



## Media Release

### The Licence Inspectors' and Bylaw Officers' Association of British Columbia (LIBOA) Response to the Final Report & Recommendations from the Special Committee on Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia

#### For Immediate Release

May 05, 2022

Last week, the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act released their report: *Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia* with 11 recommendations to transform policing and community safety.

In total, 411 organizations and individuals from across the province made presentations and written submissions to the Committee during the public consultation, including LIBOA. The Association submitted and presented on tiered law enforcement models found in other jurisdictions in Canada.

The Association is pleased to see, as a recommendation, the need to create a tiered policing model found in other jurisdictions which enable peace officers or community safety officers to perform certain functions that do not require the full training and capabilities of a police officer. This approach reduces demand on police officers and allows them to focus on matters that are more in keeping with their training and capabilities which results in cost savings.

Across British Columbia, local governments are attempting to reduce operating costs while maintaining high levels of service. Increases in budgets associated with public safety and police services has led to local governments searching for innovative ways to ensure safe communities, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. An alternative public safety service delivery model will address efficiency, effectiveness and costs, while enhancing livability and the quality of life of British Columbians.

Tiered models in other provinces authorize the use of peace officers to complement the work of police as part of a logical tiered continuum by performing a number of law enforcement duties (e.g. parks enforcement, traffic safety enforcement, and enforcement of other provincial statutes). Further, tiered models provide local governments with governance and oversight, address community needs and values, and allow for local and specific law enforcement priorities to be set.

Inder Litt, the Association's President said, "we are hopeful that amendments will solidify bylaw enforcement officers as peace officers in legislation, something the courts have and continue to confirm." Steffan Zamzow, the Association's Vice President added, "the COVID-19 pandemic has shown British Columbians how important it is to have tiered law enforcement to conserve police services. LIBOA believes that the report's recommendations as it relates to tiered policing is a step in the right direction at addressing community safety and livability concerns."

#### LIBOA's Submission to the Special Committee

[https://www.bylawbc.ca/docs/liboa\\_submission\\_to\\_special\\_committee\\_on\\_reforming\\_the\\_police\\_act.pdf](https://www.bylawbc.ca/docs/liboa_submission_to_special_committee_on_reforming_the_police_act.pdf)

#### Media Contact

Steffan Zamzow

Vice President

liboa.vice.president@outlook.com