

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: For INFORMATION for Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General
and Minister of Justice

ISSUE: Police Services Division (PSD) is currently in discussion with
Public Safety Canada (PSC) on a number of issues which will result in a

s.16, s.17, Not Responsive

- Appendix A includes a detailed list of the potential cost pressures and savings for 2014/15 to 2016/17.
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s.16, s.17, Not Responsive

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Appendix B. As per recent discussions with the RCMP these are still the areas that would need to be reduced.

BACKGROUND:

s.16, s.17, Not Responsive

Pages 2 through 5 redacted for the following reasons:

NR, s.16, s.17

Not Responsive, s.16, s.17

s.16, s.17, Not Responsive

- NR, s.16, s.17, s.13
Not Responsive, s.16, s.17 and positions dedicated to
s.13, s.16, s.17
- These positions have been targeted for reductions as all other positions within
“E” Division are required to meet the minimum detachment and provincial policing
levels acceptable.

Not Responsive, s.16, s.17

Not Responsive, s.16, s.17

- The impact of reducing the Provincial Force strength by positions recruited under the PORF and positions dedicated to murdered/missing women and the Highway of Tears investigations would be:

s.13, s.16, s.17

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Prepared by:

Perry Clark, Executive Director,
Policing, Security and Law Enforcement
Infrastructure and Finance
Policing and Security Branch
250 356-8146

Approved May 12, 2014 by:

Clayton Pecknold
Assistant Deputy Minister
and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
250 387-1100

Attachments: Appendix A: Police Service Division – Cost Pressures (\$)
Appendix B: Letter from Commanding Officer September 24, 2013

Pages 9 through 11 redacted for the following reasons:

NR, s.16, s.17

s.16

2014/15 ESTIMATES NOTE

Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Response

Suggested Response:

General:

- BC is a safer place today than it was 15 years ago. We must continue our work to ensure a tragedy like this never happens again.
- Work is now substantively completed or underway on most of the major themes of the report which were compensation, improvements to policing, safety for vulnerable women, and supports for missing persons.
- We have taken action on more than three quarters of the recommendations in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry report and we will continue to put in place structures and supports to help ensure something like this tragedy never happens again.
- Overall, government's response is advancing the safety of vulnerable women in profound ways.

Support for Vulnerable Women:

- We recently announced \$3.4M in civil forfeiture grant funding that will be directed at supporting vulnerable women. With just over \$1M, we were able to meet four recommendations and take further action on three more. Specifically:
 - \$100K each to key organizations such as PEERS Victoria, PACE, Warm Zone, that provide drop-in and outreach services to vulnerable women involved in the sex trade;
 - \$50K for the evaluation of SisterWatch and the development of best practices for meaningful police-community partnerships;
 - \$100K to Living in Community to facilitate the implementation of their sex-worker awareness and education workshops in communities in Metro Vancouver and in the North;
 - \$100K to the Carrier Sekani Family Services to enhance Community Safety workshops along Highway 16, which will also include discussions about safe transportation options;
 - \$110K to further support the safety of vulnerable Aboriginal women and girls during their transition from rural to urban communities; and

- A \$200K Civil Forfeiture grant to the Justice Institute to develop cultural sensitivity training for police officers in BC.
- Government also provides \$750K in annual funding to the WISH drop-in centre providing services to vulnerable women.
- In addition we provide more than \$70M for crime prevention and intervention services including \$12.4M for victim service programs; \$16.5M for violence against women counselling and outreach programs; \$12.3M for the Crime Victim Assistance Program and \$32M for transition house services.
- We have made the commitment to introduce a long-term, comprehensive strategy to move towards a violence-free BC. This strategy will be our path to creating a province where all women have the supports they need to help prevent violence, to escape from violent situations and to recover if they have been victims of crime.

Compensation:

- In response to the recommendation from Commission Oppal for “a compensation fund for the children of the victims”, the Province, the Government of Canada and the City of Vancouver established a fund to offer \$50,000 in compensation to each child of the 98 children who lost their mothers.
- We recognize that there is no amount of money that can make up for the loss of a parent, but it is our sincere hope that this funding will provide these children with an opportunity to enhance their education, housing or other circumstances as they progress with their lives.

Steven Point:

- Steven Point did an excellent job as champion and accomplished his task, leaving us well-positioned to move forward.
- We have explored many possibilities, structures and formats that would best support improving the safety of vulnerable women in B.C. We know that advice to Government on the issues needs to include a variety of perspectives from different groups.
- What we will do is continue to consult with our partners and key stakeholder groups, such as MACAW, as we move forward on developing responses to and implementing recommendations.

Missing Persons:

- On March 24, 2014, we passed Missing Persons legislation and amendments to the Police Act to fulfill additional recommendations from Commissioner Oppal.
- We recognized that police needed the tools and the power to potentially find people sooner, and in cases where there was no criminal connection.
- The Missing Persons legislation clearly sets out the provisions for finding missing persons including people who are vulnerable, youth and persons at risk. It lays out information that can be made public to media to help in the search and balances the need to find people with privacy considerations.
- The Police Act amendments allow us to set additional standards to support bias-free policing and will allow government to designate one police agency to audit another's major case investigation if it has remained unsolved for more than a year.

Policing:

- In the last 15 years, actions taken by government and police have made BC a safer place. Some of the key actions include:
 - \$70M to support integrated teams such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, Integrated Child Exploitation Team, Integrated Sexual Predator Observation Team, Project Evenhanded and the Unsolved Homicide Unit;
 - Implementation of PRIME, a unique, cutting edge information sharing system for police;
 - Creation of the Real Time Intelligence Centre, which when it opens next year will meet another recommendation from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report and provide 24/7 analytical support to police investigating crimes that pose a threat to public safety including missing persons;
 - Development of the first ever strategic plan on policing, incorporating Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommendations;
 - Conducting a review of how policing is structured and funded; and
 - Undertaking a comprehensive review of policing standards updated for use of force, police training, missing persons and mandatory domestic violence training with more coming.
 - Provided a \$205,000 civil forfeiture grant to the Justice Institute of BC to develop

cultural sensitivity training for police officers in BC.

Transportation:

- Government's commitment to provide safer public transportation options on our northern highways requires a multi-faceted approach – there is no easy fix here.
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure are talking with regional associations to obtain a better understanding of the current challenges. Efforts are being focused on identifying options that improve safety rather than simply implementing a shuttle service.
- We will continue to work with local governments, First Nations and BC Transit to deliver transit services that are affordable, efficient and sustainable.
- These meetings are ongoing, and will be continuing over the course over the next few weeks.
- Some local government have shown an interest in partnering with the Province to provide transit services between their communities in addition to what is currently provided by BC Transit.

Actions to help fulfil the need for safer transportation include:

- Providing a \$100,000 grant to Carrier Sekani Family Services to build upon and enhance Community Safety Training Workshops held in communities across Highway 16 including addressing the safety needs of vulnerable Aboriginal women residing in these communities and discussions about safe transportation options.
- Since 2009, BC has also added a significant amount of new cellular coverage, 153 kilometers, to Highway 16 between Prince George and Prince Rupert. Now 70% of the route now has cell coverage so drivers and people using the highway have more places they can use their cell phones in case of an emergency or if help is needed.
- In addition, a joint study is underway by the University of Northern BC and the RCMP to come up with recommendations for hitchhikers, police and communities to improve safety, and identify alternatives to hitchhiking, while ensuring any potential solutions do not inadvertently result in a system that could put vulnerable women at added risk.
- And as part of our commitment to vulnerable women in the north, we've provided New Hope Society drop-in centre with a \$100,000 civil forfeiture grant to help women and youth because we want to keep women in all parts of the province safe from violence.

- Thanks to the efforts of northern communities and our government, BC is a safer place than it was 15 years ago, and our northern highways are safer than they were 15 years ago.

Response to Missing and Murdered Women Coalition:

- Ministry staff met with the Coalition on April 14, 2014, to continue discussing the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommendations and opportunities for engagement.
- The Ministry is engaging with the Coalition on a process for obtaining input on a number of MWCI policing-related recommendations. Discussions are underway.
- We will continue our work to ensure that a tragedy such as this one never happens again.

Background:

General:

- December 17, 2013, was the one year anniversary of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI) report's release to the public.

- On November 5, 2013, the Ministry released a status report on the Commission's recommendations. The report showed work was underway on one half (28) of the recommendations directed at the Province (56). It also committed to working with communities and engaging key stakeholders to lend their guidance and advice on the recommendations as the Province moves forward.
- Highlights from the status report included:
 - Annual funding of \$750K to WISH Drop-in Centre Society for services to vulnerable women who work in the sex trade;
 - Priority for the development of policing standards consistent with those recommended in the MWCI report, such as missing persons investigations and major case management;
 - Supporting the implementation of a Real Time Intelligence Centre;
 - Review of police structure and models of police service delivery; and
 - Grant funding to communities to prevent the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of vulnerable women.
- The Ministry recently announced \$3.4M in Civil Forfeiture grants to support the prevention of violence against women and to take action on the MWCI recommendations.

Missing and Murdered Women Coalition:

- On February 19, 2014, the Ministry emailed the Missing and Murdered Women Coalition to delay a meeting planned for late February in order to be able to provide additional detail on upcoming developments by that time. A meeting date with the Coalition has now been confirmed.
- The Coalition and MLA Jenny Kwan have been critical of what they see as a delayed response to recommendations put forth during a meeting with the Minister on November 25, 2013, regarding the Province's progress on the MWCI recommendations.
- At that November 25, 2013, meeting, the Coalition identified five priority recommendations it wants the Province to address:
 1. Replace Steven Point with "an ambassador to oversee the implementation of the recommendations";
 2. Implement a safe public transportation system along Highway 16;

3. Establish a compensation fund for the children of the murdered and missing women;
 4. Make police sensitivity training mandatory in BC; and
 5. Commit resources to an Aboriginal-run and culturally safe detox centre that includes services for women with children.
- The Coalition is comprised of representatives from more than two dozen advocacy groups, including the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Aboriginal Front Door Society, WISH Drop-in Society, Pivot Legal Society, West Coast Leaf, and Union Gospel Mission.
 - Ministry staff met with the Coalition on April 14, 2014, and will be following up in the coming weeks.

Compensation for the Children:

- On March 18, 2014, the Province, the government of Canada and the City of Vancouver announced a \$50Kper-child compensation offer intended to provide the children of the women identified in the MWCI report with an opportunity to enhance their education, housing or other circumstances as they progress with their lives.
- With this compensation offer, a settlement has been reached with the 13 litigants involved in a civil action related to the loss of their mothers.
- The Ministry is working closely with the Public Guardian and Trustee to coordinate payment of the compensation funds to eligible individuals and provide services and supports as needed.
- In addition to the 13 litigants, the Ministry has made contact with an additional 43 eligible individuals and they are proceeding through the process. We are actively working to contact the remaining individuals.

Pages 19 through 32 redacted for the following reasons:

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**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

ISSUE: Summary of progress towards improving safety of vulnerable women in rural and remote areas of Northern BC, including along Highway 16.

SUMMARY:

- The province has been working for a number of years on many fronts to support greater safety for women living in rural and remote areas of Northern BC, especially in communities along Highway 16.
- Significant progress has been made since March 2006, when the Highway of Tears Community Symposium was first held to voice concerns and make recommendations to address missing and murdered women along Highway 16.
- In line with many of the Symposium Report recommendations, key actions have led to enhanced safety through prevention and awareness activities; strengthened response through improved investigative tools and culturally responsive services; and, safer travel along Northern highways through targeted exploration and expansion of necessary infrastructure.
- Building on what we have already achieved, the Province remains committed to working across government and with community partners to identify additional solutions to address risk factors and further enhance safety of vulnerable women.
- As part of this, government will continue efforts to support safer travel through its work with local governments and BC Transit to identify partnership opportunities and deliver transit services that are affordable, efficient and sustainable.

BACKGROUND:

- In March 2006, Carrier Sekani Family Services facilitated a Highway of Tears Community Symposium to allow victims' families to voice their concerns and make recommendations around the missing and murdered women along the Highway of Tears. As a result of the Symposium, 33 recommendations were developed and released in a Symposium Report.
- In the MWCI Report released in December 2012, Commissioner Wally Oppal also made two recommendations related to the Highway of Tears:
 - *Urgent Measure #2* recommends that government immediately commit to developing and implementing a public transit system along Highway 16.
 - *Recommendation 6.1* calls upon the provincial government to implement all 33 recommendations contained in the Highway of Tears Symposium Report.

- Since release of the MWCI Report, there have been numerous calls for action, with significant focus on implementing a safe transportation option (e.g., shuttle bus).

Key Actions over the Past Decade

- Over 1700 kilometers of expanded cellular coverage along highways including Highway 16 was made possible through The Connecting BC Agreement signed with TELUS in 2011. Ensuring individuals have more places to use their cell phones for emergencies and support if needed.
- Over \$500,000 from (CFO) of funding since 2006 dedicated to enhancing individual and community safety in the North, raise awareness and support violence prevention.
- \$2.5 million ongoing annual funding for services and supports to victims of crime and women who have experienced violence in Northern BC, including 14 programs specifically designed to serve Aboriginal victims of violence, as well as an additional 8 programs run by Aboriginal organizations.
- \$20 million in funding since 2005 to the Provincial Unsolved Homicide Unit to investigate 18 historical cases along the Highway of Tears.

Highlights of Progress (see Appendix A for detailed summary)

- Increased individual and community safety to support community-led prevention and awareness activities, including:
 - development of a new community coordinator position;
 - hosting of Aboriginal youth forums on safety and violence prevention
 - a media awareness campaign
 - community safety workshops
 - creation of a youth safety toolkit
- Earlier intervention through targeted RCMP outreach to hitchhikers, including:
 - Hitchhiking-specific directives among North District RCMP
 - New protocols to interact with and distribute safety information kits to all hitchhikers observed along the highway
- Enhanced police response through improved investigative tools, such as the recently passed Missing Persons Act (March 2014), which provides police with the tools necessary to find missing people sooner.
- Safer travel along northern highways through exploration and expanded infrastructure, including:
 - Over 150 kilometers of new cellular coverage along Highway 16 through the Connecting BC Agreement.
 - Research into how to improve safety and identify alternatives to hitchhiking.
 - Transportation feasibility studies with communities along Highway 16, which set the foundation for some partnership opportunities between BC

Transit and communities - working towards local solutions in providing service.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure; Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development; Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Prepared by:

Emily Arthur
Senior Policy Analyst
Community Safety and Crime Prevention
604 660 4897

Approved by:

Lynda Cavanaugh
Assistant Deputy Minister
Community Safety and Crime Prevention
604 660 5272

Attached: Appendix A

APPENDIX A

Detailed Summary of Progress to Date

- Increased individual and community safety through funding to support community-led prevention and awareness activities:
 - Since 2006, \$150,000 in funding has been provided to support implementation of Highway of Tears Symposium Report recommendations, including:
 - development of a new community coordinator position;
 - hosting of Aboriginal youth forums focusing on safety and violence prevention;
 - delivery of key workshops to engage youth on the risks associated with hitch-hiking; and,
 - the creation of a youth safety toolkit.
 - Since 2012, \$350,000 has been provided to Carrier Sekani to raise awareness through a media campaign, and to develop, deliver and enhance community safety workshops along Highway 16, which include discussions about safe transportation options.
 - In 2013/14, the Ministry of Justice helped to secure \$54,000 in federal funding for Carrier Sekani to undertake a community consultation on the needs of victims and family members of missing and murdered women along the Highway of Tears.
 - In March 2014, a \$110,000 in grant funding was allocated to further support the safety of vulnerable Aboriginal women and girls during their transition from rural to urban communities.
- Earlier intervention through targeted RCMP engagement and outreach to hitchhikers:
 - Members of the RCMP in BC now engage with hitchhikers they see while on duty, stopping to interact with and distribute safety information kits to all hitchhikers observed along the highway.
 - Since 2011, RCMP North District in Prince George has implemented unique and detailed directives on hitchhiking in order "to enhance the prevention of crime, early detection of missing persons, and public safety through the proactive identification of persons hitchhiking" in that region.
- Enhanced police response through improved investigative resources and tools:
 - Since 2005, \$20 million in funding has been allocated to the Provincial Unsolved Homicide Unit in order to review 18 historical cases of

- disappearances and murders of women along highways in BC between 1969-2006. Almost one-third of these cases have been solved.
- In response to the 2012 MWCI Report, Ministry of Justice introduced and recently passed the Missing Persons Act (March 2014), which provides police with the tools necessary to find missing people sooner in cases where there is no criminal connection.
 - Safer transitions along northern highways through exploration and expansion of infrastructure:
 - Since 2009, the provincial government has taken steps to add a significant amount of new cellular coverage – 153 kilometers – to Highway 16 through the Connecting British Columbia Agreement. This provides individuals using the highway increased cell phone access, increasing safety in cases where emergency services and supports are needed.
 - Initiated in 2012, UNBC and the RCMP have undertaken a joint study to put forward ideas for hitchhikers, police and communities on how to improve safety, and identify alternatives to hitchhiking. Preliminary results may be available this Spring (2014).
 - Based on the findings of feasibility studies conducted in 2013 with communities along Highway 16, BC Transit is currently working with communities to provide services wherever communities have decided to enter into partnership with the Province through BC Transit. Government will also continue to support local governments in their efforts to identify local solutions.