



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

850 CALEDONIA AVENUE VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V8T 5J8 T: 250.995.7217 F: 250.384.1362

January 3, 2019

Ms. Jordan Watters, Board Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 61
556 Boleskine Rd
Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8

Via Email

Dear Ms. Watters:

Your letter of December 3, 2018 directed to Esquimalt Council was forwarded to the Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board. Given the concerns that you have expressed in your letter I feel that it is important to respond to your letter.

Your letter accurately outlines the important relationships and connections that school liaison officers have with students and the importance of maintaining those on-going relationships. At a number of school and community events that I have attended since September 2018, I have heard loud and clear the challenges our teachers and staff are facing without having timely and much-needed access to school liaison officers. I want you to know that the Victoria Police Department highly values the role of these officers and I want to assure you that the decision to redeploy them to respond to 911 calls for service was not taken lightly. In fact, the decision was made as a last resort to meet the operational needs of our Patrol Division to adequately respond to calls for service from our citizens. As Chief, I could not allow these gaps in service delivery to continue unaddressed.

The latest update is that we continue to await the provincial government's decision on the six officers VicPD requested for the 2018 budget. Should that decision be favourable, my intention is to restore the three school liaison officer positions at the earliest opportunity. I am hopeful that this will be the case and I apologize for the provincial review process to have taken so long.

Thank you again for your letter and for your concern for the safety and well-being of our local schools and students.

Sincerely,



Del Manak
Chief Constable