

Mr. Coutts' question in Alberta Legislature re: Peace and Police Officer Training Centre

Government of Alberta, Legislature, Alberta Hansard, April 2, 2007

“Mr. Coutts: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The 2002 report of the MLA Policing Review Committee recommended a single-site centre for policing excellence for the training and ongoing professional development of police and peace officers in Alberta. In August of 2006 Fort Macleod, within the constituency of Livingstone-Macleod, was announced as the preferred site for the proposed Alberta police and peace officers training centre, but since then nothing has happened, and we have not heard of anything. My question is to the Solicitor General and the Minister of Public Security. Can he update the House on the current status of the project?

1:50

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Lindsay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and let me thank the hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod for the opportunity to shed some light on this very much-needed project. This training centre is an important part of our commitment to provide safe and secure communities in which Albertans can live, work, and raise their families. I can assure the hon. member that in the time since Fort Macleod was selected as the preferred site last August, a lot of work has already been done to make this centre a reality.

But there's still a lot more to do before we can put a shovel in the ground. At the moment they're working with Alberta Infrastructure and the town of Fort Macleod to determine building requirements. Once this process is complete, we will release a request for expression of interest...

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Coutts: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, to the same minister: in keeping with the Premier's comment about safe communities, what are the advantages of a single-site facility such as this centre compared to the current training practices?

Mr. Lindsay: Mr. Speaker, training and professional development for law enforcement officers currently take place in a variety of locations across our province, and standards and practices are not always consistent.

The new centre will help set and maintain a superior standard of training for all police and peace officers in Alberta. It will deliver basic training and professional development of police and peace officers, including special constables, corrections officers, private investigators, and security guards in Alberta. It will

offer regular, recertification, and specialized training for all Alberta police and peace officers.

Mr. Coutts: My last supplemental to the same minister: will law enforcement stakeholders have an opportunity for input to the planning and to the curriculum developed for this centre?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Lindsay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, let me say that few people are as passionate and dedicated about what they do in our community as those of law enforcement and security communities. Their feedback and input are critical as they move forward with this initiative and many others to ensure safe and secure communities.

We will continue to seek their input on the design and development of the centre both on an individual basis and through these provincial bodies which represent policing. We have already received much valuable input. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that all of this input is being very carefully considered."