

Lac La Biche County *Report* to Council

SUBJECT: Enforcement of COVID-19 CMOH Orders

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: March 9, 2021

CONFIDENTIAL: No

Purpose:

To discuss with Council the status pertaining to enforcing of COVID19 Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Orders and determine if Council wishes for Administration conduct enforcement measures as approved by the Director and Minister of Law Enforcement.

Proposed Motion:

That Council direct Administration to enforce the CMOH Orders for Level I Community Peace Officers according to the Ministerial Order 13/2021.

Options:

Council may recommend that Administration allow for the enforcement of the CMOH Orders by Level I Community Peace Officers.

Council may request that Administration not conduct enforcement of the CMOH Orders by Level I Community Peace Officers.

Recommendation:

That Council direct Administration to enforce the CMOH Orders for Level I Community Peace Officers according to the Ministerial Order 13/2021.

Background:

On December 8, 2020 Alberta Justice and Solicitor General advised Level I Community Peace Officers that they would be authorized to enforce any Public Health Act orders that were issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health within the Province of Alberta.

On February 25, 2021 a decision was made by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health that the enforcement ability of the Public Health Act orders would be removed from Peace Officers.

On March 4, 2021 the Director of Law Enforcement and the Minister of Justice advised that there has been an identified gap in the enforcement of COVID-19 measures and the Public Health Orders pertaining to the outbreak. The direction provided by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General again allows Level I Community Peace Officers to enforce the Public Health Orders based on authorization from the municipality.

Between December 8, 2020 and February 25, 2021 Peace Officers responded and entered 154 investigations that were in relation to the violation of Public Health Act orders. These included people refusing to isolate, violations of gatherings and other such activities. It is estimated that the enforcement of these orders and dealing with COVID-19 persons resulted in 475 hours of operational time. The highest month of investigations into these matters was during January, which resulted in approximately 73% of the workload.

With the enforcement ability being changed for Peace Officers this would result in enforcement being completed by Alberta Health Services and the RCMP. If the municipality was to allow Level I Community Peace Officers to enforce the Public Health Orders there would be a reduction in workload to the RCMP. The reduction in working would allow for the RCMP to respond and deal with higher risk incidents and allow for a more timely investigation and response to Public Health Act complaints. This would also assist Alberta Health Services and allow for alleviation of community concerns in a more timely manner. The RCMP Lac La Biche Detachment supports the motion in allowing Level I Community Peace Officers to enforce the Public Health Act Orders.

Strategic Alignment:

Safety and Wellness

Financial Implications:

Costs: Unknown

Source of funding: Operational budget

Relevant Legislation, Policy or Practices:

Community Peace Officer Policy and Procedure Manual

Public Health Act

Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders

Internal Impacts:

Level I Community Peace Officers would be enforcing the Public Health Act orders which would have an operational impact on time and response to other non-time sensitive calls for service.

Communication:

The public will be advised if Level I Community Peace Officers are granted the authority.

Attachments:

Ministerial Order 13/2021

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