



**B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union**

A component of NUPGE (CLC) [www.bcgeu.ca](http://www.bcgeu.ca)

*Via email*

March 8, 2016

Mr John Davison  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
BC Public Service Agency  
1<sup>st</sup> Fl, 810 Blanshard Street  
Victoria, BC

Dear Mr Davison

**Re Public Safety Designation for Deputy Sheriffs and Conservation Officers**

This is to propose a public safety designation for deputy sheriffs and conservation officers employed by the province. Both classification groups are designated as special provincial constables under the *Police Act*. As such, they are eligible for designation as police, a recognized public safety occupation under the *Income Tax Act*. Each designation would make them eligible for the Normal Retirement Age 60 rule (NRA60) in the Public Service Pension Plan, enabling an earlier retirement without early retirement reductions. The cost of this designation is an additional 1.8% of salary paid as a pension contribution.

It is evident that there are retention issues for deputy sheriffs, prime candidates for other law enforcement jobs with higher salaries. The public safety designation and NRA60 rule will assist with retention. Regarding conservation officers, they are called upon to provide back-up to RCMP around the province and enforce many statutes. They also appear in court to provide the evidence for prosecution of many offences. Both are considered law enforcement officers, armed in the normal course of duties.

Several years ago, we tried jointly to have the Canada Revenue Agency create an additional public safety designation for deputy sheriffs, which they declined. We appealed to then Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, who also declined. This proposal requires no regulatory amendment whatsoever. We can simply use the existing designation for police for those classifications which are designated as special provincial constables under the *Police Act*.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely

Mike Eso  
Secretary to the Public Service Bargaining committee

cc Public Service Bargaining Committee