



A Message from the Chief Constable **February 2023**

Last week we lost one of our own with the sudden and tragic death of a Surrey Police Service (SPS) officer, who was off duty at the time. We are devastated by the loss of this officer who made many friends here during their short time with SPS. We are grateful for the outpouring of support from the Surrey community and the global law enforcement community – we hear you and we appreciate you.

A tragedy like this is extremely difficult to process and we continue to focus on supporting the officer's family and our employees. Wellness is a priority at SPS, and while we can never ensure any one person's wellness, it is critical that as a police agency we invest in it consistently and vigorously.

Wellness is embedded in our culture at SPS – from our policies and practices to our organizational structure. We ensure that supports are in place for our people before they are needed, and we regularly check in on the health and wellness of all employees – particularly those who are experiencing professional or personal stressors.

Later this month, our SPS psychologist and Wellness Unit will be hosting the first SPS Employee Partner Night. This event is part of our ongoing commitment to support the wellness of our people and their families as they navigate the unique challenges of working in policing or having a partner/spouse who works in policing.

As we await the decision by the provincial government on the future of the policing transition, SPS is making fiscally conservative decisions around our spending, while still following the Province's direction to continue to deliver on the transition plan unless there is a new plan approved for Surrey's policing.

In late January, the Province of BC made requests of SPS, the City of Surrey, and the RCMP for additional information to help inform their decision. SPS has provided this information and is looking forward to a timely decision.

In the interim, SPS continues to work on policy development, supporting and training our people, responding to calls for service, and building relationships with the community.

Recently, we visited the Surrey Women's Centre, attended the "WickFest" female hockey festival, and had in-depth conversations with RainCity Housing about their programs so our officers are aware of the housing and support programs available to vulnerable people in Surrey. We also look forward to participating in the [Coldest Night of the Year](#) walk in support of the Cloverdale Community Kitchen.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the community for their ongoing support of SPS. Wherever our officers go, they are met with youth, residents, and business owners who are eager to talk to them about how municipal policing can benefit the community, and why they chose a career in policing. We appreciate your continuing interest and excitement in having your own municipal police service.

Surrey Police Service

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