



## Surrey Police Board Fact Sheet

### Establishment and Future of Surrey Police Service

The Surrey Police Board will regularly update this fact sheet to provide factual information regarding the stability, accountability, and legitimacy of Surrey Police Service (SPS).

#### Policing Authority in BC

The Province of British Columbia has authority and oversight of the policing structure in the province. In November, 2018 when Surrey municipal council voted to establish an independent municipal police service, the City was required to develop a [Surrey Policing Transition Plan](#) prior to obtaining provincial approval. In August 2019, the Minister of Public Safety approved the transition from the RCMP to Surrey Police Service and established the Provincial Municipal Policing Transition Study Committee, chaired by former attorney general Wally Oppal to ensure all key issues and complex details were addressed in the city's transition plan.

Article 3 (2) of the BC Police Act gives municipalities the choice of how they will provide policing services, upon approval of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Within this structure, a new Mayor and Council cannot unilaterally decide to change the model back to contract policing to a service provider (such as the RCMP). This would require Ministerial approval.

#### Surrey Policing Transition Trilateral Committee

The [Surrey Policing Transition Trilateral Committee](#) (the Trilateral Committee) is made up of three levels of government: City of Surrey, Province of British Columbia and Canada (Public Safety Canada). The Committee was formed in 2020 to support the transition from RCMP to SPS. The Trilateral Committee supports key decision making throughout the transition but does not replace the constitutional powers of provincial government who has ultimate decision-making authority related to municipal policing.

#### Establishment of Surrey Police Board and Surrey Police Service (SPS)

In February 2020, the Director of Police Services recommended to the Minister to establish a police board which was appointed in June of 2020. Once established, the Board became an independent legal entity, duly constituted by provincial government. At its inaugural meeting in August of 2020, the Board legally established the Surrey Police Service. As a result, Surrey Police officers are sworn police officers and have all the powers and authorities of a police officer in BC.

#### Provincial Support for SPS

Provincial government has supported the transition since before the Board was established. From establishing its own Policing Transition Secretariat to participating on the Trilateral Committee to approving a hiring cadence for 2022, government officials continue to work with the Board and SPS on a daily basis to ensure a smooth transition from a contracted policing model to a municipal one.

## Police of Jurisdiction

SPS is working steadily to become the Police of Jurisdiction in Surrey. There are a number of requirements established under the [BC Provincial Policing Standards](#) that SPS is working to fulfill. Prior to becoming Police of Jurisdiction, the Province will evaluate and ultimately approve SPS readiness to take over policing operations in Surrey.

## Establishing Information Technology Infrastructure

The IT platform build is well underway with a target to complete all critical infrastructure by the end of 2022. Council previously approved a 5-year, one-time investment into building SPS and a large portion of the funds is earmarked for IT. SPS IT infrastructure will be leading edge in Canada benefitting the community and the police officers who serve. Updates for spending against the one-time budget can be found in the monthly Police Board [finance reports](#).

## Surrey Police Union

The Surrey Police Union was certified by the BC Labour Relations Board in the fall of 2021 and is a *bona fide* union. SPU will represent approximately 300 police officers by the end of 2022, making it the second largest police collective bargaining unit in BC.

## Transition Costs

Updates on SPS's operational budget and the one-time policing transition budget are released regularly by the Surrey Police Board and can be found on the [Board's website](#). The reported costs include any services provided by the City of Surrey to SPS, as well as the salaries of any City employees who have been temporarily seconded to SPS.

The cost of the infrastructure of the transition will be approximately \$64M, phased over five years. This will cover start-up expenses, including equipment and information technology infrastructure. The cost of running SPS on an annual basis is currently projected at \$206M by 2025 and is within the City's approved five-year financial plans.

The City currently pays 90% of the cost for assets, including vehicles and equipment acquired by RCMP, for policing in Surrey. The current policing agreements set out a process for the transfer of assets in the case of the termination of an MPUA. SPS officers will receive new uniforms, including upgrades to body armour.

The City already owns or leases all facilities used by the Surrey RCMP and SPS. SPS will operate out of existing facilities during and after the transition.

The City currently pays for training of RCMP members (at RCMP Depot in Regina) through the RCMP contract budget. Future SPS recruits will pay a portion of the costs of their training at Justice Institute of BC, and they will receive a salary while they attend training.

The unionization of the RCMP and its new collective agreement will increase costs for all RCMP-policed municipalities, closing the gap in operating costs between the RCMP and municipal police.



The SPS is an investment in the future of our rapidly developing city. Public safety is an area where you want the best service, not the least expensive.