



October 8, 2008

Neighbourhood Associations of the City of Victoria
c/o Rockland Neighbourhood Association
PO Box 5276 Stn B
Victoria BC V8R 6N2

Dear Members of the Neighbourhood Associations of Victoria:

I am responding to your July 2008 letter regarding the structure of policing in the Capital Regional District. I appreciate your concerns and apologize for the delay in my reply.

Historically, amalgamation of small police departments into larger entities was seen as the solution to the fragmentation between police services. Lack of political will resulted in little progress on amalgamation in the major regions of British Columbia in the 1990s. Many communities feared a loss of control over their level of policing to a more demanding regional core. Others also felt that amalgamated police services would become too remote from local issues and community policing.

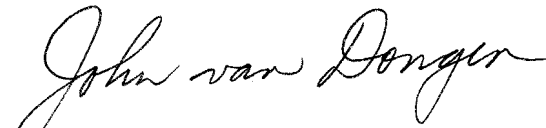
More recently, the Province's strategy of integrating capital intensive or specialized police services is being seen as a more appropriate solution to the issues that amalgamation was intended to address, but without the associated pitfalls experienced by other jurisdictions that have amalgamated. Integration allows communities to continue to maintain the level of community policing they choose while addressing higher level functions through teams that provide service to a broader area. The Regional Crime Unit is the most recent example of this sort of integration and my Ministry is also considering the implementation of other integration initiatives, including a common dispatch centre for the Capital Regional District.

.../2

I am sure that you are aware that the Province contributes heavily to integrated teams and infrastructure - more than \$70 million in 2007 to integrated teams and \$21 million to infrastructure investments that benefit all municipalities.

I appreciate your views on this important subject and thank all of you for writing with your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John van Dongen".

John van Dongen
Solicitor General

pc: Victoria Police Board
City of Victoria
Township of Esquimalt