



BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 653059

May 18, 2023

Loyal Wooldridge
Office of the Chair
Regional District of Central Okanagan
1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna BC V1W 3Z4
Email: Chair@rdco.com; sandra.ballan-brown@rdco.com

Dear Loyal Wooldridge:

Thank you for your February 23, 2023 letter, regarding the Regional District of Central Okanagan Board's request for assistance with Next Generation 9-1-1 funding.

Building safer communities in British Columbia is a top priority of this government. As you are likely aware on March 1, 2023, the Province announced a \$150 million investment to offset local governments' costs for transitioning to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911). This investment will lower the costs for local governments to fund the technological upgrades required to meet the March 4, 2025, deadline mandated by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

This one-time investment is comprised of two parts: \$90 million allocated to E-Comm to offset local government NG911 implementation costs; and \$60 million allocated to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to administer as a grant for local governments, service providers and First Nations to offset soft costs such as staffing, training and quality assurance. These allocations were made available to E-Comm and UBCM at end of March 2023. If you have any questions regarding this funding, please contact David Pilling, Director, Policing and Security Branch by email at: David.Pilling@gov.bc.ca or at: 778-698-8375.

I am aware of and appreciate the ongoing operational, labour, and resourcing challenges at E-Comm. These challenges are not unique to E-Comm and are being experienced in several jurisdictions across the country. To address these challenges, E-Comm has developed and is implementing a transformational plan, and this will take time. Policing and Security Branch staff are in regular contact with E-Comm and continue to monitor its progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "M" and a trailing flourish.

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

pc: Megan Harris, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Transformation Team