

Candace L. Thomas, K.C.
Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General

May 5, 2023

Via Electronic Mail

Ms. Juanita Spencer, CEO
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1304
1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

Dear Ms. Spencer:

Thank you for your letter dated April 3, 2023, regarding municipal policing services and contract policing in Nova Scotia. Subsequently, we have also received a letter addressed to Minister Johns on April 12, 2023, from Ms. Brenda Chisholm-Beaton and you have met with Associate Deputy Minister, Chris Collett who was able to share the position the Province is taking in this matter.

Your letters highlight the increased cost of policing in Nova Scotia in parallel with the increased complexity of public safety. Nova Scotia Department of Justice staff have been in direct communication with contract partners who are covered by the Provincial Police Services Agreement, and they have been made aware of all currently available information related to the evolution of contract policing in Nova Scotia.

Public Safety Canada informed all provinces, territories, and municipalities on March 29, 2023, that it will invoice the retroactive salaries of the RCMP labour contract settled on August 6, 2021, and delivered invoices on March 31, 2023. The Nova Scotia Department of Justice has responded to Public Safety Canada, taking the position to dispute the invoices for the retroactive salaries on the basis that the Province was not privy to the collective agreement negotiations.

Public Safety Canada's 2023-24 Departmental Plan includes reference to an assessment of the contract policing program to be led by the Minister of Public Safety, in consultation with relevant partners. The objective is to hear from provinces, territories, municipalities, and others about their long-term vision for policing. If the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities or your members would like to participate in the assessment, please reach out directly to Public Safety Canada.

Sincerely,



Candace L. Thomas, K.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice
and Deputy Attorney General

cc: Hon. Brad Johns, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities