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May 8, 2023

The Honourable Marco Mendicino, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons Ottawa,
ON K1A 0A6

Delivered via email

Dear Minister Mendicino,

Re: Contract Policing and Retroactive Pay Amounts for RCMP Officers

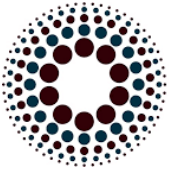
I am writing to urge a reconsideration of the recent federal budget announcement regarding retroactive RCMP contract costs. Municipalities in Nova Scotia are already responsible for a wide range of growing costs related to policing services. The additional financial burden of retroactive payments resulted from conditions that were not contemplated in the 2012-2032 Policing Service Agreements, nor were we provided a seat at the negotiating table when they were being decided.

In Nova Scotia, we have four Municipal Policing Services Agreements (MPSA), and one former MPSA, that are impacted by the 2017-2021 Collective Agreement with the National Policing Federation (NPF). In total, their outstanding retroactive costs are **\$1,527,146**. These retroactive costs range from \$111,402.16 to \$516,706.29. Based on their 2020-21 general operating budgets, this represents between 2.2% and 4.1% of total expenditures. In Nova Scotia, policing services already occupy a significant portion of municipal budgets, ranging from 15.4% to 26.7%.

While municipalities were advised to prepare for an added financial burden, the information provided from Public Safety Canada (PSC) fell far short of actual costs. We are extremely disappointed to learn that no financial relief will be provided outside of the regular cost-share formula and that the extended payment timeline is a maximum of only two years.

A lack of information sharing and poor communication continue to plague this process. Lack of clarity in communicating the process of requesting an extended payment timeline and a clear lack of understanding of how municipal councils function, and how decisions are made, has created confusion. Having municipal representation at the table could have helped avoid many of the challenges we are collectively facing.

Municipalities will struggle to pay these retroactive costs and it may come at the expense of other important work that municipalities are mandated to do. They already hold a range of costly responsibilities and work hard to balance the books while providing a high standard



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of services and public safety. Therefore, we believe that federal assistance in this matter is called for.

We anticipate an increased level of transparency in the current collective bargaining process and efforts by the PSC and Treasury Board to conduct a quick round of bargaining to avoid another build up of retroactive costs. We also appreciate the current consultation on the strengths and weakness of contract policing, which will doubtlessly feature discussion on how such downloaded costs can be avoided.

Despite positive signs of an open discussion going forward, we continue to disagree that retroactive payment costs should be allocated based on the regular cost-share formula. Municipalities are already doing impressive work on some of Canada's most pressing problems with minimal access to revenue. We call on the federal government to express their respect for municipal governments by reconsidering their decision in this matter.

Kind regards,

Brenda Chisholm-B

*Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities*

cc:

Hon. Sean Fraser, MP Central Nova

Kody Blois, MP Kings-Hants

Chris d'Entremont, MP West Nova

Rick Perkins, MP South Shore-St. Margarets