



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

DATE:	July 6, 2022
TO:	Victoria & Esquimalt Councils
FROM:	Doug Crowder, Chair of the Police Board Finance Committee
SUBJECT:	JIBC Police Academy Transition Funding
ACTION:	For consideration

As per the attached letter of May 19, 2022, ADM Wayne Rideout advised that the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will not provide additional financial support for what has been identified as a structural funding deficit within the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) Police Academy, effective immediately. This letter appears to contradict an earlier commitment made in 2021 wherein the Ministry advised municipal police agencies of the need to find a sustainable funding model for the JIBC Police Academy, and that any new funding formula would be implemented as of April 2024.

This change in implementation date from April 2024 to April 2022, is concerning and presents serious financial pressures upon police agencies and the municipalities that provide the required budget funding. Municipal budgets are established in line with the calendar year and for 2022, municipalities are legally required to pass their annual property tax bylaw by May 15, as per the *Local Government Act* 197(1). Under section 27(6), municipalities are not permitted to spend money that is not included in the Police Board's budget and approved by Councils.

As the date of the most recent letter is May 19, 2022, the deadline for municipalities to set their tax bylaw had passed. This, along with a lack of sufficient consultation on this announced change, did not permit agencies and their funders to adjust for new costs in this fiscal year.

The Police Board Finance Committee invites Victoria Council and Esquimalt Council to express their objection to the Ministry's decision to download the JIBC Police Academy costs to the municipalities, particularly within this shortened timeline. If Councils agree, we are pleased to discuss this issue further at the upcoming budget consultation meetings next week.