[Month] [Day], 2017

[MLA Title]. [MLA First Name] [MLA Last Name]

MLA for [Riding Name]

[Address]

[City], [Province] [Postal Code]

Dear [MLA Title]. MLA Last Name,

Did you know that some municipalities in Alberta receive policing services at no direct cost? Under the current police funding model, policing costs are only paid by urban municipalities with a population greater than 5,000, and those municipalities with their own police forces. Small urban municipalities, as well as all municipal districts and counties, are exempt from paying for policing. Additionally, although the province provides support to offset policing costs through the Municipal Police Assistance Grant Program, there have been chronic shortfalls in funding as this program has not kept pace with growing populations and increasing crime rates.

The Municipality of [X] believes that this police funding model is both unfair and unsustainable. We support the “everyone should pay” concept, using a formula based on population and property assessment, with any resulting surplus funds being reinvested in crime prevention and response. Furthermore, a more equitable funding model could potentially generate additional revenue to address the current rural crime epidemic.

In March 2017, the Honourable Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, committed verbally to begin a review of funding models this fall. Although Ministry staff have researched options for a new, more equitable funding model, we understand that any consultations on police funding are not likely to take place until after the 2019 provincial election.

The Municipality of [X] feels that we have already waited too long for the province to resolve the inequities in police funding, and that an issue this urgent in nature should not be put off any longer. We are therefore calling on the Government of Alberta to immediately begin public consultations on a new police funding model, and for implementation to take place before the next provincial election. As our MLA, we hope you will join us in championing the need for a new, more equitable funding model for police services in the province of Alberta.

Sincerely,

[Title]. [First Name] [Last Name]

Municipality of [X]

cc: The Honourable Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

The Honourable Shaye Anderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Barry Morishita, President, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association