

December 17, 2015

Mr. Wayne Anderson
Member of the Legislature of Alberta for Highwood
5th Floor, 9820 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7
Sent via email: highwood@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Mr. ^{Wayne,} Anderson:

Re: Equitable Police Funding in Alberta

The Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) is an association of civilian police commissions and policing committees, as well as a variety of towns, protective services and highway patrol organizations that represents the interests of the community on issues related to policing while providing governance and oversight to police services across the province.

At its 2014 Annual General Meeting, two resolutions were passed regarding equitable police funding in Alberta. Unfortunately, due to the change in Government, this ongoing issue has not yet been resolved.

As a member of the AAPG and as residents of Alberta, this issue is of great importance to the Town of Okotoks. This matter was discussed by the Town's Public Safety and Security Committee, who recommended that Council provide a letter of support for the AAPG resolutions. At their December 14, 2015 Regular Council Meeting, Council passed a resolution endorsing the Committee's recommendation to forward a letter to support from the Town.

In 2010 the Government of Alberta released the Law Enforcement Framework (LEF). The vision of the LEF was that policing reflects the priorities of Albertans and, specific to the attached two resolutions:

The cost of policing services in Alberta should be shared in an equitable manner among Albertans and Alberta communities.

Strategic direction 9 of the LEF, calls for the development of a model to distribute the costs of local policing in an equitable, transparent and sustainable manner. This strategic direction highlights the need for:

Shared responsibility for the costs of law enforcement services, whereby each municipality contributes to the costs of providing local policing.

Today, the Province is no closer to achieving the vision of this part of the LEF. As our representative in Alberta's Legislature, we call on you to complete the implementation of the LEF, in full, through the development and implementation of an equitable police funding model, whereby all Albertans pay for policing in the province with those funds returned in their entirety to policing in Alberta.

The additional funds that would come from an equitable funding model should be reinvested in policing. For instance, a portion of those new funds could be used to offset funding reductions to the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams and distributed to crime prevention and public safety strategies where it is most needed.

We are well aware that there are many views on what an equitable funding model would be, however, the time has come to fully discuss debate and finalize such a model.

We look forward to your response about the action you are taking on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Wm. (Bill) B. Robertson
Mayor

Attachments:

2014 AAPG Resolution re: Police Funding
2014 AAPG Resolution re: Equitable Funding