



AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF AGLG RELEASES PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON THE CITY OF PORT ALBERNI'S OVERSIGHT OF RCMP POLICING

SURREY – A performance audit of the City of Port Alberni's management and utilization of its Municipal Policing Unit Agreement (MPUA) and its police budget oversight, between 2010 and 2013, has found that the City "had developed a good understanding of the 2012 MPUA, exercised an appropriate level of oversight of its policing services and did a good job of managing its responsibilities under the *Police Act* and the... Agreement," Auditor General for Local Government Gordon Ruth said today.

"We found that Port Alberni's policing plans and priorities were based on Council and public concerns, however, there were opportunities to enhance the City's oversight of police planning, monitoring and reporting and there may be further cost containment opportunities for the City to examine," said Ruth.

This is the AGLG's third performance audit on the topic "Local Government Performance in Managing Policing Agreements and Police Budget Oversight." The office plans to release two further audit reports on this topic in the coming months.

The report, released today on the AGLG website (www.aglg.ca), includes a detailed examination of Port Alberni's systems, practices and policies between 2010 and 2013. The performance audit process included a review of relevant documentation and discussions with key management and staff.

"Our recommendations are intended to assist the City in enhancing its strategic planning activities and cost management approach," said Ruth. "We believe that, by implementing them, Port Alberni will improve its oversight and stewardship of policing resources. I'm pleased with the City's positive response to the audit and its commitment to act on our recommendations."

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.

The release of the Port Alberni report completes the performance audit process for the City. Prior to being finalized, the report was reviewed by the independent Audit Council, which has the statutory authority to provide comments to assist with the completion of each performance audit report.

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