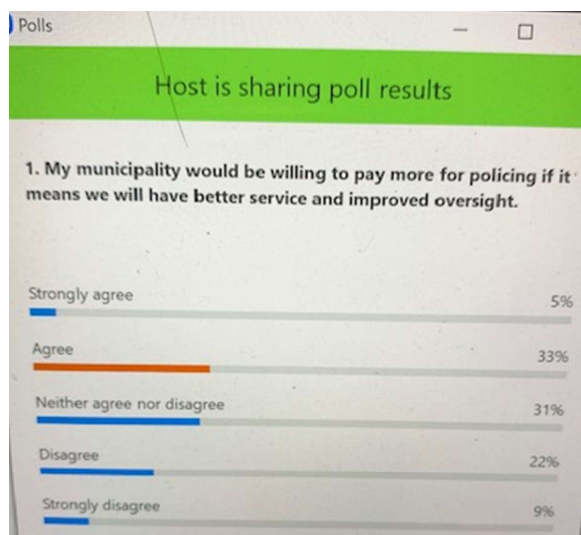
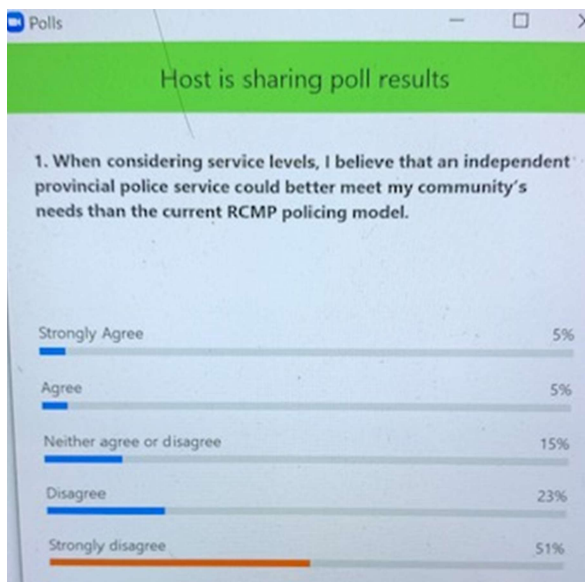
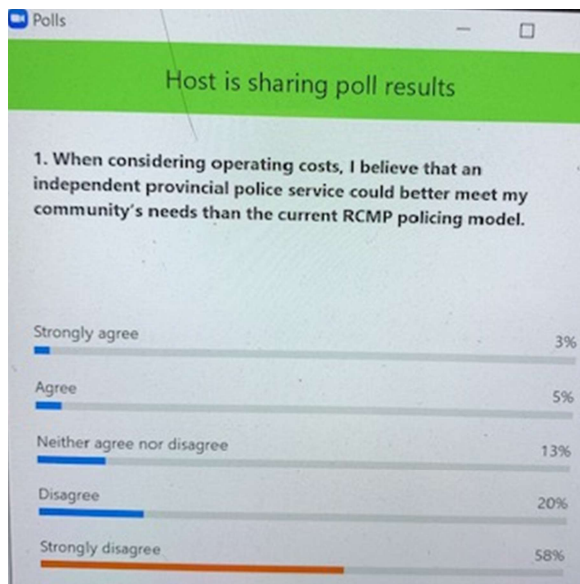


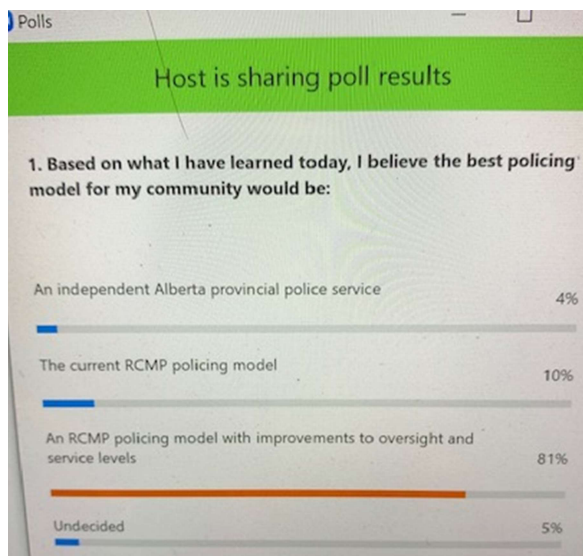
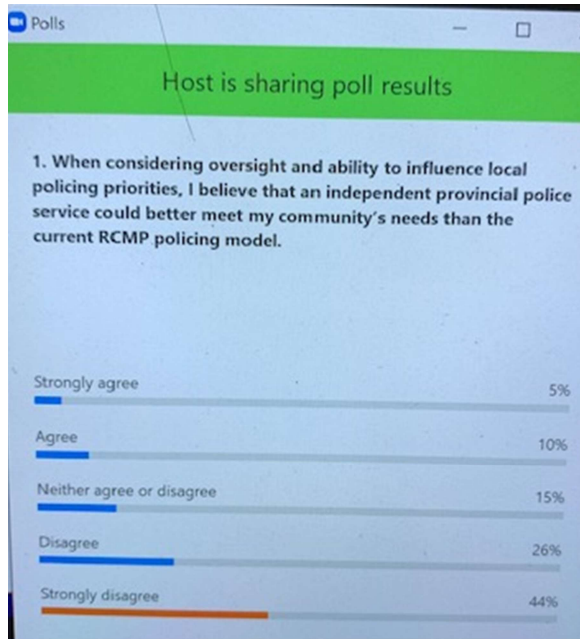
On Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, the rural municipalities association (RMA) and the Alberta urban municipalities association AUMA) put on a webinar regarding the Alberta Government's initiative to explore pulling out of the current RCMP contract with the Federal Government and replacing it with a Provincial police force. I wanted to share the information with you. This information is directly as I have interpreted it from the webinar and is not a Mountain View County Council position. I have tried to be as complete as I can be. As always, I apologize for any information that may not be correct or is outdated.

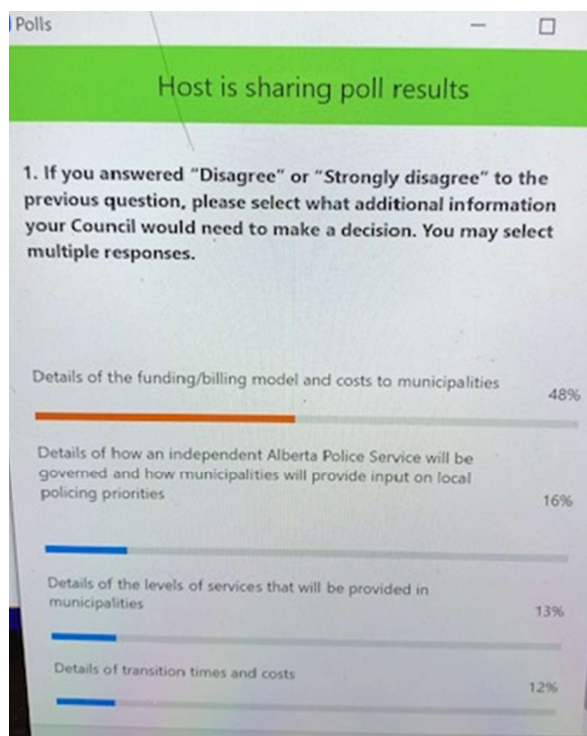
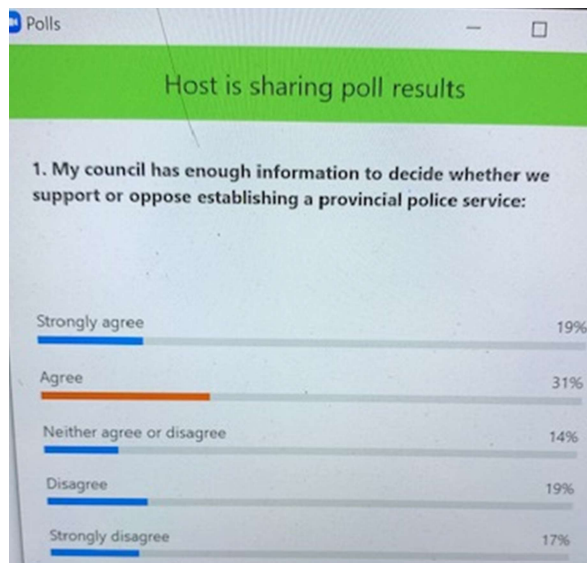
The Minister of Justice, Kayce Madu, joined the webinar briefly to give a presentation. He also took a few questions that I have summarized. We also had the Deputy Commissioner for the RCMP, Curtis Zablocki joined the webinar. RMA information is also provided data.

As both AUMA and RMA have lobbied, Municipalities have very little information regarding the benefits (or lack of) to creating a Provincial police force to replace the current RCMP as a police service. The Ontario Provincial police force was established in 1909, Quebec's Provincial police force was restructured in 1938 and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary was formed in 1841 so there are no recent transition cost comparisons at a Provincial level to refer too. What we do know is that at a municipal level transition costs are high and taxes have increased when a transition to municipal policing has been done (Surrey BC is currently going through this, resulting in a 63M\$ transition cost, one time tax payment of \$200 per household and a 2.9% increase in taxes for the coming year). There were 635 elected officials (that number may include staff and CAO's) on the webinar including members from both rural and urban municipalities. At the end of the webinar, the participants were asked some survey questions and I thought it would be most interesting for you to see what those results looked like so you can see how good or bad your elected officials are representing your views. The Province states that 10's of thousands of citizens were consulted and that is what is driving this initiative. We all realize that there are issues with the current policing model, but the majority of those seem to stem from the criminal code and our lack of being able to properly deal with repeat offenders.









## Minister of Justice

- The purpose of the ongoing study is to reform and modernize policing in Alberta.
- Citizens are demanding a reform to policing seen by the demonstration regarding what happened to George Floyd and the police conduct captured on video and racial interactions from some citizens with police.
- The men and women of law enforcement respect the citizens they protect.
- The Police act has not been reformed since it was released in 1988. We can address the concerns that have been brought forward regarding police conduct and how police undertake

their duties and to strengthen the relationship between indigenous and police and rebuild public trust.

- 10's of thousands of Albertans have been consulted.
- From the fair deal panel (<https://www.alberta.ca/fair-deal-panel.aspx>) There is frustration with the effectiveness of policing in rural Alberta. A concern about the realities of a police force that is managed so far away from Ottawa. Many are concerned about the tension between front line services and Ottawa's objects. The current policing model is bureaucratic or unwilling to address local issues, especially in rural. Response times, officer availability and policing continuity from frequent transfer of RCMP members is a concern.

### Police Transition Study: Why Now?

- Fair Deal Panel, Recommendation 14: Create an Alberta Police Service to replace the RCMP:
  - Tension between the RCMP's federal/national responsibilities and contract policing in Alberta
  - Concerns that the RCMP is overly bureaucratic
  - Concerns about RCMP resourcing levels, response times and officer availability
  - Concerns about policing continuity in smaller, more remote communities.
- The possibility of transitioning an Alberta provincial police presents a unique opportunity to re-imagine how policing is delivered in the province

Alberta

- The Government is listening to the concerns of Albertan's. The recommendation of a Provincial police force required further study, resulting in the transition study (being done by Price Waterhouse Coopers) to find out if there are better approaches to provincial policing to address the concerns of Albertans and not special interest groups. We will make an informed decision based on this study which will be evidence based. No decisions have been made as of yet.

### Transition Study

Objective

PwC will conduct a feasibility study of a possible transition from the RCMP to an Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS).






The contractor will provide a comprehensive analysis of the:

- Operational requirements
- Process steps
- Costs

The goal is to produce an evidence-based and objective assessment of the factors associated with establishing an APPS that will assist the Province in its consideration of the Fair Deal Panel's recommendation.

Alberta

### Transition Study - Key Considerations

 <p>Envision and build a 21<sup>st</sup> Century police service for Alberta that listens, and responds to communities' concerns and aspirations.</p>	 <p>Determine how a potential APPS would recruit and train its members. Focus employment benefits for Albertans.</p>	 <p>Leverage partners, technology &amp; organizational design to improve police services provided to both rural and urban Alberta.</p>	 <p>Eliminate the risk to public safety and ongoing investigations during any transition.</p>	 <p>Determine the costs related to establishing a new provincial police service and transitioning from the RCMP.</p>
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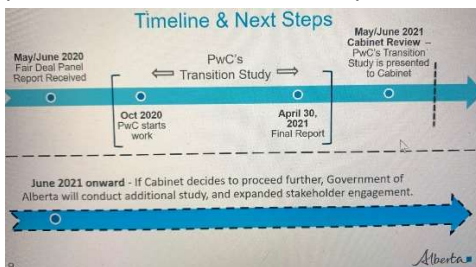
Alberta

- We know a transition from RCMP to Provincial policing will be a complex process. We have asked the contractor if a better level of service can be delivered by our own police force as paying more for the same level of service does not make sense. The contractor is to bring



forward a model that will increase the level of service in policing for citizens, a corner stone of policing. Improve policing for indigenous, marginalized, rural and all Albertans. Must reflect Albertas communities.

- Many are concerned about the cost and impacts on local police services. A Provincial police model must enhance community policing, increase level of services, and not incur additional costs for municipalities. Currently the Federal Government contributes 160M\$ to Policing through the RCMP and the Province and municipalities contribute 600M\$. If we were to transition to a Provincial police force, the Province will lose the current federal contribution of 160M\$. The question to the contractor is can we offset the cost of losing the Federal dollars with increased efficiency?
- The final report from PwC is expected to be presented by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Government will make a decision to move forward with a feasibility study after that which will include consultation for a transition plan. The process must be thoughtful, deliberate, and clearly understood.
- Next steps, Phase 3 will conclude end of February, Phase 4 ends early April, Phase 5 presentation to GoA end of April



## Q&A with the Minister

(Q) How will policing on reserves be managed? (A) Currently we have a tripartite agreement with first nations, provincial and federal government. Some reserves already have their own first nations policing that is recognized in the police act. It presents and opportunity to ensure we have policing more closer to our people and community that take into account their local circumstances.

(Q) Why can't the changes the GoA want be made within the current RCMP framework? (A) This is not about the men and women from the RCMP who do amazing work, but this is about our province and the future of policing in our province. We are talking about an RCMP that are controlled from Ottawa which will not meet our requirements. We will not be the first province to do this. We have been elected to pursue what is in the best interest of Albertans. People are still having issues with community policing where call outs are taking upward of 2 hours.

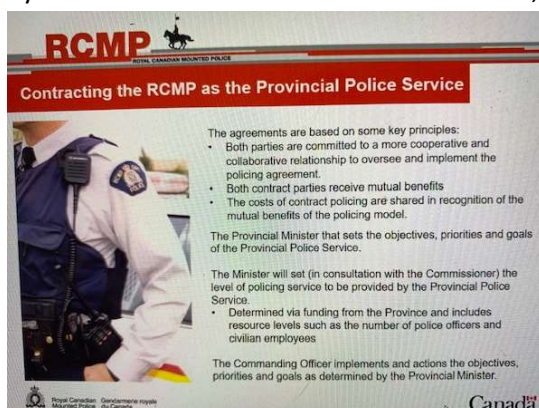
(Q) Who is going to pay for provincial policing? (A) I have made a commitment that municipalities do not fund the extra costs if there are any. We will also only do this if we are providing value and better services, otherwise we will retain the RCMP model. We understand that budgets are constrained right now and we are carefully weighing all the options, of which funding will be a part of the study.

(Q) What is the plan to deal with habitual offenders? How does changing the logo on the door address this? (A) The solution lies in taking a comprehensive look at all of the issues and factors that contribute to this problem. We are reviewing things like the traffic safety act, police act, regulatory offenses and urging the federal government to review the criminal code. If there are things within our control in our province we must do that. The RCMP is a great organization but we need to be in charge of our own destination.

(Q) Continuity of staffing in rural and small communities is a problem. How will this proposal address this? (A) Every province is unique and so we want to make sure we are providing the services that our communities expect. All of these questions will be answered through the ongoing process.

### Deputy RCMP commissioner, Curtis Zablocki

- Public safety Canada and the GoA entered into a contract for RCMP as the Provincial police service in 2012, both parties receive mutual benefits.  
<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=31119E29C72B8-94D2-0888-764FC9E45F4B9CA3>
- The Provincial minister sets the policing structure, number of detachments, # of personal and changes to resource deployment, level of police services (# of police officers and civilian employees). The RCMP Commanding officers action the objectives and goals set by the provincial minister. Senior assistant deputy minister and RCMP Commanding officers deliver services through an almost daily interaction. The RCMP adhere to the policing standards set out by the Province of Alberta who have control, input and influence.



- Concerns have been raised about turn over by transfers, the RCMP does have a mobility policy. Transfers provide more experiences which make better officers, increased ability to fill communities that are more remote and isolated which will be a challenge for provincial police services.
- What is the RCMP doing to change the narrative? Community engagement is key and that people feel they have input and a choice in their policing.

## RMA

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 RMA created a background paper on the Provincial Investigation into creating an Alberta Police force. I have included the executive summary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY In May 2020, Alberta's Fair Deal Panel (FDP) released a final report comprised of 25 recommendations "for actions that Alberta can take to get fair treatment within Confederation." One of the recommendations from the report was to "Create an Alberta Police Service to replace the RCMP." The Province accepted the recommendation as a recommendation "where there is support to conduct further analysis". Starting in the fall of 2020 the province has moved quickly on this recommendation and through the Justice and Solicitor General department, established a new Provincial Police Services Transition Secretariat. Subsequently, PriceWaterhouseCooper (PwC) was selected to undertake the "Alberta Provincial Police Service Transition Study". The study is scheduled to be completed by April 30, 2021. RMA has not specifically supported or opposed the creation of a provincial police service, but has instead focused its advocacy to both the Fair Deal Panel and now Alberta Justice and Solicitor General on three areas: ∞ Municipalities should not face increased costs to support the shift to a provincial police service. ∞ A provincial police service should provide the same or an increased level of service to what is currently provided by the RCMP. ∞ A provincial police service should provide the same or an increased level of municipal and community input into police to what is currently provided by the RCMP. The FDP Final report acknowledges Alberta would lose the current 30% federal RCMP funding cost share of \$112 M with a transition to a provincial police force. Initial RMA analysis also indicates numerous other costs required to form a large new force to add to the cost impact. Additionally, jurisdictional policing salary comparisons suggest salary savings would not be probable due to the current low comparative pay of the RCMP. Recent detailed Alberta polling by the National Police Federation is shared that contrasts the FDP's one survey question that addressed support for a provincial police service. The FDP's survey question asked respondents to rank several options being reviewed by the panel based on the extent to which each would improve Alberta's place in Confederation. Among the 13 options that received rankings, a provincial police service ranked 11th, ahead of only Alberta separating from Canada and the appointment of a provincial Chief Firearms Officer. The National Police Federation poll in contrast showed substantial satisfaction for the RCMP through various questions and asked a specific question about opinions on forming a provincial police force. Only 6% of respondents in communities served by RCMP supported replacing the RCMP with a provincial police service. Next steps are projected with the only thing known for sure that is that PwC Alberta Provincial Police Service Transition Study is expected to be complete by April 30, 2021. It is anticipated that a referendum question asking Albertans whether to create an Alberta Police Service to



replace the RCMP might be added to the October 2021 municipal election ballot with other provincial referendum questions being considered.