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DEC 03 2010

Mr. Darryl Walker  
President  
BC Government and Service Employees' Union  
4911 Canada Way  
Burnaby BC V5G 2M2

Dear Mr. Walker:

Your letter of October 21, 2010, addressed to the former Attorney General, has been referred to me for response. You express your support to expand sheriff duties to include highway patrol and request information about outstanding warrants in British Columbia. I apologize for the delay in responding.

Over the past few months the Ministry of Attorney General has been consulting with representatives from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, RCMP, municipal police services, BC Sheriff Services and others. The discussions have focussed on the feasibility of designing a pilot project that would involve select Sheriff Services' personnel engaging in provincial traffic safety duties in partnership with, and under the direction of, the police services. We continue to work towards the establishment of a traffic safety pilot project utilizing Sheriff Service resources in order to increase public awareness and complement the overall provincial strategy of reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

There have also been discussions about other strategic initiatives in which Sheriff Services could support public safety matters, such as the service delivery of documents, including warrants. These discussions are ongoing and, at this time, no definitive recommendations about document service have been provided.

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With regard to outstanding warrants, I have been informed that there are approximately 7,700 outstanding bench warrants for accused persons provincially. This total is for matters one to 60 days old, up to and including matters outstanding in excess of one year.

I appreciate your writing.

Yours sincerely,



David Loukidelis QC  
Deputy Attorney General