



April 13, 2022

Shandro, Tyler, Honourable  
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, Deputy House Leader  
Office of the Minister  
204 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
[ministryofjustice@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ministryofjustice@gov.ab.ca)

**RE: FURTHER SUPPORT FOR THE RCMP**

Dear Minister Shandro,

In the early parts of 2020, the Town of Fox Creek learned of the province's proposal to replace the RCMP with a Provincial Police Force. At that time, we had also received an abundance of letters from fellow municipalities voicing their support for the RCMP and their concerns over the proposal. We followed suit and shared our opposition to the plan with your predecessor as well.

As such, we at the Town of Fox Creek are having a hard time understanding why this proposal is still moving forward given the amount of opposition that the province has received.

We know that all municipalities who spoke up provided sound arguments against the proposal; arguments that aligned with our own. Arguments that should have been enough for the province to reconsider their position on this matter.

For your reference, we will reiterate just some of what the negative implications of a Provincial Police Force are.

**1. Increase in operating costs, ultimately at the expense of taxpayers.**

As we are just starting to come out of the pandemic, where many people and businesses struggled financially under the strain of closures and loss of employment, now is not the time to be increasing taxes to compensate for the operating costs of a Police Force that that majority of the province is not in favour of.

**2. Policing services are already strained in many rural communities.**

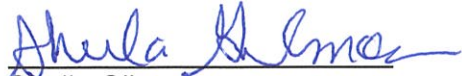
Services, including that of policing, are already strained in rural communities and with the provincial cuts to funding and changes to policies, it would not be conjectured to say that the installation of a Provincial Police Force would not be an improvement for these communities. If anything, it would act as an additional cause of attrition.

**3. Now is not the time to distance ourselves from the rest of Canada.**

We strongly believed, and continue to believe, that now is not the time to further distance ourselves from the nation. Now is the time to work towards building better relationships for the betterment of the province. As stated in the previous letter, alienation is a great way to further reduce Alberta's voice on the larger national and international stage.

We sincerely hope that the province stops to listen to their constituents, and reconsiders continuing with their proposed Alberta Provincial Police Force. We also hope that the province sees that, instead of replacing them, there is an opportunity to bolster and support the betterment of the existing RCMP.

Sincerely,



Sheila Gilmour

Mayor

[sheila@foxcreek.ca](mailto:sheila@foxcreek.ca)

cc: The Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier  
Arnold Viersen, MP, Peace River – Westlock  
Todd Loewen, MLA, Central Peace – Notley  
Alberta Municipalities Members