



ALBERTA  
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

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*Office of the Minister  
Deputy Government House Leader  
MLA, Edmonton - South West*

MAR 22 2021

AR 45145

Mr. Robert Van Spronsen  
Chairperson  
Lethbridge Police Commission  
135 – 1 Avenue South  
Lethbridge AB T1J 0A1

Dear Mr. Van Spronsen:

On March 9, 2021, I had a conversation with both you and Chief Mehdizadeh of the Lethbridge Police Service (LPS) regarding some very serious concerns I have in relation to the public confidence and my personal confidence in the LPS. During that call, I expressed to you both my significant concerns, stemming from a series of negative events, which has caused me to question my confidence in the ability of the LPS to deliver adequate and effective policing services to the citizens of Lethbridge.

In that conversation, both you and Chief Mehdizadeh expressed that you shared my concerns and though relatively new to your roles, were committed to enacting significant changes within the LPS that are necessary to restore public confidence in the service. Both you and Chief Mehdizadeh spoke of needed changes around recruiting, training, oversight, discipline, and transparency. While I was encouraged by your acknowledgement of the issues and commitment to addressing them, I remain concerned that there must be a well defined written plan in place to address those issues, and that there be monitoring of the progress made towards implementing key milestones of that plan.

To that end, you both agreed to work closely with my department's staff on creating this plan and setting out those key milestones and progress monitoring processes such that the public and myself can have our confidence in the LPS restored. It is my expectation that the plan will outline how the Chief and yourself at the Commission will undertake specific initiatives to address the workplace culture in the service, including initiatives related to recruitment, training, oversight, discipline and transparency. In addition, the plan should include a robust communications strategy to ensure citizens of Lethbridge are informed of the work being undertaken. Please ensure the plan includes specific timelines that are being contemplated and anticipated checkpoints or progress reporting dates, which will be utilized to keep myself and the Commission informed on the progress of this work. I would like the report in the possession of my department by April 16, 2021 for my review.

Again, while I am encouraged by our conversation, I wish to ensure that I make very clear to you the level of concern I have with the LPS. Should I not see a plan for addressing the acknowledged issues, or should I not see evidence of progress in relation to acting upon that plan, then I will be in a position of having to truly consider utilizing the extraordinary authorities available to me under section 30 of the *Police Act*.

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I hope that I can count on you in ensuring that the actions necessary to restore public confidence in the LPS are implemented.

Thank you and if you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. W.M. (Bill) Sweeney, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Law Enforcement, for the Public Security Division, at 780-427-7952.

Yours very truly,



Kaycee Madu, QC  
Minister