



**Honourable Doug Schweitzer**

Minister of Justice and Solicitor General  
424 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6  
[JSG.PSDEngagement@gov.ab.ca](mailto:JSG.PSDEngagement@gov.ab.ca)

**RE: DRAFT POLICE FUNDING MODEL**

Dear Minister Schweitzer:

I am writing on behalf of Lac Ste. Anne County Council to issue our dissent regarding your contemplated police funding model for rural municipalities.

We appear to be at the end of a hasty and perfunctory consultation component that has resulted in more questions than answers, and that has failed to adequately address our collective concern that:

- If implemented, your proposed model would place a considerable financial burden on resource-strapped municipalities and their ratepayers
- Downloading police funding onto municipalities will negatively impact rural communities
- There is no mention of why the Province wants to change the present formula or where the money would end up
- There is ambiguity over what – if any – additional policing resources municipalities could expect to receive
- The thought process behind such an impactful initiative has not been adequately communicated
- Ratepayers themselves have been excluded from the initial consultation piece

You have indicated in the media that “feedback from municipal leaders will dictate what aspects of this model will require further consideration.” I submit that the following aspects have not been fully considered, or at minimum have not been adequately communicated:

- Police funding should be based on the service received by the municipality, not the municipality’s ability to pay
- The Province should clarify its stance on where the resultant revenue from this model will be fed
- The present levels of municipal policing should be scrutinized to ensure they are being utilized effectively

Without clarity on fundamentals of this model such as the underlying logic; the scale at which municipalities will be charged; or the resultant effects on policing levels, it is nearly impossible for the County to budget or manage ratepayer expectations. Accordingly, we are unable to support what appears to be an ill-conceived and poorly-communicated fiscal model.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our recommendations and concerns. I look forward to your response. In the interim, we will continue to advocate for the needs and priorities of our ratepayers.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Blakeman', written over a horizontal line.

Joe Blakeman  
Reeve  
Lac Ste. Anne County