



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

British Columbia, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 24, 2025

OPCC 2019-17245
PH 23-01

Release of Decision in Victoria Police Officer Public Hearing

Victoria – 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 reconvene on Thursday, May 8, 2025. It is expected that retired B.C. Judge Wally Oppal, Adjudicator for this Public Hearing, will deliver his ruling. The hearing is scheduled to take place at 10:00 am - 947 Fort St., Victoria, BC, second floor.

The Adjudicator will be required to determine whether Sergeant Kirkwood committed misconduct in relation to the discharge of ARWEN rounds that struck Ms. Rauch and whether the failure to complete required documentation following the death of Ms. Rauch amounted to misconduct.

The Adjudicator may also make recommendations to the Chief Constable or Police Board concerning any changes in policy or practice they consider advisable.

The full public notice on the decision to call a public hearing can be found [here](#).

About the OPCC and Public Hearings:

- 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 necessary, determine the corrective and/or disciplinary measures to be imposed.

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

- 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/>

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

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

- 30 -