

Request for Decision

Title	Sturgeon County Position on Alberta Provincial Policing Proposal
Proposed Motion	That Council endorse the Rural Municipalities of Alberta's advocacy position in continued support of the RCMP for policing in Alberta, and that proposed new monies for an Alberta Provincial Police Service instead be invested in underfunded policing and critical services within the province.
Administrative Recommendation	Administration presents this matter for Council's consideration and discretion regarding a potential advocacy position.
Previous Council / Committee Direction	None.
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In early 2021, the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (JSG) Ministry announced plans to explore the development of an Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS), including reporting and public engagement with municipalities. This idea comes following a recommendation for a provincial police force from the Province's "Fair Deal Panel". At the Spring 2022 convention, RMA members endorsed resolution 4-22S: Continued Support for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Alberta, opposing the proposed APPS model. Alberta Municipalities, the municipal association representing urban municipalities, also passed a motion in March opposing the creation of an APPS. It is the position of the RMA that significant issues remain with the proposed APPS model, including (as outlined by the RMA in their review of the proposed model and supporting reports): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It does not demonstrate how service levels would be increased in rural areas, nor does it outline how proposed resources would be allocated. There was neither a qualitative nor quantitative cost/benefit analysis. Reporting from the province also identifies an annual increase in provincial costs due to the transition, as 30% of the provincial policing costs covered by the federal government would be lost; an extra \$366 million would be borne by Alberta taxpayers for the transition and at least \$139 million per year for operations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The APPS proposal does not highlight why desired outcomes cannot be achieved within the existing RCMP arrangement. Recent RCMP efforts to improve rural services has resulted in significant decreases in rural crime rates. ○ Little public consultation has taken place; some consultation has taken place with municipal leaders (demonstrating widespread opposition to the proposed approach from these municipal leaders). ○ There is concern about the ability to hire the necessary number of officers (particularly trained officers) and administrative support to staff the APPS in a timely manner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the same time, various critical services are underfunded in Alberta (including housing and air ambulance services, among others). The \$366 million that would be funneled to a provincial police service could be better allocated towards closing existing gaps in critical provincial services. <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturgeon County has participated in engagement sessions hosted for municipal leaders. <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 1, 2022 a Collective Agreement with the federal government and RCMP came into effect that sees retroactive pay issued to RCMP members. Administration continues to monitor for advocacy related to the retroactive pay.
Implication of Administrative Recommendation	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Thriving Communities – Ensuring that policing services best serve the needs of rural residents, and that financial resources are allocated to underfunded critical services to create safe, welcoming, and diverse communities.</p> <p>Collaborative Governance – Endorsing this motion could support respectful and informed debate as it relates to the ongoing consultation and engagement on Provincial Police Services.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u> None.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u> None.</p>
Alternatives Considered	Council could choose not to support the proposed motion.
Implications of Alternatives	Council would not take a formal position on this issue.
Follow up Action	1. Notify RMA that Council has approved this motion (Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Services, April 2022).

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Continue to monitor advancements on implementation of the APPS (Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Services, Q2 2022). 3. Continue to monitor advancement on the matter of RCMP retroactive pay (Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Services, Q2 2022).
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attachment 1: RMA Official Statement: The RMA Formally Opposes the Creation of an Alberta Provincial Police Service 2. Attachment 2: Backgrounder: Rural Municipalities of Alberta Opposition to Alberta Provincial Police Service Transition
Report Reviewed by:	<p>Karim Khamisa, Acting Manager, Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Services</p> <p>Travis Peter, General Manager, Development & Strategic Services</p> <p>Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO</p>

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: *Offering a rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and natural experiences, Sturgeon County is a municipality that honours its rural roots and cultivates desirable communities. Uniquely situated to provide world-class agricultural, energy, and business investment opportunities, the County prioritizes responsible stewardship and dreaming big.*

Guiding Principles: Collaboration | Accountability | Flexibility | Excellence | Safety | Future Readiness | Affordability | Innovation

Community Outcome	Not consistent	Consistent	N/A
Planned Growth			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally competitive to attract, grow and sustain diverse businesses; tenacious focus on new growth and innovation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern broadband and digital capabilities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low cost, minimal red-tape regulations 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thriving Communities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautiful, surprising places with high standards; integrated natural spaces & trail systems; healthy and resilient 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging cultural, historical, and civic amenities; strong community identity and pride 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, welcoming, and diverse communities; small community feel and personal connection; commitment to high quality of life 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Stewardship			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean air, land, and water; Carbon neutral municipal practices; circular economy opportunities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of natural areas and agricultural lands; enhanced greening and biodiversity; safekeeping ecosystems 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development; partnerships with industry and others to drive emission reductions 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Governance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable and stable external relationships; volunteer partnerships 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningful connections with Indigenous communities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing community consultation and engagement; transparent and action-oriented decision making based on sound rationale 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged and effective people – Council, Admin and Volunteers; continuous learning and improvement mindset; nimble and bold, with strong leadership 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality cost-effective service delivery; robust procurement and operational practices and policies; asset management and performance measurement; careful debt and reserve stewardship; long-term financial planning and sustainability 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future focused thinking to proactively respond to emerging opportunities and challenges 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative revenue generation and service delivery models integrated strategic and business planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>