

Excellent health and care, for everyone,
everywhere, every time.



February 5, 2016

Ref # 17203

Del Manak
Acting Chief Constable
Victoria Police Department
850 Caledonia Avenue
Victoria BC V8T 5J8
colletee.thomson@vicpd.ca

Dear Acting Chief Constable Manak,

Thank you for your letter dated December 22, 2015 to Dr. Brendan Carr, President & CEO requesting financial support for a pilot project for two additional police officers to work in partnership with health and social service teams. Dr. Carr has asked that I respond on his behalf.

Island Health shares your view that addressing complex social issues is a shared responsibility. As you noted in your letter, Island Health has significantly increased the number of staff and teams that provide critical health supports to the population with complex mental health and addiction issues in our community. These dedicated resources reflect Island Health's commitment in maintaining and improving the health of our residents and the communities in which they live.

We recognize that populations with complex needs often require supports from many government agencies including Housing, Social Services, Health and Law Enforcement. As you are aware, financial resources are limited in the public sector environment and as such it is important that each governmental agency is responsible to fund the services they are mandated to provide. Thus, we are not able to provide the funding requested.

We greatly appreciate Island Health's history of working collaboratively with the Victoria Police Department through our Assertive Community Treatment and Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team. We support this model of service integration and partnership as it ensures that Law Enforcement and the Health Authority are united to improve the health and safety of residents and communities alike.

I understand BC Housing, Island Health, Law Enforcement and the CRD are discussing opportunities on how to better plan and integrate our collective efforts to support our most at-risk population. I look forward to the continuing collaboration of these agencies to offer integrated solutions that will ultimately provide better support to those most in need. Once again, thank you for writing to us and for your ongoing commitment to the Victoria community.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mackay
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Executive Office

Located at: 2101 Richmond Road | Victoria, BC V8R 4R7 Canada
Mailing address: 1952 Bay Street | Victoria, BC V8R 1J8 Canada

Tel: 250-370-8699 | Fax: 250-370-8750
viha.ca

cc: Cheryl Damstetter, Executive Director, Mental Health, Seniors, Family and Public Health Services
Kelly Reid, Director, MHSU Operations