



AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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BACKGROUND

December 8, 2015

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

The Auditor General for Local Government's (AGLG) performance audit report on the topic "Local Government Performance in Managing Police Agreements and Police Budget Oversight" completes the performance audit of the City of Port Alberni undertaken by the office of the AGLG.

The report, released today, looked at Port Alberni's management and utilization of its Municipal Policing Unit Agreement (MPUA) and its police budget oversight between 2010 and 2013.

The auditors examined how well the City used the authorities and provisions available to it through the enhanced Municipal Policing Unit Agreement introduced in 2012.

To carry out the audit, AGLG auditors undertook data analysis, interviews, and a review of the City's systems, practices, procedures and documentation. The office assessed the City of Port Alberni's establishment of management practices including monitoring of budgets, establishing cost containment objectives and setting service levels to receive appropriate policing services, while respecting the independence of policing operations.

The AGLG's performance audits are independent assessments of local government operations and initiatives, carried out in accordance with professional auditing standards.

Each AGLG audit report is reviewed throughout its development by an outside technical advisor. Before being finalized, each report is also reviewed by an external engagement quality control reviewer.

As outlined in the *Auditor General for Local Government Act*, the independent Audit Council reviews and may provide comments for the AGLG's consideration on each performance audit report.

The Port Alberni report is the third report the office of the AGLG has released on this topic. The first two were on the City of Surrey and the City of Merritt.

The office of the AGLG intends to release two additional performance audit reports over coming months on local government policing oversight in New Westminster and Williams Lake. Additional AGLG performance audit reports are also scheduled to be released on the topics of operational procurement and capital procurement and asset management.

The office will release expected publication dates for each planned audit report once the proposed final audit report has been shared with the local government.

In addition to releasing the performance audit report, the AGLG will soon be releasing an AGLG Perspectives booklet on Policing Services Performance Assessment. The booklet will provide a performance assessment framework that all local governments in BC can use as a starting point for strengthening their oversight and accountability in the area of policing services.

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