



January 9, 2019

VIA email: AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable David Eby
Minister of Attorney General
Room 232, Parliament Buildings
Victoria B.C. V8V 1X5

Dear Minister

Re Sheriffs and exigent circumstances

On behalf of BCGEU members in Sheriff Services, I am writing to express our union's continued support for expanding sheriffs' duties to include exigent circumstances. Every day, sheriffs in British Columbia provide essential security in courthouses and in the transportation of inmates around our province.

Given their training and experience in law enforcement, it is clear that expanding their duties would be of great benefit to the province. Granting sheriffs the ability to act on emergency matters without the need for special police constable status and to use the recognizable red and blue emergency lights on vehicles will allow the province greater flexibility and security when we are most in need.

Speaking to our sheriff members across the province regarding discussions at our meeting on October 2, 2018, and subsequent updates, they are pleased to see that the province is examining how to enact this important expansion in duties. We are also pleased with the ongoing work of the Sheriffs 40 Workweek committee, which has been meeting regularly, with an end goal to provide better value, productivity, consistency with other provinces and to improve recruitment and retention within Sheriffs Services.

We look forward to working together in continuance of the positive work that has been done so far and taking the necessary steps to see that these changes happen for the benefit of not only law enforcement, but public as a whole.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Smith
President

KC/gg/MoveUP