



BRITISH
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VIA MAIL

Ref. 628627

April 1, 2022

His Worship Colin Basran
Mayor of the City of Kelowna
Co-Chair BC Urban Mayor's Caucus
1435 Water Street
Kelowna BC V1Y 1J4
Email: cbasran@kelowna.ca

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
Co-Chair BC Urban Mayors' Caucus
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6
Email: lhelps@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Basran and Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter of February 15, 2022, and your advocacy on behalf of the British Columbia Urban Mayors' Caucus (BCUMC) for the implementation of a provincial 9-1-1 cellular telephone levy to support 911 and emergency service delivery model in British Columbia.

We understand the importance of the role that 9-1-1 emergency communications plays in the delivery of emergency services, and that the decreased revenue from traditional funding sources such as landline levies have been a challenge for the cities and municipalities of British Columbia. We are also aware that forthcoming upgrades of the system to Next Generation 9-1-1, which will bring needed modernization to the system, will have financial implications.

I can assure you that we have heard your concerns regarding the impact these costs are having on municipalities. The Province is interested in supporting local government efforts to both establish and maintain 9-1-1 services and recognize its role in the promotion of public safety.

The ministry will look to assess future funding models for 9-1-1 costs in the context of policing and public safety modernization and implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on reforming the *Police Act* which are anticipated in late April 2022.

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His Worship Colin Basran and Her Worship Lisa Helps
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I appreciate your patience as ministry staff work through these issues. Through continued partnership, we are confident we can work together to address the concerns of the BCUMC and enhance the BC emergency service delivery model.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
and Deputy Premier

pc: Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, UBCM President