



VIA EMAIL

Ref. 633488

October 21, 2022

Karla Kozakevich
President
Southern Interior Local Government Association
PO Box 27017 Cityview PO
Kamloops BC V2E 0B2
c/o Email: yoursilga@gmail.com

Dear Karla Kozakevich:

Thank you for your August 5, 2022 letter and your advocacy for equitable 9-1-1 service delivery across the Province.

As Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, I am responsible for ensuring adequate and effective policing and law enforcement in BC. I understand the critical role that 9-1-1 emergency communications plays in the delivery of emergency services and ensuring public safety. I also understand that the decreased revenue from traditional funding sources such as landline levies and the implementation of Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 have created a challenge for the local governments in British Columbia that are responsible for the cost of emergency communications services.

As you are aware, the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* submitted its report to the Legislative Assembly in April. The report includes a number of recommendations that may enhance the delivery of 9-1-1 and dispatch services across British Columbia, including: opportunities to integrate mental health within 9-1-1 call options (recommendation #4); ensuring equitable access to high quality police and public safety services across BC, including in Indigenous communities (recommendation #5) and creating a fair and equitable shared funding model for municipalities (recommendation #6).

Since May, the ministry and Union of BC Municipalities have been co-chairing the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable. This forum analyzes and discusses the recommendations in the report that impact local governments, including the recommendations related to the delivery of 9-1-1 services. Ministry staff will continue to meet regularly with the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable.

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Karla Kozakevich
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My ministry is currently exploring options to ensure emergency communications services are responsive to public safety needs and that trust and confidence in the system is maintained.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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

pc: Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister
Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Oliver Grüter-Andrew, E-Comm President & CEO