

OOP-2022-21681 – Records

From: Colin Buschman <cbuschman@npf-fpn.com>

Sent: October 22, 2021 2:35 PM

To: Minister, MUNI MUNI:EX <MUNI.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: NPF Concerns Regarding Surrey Bylaw Amendments

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

This email is being sent on behalf of Brian Sauvé – President, National Police Federation.

Dear Minister Osborne,

On behalf of the National Police Federation (NPF) and its Members, please find attached a letter outlining our concerns regarding Surrey City Council's recent anti-democratic amendments to Surrey Sign By-Law, 1999, No. 13656 muzzling opposition signage and other forms of advertising and free speech. As Surrey residents have pushed to keep the RCMP, the Surrey Mayor has been targeting various grassroots movements in an effort to stifle their collective voices. It is evident that the objective of this by-law amendment is to quell any dissent towards Mayor McCallum. We ask you and your provincial colleagues to uphold constitutional rights and allow residents in B.C. their constitutional right to fully express their concerns and interests.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Colin Buschman

Western Government Relations Advisor | Conseiller, Relations Gouvernementales de l'ouest

National Police Federation | Fédération de la Police Nationale

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October 22, 2021

The Hon. Josie Osborne
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X8
Email: MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Osborne,

I write to you today regarding the Surrey City Council's recent anti-democratic amendments to *Surrey Sign By-Law, 1999, No. 13656* which effectively muzzles opposition signage and other forms of advertising and free speech regarding 'the voting for, support or opposition of a municipal, provincial or federal issue.' With this new bylaw amendment, Surrey residents can now be fined for displaying a sign on their own private property in support or opposition of any issues deemed municipal, provincial, or federal. There is hardly an issue which does not fall under one of those three jurisdictions.

As you may be aware there is a proposed police transition taking place in Surrey. Since the Surrey police transition was first floated in 2018, residents of Surrey have been greatly divided on the issue. Many local community groups have chosen to exercise their democratic right to freedom of expression, including the creation of lawn signs on their private property since 2019.

Recently, a local, long-time community member, Darlene Bennett, has chosen to further exercise her rights as a citizen of B.C. and start a citizens initiative petition under the B.C. *Recall Act*. Her campaign, Surrey Police Vote, has been gaining momentum since the summer of 2021, which has resulted in Mayor McCallum showing up at signing events to harass canvassers and try to shut down signing locations on private property. Mayor McCallum has even directed City by-law officers to surveil and ticket canvassers until his own staff pointed out that no by-laws were being broken. The tickets have since been withdrawn. On Monday, October 18, this sign by-law amendment was introduced and rushed through council (with no public consultation) to ensure his by-law officers could resume ticketing and sign removal. This bylaw amendment may also be used to target other issues which are important to Surrey residents including farmers' rights in India and concerns about a new road through Bear Creek Park. As a former Mayor yourself, I am sure you will agree this is an overreach of authority which must be addressed.

As Surrey residents have pushed to keep the RCMP, the Surrey Mayor has been targeting various grassroots movements in an effort to stifle their collective voices that oppose an issue the Mayor has been struggling to get off the ground. It is evident that the objective of this by-law amendment is to quell any dissent towards Mayor McCallum.

This by-law amendment is unconstitutional and will face an inevitable court challenge, putting a stain on both Surrey and the Province. This is not the first time a municipality has overstepped regarding freedom of expression through signs. I would like to draw your attention to *Ramsden v Peterborough (City of)*, [1993] 2 SCR 1084 in where the Supreme Court of Canada struck down overly strict signing by-laws under

section 2(b) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. It is important for the provincial government to step up and defend the rights of all residents of British Columbia, regardless of their position on municipal, provincial, or federal issues.

This is an important issue for the National Police Federation for many reasons. We would like to see the democratic rights of Surrey and B.C. residents upheld. This amendment opens the door for other municipalities to also implement such anti-democratic by-laws.

On behalf of those who feel so strongly regarding their Surrey RCMP and other key public issues, we ask you, as Minister of Municipal Affairs, to review this by-law, as it curtails free speech on private property of citizens in Surrey. We ask you and your provincial colleagues to uphold constitutional rights and allow residents in B.C. their constitutional right to fully express their concerns and interests.

Sincerely,



Brian Sauvé
President

cc: The Hon. John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia



From: Colin Buschman <cbuschman@npf-fpn.com>

Sent: May 4, 2022 9:33 AM

To: Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX <PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>; Routley.MLA, Douglas G LASS:EX <Douglas.Routley.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Sarah Nolan <snolan@npf-fpn.com>

Subject: Letter to Minister Farnworth re Police Act Report

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Minister Farnworth,

On behalf of the National Police Federation (NPF) and its Members, please find attached a letter regarding the Report of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act, Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia.

The NPF appreciates the work developed by the committee and it is supportive of all policing reviews as it strengthens transparency and accountability of current police services and the costs associated with them. However, we do not support the recommendation to transition to a new provincial police service and would caution the province to look at challenges other jurisdictions are facing who have also proposed this idea.

As you continue to review the committee's Report and discuss next steps, the NPF would like to be included as a key stakeholder in any preliminary discussions regarding the future of policing within the province, consultations, or general email updates on decisions made.

Also attached you will find a briefing note the NPF sent to Public Safety Canada regarding the First Nations Policing Program Review. In the letter you will find additional context and information about it.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Colin Buschman

Western Government Relations Advisor | Conseiller, Relations Gouvernementales de l'ouest

National Police Federation | Fédération de la Police Nationale

(236) 233-8100

<https://npf-fpn.com>

The NPF has moved! La FPN a déménagé!

Our new head office address is: / L'adresse de notre nouveau siège social est :

220 Laurier Avenue West/Ouest

8th Étage – Suite 800

Ottawa, Ontario

K1P 5Z9

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May 4, 2022

The Hon. Mike Farnworth, M.L.A.
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Email: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Farnworth,

On behalf of the National Police Federation (NPF), and its Members, I write to you today regarding the Report of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act, *Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia*.

I want to thank the committee and its members for including the NPF as a witness in April 2021 and accepting our subsequent submission. We can all acknowledge that policing is complex and faces many challenges. In recent years those challenges have been magnified by a negative connotation of police in the public eye due to sensationalized media and lack of support by governments. What we have seen across Canada in response to this, is various governments conducting policing reviews on structures, costs, oversight, and legislation. The NPF is supportive of all policing reviews as it strengthens transparency and accountability of current police services and the costs associated with them. The NPF does not support the recommendation to transition to a new provincial police service and would caution the province to look at challenges other jurisdictions are facing who have also proposed this idea. What we have seen is strong public opposition and high concerns with associated costs - costs that would have to be pulled from the same social services the Report recommends be increased.

As government continues to review the committee's Report and discuss next steps, the NPF would like to be included as a key stakeholder in any preliminary discussions regarding the future of policing within the province, consultations, or general email updates on decisions made.

The Report recommends that the province look to regionalize policing services where appropriate. We recognize that crime has no borders and the RCMP, whether in B.C. or across Canada, undertakes regional policing to better pool and deploy resources to combat crime. This already provides the province and communities with significant cost savings, increased effectiveness, and the addition of specialized services without compromising core community police services. Regionalization, integrated teams within the RCMP, and the RCMP's critical mass, have benefited B.C. residents in countless emergency situations such as fires, floods, protests and more, at significantly reduced costs and great efficiency.

The Report recommends alternative governance models with the implementation of police boards or committees. As outlined in the report, municipalities policed by the B.C. RCMP have chosen to have the RCMP police their community under the *Police Act*. The *Act* also allows for those same municipalities to implement a police committee comprised of the local RCMP detachment, council and public to review local issues and strategies, to discuss budgetary needs and recommendations and to determine local priorities and the resources needed to achieve them.

There are many recommendations within the report that the NPF has previously highlighted and supported in calling for additional efforts to strengthen resources for police and supports for communities. We echo the overall theme of greater emphasis on the need for collaboration and coordination across police services,

health and mental health professionals and community organizations to ensure greater public safety for individuals and communities across B.C.. To achieve these changes, all governments must work together, and significant investments will be needed in both the short and long term.

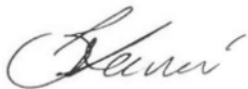
The Report recommends a greater continuum of response to mental health, addictions and other complex social issues through more resources and coordinated efforts. The NPF is highly supportive of this recommendation and has been advocating to the province since the beginning of 2020 to immediately address these resource shortages and access challenges within communities, especially rural and remote communities. While these types of 911 calls continue to increase every year, all governments must work swiftly to implement immediate resources and strategies to better serve our most vulnerable populations. The increased number of mental health and wellness calls have impacted core policing mandates and resources across the province and if left unchecked, will continue to do so on an exponential scale.

The Report recommends that all Indigenous communities have direct input into their police service structure. As you know, in 2020, the federal government committed to making First Nations policing an essential service through legislation. After the 2021 federal election the federal government recommitted to consultations and future legislative changes. The NPF has been participating in these federal consultations. Many of the challenges outlined in the Report have been reflected in the NPF's consultations at the federal level. As the federal consultations continue throughout 2022, we hope that the province will raise these issues with the federal government so that a whole-of-government approach can be taken at all levels to address some of these challenges. I have attached to this letter a copy of the briefing note we sent to then Public Safety Minister, Bill Blair, in 2021 outlining some of the challenges.

Moving forward, the NPF looks to work with the provincial government to address some of the challenges highlighted in the Report and to find ways, both short and long term, to improve police services within the province. Community safety remains the number one priority of our Membership. We hope that as the province deliberates next steps to addressing the recommendations made within the Report, and that before costly decisions are made, the province looks to undertake further review of how to improve current police services within the province and incorporates extensive public consultation into the process.

RCMP officers in British Columbia are proud to serve their communities and the NPF will continue to advocate on their behalf. I look forward to working with the province to build more resilient communities.

Sincerely,



Brian Sauvé
President

Enc: BN – NPF to PSC re First Nations Policing Program Review

cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
Mr. Doug Routley, Chair, Special Committee
D/Comm. Dwayne MacDonald, Commanding Officer, BC RCMP

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**NATIONAL
POLICE
FEDERATION**



**FÉDÉRATION
DE LA POLICE
NATIONALE**

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Hon. Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
FROM: Brian Sauvé, President, National Police Federation
DATE: June 4, 2021
RE: **FIRST NATIONS POLICING PROGRAM INPUT FROM MEMBERS OF
THE NATIONAL POLICE FEDERATION**

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