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Alistair MacGregor

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The Honourable Ralph Goodale
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
By email: ralph.goodale@parl.gc.ca

April 29, 2016

Dear Minister Goodale,

I am writing with regard to the recent changes made to the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program. As you know, the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program allowed local volunteers to be specially trained to assist regular RCMP officers in carrying out some of their duties. Changes to the Program were announced in February that resulted in, among other things, the discontinuation of ride-alongs and a national review of the uniforms worn by Auxiliary Constables.

Municipal leaders in my riding of Cowichan-Malahat-Langford have approached me with concerns regarding the changes to the Auxiliary Constable Program. Auxiliary Constables are extremely valuable members of the police force in our local municipalities and provide essential support to our regular RCMP officers. The municipalities in my riding are very concerned that the announced changes to the Program will negatively impact the local RCMP's ability to police our communities effectively.

Our local leaders would like to see the ride-along component of the Program reinstated so that regular RCMP officers can benefit from the extra set of eyes and the institutional knowledge provided by long-serving Auxiliary Constables. They would also like Auxiliary Constables to remain outfitted with a uniform that immediately identifies them as peace officers in the eyes of the public, which is critical in emergency situations.

Finally, we ask that municipalities that rely on the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program be consulted before further modifications to the program are made.

We would be appreciative if you would work with the Commissioner of the RCMP to ensure that the needs of our local municipalities are addressed while ensuring the ongoing safety of volunteer Auxiliary Constables. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor".

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford