

Rockland Neighbourhood Association
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Victoria, BC
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The Honourable Kash Heed
Solicitor General of British Columbia
PO Box 9053, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
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28 July 2009

Dear Mr. Heed,

One year ago the neighbourhood associations of the City of Victoria wrote to the then Solicitor General, The Honourable John van Dongen, drawing his attention to what was perceived as an unfair and unsustainable burden placed on the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Department and hence on the taxpayers of those two municipalities. He was asked to consider a full amalgamation of the several Police Departments (VicPD, Saanich, Oak Bay, Central Saanich, West Shore RCMP, Sidney/North Saanich RCMP) presently responsible for policing Greater Victoria, thereby completing the process begun when the Esquimalt and Victoria Police Departments were amalgamated by an Order in Council from the Provincial Government. I am enclosing a scanned copy of that letter for your information. The arguments presented there remain valid today.

Unfortunately, the reply from Mr. van Dongen, dated 8 October, 2008, was disappointing because, in our view, it was couched in vague generalities that failed to address the specific concerns we raised. We do realise, however, that with a Provincial election only months away, it was unlikely that any firm and possibly controversial action was likely to have been taken at that time.

At a recent meeting of representatives from the Victoria neighbourhood associations and the municipality of Esquimalt to discuss policing matters, it was suggested that I send you a copy of the letter I wrote last year (on behalf of the associations) for your reconsideration. It was felt that with the election now behind us and the appointment of a new Solicitor General with considerable experience as a Police Chief, our arguments in favour of police amalgamation might be received more favourably.

We congratulate you on your appointment as Solicitor General and look forward to your response.

Yours respectfully,

John T. Weaver
Treasurer
Rockland Neighbourhood Association

Encl: July 2008 letter to the Hon. John van Dongen