



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** February 20, 2014
From: Anne Stevens **File:** 09-5350-01/2014-Vol
 Senior Manager, Community Safety Policy & Programs 01
Re: **British Columbia Real Time Intelligence Centre**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the implementation of the British Columbia Real Time Intelligence Centre be endorsed in principle; and
2. That the future governance structure and budget approval process for the British Columbia Real Time Intelligence Centre include elected municipal officials.

Anne Stevens
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 (604-276-4273)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Finance Division RCMP	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER <hr/>
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO <hr/>

Staff Report

Origin

In 2010, the policing community identified a need for a real-time operations centre to provide an integrated multi-agency response to serious crime crossing jurisdictional boundaries. This led to the development of the Real Time Intelligence Centre – British Columbia (RTIC-BC), which is mandated to provide actionable intelligence and real-time operational support across all jurisdictions in the province. The RTIC-BC “will play an integral role in reviewing serious incidents for patterns and sharing information and coordinating investigations between jurisdictions”.¹ An overview of the RTIC has been provided by the RCMP (Attachment 1).

This report addresses Council Term Goal 1:

To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, though the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City’s specific needs and priorities.

Background

In the 2012 report titled “Missing Women Commission of Inquiry”, Commissioner Oppal recommended that the *Provincial Government commit to moving expeditiously to implement a regional Real Time Crime Centre.*

In December 2013, the B.C. Ministry of Justice published the “British Columbia Policing and Community Safety Plan”. The Plan contains 16 action items to guide the development and reform of policing in B.C. over the next three to ten years.

The RTIC-BC is outlined in Action Item #14 in the Plan:

Consistent with the recommendations in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report, the Ministry of Justice will foster intelligence-led policing by supporting the implementation of a regional Real Time Intelligence Centre scalable to the province.²

The implementation date for the RTIC-BC is May 2014. The Chiefs of Police representing independent police departments in the Lower Mainland have indicated their support of the RTIC-BC proposal.

Analysis

Real Time Intelligence Centre – British Columbia

The RTIC-BC is a centralized data centre which provides Crime Analysts and Intelligence Analysts with access to multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional police records, intelligence databases, criminal records, and other confidential databases. The RTIC-BC will enhance the efficiency of criminal investigations by providing real-time situational awareness and a proactive

¹ Ministry of Justice. British Columbia Policing and Community Safety Plan (December 2013); p.39

² Ministry of Justice. British Columbia Policing and Community Safety Plan (December 2013); p.39

response to serious crimes that cross jurisdictional boundaries. It will provide a coordinated approach to information and intelligence sharing between agencies, and will enhance the ability of frontline police officers to solve serious crimes, thereby increasing clearance rates and reducing investigational costs.

The current Provincial Intelligence Centre (PIC) will be replaced by RTIC-BC. The scope of PIC focuses only on gang-related activities and does not provide “real-time” situational awareness and intelligence to police agencies in Metro Vancouver. PIC currently has 22 full-time employees with a total operating cost of approximately \$3 million and is funded by federal and provincial governments.

Upon transition to RTIC-BC, the municipal governments will fund a portion of the operation. By January 2015, an additional 21 employees will be added to existing PIC resources for a total of 43 employees and a projected annual operating budget, at full operating capacity, of \$5.8 million.

As well, the RTIC-BC will have an expanded mandate to provide 24/7 “real-time” support to police agencies in Metro Vancouver. The unit will not only provide intelligence for gang-related activities, but also for offences and situations that are considered a serious threat to public safety³. Once the RTIC-BC is fully deployed and operational, it is envisioned that it will be the central repository for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and intelligence that assist in criminal interdiction and enforcement for independent municipal police departments, RCMP detachments, and other law enforcement agencies in the province. The RTIC-BC will also provide the following services to police officers in the Metro Vancouver area:

- 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
- Intelligence resource during major events / demonstrations

Implementation Plan

Implementation of the RTIC-BC will be conducted in three phases.

Phase 1 will commence in May 2014 and the RTIC-BC will immediately provide its services to municipalities in the Metro Vancouver region. Staffing and resource increases will be conducted in stages and the targeted date for full operational capacity is expected to be in early 2015, approximately 1 year from initial implementation. A total of 25 municipalities (including municipalities with independent police forces) will participate in the RTIC-BC.

³ Such as but not limited to: 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.

Phase 2 will expand the RTIC-BC services to include the Victoria Capital Regional District police departments. An additional four municipalities on Vancouver Island would participate, for a total participation of 29 municipalities. This phase is expected to commence in the spring of 2016.

Phase 3 will envision the long-term objective of a Province-wide RTIC. There are a number of challenges relating to policy and jurisdictional logistics, as well as technical challenges like radio communication that needs to be overcome. Nonetheless, the RTIC-BC Steering Committee has set the target date in the spring of 2017.

Governance

RTIC-BC is proposed to be governed by a Steering Committee comprised of two A/Commissioners of the RCMP, the Chief of the Vancouver Police Department, the Chief of the New Westminster Police Service (representing the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police), and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Police Services Division, Ministry of Justice. The scope of RTIC-BC Steering Committee is to approve annual budgets, provide operational and strategic direction of the unit, establish measurable standards of performance, and to ensure a command structure that provides for the contributing agencies, both independent police departments and the RCMP, to share in the operational management of the RTIC-BC.

Once the RTIC-BC has been fully resourced and operational for two fiscal years, the RTIC-BC Steering Committee will work with the three levels of government and other stakeholders to develop a suitable permanent governance structure. The governance structure should include municipal elected officials to ensure, at a minimum, budgetary oversight.

Location of the Real Time Intelligence Centre

The RTIC-BC will be located in RCMP "E" Division Headquarters (Green Timbers) in Surrey. The lease rate of \$20,000 per member of the RTIC-BC at Green Timbers is currently under negotiation between the Province and the Federal government.

In addition, the RCMP "E" Division will fund all costs for accommodation of additional municipal partners in the first year of operation. This will result in up to \$430,000 of savings in budgeted accommodation costs. This ramp up of resources in the first year will also save costs.

Organization Structure

Phase 1 of the RTIC-BC will provide operational support to frontline police officers in the Metro Vancouver region. The RTIC-BC command centre will be staffed by 43 employees comprised of police officers, civilian analysts and support staff. The Officer In-Charge has the rank of Inspector. The unit is organized into four Watches to provide 24/7 coverage. Civilians make up 82% of the unit.

City of Richmond Crime Analysis Functions

The City of Richmond currently employs three Crime Analysts to support the detachment's Crime Reduction Team. Their mandate is to provide investigational support, monitor prolific offenders, facilitate local Crime Reduction Strategies, and provide crime statistics to the RCMP

and the City. The Crime Analyst positions at the Richmond detachment will remain at the detachment after RTIC-BC has been implemented.

Financial Analysis

The proposed funding formula for the RTIC-BC is 30% provincial, 20% federal and 50% municipal. This formula is based on workload and clients served proportionate to the resources contributed by the three levels of government. The cost sharing for municipalities will be based on the Integrated Teams formula, where costs are allocated using population (at 25%) and 5 year average of criminal code offences (at 75%).

The operating budget for Phase 1 in 2014/15 of the RTIC-BC for the Metro Vancouver region will be \$4.4M; and once fully operational in 2015/16 will be \$5.8M. Phase 2 is budgeted at \$6.02M (targeted date of spring 2016). It is anticipated that RTIC-BC will need to supplement its capacity to 68 personnel in Phase 3 (21 Sworn and 47 civilian staff); increasing the total annual operating cost to \$8.6M (targeted date of spring 2017).

The cost sharing and funding formula remains unchanged through Phase 1 to Phase 3.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost to City of Richmond in 2014/15 of the RTIC-BC implementation will be \$91,255⁴ and \$165,438 in 2015/16 when fully operational.

The cost share ratio for the City of Richmond is six per cent of the total budget. The long term projected cost impact for the City of Richmond for Phase 1 is \$165,438, Phase 2 is \$157,082, and Phase 3 is \$158,691.

The cost of RTIC-BC has not been considered in the City's budget in 2014 or 5 year financial plan. However, the City's RCMP budget will be able to absorb this cost impact in the 2014 budget. The cost of RTIC-BC in 2015 and the future will be considered in the City's normal budgeting process.

Conclusion

In principle, the concept of a RTIC for British Columbia will provide good intelligence to fight crime in all communities. Ideally to make it a success, all cities in B.C. need to be part of the RTIC not only to fight crime in a coordinated fashion but also to manage the growth and finances of the operations.

The proposed RTIC-BC will replace the existing PIC and will provide a multiagency policing support centre, which operates 24/7, and ensures a coordinated regional response to serious crime.

The RTIC- BC is supported by the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, the BC Association of Chiefs of Police and other federal and provincial law enforcement agencies in BC. The RTIC Steering Committee has received support and resources commitments from

⁴ During the first year of operation, all capital expenses, fit-up costs and building lease payments will be absorbed through the provincial business line.

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municipal governments in the Metro Vancouver region and funding through provincial and federal policing business lines in order to facilitate a May 2014 start.

Citizens of Metro Vancouver will be better served by providing their police forces with the ability to tap into the real time resource capabilities of the RTIC-BC.



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Att. 1: Overview for Lower Mainland Municipal Councils



Real Time Intelligence Centre – BC Overview for Lower Mainland Municipal Councils

February 2014

Synopsis

Starting in May 2014, law enforcement agencies across the Lower Mainland will launch BC's first Real Time Intelligence Centre (RTIC-BC), providing a coordinated regional response to serious crimes. Over the next 9 months the RTIC-BC will grow until it is operating 24/7, 365. Immediate analytical support will be available during crimes that pose a substantial risk to public safety, such as armed robberies, high risk missing persons or gang violence.

Resource costs will be shared among provincial, federal and municipal governments. Each municipality's investment will contribute towards the strength of a 43-member unit that is available at any time to provide assistance during significant incidents that impact public safety. Anticipated benefits include enhanced public safety through shorter investigative times and higher clearance rates (arrests made, charges approved).

Partners

The 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 and Rationale

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.

Real Time Crime Centres

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

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