



## Justice

### Finance Corporate Services Unit

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Mr. Stéphane Cyr  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of the District of Clare  
PO Box 458  
Little Brook, NS B0W 1Z0

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Dear Mr. Cyr:

As the 2016-17 fiscal year approaches, we in the Department of Justice would like to advise you of updated information regarding the anticipated costs of the RCMP and the expected costing of DNA analysis.

#### RCMP Costs 2016/17

To enable municipalities to properly plan for the upcoming year, it is advised that on a portfolio basis we expect the cost of policing to increase by 3.9% over the 2015/16 costs.

The Province and RCMP have been working together to find savings and to ensure that all cost projections for 2016-17 are reasonable, ensure the safety of the public, and provide adequately for day to day operations. We are also working actively to identify areas where projections can be updated to reflect current trends, i.e. lower fuel costs. The budget letters provided in the spring of 2016 will reflect the results of the reviews and ensure that any efficiencies identified are reflected in those figures. We understand the economic pressures facing municipalities and are aware of the importance to balance affordability with public safety. The RCMP understand this as well, and I thank them for their willingness to find efficiencies wherever possible.

Throughout the planning process for the 2015/16 year, we included the expectation that the RCMP's salary adjustment would be for 1.5% for both January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016. We were notified that the estimated increase for both fiscal years may well be a 2.5% increase for both years. This increase is in line with recently arbitrated settlements between Nova Scotia municipalities and their own police services.

As a result of the federal election and the transition to a new federal party, it is unlikely that this settlement will be finalized prior to March 31st, 2016. Our current cost projections are based on the assumption that these increases will materialize early in 2016/17.

In addition to the potential salary costs, we are experiencing increases in other cost categories including the Police Reporting and Occurrence System (PROS), Accommodations Program Charge, etc. These costs are calculated on a per officer basis, as is the formula utilized by the Department to calculate the recovery from municipalities.

#### New RCMP Labour Relations Regime

In January of 2015 and based on the Mounted Police Association of Ontario, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) ruled that the RCMP's Staff Relations Representative Program does not allow RCMP members the necessary freedom of association to allow for a meaningful process of

collective bargaining to enable them to determine and pursue their collective interests. The SCC imposed a deadline of January 2016 for the implementation of a new labour relations regime for the RCMP. To date, consultations have been conducted with members of the RCMP, and discussions have been ongoing at the Contract Management Committee level for the Provincial Police Service Agreements. The Government of Canada has been granted a short extension to May 2016. It is expected in the upcoming months that we will be provided with an overview of the new labour relations regime. We will continue to update you on the new model as we move closer to the resolution of this issue.

#### Biological Casework Analysis Agreement

The Biological Casework Analysis Agreement provides Nova Scotia's municipalities with DNA analysis arising from criminal investigations. DNA analysis is an important and affordable service that helps solve crimes. It is valued by Nova Scotia's policing services.

The current agreement (2014-2024) resulted in a new costing model, as advised to municipalities in 2013 (March 28th) by the Department of Justice and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs. For the purposes of planning, your municipality's cost is expected to be approximately \$ 7,102.09 in 2016-17.

The expected cost to Nova Scotia in 2016-17 is \$988,849.89. This compares to \$732,481.40 in 2015-16 and \$512,736.98 in 2014-15. This increase is due to the implementation of the new costing model utilized under the agreement that provided for a three year phase-in of the model. Prior to the current agreement, the province contributed \$219,254 annually for the period of 2004-2014. The funding level provided was held stagnant due to provincial/territorial (PT's) concerns on issues such as processing times, etc.

As in previous years, the proration of the cost to municipalities will be reassessed upon release of the "Total Uniform Assessment" for the 2016/17 fiscal year by the Department of Municipal Affairs. The invoice that you will receive in summer 2016 will show the reassessed amount.

Effective April 1, 2017, the transition to the new costing model will be fully complete. The provinces will then share in 54% of the average actual costs incurred by Canada during the previous two fiscal years. The amount paid will then be reset every two years thereafter.

For the fiscal year 2014/15, the BCAA program cost the Government of Canada \$25.8M, with a budgeted cost of \$26.3M for the 15/16 fiscal year. During 2014-15, the program received 348 request for analysis from the Province and 6,454 in total (5.4% of cases).

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me.

Yours truly,



Wanda Fletcher