

## Stakeholder Correspondence - February 23

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From: Hampson, Ashley PREM:EX <Ashley.Hampson@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Thomson, Sarah C PREM:EX <Sarah.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>, Bain, Don PREM:EX <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>, Brewer, Lia PREM:EX <Lia.Brewer@gov.bc.ca>, Caul, Doug D PREM:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>, Chan, Alex PREM:EX <Alex.Chan@gov.bc.ca>, Cheema, Haiqa PREM:EX <Haiqa.Cheema@gov.bc.ca>, Farmer, Susan PREM:EX <Susan.Farmer@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Hrenyk, Alyssa PREM:EX <Alyssa.Hrenyk@gov.bc.ca>, Kouri, Rosa PREM:EX <Rosa.Kouri@gov.bc.ca>, Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, Marshall, Simka PREM:EX <Simka.Marshall@gov.bc.ca>, Milne, Gala PREM:EX <Gala.Milne@gov.bc.ca>, Porter, Jorge PREM:EX <Jorge.Porter@gov.bc.ca>, Prince, Jessica PREM:EX <Jessica.Prince@gov.bc.ca>, Sali, Meghan PREM:EX <Meghan.Sali@gov.bc.ca>, Salter, Shannon PREM:EX <Shannon.Salter@gov.bc.ca>, Sanford, Donna L PREM:EX <Donna.Sanford@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Jessica C PREM:EX <Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Matt PREM:EX <Matt.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Sundhu, Sachin PREM:EX <Sachin.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>, Transition, LP039 PREM:EX <LP039.Transition@gov.bc.ca>, Van Meer-Mass, Kate PREM:EX <Kate.VanMeer-Mass@gov.bc.ca>, Vavrik, Anne PREM:EX <Anne.Vavrik@gov.bc.ca>, White, Doug PREM:EX <Doug.White@gov.bc.ca>, McNish, James PREM:EX <James.McNish@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Watson, Amanda PREM:EX <Amanda.Watson@gov.bc.ca>, Wilde, Naomi PREM:EX <Naomi.Wilde@gov.bc.ca>, Hampson, Ashley PREM:EX <Ashley.Hampson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: February 23, 2023 9:58:32 AM PST  
Attachments: Congratulations from Nature United, Connecting with Premier's Stakeholder Relations Staff, FNLC & BCFNJC: Allegations that RCMP in Prince George Abused Indigenous Women and Girls, CMA Response: New investments in Canada Health Transfer and Bilateral Health Agreements/Réponse de l'AMC : Nouveaux investissements au titre du Transfert canadien en matière de santé et ententes bilatérales sur la santé, Fwd: Letter of Request to address inflation, NEW BLOG: B.C. gas utilities need to rethink their business models, FNLC & BCFNJC: Allegations that RCMP in Prince George Abused Indigenous Women and Girls, Request for environmental assessment of Bamberton projects, : 58179 - Kitsumkalum Treaty Skeena River and Coastal Land Recondition presented at, B.C. Cabinet & First Nations Leadership Gathering - November 29 - 30, 2022, Vancouver BC.

Hi everyone, here's today's report:

Kitsumkalum Band Chief Councillor Don Roberts – a letter to PDE and Minister Rankin in response to the FNLC follow-up letter we sent out. Kitsumkalum Band Council Government provided a Band Council Resolution (BCR) to the government addressing Kitsumkalum community concerns on Coastal territories. We will request IRR respond and send an acknowledgement. **Please advise if there is another direction you'd like us to take.**

Nature United – a letter to PDE congratulating him on his new position. The team has worked closely with the BC Government in recent years and has worked on several initiatives including Clayoquot Sound, Great Bear Rainforest and Great Bear Sea. They mention they'd be happy to brief staff on work underway and welcome inclusion in stakeholder engagement processes. We will send an acknowledgement and share with scheduling for consideration.

Highlands District Community Association – a letter to PDE, ENV, and EMLI. The Association is lending its support to calls for an Environmental Assessment of the Malahat Investment Corporation (MICO) Bamberton Projects prior to any further development of the in-scope sites. We will request ENV respond and send an acknowledgement.

AccessBC Campaign – The campaign is hoping to connect with someone in PO regarding the upcoming budget and the issue of free contraception. As they were in contact with Naveen in the previous government, we will share with scheduling for appropriate action.

First Nations LNG Alliance – an open letter to PDE in response to rising concerns about the future of LNG in BC. The Alliance says these concerns are triggered by the lack of express commitment to LNG

development in the Throne Speech and that a withdrawal from the project would result in the loss of jobs and economic stability in communities. The Alliance also mentions they will advance and enforce their interests should the province default on their obligations. We will touch base with EMLI and ENV to see who is best to lead a response and send an acknowledgement.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs - a joint open letter from the First Nations Leadership Council and BC First Nations Justice Council regarding grievous allegations made against RCMP officers in Prince George of abuse towards Indigenous girls that went uninvestigated. The FNLC and BCFNJC are calling for a renewed Indigenous and civilian-led investigation, and pending criminal charges for officers involved, as well as the for the interim report from the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC) to be publicly released. We will touch base with AG and PSSG for response and send an acknowledgement on our end.

Pembina Institute – A message to PDE highlighting their latest blog and research paper regarding regulating gas utilities to reach climate goals (links in the email). There is a loose offer of a meeting, so we'll touch base with Scheduling before we send an acknowledgement and share as an FYI with ENV and EMLI.

Canadian Medical Association – A letter to the PM and all Premiers regarding the recent commitments to delivering new and targeted investment in Canada's health care system through the CHT and in shared priority areas through bilateral agreements. They list the priorities they feel should receive attention and thank everyone for the work that has led to reaching these agreements. As HLTH is already cc'd on the letter, we'll share with IGRS and confirm with them that sending an acknowledgement will suffice.

Sunshine Coast Labour Council – cc, an email to MLA Nicholas Simons regarding their request to the Federal Government to address inflation. They note they hope the BC government can also assist with further measures to support their community and vulnerable populations throughout the province. We will file.

**From:** Watson, Amanda PREM:EX <Amanda.Watson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 10:58 AM  
**To:** Minister, AG AG:EX <AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For Advice CLIFF ID 637173

Thanks, Candice. PSSG is responding.

**From:** Minister, AG AG:EX <AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February 28, 2023 10:57 AM  
**To:** Watson, Amanda PREM:EX <Amanda.Watson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: For Advice CLIFF ID 637173

Hi Amanda,  
We have been advised by BCPS that it is not for AG. Two of their officials Dan and Gordon both say if anyone is responding, it should be PSSG.  
C.

**From:** Thompson, Angella N AG:EX <Angella.Thompson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February 28, 2023 10:51 AM  
**To:** Minister, AG AG:EX <AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: For Advice CLIFF ID 637173

Fyi.

**From:** <sup>s.19</sup> AG:EX <<sup>s.19</sup> >  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:03 PM  
**To:** AG Correspondence AG:EX <MAG.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For Advice CLIFF ID 637173

Not ours. I sent this to Gordon and Dan, who advise that if anyone should be responding to this it would be PSSG.

s.19

BC Prosecution Service

**From:** AG Correspondence AG:EX <MAG.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:30 AM  
**To:** <sup>s.19</sup> AG:EX <<sup>s.19</sup> >  
**Subject:** FW: For Advice CLIFF ID 637173  
**Importance:** High

Advice pls

**From:** Hughes Candice <Candice.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:18 AM  
**To:** AG Correspondence AG:EX <MAG.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** For Advice CLIFF ID 637173  
**Importance:** High

PO Correspondence is requesting advice please -

AG-Attorney General **Referral Slip for ID:637173**

2023/02/23

*Log Type:* **Email**

*Action:* **For Advice**

*Due:* **2023/02/28**

*Batch:*

*Subaction:*

*Type:* First Nation

Cheryl Casimir and Co-Signors  
on behalf of First Nations Summit and Union of BC  
Indian Chiefs  
First Nations Leadership Council

*Email:* [epennell@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:epennell@ubcic.bc.ca)

*Written:* 2023/02/22 *Resp*  
*Type:*  
*Received:* 2023/02/23 *Entered* s.15  
*By:*  
*Due:* 2023/02/28

*Interim:*

*Signed:* *Sign By:*

*Approved:* *Approved*  
*By:*

*Closed:* *File No.:*

*Address*  
*To:*

Premier Eby, Minister Farnworth,  
Federal Minister of Public Safety,  
Federal Minister of Justice

*Copy To:*

[pg\\_media@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:pg_media@rcmp-grc.gc.ca); [brcrcmp-grcencb@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:brcrcmp-grcencb@rcmp-grc.gc.ca); Parliamentary  
Committees LASS:EX ; [Media@crcc-ccetp.gc.ca](mailto:Media@crcc-ccetp.gc.ca)

*Branch*  
*Rsp:*

*Issue:*

*X-Ref:*

*Drafter:*

*MLA:*

*Electoral*  
*Dist:*

### **Subject**

FNLC & BCFNJC: Allegations that RCMP in Prince George Abused Indigenous Women and Girls  
The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) are appalled and deeply disturbed that there are serious allegations of egregious and violent sexual abuse of Indigenous girls against RCMP officers in Prince George, BC, and that when these allegations were originally made in 2011 they were not investigated, but instead were covered up by authorities. This situation demonstrates failures on countless levels and complete negligence by the RCMP. As families of MMIWG2S+ and survivors marked the February 14th Downtown Eastside Women's Memorial March and gathered for the Assembly of First Nations National Gathering on MMIWG2S+ in BC Last week, it remains clear that the Crown's lack of response and prioritization of issues of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people continues to cost lives and leave countless others forever impacted.

### **Log Notes**

2023/02/23 Forwarded by Premier's Correspondence Branch - They are advising - "Please see email below/ attached from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. Is PSSG or AG able to respond? Please let me know as our office will send an acknowledgement once PSSG and/or AG confirm". Advice request - please check with BCPS and any other MAG Branches that can advise. Many thanks. AG MO

**Referral** AG-Attorney General -> AG-Attorney General

*From:* AG-Attorney General *Sent:* 2023/02/23 *Status:* Pending *Ref Action:* For Advice  
*To:* AG-Attorney General *Received:* 2023/02/23 *Reason:* *Subaction:*  
*Assign To:* *Completed:* *Due:* 2023/02/28 (Active (3)) *File No.:*

**Referral** AG-Attorney General -> AG-Attorney General -> CCU-Corp.Cor.Unit

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*From:* AG-Attorney General *Sent:* 2023/02/23 *Status:* Pending *Ref Action:* For Advice  
*To:* CCU-Corp.Cor.Unit *Received:* *Reason:* *Subaction:*  
*Assign To:* *Completed:* *Due:* *File No.:*

\

**From:** Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX <PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:32 PM

**To:** Watson, Amanda PREM:EX <Amanda.Watson@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, AG AG:EX <AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX <PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: PO Log # 753407 - <sup>s.22</sup>

Hi Amanda,

**From:** s.22 >

**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:24 AM

**To:** Prime Minister/Premier Ministre <PM@pm.gc.ca>; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
<Premier@gov.bc.ca>; s.22 >

**Subject:** Fwd: Retired Mountie says RCMP did not probe allegations officers abused Indigenous girls

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

The RCMP must be accountable for these crimes. Justice must be swift. Who ever was in charge must be brought to justice.

s.22

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** <s.22 >

**Date:** Sat, Feb 4, 2023, 2:03 PM

**Subject:** Retired Mountie says RCMP did not probe allegations officers abused Indigenous girls

**To:** <s.22 >

**'IT WAS NOTHING BUT LIES'**

**Retired Mountie says RCMP did not probe allegations officers abused Indigenous girls**

Vancouver Sun, 4 Feb 2023, IAN MULGREW [imulgrew@postmedia.com](mailto:imulgrew@postmedia.com) [twitter.com/ianmulgrew](https://twitter.com/ianmulgrew)

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Page 07 of 27 to/à Page 09 of 27

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**From:** s.22

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:50 AM

**To:** adhocinvestigation@gmail.com; Michelaine Lahaie <michelaine.lahaie@crcc-ccetp.gc.ca>; s.22

s.22

s.22 ; Prime Minister/Premier Ministre <pm@pm.gc.ca>; Ministerial  
Correspondence Unit - Justice Canada <mcu@justice.gc.ca>; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
<Premier@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, AG AG:EX <AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; president@ubcic.bc.ca; XT:Union  
of BC Indian Chiefs IRR:IN <ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca>; Clarence Louie <chief@oib.ca>; XT:Buchan, Maureen  
FOR:IN <maureen.buchan@bcafn.ca>; s.22

s.22

s.22 Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca; pierre.poilievre@parl.gc.ca; MacDonald, Ronald J IIO:EX  
<Ronald.J.MacDonald@iiobc.ca>; s.22 elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca; Minister, PSSG  
PSSG:EX <PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; caroline.maynard@oic-ci.gc.ca; s.22

s.22 ps.psmcu-spucm.sp@ps-sp.gc.ca;  
Marco.Mendicino@parl.gc.ca; s.22

**Subject:** s.22

**Importance:** High

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

s.22

**Vancouver Sun article today: Ian Mulgrew: RCMP management more than dysfunctional**

**Article excerpts:**

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**End excerpts.**

Sincerely,

s.22

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# Ian Mulgrew: RCMP management more than dysfunctional

*Opinion: No wonder Indigenous peoples don't believe the country still doesn't get it. The RCMP has lost its moral authority*

Ian Mulgrew

Published Feb 07, 2023 • Last updated 1 hour ago • 5 minute read

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Former Prince George judge David Ramsay faced nine sex-related counts stemming from incidents as far back as July of 1992.  
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#### RECOMMENDED FROM EDITORIAL

**From:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2023 10:06 AM

**To:** 'epennell@ubcic.bc.ca' <epennell@ubcic.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: FNLC & BCFNJC: Allegations that RCMP in Prince George Abused Indigenous Women and Girls

Dear Elena:

Thank you for your email. We appreciate your sharing the attached letter from the First Nations Leadership Council and the BC First Nations Justice Council regarding allegations against RCMP officers in Prince George.

We have been in contact with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and have requested that the appropriate ministry officials follow up with a response at their earliest opportunity.

Thank you, again, for writing. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Office of the Premier*

**From:** Elena Pennell <epennell@ubcic.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 1:57 PM

**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>; marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca; Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX <PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; David.Lametti@parl.gc.ca

**Cc:** pg\_media@rcmp-grc.gc.ca; brcmp-grcencb@rcmp-grc.gc.ca; Parliamentary Committees LASS:EX <ClerkComm@leg.bc.ca>; Media@crcc-ccetp.gc.ca

**Subject:** FNLC & BCFNJC: Allegations that RCMP in Prince George Abused Indigenous Women and Girls

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good afternoon Premier Eby, Minister Farnworth, Minister Mendicino, and Minister Lametti,

Please see attached and below, a joint open letter from the First Nations Leadership Council and BC First Nations Justice Council regarding grievous allegations made against RCMP officers in Prince George of abusing Indigenous girls that went uninvestigated.

We urgently await your responses to learn how you will take responsibility to address these allegations of gross human rights violations and corruption.

Miigwech,

**Elena Pennell** (she/her)

*Social Policy Analyst*

## Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs

TEL	(604) 684 0231
CELL	(604) 312 1241
FAX	(604) 684 5726
E-MAIL	<a href="mailto:epennell@ubcic.bc.ca">epennell@ubcic.bc.ca</a>
WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.ubcic.bc.ca">www.ubcic.bc.ca</a>

401 - 312 Main Street, Vancouver BC V6A 2T2

### OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

*We acknowledge our place of work is within the ancestral, traditional and  
unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəṽəm  
(Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh)*

February 22, 2023 Hon. Premier Eby  
Premier of British Columbia  
Government of British Columbia  
Via Email Only: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Minister Mendicino  
Minister of Public Safety  
Government of Canada  
Via Email Only: [marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Minister Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Government of British Columbia  
Via Email Only: [PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Minister Lametti  
Minister of Justice  
Government of Canada  
Via Email Only: [david.lametti@parl.gc.ca](mailto:david.lametti@parl.gc.ca)

### **RE: Allegations that RCMP in Prince George Abused Indigenous Women and Girls**

Dear Premier Eby, Minister Farnworth, Minister Mendicino, and Minister Lametti,

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) are appalled and deeply disturbed that there are serious allegations of egregious and violent sexual abuse of Indigenous girls against RCMP officers in Prince George, BC, and that when these allegations were originally made in 2011 they were not investigated, but instead were covered up by authorities. This situation demonstrates failures on countless levels and complete negligence by the RCMP. As families of MMIWG2S+ and survivors marked the February 14<sup>th</sup> Downtown Eastside Women's Memorial March and gathered for the Assembly of First Nations National Gathering on MMIWG2S+ in BC last week, it remains clear that the Crown's lack of response and prioritization of issues of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people continues to cost lives and leave countless others forever impacted.

The FNLC and BCFNJC are calling for a renewed Indigenous and civilian-led investigation, and pending criminal charges for officers involved. We are also calling for the interim report from the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC) – which found a failure by the RCMP to investigate these allegations – to be publicly released. The discredited RCMP

organization must be completely transformed so that it stops perpetuating harm against Indigenous peoples, especially women, girls and gender-diverse people. First Nations' jurisdiction over matters of justice, policing and community safety must be affirmed.

According to the first of three stories published on February 3, 2023, former Constable Lisa Mackenzie shared with top homicide investigator Garry Kerr in January 2006 that she found video footage of RCMP officers assaulting Indigenous girls and that the assaults may be connected to the notorious case of judge David Ramsay who was accused of the assault of underage and of age Indigenous women and girls alongside nine RCMP officers and one lawyer. Judge Ramsay was the only one to be sentenced and received seven years in prison for violently preying on and assaulting Indigenous girls as young as 12 in Prince George, BC. Mackenzie's allegations were reported to several senior RCMP officials along with recorded statements from Mackenzie and Kerr and video evidence submitted to a lawyer for a presumed renewed RCMP investigation; it took seven months before the evidence was collected. Despite efforts by Mackenzie and Kerr, the matter was ignored by senior RCMP officials and according to Supt. Darren Lench, the matter was investigated and closed. When Kerr asked for the video evidence to be returned, he was told it had been lost.

The findings of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP report are damning; concluding that no one was ever designated to lead an investigation, upholding what Indigenous women and frontline advocates have long decried – that the RCMP fail to protect Indigenous women and girls, perpetuate violence, and fail to meaningfully support victims' families.

The FNLC and BCFNJC are extremely troubled by the details of these allegations, which point to the deeply rooted corruption, impunity, and lawlessness of the RCMP as a police institution. It is fundamentally unfit, and unable to be accountable. The repeated failed attempts of Mackenzie and Kerr spanning more than a decade attempting to have justice served and have the allegations investigated is indicative of the insidious and systemic racist and misogynistic attitudes that have defined the RCMP since its inception as a colonial tool of violence against Indigenous peoples.

The timing and location of these allegations are particularly salient and offensive as they stem from the heart of the crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit+ People (MMIWG2S+). The National inquiry, Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, and the Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report make abundantly clear the disproportionate and widespread experiences of gender-based violence in rural and remote communities like Prince George, BC along the Highway of Tears, which are under-resourced, lack safe Indigenous-run regional transit options, shelters, and victims' services, are rife with violent predators, and face police apathy, violence, and mishandling of processes which should, but do not deliver justice.

Adding insult to injury, the 2011 allegations came to light during a time when communities were reeling with the unspeakable atrocities committed by judge David Ramsay and serial killer Robert Pickton just a few years earlier. These crimes and uninvestigated allegations display the profound and inexcusable lack of accountability and oversight by multiple jurisdictions and police forces. We are deeply disappointed that a decade later on April 13, 2021, Minister Farnworth's office, the minister responsible for public safety, responded to the CCRC report and current allegations by passing the issue onto the federal government. Responsibility for the lives of Indigenous women and girls cannot be reduced to bureaucracy and jurisdiction.

Articles 7, 21, and 22 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms the rights of Indigenous women and girls and must be fully implemented without delay. The federal and provincial governments' responses to the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice are not sufficient, systemic, transparent, or tangible at the community level. In BC, the response to the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*, have fallen short of meaningful transformation, and the federal government's narrow approach to First Nations police services legislation are not aligned with the UN Declaration. Without a complete overhaul of the current system, new investments into policing will not solve the issues experienced by Indigenous peoples. We are both over-policed and under-protected.

On the contrary, recent commitments by Vancouver Mayor Sim including 100 new Vancouver Police Department officers and mental health nurses, as well as Premier David Eby's commitment of 230 million dollars to the RCMP, further empower the RCMP in this province and signal the status quo in policing. The FNLC does not support the intensification of policing as a solution to creating safe communities for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Evidence further shows that stronger police presence does not equal safety for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The RCMP is a failed and archaic institution, which has a long history of warfare against the Indigenous people. The issues cannot simply be fixed with provincial dollars, which could be better directed to Indigenous and grassroots organizations and First Nations to assert our jurisdiction and rights to self-determination to protect our peoples.

We call on your leadership to work together across jurisdictions to address the harm done: to see that these allegations, and others involving those that are complicit in systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls, are fully investigated; for the RCMP interim investigation report to be released publicly; for an independent Indigenous and civilian-led investigation to be swiftly carried out; for a criminal investigation and appropriate criminal charges for the officers involved; and for profound police reform to put an end to negligence and violence towards our people.

We urgently await your responses to learn how you will take responsibility to address these allegations of gross human rights violations and corruption.

Sincerely,

**FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**  
**On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT**  
Cheryl Casimer Robert Phillips Hugh Braker

**On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**  
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip Chief Don Tom Chief Marilyn Slett  
**On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:**  
Regional Chief Terry Teegee

**BC FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL**  
A/Chair Rosalie Yazzie

CC:  
Prince George RCMP  
RCMP Commissioner

Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act  
The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission of the RCMP  
BC First Nations



February 22, 2023

Hon. Premier Eby  
Premier of British Columbia  
Government of British Columbia  
Via Email Only: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Minister Mendicino  
Minister of Public Safety  
Government of Canada  
Via Email Only: [marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Minister Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Government of British Columbia  
Via Email Only: [PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Minister Lametti  
Minister of Justice  
Government of Canada  
Via Email Only: [david.lametti@parl.gc.ca](mailto:david.lametti@parl.gc.ca)

## **RE: Allegations that RCMP in Prince George Abused Indigenous Women and Girls**

Dear Premier Eby, Minister Farnworth, Minister Mendicino, and Minister Lametti,

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) are appalled and deeply disturbed that there are serious allegations of egregious and violent sexual abuse of Indigenous girls against RCMP officers in Prince George, BC, and that when these allegations were originally made in 2011 they were not investigated, but instead were covered up by authorities. This situation demonstrates failures on countless levels and complete negligence by the RCMP. As families of MMIWG2S+ and survivors marked the February 14<sup>th</sup> Downtown Eastside Women's Memorial March and gathered for the Assembly of First Nations National Gathering on MMIWG2S+ in BC last week, it remains clear that the Crown's lack of response and prioritization of issues of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people continues to cost lives and leave countless others forever impacted.

The FNLC and BCFNJC are calling for a renewed Indigenous and civilian-led investigation, and pending criminal charges for officers involved. We are also calling for the interim report from the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC) – which found a failure by the RCMP to investigate these allegations – to be publicly released. The discredited RCMP organization must be completely transformed so that it stops perpetuating harm against Indigenous peoples, especially women, girls and gender-diverse people. First Nations' jurisdiction over matters of justice, policing and community safety must be affirmed.

According to the first of three stories [published on February 3, 2023](#), former Constable Lisa Mackenzie shared with top homicide investigator Garry Kerr in January 2006 that she found video footage of RCMP officers assaulting Indigenous girls and that the assaults may be connected to the notorious case of judge David Ramsay who was accused of the assault of underage and of age Indigenous women and girls alongside nine RCMP officers and one lawyer. Judge Ramsay was the only one to be sentenced and received [seven years](#) in prison for violently preying on and assaulting Indigenous girls as young as 12 in Prince George, BC.

Mackenzie's allegations were reported to several senior RCMP officials along with recorded statements from Mackenzie and Kerr and video evidence submitted to a lawyer for a presumed renewed RCMP investigation; it took seven months before the evidence was collected. Despite efforts by Mackenzie and Kerr, the matter was ignored by senior RCMP officials and according to Supt. Darren Lench, the matter was investigated and closed. When Kerr asked for the video evidence to be returned, he was told it had been lost.

The findings of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP report are damning; concluding that no one was ever designated to lead an investigation, upholding what Indigenous women and frontline advocates have long decried – that the RCMP fail to protect Indigenous women and girls, perpetuate violence, and fail to meaningfully support victims' families.

The FNLC and BCFNJC are extremely troubled by the details of these allegations, which point to the deeply rooted corruption, impunity, and lawlessness of the RCMP as a police institution. It is fundamentally unfit, and unable to be accountable. The repeated failed attempts of Mackenzie and Kerr spanning more than a decade attempting to have justice served and have the allegations investigated is indicative of the insidious and systemic racist and misogynistic attitudes that have defined the RCMP since its inception as a colonial tool of violence against Indigenous peoples.

The timing and location of these allegations are particularly salient and offensive as they stem from the heart of the crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit+ People (MMIWG2S+). [The National inquiry, Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside](#), and the [Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report](#) make abundantly clear the disproportionate and widespread experiences of gender-based violence in rural and remote communities like Prince George, BC along the Highway of Tears, which are under-resourced, lack safe Indigenous-run regional transit options, shelters, and victims' services, are rife with violent predators, and face police apathy, violence, and mishandling of processes which should, but do not deliver justice.

Adding insult to injury, the 2011 allegations came to light during a time when communities were reeling with the unspeakable atrocities committed by judge David Ramsay and serial killer Robert Pickton just a few years earlier. These crimes and uninvestigated allegations display the profound and inexcusable lack of accountability and oversight by multiple jurisdictions and police forces. We are deeply disappointed that a decade later on April 13, 2021, Minister Farnworth's office, the minister responsible for public safety, responded to the CCRC report and current allegations by passing the issue onto the federal government. Responsibility for the lives of Indigenous women and girls cannot be reduced to bureaucracy and jurisdiction.

Articles 7, 21, and 22 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms the rights of Indigenous

women and girls and must be fully implemented without delay. The federal and provincial governments' responses to the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice are not sufficient, systemic, transparent, or tangible at the community level. In BC, the response to the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*, have fallen short of meaningful transformation, and the federal government's narrow approach to First Nations police services legislation are not aligned with the UN Declaration. Without a complete overhaul of the current system, new investments into policing will not solve the issues experienced by Indigenous peoples. We are both over-policed and under-protected.

On the contrary, recent commitments by Vancouver Mayor Sim including 100 new Vancouver Police Department officers and mental health nurses, as well as Premier David Eby's commitment of 230 million dollars to the RCMP, further empower the RCMP in this province and signal the status quo in policing. The FNLC does not support the intensification of policing as a solution to creating safe communities for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Evidence further shows that stronger police presence does not equal safety for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The RCMP is a failed and archaic institution, which has a long history of warfare against the Indigenous people. The issues cannot simply be fixed with provincial dollars, which could be better directed to Indigenous and grassroots organizations and First Nations to assert our jurisdiction and rights to self-determination to protect our peoples.

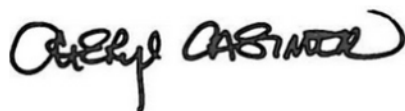
We call on your leadership to work together across jurisdictions to address the harm done: to see that these allegations, and others involving those that are complicit in systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls, are fully investigated; for the RCMP interim investigation report to be released publicly; for an independent Indigenous and civilian-led investigation to be swiftly carried out; for a criminal investigation and appropriate criminal charges for the officers involved; and for profound police reform to put an end to negligence and violence towards our people.

We urgently await your responses to learn how you will take responsibility to address these allegations of gross human rights violations and corruption.

Sincerely,

#### **FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

##### **On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT**



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Hugh Braker

##### **On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

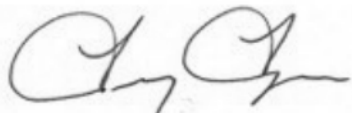


Chief Don Tom



Chief Marilyn Slett

**On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', with a stylized, flowing script.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee

**BC FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosalie Yazzie', with a stylized, flowing script.

A/Chair Rosalie Yazzie

CC:

Prince George RCMP

RCMP Commissioner

Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act

The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission of the RCMP

BC First Nations