

DEC 0 3 2019

AR 35536

Office of the Minister MLA, Calgary - Elbow

November 26, 2019

His Worship Barry Morishita
President
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
300, 8616 - 51 Avenue
Edmonton AB T6E 6E6
president@auma.ca

Dear Mayor Morishita:

Thank you for your recent letter of October 15, 2019 to the Honourable Leela Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturism and Status of Women, regarding the resolution passed at the fall convention to declare a provincial Royal Canadian Mounted Police Day. Minister Aher has forwarded your letter to me and asked that I respond on her behalf as the Minister of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

I value the relationship between Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and any opportunity to work together on issues of policing and public safety. The RCMP is a national police force. Consequently, the type of recognition the AUMA resolution proposes has been pursued at the federal level. On June 20, 2019, the private member's bill C-246, *An Act to Establish Royal Canadian Mounted Police Day*, received its first reading in the House of Commons.

The RCMP has a long and honourable history in this province. For more than 140 years, the RCMP has devoted itself to serving Albertans. Its members perform their duties with courage, professionalism, humanity, and honour as they protect and support our communities. I share your belief that this invaluable work must be recognized.

Currently, the RCMP has several recognition programs, including the Long Service Award Program, the Commendation Program, and the Certificate of Appreciation Program. In addition, RCMP officers are also eligible to receive national honours. In coordination with the Governor General's Office, RCMP members can receive the Bravery Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, as well as different mission medals. In coordination with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, recognition can also occur with the Order of Merit of the Police Force Medal.

.../2

At the provincial level, RCMP officers are eligible for the Alberta Police Officer Long Service Recognition Medal and the Alberta Emergency Services Medal. In addition, the annual Alberta Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day honours all of Alberta's fallen officers.

Thank you again for bringing the resolution to our attention. As Minister of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, I will continue to support law enforcement initiatives aimed at enhancing personal and public safety in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Doug Schweitzer

Minister of Justice and Solicitor General