



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

February 24, 2015

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Charges Approved in Vancouver Island IIO Investigations

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice (CJB) announced today that charges have been approved in connection with two separate incidents on Vancouver Island that were investigated by the Independent Investigation Office (IIO).

Nanaimo Incident

A charge of Assault Causing Bodily Harm has been approved against a member of the Nanaimo detachment of the R.C.M.P. in relation to an incident alleged to have occurred in the detachment cells in Nanaimo on June 15, 2014.

An Information charging Cst. Tim Bedard with a single count of Assault Causing Bodily Harm was sworn February 18, 2015 under file number 79535-1 in B.C. Provincial Court in Nanaimo. First appearance in the case has been scheduled for March 17, 2015 in Nanaimo.

Parksville Incident

A charge of Assault with a Weapon has been approved against three members of the Oceanside detachment of the R.C.M.P. in relation to an incident alleged to have occurred in the detachment cells in Parksville on June 10, 2013. The charge alleges the use of oleoresin capsicum spray in a manner that constitutes excessive force

The complainant sustained physical injuries while in the Oceanside detachment. These injuries were unrelated to use of the spray. CJB concluded that on the available evidence, there is no substantial likelihood of a conviction for offences that are specific to the injuries. As such, the prosecution will be limited to Assault With a Weapon involving the use of oleoresin capsicum spray. In light of the fact that the entirety of the circumstances may nonetheless form part of the evidentiary context for the prosecution, CJB cannot provide further details at this time.

An Information charging Cst. Scott Kennedy Jones, Cpl. Michelle Rene Lebrun and Cst. Mick Donald White with Assault with a Weapon was sworn under file number 79541-1 in B.C. Provincial Court in Nanaimo on February 18, 2015. First appearances in the case are scheduled for March 17, 2015 in Nanaimo.

Branch Vision

Courageous, Fair and Efficient – A Prosecution Service that has the Confidence of the Public.

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Following an investigation, where the Chief Civilian Director of the IIO determines that an officer may have committed an offence, the IIO submits a report to CJB. The Chief Civilian Director does not make a recommendation on whether charges should be approved or what charges CJB should consider.

The Charge Assessment Guidelines applied by the Criminal Justice Branch in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in Branch policy and are available online at:

http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/prosecution-service/policy-man/pdf/CHA1_ChargeAssessmentGuidelines.pdf

As these matters are now before the Court, CJB is unable to release additional information or comment further at this time.

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To learn more about B.C.'s criminal justice system visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/prosecution-service/>

or Justice B.C. at : www.justicebc.ca/en/cjis/index.html