

# Staff Report to Council

From the Office of the CAO

FILE: 14-7400-01

REPORT DATE: March 03, 2020      MEETING DATE: March 10, 2020  
TO: Mayor and Council  
FROM: Mark Roberts, Chief Administrative Officer  
SUBJECT: Policing Service Delivery Model – Staff Recommendations

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL:



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## RECOMMENDATION(S):

**WHEREAS** the City of Pitt Meadows recognizes the health and wellness of its citizens as the highest priority;

**AND WHEREAS** City Council believes that the unique needs of Pitt Meadows would be better addressed through an independent RCMP detachment;

**AND WHEREAS** a third party consultation process has resulted in the recommendation of an independent detachment for Pitt Meadows based on key principles identified by Council, including: public safety; improved quality of life and well-being of citizens; improved police response, presence, and visibility; and improved accountability;

**AND WHEREAS** Council believes that a higher quality of service tailored to the Pitt Meadows community is achievable through an independent detachment within the City's current annual operating budget;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Pitt Meadows City Council:

- A. Confirm their intention to request an independent RCMP detachment for Pitt Meadows;  
AND
- B. Direct the Mayor and CAO to submit a letter and business case for an independent detachment to Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Strachan, Commanding Officer "E" Division, and Minister Mike Farnworth, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, for their approval; AND
- C. Upon approval of the independent detachment, direct Staff to:

1. Develop a joint communications strategy and transition plan with the City of Maple Ridge and Katzie First Nation Councils, RCMP, and the Province; AND
2. Prepare a business case that recommends either a renovation of the existing Community Police Office or construction of a new detachment building for Council's consideration at an upcoming regular meeting; OR

D. Other.

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## **PURPOSE**

To present staff's final recommendations to Council regarding the police services model in Pitt Meadows.

☐ Information Report

☒ Decision Report

☐ Direction Report

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Background:**

Since Q1 2019, Council has been discussing police services in Pitt Meadows and related concerns and challenges. These discussions led to the launch of an independent review of Pitt Meadows' policing service delivery by Tonia Enger, Retired Chief Superintendent from Blueline Vantage Consulting. The goal of the police services review was to examine how local RCMP resources were deployed with the goal of enhancing services and responsiveness in Pitt Meadows.

Ms. Enger presented three options to Council, with a recommendation to consider an independent RCMP detachment. These findings were presented to the public at the February 18, 2020 Engagement and Priorities Committee meeting, and were posted online for community review and feedback until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The online feedback, which was largely in support of an independent detachment, has been compiled and will be presented to Council during the same evening and prior to considering this report.

Council has received correspondence from several key stakeholders regarding their support-in-principle of an independent RCMP detachment. Attached to this report, please find:

- Letter of support from MP Marc Dalton (Attachment A);
- Letter of support from MLA Lisa Beare (Attachment B);
- Press release indicating the support of both City of Maple Ridge and Katzie First Nation Councils (Attachment C).

Furthermore, Assistant Commissioner Eric Stubbs, RCMP Criminal Operations Officer, E-Division, and Assistant Commissioner Stephen Thatcher, District Commander, have reviewed the consultant and staff reports and they did not identify any significant concerns or “red flags” with the independent RCMP detachment recommendation. However, ultimate approval resides with the Commanding Officer and Provincial Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

### **Analysis:**

With the large majority of community feedback showing support for an independent RCMP detachment, together with staff’s research, Ms. Enger’s report, and the support of the City’s key stakeholders, Staff is now returning to Council, confident in our recommendation for Council to approve an independent detachment and to seek Commanding Officer and Ministerial approvals.

### **Next Steps:**

1. Obtain Commanding Officer and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of B.C. approval for an independent RCMP Detachment;
2. Prepare communication strategy;
3. Prepare transition plan; and
4. Develop business case to either renovate the existing Community Police Office (CPO) or to construct a new detachment building.

### **COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

☒ Principled Governance   ☐ Balanced Economic Prosperity   ☒ Corporate Excellence  
☒ Community Spirit & Wellbeing   ☐ Transportation & Infrastructure Initiatives

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### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

☐ None   ☐ Budget Previously Approved   ☐ Referral to Business Planning  
☒ Other

Based on high-level estimates, an independent detachment is anticipated to be achieved within the existing \$5.4 million annual operating budget and without a property tax increase.

Further analysis will need to be undertaken to offer Council recommendations to renovate the CPO or to construct a new detachment. The scope of the capital investment and reserve availability will dictate the recommended capital investment and associated funding strategy, both of which will be provided to Council in the intervening months.

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

☒ Inform    ☒ Consult    ☐ Involve    ☐ Collaborate    ☐ Empower

The City has used a variety of communication tools and platforms to engage the community around this important topic and to seek their feedback. The results of this community engagement have been summarized in the March 2, 2020 Staff report titled "Police Services Review Communications and Engagement" and is included on the March 10, 2020 regular Council agenda.

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## **KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS**

Referral    ☒ Yes    ☐ No

Pitt Meadows City Council met with Katzie First Nation Council on February 6, 2020 and shared the Police Services Report and recommendations. KFN expressed their support for an independent RCMP detachment for Pitt Meadows at the time and as evident in a recent Press Release (see Attachment C).

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## **SIGN-OFFS**

**Written by:**

Mark Roberts, Chief Administrative Officer

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## **ATTACHMENT(S):**

- A. Letter of support from MP Marc Dalton
- B. Letter of support from MLA Lisa Beare
- C. Press Release indicating support of independent detachment from Katzie First Nation and City of Maple Ridge Councils



# MARC DALTON

M.P. Pitt Meadows/  
Maple Ridge

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Bill Dingwall

Mayor

City of Pitt Meadows

12007 Harris Rd  
Pitt Meadows, BC  
V3Y 2B5

Re: Pitt Meadows Independent RCMP Detachment  
Request

Dear Mayor Dingwall,

As the Member of Parliament for Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge, I understand how much our community has grown and with it comes change. There are specific and distinct needs that exist between the two cities and because of this I fully support the Mayor and Council as they forecast and anticipate the future needs of the City of Pitt Meadows with this proposal. The fact that Maple Ridge Mayor and Council are also supportive is quite positive.

The security of residents is paramount, and I believe this initiative is important for Pitt Meadows and community safety.

Sincerely,

Marc Dalton, MP  
Pitt Meadows - Maple ridge



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA



July 2, 2019

RE: Pitt Meadows Independent RCMP Detachment Request

Dear Mayor Dingwall,

Thank you for copying me on your letter to Assistant Commissioner Thatcher, of June 7, 2019.

As the MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, I understand the complexities and distinctly different policing needs of the two cities. I appreciate Mayor and Council anticipating the future needs of the City of Pitt Meadows and support you moving forward with this proposal.

I support the City of Pitt Meadows' work to continue developing the detailed business case for service delivery and the appraisal of the financial impacts with the RCMP and the City of Maple Ridge

I look forward to being kept apprised of the developments as they are available.

Sincerely,

Lisa Beare, MLA

Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows



# Katzie First Nation and the City of Maple Ridge Support the City of Pitt Meadows Aspirations to Create an Independent RCMP Detachment

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

**File Number:** 2020-03

## **Katzie First Nation and the City of Maple Ridge Support the City of Pitt Meadows Aspirations to Create an Independent RCMP Detachment**

**PITT MEADOWS, BC** – Since June, 2019, the cities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows have been working collaboratively with the local and district RCMP with respect to community safety and policing services. For the City of Pitt Meadows, this work led to the contracting of Tonia Enger, an independent consultant to complete an RCMP Services Review for the City, which was subsequently completed in January 2020.

The goals of both cities have been to examine current service levels and models with the view of enhancing public health and safety in both communities while addressing the escalating demands on police officers and support staff. In addition, discussions have occurred with the Katzie First Nation (KFN) around policing service levels and their desires.

The KFN and both cities continue to recognize the day-to-day efforts along with the challenging and complex environment for Officer-in-Charge Superintendent Jennifer Hyland, her officers, support staff and volunteers as they strive to keep us safe. This includes the courage demonstrated by our officers by placing themselves often in harm's-way. Also acknowledged is the tremendous support and advice provided by Assistant Commissioner Stephen Thatcher (Lower Mainland District Commander) and Assistant Commissioner Eric Stubbs (Criminal Operations Officer for B.C.) along with departments out of E Division including Property Management, Departmental Security and Operations Strategy Branch.

On February 4, 2020, the City of Maple Ridge hosted a closed Council-to-Council meeting with the City of Pitt Meadows and staff during which the service review was discussed. On February 6, the City of Pitt Meadows met with KFN Council-to-Council to discuss the review.

By unanimous support, the City of Maple Ridge Council and Katzie First Nation formally endorsed the aspirations of Pitt Meadows and with support through engagement with our Pitt Meadows community, the City would seek approvals from E Division and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General for the creation of an independent RCMP Detachment. This would then also include all stakeholders working collaboratively with Pitt Meadows through a transition period which could take one to three years.

**Mayor, City of Maple Ridge:** “At a recent Council-to-Council meeting with Pitt Meadows we were briefed on the progress of their independent Police Service Review and the intent to move forward with a public consultation process with their citizens as to how police services are delivered in their community,” says Mayor Mike Morden. “We have an excellent relationship with Pitt Meadows and continue to collaborate on many fronts. We recognize and respect the aspirations of our neighbour to shape a public safety model that delivers on their vision for Pitt Meadows. As Pitt Meadows citizens and Council move forward with this work we are committed to supporting the final decisions made and continue to collaborate for the mutual benefit of our citizens as we have for over a century.”


**Chief, Katzie First Nation:** “With Pitt Meadows, we have service agreements for water, sewer and fire services and our staff work closely with the City of Pitt Meadows staff on issues such as diking, bylaws, cultural preservation, land restoration, and planning,” says Chief Grace George. “Our Nation has land that stretches across many communities including Maple Ridge, however our community living parcels are within Langley, Surrey (Barnston Island), and Pitt Meadows. Our Council believes that a detachment in Pitt Meadows will enhance public safety for our community while advancing our relationship even further. Hay ce·p ǵə (Thank you).”

**Mayor, City of Pitt Meadows:** “Pitt Meadows is proud to say that we continue to enjoy a great relationship with Maple Ridge and the Katzie First Nation,” says Mayor Bill Dingwall. “We remain committed to continuing our collaboration on a variety of important and mutual issues of interest and concern. The support provided by KFN and the City of Maple Ridge with our police services review recommendations is very much appreciated. It recognizes and validates our unique community, our goals and desires, while highlighting the importance of maintaining and enhancing our relationships. It is also important to acknowledge the excellent police services and relationships we have enjoyed with the City of Maple Ridge, the RCMP, support staff and volunteers by being part of an integrated detachment over many, many years.”



The City of Pitt Meadows gratefully acknowledges support from Federal MP Marc Dalton and Provincial MLA, Minister Lisa Beare on their support for enhanced public safety for the City of Maple Ridge, KFN and the City of Pitt Meadows.

On February 18, 2020 the City of Pitt Meadows is hosting an Engagement and Priorities Committee meeting to discuss this important public safety initiative and to solicit feedback. The meeting is being held at 7pm at the Heritage Hall at 12460 Harris Road in Pitt Meadows. An invitation to attend has been mailed to each household along with advertising in the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News and through social media.

For those unable to attend, there is an opportunity to provide feedback online at [haveyoursaypittmeadows.ca](https://haveyoursaypittmeadows.ca)  . For more information, visit [pittmeadows.ca/policereview](https://pittmeadows.ca/policereview).

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**For more information please contact:**

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