



## AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 29, 2015

#### **OFFICE OF AGLG RELEASES PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON THE CITY OF SURREY'S OVERSIGHT OF RCMP POLICING**

**SURREY** – A performance audit of the City of Surrey's management and utilization of the Municipal Policing Unit Agreement (MPUA) and its police budget oversight, between 2010 and 2013, has found that “the City of Surrey has an appropriate level of oversight at the Police Committee and staff level. This includes robust planning, reasonable financial controls contributing to annual police budget surpluses, and attention paid to results”, Acting Auditor General for Local Government Arn van Iersel said today.

“We also found there are opportunities to enhance governance processes as a means of strengthening overall city stewardship of policing services” said Mr. van Iersel.

This is the AGLG's first audit under the topic Local Government Performance in Managing Policing Agreements and Police Budget Oversight. Four additional audits under this topic are scheduled for release in the coming months.

The audit report, released today on the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government website ([www.aglg.ca](http://www.aglg.ca)) includes a detailed examination of the City's systems, practices and policies between 2010 and 2013, as well as relevant documentation and discussions with key management and staff.

“Our recommendations to Surrey are largely enhancements to the practices already in place. We believe by following them, the City's oversight and stewardship of policing resources will further improve”, said Mr. van Iersel.

“We believe there is an opportunity for the City to enhance its training and orientation of members of the Police Committee in relation to their responsibilities and authorities, this would in turn facilitate governance and ultimately stronger stewardship”.

I'm pleased with the City of Surrey's positive response to the audit and its commitment to act on our recommendations,” said Mr. van Iersel. “The City has made improvements since we

completed our field work and we encourage it to improve its practices through implementing our recommendations.”

In addition to releasing the audit report, the acting AGLG will release shortly an AGLG Perspectives Booklet on Policing Services Performance Assessment. It will provide a suggested performance metrics assessment framework for local governments to assist them in strengthening their oversight and accountability of policing services.

This is in addition to the two AGLG Perspectives booklets released in 2014 and 2015 on the topics of capital procurement and asset management.

The release of the Surrey audit report completes the 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 the AGLG with comments to assist with the completion of each performance audit report.

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