

This is the 1st Affidavit
of Gary Bass in this matter
and was made on May 12, 2021

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO MONEY LAUNDERING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Honourable Mr. Austin F. Cullen, Commissioner

AFFIDAVIT OF GARY BASS

I, GARY DAVID BASS, Retired, of the City of Langley, in the Province of British Columbia,
SWEAR THAT:

1. I am a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (the “RCMP”), and as such have personal knowledge of the facts hereinafter deposed to except where stated to be on information and belief, in which case I verily believe them to be true.

My Background

2. I served with the RCMP for over 39 years, at a variety of locations from coast to coast across Canada. I joined the RCMP in 1972, soon after leaving high school. I retired in May 2011 as the Deputy Commissioner for Canada West, which includes the three Northern Territories, the Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia. Prior to that I was the Commanding Officer for “E” Division (British Columbia), and Deputy Commissioner for the Pacific Region, which consists of British Columbia and the Yukon.
3. Before moving into senior management positions in the RCMP, I spent most of my career involved in major crimes, homicide investigations, terrorism and organized crime investigations, as well as general policing across Canada.
4. In particular, from 1993 to 2000 I was the Officer in Charge of the “E” Division Major Crime Section, responsible for providing assistance and expertise in major criminal and terrorism investigations throughout British Columbia and as called on, across Canada, as well as in international locations. From 2000 to 2006 I was the Officer in Charge of Criminal Operations, “E” Division, responsible for the RCMP’s Criminal Operations



Branch in British Columbia. As noted above, before becoming Deputy Commissioner for Canada West, from 2006 I was the Commanding Officer of "E" Division and then the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region, responsible for all RCMP policing operations in British Columbia and the Yukon.

Why I am Providing this Affidavit

5. Last year, Commission Counsel invited me to make submissions in relation to transcripts of what I understand to be conversations between former Minister Kash Heed and Mr. Fred Pinnock, a former member of the RCMP. I know Mr. Pinnock from the time we both served with the RCMP, and I considered him to be a skilled and dedicated investigator and undercover operator and police officer. I do not recall ever discussing the Integrated Illegal Gaming Enforcement Team ("IIGET") with Mr. Pinnock and certainly never had any discussions with him about disbanding the Unit.
6. Having seen the media coverage that arose from those transcripts, at the invitation of Commission Counsel, I provided submissions on November 8, 2020, and in those submissions, advised that I would be prepared to attest to my recollections and swear to matters in an affidavit.
7. I was never asked to provide an affidavit or otherwise testify before this Commission.
8. I have been following some of the media coverage which has described proceedings before this Commission. Some of that coverage appears, to me, to imply that there was political interference with policing in British Columbia, particularly on the part of former Minister Rich Coleman.
9. In my view, which is an informed one based on the positions I held with the RCMP at all material times, this allegation is very unfair and baseless. So far as I am aware, and I am quite sure I would be aware, neither Mr. Coleman, nor other Ministers of the Crown, interfered with police investigations in British Columbia, or interfered with internal RCMP matters. I expand on this below.

My Dealings With Government



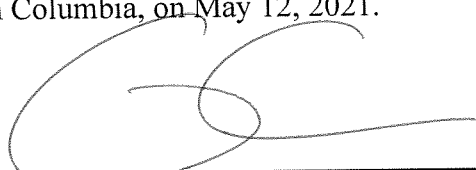
10. I have seen references in the press to the RCMP being “puppets” for the government generally and Mr. Coleman specifically. This is categorically untrue.
11. There was, and had to be, a clear separation between politics and police operations. This was always the case with Minister Coleman and other Solicitors General who held office during my time with the RCMP in British Columbia.
12. The relationship that my senior team and I had with Minister Coleman remained highly professional throughout his tenure and there was never even a hint of us being asked by his office to do anything improper. To the contrary, he was highly supportive of policing and during his tenure, there was significant growth in Provincial policing positions and the formation of the integrated policing teams operating in B.C. today. Our primary point of contact with his Ministry was the Director of Police Services, Kevin Begg, whom I spoke with several times a week during my tenure as the Criminal Operations Officer and later as the Commanding Officer for “E” Division.
13. I do not recall ever having a single discussion with Minister Coleman regarding IIGET, and certainly none about disbanding it. IIGET at that time reported up to Chief Superintendent Bent who reported to Assistant Commissioner Macintyre. Neither of those individuals ever expressed any concerns to me indicating that there was any interference with IIGET coming from either Minister Coleman or the Provincial Government.
14. Mr. Macintyre and Mr. Bent are two of the most highly professional, dedicated, hard working and ethical police officers I have ever worked with and they both keenly understood how the relationship between the RCMP and the Provincial Government was to operate. Both had extensive knowledge of the Provincial Policing Contract and clearly understood how it works. Had policing affairs been interfered with or directed at an operational level by politicians, I am sure they would have told me (and they never did).
15. The RCMP’s relationship with Mr. Coleman was nothing other than professional, proper and highly supportive of all policing needs in BC. I had frequent discussions with my counterparts across Canada about the relationship between the RCMP and the Provincial Government, and at the time I was serving, it was clear there was no better relationship in



Canada. B.C. led the way in Integrated Policing and advanced policing policies, much of which was adopted in other parts of Canada and this was due in no small part to the support of the Provincial Government and Police Services Division led at that time by Kevin Begg.

Suggestions of Interference with Inspector Baxter

- 16. I have seen some media coverage which implies that Minister Coleman called someone at the RCMP, perhaps Assistant Commissioner Craig Callens, apparently to ask him to intervene and stop Members from making statements similar to those made in media coverage in 2011 regarding alleged money laundering in casinos.
- 17. I have no personal knowledge of these matters. I know Inspector Baxter and hold him in high regard for his professionalism and expertise at the time I was still serving. At the time, I had moved from the Vancouver RCMP offices to the offices in Surrey, in light of my promotion to Deputy Commissioner for Canada West.
- 18. But I will say this with confidence: had a Minister made such a phone call seeking to interfere in policing operations or personnel management, I am quite certain that I would have heard about it, directly, or through comments made about the event. I heard no such thing. I have made inquiries with former RCMP members I served with who would know if such a call or directive had been issued, and they have all denied it ever was.
- 19. If there was Ministerial interference in policing, it would have come to my attention. It did not.

SWORN, BEFORE ME at Langley,
 British Columbia, on May 12, 2021.


 A Commissioner for taking Affidavits for
 British Columbia

 GARY DAVID BASS

The deponent was not physically present before the commissioner, but was linked with the commissioner utilizing video technology and the process described in the Supreme Court of British Columbia's March 27, 2020 COVID-19 Notice No. 2 for remote commissioning of affidavits was utilized.

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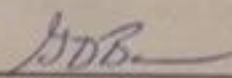
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