

Mayors agree on RCMP costs

■ Dieppe, Riverview to take on more costs under deal reached by mayors

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Dieppe and Riverview will take on more of the costs of policing Metro Moncton under a proposed deal unveiled yesterday by the mayors of Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview.

The three communities have been negotiating a way to split the costs of the Codiac Regional RCMP's services for many months and at a Dieppe city hall press conference yesterday, Lorne Mitton, Achille Maillet and Clarence Sweetland announced they had come to an agreement which they will now take to their councils for ratification.

The agreement calls for a phased-in approach that will see Moncton's share of police costs reduced from its current ratio of 76.31 per cent to 74.50 per cent in 2010.



GREG AGNEW/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

Metro's three mayors - Lorne Mitton of Moncton, Achille Maillet of Dieppe and Clarence Sweetland of Riverview - announce a tentative agreement on cost-sharing for the Codiac RCMP.

► See COST-SHARING, A2

Cost-sharing agreement

► Continued From A1

Dieppe will see its share of costs increase from its current ratio of 12.18 per cent to 13.80 per cent in 2010.

Finally, Riverview's share of costs will see a slight increase from the 11.51 per cent it currently pays to 11.70 per cent in 2010.

Also thrown into the mix was a rent increase on the Codiac RCMP headquarters. The City of Moncton is the landlord and raised the rent from \$18 to \$22 per square foot, which is more in keeping with downtown rental space. Moncton had originally sought \$25 per square foot but made the concession as part of the larger negotiations.

Translated into dollars, all this means Moncton will save \$140,000 in 2008, Dieppe will pay \$120,000 more plus \$18,000 more in rent and Riverview will pay \$20,000 more plus \$16,000 extra in rent.

In 2009, Moncton will save \$323,000, Dieppe will pay \$280,000 more plus the rent, and Riverview will pay \$43,000 more plus rent.

In 2010, Moncton saves \$415,000, Dieppe pays \$371,000 more plus rent, and Riverview pays \$43,000 more plus rent. All these figures are in 2008 dollars. They are not adjusted for inflation.

The term of the new cost sharing agreement will end 2010, when new councils will be in charge in the three communities. Should any of them choose to leave the RCMP in favour of a municipal police force, they will then be able to give the mandatory two-year notice they plan to leave the arrangement. The contract with the Codiac Regional RCMP expires in 2012.

While the three mayors had many meetings in an attempt to reach a new cost-sharing agreement, the urgency of getting an

Quick facts

The proposed new cost-sharing agreement for Codiac Regional RCMP service, subject to council ratification in all three municipalities, would be phased-in over the next three years. The breakdown for the three communities is as follows:

	Moncton	Dieppe	Riverview
Current ratio (per cent)	76.31	12.18	11.51
Proposed ratio - 2008	75.7	12.7	11.6
Proposed ratio - 2009	74.9	13.4	11.7
Proposed ratio - 2010	74.5	13.8	11.7

agreement in place was heightened when the RCMP announced that the formula they used to calculate resource requirements would no longer be in effect after Dec. 31, 2007.

All three mayors spoke of how the deal solved that immediate issue, but also boded well in the bigger picture — the cooperation that allows the tri-community to function essentially as one urban area when it matters.

"This is another issue we've been able to resolve," Maillet said. "We all had to compromise in order to get this agreement. Getting an agreement was important to each municipality, as well as to the ongoing success of the tri-community region."

"One of the reasons the Greater Moncton area has done as well as it has in recent years is the cooperation among the communities," Mitton said.

Sweetland said, "one of the great successes here is that we were able to reach an agreement. It was one of the most difficult negotiation issues that we've had through the years."