



October 24, 2007

Paul Kennedy, Chair
Commission for Public Complaints Against RCMP
PO Box 3423, Station 'D'
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P6L4

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Dear Mr. Kennedy,

Re: RCMP Complaint into the death of a man at the Vancouver International Airport

I am writing on behalf of the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) to initiate a complaint under the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act* against the relevant member(s) of the Vancouver RCMP detachment involved in the handling of 40-year old Robert Dziekanski, who died on October 14, 2007 while RCMP were detaining him.

Based on media reports, it is my understanding that the Police were contacted after the private security personnel of the Vancouver International Airport felt that they were unable to deal with a man who was behaving erratically after he had arrived at the airport from an international flight. The man was yelling, tipping his luggage cart over and throwing chairs when the RCMP officers arrived at the scene. Robert Dziekanski, a Polish citizen who was in the process of immigrating to Canada, did not speak English and it has been reported the RCMP were made aware of this language deficiency. When Mr. Dziekanski would not follow the verbal directions of the RCMP officers a taser was used to subdue him. It is reported that Mr. Dziekanski fell down and was handcuffed while he still tried to resist. A few minutes after the discharge of the taser Mr. Dziekanski slipped into unconsciousness, Paramedics were called, but he died.

The BCCLA is concerned that RCMP member(s) failed to meet existing RCMP policies and standards or failed to meet reasonable conduct expectations regarding tasers. If the RCMP is found to have acted within the guidelines of existing policy and conduct standards we ask that you undertake a review to assess whether such policies are adequate.

The BCCLA is also concerned that the conduct of the RCMP officers did not meet policy and professional standards in dealing with someone who could not understand English. If it is found that the RCMP officers did act

To: Paul Kennedy, Chair; Commission for Public Complaints Against RCMP
From: Murray Mollard
Date: October 24, 2007
Page: 2

appropriately with regard to existing standards I ask that you undertake a review to assess whether existing policies and standards are adequate.

To maintain and enhance the public's confidence in the RCMP, we request that your office rather than the RCMP conduct this investigation.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Mollard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Murray Mollard,
Executive Director