



TOWN OF EDSON

Office of the Mayor

605 – 50th Street
P.O. Box 6300
Edson, AB T7E 1T7
www.edson.ca

May 5, 2021

VIA EMAIL: ministryofjustice@gov.ab.ca

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

Attention: Honourable Kaycee Madu

Dear Honourable Madu:

Re: Letter in support of the RCMP

Please accept this letter as Edson Town Council's support for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and in opposition of the Provincial Government's recent proposal of an Alberta Police Force.

While the Province suggests that the switch from the RCMP to an Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS) will not cost municipalities more financially, we do not believe this is realistic. Who will bare the cost of this service? Currently, Edson RCMP operate out of a Federally owned building. Should there be a switch to an APPS, who would assume the cost of a new detachment? Not to mention all of the other infrastructure that would be required to build an APPS. It does not seem feasible that these costs would not end up being borne by the municipality and their residents and that these would not exceed the current costs of providing RCMP services, given the significant investments that would be required and the loss of Federal Funding.

Currently, the RCMP is our largest budgetary item, and this cost only keeps growing as the Provincial Government takes away sources of revenue and downloading additional costs to us. The Province has recently decreased the percentage of revenue from fines that municipalities receive. This money was used by the Town to directly offset the cost of policing. Further, just this year we received a bill from the Provincial Government for the provincial portion of Biology Casework Analysis Agreements expenses. A cost that was not the responsibility of a municipality in the past and was given to us with little to no notice. These cuts and downloads increase costs

to our Town by ~\$350,000-\$400,000; equating to a 3.5%-4% tax increase for our residents. Given this, what protections would be in place to ensure municipalities are not continuously charged more under an APPS model? It seems more realistic that it would only be a matter of time before more costs were downloaded to municipalities for operation of the APPS.

We have worked hard as a municipality to build a strong working relationship with our local RCMP Detachment. They are our partners and an integral part of our community. We are happy with the level of service our RCMP provide and their participation within our community.

We strongly encourage the Provincial Government to use the funds dedicated to researching an APPS, towards building stronger relationships with the RCMP and the Federal government to achieve desired outcomes. The Province repeatedly encourages municipalities to work with each other and come up with new and collaborative ways to provide programs and services to our residents in a cost-effective manner. We implore your Government to do the same and work with your Federal counterparts to achieve the Province's goals related to the RCMP and Policing and to emulate the principles in which they ask of municipal governments within the Province.

Yours truly,

TOWN OF EDSON

Per:



Mayor Kevin Zahara
/krp

cc: The Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier
The Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Mr. Martin Long, MLA West Yellowhead
Mr. Gerald Soroka, MP Yellowhead
Mr. Curtis Zablocki, Commanding Officer for Alberta, RCMP
AUMA Members
RMA Members