



January 8, 2026

Mayor and Council  
City of Courtenay  
830 Cliffe Avenue  
Courtenay, BC, V9N 2J7

Inspector Scott Mercer  
Comox Valley Detachment Commander  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
800 Ryan Road, Courtenay BC

Greetings Your Worship and Councillors

**Re: New Detachment Build**

Since taking command in July 2024, I have had a number of informal conversations with this Council, Community partners and members of the General Public on the prospect of building a new RCMP Detachment that can meet today's policing needs.

Our current Detachment houses nearly two hundred police personnel in approximately 1700 square meters of working space. The building was constructed over 40 years ago in which in this time it has been refurbished, remodelled and subjected to various efficiency studies to maximize its use to align with the growing Communities it serves.

Through other studies, a number of critical infrastructure items have been identified to include structural instability and possible structure collapse from future seismic activity. In the event of a seismic event, our ability to respond and continue to provide a policing service would be severely diminished exposing a critical gap in our frontline response. This would also include a massive disruption in police communications for all North Vancouver Island – as our Detachment houses North Island RCMP Operational Communications Center.

In addition to major build issues, this Detachment has other significant problems that jeopardize workplace safety. Building water mains are contributing harmful lead additives to our water supply. Some measures have been put into place to reduce the lead content to make this water safe to drink and use – however it requires continual checks, filters and regular testing on what should be considered a basic need. This questionable water not only puts employees at risk but prisoners that are under our care as well.

Other issues to date include: asbestos in building materials, inconsistent heat and air flow, insufficient power supply, inadequate workspace, failing roof materials and the need to replace critical equipment such as a HVAC system. The projected cost for a new HVAC is estimated to be approximately two million dollars.

With the addition next door of a new purpose-built shelter and supportive housing complex in the coming year, the Detachment will require a secure fenceline that protects the integrity of the property and frontline equipment. This fence must be inline with Federal Government security standards and could cost the municipalities thousands of dollars.

Through Council discussions and Multi Year Financial Planning I have expressed our policing needs and the resources I feel are required to meet these needs now and in the immediate future.

The prospect of a new Detachment has moved beyond any general or informal conversations to a point where serious discussions need to be done on cost, feasibility and project planning. As your police force of choice, the burden of this need falls to you. Plainly spoken - Our Detachment structure is failing. The costs for repairs are increasing. The list of issues undermining workplace safety and our ability to effectively police is becoming unmanageable.

As the Detachment Commander, I am requesting formal Letters of Support from Municipal Leaders on a New Detachment Build to demonstrate their commitment to public safety. Furthermore, these Support Letters should be addressed directly to the responsible governing and administrative bodies that will recognize this same need and authorize "E" Division OSB Project Planning to commence necessary discussions with the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox, the Village of Cumberland and the Province of British Columbia.

I believe these Letters of Support are important to emphasize our current needs as well illustrate the importance our Municipalities place on a healthy and functional RCMP Detachment which only serves to promote public safety in the Comox Valley.

Respectfully,

Insp. Scott Mercer  
Officer in Charge – Comox Valley Detachment

CC: Town of Comox – Mayor and Council  
Village of Cumberland – Mayor and Council  
K'omoks First Nation – Chief and Council  
Comox Valley Regional District - Board  
MLA Brennan Day  
MLA Josie Osborne  
MP Gord Johns  
RCMP Island District Commanding Officer