



THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

April 22, 2021

Honourable Everett Hindley
Minister of Mental Health & Addictions
Government of Saskatchewan
Room 204, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Dr
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Hindley:

Re: Police and Crisis Team (PACT)

I am writing this letter to you to urge you to provide funding to the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service (SCIS) for two crisis workers in support of expanded Police and Crisis Teams (PACT) in Saskatoon.

The Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners believes in this client-centered response to mental health and suicide calls in our community. Our Chief has stated that he will support the expansion of PACT by dedicating two police officers from existing resources once partnership funding is available.

The PACT program has successfully operated in our community since mid-2014 and last year alone, PACT responded to 66% more calls for service compared to the previous year.

The annual report that PACT provides serves to highlight many successful outcomes including a significant return on investment in terms of cost savings/cost avoidance from the health and justice systems. The number of clients diverted from an emergency department alone should highlight for health that your investment in PACT is money well spent.

Our PACT program was the first of its kind in the province and the expansion of PACT programs in Prince Albert, North Battleford, Moose Jaw, Yorkton and now Estevan likely would not have occurred without the significant successes demonstrated in Saskatoon.

We were disappointed that no additional funding was announced in the recent budget for a PACT expansion in Saskatoon but encourage you to match our commitment to expand PACT by funding the SCIS partners.

Yours truly,

Jo Custead
Chair, Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners

c.c. Rita Field, Executive Director, SCIS
Chief Troy Cooper, Saskatoon Police Service