



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS COUNCIL APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE THE
RCMP MULTIPLE-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN FOR 2026/27 TO 2029/30**



**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

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July 29, 2026

Mr. Mark Phillips
West Hants Regional Municipality
79 Morison Drive,
Windsor, NS, B0N 2T0

Dear Mr. Mark Phillips,

Re: Municipal Billing Model

The Province has determined your municipality's estimated annual contribution for policing services provided under the Provincial Police Services Agreement for the period April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027. This allocation has been determined in accordance with the Province's New Billing Model, which comes into effect on October 1, 2026, with application retroactive to April 1, 2026 for the purpose of determining municipal policing cost allocations for the 2026/27 fiscal year.

For the 2026/27 fiscal year, the estimated contribution is \$190,824 subject to final calculations. This allocation reflects the approved policing service level as of April 1, 2026 and includes all approved service level changes implemented on or before that date for your municipality. Any further service level changes approved after April 1, 2026 will be reflected through future billing adjustments, where applicable.

This estimated annual contribution represents a 25.0% decrease in policing cost for your municipality compared to the amount \$254,432 that would have been calculated under the previous Billing Model. As discussed throughout the consultation process, municipalities will reinvest these savings into complementary public safety initiatives, such as layered policing, community safety programs, alternative response models, and other measures aligned with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Nova Scotia Policing Review. The Province will also continue working closely with the RCMP to help ensure adequate and effective police resourcing in communities across Nova Scotia.

Please note that the amount identified in this letter represents an estimated annual contribution based on the approved budget for the Provincial Police Services Agreement for the 2026/27 fiscal year. Following the completion of the 2026/27 fiscal year, the Province will receive the

RCMP's annual report of actual eligible policing costs incurred under the Provincial Police Services Agreement. A year-end reconciliation will then be completed to compare the estimated amounts billed during the fiscal year with the actual eligible costs. Any resulting difference identified through the reconciliation process will be reflected as an adjustment to the municipality's final billing, including additional amounts payable or credits, where applicable.

The new billing model is data-driven and is designed to better reflect the unique circumstances of municipalities across the province. Municipal costs are determined using a range of factors, including population, property values, the number of officers assigned, and the Crime Severity Index. To ensure the model continues to reflect local public safety demands and municipal capacity, costs will be reviewed and recalculated annually. Agreements formalizing this process will also be sent to each individual municipality for signature in the coming months.

The Department of Justice's Public Safety and Security Division will be sending invitations to meet with each municipality policed by the RCMP under the Provincial Police Service Agreement to discuss these changes. While the Department would always prefer an in-person meeting to discuss such a significant change, we want to get this. Appreciating summer schedules, virtual meetings will be scheduled during August 2026.

Thank you for your continued engagement and partnership throughout this process. The new billing model represents an important step toward a more sustainable and equitable approach to policing that better reflects the needs of municipalities while supporting local public safety priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Armstrong" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Scott Armstrong, M.L.A.
Attorney General and Minister of Justice

C. Juanita Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

NEW BILLING MODEL FOR MUNICIPALITIES POLICED BY THE RCMP UNDER THE PPSA



NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | JULY 2026 | *Credible. Clear. Inclusive. Helpful.*



This is not simply a billing change. It is a foundational public safety investment.

HOW THE NEW BILLING MODEL WORKS

A more balanced, service-based funding mechanism.

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A Cost base and context
Under the PPSA, Canada contributes 30% of eligible costs and the Province is responsible for 70%. Municipalities contribute through a provincially administered framework.
- 

B Allocation factors
Municipalities will no longer pay strictly by officer count. The model considers population, uniform assessment/property value, officer assignment, shared services, and a Crime Severity Index-related subsidy.
- 

C Stability protections
The model includes protections against sudden cost instability: a phased cap over the first five years, and after five years annual increased capped at 5%.
- 

D Administration and local input
The Department of Justice will administer, monitor and annually recalibrate the model. Municipalities will continue to identify local priorities and operational realities.



WHAT INFORMED THIS WORK?

The Comprehensive Nova Scotia Police Review has assisted the Province to better understand the state of police resourcing across the province. This includes workload pressures, geographic coverage, response demands, proactive capacity, and the operational sustainability of local detachments.

OVERALL IMPACTS

The new model is intended to make policing funding more transparent, equitable, and connected to actual service demand.



Predictability

Clearer, more stable municipal planning for policing costs.



Adequacy

Supports the Province in meeting responsibilities for adequate and effective policing.



Rural equity

Stronger support for rural, remote, and high-need communities.



Officer wellness

Reduced operational strain, overtime pressure, and burnout risk over time.



Demand alignment

Funding better reflects population, assessment, staffing, and public safety pressures.



Flexibility

Reduces rigid municipal ownership of assigned resources and supports deployment where needed.



Visibility

Improved proactive capacity, community presence, and response sustainability.



Layered policing

Creates fiscal space to reinvest in complementary community service initiatives.

TIMELINE

- 1 Letter** 

 On July 29, 2026, a letter was provided to municipalities notifying them of their estimated cost
- 2 One-on-ones** 

 DoJ staff are meeting with every municipality to discuss their billing model through August and September
- 3 Agreement** 

 An agreement to guide cost recovery will be provided, and the DoJ will work with municipalities through that process.
- 4 Implementation**

 The billing model will be implemented by October 1, 2026, retroactive to April 1, 2026.

COST BREAKDOWN



Step 1 - Cost Base Identification

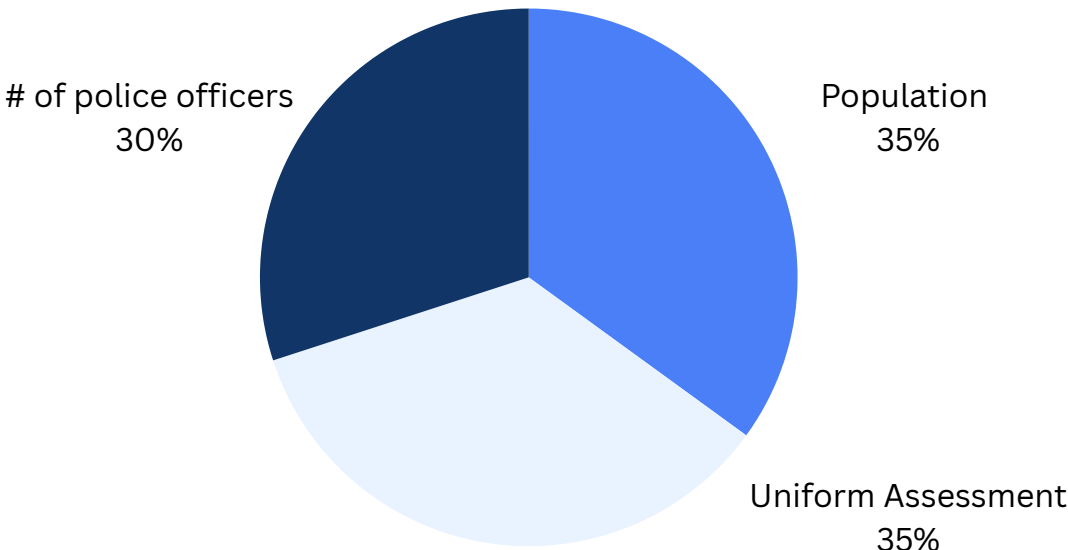
Based on the RCMP's report, municipal policing costs are distinguished from costs associated with centralized or shared policing services. The province is providing additional financial support to reduce the cost base which will be recovered from municipalities.

In FY 2026-27, this additional provincial support includes approximately \$16.3 million.

Step 2 - Cost Allocation

The remaining municipal costs are allocated among all participating municipalities using a weighted formula.

Allocation Formula



Sources for 2026/27:

- Population was derived from the 2021 Census Data
- Uniform Assessment was derived from the Provincial Uniform Assessment data as of February 24, 2026
- Resources are approved RCMP resources for the 2026/27 fiscal year



Step 3 - Shared Services & CSI Subsidies



Shared service costs will continue to be allocated between the province and municipalities under both PPSA and MPSA. The allocation is generally based on the number of RCMP resources within each municipality.



The Province will set aside approximately 1% of total municipal policing costs as a subsidy, which is approx. 1.3 million for FY26-27. The purpose is to recognize that some municipalities have higher crime severity and potentially greater policing demand. Each municipality receives a CSI factor by comparing its 3-year CSI with the provincial three-year average.



Step 4 - CAP Adjustment

To support a gradual and predictable transition to the new municipal policing billing mechanism, a phased cap adjustment will apply during the first five years of implementation.

The cap adjustment is always based on the previous year's amount.

Implementation Year	Minimum Annual Adjustment	Maximum Annual Adjustment
Year 1	-25%	0%
Year 2	-20%	5%
Year 3	-15%	5%
Year 4	-10%	5%
Year 5	-5%	5%



Step 5 - Agreements & Reinvestment of Savings



The objective is not just to reduce costs, it's to **create flexibility** for municipalities to **invest in public safety** in ways that make sense for their communities using alternative approaches to traditional policing.

The Province will be entering into dedicated agreements with each municipality in order to lay out the **roles and responsibilities of both parties** (municipality and province) and the costs associated with RCMP service provision and investments in public safety initiatives.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale
du Canada

Commanding Officer Commandant divisionnaire

80 Garland Avenue
Mailstop #H-001
Dartmouth, NS
B3B 0J8

June 29, 2026

Mr. Mark Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer
West Hants Municipality
76 Morison Dr. P.O. Box 3000
Windsor, Nova Scotia
B0N 2T0

Dear Mr. Phillips

In compliance with Article 17.1 of your Municipal Police Service Agreement, I am pleased to provide you with a Multi-Year Financial Plan covering the projected cost of policing the West Hants Municipality from 2026/27 to 2029/30.

These projections are based on the current establishment and take into account any potential vacancies. The cost of PROS, guard services, overtime, and accommodation, have been estimated separately and are billed based on actual expenditures.

Should you wish to discuss the Multi-Year Financial Plan further, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Strecko, Operations Strategy Branch at (902) 720-5649.

Yours truly,

Assistant Commissioner Dan Morrow
Commanding Officer 'H' Division
Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Nova Scotia

Encls.



West Hants
something inspiring awaits

Municipal Police Service Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP) 2026/27 to 2029/30

Prepared for: West Hants Municipality

Prepared by: RCMP Operations Strategy
Branch

Dated: June 29, 2026

**RCMP 'H' DIVISION
Windsor-West Hants
Municipal Over 5-Year Cost Projections**

Municipal Police Service	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
	<i>Actual's</i>	<i>Actual's</i>	<i>Base Year</i>			<i>Estimates</i>		
Human Resourcing - Table 1								
RCMP Regular Members (Utilization)	18.72	17.68	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
Less: Paid Special Leaves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net RCMP Regular Members (Utilization)	18.72	17.68	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
Remuneration per RCMP Officer	167,558	153,500	172,633	178,591	184,782	191,187	197,815	204,673
Total Human Resourcing	\$3,136,685	\$2,713,875	\$3,797,932	\$3,929,012	\$4,065,197	\$4,206,115	\$4,351,930	\$4,502,815
Accommodation - Tables 2, 3 & 4								
Federally Owned Accommodation (APC Rate)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leased Accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accommodation Operating and Maintenance	338,276	310,328	315,682	320,642	325,716	330,907	336,217	341,649
Total Accommodation	\$338,276	\$310,328	\$315,682	\$320,642	\$325,716	\$330,907	\$336,217	\$341,649
Equipment - Table 5	\$306,474	\$416,522	\$256,400	\$304,800	\$563,970	\$379,056	\$270,619	\$274,619
Division Administration - Table 6	\$971,235	\$833,503	\$1,102,552	\$1,105,918	\$1,126,026	\$1,147,674	\$1,172,534	\$1,172,534
All Other Direct and Indirect Costs - Table 6	\$987,866	\$1,182,212	\$1,250,334	\$1,235,696	\$1,292,681	\$1,304,513	\$1,323,277	\$1,353,984
Special Projects and Initiatives - Table 7	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cost Share (Billable at 90%)	\$5,204,651	\$4,977,329	\$6,071,642	\$6,194,380	\$6,655,960	\$6,634,257	\$6,703,743	\$6,877,478
No Cost Share (Billable at 100%)	\$535,885	\$479,112	\$651,258	\$701,688	\$717,630	\$734,008	\$750,835	\$768,123
Total	\$5,740,536	\$5,456,441	\$6,722,900	\$6,896,068	\$7,373,589	\$7,368,265	\$7,454,577	\$7,645,602
Federal 10% Cost Share	\$520,465	\$497,733	\$607,164	\$619,438	\$665,596	\$663,426	\$670,374	\$687,748
Municipal 90% Cost Share	\$5,220,071	\$4,958,708	\$6,115,736	\$6,276,630	\$6,707,993	\$6,704,839	\$6,784,203	\$6,957,854

Notes:

- 2026-2027 Base Year matches the 2026-2027 budget requirement put forward to West Hants Municipality.
- Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to 2031-2032 includes an estimated salary increase of 3.5% per year. Current collective bargaining agreement expired March 31, 2025.
- Total Human Resources includes pay and allowances plus pension and applicable per member rates for Canada pension plan and employment insurance. Other per member rates such as Divisional Administration, Cadet Training, Recruiting, Enhanced Reporting, etc. included on Table 6.
- Remuneration per RCMP Officer represents the Total Human Resourcing amount divided by regular member utilization.
- Implementation of police modernization equipment initiatives included as of 2023-24. Preliminary implementation schedule for H Division based on NHQ's anticipated procurement and national rollout, combined with divisional priorities. Notes included under each table and additional details provided in multi-year financial plan narratives.
- Inflation rates updated based on 5-year average. 5 year average used is 3.6%.
- Multi-year financial plan assumes full complement utilization for full fiscal year.

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Municipal Policing Service Agreement	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
Base Year								
Federally Owned Accommodation								
Major Capital - Detachment Replacements								
Minor Capital (Renovations etc.)								
Housing Program								
Municipal Minor Capital								
5 Year Reconciliation (Refund)								
Total APC Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total APC Rate Charged 100%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Notes:								

per Annex Schedules C and D
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