



OFFICE OF THE  
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

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British Columbia, Canada

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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OPCC 2018-14547 & 2018-15030

**Discipline Proceedings arranged for two Police Officers for off-duty conduct in Cuba**

**Victoria** – A *Police Act* investigation into the off-duty conduct of two municipal police officers while in Cuba has been remitted to a disciplinary process. Under the oversight of the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner, the RCMP conducted an investigation into allegations of discreditable conduct occurring while Vancouver Police Constable Mark Simms and Port Moody Police Constable Jordan Long were vacationing in Cuba.

A preliminary decision by the External Discipline Authority, Chief Officer Dave Jones of the Metro Vancouver Transit Police, determined that there is sufficient evidence to proceed to a disciplinary process, which includes a discipline proceeding. If misconduct is proven to have occurred, the External Discipline Authority may impose a range of disciplinary or corrective measures up to and including dismissal.

**Quotes:**

*“Discipline Proceedings are not open to the public. The Commissioner has determined that it is in the public interest to release limited information but in order to protect the integrity of the proceedings no further information will be released at this time.”*

**Andrea Spindler, Deputy Police Complaint Commissioner**

**Key Facts:**

- The Police Complaint Commissioner is a civilian, independent Officer of the Legislature overseeing complaints, investigations and discipline involving municipal police in British Columbia.

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- The *Police Act* provides that, whether on or off-duty, a police officer commits misconduct if they conduct themselves in manner that the police officer knows, or ought to know, would be likely to bring discredit on the municipal police department.
- The Police Complaint Commissioner may order investigations by external police agencies, including the RCMP as the provincial police force, and may also designate External Discipline Authorities.
- Discipline Authorities are generally senior ranking police officers who are required under the *Police Act* to make determinations regarding the investigation and discipline of police officers alleged to have committed misconduct.
- Police officers have a number of rights at discipline proceedings to ensure fairness including cross-examination of the investigator, requesting witnesses be called and making submissions.
- The Police Complaint Commissioner may also refer certain decisions to retired judges for adjudication, call public hearings; refer matters to Crown Counsel for consideration of prosecution and; make recommendations to Police Boards or to government regarding policies, practices or systemic issues that may contribute to the misconduct.

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