



**ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND  
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES**  
*525 Government Street, Victoria, BC V8V 0A8*

November 6, 2009

The Honourable Kash Heed  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
PO box 9053 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Heed:


I am writing on behalf of the Executive of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to express the members' concern with respect to the recent communication in which local governments were notified that the costs to maintain the PRIME BC police records management system would be doubling, with increase in costs to take affect in just over 3 months' time.

This issue was discussed at the AVICC Executive meeting held October 29 in Nanaimo. Of particular concern is the lack of advance notice being given for significant cost increases. Most local governments are already midway through their budget process in a year that is already challenging in terms of the economy, decreasing tax revenues and need to contain tax increases. The minimal notice places local governments at odds with the provincially mandated five year operating and capital planning process.

In addition to the lack of notice, members are concerned with the continued downloading of costs to local governments. Estimates indicate that the PRIME system increases police workload significantly resulting in the need for communities to hire more police officers to provide the same level of service. Local governments have already assumed responsibility for other program such as Victim Services and Restorative Justice. Local governments do not dispute the value of these services, however, they are finding it challenging to continue to assume greater and greater program costs, especially in the current environment.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice local government's concerns and would request that the implementation date of January 1, 2010 be reconsidered to allow more time to prepare for the proposed cost increases. In addition, as new programs or changes to present programs are considered, that the Province carefully review the ability of local governments to continue to assume costs that were previously paid by other levels of government.

Sincerely,



Mayor Christopher Causton  
President