



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

British Columbia, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

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OPCC orders a review into the conduct of a New Westminster police officer

Victoria - The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner has ordered a review by a retired judge into the findings of a Discipline Proceeding relating to allegations of *Discreditable Conduct* against a member of the New Westminster Police Department (NWPD).

A NWPD Sergeant was alleged to have made inappropriate sexual advances towards female NWPD employees. At the time of these incidents, the Sergeant was a senior NWPD member and in a supervisory role within the department.

The matter was investigated externally to the NWPD by the Vancouver Police Department. During a subsequent Discipline Proceeding, the Member was found to have committed two allegations of *Discreditable Conduct*. The Discipline Authority recommended that the Member receive a reduction in rank.

The Police Complaint Commissioner has determined, among other things, that the proposed discipline does not adequately address the seriousness of the conduct. The Police Complaint Commissioner has further determined that a review by a retired judge is necessary in the public interest. The Honourable Carol Baird Ellan, KC, retired BC Provincial Court Judge, will preside as the adjudicator of the Review on the Record, which has yet to be scheduled.

Updates on the review will be shared on the OPCC website.

The full notice of review is available [here](#).

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About the OPCC and Reviews on the Record:

- 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/>
- Discipline Authorities are generally senior ranking police officers who are required under the *Police Act* to make determinations regarding the investigation and discipline of police officers alleged to have committed misconduct.
- A Review on the Record is a form of adjudicative review in which the adjudicator, a Retired Judge, conducts a “paper review” of all evidence and materials from the investigation and discipline hearing. The adjudicator may also receive submissions from the respondent member’s counsel, the Police Complaint Commissioner’s counsel, the complainant and the Discipline Authority before rendering their decision. More on the OPCC’s involvement in and processes for complaints involving police and misconduct allegations: <https://opcc.bc.ca/police-faq/>
- An adjudicator must determine whether there is misconduct and, if so, determine the corrective or disciplinary measures to be imposed. In some cases, reviews can be focused solely on the issue of the discipline imposed.
- As this matter involves allegations of a sensitive nature, names of the parties have been withheld from the Notice to protect the privacy of the affected persons. During the Review on the Record proceedings, the Adjudicator may make further determinations concerning any limitations on the public disclosure of information relevant to this Review.

Note to media: The OPCC is unable to comment on this review while it is underway. For general queries related to the OPCC’s role and processes, please contact:

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