



VIA EMAIL

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June 25, 2021

Cheryl Casimer
Robert Phillips
Lydia Hwitsum
First Nations Summit
1200 – 100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver BC V7T 1A2

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
Chief Don Tom
Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
401 – 312 Main Street
Vancouver BC V6A 2T2

Regional Chief Terry Teegee
British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
1004 Landooz Road
Prince George BC V2K 5G3

First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC):
c/o Email: Sarah.Froese@bcafn.ca

Dear First Nations Leadership Council:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the need for a whole-of-government, strategic, systemic, and inclusive of Indigenous Peoples approach to reforming BC's *Police Act*. As the Minister responsible for public safety and policing, I am pleased to consider the recommendations you have provided. As you know, in response to global and local events involving police use of force against Indigenous and Black peoples and growing calls to address systemic racism in policing, the BC Legislative Assembly struck the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* on December 9, 2020 (Special Committee). Recently, the Special Committee has extended the deadline for its final report to April 28, 2022.

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While the Special Committee continues its engagement and deliberation, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) continues to prioritize public safety and policing modernization efforts. Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Wayne Rideout, has established a cross-government Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee on Policing and Public Safety Modernization (ADM Committee) which collaborates to advance mandate item commitments that have linkages to modernizing the public safety continuum. Once the Special Committee has delivered its final report, the ADM Committee will play a key role in supporting policy development related to reforming the *Police Act* and linked programs, policies, and legislation. Our Ministry is also working collaboratively with the Ministry of Citizen Services and the Ministry of the Attorney General's Anti-Racism Unit, as the Province advances work to support race-based data collection.

Our government, including PSSG, remains committed to upholding BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Any changes made to the *Police Act* will be aligned with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and we will ensure there is fulsome engagement with Indigenous partners, and government to government collaboration with First Nations.

Thank you for providing your recommendations related to reforming BC's *Police Act*. I look forward to continuing our work together as partners to ensure that policing and public safety services are meeting the needs of all British Columbians.

Sincerely,



Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable Murray Rankin, QC
The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
The Honourable David Eby, QC
The Honourable Mitzi Dean
The Honourable Adrian Dix, QC
The Honourable Nicholas Simons
The Honourable Melanie Mark