

June 21, 2010

Dear Friend:

I'm writing to share with you some of our critically important work on the pressing issue of police accountability, which you make possible through your support of the BC Civil Liberties Association.

You're placing a priority on RCMP accountability. The province of BC is currently negotiating a 20-year contract with the RCMP to provide policing services across the vast majority of the province. The contract renews in 2012, which is why we're holding public workshops across northern BC in August on what the RCMP are doing well, and where they need to improve. Your support means the Solicitor General will know what rural BC communities want and need from their policing services.

You're enforcing the Taser inquiry recommendations. Your Association is the public interest group at the table with the Police Services Division, the RCMP and 11 municipal police forces to demand that automatic defibrillators, mandatory crisis intervention training, strict usage protocols, and reporting and accountability are prioritized in policy reform. Your support means we can be on the cutting edge of policy development, including strict controls on how new weapons are introduced by police.

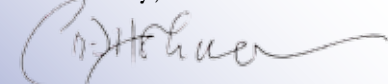
You're demanding accountability for police involved deaths. Our lawyers will be on the front lines of the Frank Paul Inquiry. The inquiry has resumed after your Association succeeded at the Supreme Court of Canada in demanding that prosecutors explain their decisions related to Frank Paul's death. Your support helps ensure that prosecutors and police work for people like Frank Paul, not against them.

You're serving families in the far north. We publicly supported the Silverfox family's demand for an inquiry in the death of Raymond Silverfox. Evidence at Raymond's coroners' inquest in Whitehorse, Yukon, showed that officers didn't seek medical attention for him even though he vomited 26 times in his cell. Audio tapes allegedly recorded RCMP officers mocking Raymond as he lay dying. Your support means our advocacy will keep this case in the headlines until those responsible are held accountable.

You're winning the fight for a Special Investigation Unit in BC. Our years of advocacy to end the practice of police investigating themselves is making real progress. For the first time ever, the BC Association of Chiefs of Police responded to our calls and has asked the province to introduce an independent agency to investigate police-related deaths. Your support is helping us win.

Nobody else is doing this critical work. Please become a member of the BCCLA or, if you are already a current member, please consider making a donation if you haven't yet done so this year. Just send the enclosed donor card today or donate at bccla.org where you will find more details on our work. With your help, our efforts to hold police accountable can continue. We can't do it without you.

Yours truly,



Robert Holmes, President

P.S. Please consider becoming a monthly donor so the BCCLA can keep up the momentum on police accountability issues that matter to Canadians. Thank you!