

Minister of Public Safety,  
Democratic Institutions  
and Intergovernmental Affairs



Ministre de la Sécurité publique,  
des Institutions démocratiques  
et des Affaires intergouvernementales

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

February 12, 2024

His Worship Amarjeet Sohi  
Mayor of City of Edmonton  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7

Dear Mr. Mayor:

*Amarjeet,*

Thank you for your correspondence of January 19, 2024, concerning the recent escalation of extortion threats in the city of Edmonton.

Any threat of extortion is deeply concerning. Please rest assured that the Government of Canada prioritizes protecting the safety of Canadians and Canadian interests from all significant criminal threats, including extortion and acts of violence.

As Canada's national police force and as the Provincial and municipal police service to many provinces and cities, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is mandated to prevent, detect, and investigate serious and organized crime and crimes related to national security to protect Canadians and Canadian interests.

The RCMP is aware of the reports of extortion targeting members of the South Asian community across Canada and is investigating these reports along with its law enforcement partners across jurisdictions. Law enforcement agencies are actively sharing information and advancing their investigations.

Canadian law enforcement agencies are also increasing awareness campaigns through community meetings and townhalls and are working closely with international partners.

It is important that individuals in Canada know that there is support to assist them when experiencing potential threats to their safety and security. Anyone who feels threatened online or in person should report these incidents to their local police. If someone in the public is in immediate danger, they should call 9-1-1 or their local police emergency number.

Thank you again for taking the time to write about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

*Hope to see you soon.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dominic".

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., K.C., M.P.