



OFFICE OF THE  
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

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British Columbia, Canada

## NEWS RELEASE

November 22, 2022

### OPCC Annual Report Released

**Victoria** - The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) 2021-2022 Annual Report was tabled in the Legislature today. The Report highlights the role of the OPCC in the oversight of investigations into police misconduct and the administration of police discipline independently of governments and the police.

The Report also highlights the role of the OPCC in supporting public confidence in policing through various checks and balances, including reviews by retired members of the judiciary. These reviews serve as an important mechanism for the impartial scrutiny of police conduct. Other highlights in the Report include recommendations directed at police boards and government to improve service-delivery in areas such as sexual assault investigations and trauma informed practices, the need for appropriate reviews of workplace cultures, and improved police board governance.

#### Quote:

*"Policing in Canada derives its legitimacy from the consent of the public to be policed. Canadians must therefore have confidence that police powers are exercised impartially and within the law, regardless of partisanship or privilege. Independent and arm's length oversight is essential to support this confidence."*

*-Clayton Pecknold, Police Complaint Commissioner*

The Annual Report, including appendices, is available here:

<https://opcc.bc.ca/reports/annual-report/>

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**About the OPCC:**

- The Police Complaint Commissioner is a civilian, independent Officer of the Legislature overseeing complaints, investigations and discipline involving municipal police in British Columbia operating independently of governments and the police themselves.
- The Police Complaint Commissioner may accept complaints from the public or independently order investigations into allegations of police misconduct.
- 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.
- The Police Complaint Commissioner is required under the *Police Act* to table a report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly once a year.

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