



December 18, 2024

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BC Prosecution Service approves charges against two Central Saanich Police Service officers

Victoria - The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that charges under the *Criminal Code* have been approved against two Central Saanich Police Service officers, Sgt. Matthew Ball and Cst. Ryan Johnston, in connection with incidents that occurred in the District of Central Saanich.

Sgt. Ball was charged with one count of sexual assault, contrary to section 271 of the *Criminal Code*, and one count of breach of trust, contrary to section 122. These offences are alleged to have occurred during the time period from February 1, 2019 to October 30, 2023. Cst. Johnston was charged with one count of sexual assault, contrary to section 271 of the *Criminal Code*. The offence is alleged to have occurred during the time period from February 6, 2020 to March 8, 2020. An Information containing these charges was sworn on December 17, 2024, under Victoria Law Courts file number 189480-1. The next appearance on this matter is scheduled for January 15, 2025, at the Victoria Law Courts.

The charge was 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 established in the BCPS 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:

www.gov.bc.ca/allegations-against-peace-officers

As this matter is now before the court, the BCPS will not be releasing additional information or commenting further at this time.

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