



April 3, 2020

Honourable Doug Schweitzer
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
424 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Schweitzer:

Thank you for taking the time to participate in a teleconference with AUMA and RMA representatives on March 27, 2020. I am writing to reiterate the AUMA's request that the implementation of the new police costing model be delayed until the Province's 2021-22 fiscal year.

AUMA is eager to collaborate with the Government of Alberta to support our communities during the current public health emergency. We have reached out to Treasury Board and Finance to share our thoughts on how to most effectively provide a deferral of municipal and education property taxes for businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic. While AUMA fully supports these payment deferral programs, I must emphasize that Alberta municipalities have limited capabilities as our cashflows are already strained.

While AUMA has supported and requested a fairer and more equitable police funding model, imposing these new costs on municipalities during the pandemic will only exacerbate municipal cashflow problems. Also, most importantly, delaying the implementation of the new police costing model will provide an ability for municipalities to defer any potential property tax rates increases for residential and commercial properties to assist in the economic resiliency in our communities. Additionally, delaying implementation to the 2021-22 fiscal year will properly align the flow of police funding from municipalities to the actual implementation of additional police resources, which for all practical purposes will also occur in 2021.

If implementing the new police costing model this year is inevitable, then based on my understanding that one-third of RCMP vacancies have been filled to date, I ask you to consider invoicing municipalities for only one-third of the total municipal share of policing costs for 2020-21, i.e. \$7,750,000 instead of \$23,250,000.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me by email at president@auma.ca or my cell phone at (403) 363-9224.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Morishita', written in a cursive style.

Barry Morishita
AUMA President

cc: Honourable Honourable Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Al Kemmere, President of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta