

CITY of FORT SASKATCHEWAN



Gale Katchur
Mayor

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June 8, 2021

Honourable Kaycee Madu
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Government of Alberta
424 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

RE: City of Fort Saskatchewan Support of the RCMP

Honourable Minister Madu,

City of Fort Saskatchewan City Council unanimously supports the RCMP as our City's law enforcement agency. This letter is in opposition of the Alberta Government's proposed provincial police force.

As the City of Fort Saskatchewan has a long-standing history and relationship with the RCMP, we have no desire to transition to a new model. We have an excellent working relationship with our Detachment and the Officer in Charge who consults council annually for our priorities for our community and provides regular and appropriate updates. Community challenges are addressed collaboratively and citizen respect and support for the RCMP remains high in Fort Saskatchewan. Our city has the longest serving police committee in the province which services as an additional community referent group for the RCMP. We find the RCMP to be progressive and receptive in meeting the needs of our city.

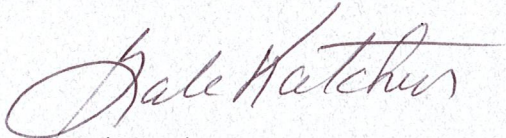
As Alberta looks at recovering from the pandemic economy, we strongly believe any efforts focused on a provincial police force are not what municipalities in Alberta need right now. The cost of a provincial police force is not something that municipalities can withstand and nor are we interested in exploring it any further. The City of Fort Saskatchewan currently pays 90 percent of our policing costs and we believe that investment serves our community well now and in the future. We believe the decision of our police force should remain at the local level.

The Alberta Police Federation Survey from October of 2020 found that replacing the RCMP is viewed as the least helpful measure tested to improve Alberta's place in Canada. Only 8 percent say replacing the RCMP helps a lot, only 6 percent support replacing the RCMP, and 81 percent of Albertans served by RCMP are satisfied with the service they receive.

The survey also stated that 70 percent of Albertans opposed replacing the RCMP with an expensive new provincial police force. We are with the majority of Albertans in stating that we have no interest in the creation of a new provincial police force.

In closing, we confirm our support of the RCMP and are opposed to any further exploration of a provincial police force.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gale Katchur".

Gale Katchur
Mayor of Fort Saskatchewan

cc: The Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier
The Honourable Ric Mclver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Barry Morishita, President Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
Paul McLaughlin, President of Rural Municipalities Association
Rachel Notley, Leader of the Official Opposition
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville