

From: [Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX](#)
To: [Bourgeois, Danielle GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Media Request: Coastal GasLink enforcement
Date: April 19, 2022 11:45:00 AM

Approved, thanks

From: Bourgeois, Danielle GCPE:EX <Danielle.Bourgeois@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 11:40 AM
To: Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kiewiet, Nargis PSSG:EX <Nargis.Kiewiet@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Media Request: Coastal GasLink enforcement

Hi Brian. In Hope's absence, I'm sending you the media request below. Please let me know if your team can respond, or if it should be redirected to someone else in program.

We recommend the high-level response in the "recommendation" section. We do not expect/anticipate granting an interview.

When we send to the minister's office, and in the media wrap up, we will only be including the first two paragraphs of the request (see red text). However, we wanted you to be aware of the background of the detailed request (and your mention in it).

Do you approve of our recommended response?

Thanks,
Danielle Bourgeois

Danielle Bourgeois
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Cell: 250-880-4738

Reporter

Matt Simmons, Reporter
The Narwhal
matt@thenarwhal.ca
250-643-2967

Deadline Thursday, April 21, 2022 4:00 PM

Request

We are working on a news report for The Narwhal regarding some records released to us through

freedom of information legislation by your ministry about the police operations and arrests conducted in November 2021 in relation to the court injunction on construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

We are wondering if the minister or another senior ministry official would be available for an interview to discuss the contents of communications between senior RCMP and government officials, including Assistant Deputy Minister Wayne Rideout, Deputy Solicitor General Mark Sieben, Brian Sims, Ward Lymburner and others.

In one of the emails sent by Assistant Commissioner Eric Stubbs to Rideout, Stubbs forwarded an email from Chief Superintendent John Brewer, Gold Commander of Community - Industry Response Group (CIRG.) about the arrests of two journalists on Nov. 19.

Stubbs also wrote in this email, "Give this a read as it helps a bit on the journalist perspective and the approach taken."

Brewer's email reads as follows:

Copyright

Copyright

Copyright

Copyright

Copyright

Here are some questions we'd like the government to respond to:

- 1) We did not see any evidence presented in court that confirmed any journalists were engaging in "background activities" that brought their impartiality "into question." There were two affidavits signed by Constable Benjamin Laurie that provided an account of the arrests, and an explanation that journalists were arrested for breaching the injunction, however, neither affidavit covered or referenced any of the serious allegations about journalistic integrity that were made by Chief Supt. Brewer in the email that was later forwarded by Assistant Commissioner Stubbs to Mr. Rideout. Was anyone at the ministry made aware of the contents of the package referenced in Brewer's email, beyond its mention in the message sent to the ADM? Or did anyone from the ministry follow up to verify and confirm that what the RCMP was claiming was factual?
- 2) Did anyone within the ministry find it odd to not see any such evidence presented in court, or learn that no charges were subsequently pursued against Amber Bracken and Michael Toledano? And what did ministry officials do to follow up with the RCMP or hold either Brewer or Stubbs accountable for making any statements that may have been misleading or inaccurate?
- 3) The email from Brewer and a public statement made by Assistant Commissioner Stubbs both indicated in November 2021 that the RCMP's CIRG team was following standards set out by the courts in the Brake 2019 NLCA 17 decision. The Narwhal has reviewed audio captured in the moments following Amber Bracken's arrest. It includes statements made by at least three officers who either did not appear to be aware of the provisions of this ruling or who confirmed they were not aware of the Brake decision. Did the ministry take any steps to verify or confirm that the RCMP was respecting the rights and freedoms of journalists or, if not, would the minister or anyone in the ministry take steps to review evidence collected by the RCMP, including body camera footage from officers on scene to review this matter?
- 4) Can anyone at the ministry comment on whether the government believes it received complete and accurate information from the RCMP about why journalists were arrested on Nov. 19 and does the provincial government support the actions taken by the RCMP and the explanation that they provided to justify their actions?
- 5) Communications we reviewed between B.C. government officials, including a briefing note prepared for Deputy Solicitor General Mark Sieben on Nov. 18, 2021 and an email from Brian

Sims to Glen Lewis and Wayne Rideout, note that some opponents of the Coastal GasLink project put out calls for support “including anarchists.” Can you clarify where and how ministry officials obtained or found evidence of these calls of support and provide any additional context about why senior officials in government wanted to note that there was a call for support sent to anarchists? Did the ministry have reason to believe that this call for support offered evidence or indications of the potential for violence or any other escalation of criminal activity?

Recommendation

- Police operate at arms-length from government and the Solicitor General does not direct police operations.
- People can take their concerns or complaints regarding allegations against the RCMP directly to the RCMP “E” Division, or complaints can be made to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC) at www.complaintscommission.ca. The CRCC is an independent agency established by the federal government to ensure that public complaints

Background