P-135

"PUBLIC AGENDA"

TO:

His Worship Don Atchison, Chairperson

Board of Police Commissioners

FROM:

Clive Weighill

Office of the Chief

DATE:

2007 September 10

SUBJECT:

Progress report on the Strategic Renewal Process.

FILE #:

2007-46

ISSUE:

The Board of Police Commissioners requires updates on the progress the Saskatoon Police Service is having in regards to the Strategic Renewal Process.

RECOMMENDATION:

This report be received as information.

BACKGROUND:

The last submission for the Strategic Renewal was June 11, 2007.

DISCUSSION:

On June 11, 2007, the Board was advised that all recommendations from the Committee on Strategic Renewal had been completed with the exception of a proposed Police Athletic League and Mentoring Program. These initiatives were not implemented due to funding. It was believed that the Province of Saskatchewan had intended to assist with funding both initiatives.

On recommendation from the Board, I forwarded a progress report to the Minister of Justice and requested that we receive funding to proceed with both initiatives. I received the attached reply stating that Saskatchewan Justice does not have funding for either of these programs.

CONCLUSION:

Each recommendation has been completed as set out in the original document with the exception of the Police Athletic League and Mentoring Program. We have been unable to find a source of funding for this proposal.

Submitted & Approved by:

Clive Weighill

Chief of Police

Dated:

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AUG 1 5 2007

Chief Clive Weighill Saskatoon Police Service 130 - 4th Avenue North Box 1728 SASKATOON SK S7K 3R6

Dear Chief Weighill:

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your June 2007 Progress Report of the Committee on Strategic Renewal. I am pleased to see the committee is making progress on implementing the recommendations in response to the Stonechild Inquiry.

I have asked the Saskatchewan Police Commission to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Renewal Plan and I am confident you will be receiving correspondence from the Commission providing comment on your report in due course.

Saskatchewan Justice has undertaken a number of initiatives regarding recommendations made by Commissioner Wright in his final report. Those initiatives include restructuring and modernizing the Coroner Program for Saskatchewan, creation of the Public Complaints Commission through consultation and amendments to legislation, and the provision of resources and funding within the department for the creation and implementation of an Aboriginal recruitment and retention strategy for municipal police services in the province. My department also provided funding for an Aboriginal mentoring pilot-project in Prince Albert.

Your letter requests funding from Saskatchewan Justice for the Police Athletic League program and for a mentoring program. Although I am supportive and aware that they are successful initiatives, at this time, my department does not have funding available to assist you.

Mr. Rick Peach of the Law Enforcement Services Branch advises that the Office of the Federal Interlocutor is prepared to consider proposals for matched funding for Aboriginal mentoring through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS).



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I encourage you to contact the local UAS committee if you wish additional information regarding this opportunity. If you have any questions, I invite you to contact Mr. Peach at (306) 787-9292.

Please express my congratulations to Sergeant Nyirfa. I am pleased to see his dedication and commitment to Aboriginal Policing and Aboriginal peoples has been recognized nationally and his skills are being used to develop training for programs at the Canadian Police College. It is very important for the justice system and policing to be able to meet the aspirations of Aboriginal peoples and to provide culturally sensitive services.

Once again, thank you for providing me with a copy of your report. I am confident the measures you are taking to deal with offending, the internal organizational changes and completion of the recommendations from the report of the Committee on Strategic Renewal will result in both a decrease in crime and offending and in enhanced public confidence in the Saskatoon Police Service.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Quennell, Q.C. Minister of Justice

and Attorney General