



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

July 5, 2019

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

MAYOR'S OFFICE
JUL 11 2019
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter dated April 10, 2019, containing a City of Victoria council resolution in support of a regional police department for the Capital Regional District (CRD).

In the resolution, council cites a number of reasons for establishing a regional police department for the region. These include: disproportionate costs borne by taxpayers, increasing demands for policing services in the core area of the region and the benefits of consolidation of command and coordination of resourcing and equipment.

It is my responsibility as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to ensure that an adequate and effective level of policing, law enforcement and public safety are maintained throughout British Columbia.

Integration or regionalization has the potential to benefit the delivery of policing and law enforcement in a community. This government continues to be supportive of integration and regionalization where appropriate and has assisted communities in working with police agencies to achieve this objective. However, any change to policing and law enforcement in the Capital Region is a decision for the municipalities involved and their elected officials, subject to my overall responsibility to ensure adequate and effective policing and public safety in BC.

This government continues to be committed to working with local governments and key stakeholders in the CRD on furthering police service integration in the region or exploring regional service delivery options. I also welcome the opportunity to consider any proposals presented jointly by the CRD and the municipalities involved.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General