



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

City Hall
4850 Argyle Street
Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 1V8
Tel. (250) 723-2146 Fax: (250) 723-1003

Our File No. 0400-60

May 21, 2025

Mayor Nathan Pachal
City of Langley
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, BC V3A 4B3

Dear Mayor Pachal,

Re: Police Services Funding Model

On behalf of Port Alberni City Council, I am reaching out to all local governments experiencing above average crime rates, which consequently lead to higher per-capita policing costs. We aim to propose the establishment of a cooperative working group. Our goal is to unify our voices in advocating for significant reforms to the current police funding model, particularly in order to achieve a more equitable funding structure for police services. We plan to bring this crucial matter to the forefront at the Union of BC Municipalities [UBCM] 2025 Convention.

At present, the current Police Services funding model in British Columbia does not equitably distribute financial contributions relative to each community's ability to pay, especially for rural areas. This has resulted in disproportionately high policing costs to certain municipalities that invest more heavily in these essential services. This inequitable system places an undue burden on local taxpayers, especially in municipalities that face systemic social challenges—such as poverty, addiction, and mental health issues—that increase the demand for police intervention and, consequently, overall policing costs. These social challenges often extend beyond the jurisdictional authority of local governments, complicating the situation further.

To this end the City of Port Alberni has formally raised concerns regarding equitable police funding via resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) which received endorsement and was deliberated on at the 2024 UBCM Convention.

WHEREAS the City of Port Alberni funds the greatest number of RCMP members and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and per household compared to other municipalities in the Alberni Valley, placing a significant burden on its taxpayers under the current Police Services funding model for British Columbia that does not take into account the financial commitment or funding contribution of each jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS systemic social issues outside of a municipality's mandate, such as poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges, contribute to increased call volumes and demands on police services, creating high police services costs that are further exacerbated by the need to respond to and manage the impacts of these systemic social issues;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC & UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to develop an equitable Police Services funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts that takes into account the financial capacity and population size of each jurisdiction, as well as the additional demands placed on police services due to systemic social issues outside of a municipality's mandate.

We believe that meaningful change can be achieved if we work together and encourage all interested parties to join us in this essential effort. Should you wish to be a part of this working group, please contact Mike Fox, Chief Administrative Officer at mike.fox@portalberni.ca.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response and the potential for collaboration in addressing these pressing concerns.

Yours truly,
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sharie Minions', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sharie Minions
Mayor

C: *Mike Fox, CAO, City of Port Alberni (CPA)*
Francis Cheung, CAO, City of Langley