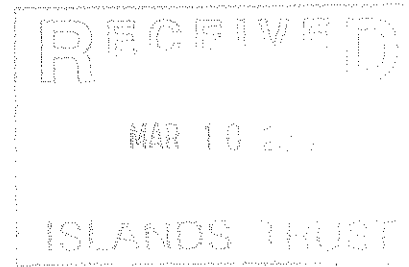




BRITISH
COLUMBIA



MAR - 9 2010

Ms. Sheila Malcolmson
Chair
Islands Trust Council
200 - 1627 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Dear Ms. Malcolmson:

I am responding to your January 26, 2010 letter addressed to the Honourable Michael de Jong, Attorney General, regarding your concerns about the level of provincial police resources in the Islands Trust area. I understand your concerns regarding levels of police resources to prevent and reduce crime in your community. As the Solicitor General, I provide overall direction respecting police services in the province; however, police agencies operate at arm's length from government and are independent in all operational matters, including the deployment of members.

The RCMP make decisions about allocation of provincial resources based on a number of factors, such as crime rates and patterns, population size, and economic circumstances. Resource demands vary between jurisdictions from year to year. Given the fluid nature of policing, the RCMP in conjunction with the Province consistently monitors and reviews existing resources and redeploys accordingly in order to prevent and reduce crime in British Columbia communities. I would like to assure you that the Province is not closing any detachments at this time and that the RCMP must obtain the authority of the Province in order to make a change in service delivery.

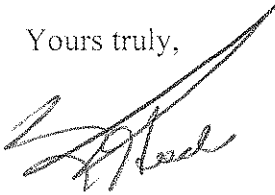
I recognize that adequate levels of police resources are important to reducing and preventing crime and enhancing public safety within communities. Police Services Division is working with RCMP "E" Division on an in-depth study into the current allocation of rural police resources. The results of this study will help us determine the scope of the problem and generate options for solutions. I understand that you regularly meet with your Detachment Commander to discuss strategies for managing local issues and I encourage continued collaboration to ensure local police service meets community demands and expectations.

.../2

Ms. Sheila Malcolmson
Page 2

I can assure you that, under the new Provincial Police Services Agreement with the federal government, the Province will continue to work with the RCMP to maximize the use of resources to support policing in rural areas of the province, including the Gulf Islands. Thank you again for raising your concerns.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kash Heed', written over a white background.

Kash Heed
Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable Michael de Jong, Q.C.
Chief Superintendent Craig Callens
Chief Superintendent Randy Wilson
Corporal Linda Simpson