



September 11, 2002

Re: Discussion Paper on the Restructuring of Police Financing

To: Members of the UBCM

My ministry is working to ensure that essential police services are not only maintained but also enhanced. Toward that end, we are developing a plan to reform policing through service integration, greater community involvement, and enhanced efficiencies.

As part of that larger plan, we're examining the way police services are funded. Currently, the province pays for policing in communities with less than 5,000 residents and unincorporated areas, while other communities pay up to one hundred per cent of their policing costs. It's an inequitable system, and one that prevents many small communities and rural areas from having meaningful input into the development and delivery of local police services.

I'm committed to working with local governments to develop a funding system that works for everyone. My ministry has prepared a comprehensive discussion paper, outlining the issues and presenting options to address funding concerns. Please find that paper enclosed. Additional copies can be accessed on our website, at <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/legislation/>

The way we fund police services is a critical public safety issue across the province, and I invite representatives from every municipality and regional district, regardless of size, to attend the UBCM workshop about policing costs on September 23, 2002, just prior to the Whistler Convention. The workshop is designed to answer questions about police financing and give you the chance to comment about restructuring policing costs.

If you are unable to attend the workshop, I welcome your written comments on the discussion paper. You can mail or e-mail them to me at the addresses listed below.

I look forward to meeting you at Whistler.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R.T. Coleman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.T. (Rich) Coleman
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General