



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS, LEAD CO-CHAIR

MAYOR LISA HELPS, DEPUTY CO-CHAIR

May 22, 2019

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

Via email

Dear Mayor and Council:

RE: Request for Canada Day Funding

Since 2011, the average cost of policing Canada Day celebrations in the Victoria downtown core is approximately \$122,000, of which the City of Victoria contributes \$12,000. Victoria and Esquimalt provide some additional funding through our core budget under the funding formula for non-recoverable special duties, of which approximately \$31,600 goes towards the costs for Canada Day; this leaves VicPD responsible for a balance of \$78,400 per year in unfunded expenditures. Within the parameters and allocation of the 2019 Budget, we no longer have the capacity to absorb unfunded expenditures.

The Canada Day costs broadly include police and civilian overtime, supplies and logistics, and BC Sheriff services. We have traditionally budgeted \$40,000 for non-recoverable special duties in our core budget which includes both the military events and Canada Day. The removal of some of the cost items in the budget that typically had some capacity to absorb unfunded expenditures no longer remains (e.g. budget reductions in auto repairs, DNA analysis, and telecommunications). We are also facing an increasing need for patrol backfill (overtime) due to the number of non-deployable officers. This has eroded our historical ability to absorb these costs within our overtime budget.

The Board is requesting additional funding from the City of Victoria to cover the policing costs of the Canada Day event or consider alternate celebration models.

Yours Truly,

Sean Powell
Finance Committee Chair