and accountabilities differ significantly. A similar situation exists with respect to radio communication services, which in some jurisdictions is provided by the Province through a provincial dispatch centre, while in other areas local governments assume responsibility for this service. The Special Committee is asked to examine all policing services being provided, and work with relevant stakeholders to determine which order of government is best suited to provide each service.

## 4.2 Provincial Investment

BC's public safety system is in need of significant capital investment (e.g. radio systems, data systems, etc.). Local governments do not have the financial capacity to contribute, and furthermore this infrastructure should be delivered province-wide so it can be used seamlessly across jurisdictions. As is discussed in section 4.3, relying on local governments to fund these services exacerbates the already large protective services burden on local budgets.

Another area requiring significant provincial funding is front line policing. Under the *Police Act*, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible for overseeing policing and to ensure that an adequate and effective level of policing and law enforcement is maintained throughout BC. This is not an easy task, as the province is diverse and includes urban as well as rural communities. While the provincial government has continued to increase the number of specialized resources, it has been reluctant to increase the authorized strength of provincial detachments (i.e. frontline policing). From 2004-2019, the authorized strength of provincial detachments increased by only 67 officers (+9.46%), while during the same period the number of RCMP officers funded by local governments increased by 1,029 (+36.14%).<sup>910</sup>

Over the past decade, UBCM and its members have expressed concerns, through endorsed resolutions, correspondence, and in-person meetings with MLAs, with the lack of increase in provincial policing resources. This issue is especially troublesome in integrated detachments that support local and provincial police units. In these detachments, police officers paid for by local governments are subsidizing the provincial share of policing costs by covering for the shortfall in provincially funded police officers. The Special Committee is asked to ensure that resourcing needs are determined using up-to-date needs analysis methodologies that take into account local service needs.

## 4.3 Funding

Any discussion around defining which order of government is responsible for the various services must be accompanied by a parallel discussion around how the services are to be funded. This discussion must take into account the difference in ability to pay between the Province and local

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<sup>9</sup> Province of British Columbia (2020). *Crime, Police, and Police Resource Statistics*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/publications-statistics-legislation/crime-police-resource-statistics>

<sup>10</sup> Publicly available provincial data only covers 2004-2019, which is why this 12-year period was used.



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governments. In this regard, it should be understood that local government policing costs are largely funded through property taxation. The appropriateness of relying on property taxes to fund policing is a significant issue for local governments, as policing costs continue to represent a large percentage of the property tax base. Most recent provincial data shows that in 2019 protective services expenses represented 43.7% of total own purpose taxation and grants in lieu collected by municipalities.<sup>11</sup>

Local governments have previously expressed concern related to policing costs, as UBCM policy (endorsed resolutions 2016-B75 and 2020-EB5) sought to amend the police cost-sharing formula to provide a more gradual cost increase for emerging local governments (i.e. communities nearing the 5,000 population threshold).<sup>1213</sup>

#### 4.4 Governance

As clarity is achieved around which order of government is responsible for each policing service, it will be equally important to ensure that proper governance structures are in place. Local governments must have the ability to properly govern those services for which they are responsible. Additionally, governance structures must strike the proper balance between operational independence for the service providers and appropriate oversight and accountabilities to the body responsible for each service. For example, while the integrated teams operating in certain parts of B.C. appear to be working well from an operational perspective, the lack of a governance structure is hindering their ability to make key decisions around resourcing and membership, among other issues.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Examine the policing services being provided, and work with relevant stakeholders to determine which order of government is best suited to provide each service.</li><li>2. Consider mandating provincial responsibility for providing and funding significant technological investments on a province-wide basis.</li><li>3. Ensure that up-to-date needs analysis methodologies that take into account local service needs are used in resource planning and allocation.</li><li>4. Review the appropriateness of using local property taxes to fund policing costs.</li><li>5. Ensure that proper governance structures are in place to balance the need for operational independence with the accountabilities required by the governing body.</li></ol>
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<sup>11</sup> Province of British Columbia (2021). Municipal General and Financial Statistics. Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/facts-framework/statistics/statistics>

<sup>12</sup> These resolutions are noted despite pertaining more so to the Municipal Police Unit Agreements between the Province and local governments.

<sup>13</sup> A third resolution seeking change to the RCMP funding model (2020-NR7) is still under consideration by the UBCM Executive. This proposed resolution requests a new police funding model that is shared equally between all taxpayers, and based on the assessed value of improvements for the areas served by the detachments.

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## 5. Efficiency and Effectiveness

As previously stated, policing services represent one of the largest budget items for governments, with costs continuing to rise. This section examines options for improving efficiency and effectiveness with respect to service delivery.

### 5.1 Opportunities for Integration

In B.C. communities with a population over 5,000, policing is largely organized around local government boundaries despite strong evidence suggesting that crimes do not respect such boundaries. While some police services have been more efficiently integrated on a regional basis, there are many more opportunities that should be researched and considered. Child exploitation and cybercrime are two examples of police services that are provided by individual detachments yet could potentially provide more efficiency and effectiveness through enhanced integration. In Alberta, the provincial Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) integrated policing unit functions under the umbrella of Alberta's Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT), which brings together various integrated teams to disrupt serious crime. Accountability for ALERT comes from a civilian board of directors, while operational priorities are determined through an executive committee with representation from multiple local government police agencies and the RCMP.

The Special Committee is asked to review service delivery models and seek options to increase efficiency and effectiveness. It is expected that affected communities will be involved in the process to improve service delivery, and that any changes under consideration be supported by a detailed business case clearly demonstrating benefits. The Province has previously used business cases to support introducing the integrated teams that are currently in place in the Lower Mainland. Lastly, it is suggested that any implemented changes be done seamlessly for the benefit of the individual receiving the service.

### 5.2 Local Detachments

A lot of work in public safety is simply about making people feel safe. Over the past several years, there has been discussion regarding the potential closure of smaller police detachments, oftentimes in favour of larger policing hubs. This issue was addressed directly at the 2018 UBCM Convention, when RCMP representatives indicated that the idea of moving to regional detachments (a.k.a. hubs) was under consideration.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Hainsworth, J. (2018). Shortage of Mounties could see Prince George become regional hub. *Prince George Citizen*, September 12, 2018. Retrieved from: <https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/news/local-news/shortage-of-mounties-could-see-prince-george-become-regional-hub-1.23429204>

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This potential change is not supported by UBCM policy, and as noted above a broad service delivery model review is preferred. UBCM resolution 2012-A4 sought for an adequate police presence in rural areas, while resolution 2013-B6 specifically asked the Province to retain all detachments in smaller local governments.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

1. Review existing service delivery, and in consultation with local governments, seek options to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
2. Consider the views of local governments, including through endorsed UBCM resolutions, when examining changes to detachment policing.

## **6. Coordination and Communication**

While it is critical to define which order of government is responsible for each policing service, it is also important to establish a forum for meaningful dialogue and information sharing between primary stakeholders and service providers. Local governments must have proper channels in place so that the issues that they are seeing on the ground are taken into account as provincial public safety priorities are established.

During the 2012 RCMP contract negotiations, UBCM facilitated a forum called the Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC). This Committee provided an opportunity for meaningful dialogue between local government, the Province and the RCMP. The LGCMC also added input into the national RCMP contract negotiations. Today, this Committee is used for consultation, analysis and communication between local governments and the Province regarding the management of the RCMP Police Service Agreements. Consideration should be given towards creating a similar advisory committee to provide local governments with an opportunity to have meaningful input into provincial public safety priorities.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

1. Consider establishing a local government advisory committee to provide meaningful input and dialogue around public safety issues.

## **7. Ongoing Engagement / Process**

Costs and responsibilities included under the *Police Act* make ongoing consultation with local governments imperative. Any change, however minor it may seem, will have an impact on local

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governments, who are collectively responsible for the majority of policing costs in British Columbia. According to provincial data, in 2018 BC local governments contributed over \$1.3 billion towards policing, more than double the provincial share.<sup>15</sup>

Changes under consideration will require significant research and policy development. If amended or new legislation is to be successful in modernizing public safety, it will be crucial for citizens and local governments to be connected to the process. It is recommended that the provincial government seek ongoing consultation and input from local governments throughout this process, during all stages of the *Police Act* review. This would include consultation before, during and after legislative amendments are developed.

### SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

1. Ongoing consultation with UBCM and local governments throughout the process to review and modernize British Columbia's *Police Act*.

## 8. Conclusion

At the 2020 UBCM Convention, local governments endorsed resolution 2020-SR11, *Police Act* Review, calling on the provincial government to commit to thorough consultation in advance of making any legislative changes. The resolution emphasizes the importance of the *Police Act* on local government budgets and resources, while also noting UBCM's exclusion from the review committee. In addition to this resolution, UBCM's members have consistently endorsed resolutions related to issues addressed within the *Police Act* (e.g. provincial policing, auxiliary policing, police funding models, structure of policing).

As a primary stakeholder and the order of government that spends more per year on policing services in BC than any other order of government, local governments must be thoroughly consulted and their perspectives valued. With this in mind, UBCM has prepared this submission for the consideration of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act, developing several specific recommendations within these broad themes:

- Support for Public Safety;
- Public Trust and Accountability;
- Responsibility and Resourcing for Services;
- Efficiency and Effectiveness;
- Coordination and Communication; and,
- Ongoing Engagement.

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<sup>15</sup> Province of British Columbia (2019). *Police Resources in British Columbia, 2018*, November 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/publications/statistics/police-resources.pdf>

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The Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act has been given an opportunity to shape public safety for the future and benefit of all British Columbians. It is quite clear that the current policing model is not functioning as desired. The ideas presented above seek to improve efficiency, service delivery and restore confidence in BC's system of policing. As part of this submission, UBCM is seeking an opportunity to assume a more prominent role in this review, including engagement with the Special Committee to discuss these items in greater detail.

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## **Appendix A: Summary of UBCM Recommendations**

### **Support for Public Safety**

1. Undertake a comprehensive, cross-departmental and cross-governmental public safety review to ensure necessary resources are available in all service areas (e.g. policing, healthcare, housing, etc.).
2. Examine opportunities for preventative and proactive investments.
3. Ensure that a spectrum of resources is available in each service area.

### **Public Trust and Accountability**

1. Ensure the necessary data and information is available to better understand and address systemic bias (e.g. racism, sexism) in policing.
2. Ensure that those responding to calls for service have the knowledge, skills and training to assist individuals in an unbiased manner.
3. Develop a complaints system that can handle complaints in an independent, fair, timely and transparent manner.
4. Ensure that data and business intelligence systems meet the needs of internal and external users.
5. Create avenues that provide the public and governing bodies meaningful dialogue and input into policing priorities.

### **Responsibility and Resourcing for Services**

1. Examine the policing services being provided, and work with relevant stakeholders to determine which order of government is best suited to provide each service.
2. Consider mandating provincial responsibility for providing and funding significant technological investments on a province-wide basis.
3. Ensure that up-to-date needs analysis methodologies that take into account local service needs are used in resource planning and allocation.
4. Review the appropriateness of using local property taxes to fund policing costs.
5. Ensure that proper governance structures are in place to balance the need for operational independence with the accountabilities required by the governing body.

### **Efficiency and Effectiveness**

1. Review existing service delivery, and in consultation with local governments, seek options to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
2. Consider the views of local governments, including through endorsed UBCM resolutions, when examining changes to detachment policing.

### **Coordination and Communication**

1. Consider establishing a local government advisory committee to provide meaningful input and dialogue around public safety issues.

### **Ongoing Engagement / Process**

1. Ongoing consultation with UBCM and local governments throughout the process to review and modernize British Columbia's *Police Act*.

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## **Appendix B: UBCM Resolutions Referenced in this Document**

### **2012-A4 Policing in Remote Rural Towns & Villages**

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to provide the necessary funding to allow the RCMP to fulfill their obligation to their members under the Canadian Labour Standards and maintain a resident police presence in remote rural towns and villages.

Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/resolutions/ResolutionDetail.aspx?id=4275&index=0&year=2012&no=A4&resTitle=&spons=&res=&prov=&fed=&other=&conv=&exec=&comm=&sortCol=year&sortDir=asc>

### **2013-B6: Small RCMP Municipality Detachments**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to liaise with RCMP and affected small municipalities to maintain the status quo and retain all small municipality detachments.

Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/resolutions/ResolutionDetail.aspx?id=4555&index=0&year=2013&no=B6&resTitle=&spons=&res=&prov=&fed=&other=&conv=&exec=&comm=&sortCol=year&sortDir=asc>

### **2013-B89: Two-Tiered Police Force**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia work in concert with the RCMP to amend the *Police Act* to allow another level of policing services for local governments in order that they might have options that will achieve good fiscal balance, while maintaining a strong police force.

Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/resolutions/ResolutionDetail.aspx?id=4619&index=0&year=2013&no=B89&resTitle=&spons=&res=&prov=&fed=&other=&conv=&exec=&comm=&sortCol=year&sortDir=asc>

### **2015-A2: Mental Health & Addiction Services & Resources**

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be called upon to develop a long-term, multi-faceted strategy to help people suffering from mental health and addiction issues including integrated health and psychiatric care, criminal justice reform, and access to affordable housing, as a matter of priority within the BC health care system;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to ensure that the level of resourcing and facilities for providing mental health and addiction services are increased throughout the province to allow for improved access and treatment for those suffering from mental health issues, including addictions.



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Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/resolutions/ResolutionDetail.aspx?id=4836&index=0&year=2015&no=A2&resTitle=&spons=&res=&prov=&fed=&other=&conv=&exec=&comm=&sortCol=year&sortDir=asc>

### **2016-B75: Equitable and Gradual Police Funding Model**

Therefore be it resolved that the current model of funding police services for emergent municipalities be reviewed with consideration given to an incremental increase based on gradual population growth.

Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/resolutions/ResolutionDetail.aspx?id=5023&index=0&year=2016&no=B75&resTitle=&spons=&res=&prov=&fed=&other=&conv=&exec=&comm=&sortCol=year&sortDir=asc>

### **2018-B88: Provincial Policing**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC explore the roles of peace officers and sheriffs in other jurisdictions to determine if legislation could be enacted in BC to assist the RCMP by providing similar services, in an effort to increase policing services in the rural areas of the province.

Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/resolutions/ResolutionDetail.aspx?id=5408&index=0&year=2018&no=B88&resTitle=&spons=&res=&prov=&fed=&other=&conv=&exec=&comm=&sortCol=year&sortDir=asc>

### **2020-SR8: Mental Health, Addictions and Poisoned Drug Supply**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to introduce a comprehensive strategy for the provision of protective and health services that includes:

- Ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency.
- Implementing a province-wide agreement between police and mental health officials on the management of mental health patients in emergency wards.
- Developing integrated teams of health, police, and other officials on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to manage individuals with mental health issues.
- Introducing additional long-term care beds to deal specifically with mental illness cases.

Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Resolutions/2020%20UBCM%20Resolutions%20Book.pdf>

### **2020-SR11: Police Act Review**

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government commit to thorough consultation with local governments prior to the implementation of any changes to the Police Act, including recommendations made by the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act.

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Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Resolutions/2020%20UBCM%20Resolutions%20Book.pdf>

### **2020-EB5: Police Services Model of Funding**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to review the current model of funding police services for local governments reaching 5,000 population with consideration to establishing a graduated annual increase, once the 5,000 population has been reached, in policing costs from the 33 percent Police Tax to 70 percent of policing costs over a five-year period.

Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Resolutions/2020%20UBCM%20Resolutions%20Book.pdf>

### **2020-NR7: Equitable Police Funding Model**

*\*\* This resolution is currently under consideration by the UBCM Executive \*\**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to review the current model of funding RCMP police services with consideration given to equitable funding of police services through a provincial police tax based on the assessed value of improvements for the areas served by the detachments.

And be it further resolved that any provincial contribution towards policing be shared equally with all police taxpayers.

Full Text:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Resolutions/2020%20UBCM%20Resolutions%20Book.pdf>