

**Questions:**

- 1. 20 Year Term and Review Process.** During the contract discussions when questioned about the advisability of a 20 year arrangement for policing, the response to inquiries was that there would be five year reviews. The municipalities understood that they would be able to have meaningful input during these reviews. However, the Provincial Policing Services Agreement provides that there is only one representative for all of British Columbia in the review process and although the representative can make presentations is an “*observer*” in the process. In addition, municipalities are bound by the reviews conducted pursuant to the Provincial Policing Services Agreement, an agreement to which the municipalities are not even a party. How does the Province explain that the municipalities having no material role in the review process? Why can the results of the federal/provincial reviews not be the subject of negotiation with the municipalities rather than automatically being imposed upon them?
- 2. Wage increases and severance pay changes announced March 30, 2012.** On March 30, 2012, the RCMP Commissioner announced seven separate changes to compensation for RCMP Members for the fiscal years 2012-2014. RCMP representatives have stated the cost of this recently announced change will not be fully available to the municipal sector until late in May 2012. These changes could have an enormous impact on the 2012 budget for the municipalities. For example, based on the new change to severance pay, it is possible that a Member could elect to take up to 28 weeks of pay in 2012. The severance pay estimate for Richmond could amount to \$3.5M if all of the members elect to take this benefit. Where will the funding for this severance payment come from?

There is an indication that the wage increases for 2012-2014 were decided by Treasury Board and therefore, may also be the subject of a future court challenge just as the 2009 and 2010 pay rates currently are. If there is a future successful court challenge, who will pay the award?
- 3. Estimated Incremental Cost Impact of the New Agreement on BC’s RCMP Municipal Forces.** The Province provided the municipalities with the Province’s estimates dated March 12, 2012 of the incremental cost impact of the new Agreement, which begins in 2012/2013. However, in light of Commissioner’s March 30 2012 announcement of a possible \$20M cut back to contract policing and the proposed RCMP compensation changes, these numbers will need to be updated and refined. When can each municipality expect to receive revised numbers from the Province as to what the new contract would cost and an analysis of what the Commissioner’s proposal to cut \$20M from contract policing and a further \$175 M from the overall budget would mean to the municipal sector?
- 4. Green Timbers.** Advice has been provided that the Heather Street RCMP facilities will be closed and sold by Canada Lands Corporations. The functions currently located at Heather Street will be moved to Green Timbers in 2013. In addition, other RCMP

functions will be moved into the Green Timbers facility. When will municipalities have more details as to what costs it will be expected to pay in connection with Green Timbers (including construction and land acquisition costs)? The Province has advised that the cost of the Green Timbers is still being negotiated between the federal and provincial governments. The costing information provided to the municipal sector with the signed contract from the Minister only estimated the incremental costs of Green Timbers above that which is already paid by the municipal sector for E Division Headquarters (Heather Street), not the full cost of Green Timbers. When will municipalities learn which policing resources will be located in this facility and what costs, if any, the municipal sector will be required to pay? If there is a suggestion that the municipal sector will have to pay any of the capital costs, why is this required when the municipalities will obtain no legal interest in the property and why would the value of Heather Street not be used to offset those costs?

- 5. Lower Mainland Integrated Teams.** Previously, provincial representatives advised that the costs of the Lower Mainland Integrated Teams would be reduced from a 90/10 municipal/federal ratio to a 70/30 ratio. There is no provision in the Agreement that references integrated teams, their governance or the payment for their services. The budget for these teams is in the order of \$49 million. These teams should be a provincial responsibility. When will municipalities have clarity about the costs of the integrated teams?

There has been a suggestion in the past that the Province will assume the governance of the Lower Mainland Integrated Teams and simply provide the municipal sector with the costs. Is it the intention of the Province to simply bill each municipality its share of the costs for the integrated teams and not enter into any agreement with the municipalities with respect to the teams?

Provincial representatives recently advised that effective April 1, 2012 there is an agreement with the federal government relating to IHIT, when will the municipalities be privy to the agreement? The provincial representatives have also indicated that there will be a series of agreements relating to the other teams, when will the details of these agreements be available?

- 6. Retro-payment liability.** If the Federal Court of Appeal upholds the wage increases to members of the RCMP for 2009 and 2010, how are municipalities to pay for these increases that are estimated to be \$11,000 per member? In addition, if those increases are upheld, there will be a compounding impact on the March 30, 2012 announced increases relating to salary and benefits due to compounding. Will the Province assume these costs?
- 7. Municipal Companion Document.** Provincial representatives have advised that document known as the "Municipal Companion Document" which will assist in interpreting the agreement is in the process of preparation. The Municipal Companion Document is not referenced in the contract but yet it is to impact how the parties function under the contract. When can the municipalities expect to receive this?

8. **Dispute Resolution Process.** Notwithstanding local governments had repeatedly requested a fair dispute resolution clause, the dispute resolution clause which has found its way into the Agreement provides that in the event of any dispute, the federal and provincial governments shall be entitled to the final say. Why can matters in dispute not be referred to an independent arbitrator for resolution?
9. **Pension Claim.** In 1999, the federal government passed Bill C-78 which allowed it to appropriate the accumulated surplus in three public service pension plans (including that of the RCMP) (approximately \$28-30B).

There has been a challenge to this action and in February 2012, the matter was heard before the Supreme Court of Canada. The Attorney General of BC was added as an intervener in the fall of 2011.

What are the future impacts of this case on the municipal sector?

10. **Unionization.** What will the future costs be if the RCMP unionize?