


**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO MONEY LAUNDERING
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

The Honourable Mr. Austin F. Cullen, Commissioner

AFFIDAVIT OF CRAIG CALLENS

I, CRAIG CALLENS, of Kelowna, British Columbia, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I am a retired Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police ("RCMP") and, as such, have personal knowledge of the facts and matters deposed to in this affidavit, save and except where based on information and belief, and where so stated, I believe it to be true.
2. I am now retired after a long service with the RCMP, having served from 1985 to 2017 in various roles in the Province. Over the course of my career, I worked in a variety of roles and in a number of senior, commanding roles. I served as Criminal Operations Officer for "E" Division, as Acting Commanding Officer, and ultimately, as Deputy Commissioner, Commanding Officer of British Columbia.
3. I moved to "E" Division headquarters in 2010 or late in 2009. As an officer with significant involvement in contract policing for the Province, I was extensively engaged with the Province's Police Services Branch, and I had a close working relationship with Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Begg. We were in contact regularly and often, with respect to numerous policing issues.
4. In the latter part of 2010, Al McIntyre retired, and in January 2011 I became the Criminal Operations Officer, having moved out of my previous responsibility in contract policing. At this time, I had been Assistant Commissioner for only a few weeks, when the issue of money laundering arose in relation to media reports in January of 2011. My perspective is that, at that time, I had detailed knowledge of the contract policing operations of the RCMP, but the federal policing environment was relatively new for me. There were other senior members of the RCMP who were also new to their positions in January of 2011.
5. I recall receiving a phone call in January of 2011 from Mr. Begg, asking if I was aware of Inspector Baxter giving comments in the CBC interview about casinos. I would not say that Mr. Begg was angry in the call. Mr. Begg was asking me what happened. I was not aware of it. We discussed how it was inconsistent with our

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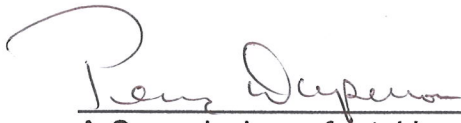
agreement to provide notification to Police Services Branch of comments that the RCMP would be making in the media with respect to policing matters, and not how we had conducted business over past years. There were communications protocols employed over those years, in order to ensure that nobody would be caught off guard.

6. In my previous roles, including with the City of Surrey, I would interface with various civic officials such as the City Manager and the Mayor. Nationally, I would liaise with the federal Minister's Office with respect to major events in the Province. Likewise, with Mr. Begg, we would liaise often with respect to the RCMP's provincial policing role.
7. My view was that the way that Inspector Baxter spoke to the media was well out of the norm. The understanding was that there would be discussion and a heads up, as between the RCMP and the Province, before media statements were given about issues of mutual interest.
8. In my discussion with Mr. Begg in January of 2011, we did not debate the contents of Mr. Baxter's comments. Mr. Begg did not deny that there was money laundering in casinos. We did not get into the operational aspects of that topic.
9. Following that discussion with Mr. Begg, I spoke with Inspector Baxter, to use it as a teaching moment. I had expected, given my role, that I should have known that an officer was giving an on-camera interview in RCMP uniform. I was surprised to learn of it after the fact.
10. Inspector Baxter tried to persuade me there was a problem in casinos. I said I was not going to debate that issue, but that the police have the job of gathering evidence and making a case — whether to support a prosecution or discussing it with GPEB and government to change policy.
11. I asked Inspector Baxter what his objective was and what he hoped to accomplish. I said, setting aside his authorization to speak as he did for the RCMP, what was it that he hoped to accomplish? Mr. Baxter said that he felt the public needs to know. I said words to the effect of: some might perceive you're trying to embarrass the government into doing something. That is not my way of doing things, and not how the RCMP handles these things in British Columbia.
12. I conveyed that the RCMP needs to get together with the ADM or GPEB and form an evidentiary basis from which to effect change. Mr. Baxter seemed to grasp this point.
13. At the time when this matter arose, I had many balls in the air and the RCMP in the Province was in the midst of significant change, with Gary Bass having departed "E" Division Headquarters, Al McIntyre as well, and my previous position not yet being backfilled. In different circumstances I may have dived down more on the issue, but there were other officers overseeing the casinos and gaming issues and I relied on them.
14. I did not hear from any elected official, on this topic of the CBC/Baxter comments. I never heard from Rich Coleman on this or any other issue.



15. I was Mr. Begg's principal point of contact with the RCMP, so when there was a need to have a discussion as between the provincial government and the RCMP, it was a natural connection for that to occur between Mr. Begg and me.
16. I have no recollection of Mr. Begg making any comments about Mr. Coleman.

SWORN BEFORE ME AT Osoyoos,
British Columbia, this 12th day
of May, 2021


A Commissioner for taking Affidavits
within British Columbia


CRAIG CALLENS

Penny Duperron
A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
for British Columbia
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