

Morris, Mike PSSG:EX

From: Bhar Sihota <bsihota@ubcm.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 3:26 PM
To: Morris, Mike PSSG:EX; Kennard, Kimberley SBRT:EX
Cc: Godenzie, Lisa JAG:EX; Pecknoid, Clayton JAG:EX; McLean, Kimberley M JAG:EX; Gary MacIsaac; Foisy, Rachel E JAG:EX; Al Richmond
Subject: UBCM letter to Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Morris
Attachments: 2016-01-06_Minister Morris re DNA Analysis Costs.pdf
Importance: High

Hello,

Please see the attached letter from UBCM President Al Richmond to Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Morris.

UBCM staff will soon follow-up on the meeting request discussed in the attached letter.

Sincerely,
Bhar Sihota

Bhar Sihota
Policy Analyst
Union of BC Municipalities
[P] 604.270.8226 x114
[F] 604.270.9116

Web | www.ubcm.ca
Twitter | www.twitter.com/ubcm

January 6, 2016

The Honourable Mike Morris
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Room 028, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

RE: DNA Analysis Costs to Local Governments

Dear Minister Morris,

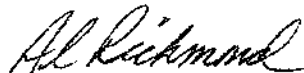
Please allow me to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. I write to you today regarding the ongoing issue of DNA analysis services costs to British Columbia municipalities with populations greater than 5,000, and to request a meeting at your convenience to initiate dialogue with you and provide an overview of the issue and concerns of local governments.

As noted in my December 2, 2015 letter to Minister Suzanne Anton, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) is concerned with the process undertaken by the Province and fairness of its decision to transfer a portion of provincial DNA analysis services costs to local governments. As such, we have requested that the Province reverse this decision.

On December 9, 2015, I met with Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Clayton Pecknold, to discuss this issue at greater length. Additionally, the Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee met with provincial staff on December 15 to convey local government concerns. It is my hope that a subsequent meeting with yourself and Mr. Pecknold can build on these discussions.

UBCM staff will be in contact with your office in the near future to arrange a meeting date and time. On behalf of UBCM, I look forward to working collaboratively with you on this issue and other matters of mutual interest in order to strengthen and improve community safety throughout BC.

Sincerely,



Al Richmond
President, Union of BC Municipalities

CC: Clayton J.D. Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX

From: Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 7:11 AM
To: Gary MacIsaac
Subject: Re: UBCM meeting with Minister Morris

Hi Gary,

We are working with Clayton to find a suitable time, it looks as though we are awaiting confirmation that Friday morning works for Al.

Thanks again for your patience.

Regards

Manjit Gill

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 11, 2016, at 2:32 PM, Gary MacIsaac <gmacisaac@ubcm.ca> wrote:

>

> Thank-you Manjit.

>

> Gary

>

>

>

>> On 16-01-11 1:41 PM, "Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX" <Manjit.Gill@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>>

>> Hello Gary

>> Your meeting request has been received. I have copies our

>> Administrative coordinator, Kim, on this email. We will be in touch

>> with a date in the next little while. I appreciate your patience while we work on getting settled.

>> Regards,

>>

>> Manjit Gill

>> Chief of Staff to the

>> Honourable Mike Morris,

>> Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

>> 250-356-2137

>>

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Gary MacIsaac [<mailto:gmacisaac@ubcm.ca>]

>> Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:32 AM

>> To: Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX

>> Subject: FW: UBCM meeting with Minister Morris

>>

>> Hello Manjit. We have not heard back regarding our meeting request

>> and think it important for the UBCM President to connect with the

>> Minister in the short term.

>>

>> Could you please provide an update on our request.

>>

>> Thanks very much

>>

>> Gary MacIsaac

>> Executive Director, UBCM

>> 60-10551 Shellbridge Way

>> Richmond B.C. V6X 2W9

>> (604) 270-8226 ext. 105 (Richmond)

>> (250) 356-2956 (Victoria)

>>

>>

>>

>>

>> ----- Forwarded Message

>> From: Gary MacIsaac <gmacisaac@ubcm.ca>

>> Date: Thu, 07 Jan 2016 09:26:11 -0800

>> To: <manjit.gill@gov.bc.ca>

>> Conversation: UBCM meeting with Minister Morris

>> Subject: UBCM meeting with Minister Morris

>>

>> Good morning Manjit.

>>

>> I am attaching for your information a copy of a letter that was sent

>> to Minister Morris yesterday by UBCM President Al Richmond.

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>> The letter requests an opportunity for President Richmond to meet

>> with Minister Morris at his earliest convenience. Our request

>> relates to the new local government costs relating to DNA

>> laboratories. UBCM had previously corresponded with Minister Anton on this matter prior to the Cabinet shuffle.

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>> The letter has also been copied to ADM Clayton Pecknold.

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>> President Richmond would be willing to meet with Minister Morris

>> either in Victoria or Vancouver. Another and perhaps better

>> possibility might be to arrange a meeting on the either the 19th or

>> 20th of January in Prince George as both the Minister and Chair

>> Richmond will be attending the Natural Resources Forum.

>>

>> My cell phone number is ^{s.22} Could you please give me a

>> call to discuss this matter.

>>

>> Thanks very much.

>> Gary

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>> Gary MacIsaac

>> Executive Director, UBCM

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Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX

From: Gary MacIsaac <gmacisaac@ubcm.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:32 PM
To: Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Subject: Re: UBCM meeting with Minister Morris

Thank-you Manjit.

Gary

On 16-01-11 1:41 PM, "Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX" <Manjit.Gill@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

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> (250) 356-2956 (Victoria)
>
>
>
> ----- End of Forwarded Message
>

Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX

From: Gary MacIsaac <gmacisaac@ubcm.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Subject: UBCM meeting with Minister Morris
Attachments: 2016-01-06_Minister Morris re DNA Analysis Costs.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: meeting request

Good morning Manjit.

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Gary MacIsaac
Executive Director, UBCM
60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond B.C. V6X 2W9
(604) 270-8226 ext. 105 (Richmond)
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January 6, 2016

The Honourable Mike Morris
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Room 028, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Al Richmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Al Richmond
President, Union of BC Municipalities

CC: *Clayton J.D. Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General*



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

January 5, 2016

Mr. Al Richmond
President
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W9

Dear Mr. Richmond:

I am responding to your December 2, 2015 letter, address to my colleague, the Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, regarding funding for DNA Analysis in British Columbia.

The new Agreement Respecting Biology Casework Analysis 2014-2024 (BCAA) between the Province of British Columbia (BC) and the federal government was negotiated as a result of the federal government informing the Province that it would no longer provide DNA analysis through the RCMP at the historical flat rate. In December 2013, the federal government informed the Province that if BC did not agree to pay considerably more for the service, as of April 1, 2014, the RCMP would significantly reduce the forensic DNA analysis services provided to law enforcement agencies in BC. Under the new BCAA, after a three-year escalation period (which began in fiscal 2014/15), DNA analysis services will be charged based on a calculation that reflects the two-year average of the actual cost to Canada to provide the service, and the two-year average of proportionate usage of service recipients. After the three-year escalation period, Canada will contribute 46 per cent of the total costs.

It is important to note that under the *Police Act*, municipalities with 5,000 population or more, are responsible for providing policing and law enforcement in the municipality, and for bearing the expenses necessary to generally maintain law and order. As per s. 15 (1) of the *Police Act*, in British Columbia, police agencies are responsible for bearing expenses necessary to maintain law and order, to adequately enforce criminal law, and to provide adequate equipment and supplies for the operations of and use by the police. DNA analysis is one of those operational policing expenses for which police agencies are responsible. However, in order to reduce the cost to police agencies, the Province will continue to contribute its historical funding of \$1.366 million, thereby leaving municipalities to pay a portion of their DNA analysis costs. Additionally, as you may be aware, the Province will pay the DNA analysis costs for all communities in British Columbia with a population under 5,000.

Ministry of
Public Safety
and Solicitor General

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Mr. Al Richmond

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In order to assist police agencies with the transition to paying for a portion of their DNA analysis usage, the Province paid \$1.2 million, in addition to the historical funding of \$1.366 million for the first year of the phase-in period for 2014/15. For the second year of the phase-in, in addition to the historical contribution, the Province has committed to paying for the first three quarters of the fiscal year to accommodate police agencies, whose budgets operate on a calendar year.

During the negotiations for the agreement, police agencies and the UBCM were informed in a number of venues, including the various Associations of Chiefs of Police meetings, that the federal government was seeking to increase recovery for DNA analysis and that negotiations were underway. Senior officials with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), UBCM's Public Safety Committee and UBCM's Local Government Contract Management Committee were also briefed. On February 21, 2014, UBCM President Rhona Martin and the co-chair of UBCM Local Government Contract Management Committee Dianne Watts wrote to the federal government strongly urging them to reach an agreement with the Province on a number of issues, including DNA analysis. They made the point that it was not appropriate for Public Safety Canada to make assertions about possible service reductions when service delivery is the responsibility of the RCMP.

At the BC Association of Police Boards meeting in April 2015, the attendees were informed that the Province would continue to provide the historical contribution of \$1.366 million and, because DNA analysis is an operational policing expense, police agencies would be required to contribute funding beyond the Province's historical contribution starting in fiscal 2015/16. In June 2015, the Director again informed the BC Association of Chiefs of Police that as DNA analysis is an operational expense, police agencies will be required to fund their usage beyond the Province's historic funding of \$1.366 million. This is consistent with the obligations under the *Police Act*.

As you are aware, the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia (OCABC) will be responsible for billing and administering the BCAC. In regards to your question about OCABC administering the BCAC, it was felt that it would be more appropriate for a designated policing unit (in this case OCABC) to administer the agreement because police agencies operate at arm's length from government and it is important that the Province and Local Governments are not seen to be making decisions regarding criminal investigations in British Columbia.

Finally, I would note that the Province makes significant contributions to policing in British Columbia, including more than \$70 million annually for over 20 integrated teams (including IHIT and CFSEU) and a total of \$38.6 million in traffic fine revenue in 2014 (and \$38.4 million in 2013) which can be contributed to municipal policing costs.

Mr. Al Richmond
Page 3

I appreciate that this decision by the federal government has had financial impacts on our local governments. I can assure you that every effort to mitigate this decision was made. You may wish to raise your concerns with the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Morris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Morris
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable Peter Fassbender

PSPB PECKNOLD/MCLEAN/LENZ

C/513267