

PSSG Media Wrap: Monday June 13, 2022

From: Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE PSSG Media Wrap <PSSGMEWR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 13, 2022 4:22:13 PM PDT
Underway:

Brett Forester, Reporter, APTN

Request:

I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

This may be something the DM or another senior official could speak to. It would likely be a Zoom interview. Please let me know a time and date that might work.

Status: With Program

Amanda Follett Hosgood, Reporter, The Tyee

Request:

I'm a reporter for The Tyee working on a story about yesterday's communications outage in northern BC and wondering if someone from EMBC is available to comment on contingency plans for the northwest and other isolated areas of the province in the event that a wildfire, flood, etc. severs communications.

Maybe you can confirm, but it's my understanding that even 911 service was not available yesterday.

Can you provide someone to speak to the vulnerability of regions like this where there is only one access route in/out and communications can become severed? What is the province's plan to communicate with northwest BC residents in the event a natural disaster cuts communication? Are there things northwest residents should know or do to prepare for such an event?

Please let me know! My deadline is early afternoon.

Status: With MO

Completed:

Anna Mcmillan, Reporter, CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria

Request:

From Reporter: Does the ministry have a response re: today's highway blockades against old growth logging? Protestors say they plan to keep disrupting the public if the province doesn't follow through on its campaign promise - what will the province do about that?

Status: Reporter dropped

Shannon Waters, Reporter, BC Today

Deadline: Monday, June 13, 2022 3:00 PM

Request:

I am looking for reaction to the news release from the police complaint commissioner today.

Can you confirm the ministry has received the request to appoint special constables to investigate the allegations related to the BC Municipal Undercover Training Course on May 2, 2022? If so, is there an expected timeline to make the appointment?

My deadline is 4pm today. Anything you're able to provide by then would be great.

Response: Provided background

To: (opcc.bc.ca)

- At the request of the Commissioner we looked at outside investigators.
- We cannot comment further as this matter is now under investigation.

Catherine Urquhart, Reporter, Global TV | BC

Request:

Good Morning,

It has been two weeks since we first reported about the investigation into the BC Municipal Police undercover training course and we are doing an update story today.

Can you please advise as to which agency is doing the investigation? Also, who is the discipline authority?

In addition, we understand that a meeting was held Friday with some of the chiefs linked to this story, including Chief Dubord and Chief Jones. What was the purpose of this meeting?

Response: Provided background

To: (opcc.bc.ca)

- At the request of the Commissioner, we looked at outside investigators.
- We cannot comment further as this matter is now under investigation.

Richard Zussman, Reporter, Global TV | BC

Bhinder Sajan, Reporter, CTV

Liza Yuzda, Reporter, City News

Jon Hernandez, Reporter, CBC Vancouver

Deadline: ASAP

Request:

Zussman: I need to clip the minister on various different issues today. The ongoing Old growth blockades, ICBC gas rebate and the Abbotsford floodplain plan.

Sajan: Is the minister available for an on camera today to talk about the save old growth blockades?

Yuzda: Only need him for 3 minutes.

Hernandez: Comment on old growth protests

Response: Provided Interviews

Kristen Robinson, Reporter, Global TV | BC

Request:

The ministry of transportation has deferred this request to the public safety ministry – checking to see if you are aware of this video and/or investigating the incident below involving a DCT Chambers truck:

<https://www.facebook.com/234257750327933/videos/3099587063638939/>

It apparently happened on Highway 97 south of 100 Mile House. Poster's description:

"I have no words....

British Columbia

Back story from a witness who saw this here on STC. "The red truck was doing about 90. The white truck took out to pass him on the end of passing lanes and the red truck would not let him"

HWY 97

Approx 20 minutes south of 100 Mile House. Nearer to 70 Mile House."

Response:

Statement from Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General:

"The driving behaviour exhibited in this dashcam video is extremely concerning . I defer to the police of jurisdiction to investigate the circumstances at their discretion, but I want to be very clear that when my ministry receives evidence of reckless and dangerous driving, you can expect us to take these situations very seriously and the consequences, including a driving ban, could last months or even years, depending on the circumstances.'

ICBC Calls:

Richard Zussman, Reporter, Global TV | BC

Request:

Hoping to get an update on what percentage of ICBC customers have received their ICBC rebate the government has linked to gas prices.

Response:

- We've issued all 25,000 rebates to customers who signed up for direct deposit. We've also issued all credit card rebates to eligible customers (573,000).
- All other customers, including those who paid by debit, cash, cheque or payment plan, as well as customers whose credit cards could not be processed (for reasons including expiry dates or other technical reasons), will receive their rebate as a cheque starting this week with 54,000 cheques processed today.
- Overall, we are sending out roughly 3.5 million relief rebates to our customers totalling \$396 million. We've disbursed approximately \$76,300,000 in relief rebates to date.
- More information on the relief rebate is available on our website: <https://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/newsroom/pages/2022-mar25-rebate.aspx>
- PLEASE NOTE: ICBC will not issue any rebates to customers via text message or email. If you receive a text message asking you to click a link to receive your relief rebate, please delete the message – this is a scam.

Kristen Robinson, Reporter, Global

Request: We are following up on the car part shortage and how longer repair times are affecting time limits on loaner vehicles in BC.

We are checking to see if there is a time to repair law in BC similar to Quebec's that would apply to loaner vehicles?

<https://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/document/cs/p-40.1>

If so, what laws are in place to require repairs be done within a certain time frame, and how do they apply to loaner vehicles?

Under Quebec's Consumer Protection Act, there is an obligation to provide replacement parts to a consumer: "Where goods being the object of a contract are of a nature that requires maintenance, replacement parts and repair service must be available for a reasonable time after the making of the contract." Consumers have successfully used the Article 39 requirement in Quebec Small Claims court to recover the cost of renting a replacement vehicle while waiting for parts to arrive.

If there is no time to repair law in BC, what are the time limits on loaner vehicles when a customer is awaiting the completion of vehicle repairs? What happens if the time limit on the loaner vehicle expires before the customer's vehicle repairs are complete due to the part shortage? If a consumer receives a loaner vehicle while their car is being repaired, how long will insurance cover the loaner vehicle?

Response: Provided Background

- There is no direct equivalent in the (BC) Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act to Section 39 of the (Quebec) Consumer Protection Act.
- Coverage for the cost of a rental vehicle in the event of a crash depends on many factors including the vehicle's insurance coverage and who is responsible.
- If an ICBC customer isn't responsible for a crash that occurred in B.C., they're entitled to loss of use through ICBC Basic Coverage and there is no time limit on that coverage. If the customer is responsible for a crash, they need coverage such as RoadStar, Roadside Plus, or Loss of Use, and the limits would depend on the coverage they purchased (for example, RoadSide Plus has limits of \$100/day to a maximum of \$750).
- We work with customers on a case by case basis to maximize their loss of use coverage as much as possible. Examples include temporarily repairing a vehicle so that it's driveable and safe until all parts are available, delaying the vehicle being repaired until parts are available if the vehicle is driveable, and reimbursing expenses for other transportation including taxis, rideshare or public transit to lengthen coverage.
- We consider all available part sources including recycled or aftermarket parts where possible to help our customers get back on the road as quickly as possible. We'll continue to work with our business partners in material damage on these challenges to provide the best service we can for our customers.
- The average length of rental vehicle use for customers with ICBC claims has increased from 10 to 12 days in 2021-22 compared to 2020-21. The industry average for Canadian auto insurers increased by five days for the same time period (from 11 to 16 days).

BCCS Media:

- CTV/Penny Daflos (penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca) - Can you provide me with the postal codes of the people who died in the heat dome? I'd like to do a more detailed socio-economic analysis based on where folks live and the challenges in those areas. I think the postal codes are specific enough for my needs but vague enough not to risk any undue identification. Please let me know if this requires an FOI request but I'd prefer not to go that route if possible. Advised that obtaining this data would need to be done via FOI. – COMPLETE
- CTV/Rob Buffam (Robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca) – Reporter looking for information related to suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths amongst people working in the trades. Responded that amongst the data reviewed during the recent [death review panel into illicit drug-related deaths](#) was the fact that 52% of decedents in the Protocol Cohort were identified as being employed in the “Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators” category, more than three times that of the 2018 BC Population (15+ years). For all unintentional illicit drug deaths, coroners complete an additional set of questions, called protocol data, that provide more insight into the decedent and the circumstances surrounding the death. At the time of writing, 35% of All Cases have had this additional set of questioning completed and available for analysis. Cases from the protocol cohort are more likely to be from earlier in the time period. – COMPLETE
- Castanet/Rob Gibson (rgibson@castanet.net) – Good morning we understand there has been a fatal shooting in Osoyoos and that Kelowna Major Crimes are on the scene at the Osoyoos Indian Reserve. Can you provide us with any information? Confirmed that the BC Coroners Service was notified about an incident at this location. As we're early in the process of trying to determine all of the facts I have no additional information available at this time. – COMPLETE
- 97.3 The Eagle/Jon De Roo (jon.deroo@pattisonmedia.com) – I was just looking for confirmation that you are in fact investigating an incident down at the Discovery Harbour in Campbell River? Advised that we have no information to share at this time. – COMPLETE

PSSG Media Wrap: Tuesday June 14, 2022

From: Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE PSSG Media Wrap <PSSGMEWR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 14, 2022 4:33:49 PM PDT
Underway:

Brett Forester, Reporter, APTN

Request:

I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

This may be something the DM or another senior official could speak to. It would likely be a Zoom interview. Please let me know a time and date that might work.

Here are some questions I have. I may have more depending on how the ministry opts to respond.

1. Did the provincial government instruct the RCMP to establish the Community-Industry Response Group?
 2. Did the province approve the establishment of this new unit?
 3. Has the province asked industry leaders — namely, Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink and Teal-Jones — to pay extra for the tailor-made services provided by the C-IRG?
 4. If the province did not approve this unit, what would you say to those who see this as evidence the RCMP lacks adequate political oversight in B.C.?
 5. If the province did approve the creation of this squad, why?
 6. The C-IRG has spent tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on operations for Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink, and Teal-Jones. How does the province oversee that spending?
 7. How satisfied is B.C. with the C-IRG's efforts to clear the way for these disputed resource extraction projects?
 8. How confident is the DMO in the quality and accuracy of the information received about this unit via the Policing and Security Branch?
 9. Did industry leaders request additional policing for their pipelines sometime prior to December 2016 when the unit was formed?
 10. APTN's investigation confirmed the unit monitors the political activity of democratic groups, claiming "it is operationally necessary to have awareness of opposition to the oil and LNG pipeline project," i.e. TMX and CGL. This means law-abiding First Nations and municipal community groups are subject to routine RCMP surveillance simply for their political views. How do you react to that?
 11. The C-IRG has used illegal exclusion zones, intrusive personal belongings searches, blocked reporters from documenting police actions, and done so with their name tags removed and many wearing the technically banned thin blue line patch. These are documented and proven in court. What is the province doing about this?
 12. This unit is facing allegations that include intimidation, torture, brutality, harassment, racism, theft, destruction of property, arbitrary detention, inhumanity, lying and deceit.
- How concerned are you that these accusations pursue this unit wherever it operates?

Status: With Program

Completed:

Shannon Waters, Reporter, BC Today

Request:

I am putting together a primer on BC's efforts to address money laundering ahead of the release of the Cullen commission report.

Firstly, cost. Looks like estimates have \$5.1 million for the commission in the previous fiscal year plus \$850,000 for 2022-23. Could you confirm those numbers are accurate? And is there a total cost for the commission's operations to date?

I am also interested in an update on the recommendations stemming from the Dirty Money reports. The most recent update I can find says half of the 50 recommendations were expected to be addressed by the summer of 2019. Have they all been fully implemented at this point? If not, which are outstanding?

I also wanted to make an interview request for the attorney general - 10 minutes today or tomorrow to get a couple of anticipatory quotes. Any time after 11:30AM today would work or basically any time tomorrow. Please let me know if this is possible.

Any info you are able to provide by 3PM tomorrow (primer piece is set to run Wednesday) would be much appreciated.

Response: Provided background

- In Dr. German's first report on money laundering, he outlined the scope of the problem and provided government with 48 recommendations and two interim recommendations.
- Work has been completed on 80% of the recommendations (38 of 48) with the remaining recommendations to be addressed through legislative changes to the *Gaming Control Act*, anticipated to go forward in Fall 2022.
- The Province has also worked quickly to respond to money laundering in real estate, which was identified as a significant issue in both Dr. German's second Dirty Money and in the Maloney report. This includes introducing measures such as:
 - introducing legislation in March 2021 to establish BC Financial Services Authority as the single regulator for financial services, including real estate, to help streamline and unify regulation of the sector,
 - requiring businesses to keep transparency registers in their corporate records,
 - closed a loophole identified in Peter German's 2019 report on money laundering that may have supported a grey market in our vehicle sales industry,
 - Working to update and modernize the Mortgage Brokers Act and to increase beneficial ownership transparency for B.C. companies,
 - reviewing the results of a consultation to potentially create a regulatory framework for money services businesses, and
 - established the new Land Owner Transparency Registry for real estate to help end hidden ownership of land in British Columbia. The Expert Panel on Money Laundering in Real Estate has called disclosure of beneficial ownership information the "single most important measure" to addressing money laundering.
- We remain committed to building on this work to make our province the most difficult place to launder money in Canada.

Rob Shaw - For Daily Hive, Freelancer, The Daily Hive - Vancouver

Request:

Daily Hive would like something on the late-arriving ICBC rebate cheques -- Global had a story last night that the minister clipped on. I've asked ICBC for the detailed numbers.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8917566/icbc-gas-rebate-delayed-july/>

Could I get a statement I could attribute to the minister? He mentions 600,000 rebates out so far -- what is he saying to people about how long this is taking?

Hoping for it as soon as possible today thanks.

Response:

Statement from Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General:

"When the rebate was announced, it was scheduled to begin disbursements in mid-May and be completed by the end of July. So far, about 600,000 rebates have already gone out, totalling over \$76 million. ICBC remains on track to distribute all of the rebates by the end of July."

ICBC Calls:

Kristen Robinson, Reporter, Global TV | BC

Request:

Just requesting some clarification, specifically around the loaner/courtesy car issue. If a customer's vehicle is in the shop for collision repairs and the collision wasn't the customer's fault, what is the maximum number of days they will be covered for a loaner vehicle? If the car being repaired is not drivable until a part arrives, will the loaner/courtesy car be covered until that part arrives? What happens if that particular part won't arrive for a few months? Will ICBC cover the

cost of loaner vehicle if it goes well beyond 12 days or does that cost now fall on the car manufacturer where the part is coming from?

Also, for auto body shop doing the collision repairs, when does the body shop get paid for work? Does the auto repair shop only get paid once the work is one hundred percent complete?

Response: Provided background

- To clarify, there are two main types of alternative transportation: body-shop owned vehicles (courtesy vehicles) and rental vehicles through the customer's insurance coverage.

If a customer's vehicle is in the shop for collision repairs and the collision wasn't the customer's fault, what is the maximum number of days they will be covered for a loaner vehicle?

- If an ICBC customer isn't responsible for a crash that occurred in B.C., they're entitled to loss of use through ICBC Basic Coverage and there is no time limit on that coverage.

If the car being repaired is not drivable until a part arrives, will the loaner/courtesy car be covered until that part arrives?

- If the customer is responsible for a crash, they need coverage such as RoadStar, Roadside Plus, or Loss of Use, and the limits would depend on the coverage they purchased (for example, RoadSide Plus has limits of \$100/day to a maximum of \$750). In some cases, the length of part delay may impact the decision to repair or write off a vehicle depending on cost efficiency. We work with customers on a case by case basis to maximize their loss of use coverage as much as possible. In this case, we'd also consider temporarily repairing the vehicle so that it's driveable and safe until all parts are available.

What happens if that particular part won't arrive for a few months? Will ICBC cover the cost of loaner vehicle if it goes well beyond 12 days or does that cost now fall on the car manufacturer where the part is coming from?

- Vehicle manufacturers aren't responsible for rental vehicle costs due to parts delays.

- If an ICBC customer isn't responsible for a crash that occurred in B.C., they're entitled to loss of use through ICBC Basic Coverage and there is no time limit on that coverage. If the customer is responsible for a crash, they need coverage such as RoadStar, Roadside Plus, or Loss of Use, and the limits would depend on the coverage they purchased (for example, RoadSide Plus has limits of \$100/day to a maximum of \$750). In some cases, the length of part delay may impact the decision to repair or write off a vehicle depending on cost efficiency. We work with customers on a case by case basis to maximize their loss of use coverage as much as possible. Examples include temporarily repairing a vehicle so that it's driveable and safe until all parts are available, delaying the vehicle being repaired until parts are available if the vehicle is driveable, and reimbursing expenses for other transportation including taxis, rideshare or public transit to lengthen coverage.

Also, for auto body shop doing the collision repairs, when does the body shop get paid for work? Does the auto repair shop only get paid once the work is one hundred percent complete?

- If there is a backordered part that is going to delay the remainder of vehicle repairs, body shops can be paid for the work already completed.

Jason Hallman, Editor, CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria

Nicholas Pescod, Editor, CHEK TV - Victoria

Request:

These questions are based on B.C.'s decision to no longer require the renewal decal on licence plates. These questions are based on some comments/inquiries received by members of the public.

Questions below

1) Now that there is no longer a decal requirement, is the province/ministry considering redesigning the standard-issue passenger plate?

2) Is the ministry/province considering other cost-saving measures such as ending the requirement to have/issuing a front licence plate?

3) How many BC Park plates have been issued to date so far, and how much money has been raised for BC Parks from the program to date?

4) The BC Park plate program has been largely successful, is the ministry considering offering new plates/designs in the near future?

5) Other provinces (Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario) offer NHL-themed plates, Flames, Leafs etc. Is this something BC would consider offering/creating in the near future?

6) Some older BC plates have begun peeling, likely due to heat/weather wear, to the point where the lettering is no longer visible. In light of this, is BC considering requiring customers to replace their passenger plates after a certain period of time?

Response: Sent May 9 to CHEK. June 14 to CIVI

3) How many BC Park plates have been issued to date so far, and how much money has been raised for BC Parks from the program to date?

- After being introduced in January 2017, as of February more than 330,000 BC Parks license plates have been sold.
- To date, gross revenue into the Park Enhancement Fund from license plate sales was \$8.59M (to date) which supported over 325 enhancement projects. For more information, please review the LPP 5 year report: <https://bcparks.ca/licence-plates/docs/bc-parks-licence-plate-program-5-year-report-fy-2017-2021.pdf?v=1646352000101>

4) The BC Park plate program has been largely successful, is the ministry considering offering new plates/designs in the near future?

Recommendation

- BC Parks continues to explore opportunities for more plates with ICBC who manages design, manufacturing, and sales of all license plates in the province.

Rob Shaw, Reporter, Daily Hive

Request:

I'm seeing a bunch of numbers in this Global story about how many ICBC rebate cheques have gone out, how many are left, total, direct deposit, ETAs to July, etc.

Can you send me the latest please? <https://globalnews.ca/news/8917566/icbc-gas-rebate-delayed-july/>

Response: Provided background

- We've issued all 25,000 rebates to customers who signed up for direct deposit. We've also issued all credit card rebates to eligible customers (573,000).
- All other customers, including those who paid by debit, cash, cheque or payment plan, as well as customers whose credit cards could not be processed (for reasons including expiry dates or other technical reasons), will receive their rebate as a cheque starting this week with 54,000 cheques processed today.
- If your mailing address has changed, please visit [icbc.com](https://www.icbc.com) to learn more about how to update your address. The rebate cheque will be mailed to the latest address we have on file.
- Overall, we are sending out roughly 3.5 million relief rebates to our customers totalling \$396 million. We've disbursed approximately \$76,300,000 in relief rebates to date.
- More information on the relief rebate is available on our website: <https://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/newsroom/pages/2022-mar25-rebate.aspx>
- NOTE: ICBC will not issue any rebates to customers via text message or email. If you receive a text message asking you to click a link to receive your relief rebate, please delete the message – this is a scam.

Yiwen Chen, Reporter, OMNI News

Request:

More than 80 percent of customers have not received their latest ICBC rebate and many will not receive the one-time \$110-gas rebate until July, the B.C. government has confirmed.

Will Minister Farnworth be available to clip for us on this? Anytime before 2:30 pm works.

Thanks,

Yiwen

Response: Provided background

- We've issued all 25,000 rebates to customers who signed up for direct deposit. We've also issued all credit card rebates to eligible customers (573,000).
- All other customers, including those who paid by debit, cash, cheque or payment plan, as well as customers whose credit cards could not be processed (for reasons including expiry dates or other technical reasons), will receive their rebate as a cheque starting this week with 54,000 cheques processed today.
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BCCS Media:

- Vista Radio/Brendan Pawliw (bpawliw@vistaradio.ca) – Reporter looking for interview with, or statement from, chief coroner regarding decision to train high school students on use of naloxone to reverse impacts of illicit drug toxicity emergency. – IN PROGRESS

PSSG Media Wrap: Wednesday June 15, 2022

From: Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE PSSG Media Wrap <PSSGMEWR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 15, 2022 4:20:29 PM PDT
Underway:

Alanna Kelly, Reporter, Glacier Media

Request:

Good morning!

Alanna Kelly here, province-wide reporter for all Glacier Media publications (Times Colonist, Vancouver Is Awesome, North Shore News, BIV, and more)

Looking for a statement regarding this petition. Deadline 4 p.m. today.

Why are Indigenous children not included in the Amber Alert system? Can they be added? What would this take? Any response to the petition?

Please advise if this is the correct 'ministry' to respond to this and that you received the request/made note of deadline. I've also reached out to Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Status: With program

Kate Partridge, Producer, CBC - Daybreak North

Request:

My name is Kate Partridge. I work for CBC Radio in Prince George. During my time with a different outlet, I spoke with Warden Dennis Stavrou at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre about some of the programming for people in custody. I am hoping to coordinate an in person interview with Mr. Stavrou and a tour of the facility. I am particularly interested in some of the cultural programming available to Indigenous people in custody.

I have no deadline at this time, though I would like to have a plan in place in the next few weeks if possible.

Status: With program

Nick Cunningham, Reporter, DeSmog Blog

Request:

I am a US-based reporter with DeSmog. I'm writing an article on the April 29, 2022 letter sent by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to Canada and British Columbia, condemning the surveillance and intimidation of the Secwepemc and Wet'suwet'en Nations, in connection to the Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion and the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

I'm wondering if the BC government cares to comment? Did the province or Canada respond to the CERD letter?

Why is it that BC tolerates harassment and intimidation of Indigenous peoples by the RCMP and private security, and how is that consistent with BC's and Canada's compliance with UNDRIP?

Status: With program

Brett Forester, Reporter, APTN

Request:

I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

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Here are some questions I have. I may have more depending on how the ministry opts to respond.

1. Did the provincial government instruct the RCMP to establish the Community-Industry Response Group?
2. Did the province approve the establishment of this new unit?
3. Has the province asked industry leaders — namely, Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink and Teal-Jones — to pay extra for the tailor-made services provided by the C-IRG?

4. If the province did not approve this unit, what would you say to those who see this as evidence the RCMP lacks adequate political oversight in B.C.?
5. If the province did approve the creation of this squad, why?
6. The C-IRG has spent tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on operations for Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink, and Teal-Jones. How does the province oversee that spending?
7. How satisfied is B.C. with the C-IRG's efforts to clear the way for these disputed resource extraction projects?
8. How confident is the DMO in the quality and accuracy of the information received about this unit via the Policing and Security Branch?
9. Did industry leaders request additional policing for their pipelines sometime prior to December 2016 when the unit was formed?
10. APTN's investigation confirmed the unit monitors the political activity of democratic groups, claiming "it is operationally necessary to have awareness of opposition to the oil and LNG pipeline project," i.e. TMX and CGL. This means law-abiding First Nations and municipal community groups are subject to routine RCMP surveillance simply for their political views. How do you react to that?
11. The C-IRG has used illegal exclusion zones, intrusive personal belongings searches, blocked reporters from documenting police actions, and done so with their name tags removed and many wearing the technically banned thin blue line patch. These are documented and proven in court. What is the province doing about this?
12. This unit is facing allegations that include intimidation, torture, brutality, harassment, racism, theft, destruction of property, arbitrary detention, inhumanity, lying and deceit. How concerned are you that these accusations pursue this unit wherever it operates?

Status: With Program

Completed:

Nathan Griffiths, Reporter, Vancouver Sun

Request:

I'm looking to get comment from Minister Farnworth regarding a series of stories we recently published on administrative forfeiture (links below, for reference).

I have included questions below. I am looking to get a response by end of day tomorrow, although today is preferable. Specifically, I would like to ask him:

- Our reporting has shown that low-income & marginalized neighbourhoods are overrepresented in the administrative forfeiture data and that this appears to be an effect of the law's focus on low-value seizures. How would the Minister address communities and critics who feel the law is an example of the over-policing of marginalized communities?
- Is the Minister concerned about the rapid growth in the use of administrative forfeiture since 2011?
- Does the Minister feel that the law is effective and fair as a punishment or deterrent to crime?
- Would the Minister support repealing the administrative forfeiture law, as some critics have suggested? If not, what changes would he consider?

I have to ask that we bump the deadline up to end of day today (4:30-5pm), given the Cullen commission report which recommends that the CFO move away from "low-value" asset forfeiture and focus on "high-value assets owned or controlled by those involved in serious criminal activity."

I would like to know how the Cullen commission's report will affect the government's use of administrative forfeiture going forward, as well.

Response: Provided background

- Civil forfeiture is used to undermine the profit motive behind unlawful activity by going after the proceeds and tools of that unlawful activity.
- Civil forfeiture proceedings are against property, not people, and unlike a criminal proceeding, a person's liberty is not at stake.
- Determining whether property should be forfeited as either a proceeds or tool of unlawful activity is assessed on a balance of probabilities consistent with all civil proceedings.
- Civil forfeiture actions do not depend on criminal charges or convictions. Even if a person is found not guilty of an offence or a charge is stayed, the Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) can still proceed with an action against the property associated to the unlawful activity.
- Individuals involved in a civil forfeiture claim always have the right to appear before the court in order to tell their side of the story.
- The CFO receives file referrals from law enforcement agencies in B.C. and does not initiate investigations on its own. Files referred to the CFO are reviewed and assessed based on a number of factors, including the quality of the evidence, the fairness and proportionality of seeking forfeiture and the public interest in pursuing forfeiture.

- We are currently reviewing the Cullen Commission's final report and its recommendations.

ICBC Calls:

Reporter

Sonia Aslam, Reporter, CityNews

Request:

Looking to get numbers of how many gas rebate cheques have been sent out. It's been a month since we first reported tracking this and I'm following up.

I appreciate any other info you can pass along as well about how things are going.

Response: Provided background

- We've issued all 25,000 rebates to customers who signed up for direct deposit. We've also issued all credit card rebates to eligible customers (573,000).
- All other customers, including those who paid by debit, cash, cheque or payment plan, as well as customers whose credit cards could not be processed (for reasons including expiry dates or other technical reasons), will receive their rebate as a cheque starting this week with 54,000 cheques processed today.
- If your mailing address has changed, please visit [icbc.com](https://www.icbc.com) to learn more about how to [update your address](#). The rebate cheque will be mailed to the latest address we have on file.
- Overall, we are sending out roughly 3.5 million relief rebates to our customers totalling \$396 million. We've disbursed approximately \$76,300,000 in relief rebates to date.
- More information on the relief rebate is available on our website: <https://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/newsroom/pages/2022-mar25-rebate.aspx>
- NOTE: ICBC will not issue any rebates to customers via text message or email. If you receive a text message asking you to click a link to receive your relief rebate, please delete the message – this is a scam.

Jane Seyd, Reporter, North Shore News

Request:

Here is the story: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/transport-canada-investigating-after-b-c-man-trapped-inside-burning-tesla-1.5930716>

I'm following up on the Tesla fire in North Vancouver a few weeks ago. I'm told that the investigation has been turned over to ICBC and Transport Canada.

Wondering if you have any information about the cause of the fire or investigation into that that you can tell me about.

Response: Provided background

- A joint inspection took place on June 8, 2022 with Tesla, Transport Canada and a fire investigator obtained by ICBC. The computer module was also obtained. We continue to investigate and gather information about this claim.
- The vehicle is a total loss and we will be paying out the claim to the owner of the vehicle.
- The vehicle will remain at an ICBC facility until the investigation is complete.

BCCS Media:

- Vista Radio/Brendan Pawliw (bpawliw@vistaradio.ca) – Reporter looking for interview with, or statement from, chief coroner regarding decision to train high school students on use of naloxone to reverse impacts of illicit drug toxicity emergency. Advised that the chief coroner isn't available this week for interviews. Naloxone is a critical tool for reversing life-threatening opioid toxicity events, and the Coroners Service 2018 Death Review Panel report recommended expanding access to naloxone in BC. The ability and willingness of people to administer naloxone is critical to saving lives, and the Coroners Service is supportive of any initiative that increases the use of this life-saving tool. – COMPLETE

- Red FM/Pooja Sekhon (pooja@redfm.ca) – Reporter hoping to arrange interview with Dr. Jatinder Baidwan on Thursday, June 16 regarding on deaths due to extreme heat in 2021. Advised that Dr. Baidwan is unavailable on that date but confirmed interview for 8:35 a.m. on Monday, June 20. – COMPLETE
- The Tyee/Jen St. Denis (jstdenis@thetyee.ca) - I'm guessing this is still under investigation, but could I get the coroners reports for the three deaths discovered at 405 Heatley in Vancouver on May 1, 2022, when the investigations are completed? More details here: <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/police-mum-on-finding-three-bodies-so-vancouver-neighbourhood-on-edge>. Confirmed that all three investigations remain open and added requests to files; advised reporter that these would likely remain open for the foreseeable future and would be in touch proactively when the investigations are complete. – COMPLETE

PSSG Media Wrap: Thursday June 16, 2022

From: Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE PSSG Media Wrap <PSSGMEWR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2022 5:38:03 PM PDT
Underway:

Kim Bolan, Reporter, Vancouver Sun

Request:

Want to interview Minister Farnworth regarding the police references in the Cullen recommendations.

Status: With MO

Brishti Basu, Reporter, Capital Daily

Request:

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

I'm a reporter with Capital Daily and I'm working on an article about transparency within police departments.

In particular, the story focuses on the Victoria Police department and their refusal to answer media questions about an incident in which witnesses say officers used an excessive amount of force to deal with a non-violent mental health call involving a 61-year-old Black man. The story in question: <https://www.capitaldaily.ca/news/victoria-police-mental-health-response>.

My questions for Minister Farnworth:

Are police departments in BC required to answer questions about police activities that they receive from news publications?

The aforementioned incident took place on June 9. As of June 16, VicPD has yet to answer any questions or say anything more than the statement they released that day. The man in question is still in ICU with serious physical injuries from the incident. Is there a review or any sort of urgency from the province to have the department answer questions about why they responded with 12+ officers, an armoured tank, tear gas, pepper spray, K9 unit, and a plastic bullet when faced with an unarmed man alone in his apartment?

A lack of transparency in police misconduct cases was one of the issues brought up in the Special Committee on Police Act Reform report, as was the disproportionately negative impacts of policing mental health on BIPOC. Your statement on April 28 indicates that you strive to "meet the new vision for the Police Act as envisioned by the committee." What steps has your office taken so far to improve transparency regarding police misconduct?

Status: With program

Jennifer Thuncher, Reporter, Squamish Chief

Request:

I hope I have the right contact for this question! Forgive me if not and please let me know where I should properly direct my question.

I am writing a story about two Squamish young people who were in a fight at school in the fall and the altercation was serious enough that it was, from my understanding, referred to restorative justice.

One side didn't agree to the terms presented and so it did not proceed.

I have two questions:

1. Is it typical/expected/usual that in such cases charges are then referred to the Crown? That then the case moves back to the courts, in other words?
2. Does the system of restorative justice work any differently for young offenders than older folks? If so, how so?
3. Anything else about restorative justice and youth that you want our readers to know?

Status: With program

Kate Partridge, Producer, CBC - Daybreak North

Request:

My name is Kate Partridge. I work for CBC Radio in Prince George. During my time with a different outlet, I spoke with Warden Dennis Stavrou at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre about some of the programming for people in custody. I am hoping to coordinate an in person interview with Mr. Stavrou and a tour of the facility. I am particularly interested in some of the cultural programming available to Indigenous people in custody.

I have no deadline at this time, though I would like to have a plan in place in the next few weeks if possible.

Status: With program

Nick Cunningham, Reporter, DeSmog Blog

Request:

I am a US-based reporter with DeSmog. I'm writing an article on the April 29, 2022 letter sent by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to Canada and British Columbia, condemning the surveillance and intimidation of the Secwepemc and Wet'suwet'en Nations, in connection to the Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion and the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

I'm wondering if the BC government cares to comment? Did the province or Canada respond to the CERD letter? Why is it that BC tolerates harassment and intimidation of Indigenous peoples by the RCMP and private security, and how is that consistent with BC's and Canada's compliance with UNDRIP?

Status: With program

Brett Forester, Reporter, APTN

Request:

I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

This may be something the DM or another senior official could speak to. It would likely be a Zoom interview. Please let me know a time and date that might work.

Here are some questions I have. I may have more depending on how the ministry opts to respond.

1. Did the provincial government instruct the RCMP to establish the Community-Industry Response Group?
2. Did the province approve the establishment of this new unit?
3. Has the province asked industry leaders — namely, Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink and Teal-Jones — to pay extra for the tailor-made services provided by the C-IRG?
4. If the province did not approve this unit, what would you say to those who see this as evidence the RCMP lacks adequate political oversight in B.C.?
5. If the province did approve the creation of this squad, why?
6. The C-IRG has spent tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on operations for Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink, and Teal-Jones. How does the province oversee that spending?
7. How satisfied is B.C. with the C-IRG's efforts to clear the way for these disputed resource extraction projects?
8. How confident is the DMO in the quality and accuracy of the information received about this unit via the Policing and Security Branch?
9. Did industry leaders request additional policing for their pipelines sometime prior to December 2016 when the unit was formed?
10. APTN's investigation confirmed the unit monitors the political activity of democratic groups, claiming "it is operationally necessary to have awareness of opposition to the oil and LNG pipeline project," i.e. TMX and CGL. This means law-abiding First Nations and municipal community groups are subject to routine RCMP surveillance simply for their political views. How do you react to that?
11. The C-IRG has used illegal exclusion zones, intrusive personal belongings searches, blocked reporters from documenting police actions, and done so with their name tags removed and many wearing the technically banned thin blue line patch. These are documented and proven in court. What is the province doing about this?
12. This unit is facing allegations that include intimidation, torture, brutality, harassment, racism, theft, destruction of property, arbitrary detention, inhumanity, lying and deceit.

How concerned are you that these accusations pursue this unit wherever it operates?

Status: With Program

Completed:

Alanna Kelly, Reporter, Glacier Media

Request:

Good morning!

Alanna Kelly here, province-wide reporter for all Glacier Media publications (Times Colonist, Vancouver Is Awesome, North Shore News, BIV, and more)

Looking for a statement regarding this petition. Deadline 4 p.m. today.

Why are Indigenous children not included in the Amber Alert system? Can they be added? What would this take? Any response to the petition?

Please advise if this is the correct 'ministry' to respond to this and that you received the request/made note of deadline. I've also reached out to Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Response: Provided background

- Amber Alerts are issued to solicit the public's help for the safe and prompt return of a missing child, including Indigenous children.
- Police will make a decision to issue an Amber Alert at their discretion based on if the situation meets specific criteria.
- An Amber Alert is only activated by authorized users within law enforcement agencies, and all criteria must be met before an Amber Alert is issued.
- The criteria for issuing an Amber Alert is:
 - The victim is under the age of 18
 - Police have reasonable grounds to believe that the victim has been abducted
 - Police have reasonable grounds to believe the victim is in imminent danger
 - Police have obtained enough descriptive information about the victim, abductor and/or the vehicle involved
 - Police believe that the alert can be issued in a time frame that will provide a reasonable expectation that the child can be returned or the abductor apprehended.
- To be clear, the decision of issuing an Amber Alert is based solely on the criteria listed.
- In B.C., there is no waiting period to report someone missing and anyone can make a report to the police.
- For further information on Amber Alerts, visit: [RCMP in British Columbia - Amber Alert Program \(rcmp-grc.gc.ca\)](https://rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

ICBC Calls:

Sonia Aslam, Reporter, CityNews

Request:

Is ICBC still on track to get everyone their money by the end of July or has that timeline changed in any capacity? What happens to the people who signed up past the direct deposit deadline? Do they get their money in the original way they paid their insurance?

Response: Provided background

Is ICBC still on track to get everyone their money by the end of July or has that timeline changed in any capacity?

- We expect to have all the relief rebates processed by the end of July.

What happens to the people who signed up post the deadline? Do they get their money in the original way they paid their insurance?

- Customers who signed up past the deadline for direct deposit will receive a cheque.

BCCS Media:

None today

PSSG Media Wrap: Friday June 17, 2022

From: Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE PSSG Media Wrap <PSSGMEWR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2022 4:16:57 PM PDT
FOI Requests:

PSS-2022-21290 - XGR-2022-21260 - A summary document showing the cliff number, date and title/issue of all briefing notes (excluding those that are proactively disclosed under Directive 01-2022), issues note and advice to the Deputy Minister and the Minister/Minister of State/Premier (Date Range for Record Search: From 3/1/2022 To 3/31/2022)
Applicant Type: Political Party

Underway:

Brishti Basu, Reporter, Capital Daily

Request:

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

I'm a reporter with Capital Daily and I'm working on an article about transparency within police departments.

In particular, the story focuses on the Victoria Police department and their refusal to answer media questions about an incident in which witnesses say officers used an excessive amount of force to deal with a non-violent mental health call involving a 61-year-old Black man. The story in question: <https://www.capitaldaily.ca/news/victoria-police-mental-health-response>.

My questions for Minister Farnworth:

Are police departments in BC required to answer questions about police activities that they receive from news publications?

The aforementioned incident took place on June 9. As of June 16, VicPD has yet to answer any questions or say anything more than the statement they released that day. The man in question is still in ICU with serious physical injuries from the incident. Is there a review or any sort of urgency from the province to have the department answer questions about why they responded with 12+ officers, an armoured tank, tear gas, pepper spray, K9 unit, and a plastic bullet when faced with an unarmed man alone in his apartment?

A lack of transparency in police misconduct cases was one of the issues brought up in the Special Committee on Police Act Reform report, as was the disproportionately negative impacts of policing mental health on BIPOC. Your statement on April 28 indicates that you strive to "meet the new vision for the Police Act as envisioned by the committee." What steps has your office taken so far to improve transparency regarding police misconduct?

Status: With MO

Jennifer Thuncher, Reporter, Squamish Chief

Request:

I hope I have the right contact for this question! Forgive me if not and please let me know where I should properly direct my question.

I am writing a story about two Squamish young people who were in a fight at school in the fall and the altercation was serious enough that it was, from my understanding, referred to restorative justice.

One side didn't agree to the terms presented and so it did not proceed.

I have two questions:

1. Is it typical/expected/usual that in such cases charges are then referred to the Crown? That then the case moves back to the courts, in other words?
2. Does the system of restorative justice work any differently for young offenders than older folks? If so, how so?
3. Anything else about restorative justice and youth that you want our readers to know?

Status: With MO

Kate Partridge, Producer, CBC - Daybreak North

Request:

My name is Kate Partridge. I work for CBC Radio in Prince George. During my time with a different outlet, I spoke with Warden Dennis Stavrou at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre about some of the programming for people in custody. I am hoping to coordinate an in person interview with Mr. Stavrou and a tour of the facility. I am particularly interested in some of the cultural programming available to Indigenous people in custody.

I have no deadline at this time, though I would like to have a plan in place in the next few weeks if possible.

Status: With program

Nick Cunningham, Reporter, DeSmog Blog

Request:

I am a US-based reporter with DeSmog. I'm writing an article on the April 29, 2022 letter sent by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to Canada and British Columbia, condemning the surveillance and intimidation of the Secwepemc and Wet'suwet'en Nations, in connection to the Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion and the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

I'm wondering if the BC government cares to comment? Did the province or Canada respond to the CERD letter? Why is it that BC tolerates harassment and intimidation of Indigenous peoples by the RCMP and private security, and how is that consistent with BC's and Canada's compliance with UNDRIP?

Status: With program

Brett Forester, Reporter, APTN

Request:

I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

This may be something the DM or another senior official could speak to. It would likely be a Zoom interview. Please let me know a time and date that might work.

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2. Did the province approve the establishment of this new unit?
3. Has the province asked industry leaders — namely, Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink and Teal-Jones — to pay extra for the tailor-made services provided by the C-IRG?
4. If the province did not approve this unit, what would you say to those who see this as evidence the RCMP lacks adequate political oversight in B.C.?
5. If the province did approve the creation of this squad, why?
6. The C-IRG has spent tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on operations for Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink, and Teal-Jones. How does the province oversee that spending?
7. How satisfied is B.C. with the C-IRG's efforts to clear the way for these disputed resource extraction projects?
8. How confident is the DMO in the quality and accuracy of the information received about this unit via the Policing and Security Branch?
9. Did industry leaders request additional policing for their pipelines sometime prior to December 2016 when the unit was formed?
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11. The C-IRG has used illegal exclusion zones, intrusive personal belongings searches, blocked reporters from documenting police actions, and done so with their name tags removed and many wearing the technically banned thin blue line patch. These are documented and proven in court. What is the province doing about this?
12. This unit is facing allegations that include intimidation, torture, brutality, harassment, racism, theft, destruction of property, arbitrary detention, inhumanity, lying and deceit.

How concerned are you that these accusations pursue this unit wherever it operates?

Status: With Program

Completed:

Kim Bolan, Reporter, Vancouver Sun

Request:

Want to interview Minister Farnworth regarding the police references in the Cullen recommendations.

Response: MMF unavailable

Marie Vastel, Reporter, Le Devoir

Request:

I am a political reporter on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. I am looking for data from the Public Safety department of British Columbia. I'm not sure if I should email the department, but I couldn't find their media relations contact online. I would like to know the number of Article 810 of the Criminal Code proceedings which have been granted by the courts, in the province, to protect a Federal elected official since 2020.

Or the number of Article 810 of the Criminal Code proceedings which have been requested by prosecutors in the province to protect a Federal elected official since 2020.

I realize I am sending you this request on a Friday, so I would like a response by Monday mid-day please.

Response: Referred to AG/BCPS

ICBC Calls:

N/A

BCCS Media:

- Toronto Star/Omar Mosleh (omarmosleh@thestar.ca) – I'm looking into something for which there may not be an answer, but I'm hoping you could maybe offer some suggestions or point me in a direction if there are no new government numbers. I am trying to dig into homeless deaths nationwide in 2021 compared to the previous year. Edmonton and Toronto have seen quite striking increases (70 and 50 per cent respectively). I understand the last time the B.C. government released a report on this was this <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019PSSG0029-000450>. Do we know when the next one will come to speak to 2017 and the years after? In Edmonton, there's a housing and homelessness coalition that gathers numbers from all the social service agencies and shelters and compiles a ballpark figure from that. Wondering if you know any orgs that do something similar in the lower mainland area. Advised that working on an update to this information and hope to have it available soon. Unfortunately I'm unable to provide an ETA at this time, but I've noted your interest and will send you the update proactively when it's available. I don't believe that there would be another agency tracking this type of information, but you may want to reach out to the City of Vancouver to see if they have anything to share. – COMPLETE
- CTV/Ben Nesbit (ben.nesbit@bellmedia.ca) - I'm working on a story regarding a rally held by the family of Arlene Westervelt, the woman who died in the Okanagan Lake six years ago, her husband was charged with murder but the charges were later stayed. I have included a portion of the press release they sent out below, I'm hoping to get a response to these claims by 3:00 pm this afternoon, thank you. Copyright

Copyright

Copyright

' Responded that a coroner's investigation is independent, impartial and objective. The coroner does not have a vested interest in the outcome of an investigation but will endeavour to ensure that all relevant information is gathered and considered. The coroner's investigation is focused on the facts surrounding the death; specifically, the identity of the deceased, and when, where, how and by what means death occurred. To assist their investigations, coroners in B.C. have access to a number of specialized services including forensic pathology, toxicology, forensic anthropology and DNA testing. Coroners have no authority to assign blame or determine fault but are focused on establishing facts as supported by evidence. At the conclusion of the coroner's investigation, a report will be issued and may be requested via CoronerRequest@gov.bc.ca. The investigation into the death of Arlene Westervelt has been re-opened and is on-going. Section 63 of the *Coroners Act* prohibits disclosure of information during this period. Once the coroner's investigation is concluded and a report finalized, the chief coroner has the discretion to release the report to those with a valid interest or to the public. Privacy requirements do not permit the Coroners Service to share autopsy reports except to those permitted access under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The Coroners Service has shared information as permitted by that legislation. – COMPLETE

- AMPLE Entertainment/Phyllis Coblentz (phyllis@ampleent.com) - We are currently working on a documentary series about the television phenomenon, "Glee". We will be discussing the popularity of the show and how it

resonated with all different demographics and audiences. In celebrating the series, will be discussing the very talented Cory Monteith and his contribution to the show. We know Cory was beloved in his hometown of Vancouver. We will also be talking about Cory Monteith's untimely death. I had spoken to Claire Thompson who signed off of Cory's Coroner Report. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/reports/investigative/monteith-cory-allan-michael.pdf>. This is all public information and since Claire worked on Cory's investigation and signed off on the Death Certificate, I wanted to check and see if we need any special permission for her to sit down with our team and go through the facts. Responded that Section 63 of the *Coroners Act* prohibits coroners and others from sharing information gathered in the investigation of a death. Once an investigation is concluded, Section 69 of the *Act* permits the chief coroner to share a coroner's report with those deemed to have a valid interest or to the public. In the case of Mr. Monteith's death, the chief coroner approved disclosure of the report to the public. Ms. Thompson's report speaks for itself in terms of her findings with respect to the circumstances of the death, and it would not be appropriate for her to provide any additional information or comment. As the legislation clearly indicates, it is imperative that the confidentiality of personal information about a decedent is respected and maintained. If you have questions about investigations generally, please don't hesitate to let me know, and I'd be happy to connect you with someone at the Coroners Service. – COMPLETE

- CFJC/James Peters (james.peters@pattisonmedia.com) – Just wondering if your department has been dispatched to a crash south of Kamloops this afternoon? It happened on the southbound Coquihalla Highway at about 2:35 p.m., near Sugarloaf Road. Replied that I'm unaware of any coroner's investigations matching the description you've provided at this time. – COMPLETE

Re: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group

From: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
To: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>, Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 20, 2022 3:55:28 PM PDT
Hi- I am talking to Jamie on the first bullet. Stand by.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 3:47:00 PM
To: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>; Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group

Hi there – updated in red, no concerns from Jamie. Good to go? Thanks! H

•s.13

- Most events and incidents related to public order emergencies for which C-IRG has provided strategic and operational oversight have occurred in policing jurisdictions of provincial responsibility. The C-IRG provides a specialized skillset, and these remote locations are also served by small complements at local RCMP Detachments, which would experience significant resource pressures if required to enforce court injunctions or maintain public order in isolation without additional resources.
- With respect to concerns regarding the conduct of C-IRG or any RCMP members, these can be addressed through the federally administered Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP.
- Police operate at arms-length from government and government does not direct their day to day operations. Any further questions are best addressed by the RCMP.

From: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 3:20 PM
To: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>; Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group

I think the second bullet needs to be expanded to say that detachments don't generally have the range of skill sets that are found on in the unit. In short, it is not just about the # of resources-it is also about the specialized skills that are brought together in CIRG.

Finally, given the nature of the questions, we need our standard line about operational decisions falling to police and police operating at arms length from gov.

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From: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 3:01:23 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>; Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group

Hi there – we have a request on an FOI/ATIP the reporter received on the C-IRG. Brian and Jamie have both reviewed and approved the below, any concerns?

Thanks,

H

Reporter

Brett Forester, Reporter
 APTN
bforester@aptn.ca
 613-227-1377

Deadline Wednesday, June 15, 2022 1:00 PM

Request

I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

This may be something the DM or another senior official could speak to. It would likely be a Zoom interview. Please let me know a time and date that might work.

Here are some questions I have. I may have more depending on how the ministry opts to respond.

1. *Did the provincial government instruct the RCMP to establish the Community-Industry Response Group?*
2. *Did the province approve the establishment of this new unit?*
3. *Has the province asked industry leaders — namely, Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink and Teal-Jones — to pay extra for the tailor-made services provided by the C-IRG?*
4. *If the province did not approve this unit, what would you say to those who see this as evidence the RCMP lacks adequate political oversight in B.C.?*
5. *If the province did approve the creation of this squad, why?*
6. *The C-IRG has spent tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on operations for Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink, and Teal-Jones. How does the province oversee that spending?*
7. *How satisfied is B.C. with the C-IRG's efforts to clear the way for these disputed resource extraction projects?*
8. *How confident is the DMO in the quality and accuracy of the information received about this unit via the Policing and Security Branch?*
9. *Did industry leaders request additional policing for their pipelines sometime prior to December 2016 when the unit was formed?*
10. *APTN's investigation confirmed the unit monitors the political activity of democratic groups, claiming "it is operationally necessary to have awareness of opposition to the oil and LNG pipeline project," i.e. TMX and CGL. This means law-abiding First Nations and municipal community groups are subject to routine RCMP surveillance simply for their political views. How do you react to that?*
11. *The C-IRG has used illegal exclusion zones, intrusive personal belongings searches, blocked reporters from documenting police actions, and done so with their name tags removed and many wearing the technically banned thin blue line patch. These are documented and proven in court. What is the province doing about this?*
12. *This unit is facing allegations that include intimidation, torture, brutality, harassment, racism, theft, destruction of property, arbitrary detention, inhumanity, lying and deceit.*
13. *How concerned are you that these accusations pursue this unit wherever it operates?*

Recommendation

- Most events and incidents related to public order emergencies for which C-IRG has provided strategic and operational oversight have occurred in policing jurisdictions of provincial responsibility. These remote locations are served by small complements at local RCMP Detachments, which would experience significant resource pressures if required to enforce court injunctions or maintain public order in isolation without additional resources.
- With respect to concerns regarding the conduct of C-IRG or any RCMP members, these can be addressed through the federally administered Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP.
- Any further questions are best addressed by the RCMP.

Background

PSSG Media Wrap: Monday June 20, 2022

From: Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE PSSG Media Wrap <PSSGMEWR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 20, 2022 4:27:45 PM PDT
Underway:

Catherine Urquhart, Reporter, Global TV | BC

Request:

We understand that the OPCC is considering a professional standards unit under the direction of Chief Dave Jones, after meeting with him and Chief Neil Dubord on June 10th.

Would this include all municipal policing agencies? When would this begin? Would this be separate from the OPCC and separate from the IIO? Under the governance of the BC Municipal Chiefs of Police?

Status: With program

Jennifer Thuncher, Reporter, Squamish Chief

Request:

I hope I have the right contact for this question! Forgive me if not and please let me know where I should properly direct my question.

I am writing a story about two Squamish young people who were in a fight at school in the fall and the altercation was serious enough that it was, from my understanding, referred to restorative justice.

One side didn't agree to the terms presented and so it did not proceed.

I have two questions:

1. Is it typical/expected/usual that in such cases charges are then referred to the Crown? That then the case moves back to the courts, in other words?
2. Does the system of restorative justice work any differently for young offenders than older folks? If so, how so?
3. Anything else about restorative justice and youth that you want our readers to know?

Status: With program

Kate Partridge, Producer, CBC - Daybreak North

Request:

My name is Kate Partridge. I work for CBC Radio in Prince George. During my time with a different outlet, I spoke with Warden Dennis Stavrou at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre about some of the programming for people in custody. I am hoping to coordinate an in person interview with Mr. Stavrou and a tour of the facility. I am particularly interested in some of the cultural programming available to Indigenous people in custody.

I have no deadline at this time, though I would like to have a plan in place in the next few weeks if possible.

Status: With program

Nick Cunningham, Reporter, DeSmog Blog

Request:

I am a US-based reporter with DeSmog. I'm writing an article on the April 29, 2022 letter sent by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to Canada and British Columbia, condemning the surveillance and intimidation of the Secwepemc and Wet'suwet'en Nations, in connection to the Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion and the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

I'm wondering if the BC government cares to comment? Did the province or Canada respond to the CERD letter?

Why is it that BC tolerates harassment and intimidation of Indigenous peoples by the RCMP and private security, and how is that consistent with BC's and Canada's compliance with UNDRIP?

Status: With program

Brett Forester, Reporter, APTN

Request:

I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

This may be something the DM or another senior official could speak to. It would likely be a Zoom interview. Please let me know a time and date that might work.

Here are some questions I have. I may have more depending on how the ministry opts to respond.

1. Did the provincial government instruct the RCMP to establish the Community-Industry Response Group?
2. Did the province approve the establishment of this new unit?
3. Has the province asked industry leaders — namely, Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink and Teal-Jones — to pay extra for the tailor-made services provided by the C-IRG?
4. If the province did not approve this unit, what would you say to those who see this as evidence the RCMP lacks adequate political oversight in B.C.?
5. If the province did approve the creation of this squad, why?
6. The C-IRG has spent tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on operations for Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink, and Teal-Jones. How does the province oversee that spending?
7. How satisfied is B.C. with the C-IRG's efforts to clear the way for these disputed resource extraction projects?
8. How confident is the DMO in the quality and accuracy of the information received about this unit via the Policing and Security Branch?
9. Did industry leaders request additional policing for their pipelines sometime prior to December 2016 when the unit was formed?
10. APTN's investigation confirmed the unit monitors the political activity of democratic groups, claiming "it is operationally necessary to have awareness of opposition to the oil and LNG pipeline project," i.e. TMX and CGL. This means law-abiding First Nations and municipal community groups are subject to routine RCMP surveillance simply for their political views. How do you react to that?
11. The C-IRG has used illegal exclusion zones, intrusive personal belongings searches, blocked reporters from documenting police actions, and done so with their name tags removed and many wearing the technically banned thin blue line patch. These are documented and proven in court. What is the province doing about this?
12. This unit is facing allegations that include intimidation, torture, brutality, harassment, racism, theft, destruction of property, arbitrary detention, inhumanity, lying and deceit.

How concerned are you that these accusations pursue this unit wherever it operates?

Status: With Program

Completed:

Brishti Basu, Reporter, Capital Daily

Request:

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

I'm a reporter with Capital Daily and I'm working on an article about transparency within police departments.

In particular, the story focuses on the Victoria Police department and their refusal to answer media questions about an incident in which witnesses say officers used an excessive amount of force to deal with a non-violent mental health call involving a 61-year-old Black man. The story in question: <https://www.capitaldaily.ca/news/victoria-police-mental-health-response>.

My questions for Minister Farnworth:

Are police departments in BC required to answer questions about police activities that they receive from news publications?

The aforementioned incident took place on June 9. As of June 16, VicPD has yet to answer any questions or say anything more than the statement they released that day. The man in question is still in ICU with serious physical injuries from the incident. Is there a review or any sort of urgency from the province to have the department answer questions about why they responded with 12+ officers, an armoured tank, tear gas, pepper spray, K9 unit, and a plastic bullet when faced with an unarmed man alone in his apartment?

A lack of transparency in police misconduct cases was one of the issues brought up in the Special Committee on Police Act Reform report, as was the disproportionately negative impacts of policing mental health on BIPOC. Your statement on April 28 indicates that you strive to "meet the new vision for the Police Act as envisioned by the committee." What steps has your office taken so far to improve transparency regarding police misconduct?

Response: Provided background

- As this matter remains under investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment.
- Individual investigations and enforcement decisions occur at arm's length from Government and therefore the Minister cannot interfere with or direct police on such matters.
- Oversight and accountability in B.C. occurs through several agencies.

- The BC Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner (OPCC) provides an accessible way for the public to voice concerns about the conduct of any municipal police officer or department.
- Additionally in BC, the public can be assured that incidents involving serious harm are investigated by the Independent Investigations Office, which reports out publicly on its findings in due course.
- There are strict BC Provincial Policing Standards that police must abide by, including the new unbiased policing standards, and standardized training in crisis intervention and de-escalation.

ICBC Calls:

N/A

BCCS Media:

To be included tomorrow

RE: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group

From: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 21, 2022 1:29:36 PM PDT

Hi Wayne – just reupping this as GCPE has advised they're looking to get to the reporter to correct the no comment in the story: [Community-Industry Response Group: A look behind the Thin Blue Line \(aptnnews.ca\)](#). Thanks, H

From: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 9:05 AM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group
Importance: High

Good morning, Wayne – just following up. Do you have any concerns with this new version or would you recommend the previous? Thanks! H

From: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group

Hi Wayne – Glen, Brian and Jamie discussed and are recommending changing the first bullet. I've put the updates in red for your awareness. Any concerns with the proposed updates, or would you like to go with the original?

Thanks,

H

- The RCMP created the Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) in 2017 and it was subsequently incorporated into the provincial policing portfolio in 2018.
- Most events and incidents related to public order emergencies for which C-IRG has provided strategic and operational oversight have occurred in policing jurisdictions of provincial responsibility. The C-IRG provides a specialized skillset, and these remote locations are also served by small complements at local RCMP Detachments, which would experience significant resource pressures if required to enforce court injunctions or maintain public order in isolation without additional resources.
- With respect to concerns regarding the conduct of C-IRG or any RCMP members, these can be addressed through the federally administered Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP.
- Police operate at arms-length from government and government does not direct their day to day operations. Any further questions are best addressed by the RCMP.

From: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group

good

From: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>; Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Media Request: RCMP Community-Industry Response Group

Hi there – we have a request on an FOI/ATIP the reporter received on the C-IRG. Brian and Jamie have both reviewed and approved the below, any concerns?

Thanks,

H

Reporter

Brett Forester, Reporter

APTN

bforester@aptn.ca

613-227-1377

Deadline Wednesday, June 15, 2022 1:00 PM

Request

I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

This may be something the DM or another senior official could speak to. It would likely be a Zoom interview. Please let me know a time and date that might work.

Here are some questions I have. I may have more depending on how the ministry opts to respond.

1. *Did the provincial government instruct the RCMP to establish the Community-Industry Response Group?*
2. *Did the province approve the establishment of this new unit?*
3. *Has the province asked industry leaders — namely, Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink and Teal-Jones — to pay extra for the tailor-made services provided by the C-IRG?*
4. *If the province did not approve this unit, what would you say to those who see this as evidence the RCMP lacks adequate political oversight in B.C.?*
5. *If the province did approve the creation of this squad, why?*
6. *The C-IRG has spent tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on operations for Trans Mountain, Coastal GasLink, and Teal-Jones. How does the province oversee that spending?*
7. *How satisfied is B.C. with the C-IRG's efforts to clear the way for these disputed resource extraction projects?*
8. *How confident is the DMO in the quality and accuracy of the information received about this unit via the Policing and Security Branch?*
9. *Did industry leaders request additional policing for their pipelines sometime prior to December 2016 when the unit was formed?*
10. *APTN's investigation confirmed the unit monitors the political activity of democratic groups, claiming "it is operationally necessary to have awareness of opposition to the oil and LNG pipeline project," i.e. TMX and CGL. This means law-abiding First Nations and municipal community groups are subject to routine RCMP surveillance simply for their political views. How do you react to that?*
11. *The C-IRG has used illegal exclusion zones, intrusive personal belongings searches, blocked reporters from documenting police actions, and done so with their name tags removed and many wearing the technically banned thin blue line patch. These are documented and proven in court. What is the province doing about this?*

12. This unit is facing allegations that include intimidation, torture, brutality, harassment, racism, theft, destruction of property, arbitrary detention, inhumanity, lying and deceit.

13. How concerned are you that these accusations pursue this unit wherever it operates?

Recommendation

• s.13

- Most events and incidents related to public order emergencies for which C-IRG has provided strategic and operational oversight have occurred in policing jurisdictions of provincial responsibility. These remote locations are served by small complements at local RCMP Detachments, which would experience significant resource pressures if required to enforce court injunctions or maintain public order in isolation without additional resources.
- With respect to concerns regarding the conduct of C-IRG or any RCMP members, these can be addressed through the federally administered Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP.
- Any further questions are best addressed by the RCMP.

Background

PSSG Media Wrap: Tuesday June 21, 2022

From: Paterson, Travis GCPE:EX <Travis.Paterson@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE PSSG Media Wrap <PSSGMEWR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 21, 2022 4:39:25 PM PDT

Underway:

Regan Hasegawa, Reporter, CTV - Vancouver

Request I'm reaching out about the Crime Victim Assistance Program. A Surrey woman has been left with a \$1500 cleaning bill after a shooting victim forced himself inside her car and demanded to be driven to the hospital. The inside of her vehicle was ruined from the man's blood. RCMP have advised that the CVAP would cover this cleaning expense for her.

I'm just hoping for some clarification on how the process would work. Would she have to pay for the cleaning up front and then would be reimbursed? This is low-income family on disability, so they'd be unable to do that.

Also wondering what CVAP could do to provide temporary transportation to the family in the meantime? They've had to borrow a vehicle since the incident in order to get their son to medical appointments. Would CVAP provide a rental until the vehicle is repaired?

Last question-- what is the wait time for counselling services? The family is extremely traumatized and was told they would have to wait six months for counselling. Is this an accurate timeline?

Here are some further details about the story for your reference.

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/i-thought-i-was-gonna-die-bystander-forced-to-drive-b-c-shooting-victim-to-hospital-1.5952579>

Status: With program

Kate Partridge, Producer, CBC - Daybreak North

Request: My name is Kate Partridge. I work for CBC Radio in Prince George. During my time with a different outlet, I spoke with Warden Dennis Stavrou at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre about some of the programming for people in custody. I am hoping to coordinate an in person interview with Mr. Stavrou and a tour of the facility. I am particularly interested in some of the cultural programming available to Indigenous people in custody.

I have no deadline at this time, though I would like to have a plan in place in the next few weeks if possible.

Status: With program

Nick Cunningham, Reporter, DeSmog Blog

Request: I am a US-based reporter with DeSmog. I'm writing an article on the April 29, 2022 letter sent by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to Canada and British Columbia, condemning the surveillance and intimidation of the Secwepemc and Wet'suwet'en Nations, in connection to the Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion and the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

I'm wondering if the BC government cares to comment? Did the province or Canada respond to the CERD letter?

Why is it that BC tolerates harassment and intimidation of Indigenous peoples by the RCMP and private security, and how is that consistent with BC's and Canada's compliance with UNDRIP?

Status: With program

Brett Forester, Reporter, APTN

Request: I am a journalist with APTN News in Ottawa. I have been investigating the origins and operations of the B.C. RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) and have gathered approximately 5,000 pages of court papers and releases from about two dozen ATIP and FOI requests relating to this topic.

I aim to publish an article summarizing my findings early next week. However, I still have some questions about this group, which I would like to interview someone from your department about — for example, whether the province asked the RCMP to establish this unit or if the RCMP acted did so under its operational independence.

This may be something the DM or another senior official could speak to. It would likely be a Zoom interview. Please let me know a time and date that might work.

Here are some questions I have. I may have more depending on how the ministry opts to respond.

1. Did the provincial government instruct the RCMP to establish the Community-Industry Response Group?
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4. If the province did not approve this unit, what would you say to those who see this as evidence the RCMP lacks adequate political oversight in B.C.?
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11. The C-IRG has used illegal exclusion zones, intrusive personal belongings searches, blocked reporters from documenting police actions, and done so with their name tags removed and many wearing the technically banned thin blue line patch. These are documented and proven in court. What is the province doing about this?
12. This unit is facing allegations that include intimidation, torture, brutality, harassment, racism, theft, destruction of property, arbitrary detention, inhumanity, lying and deceit. How concerned are you that these accusations pursue this unit wherever it operates?

Status: With MO

Completed:

Regan Hasegawa, Reporter, CTV - Vancouver

Request: Need an answer for tonight's story (On air).

Will (Tammy Ward) have to pay for the cleaning up front and then would be reimbursed?

Status: Provided background

- Where a claim has been accepted for benefits, the Crime Victim Assistance Program is able to pay for services upon receipt of the invoice directly from the service provider.

Jennifer Thuncher, Reporter, Squamish Chief

Request: I hope I have the right contact for this question! Forgive me if not and please let me know where I should properly direct my question.

I am writing a story about two Squamish young people who were in a fight at school in the fall and the altercation was serious enough that it was, from my understanding, referred to restorative justice.

One side didn't agree to the terms presented and so it did not proceed.

I have two questions:

1. Is it typical/expected/usual that in such cases charges are then referred to the Crown? That then the case moves back to the courts, in other words?
2. Does the system of restorative justice work any differently for young offenders than older folks? If so, how so?
3. Anything else about restorative justice and youth that you want our readers to know?

Status: Provided background

- This government is committed to enhancing the use of restorative justice in the province.
- We continue to promote restorative justice collaboration and dialogue across the province and work to identify opportunities to enhance its use, including through the provision of funding to the Restorative Justice Association of BC in 2021/22 to implement the province's first ever restorative justice symposium in late 2022.
- The ministry also continues to increase its support for restorative justice programming through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program. Since 2017, this ministry has provided approximately \$3.4 million to 125 community-based restorative justice projects to support work in the areas of capacity development, stakeholder engagement, awareness building and partnership development.
- In BC, community-based restorative justice and restorative approaches are provided through over 83 community-based programs, including 52 Community Accountability Programs and 31 Indigenous justice programs.
- Restorative justice processes can have a positive impact on our communities by improving public safety by empowering local communities to build awareness of the root causes of crime, helping improve victim satisfaction with their justice outcomes by providing a trauma-informed justice option and helping reduce recidivism by holding offenders meaningfully accountable for their actions.
- For questions related to sentencing please contact BC Prosecution Service, for questions regarding youth in the criminal justice system please contact Ministry of Children and Family development.

Catherine Urquhart, Reporter, Global TV | BC

Request: We understand that the OPCC is considering a professional standards unit under the direction of Chief Dave Jones, after meeting with him and Chief Neil Dubord on June 10th.

Would this include all municipal policing agencies? When would this begin? Would this be separate from the OPCC and separate from the IIO? Under the governance of the BC Municipal Chiefs of Police?

Status: Provided background

- Referred reporter to OPCC

ICBC Calls:

Regan Hasegawa, Reporter, CTV - Vancouver

Request: A Surrey family has reached out to us saying ICBC has denied a claim they recently tried to make. I'm hoping someone from ICBC might be available for an interview to discuss their situation sometime today.

Tammy Ward was driving to her home on 128A Street in Surrey last Thursday, June 16th when a badly injured man forced himself inside her car. He told her he was the victim of a shooting and demanded to be driven to the hospital. She doesn't have automatic locks in her car, so she was unable to keep him out of the vehicle. The man was bleeding heavily which ended up ruining the inside of her car.

She told us she tried to file a claim with ICBC to have it cleaned, but told us she was denied, leaving her with a \$1500 cleaning bill. The family is low income and on disability and cannot afford this additional expense. Tammy is unable to drive her car because she's already traumatized by what happened and the bloody vehicle is a trigger for that. The family can't go without their only vehicle long term though, as they need to get their son to medical appointments.

Why has ICBC denied this claim? Is there anything ICBC is willing to do to help this family?

Status: Provided background

- Ms. Taylor informed us of this traumatic event that happened to her and her son on Thursday, June 16th. It is obviously a very upsetting experience for anyone to have to go through.
- Generally, in a situation like this, optional Comprehensive auto insurance would cover the cost of repairing the vehicle for those customers who have purchased it from either ICBC or a private insurer.
- ICBC's Comprehensive insurance covers loss or damage to a vehicle from:
 - Theft and vandalism
 - Fire, earthquake, explosion
 - Falling or flying objects such as a rock or gravel hitting your windshield
 - Hitting a domestic or wild animal
 - Weather—lightning, windstorm, hail, rising water
- Unfortunately, Ms. Taylor doesn't have Comprehensive coverage with us. To be clear, ICBC is not denying a claim from Ms. Taylor but unfortunately there is no claim to consider based on her insurance coverage with us.
- We have informed Ms. Taylor about other possible options available to her and recommended she contact Victim Services who may be able to provide support.
- We encourage our customers to speak with their broker when purchasing or renewing their auto insurance to learn about the different coverages available.
- More information on ICBC's optional coverages, including Comprehensive, is available on our website:
<https://www.icbc.com/insurance/products-coverage/Pages/Default.aspx>

BCCS Media:

Monday Media Requests:

- AMPLE Entertainment/Phyllis Coblentz (phyllis@ampleent.com) – FOLLOW-UP FROM FRIDAY REQUEST: Everything that Claire would talk about would be **public information** that's already listed in her report. Nothing else would be disclosed regarding Cory Monteith's death. For example when you watch Dateline or 48 Hours, there is always someone who worked on the case that runs you through the facts **that have already been released**. That is what we would need. Responded that this is not something we're able to support, as we do not make our coroners available to media in this manner. – COMPLETE
- CFJC/James Peters (james.peters@pattisonmedia.com); CFJC/Aaron Schulze (aaron.schulze@pattisonmedia.com) – Reporters inquiring about a potential death from an MVI near Nicola Lake on Sunday. Advised that I'm unaware of any coroner investigations matching the description provided. – COMPLETE

Tuesday Media Requests:

- CFJC/Aaron Schulze (aaron.schulze@pattisonmedia.com) – Is the Coroners investigating a death from Highway 5A south of Kamloops from shortly before 10 p.m. Monday? Advised that I'm unaware of any coroner investigations matching the description provided. – COMPLETE
- RED FM/Prabhdeep Lally (prabh@redfm.ca) – Rescheduled interview with Dr. Jatinder Baidwan regarding heat-related death investigations for 8:35 a.m. on Thursday, June 23. – COMPLETE
- Northern Beat/Fran Yanor (fran@northernbeat.ca) - I'm working on a series about the challenges (created or potential remedied by public policy) faced by people trapped in repeating cycles of criminal behaviour due to mental illness and severe substance addictions. <https://northernbeat.ca/news/if-not-prison-then-where-part-1/>. Am currently researching supportive/complex care housing services, and treatment and recovery options available for people in BC. Would appreciate if Ms. Lapointe could find time for an interview to elaborate on her comments to the legislative committee on health regarding there not being any evidence-based treatment and recovery centres in BC., as well as to share her perspective on the state of treatment, recovery, detox, support services specifically in the rural communities and the North. As well, if the coroner could discuss her specific opposition to Bill 22, holding youths involuntarily in hospital following an overdose. – IN PROGRESS

RE: Media Request: Wet'suwet'en protests

From: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>, Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 22, 2022 3:51:31 PM PDT
Thanks!

H

From: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 3:17 PM
To: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>; Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Media Request: Wet'suwet'en protests

Good

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From: Latham, Hope PSSG:EX <Hope.Latham@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 2:06:08 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>; Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Media Request: Wet'suwet'en protests

Hi both – we have a request on a Notice of Civil Claim filed by Wet'suwet'en members – news release at the bottom for your awareness. Brian has advised he has no concerns with the below recommended response. Any concerns?

Thanks,

H

Reporter

Betsy Trumpener, Reporter
CBC - Prince George
betsy.trumpener@cbc.ca
250-277-4047 c: 250-613-1479

Deadline Wednesday, June 22, 2022 4:00 PM

Request

We are seeking comment from the ministry about a lawsuit announced today by a Wet'suwet'en group, naming the government, for what they call "targeted harassment and intimidation" on their traditional territories.

Recommendation

- We cannot comment as this matter is before the courts.

Background – news release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wet'suwet'en
Members Sue Police, Coastal Gaslink and**

Private Security for Targeted Harassment Campaign

Unceded Wet'suwet'en Yintah (Smithers - BC), June 22, 2022 - ^{Copyright}

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FN Joint Release on protest camp in Dididaht territory

From: Brewer, John <john.brewer@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>
To: McDonald, Dwayne <Dwayne.McDONALD@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, Stubbs, Eric <Eric.Stubbs@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, Roberts, Dawn <dawn.roberts@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>, Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>, Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 23, 2022 12:53:43 PM PDT
Attachments: 2022-06-23 - Protestor Camp News Release-FINAL.pdf

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

For your Sa.

This is an excellent release. CIRG is now fully preparing for enforcement to open this critical route on Wednesday, July 29.

Regards,
John

Regards,
John

C/Supt. John BREWER, M.O.M.
Deputy Criminal Operations Officer (Core)
Gold Commander: Community - Industry Response Group
"E" Division EHQ
A1W6206
14200 Green Timbers Way
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C/Surint. John Brewer, M.O.M.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Protesters Ordered to Remove Illegal Camp and Respect Indigenous Sovereignty and Provincial Authorizations

Nitinaht, Traditional Ditidaht First Nation Territory, B.C. – June 23, 2022 — Copyright
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communications@pacheedaht.ca.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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RE: FN Joint Release on protest camp in Dididaht territory

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To: McDonald, Dwayne <Dwayne.McDONALD@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, Stubbs, Eric <Eric.Stubbs@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, Roberts, Dawn <dawn.roberts@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>, Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>, Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 23, 2022 1:29:02 PM PDT

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Correction: JUNE 29, 2022 is the date for enforcement, if needed.

From: Brewer, John
Sent: June 23, 2022 12:54 PM
To: McDonald, Dwayne <Dwayne.McDONALD@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>; Stubbs, Eric <Eric.Stubbs@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>; Roberts, Dawn <dawn.roberts@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>; Brian Sims <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>; Glen Lewis <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>; Stubbs, Eric <Eric.Stubbs@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>; Wayne Ridoute <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
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