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June 4, 2021

sent via email: ministryofjustice.gov.ab.ca

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

Dear Minister Madu

RE: Proposed Alberta Provincial Police Services

Red Deer County stands in solidarity with fellow municipalities across Alberta in our support of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) as the premier choice for our province's police force. In reviewing *the Fair Deal Panel: Report to Government*, it is with displeasure that Council notes the proposal did not consider current provincial challenges such as struggling economies and tighter budget realities. Please be advised that Council vehemently opposes the creation of an Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS).

Council has concerns that the Alberta government would charge forward with a plan to replace the RCMP with APPS when the National Police Federation notes that a new provincial force would cost Alberta taxpayers at least \$112 million more a year than they are currently paying. Focused efforts should not be on causing further economic burden to County residents and ratepayers. The implementation of the Police Funding Model (PFM) in April 2020 has already stripped our municipality and many others of the opportunity for input and consultation powers with regard to local policing through the suspension of municipally-funded enhanced policing positions.

The Fair Deal Panel recommendation is to proceed with developing a proposal for a provincial police force, despite only 35% of Albertans believing it would contribute to the desired outcome of helping Alberta improve its position in the federation.

In addition, the 2020 Alberta Police Federation survey concluded that "replacing the RCMP is viewed as a *least helpful* measure tested to improve Alberta's place in Canada." Eighty-one percent of Albertans served by the RCMP are satisfied with the service they receive, and 70% of Albertans oppose replacing the RCMP with an expensive new provincial police service.

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In closing, Red Deer County Council does not foresee where a new police force would improve efficiency or quality of life for our residents and ratepayers. In fact, as economic challenges remain coming out of a pandemic, changing out of the current system would only increase economic burden on our municipality and taxpayers in the Province of Alberta.

Red Deer County wholeheartedly appreciates our strong working relationships with all five (5) of our local RCMP detachments, recognizing the hard work over the years building trust and working relationships on the foundation of respect. We ask that the Government of Alberta reassess priorities and abandon the transition study through the Police Act review to focus efforts towards upgrades to the criminal justice and social support systems in the Province to achieve better outcomes.

There needs to be an opportunity for open dialogue between the Province and municipal stakeholders on this issue – we strongly encourage all efforts should be focused on working with the RCMP to achieve the desired community results all Albertans need.

Yours truly

RED DEER COUNTY



Jim Wood, Mayor

c Alberta Municipalities