



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

British Columbia, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Hearing for Vancouver Police Sergeant

Victoria – The Police Complaint Commissioner has called a Public Hearing into allegations of sexualized misconduct involving Sergeant Keiron McConnell of the Vancouver Police Department in relation to his conduct towards seven women, including female police officers and former female students of his when he worked as an instructor at two higher education institutions.

The Police Complaint Commissioner determined that the nature of the alleged misconduct supported the need for a public hearing. In considering the public interest, the Commissioner noted that addressing sexualized behaviour in work and educational settings is a critical issue in society and the implicit or explicit use of a power imbalance for a sexual purpose not only harms those directly affected but also negatively impacts the integrity of, and the public's confidence in, policing in B.C.

The allegations made against Sergeant McConnell have not been proven. It will be the responsibility of the appointed adjudicator to determine whether the member committed misconduct, to determine appropriate disciplinary or corrective measures, if necessary, and to make recommendations, if appropriate.

This is the first public hearing arranged by the OPCC since legislated changes came into force allowing the Police Complaint Commissioner to arrange a public hearing earlier in the police discipline process.

The Commissioner has appointed the Honourable Carol Baird Ellan, K.C., retired Provincial Court Judge, to preside as Adjudicator in these proceedings.

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As this matter involves allegations of a sensitive nature, names of the affected persons and complainants have been withheld from the Notice of Public Hearing to protect their identities. The Adjudicator may make further determinations concerning confidentiality in the course of the public hearing.

Dates for the public hearing have not yet been determined. The public hearing will commence at the earliest practicable date and dates will be posted to the OPCC website.

Further details may be found in the *Notice of Public Hearing* and is available [here](#).

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/>
- Retired judges appointed under the *Police Act* are independent and operate at arm's length from the OPCC. They are 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 necessary, determine the corrective and/or disciplinary measures to be imposed.
- 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.
- The Police Complaint Commissioner will appoint Commission Counsel to act on their behalf during Public Hearings. Independent public hearing counsel will present to the adjudicator the case relative to each allegation of misconduct against the member.

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

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