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08.04.16 → V&R Police
Board

April 8, 2008

His Worship Sam Sullivan
Mayor of the City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

Chief Constable Jim Chu
Vancouver Police Department
312 Main Street
Vancouver BC V6A 2T2

Mr. Tom Stamatakis
President
Vancouver Police Union
202 - 190 Alexander Street
Vancouver BC V6A 1B5

Dear Mayor Sullivan, Chief Constable Chu and Mr. Stamatakis:

I am responding to your March 5, 2008 letter, concerning the importance of an equitable allocation of the federal funds that will be made available to British Columbia through the Police Recruitment Trust.

Organized crime and violence associated with gangs affects all British Columbians.

According to the 2007 Integrated Threat Assessment on Organized Crime prepared by Criminal Intelligence Service British Columbia:

- There were 129 known criminal organizations in British Columbia in 2007, including 42 newly identified since 2006. The number of groups associated with organized crime has doubled in four years.
- The current policing resources have the capacity to target just 30 per cent of those groups leaving 70 per cent to continue to operate free of any significant law enforcement response.

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In terms of homicides:

- From 2000 to 2006, the proportion of homicides in this province, attributable to organized crime and/or the illicit drug trade, has remained constant at about 30 per cent.
- So far in 2008, according to the latest RCMP statistics, RCMP Lower Mainland District/ Metro Vancouver detachments have recorded 19 homicides while Vancouver Police Department recorded nine for a total of 28. And as of Monday, April 4, 2008, there have been eight homicides in 12 days in the Metro Vancouver area.

The problem is already significant and it is growing which is presenting a serious public safety threat to communities throughout the province. British Columbia's proven integrated policing strategy has demonstrated success in combating organized crime and gang violence but bolstering those resources remains a priority.

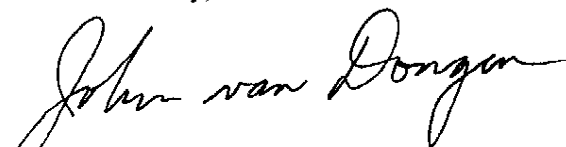
While final decisions have yet to be made, it is imperative that the Province take a close look at utilizing the federal funding to improve coordination between the policing agencies currently dedicated to the fight against organized crime as well as increasing capacity in those same organizations. It is also important to keep in mind that adding more resources in these key areas will free up existing policing resources for front line policing.

I should also point out that Vancouver is already the recipient of other provincially funded police related initiatives:

- Vancouver receives \$13 million in traffic fine revenue every year since the Province started returning 100 per cent to municipalities for public safety;
- The Province funds approximately 80 officers who are working on integrated units that focus on crime problems that impact Vancouver;
- The Province covers all of the costs of Vancouver Police Department's biological/DNA costs;
- The Province funds a major portion of the Police Academy, of which Vancouver is the biggest user; and
- The Province also provides helicopter coverage for Vancouver at no cost to the City.

Thank you for writing. I appreciate your commitment to keeping our streets and communities safe for all British Columbians.

Yours sincerely,



John van Dongen
Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable Stockwell Day
Mr. Gary MacIsaac
Mr. Gord Steeves