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22-03

BC Prosecution Service approves charges against Kelowna RCMP Officer

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that two charges have been approved against Kelowna RCMP Cst. Sean Eckland. The charges are in connection with the officer's involvement as an investigator following an allegation of intimate partner violence in Lake Country, BC.

An Information charging Cst. Eckland with two counts of obstructing justice contrary to section 139(2) of the *Criminal Code* was sworn on March 10, 2022, under Provincial Court file number 97113-1. The first appearance on this matter is scheduled for April 4, 2022, in Kelowna Provincial Court.

The charges were approved by an experienced Crown Counsel with no prior or current connection with the officer. The charge assessment guidelines applied by the BC Prosecution Service in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in the BC Prosecution Service Crown Counsel Policy Manual and are available online at:

www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines

BCPS guidelines for assessing allegations against Peace Officers are also established in policy and are available at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/pol-1.pdf>

As this matter is now before the court the BCPS will not be commenting further at this time.

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