



Town of Nanton

1907 21 Avenue, PO Box 609, Nanton, Alberta T0L 1R0
P 403.646.2029 F 403.646.2653 nanton.ca

June 9th, 2021

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

E-mail: ministryofjustice@gov.ab.ca

Dear Honourable Minister:

RE: Town of Nanton Support for the RCMP

As similarly noted by many other municipalities in recent weeks, Council is disappointed by the Province of Alberta's reluctance to acknowledge the outcome of its own consultative process by continuing with apparent plans to replace the RCMP with an Alberta Provincial Police Service. In this context, we add our support to those positions critical of such plans.

There is little doubt that those employed by either service would provide an acceptable level of police services to Albertans, but the rationale for a transition like this, and the costs it brings, is not at all clear. The local detachment model for small town and rural policing is hanging by a thread – would that be any different under an Alberta Provincial Police Service? Would it generate any more 'boots on the ground' in towns with a population of less than 5,000 or lead inexorably to the precise same urban hub centralization pressures that we are witnessing right now? *If effectively recruited and staffed, Nanton's RCMP detachment would serve the local area's needs perfectly well – the hub model of service delivery also deserves a chance to prove itself for regions of the Province where recruitment is really struggling.*

The Province's approach to funding the Rural Crime Initiative is arguably a greater threat to local services than the RCMP continuing as the provider of police services. The creation of the "Police Chargeback", which inexplicably lacks the fiscal transparency of a property tax requisition, will eventually hit our municipal tax base hard when the tax room generated by the 2020 cut to the Alberta Schools Foundation Fund requisition in Nanton shrinks further in 2022-23. Including this year, provincial requisitions and charges have represented 20-23 per cent of Nanton's overall property tax bill for the last three years. The journey toward 30 per cent likely begins next year when the Police Chargeback is again increased significantly. This charge has been introduced without evidence or guarantee of any improvement to police services in Nanton. *The Police Chargeback would presumably remain whether or not the RCMP remained the provider of police services in rural Alberta.*

You are encouraged to once again review the findings of the Fair Deal Panel's consultations and instead work with the RCMP to boost recruitment, retention and commitment to its detachments in such a way that makes the Police Chargeback look like a fiscally defensible fee for service in our communities.

Yours sincerely,
Town of Nanton



Jennifer Handley
Mayor

:NS

cc: Roger Reid, MLA Livingstone Macleod
John Barlow, MP
AUMA President and Board
RMA President and Board
MD of Willow Creek
Chief Superintendent Trevor Daroux
S/Sgt Greg Redl