



Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133

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June 8th, 2021

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

Dear Honourable Minister Madu:

RE: Provincial Police Force

The Municipal District of Spirit River strongly supports the creation of a provincial police force. With crime on a steady rise within municipalities in the province, the role of the RCMP in Municipalities has always faced numerous challenges.

There is often a feeling of disconnect between officers and rural residents. Officers are transferred regularly, creating staff shortages in our rural areas which deters officers and residents from developing a connection with one another.

Although we are pleased with the level of service provided by the local RCMP, The Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 supports the government's plan to implement an Alberta Provincial Police force. We believe a provincial police force will better address rural communities' concerns including quicker response times, firearm law enforcement and community engagement.

Additionally, a Provincial Police force could give Alberta the ability to gain further independence from federal government statutes and provide Alberta greater say in determining what is important to Albertans as well as the ability to develop standards and practices that are important and relevant to Albertans.

In closing, the Municipal District of Spirit River would like to see more autonomy in policing as well as several other areas, which currently are heavily Federally dictated with a bias to Eastern Canada, and in particular the large urban centers. We fully support the Alberta Policing Model and will continue to support the government's efforts moving forward.

Sincerely,

Tony Van Rootselaar, Reeve

CC: Town of Fahler; Village of Rycroft; Town of Mayerthorpe; Improvement District No.9; Smoky Lake County