



Auxiliary Program Survey

Introduction

As you may know, the Auxiliary Constable Program has been successful for several years in BC, and auxiliary members have provided a wide range of services to their communities; however, the program has undergone significant changes since 2019.

In 2016, the RCMP undertook a review of the Auxiliary Constable Program, following several incidents in the fall of 2014 where uniformed auxiliary members were being randomly targeted. As a result, the RCMP replaced the former program with a new tiered model where members are permitted to participate in activities based on their level of training, assessed risks, and community needs. Upon review, the Province indicated it would only consider the most comprehensive tier (Tier 3). After further consultation and engagement, it became clear that there were a number of concerns with this new model, as it relates to uniforms, training, and supervision requirements. For this reason, the Province committed to exploring other options for a volunteer policing program in BC (i.e., a BC-specific model) that would better meet the needs of the communities in this province. This direction was supported by UBCM.

Current Status: Tier 3 Program

In March 2020, the previous program was officially terminated by the RCMP, to be replaced by the new tiered model. In June 2020, the Province wrote to all local governments in the province who were listed by the RCMP as having an auxiliary program, to clarify whether communities were supportive of implementing the Tier 3 model as an interim measure while the Province explored options for a BC model. The majority of those who responded confirmed their support for this temporary option and as a stop-gap measure. The Province continues to work with the RCMP to establish the necessary Memorandum of Understanding for the Tier 3; however, timelines remain uncertain at this time and the tiered model has not been implemented.

Current Status: BC Model

Meanwhile, the Province has also established a Working Group to review options for a BC program in the long term. The Auxiliary Program – BC Model Working Group includes local government representatives, and will be considering information on programs that exist in other jurisdictions, options available under the current legislative framework, and comments from stakeholders. Unfortunately, the Province is unable to resuscitate the previous program, and it is likely that a BC Model will look quite different from past programs; however, the Province is committed to finding a long-term solution.

What You Can Do: Auxiliary Program Survey

The Working Group would like to hear local government thoughts and ideas on what kind of program would best serve communities, in order to provide the Working Group with general direction on type of options to consider. The survey can be accessed by clicking on the following link, or by copying and pasting the same in the address bar of your browser:

<https://survey.jag.gov.bc.ca/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=161981374763>

The Working Group would appreciate if you could take the time to answer the following six questions by **May 30, 2021**. Please note that further engagement will occur at a later time as well.

Questions?

Please do not hesitate to email MarieHelene.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca if you should have any questions or additional comments to provide.