



ALBERTA
PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

*Office of the Minister
Deputy Premier of Alberta
MLA, Calgary-West*

AR 30726

February 14, 2025

Her Worship Tanya Thorn
Mayor
Town of Okotoks
PO Box 20
Okotoks AB T1S 1K1

Dear Mayor Thorn:

Illegal fentanyl trafficking and consumption continues to threaten the safety and well-being of Albertans. The effects of fentanyl, and other illicit drug use, has ruined the lives of individual Albertans, their families and given rise to serious health and wellness issues across our community. As Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, I am obligated to take steps to address these issues and encourage you to support the federal and provincial efforts in this regard. Municipal alignment and support in this area is critical to success.

I am formally requesting that you immediately begin working with the police leadership in your area to align or unify the operational command of your community peace officer (CPO) program under the leadership of the police service of jurisdiction. This will be for a temporary time period to ensure law enforcement efforts are coordinated to address fentanyl and social disorder most effectively.

Given the complexity and severity of this public safety and public health issue, alignment of CPO operations with, or under, the police of jurisdiction will ensure law enforcement efforts are collaborative and coordinated. It is understood CPOs have limited authorities, as compared to police officers, a fact of which police leadership will need to be mindful, but I am confident that by coordinating their efforts with the police service of jurisdiction, we can achieve greater impact on this important issue.

I request that these changes to CPO command and control be implemented by **Wednesday, February 19, 2025**. Further, I request that you respond to this letter forthwith to confirm your support of this initiative.

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Please send all responses to the Curtis Zablocki, the Director of Law Enforcement (email: curtis.zablocki@gov.ab.ca).

As Canadians, we are facing challenging times – and as such, we must ensure we work together with all levels of government to tackle these concerns with swift collaboration. Thank you for your support and cooperation on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Honourable Mike Ellis
Deputy Premier of Alberta
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

cc: Rob Hill, Commanding Officer, RCMP “K” Division
Chiefs of Municipal Police Services