



OFFICE OF THE  
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

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British Columbia, Canada

**MEDIA RELEASE**

June 24, 2019

OPCC 2016-12611

**Mandatory External Investigation into the serious injury of a male  
by a member of the Vancouver Police Department**

**Victoria** - The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) will be proceeding with a mandatory external investigation into the serious injury of a member of the public following the use of a Police Service Dog on September 19, 2016.

The *Police Act* requires that all incidents involving the death or serious harm to a person that could be seen to be as a result of the operations of that municipal department, or as a result of the conduct of the member of a municipal department, or occur while they are in the custody or care of a member of the municipal police department, to be reported to the OPCC and investigated by an external police agency.

The former Police Complaint Commissioner determined that the injuries constituted serious harm as defined by the *Police Act* and could be seen to have been the result of the conduct of a member(s) of the Vancouver Police Department.

For cases involving serious harm or death, the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) has concurrent jurisdiction to investigate the circumstances of the incident including the actions of the involved officers. On May 23, 2019, a Public Report was issued by the IIO determining that they would not be referring this case to Crown Counsel for consideration of possible criminal charges. The IIO Public Report is available at: <https://iio.bc.ca/public-reports/09-19-2016-new-westminster-serious-harm-2016-193/>

The mandate of the OPCC is separate and distinct from that of the IIO. Section 89 of the *Police Act* places a mandatory, non-discretionary responsibility on the Police Complaint

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Commissioner to direct an investigation into these matters and appoint an external police agency to conduct this investigation.

The nature of this investigation will be to investigate and assess any training, policy or allegations of professional misconduct as defined by section 77 of the *Police Act*. The *Police Act* further provides that officers must cooperate fully, which includes answering questions or providing written statements to investigators.

Investigations when complete, may result in substantiated findings of misconduct against former members that may result in discipline up to and including Dismissal. Those findings are recorded on the former members' service record of discipline.

The Police Complaint Commissioner may take other actions generally including reporting matters to Crown counsel, making recommendations to Police Boards on matters of policy and procedures or recommend that the Director of Police Services or Minister exercise their authorities under the *Police Act* to examine training, cultural or systemic issues that may have contributed to the incident, or which may prevent its recurrence.

The Police Complaint Commissioner has determined that it is in the public interest, pursuant to section 95 of the *Police Act*, to disclose that an external investigation has been ordered into this incident.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) is a civilian, independent office of the Legislature which oversees and monitors complaints and investigations and the administration of discipline involving municipal police in British Columbia.

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