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His Worship Christopher Causton
President
Association of Vancouver Island
and Coastal Communities
525 Government Street
Victoria BC V8V 0A8

Dear Mayor Causton:

I am responding to your November 6, 2009 letter regarding the increase in the PRIME-BC user fee and your request for a delay in the implementation date of January 1, 2010. As I indicated in my letter of September 22, 2009, municipalities were advised as early as 2006 that the initial user fee of \$500 per officer would be increased to reflect full cost recovery effective January 1, 2008. Although we managed to maintain the \$500 user fee through 2008 and 2009, this approach is non-sustainable and does not satisfy the requirement for the system to be fully funded by user agencies.

I appreciate the impact this increase will have on policing budgets but the user fee of \$1,000 per officer is based on the actual costs of running this system. All municipalities and policing agencies within the province are required to pay the current fee and the \$1,000 per member user fee will equally apply. Should you have further questions regarding the user fee, I invite you to contact Mr. Kevin Begg, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Community Safety Branch at 250 387-1100 or via e-mail to Kevin.Begg@gov.bc.ca. Thank you for writing with your concerns.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kash Heed".

Kash Heed
Solicitor General

pc: Mr. Kevin Begg