



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

British Columbia, Canada

NOTICE

September 3, 2024

OPCC 2019-17245
PH 23-01

Public Hearing continues for Victoria Police Officer

Victoria - The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) wishes to advise that the Public Hearing into the circumstances involving Sergeant Ron Kirkwood of the Victoria Police Department following the death of Ms. Lisa Rauch in 2019 will re-convene on Monday, September 9, 2024. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10am at 947 Fort St., Victoria, BC, second floor and is expected to continue September 10-12, 2024.

Details on the Public Hearing may be found on the “Decisions-Public Hearings” page of the OPCC’s webpage, located at www.opcc.bc.ca.

About the OPCC and Public Hearings:

- The Police Complaint Commissioner is a civilian, independent Officer of the Legislature overseeing complaints, investigations, and discipline involving municipal police in British Columbia. For more on the OPCC, visit <https://opcc.bc.ca/about-us/>
- The OPCC initiates mandatory *Police Act* investigations whenever death or serious harm results from an incident involving municipal police officers or in instances where someone is in the care or custody of police. These investigations are separate and distinct from investigations by the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) and are not restricted to evidence gathered by the IIO.
- A Public Hearing is not limited to the evidence and issues canvassed at the discipline proceeding. The Police Complaint Commissioner can appoint Commission Counsel to act on their behalf during Public Hearings.
- A retired judge is appointed to sit as the Adjudicator and review the evidence, hear sworn testimony, and arrive at a decision as to whether there is misconduct and, if

Prabhu Rajan
Police Complaint Commissioner

2nd Floor, 947 Fort Street
PO Box 9895 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9T8
Tel: (250) 356-7458 Fax: (250) 356-6503

Toll Free 1 877-999-8707 # Website: www.opcc.bc.ca

necessary, determine the corrective and/or disciplinary measures to be imposed. The retired judge's decision at a Public Hearing is final and conclusive.

- The appointed retired judge can also make recommendations to the Chief Constable or Police Board concerning any changes in policy or practice that the retired judge considers advisable.

Note to media: The OPCC is unable to comment on this hearing while it is underway. For general queries related to the OPCC's role and processes, please contact:

Andrea Spindler, Deputy Police Complaint Commissioner, media@opcc.bc.ca