



NOVA SCOTIA
**Attorney General
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Office of the Minister

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Via email: warden@municipalityofshelburne.ca

Dear Warden Penny Smith,

Today marks a pivotal moment for the future of policing in Nova Scotia. Following an extensive and inclusive process that began in September 2023, the Government of Nova Scotia is releasing the outcomes of the Comprehensive Policing Review (the “Review”). I write to you in your role as Warden of Municipality of the District of Shelburne to share details of the Review, including the Report from Deloitte and Government’s response entitled, Shaping the Future: Policing in Nova Scotia, [here](#).

This Review represents one of the most significant evaluations of our policing system in recent history, and I want to express my deepest gratitude to the more than 6,900 Nova Scotians who participated directly, as well as the hundreds of police officers, municipal leaders, and system partners who generously contributed their time, insights, and lived experiences.

As you know, in Nova Scotia, the responsibility for policing is shared. Municipalities are responsible for funding and maintaining an adequate, efficient and effective police service within their jurisdiction, including staffing, equipment and facilities. The Province is responsible for setting policing standards and oversight.

The result of the Review is clear and compelling: the status quo is not an option. Citizens have a right to feel safe in their communities and they are demanding more. They are right: under-resourcing and inconsistent policing levels across the Province cannot continue.

We are committed to working collaboratively with municipalities to build a stronger system of public safety where every Nova Scotian—regardless of where they live—has access to high-quality, modern policing services.

Deloitte has recommended a path forward that will ensure policing in Nova Scotia is consistent, responsive, community-focused and equipped to meet evolving needs. Based on extensive research and analysis, Deloitte recommends the implementation of foundational changes and the expansion of the provincial police, being the RCMP. Deloitte didn’t take this process lightly and their detailed report lays out the reasons for their recommendations. All Nova Scotians

deserve to have safe communities, supported by visible officers who can respond promptly and effectively to the full spectrum of public safety issues.

The province intends to adopt six foundational recommendations that will serve as the cornerstone of a renewed policing model in Nova Scotia. We will be taking immediate actions to address each one and we will increase our investment in provincial systems to support these changes, as well as make the necessary changes to the Nova Scotia *Police Act*.

The foundational changes are:

1. **Unified Records Management System:** A single, province-wide records management system for all police agencies to improve data sharing, coordination, and oversight, and to support evidence-based decision-making.
2. **Enhanced Police Resourcing:** Ensuring that police services across the province are adequately resourced to increase visibility, responsiveness, and meaningful engagement with the communities they serve.
3. **Layered Policing Model:** Introducing deployment of Community Safety Officers and Special Constables allowing for more effective responses to a range of public safety needs, while enabling sworn officers to focus on core policing duties.
4. **Establishment of Community Safety Boards:** Providing civilian oversight and governance across the full spectrum of public safety services, including law enforcement, Community Safety Officers and Special Constables, enhancing transparency, accountability and community trust.
5. **Provincial Policing Standards:** Augmenting existing standards and introducing new ones to ensure consistent, high-quality service delivery across Nova Scotia. New standards will also include training requirements for all officers in cultural competency and the experiences of vulnerable populations.
6. **A New Billing Framework:** We will implement a revised billing framework for municipalities served by the RCMP, promoting financial sustainability, transparency, and enabling reinvestment into local, community-driven safety initiatives for municipalities policed by the RCMP.

Deloitte has also recommended an expansion of the provincial police service. We know that there are many communities in which the RCMP detachment is under-resourced. A plan to appropriately resource detachments will be supported by the establishment of a new billing framework and working collaboratively with 'H' Division and municipalities to assess current need.

This vision of policing in Nova Scotia will require both provincial and municipal action. We are committed to working collaboratively with the RCMP and municipalities to build a stronger system of public safety where every Nova Scotian—regardless of where they live—has access to high-quality, modern policing services.

This summer, I will be meeting with you to discuss your municipality's role in policing and how we can work together to align with the new provincial framework. These conversations will help us chart a path that reflects local needs and realities without compromising public safety. I look

forward to these conversations and to building a stronger, safer Nova Scotia together.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to public safety.

With respect and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Becky Druhan
Attorney General and Minister of Justice

cc. Warren MacLeod, Chief Administrative Officer