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## BC Prosecution Service approves charges against Prince George RCMP officers

**Victoria** - The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that charges have been approved against three Prince George RCMP officers in connection with their involvement in the arrest of two suspects on February 18, 2016, in a residential neighborhood in Prince George. The case was investigated by the Independent Investigations Office (IIO), which subsequently submitted a Report to Crown Counsel in June 2018 (2016-051).

The charge assessment process in this case was significantly delayed due to the complexity of the issues, the volume of initial disclosure, BCPS requests for further information, and subsequent receipt of additional disclosure.

An Information charging Cst. Joshua Grafton with assault, assault with a weapon, and obstruction of justice was sworn on June 8, 2020, Prince George court file no. 74206. A separate Information charging Cst. Wayne Connell and Cst. Kyle Sharpe with assault causing bodily harm was also sworn on June 8, 2020, Prince George court file no. 74207. First appearance is set for August 12, 2020 in Prince George Provincial Court.

The charges were approved by an experienced Crown Counsel with no prior or current connection with the officers. The charge assessment guidelines applied by the BCPS in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are set out in the BCPS Crown Counsel Policy Manual and are available online at:

[www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines](http://www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines)

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

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