

NO: **P003**

COMMITTEE
DATE:

February 17, 2014

POLICE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 17th, 2014**

FROM: **Officer in Charge, Surrey RCMP**

FILE: **RTIC - BC**

SUBJECT: **E Division – Real Time Intelligence Centre – BC**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The Real Time Intelligence Centre – BC (RTIC-BC) is supported by Lower Mainland police departments, including the Vancouver Police Department, the RCMP, the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, the BC Association of Chiefs of Police and federal and provincial law enforcement agencies in BC. A steering committee was formed in December 2010 by Lower Mainland police forces. Members conducted extensive research and submitted a report to the BC Association of Chiefs of Police, recommending the creation of a Real Time Crime Centre in BC. The steering committee, with municipal, RCMP and BC government representation, is overseeing the implementation of RTIC-BC and transition to operations. In addition, there has been ongoing consultation with, and input from, local government stakeholders.

Projected budget

Due to an incremental start-up process during the 2014/2015 fiscal year, the first year's budget is anticipated to be \$4.4 million. During the first year of operation, all capital expenses, fit-up costs and building lease payments will be absorbed through the provincial policing business line. Municipalities will only be required to contribute their share of \$1.5 million for the acquisition of additional resources during the first year. The RTIC-BC's projected annual budget for 2015/16, when Phase 1 is fully staffed, is \$5.8 million.

BACKGROUND

Although there is currently a Provincial Intelligence Centre in place in BC, it does not operate 24/7, 365. Its mandate is violent gangs, and it does not have the capacity to offer real-time operational support to frontline officers.

Due to recent technological advancements, police agencies now have the ability to store, search, retrieve and analyse vast amounts of data, and link seemingly unconnected criminal events. However, in BC there is only limited interoperability between various law enforcement databases. For example, the RCMP, VPD, and federal and provincial corrections each have their own human source intelligence databases.

The first 48 hours is the most critical period of any criminal investigation. Police frontload resources, so suspects can be identified at the earliest stages, before evidence is lost or destroyed.

By mining intelligence resources through multiple databases, RTIC-BC will help frontline police officers and investigators quickly identify and locate dangerous criminals. This will assist Lower Mainland police in overcoming challenges associated with jurisdictional boundaries and limited resources. Analysts working within RTIC-BC will have a far greater breadth and depth of access to police and law enforcement databases that dispatchers, police officers and municipal police analysts simply do not have.

Additionally, BC police believe it is important to have the capacity to quickly assimilate the high volume of information and intelligence that would stream from the public and various government agencies when a large scale criminal incident that crosses multiple jurisdictions occurs.

The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommended the creation of a regional Real Time Crime Centre, scalable to the province. The BC Ministry of Justice incorporated this recommendation in the 2013 BC Policing and Safety Plan.

What will RTIC-BC deliver?

RTIC-BC will be located in BC RCMP headquarters in Surrey, BC. By early 2015 Phase I will be complete, and RTIC-BC will have 43 employees to sustain a 24/7 operation, supporting the Lower Mainland. Phase II is anticipated to commence in 2016, and real time support will expand to include the Victoria Capital Regional District. The following year, in Phase III, it is anticipated that real time support will be provided province-wide. In addition to providing real time support to police officers, the RTIC-BC will deliver:

- Daily serious crime bulletins, weekly crime bulletins, and special alerts;
- Project and investigation deconfliction;
- Duty to Warn - intelligence and coordination;
- Internet and open source investigation assistance;
- Assistance with major investigations;
- Human source intelligence compilation and coordination; and
- Intelligence resource during major events / demonstrations.

The focus will be on occurrences posing a substantial risk to public safety such as: shots fired, murders and attempt murders, armed robberies, stranger sex assaults, AMBER alerts, active shooter situations, high risk missing persons, home invasions, hostage takings, acts of terrorism, gang related incidents, and urgent and emerging events that threaten public safety.

CONCLUSION

RTIC-BC will be the first real time intelligence centre of its kind in Canada. However in the US, these centres exist in more than 70 metropolitan regions, such as New York, Boston and LA, and have demonstrated their value and effectiveness. For example, in a recent study involving the Memphis Police Department, its Real Time Crime Centre recorded a 30% reduction in total serious crime and a 20% reduction in violent crime since its implementation in 2006. ¹

Bill Fordy
Chief Superintendent
Officer in Charge, Surrey Detachment

¹ Source: <http://www.managementexchange.com/story/managing-21st-century-crime-prevention-memphis>