



# VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS, LEAD CO-CHAIR

MAYOR LISA HELPS, DEPUTY CO-CHAIR

February 21, 2019

City of Victoria Council  
#1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

*Via email*

Dear Councillors:

## **RE: Employers Health Tax – Victoria Police Department 2019 Budget**

At the City of Victoria Committee of the Whole meeting on February 14, 2019, Council passed a series of motions with respect to the 2019 VicPD provisional budget:

- *That Council reaffirm its position limiting the increase in policing expenditures accounting for all items in the budget not to exceed the rate of inflation plus 1% tax increase related to the police budget.*
- *That Council does not approve the increase proposed for executive services, support services, or centralized corporate costs, unrelated to retirement benefits, in order to provide the Chief Constable with the maximum flexibility in order to determine how best to allocate the funding increase approved by Council.*
- *That Council invites the Chief Constable and/or the Police Board to submit a revised budget prior to final adoption of the City of Victoria's 2019 Financial Plan, proposing adjusted increases in these line items or other line items, with the total proposed increase for policing expenditures not to exceed the rate of inflation plus 1% tax increase related to the police budget.*

The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board is in receipt of the motions of Council and are in the process of considering the impacts of the motions. We will respond to Council in due course.

In the interim, we note that Council's first resolution limits to the increase in police expenditures to the rate of inflation plus 1% inclusive of the \$690,000 for the Employers Health Tax. Requiring the Victoria Police Department to absorb the cost of the Employer's Health Tax without additional funding specifically for this purpose is inconsistent with the approach taken by Council with respect to all other city departments. In the case of the other departments, this expenditure has not been added as an additional cost to existing budgets or absorbed within authorized increases. Therefore, the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board is requesting that Council consider revising their motion and cover this new expense in a manner consistent with the rest of the City's internal budgets.

Yours truly,



**Mayor Barbara Desjardins**  
Lead Co-Chair



**Mayor Lisa Helps**  
Deputy Co-Chair