



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** January 27, 2014  
**From:** Phyllis L. Carlyle **File:** 09-5350-01/2014-Vol  
 General Manager 01  
**Re:** City of Richmond Crime Reduction Survey

### Staff Recommendation

That Council's survey from the Blue Ribbon Panel for Crime Reduction be provided to the Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction.

Phyllis L. Carlyle  
General Manager,  
Law and Community Safety  
(604-276-4104)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

## Staff Report

### Origin

On December 4, 2013, the Mayor and Councillors received a request (Attachment 1) from the Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction, Daryl Plecas, for a Council submission on a Crime Reduction survey. The survey is in support of the Blue Ribbon Panel, which was formed to *look at what more can be done to reduce crime in British Columbia*. The Panel is requesting feedback on the successes and challenges experienced by stakeholders across the province on Crime Reduction strategies, and have offered the City additional time to respond.

### Analysis

Richmond's Crime Reduction Strategy has been integrated into the Detachment's strategic planning and annual performance plan, resulting in a horizontal integration of policing priorities and deployment of operational resources. Representatives from general duty, specialized units, criminal intelligence analysts and community policing meet monthly to strategize short and medium term enforcement and operations activities. Pooling of resources and information sharing results in comprehensive and effective approaches to drive down the crime rate, by targeting causes of crime and increasing public confidence in the justice system.

The priorities stated below were received and endorsed in the staff report "*2013/2014 RCMP Annual Performance Plan*" dated February 25, 2013 for the Community Safety Committee.

Richmond's Community Objectives to reduce crime are:

1. **Pedestrian Safety** - a continued and renewed focus on reducing fatalities and severe bodily injuries.
2. **Reduction of Break and Enters** - abate property-related crime with respect to thefts from businesses through consultative and focused enforcement
3. **Reduction of Personal Thefts and Robberies** - continues to statistically identify a need for a comprehensive plan stemming personal property crime in the Downtown core.

In addition to the above strategies, the detachment has many programs that aid in the reduction of crime in Richmond. These programs/services fall within the mandate of the Crime Prevention Section of the Richmond RCMP, and include programs such as:

1. Multi Cultural Advisory Committee,
2. Downtown Richmond Crime Reduction Working Group
3. Bike patrols 12 months of the year
4. Business Link
5. Restorative Justice program
6. Youth intervention program
7. Home Security Checks
8. Citizens Crime Watch
9. Online Criminal Activity Maps and prevention tips
10. Marine Boat Program which teaches inland water courses

The Richmond RCMP Detachment implemented formal strategies to reduce crime in 2005. These strategies seek to make a significant impact on the crime rates in the community by working with external partners across the City of Richmond and the Province of British Columbia. The initiative is based on well-documented successes resulting from similar approaches internationally. The Crime Reduction strategy involves evidence-led approaches to targeting, offender management and crime prevention. Integrated public safety partnerships across the justice system, reliable and effective application of crime analysis, and accountability to the public for performance are also included to ensure the success.

To-date, the complement of the Richmond Detachment Crime Reduction Team is comprised of two Sergeants (in-charge), five Corporals and 25 Constables for a total of 32 police officers. Two Crime Analysts are also part of the Richmond Crime Reduction Team to support timely and accurate intelligence to investigators.

To supplement the policing efforts since 2008, the City of Richmond has contracted Touchstone Family Services for the provision of restorative justice services. Touchstone utilizes two key methods of restorative Justice: Community Justice Forums and Community accountability. It has been expressed by both Richmond Council and Touchstone Family services have expressed that financial support for this program should come from the Province. Touchstone has been lobbying the Provincial government since 2008 but to no avail.

At the request of the Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, the Crime Reduction Survey and proposed responses have been prepared. (Attachment 2)

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

The City of Richmond and the Richmond RCMP Detachment continually support the Crime Reduction Strategy, under which evidence-led approaches to targeting, offender management and crime prevention are used to reduce and lower crime rates, and to increase public confidence of a safer community. The implementation of crime reduction programs has also assisted in the reduction of crime in the City of Richmond.



Anne Stevens  
Senior Manager, Community Safety Policy & Programs



December 4, 2013

Dear Mayor and Council:

As you may be aware, on June 7, 2013, I was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General - with a responsibility to chair a blue-ribbon panel which has a mandate to look at what more can be done to reduce crime in British Columbia. The panel is of course also particularly concerned with the successes experienced and challenges faced by stakeholders across the province in their efforts to reduce crime. It is to this end that we request a written submission from yourself on the template attached.

In addition, the panel will be holding a number of stakeholder roundtables around the province in January 2014 and you are very welcome to join us as a participant at one. The roundtables will include representatives from local and provincial governments, police agencies, First Nations and other relevant groups and organizations. If you would like to participate in a roundtable discussion being held in your region, please indicate this in your response to receive information on date, time and location.

The work of the panel will ultimately result in a report to the Minister of Justice, and this report will include:

- Results from the stakeholder consultation;
- Opportunities for effective, evidence-led crime reduction initiatives;
- An overview of current crime reduction initiatives in B.C. and other jurisdictions; and,
- Recommendations for crime reduction opportunities.

Please respond with your written submission to: [CrimeReduction@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CrimeReduction@gov.bc.ca) before December 19, 2013. You will receive a return e-mail confirming receipt and event details as required.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email [CrimeReduction@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CrimeReduction@gov.bc.ca).

Many thanks,

Darryl Plecas  
Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction to the Minister of Justice  
MLA Abbotsford South

Mayors and Council Distribution List

District of 100 Mile House	Mayor Mitch Campsall and Council
Village of Alert Bay	Mayor Michael Berry and Council
Village of Anmore	Mayor Heather Anderson and Council
City of Armstrong	Mayor Chris Pieper and Council
Village of Ashcroft	Mayor Andy Anderson and Council
District of Barriere	Mayor Bill Humphreys and Council
Village of Belcarra	Mayor Ralph E. Drew and Council
Bowen Island Municipality	Mayor Jack Adelaar and Council
City of Burnaby	Mayor Derek Corrigan and Council
Village of Burns Lake	Mayor Luke Strimbold and Council
Village of Cache Creek	Mayor John Ranta and Council
Village of Canal Flats	Mayor Ute Juras and Council
City of Castlegar	Mayor Lawrence D. Chernoff and Council
District of Central Saanich	Mayor Alastair Bryson and Council
Village of Chase	Mayor Ron Anderson and Council
District of Chetwynd	Mayor Merlin Nichols and Council
City of Chilliwack	Mayor Sharon Gaetz and Council
District of Clearwater	Mayor John E. Harwood and Council
Village of Clinton	Mayor Jim Rivett and Council
District of Coldstream	Mayor Jim Garlick and Council
City of Colwood	Mayor Carol Hamilton and Council
Town of Comox	Mayor Paul R. Ives and Council
City of Coquitlam	Mayor Richard Stewart and Council
City of Courtenay	Mayor Larry Jangula and Council
Town of Creston	Mayor Ron T. Toyota and Council
Village of Cumberland	Mayor Leslie Baird and Council
City of Dawson Creek	Mayor Mike A. Bernier and Council
District of Delta	Mayor Lois E. Jackson and Council
City of Duncan	Mayor Phil Kent and Council
District of Elkford	Mayor Dean McKerracher and Council
City of Enderby	Mayor Howie Cyr and Council
Township of Esquimalt	Mayor Barbara Desjardins and Council
City of Fernie	Mayor Mary Giuliano and Council
District of Fort St. James	Mayor Rob MacDougall and Council
Village of Fraser Lake	Mayor Dwayne L. Lindstrom and Council
Village of Fruitvale	Mayor Patricia-Lynn Cecchini and Council
Town of Gibsons	Mayor Wayne Rowe and Council
Village of Gold River	Mayor Craig Anderson and Council
Town of Golden	Mayor Christina Benty and Council
City of Grand Forks	Mayor Brian Taylor and Council

Village of Granisle	Mayor Linda McGuire and Council
City of Greenwood	Mayor Nipper Kettle and Council
Village of Harrison Hot Springs	Mayor Leo Facio and Council
Village of Hazelton	Mayor Alice Maitland and Council
District of Highlands	Mayor Jane E. Mendum and Council
District of Hope	Mayor Susan Ann Johnston and Council
District of Houston	Mayor Bill Holmberg and Council
District of Hudson's Hope	Mayor Karen M. Anderson and Council
District of Invermere	Mayor Gerry Taft and Council
Village of Kaslo	Mayor Greg Lay and Council
District of Kent	Mayor John Van Laerhoven and Council
Village of Keremeos	Mayor Manfred Bauer and Council
City of Kimberley	Mayor Ron McRae and Council
District of Kitimat	Mayor Joanne Monaghan and Council
Town of Ladysmith	Mayor Robert R. Hutchins and Council
District of Lake Country	Mayor James E. Baker and Council
Town of Lake Cowichan	Mayor Ross Forrest and Council
City of Langford	Mayor Stewart W. Young and Council
City of Langley	Mayor Peter Fassbender and Council
Township of Langley	Mayor Jack Froese and Council
District of Lantzville	Mayor Jack de Jong and Council
District of Lillooet	Mayor Ted Anchor and Council
Village of Lions Bay	Mayor Brenda R. Broughton and Council
District of Logan Lake	Mayor Marlon Dosch and Council
Village of Lumby	Mayor Kevin Acton and Council
Village of Lytton	Mayor Jessoa Lightfoot and Council
District of Mackenzie	Mayor Stephanie Killam and Council
District of Maple Ridge	Mayor Ernie Daykin and Council
Village of Masset	Mayor Andrew Merilees and Council
Village of McBride	Mayor Michael Frazier and Council
City of Merritt	Mayor Susan S. Roline and Council
District of Metchosin	Mayor John Ranns and Council
Village of Midway	Mayor Randy S. Kappes and Council
District of Mission	Mayor Ted Adlem and Council
Village of Montrose	Mayor Joe Danchuk and Council
Village of Nakusp	Mayor Karen E. Hamling and Council
City of Nelson	Mayor John A. Dooley and Council
Village of New Denver	Mayor Ann Bunka and Council
District of New Hazelton	Mayor Gail Lowry and Council
City of New Westminster	Mayor Wayne Wright and Council
District of North Cowichan	Mayor Jon Lefebure and Council

District of North Saanich	Mayor Alice Finall and Council
City of North Vancouver	Mayor Darrell R. Mussatto and Council
District of North Vancouver	Mayor Richard S. Walton and Council
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality	Mayor Bill Streeper and Council
District of Oak Bay	Mayor Nils Jensen and Council
Town of Oliver	Mayor Ronald Hovanes and Council
Town of Osoyoos	Mayor Stu Wells and Council
City of Parksville	Mayor Chris Burger and Council
District of Peachland	Mayor Keith Fielding and Council
Village of Pemberton	Mayor Jordan Sturdy and Council
City of Penticton	Mayor Dan C. Ashton and Council
City of Pitt Meadows	Mayor Deb Walters and Council
City of Port Alberni	Mayor John Douglas and Council
Village of Port Alice	Mayor Jan Allen and Council
Village of Port Clements	Mayor Wally Cheer and Council
City of Port Coquitlam	Mayor Greg Moore and Council
District of Port Edward	Mayor David I. MacDonald and Council
District of Port Hardy	Mayor Bev Parnham and Council
Town of Port McNeill	Mayor Gerry Furney and Council
City of Port Moody	Mayor Mike Clay and Council
Village of Pouce Coupe	Mayor Larry Fynn and Council
City of Powell River	Mayor David Formosa and Council
Town of Princeton	Mayor Fred Thomas and Council
Town of Qualicum Beach	Mayor Teunis Westbroek and Council
Village of Queen Charlotte	Mayor Carol J. Kulesha and Council
City of Quesnel	Mayor Mary Sjostrom and Council
Village of Radium Hot Springs	Mayor Dee J. Conklin and Council
City of Revelstoke	Mayor David Raven and Council
City of Richmond	Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Council
City of Rossland	Mayor Greg E. Granstrom and Council
District of Saanich	Mayor Frank Leonard and Council
Village of Salmo	Mayor Ann Henderson and Council
City of Salmon Arm	Mayor Nancy Cooper and Council
Village of Sayward	Mayor John MacDonald and Council
District of Sechelt	Mayor John Henderson and Council
Sechelt Indian Government District	Chief Garry Feschuk and Council
District of Sicamous	Mayor Darrell Trouton and Council
Town of Sidney	Mayor Larry Cross and Council
Village of Silverton	Mayor Kathy Provan and Council
Village of Slocan	Mayor Madeleine Perriere and Council
Town of Smithers	Mayor Taylor Bachrach and Council

District of Sooke	Mayor Wendal Milne and Council
Township of Spallumcheen	Mayor Janice Brown and Council
District of Sparwood	Mayor Lois Halko and Council
District of Squamish	Mayor Rob Kirkham and Council
District of Stewart	Mayor Galina Durant and Council
District of Summerland	Mayor Janice D. Perrino and Council
Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality	Mayor Al Raine and Council
Village of Tahsis	Mayor Judith Schooner and Council
District of Taylor	Mayor Fred D. Jarvis and Council
Village of Telkwa	Mayor Carman Graf and Council
City of Terrace	Mayor David Pernarowski and Council
District of Tofino	Mayor Perry Schmunk and Council
City of Trail	Mayor Dieter Bogs and Council
District of Tumbler Ridge	Mayor Darwin Wren and Council
District of Ucluelet	Mayor Bill Irving and Council
Village of Valemount	Mayor Andru McCracken and Council
District of Vanderhoof	Mayor Gerry D. Thiessen and Council
City of Vernon	Mayor Robert Sawatzky and Council
Town of View Royal	Mayor Graham Hill and Council
Village of Warfield	Mayor Bert Crockett and Council
District of Wells	Mayor Robin Sharpe and Council
District of West Kelowna	Mayor Doug Findlater and Council
District of West Vancouver	Mayor Michael Smith and Council
Resort Municipality of Whistler	Mayor Nancy Wilhelm-Morden and Council
City of White Rock	Mayor Wayne Baldwin and Council
Village of Zeballos	Mayor Edward Lewis and Council



**1. Identify and rank in priority order the top 3 or 5 crime reduction and public safety goals you feel would help to drive crime down in British Columbia.**

Crime Reduction and Public Safety goals to drive down crime in BC:

1. A comprehensive Mental Health Plan backed by the appropriate funding and resources. Issues surrounding mental health have come to a head for policing agencies in many ways. The amount of police resources addressing mental health issues continues to increase, and takes time and resources away from other criminal activity in the community.
2. A reduction in organized crime activity.
3. *Homelessness*, appropriate housing with sustainable funding.

In the City of Richmond the priorities are:

- 1) Pedestrian Safety
- 2) Reduction of Break and Enters
- 3) Reduction of Personal Thefts and Robberies

In addition to the above strategies, crime prevention programs continue to aid in reducing crime in the community. The Richmond RCMP has a number of community outreach programs such as:

- a) Multi Cultural Advisory Committee,
- b) Downtown Richmond Crime Reduction Working Group
- c) Bike patrols 12 months of the year,
- d) Business Link,
- e) Restorative Justice program,
- f) Youth intervention program,
- g) Home Security Checks,
- h) Citizens Crime Watch,
- i) Criminal Activity Maps and prevention tips.
- j) Block Watch
- k) Marine Boat Patrol
- l) School Liaison Officers
- m) Coordinated presences at all community events with other first responders
- n) Citizen Volunteers at all three Community Police Stations.
- o) Auxiliary Police Program

**2. Identify the most pressing crime problems that your communities face and describe how the current level of crime is affecting the community.**

Richmond Detachment's top priority is traffic safety. Of all the traffic related fatalities in Richmond, the majority are pedestrian related. In 2013, there were eight pedestrian fatalities, in previous years there have been, on average, approximately three to five per year. Based on previous pedestrian fatality investigations the actions of the pedestrians are the primary cause of the collisions. The causes of these actions could be attributed to jaywalking, wearing dark clothing, rushing for signal lights or buses, or being inattentive while crossing (i.e. texting or listening to music).

The second priority is reducing business and residential break and enters in Richmond. Although business break and enters have been reduced by 32% in 2013, residential break ins have increased by 12%. Specifically, in 2013, residential break and enters in the downtown area of Richmond has increased by 88%. A part of this drastic increase may be attributed to the growing residences (condominiums) and the growing population in the downtown core. Many of these residential break-ins occurred when occupants left their windows open during the hot summer months. Many homeowners in Richmond have immigrated to Canada from other countries and often travel back leaving their homes unattended for extended periods.

The third priority is thefts (specifically cell phones) and personal robberies in the downtown core. These types of crimes have become a growing concern for Richmond as well as other municipalities in British Columbia.

**3. Describe the work being done in your jurisdiction to address the crime problems previously identified.**

**Pedestrian Safety** – The Richmond RCMP's Road Safety Unit continues the enforcement for infractions such as pedestrian jaywalking, crossing against lights or walking signals, and drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians. Pedestrian safety campaigns in conjunction with ICBC and the City's transportation section were conducted throughout the year in high pedestrian traffic areas. Media coverage has also been utilized for this education and enforcement campaign.

**Break and Enters** – The Richmond RCMP have worked with crown counsel, to target prolific offenders who continually reoffend, to maximize sentencing. Richmond Analysts produce statistical information on crime trends and produce weekly maps of break and enters identifying "hot spots" for break and enters. The Richmond RCMP conducts monthly crime reduction meetings to identify problem areas and strategize on reducing these types of crimes. The Richmond RCMP has several different project based units that will target prolific offenders and break and enter suspects. This past year the Richmond RCMP focused on problem residences such as abandoned houses where property crime suspects have been located. Both covert and overt methods have been utilized to gain intelligence and provide deterrence. Uniformed patrol, Bike Units, Community Policing units and Auxiliary members provide high visibility presence in the identified "hot spot" areas of Richmond. With high incident areas, pamphlets and media releases with prevention techniques have been provided for home and business owners.

**Personal Thefts/ Robberies Downtown Core** – The Richmond RCMP uniformed units provide

high visibility presence with foot and bike patrols in the downtown core. A Downtown Richmond Crime Reduction Working Group was established as a joint initiative with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to improve communication between stakeholders, encourage business community engagement, identify crime and safety issues impacting businesses along the No 3 Road corridor, promote a collaborative approach to addressing crime and safety issues and develop and implement strategies to address public safety issues. The stakeholders of the Group are: Richmond RCMP, South Coast BC Transit Authority Police (Transit Police), Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Centre Mall, Lansdowne Mall and River Rock Casino.

Blockwatch, RCMP Volunteers and Auxiliary members deliver a public education message to the downtown community, information pamphlet (in various languages) are distributed to pedestrians / consumers / residents and placed on vehicles in key locations.

The Richmond RCMP has engaged in various proactive policing measures in 2012/13, especially in the downtown core (Zone 3), such as increased foot patrols and the targeting and incarceration of chronic offenders. Theft from Autos (TFAs) and robberies have shown a large decrease compared to a year ago. The Richmond RCMP has placed performance targets for TFAs and robberies for a reduction of 7% and 10% respectively. The detachment has exceeded both of these targets. For 2012/13, the total TFAs in Zone 3 dropped 29% compared to a year ago, from 1,050 to 742. However, TFAs for all of Richmond slightly increase by approximately 7% after declining 11% between 2010 and 2011. Robberies, again for 2012/13, dropped 45% in Zone 3 compared to a year ago, from 87 to 48. Robberies for all of Richmond dropped approximately 36%.

The Richmond RCMP initiated a new foot patrol program in late 2012 to primarily provide police presence along the No. 3 Road corridor and Richmond portion of the Canada Line. Richmond members conducted foot patrols with members of the Transit Police. The goal of the program is to provide a higher level of presence as deterrence and to reduce incidents of crime in the downtown core collaboration with businesses and Transit Police. In total, there were approximately 728 foot patrols conducted last year.

In addition to the above the detachment has initiated a number of crime reduction programs and works closely with the community to abate further crime. One particular program is restorative justice which is contracted to Touchstone Family Services.

**4. What actions appear to be having success and what are the key factors that have led to success?**

The analysis of current crime trends and the monitoring of priority offenders are key factors for success. Identification of crime trends will initiate a quick response from the appropriate units to gather intelligence and provide the necessary strategic response. Priority offenders that the Richmond RCMP has identified as re-offending high-risk subjects have severe impact on the crime rates in Richmond.

An example of recent success was the on-going problem of theft of money from the parking meters in Richmond's downtown core. This problem was immediately assigned to one of the detachment's Crime Reduction units to develop a strategy. Within a week, the alleged suspect

was arrested in the act of breaking into the parking meters and possessing the break in tools. During this project, the crime reduction unit also responded to a robbery call in the downtown core capturing four suspects who had committed two separate armed personal robberies earlier that night.

As well, the Chinese business community was hit with frequent break and enters to their herbal stores. A suspect was quickly identified through the crime analysis and suspect's known method of operation. The Crime Reduction Units along with uniformed officers worked a long project on the suspect, eventually capturing him in the act. The suspect currently is awaiting trial and has many conditions placed on him. The continuation of joint meetings between the RCMP and community businesses has aided in reducing crime. This has become a best practice for Richmond RCMP.

There have been many other successes in capturing break and enter suspects this year. They were identified through evidence left at the scene, fingerprints or DNA and in one particular case the suspect left his wallet with identification. Monitoring these priority offenders is key. A good example was from a case where the suspect was recently released from prison and proceeded to break into several residences and was caught at one of the scenes. An analysis of the blood at scene was compared with this offender and a match was made. The offender was charged for break and enters and immediately returned to prison and received a lengthy sentence.

The Richmond RCMP, in recent years, has added more crime analysts which has assisted greatly in monitoring crime trends and priority offenders. Another key factor has been the focusing of the Crime Reduction Unit's efforts on proactive targeting policing.

The Crime Prevention programs educate the public and assist in understanding the public's role in preventing crime.

**5. What are the main challenges that have impeded success?**

More and more initiatives introduced by either the Province or the RCMP have the municipalities covering a large portion of the costs. Programs such as Restorative Justice should be funded by the Provincial Government. Also as the Integrated Teams continue to grow, the funding formula should be adjusted to make it more fair and equitable and should be established in consultation with the municipalities, with a regular review process.

The main challenges for the pedestrian safety campaign are the lack of buy in from the public and the randomness of the accidents.

The challenges of reducing the break and enters in Richmond are that most of the suspects committing these crimes are very experienced and are conscious of police techniques. There are also numerous individuals or groups committing property offences that are from outside the jurisdiction, it is a challenge to identify all of these suspects.

The challenges of reducing personal thefts and robberies in the downtown core are trying to maintain effective and long-term partner/stakeholder participation and trying to effectively reach all facets of the community in a meaningful way.

**6. Describe any efforts that you are planning to implement or you would like to implement in your jurisdiction to address crime problems.**

The Richmond Detachment continuously evaluates the crime reduction strategies employed and working with partners in the community and policing environments to ensure that the Richmond RCMP is progressive and making an impact on the identified crime issues.

As communities continue to densify, the first responders serving a community must work more closely together. Recently, educational exchanges have begun between disciplines (Fire, Police, Bylaws) to ensure front line staff understand the resources each entity has at their disposal, and the specific roles each performs.

The next phase will see an alignment and rationalization of the individual entities' geographic response zones. This orientation and alignment will then be followed by more direct, on the street, both formalized and informal interface. These linkages will provide more harmonized response and permit a higher level of proactive work.

The City has worked with the RCMP to develop an "on-line" crime reporting ability that should be available in early 2014. The public will then have an easier mechanism to report activity in the city which will assist in both responding to incidents but also provide better information to permit crime reduction resources to be used more effectively.

**7. Provide any suggestions that you feel could be implemented across the province to reduce crime further and achieve the crime and public safety goals you identified in question 1.**

The Richmond Detachment shares, on a continuous basis, best practices with our policing partners and ensures that intelligence is the main focus of our goals.

Additional financial support from the Province on initiatives such as the Integrated Teams and the proposed Real Time Intelligence Centre would widen the roles these teams perform.

Independent police agencies could become partners in all integrated teams to provide more cohesive policing across the Lower Mainland.

The establishment of enhanced provincial standards for policing will assist in better defining the level of policing appropriate for a community provided the rationale and the costs implications of any standards are understood. There is a need to ensure that policing agencies have equipment and technology that both protects the officer and reduces the length, complexity and costs of investigations, such as body cameras for police officers which have been shown in other jurisdiction to dramatically change the level of resources required to address complaints against the police. Other technological advances such as equipment tracking systems would reduce overhead costs and permit greater resources to be dedicated to front line policing.

The creation of a forum for all policing agencies to meet to discuss the provincial priorities for policing and to exchange best practices could also be considered initially on a trial basis.