



## A Message from the Chief Constable

October 2022

Collectively, we are mourning the tragic loss of Burnaby RCMP member, Constable Shaelyn Yang, on October 18th. Sadly, this on duty death comes on the heels of the loss of two South Simcoe Police Service officers, a York Regional Police officer and a Toronto Police Service officer in just over a month.

These untimely and tragic deaths of individuals who were carrying out their duty to protect the public, are a stark reminder of the increasing risks faced by police officers across the country. In the law enforcement community, it also reminds us that there is unity in the uniform – no matter the crest we wear – as we support each other through these difficult times.

Our thoughts are with our colleagues with the BC RCMP and in Ontario.

There is no doubt that public safety and policing were significant topics of discussion during Surrey's recent municipal election. The Surrey Police Board will be seeking to provide the newly elected Mayor and Councillors with a fulsome briefing on the significant development of Surrey Police Service (SPS) and the status of the policing transition.

While SPS understands that not all members of the new City Council are supportive of the policing transition, it is important to note that the policing transition is already well underway, under the direction of the three levels of government. The provincial government provided Surrey with the 'green light' to [establish a municipal police department in 2019](#). Over the past three years, millions of dollars have been invested, union agreements were established, over 350 staff were hired by the Surrey Police Board, and 154 SPS officers were deployed to respond to calls for service.

We welcome fulsome discussions with Mayor and Council, however any decision to change course on Surrey's policing model would require the approval of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Through the governance of an independent civilian board, SPS has been built through the hard work of hundreds

of individuals who are committed to creating a police service that is tailored to Surrey residents. Each of our 353 employees chose to leave their previous jobs to join SPS so they could be a part of a new era of policing. They joined us in good faith, knowing that the provincial government had approved this project, and all three levels of government were supporting this historic policing transition. Our people remain committed to SPS and to serving Surrey residents.

On a very different note, SPS has had many positive moments over the past month, including welcoming our second class of recruits, deploying 34 more officers into policing operations, and being featured on the cover of the national Blue Line magazine for their story on “[The birth of a police department](#)”. Other recent highlights included five SPS officers raising over \$30,000 for five Cops for Cancer during the Tour de Valley ride, and SPS’s participation in the Walk for Truth and Reconciliation with the Semiahmoo First Nation.

As the second largest municipal police agency in BC, SPS continues to build a modern police service that focuses on community policing, meaningful public engagement, and taking care of our people so they can take care of the community.

**Surrey Police Service**

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