



November 2022

Update on the Policing Transition

There continues to be significant discussion around Surrey's transition from the RCMP to Surrey Police Service (SPS), including the recent City Council vote (5-4) to retain the RCMP as the police of jurisdiction. While this has introduced a level of uncertainty for all involved, the Province of BC has said [their expectation is that the current transition plan](#) will continue, unless there is a new plan approved by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

The [City of Surrey has advised](#) that they are working to prepare a report that will cover how the City proposes to reverse the transition, including a plan for staffing the Surrey RCMP to their full complement of 734 police officers, which SPS is currently augmenting with what will soon be almost 200 officers who are supporting policing operations. The City's plan would be sent to Minister Mike Farnworth and would require his approval before any changes are made to the status of Surrey's policing transition.

As such, SPS continues to have an obligation to both the Province of BC and Surrey to meet the targets set out in the [transition plan](#) to deploy SPS officers every two months. These SPS officers are needed to maintain critical public safety in Surrey.

SPS is a substantive, functioning police agency that has been approved by the provincial government through legislation. It is a police agency with 315 police officers and 59 civilian employees who made a choice to come work for a municipal police agency and be a part of a new era of policing. They are individuals who were not interested in working for just any police organization – they wanted to be a part of one that is built on a foundation of meaningful community engagement, civilian oversight, accountability, and employee wellness. It is a police agency that is actively – and proudly – providing service to Surrey residents right now.

Surrey Police Service remains committed to fulfilling our obligations in this transition, and to building a local police service that is tailor-made for Surrey.

While the decision will ultimately rest with the Province of BC, everyone at SPS hopes to continue to have the

opportunity to serve Surrey with a modern, accountable police service.

[SPS News Release: Much more to consider in determining fate of Surrey's policing transition](#)

Financial Information

Given the recent discourse around the future of the policing transition, the Surrey Police Board recently provided some [important financial information](#), in addition to the [monthly financials](#) that they post publicly. Using publicly available data, the Board provided a calculation of the total costs that will have been invested into Surrey Police Service (SPS) by the end of this year that would be considered "unrecoverable". This amount is forecasted to be as high as \$107M.

[View Financial Backgrounder](#)

Community Engagement

Connecting with the community through meaningful engagement remains the core focus of Surrey Police Service (SPS). Earlier this month, more than 30 officers gathered at the [Gurdwara Dukh Nivaran Sahib](#) to participate in a large parade which brought together thousands of Surrey residents in celebration of the first Guru of Sikhism. In addition, SPS officers took part in the Guru Nanak Food Bank Drive to help provide meals to those in need.

Some of our officers also made recent visits to the Cloverdale Library story time, Surrey Urban Mission, and Sikh Academy, and attended meetings with the Age Friendly Network, Metis Nation of BC, and Canadian Police Youth Network, among others.

On November 11th, SPS participated in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Cloverdale, South Surrey, and Whalley to honour the courage and sacrifice of those who have served our country.

Surrey Police Service

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