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Province Announces Comprehensive *Police Act* Amendments to Enhance Public Safety

The Local Government Compliance and Enforcement Association of BC (LGCEA) extends support for amendments to the *Police Act* that received Royal Assent on Thursday, April 25.

The amendments will improve governance, oversight, policing costs, and enhance public safety across British Columbia. A major feature of the amendments is the implementation of tiered policing, a strategic shift designed to enhance community safety and resource efficiency through the creation of Safety Officers. This model allows for a more flexible deployment of law enforcement resources and the ability to assign different levels of duties to appropriately trained professionals. This approach not only optimizes the skills of law enforcement personnel but also enhances the capacity of police to focus on complex and critical issues while ensuring that routine and non-emergency duties can be handled effectively and effectively by alternate law enforcement personnel.

“The implementation of Safety Officers, similar to other provinces in Canada, represent a significant step forward in enhancing public safety in British Columbia,” said Steffan Zamzow, President of LGCEA. “The introduction of a tiered policing model will provide local governments and Indigenous communities with governance and oversight, address community needs and values, and allow for local and specific law enforcement priorities to be set.”

Tiered models in other provinces allow local governments, Indigenous communities, post secondary institutions and health authorities the ability to employ peace officers who can perform a range of duties at the community level. Their duties vary in nature and scope depending on the unique needs and priorities of the communities and employers they serve. These include but are not limited to working at post secondary institutions to provide a safe and secure environment for staff and students; traffic enforcement in municipalities and Indigenous communities; enforcement of other provincial statutes; or other roles that are administrative in nature.

Read all the amendments here: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/.../5th.../bills/first-reading/gov17-1>

About LGCEA

We are the voice of local government compliance and enforcement in British Columbia. We are dedicated to the support and promotion of efficient and effective compliance and enforcement that enhances community safety and livability.

Media Contact

Steffan Zamzow
President
lgcea.president@outlook.com