



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

November 27, 2009

Mr. John T. Weaver
Treasurer
Rockland Neighbourhood Association
PO Box 5276 Stn B
Victoria BC V8R 6N2

Dear Mr. Weaver:

I am responding to your July 28, 2009 letter regarding the structure of policing in the Capital Regional District (CRD). While I appreciate your arguments in favour of amalgamation, all municipalities in British Columbia have the choice to create their own police force or to contract with the RCMP for police services.

As you may be aware, in 1992, twenty years after the first major review of policing in the province, the Attorney General for the province appointed former Justice Wallace Oppal to conduct a Commission of Inquiry into Policing in British Columbia (the "Oppal Report"). The report, released in September 1994, set out in detail the challenges facing policing and made recommendations on how to structure and manage policing in the future to deal with these issues.

After examining a number of previously published reports concerning regionalization, the author did not recommend amalgamation of services. Instead, the Inquiry recommended a regional integration of specific services, stating that the real objective in any discussion on regionalization was to improve efficiency in the delivery of police services. The Inquiry cautioned that the twelve municipalities policed by independent police forces had opted to have their own police forces through a democratic process. The findings of the Inquiry showed that, while there was support for rationalizing some services, there could be no justification for removing their option unless there was solid evidence that regionalization would provide a greater "public good".

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Ministry of
Public Safety
and Solicitor General

Office of the
Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9053 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2