

Power, Tom B PSSG:EX

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Bard, Jenni PSSG:EX
Subject: FW: Request for Statistics
Attachments: 20220325 - No Case Seizures.docx

Hey Jenni,

This is what I found. Not sure if this helps.

Matt

Matt Brown
A/ Executive Director
Community Safety Division, Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Office: (778) 698-8432 Mobile: (250) 480-8865

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From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 12:47 PM
To: Ferrier, Rob L PSSG:EX <Rob.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Request for Statistics

Hey Rob. This is what went out on this. You may have seen the finished product already.

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown
A/ Executive Director
Community Safety Division, Policing and Security Branch
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From: Grove, Juliet PSSG:EX <Juliet.Grove@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Request for Statistics

FYI

Juliet

From: Grove, Juliet PSSG:EX
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Request for Statistics

Hi Brian,

Wayne approved this eApp and I will send it to the MLA office. s.13
s.13 Thanks. -Juliet

Hello Luella,

Our branch has completed the request laid out below. I've attached the data that was collected, this represents the best available information. Although it does not neatly align with the MLA's specific request, the attached will provide some context and we hope that he finds it informative and it will meet his needs.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or questions.

Kind Regards,

Juliet Grove (She/Her)
Executive Administrative Assistant, Assistant Deputy Minister's Office
Policing and Security Branch | Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9285 STN PROV GOVT | Victoria BC | V8W 9J7
Juliet.grove@gov.bc.ca | Tel: 778-698-7452

A safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia

I acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen-speaking Peoples on whose traditional territories I live, work, and enjoy, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSANEC peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

From: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Grove, Juliet PSSG:EX <Juliet.Grove@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Request for Statistics

From: Barnetson, Luella <Luella.Barnetson@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 12:30 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>; doug.scott@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Request for Statistics

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

Thank you Mr. Rideout, we appreciate the information and I will pass on to MLA Morris.

Kind regards,

Luella Barnetson

Legislative Assistant

BC Liberal Caucus



Bruce Banman – MLA, Abbotsford South, *Critic for Citizens' Services*

Michael de Jong, Q.C. – MLA, Abbotsford West, *Critic for Attorney General*

Renee Merrifield – MLA, Kelowna – Mission, *Environment and Climate Change Strategy*

Mike Morris – MLA, Prince George - Mackenzie, *Critic for Public Safety and Solicitor General*

e: luella.barnetson@leg.bc.ca

p: 250-387-8161

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Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

bcliberalcaucus.bc.ca

From: Grove, Juliet PSSG:EX <Juliet.Grove@gov.bc.ca> **On Behalf Of** Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX

Sent: March 18, 2022 12:24 PM

To: Barnetson, Luella <Luella.Barnetson@leg.bc.ca>; doug.scott@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Request for Statistics

Good morning Luella,

Thank you for your email, we appreciate MLA Morris' interest in the matter. As you know, Canada has been moving towards decriminalization of simple possession. This is important work and our branch has been doing a considerable amount of work on decriminalization nationally and in our province.

From 2015 to 2019, total drug possession rates trended upwards in BC, from 1.36 to 2.03 police-reported drug possession incidents per 1,000 population. However, during the same period, total drug possession charge rates (cleared by charge) had a different pattern. Though there was an increase between 2015 and 2016 (from 0.41 to 0.48), total drug possession charge rates in BC trended downwards from 2016 to 2019 (from 0.48 to 0.38).

"No case" seizures may be available through PRIME-BC. My team will reach out to our policing partners and make the request, subject to their capacity to pull this data. Please also be aware that due to retention periods this information may not reflect all the instances within the date range you've requested.

My team will be in touch after we've connected with the appropriate policing stakeholders with further details pertaining to your request.

Regards,

Wayne Rideout

Assistant Deputy Minister

And Director of Police Services

From: Barnetson, Luella <Luella.Barnetson@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>; doug.scott@gov.bc.ca
Subject: FW: Request for Statistics

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

Hello, I am hoping that one of you are able to help with MLA Mike Morris's request below?

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Luella Barnetson
Legislative Assistant
BC Liberal Caucus



Bruce Banman – MLA, Abbotsford South, *Critic for Citizens' Services*
Michael de Jong, Q.C. – MLA, Abbotsford West, *Critic for Attorney General*
Renee Merrifield – MLA, Kelowna – Mission, *Environment and Climate Change Strategy*
Mike Morris – MLA, Prince George - Mackenzie, *Critic for Public Safety and Solicitor General*

e: luella.barnetson@leg.bc.ca
p: 250-387-8161
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From: Barnetson, Luella <Luella.Barnetson@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Request for Statistics

Hello Mr. Rideout,

MLA Mike Morris has asked that I contact you as he is looking for the stats for all police services in BC for "No Case" drug seizures for the past five years (ten if available) and the quantities of each drug seized please.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards,



Luella Barnettson

Legislative Assistant

BC Liberal Caucus

Bruce Banman – MLA, Abbotsford South, *Critic for Citizens' Services*

Michael de Jong, Q.C. – MLA, Abbotsford West, *Critic for Attorney General*

Renee Merrifield – MLA, Kelowna – Mission, *Environment and Climate Change Strategy*

Mike Morris – MLA, Prince George - Mackenzie, *Critic for Public Safety and Solicitor General*

e: luella.barnetson@leg.bc.ca

p: 250-387-8161

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REQUEST:

- MLA Mike Morris is seeking statistics for 'no case' drug seizures for the past 5 years (10 if available).

Overall Context

- We have discussed with PRIME-BC who confirm that to provide data for all police of jurisdiction would require us to obtain permission from each of them as the owners of the data.
- s.13; s.16
-

No case seizure data request context (from RCMP E-Div):

- Data on no case seizures is both not readily available through electronic searches and may be of limited value, depending on the intended use for the data
- RCMP advise that 'No case' (or "prosecution not viable" cases) no cases can involve *all* of the following incidents:
 - a drug seizure from a person in possession;
 - a drug seizure from a person who was trafficking but charges not forwarded due to another issue;
 - found/abandon drugs;
 - drugs turned over to police by a federal/provincial prison;
 - drugs intercepted by Canada Post;
 - drugs found during a vehicle stop for a motor vehicle infraction;
 - drug paraphernalia with residue found by a concerned parent and turned in;
 - drugs found on a person during an arrest for another offence and the drugs are no cased instead (done to simplify the court case related to the original arrest).
 - drugs found by the Canada Border Services Agency (i.e. hidden in a tractor trailer unit), and is then reported to RCMP (if RCMP cannot subsequently link the drugs to the driver/importer it becomes a no case).
- s.16

Best Available Data – RCMP E-Div:

- Statistics are available on reported illicit drug seizures and approved drug-related charges and conviction occurrences in British Columbia, 2019 – 2020, for RCMP jurisdictions in BC. This specific data was compiled to support the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions' request to Health Canada for an exemption from the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) to effectively decriminalize personal possession of illicit substances in British Columbia.
- Limitations on the existing data: The aforementioned statistical data on illegal drug seizures was collected using Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) coded indicators for drug seizures on PRIME-BC General Occurrences (GO) for BC RCMP jurisdictions. 'Private and Invisible' files were not included. The occurrences were isolated to instances where drug possession and seizure were listed as the first or only line of UCR scoring summaries, then filtered to include only those illicit street and

pharmaceutical drugs consistent with the City of Vancouver's proposal. Records deemed to be lost and found, held for safe keeping, agency assistance files, as well as those which lacked usable data relative to drug type/quantity were also removed from the data set. Due to time constraints, a fully comprehensive manual review was not undertaken to verify and confirm the data.

RCMP E-Div Data/Findings:

- Over 2019 and 2020 there were 40,302 occurrence records in BC RCMP jurisdictions in which there were founded CDSA violations on any line of scoring. A very small fraction of total CDSA-related violation records resulted in a conviction for drug possession alone.

MEASURE	2019	2020
Total occurrence records with a CDSA violation	20,162	20,140
Total CDSA violation records cleared by charge/charges recommended	2,947	3,082
CDSA violation records with drug-related charges laid	1,888	1,061
Records where the drug charge laid is possession	1,621	914
Records where the possession charge resulted in conviction	418	82

- Opioids, amphetamines and cocaine comprise the overwhelming majority of the illicit street drug occurrences, both in terms of the numbers of seizures and the weight/quantity seized.
- A small fraction of total CDSA violation records resulted in a conviction for drug possession alone.
- 77% of occurrences involving illicit drug seizure are less than or equal to proposed thresholds.

Best Available Data – City of Vancouver Data/Findings:

- Municipality of Vancouver data is also available through the City's document entitled '*City of Vancouver Request for an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) pursuant to section 56(1) that would decriminalize personal possession of illicit substances within the City of Vancouver – Final Submission to Health Canada*'. (<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/request-for-exemption-from-controlled-drugs-and-substances-act.pdf>)
- The Vancouver Police Department's (VPD) approach has moved toward de facto decriminalization of simple possession. Per the table below, this has resulted in a decrease in the number of simple possession charges over the last number of years:

YEAR	# Charges for Simple Possession
2008	476
2009	224
2010	141
2011	90
2012	65
2013	70
2014	48
2015	65
2016	43

2017	30
2018	21
2019	16
2020	10

- VPD provided the data regarding seizures of illegal drugs which form part of the City's exemption application

Drugs or illicit substances seized by the Vancouver Police Department from May 17, 2019 to June 9, 2020	Number of drug items seized	Percentage of all seizures of drug
Opioids Seizures under 2 grams*	522	50%
Cocaine Seizures under 3 grams*	501	69%
Amphetamine Seizures under 1.5 grams*	234	41%