



December 21, 2021

The Honourable Minister Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Email: bill.blair@parl.gc.ca

RE: RCMP Policing Contract Costs

Dear Minister Blair,

I am writing to you today to express the Municipality of East Hants' concern over the recent collective agreement between the RCMP and National Police Federation including significant retroactive pay going back to 2017. A decision without consultation with municipalities, this outcome will have a significant impact on our ability to maintain effective levels of police services in our community.

Municipalities were not consulted at any stage of the negotiations process, despite the outcome of these negotiations having a direct and significant impact on municipal operations and these RCMP cost increases will disproportionately impact rural communities in Nova Scotia and across the Country.

East Hants has been working with our local RCMP detachment on establishing adequate resources to meet the needs of our growing community. The financial model being used did not take into account the dramatic increase in cost moving forward, and did not take into account retroactive payments back to 2017. Without the ability to run a deficit in any given fiscal year, with these pending costs Nova Scotia municipalities are in a difficult fiscal situation.

East Hants joins the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to absorb all retroactive costs associated with the implementation of the new RCMP labour relations regime. As well, it is imperative that municipalities are properly consulted prior to implementation of any future measures that impact local fiscal sustainability.

Our municipality, and others that depend on RCMP contract policing, are facing significant, unbudgeted costs that may force us to make very difficult choices at a time when our primary focus needs to be on economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. I would urge you to consider the federal absorption of retroactive pay agreed to by the federal government in its most recent collective agreement with the RCMP.

Respectfully yours,



Eleanor Roulston, Warden
East Hants, Nova Scotia

Cc: Kody Blois, MP Hants-Kings
John MacDonald, MLA Hants East
Brad Johns, MLA Sackville-Uniacke & NS Minister of Justice
Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA Hants West
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Federation of Canadian Municipalities