

June 3rd, 2011

The Honourable Shirley Bond
Solicitor General
Parliament Buildings
PO Box 9053 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bond:

I am sure you will agree that the ongoing Vancouver Canucks playoff run has become one of the most enjoyed and celebrated events in the history of British Columbia.

We are sending this letter as the Chiefs of the Vancouver Police Department, the Delta Police Department, and the Abbotsford Police Department. We are writing to: (1) request financial assistance for policing the final series of playoff games; and (2) invite you to visit and meet with the police commanders who are working in a unified command structure to ensure the residents of the Lower Mainland are kept safe during the final round playoff games.

While the RCMP are not a signatory to this letter, we can assure you that they are fully participating in the planning of our regional policing response.

We know that people are following the Canucks in all B.C. communities, but in the Lower Mainland, street celebrations have become entrenched along:

- South Fraser Way in Abbotsford
- 72nd and Scott Road in Surrey/Delta
- Granville/Robson Street in Vancouver

According to recent public opinion polls and our own observations, the level of fan interest surpasses that of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

We would like to assure you that the police agencies in the Lower Mainland have been meeting on a regular basis to coordinate consistent crowd engagement practices, media messaging, and the sharing of resources. Our primary mission will be public safety. In our operational plans, we are deploying sufficient police resources to ensure the safety of the public and police officers is not compromised, but we also recognize the need to be financially responsible.

In contrast to the Winter Olympics, we do not have any senior government support for the significant policing cost, nor are these costs built into any of our annual budgets due to the extraordinary nature of the event. Here are the costs of policing each round so far:

	<i>Round 1</i>	<i>Round 2</i>	<i>Round 3</i>	<i>Total</i>
Vancouver	\$ 49,307	\$ 39,082	\$ 56,840	\$ 145,229
Delta	16,500	11,500	13,500	41,500
Abbotsford	26,106	24,320	24,995	75,421
Transit	5,242	5,242	5,241	15,725
Total:	\$ 97,155	\$ 80,144	\$ 100,576	\$ 277,875

Here are our projected costs for policing the final playoff series against the Boston Bruins, assuming it goes to Game 7. A more detailed breakdown is available.

	<i>Final Round</i>	<i>Victory Parade</i>
Vancouver	\$ 522,779	\$ 116,960
Delta	140,000	
Abbotsford	50,000	
Transit	111,349	
Total:	\$ 824,128	\$ 116,960

Please note that the Vancouver Police totals include \$159,760 which is the cost to have 96 RCMP Tactical Troop officers available for the final round and victory parade.

These are all incremental costs including overtime for off-duty officers and the meal and lodging expenses for RCMP officers brought in from elsewhere in the Province. The costs do not include the significant on-duty deployments and planning resources that all jurisdictions have been funding within our existing budgets.

To summarize, we are collectively asking for Provincial funding for the final round and victory parade policing costs. We have no choice but to police these extraordinarily large spontaneous and impromptu public celebrations. As a contrast, many communities in the Lower Mainland have no public celebrations, face no incremental costs, and experience lower policing requirements on Canuck game nights because their residents have migrated to celebrate this historic hockey series in our jurisdictions.

If you would like to meet with the unified police operations center before an upcoming game, please contact Chief Constable Jim Chu (604-717-2950).

Sincerely,



Jim Chu, Chief Constable
Vancouver Police Department



Jim Cessford
Delta Police Department



Bob Rich, Chief Constable
Abbotsford Police Department

June 10, 2011

Chief Constable Jim Chu
Vancouver Police Department
2120 Cambie Street
Vancouver BC V5Z 4N6

Chief Constable Jim Cessford
Delta Police Department
4455 Clarence Taylor Crescent
Delta BC V4K 3E1

Chief Constable Bob Rich
Abbotsford Police Department
2838 Justice Way
Abbotsford BC V2T 3P5

Dear Chief Constable Jim Chu, Chief Constable Jim Cessford and Chief Constable Bob Rich:

Thank you for your June 3, 2011 letter requesting Provincial funding for the final round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs and potential victory parade.

Hockey fans across British Columbia and Canada will be cheering the Canucks through the Stanley Cup finals and I know local police will be working to protect public safety in communities' across British Columbia. I want to commend the proactive approach from police forces across the Lower Mainland to work together and by sending a clear message that we expect hockey fans to celebrate responsibly.

I am pleased to hear that you are deploying sufficient police resources to ensure the safety of the public and police officers is not compromised during this unique opportunity to showcase Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. As the 2010 Olympics showed us, Vancouver, Delta and Abbotsford are very adept at determining policing needs and coordinating resources in the face of extraordinary public events and celebrations.

With regard to your collective concerns about the increasing policing cost pressures from the Vancouver Canucks in the Stanley Cup Finals, it is important to recognize that the Province already contributes substantially to policing. Under the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing grant program, the Province disburses 100 per cent of the traffic fine revenues received in the province. Ministry staff have advised me that on the basis of your direct contribution to policing costs the City of Vancouver received \$7,284,600 in March 2011, the City of Abbotsford received \$1,208,139, and the District of Delta received \$966,157 for a total of \$9,458,896.

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Chief Constable Jim Chu
Chief Constable Jim Cessford
Chief Constable Bob Rich
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The Province also contributes to the integrated teams that are cost-shared by Lower Mainland municipalities; these teams provide services that a police agency requires to provide a complete policing service. The Province contributes \$5.8 million annually for the five Lower Mainland integrated teams and \$57 million for provincial integrated teams.

Lower Mainland municipalities agreed that by integrating specialized units to serve multiple jurisdictions and sharing the costs across those jurisdictions, duplication of services is avoided, risks are effectively managed and municipalities have access to specialized services when they are needed. This has ensured adequate and effective policing is delivered in the region.

The Province also provides significant support through funding of initiatives that benefit all municipalities, such as the \$1.4 million for DNA analysis.

Through the Road Safety MOU, I am advised that the Independent Police Agencies in the Lower Mainland also receive approximately \$425,000 for summer counter attack including Vancouver \$235,000, Abbotsford \$37,000 and Delta \$30,000. I understand that in the past this money has been used to cover impaired enforcement from Canada Day celebrations, the Fireworks Festival and the Pride Parade in downtown Vancouver.

The RCMP provincial budget also funds approximately \$1.2 million in operating costs of the Air One and Air Two helicopters and I understand that both these helicopters will be in use during the Stanley Cup Playoff and any celebrations.

In light of the above, the Province will not be making further contribution towards the policing costs of this special event but I know local police in all communities will continue to be vigilant and working hard to ensure safe and enjoyable celebrations.

Thank you for your invitation to meet with police commanders in the unified command structure. Unfortunately, my schedule doesn't permit it at this point, but I want to acknowledge your tremendous ability to work together to keep the peace and at the same time allow energetic Canucks fans to celebrate in a positive way.

Thank you once again for writing.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Shirley Bond
Solicitor General

pc: Mr. Clayton Pecknold

bpc: The Honourable Christy Clark
The Honourable Kevin Falcon