

Curriculum Vitae

Soheyl J.M. (Tony) FARAHBAKHCHIAN

“E” Division Financial Integrity Unit

1. INTRODUCTION

I am a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, currently holding the rank of Inspector. I am presently assigned to the “E” Division (British Columbia) Financial Integrity Unit, a combined Sensitive Investigation Unit, an Integrated Market Enforcement Team and a Money Laundering/Proceeds of Crime Investigations Unit. Prior to this, I was a Watch Commander (S/Sgt) at the Ridge Meadows RCMP Detachment from February 2017 to May 2018. From 2012 to 2017, I was stationed at the Coquitlam RCMP Detachment where as a Sgt, I was the NCO 2 i/c of the Community Policing and Prolific Target Team. From 2008 to 2012, I held the position of Counterfeit Coordinator (Sgt) for the Pacific Region (B.C. and the Yukon). From 2003 to 2008, I was stationed at the Coquitlam Detachment where I held the positions of GD Watch NCO (Cpl) and NCO i/c of the local Economic Crime Unit. From 2001 to 2003, I was stationed at the “E” Div. Integrated Proceeds of Crime Unit. The unit was made up of RCMP members, analysts, DOJ lawyers, VPD secondments, etc.. From 1995 to 1999, I was stationed at the North Vancouver RCMP Detachment where I worked GD and the local plainclothes unit (Fraud and Major Crimes). From 1992 to 1995, I was stationed at “C” Division Montreal General Investigations and Drug Section.

2. EDUCATION

January 1986 to June 1991; Attended Simon Fraser University and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology with a Minor in Spanish.

3. POSTINGS WITHIN THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

- a. (1992-1995) "C" Division, Montreal Federal Enforcement Unit; I specialized in Economic Crime Investigations, mainly copyright and trademark violations.
- b. (1996-1999) "E" Division, North Vancouver Detachment; General Duty, 6 month United Nations Tour of Duty in Haiti (1996-1997).
- c. (1999-2001) North Vancouver Fraud Section; I was the Primary Investigator and File Coordinator in numerous complex and multi-jurisdictional fraud files. I specialized in counterfeit currency, credit card frauds and arson investigations where I was often tasked with giving lectures and preparing seminars for other members and community groups (i.e; local banks, ethnic/senior groups, etc...) advocating the principles of fraud prevention and detection. I was the File Coordinator & Primary Investigator in numerous complex & multi-jurisdictional files. Being part of the GIS team, helped me develop a strong understanding of the nature of major crime investigations with respect to the handling of hold back evidence, surveillance, DNA warrants, witness management & disclosure.
- d. (2001-2003) "E" Division Proceeds of Crime Section; while in the section, I became File Coordinator on numerous and complex files. One of these involved a multi-million international smuggling operation. We also worked with other jurisdictions on a "GST rebate fraud" involving Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs.
- e. (2003-2007) Coquitlam Detachment; promotion to Corporal General Duty.
- f. (2007-2008) Coquitlam RCMP Economic Crime Unit; As NCO i/c of the Unit, my responsibilities included routinely reviewing the unit member's files and incoming Detachment fraud files, overseeing investigations and crime prevention initiatives, providing direction, and assigning roles with respect to files under investigation. I also ensured the policies and guidelines were updated. I was identified by my senior supervisors as the resident expert for the Detachment as it pertains to Fraud Investigations, Identity Theft and the identification and detection of counterfeit currency. I established and maintained community based policing measures, by being involved in fraud, counterfeiting and identity theft prevention programs and liaising

with client groups (i.e; Project Protect, Identity Theft presentations for seniors and local businesses).

- g. (2008-2012) Promotion to Sgt at "E" Division Commercial Crime Section where I held the position of Counterfeit Coordinator for the Pacific Region (B.C. and the Yukon). I monitored and coordinated the conduct of counterfeit currency investigations in the Pacific Region as they relate to the mandate established within the National Enforcement Strategy. My main function was to establish & maintain community-based policing measures throughout the Province as they pertained to identity theft, counterfeiting & payment card fraud. I received 2 awards in recognition of strategies I created to combat counterfeiting in the country (e.g; I convinced eBay to prohibit the selling of counterfeit Canadian coins worldwide). In conjunction with the Bank of Canada (BOC) & the U.S. Secret Service, I developed, coordinated, delivered, monitored & evaluated public education programs. In this respect, I took the initiative to train the entire Vancouver Police Department, many local businesses & most RCMP Detachments in B.C. on counterfeit currency investigations. I also took over the responsibilities of Acting Advisory NCO at E Div. CCS when needed. These functions included providing guidance & managing both the "E" Div. CCS Integrated Counterfeit Enforcement Team & the CCS satellite office in Victoria. The BOC noted on their audit of the National Anti-Counterfeiting Program that they "were extremely happy with my services".
- h. (2012-2017) Lateraled into a Sgt. Position at the Coquitlam RCMP Detachment. My duties as a Patrol Sgt & Acting WC included but were not limited to ensuring quality assurance on investigations & monitoring internal complaints against the watch members (ie; Excessive Force, Charter Issues, etc...). In light of my previous experience working with multiple agencies/community partners/jurisdictions (Bank of Canada (BOC), Intercac Association, eBay, Vancouver Police, US Secret Service (USS), etc..) on crime reduction initiatives & my leadership skills, I was chosen by the SMT to be the NCO i/c of CP/VS (September 2012) until the arrival of the newly selected S/Sgt (6 months).
- i. (2017-2018) Promoted to S/Sgt to the Ridge Meadows RCMP Detachment as Watch Commander. My duties included the management & supervision of resources (17 members + other units) in a jurisdiction of over 100,000

people. At the request of Senior Management, I volunteered to take over the responsibilities of Acting Operations Officer for a period of time where I successfully managed multiple demands & priorities. I represented the Detachment at the Regional Operational Police Managers Committee & City Council Meeting where I addressed concerns over homelessness/Fentanyl overdoses & police related interventions. I filled in as Media Relations Officer & made myself available after hours to provide interviews to various media outlets (e.g; CBC, Global TV, CKNW, etc....) on a "hit & run" fatal motor vehicle incident that had taken place in our jurisdiction.

- j. (2018 to present) Commissioned to the rank of Inspector to "E" Div. Federal Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC)-Financial Integrity Unit (FI). I was tasked as Acting Officer in Charge for 6 months until the position was filled by Supt. TAYLOR. This is a position that I still fulfill from time to time during the OIC's absences. In my permanent role as Operations Officer Group 2, I oversee the Federal Money Laundering program for the Province of British Columbia.

4. **FORMAL SPECIFIC TRAINING**

Proceeds of Crime Course- RCMP Training in Regina Saskatchewan (Dec 7-13, 2001). A Five day course providing instructions to police officers on Canadian Law, investigative techniques and case studies regarding Proceeds of Crime legislation within the Criminal Code and designated offences relating to proceeds of crime, money laundering and offence related property. Substance offence legislation under CDSA was also studied. Use of Special Warrant and Restraint Orders and their use as well as General Warrants and requests for assistance from foreign authorities and Treaties were covered. Crime trends in money laundering techniques used by money launders were studied.

- a. Commercial Crime Course- RCMP Training in Chilliwack, B.C. (Sept 26-Oct 6, 2011). A two week course providing instructions to police officers on Canadian Law, investigative techniques and case studies pertaining to identity theft and a variety of frauds (mortgage, cheque, account take overs, mass marketing, etc....)

- b. Surveillance Course- RCMP Training at E Div. (March 31-April 4, 2003) RCMP course for police officers dealing with foot and vehicle surveillance using practical surveillance of mock targets for the purpose of gathering evidence and observing subjects.
 - c. Counterfeit Payment Card Analysis- RCMP Online Training Module (Feb 2009). An online training course for police officers teaching how payment cards are manufactured, security features found within payment cards, and common discrepancies between forged and legitimate payment cards.
 - d. Counterfeit Currency Analysis- RCMP Online Training Module (Jan 2009). An online training course for police officers teaching how currency is manufactured, security features found within Canadian currency, and identification of counterfeit currency.
 - e. Counterfeit Investigative Techniques Course- RCMP Centralized Training Branch, Ottawa, Ontario (Feb 15-20th, 2009). Five day course providing instruction to police officers on Canadian Law, investigative techniques, identification and case studies regarding counterfeit currency and forged payment cards.
 - f. Counterfeit Investigator Supervisor Course- RCMP Centralized Training Branch, Chilliwack, B.C. (May 4-8, 2009). A four day course to police officers supervising officers investigating counterfeit offences and topics including; Human source handling, undercover operations, electronic surveillance, technological crime analysis, physical surveillance and counterfeit production methodologies.
5. **SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE WITH FRAUD, DRUG AND PROCEEDS OF CRIME**

Throughout my duties as a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, I have been involved in various fraud and drug investigations going back to 1992. Upon joining the "C" Division Drug Squad in June 1992 and progressing on through the "E" Division Integrated Proceeds of Crime Unit in 2001, Coquitlam RCMP Economic Crime Unit (2007) and Commercial Crime Section in 2008, I have focussed on many investigations pertaining to fraud, drug offences, proceeds of crime and money laundering by identification, surveillance and arrest of drug traffickers, fraud artists and money couriers.

June 1992 to February 1995; following training at Depot, I was stationed in "C" Div. where I completed my Recruit Field Training at the Montreal Drug Section. I was seconded to the "Heroin Team" where I was involved in major investigations (ie; Project "COMPOTE"). My tasks included conducting surveillance, searches, take downs & the handling of exhibits. I was then transferred to my substantial position at the Montreal GI Section. I was assigned to the Copyright & Trademark Unit where I investigated numerous complex files, drafted & executed numerous Judicial Authorizations. In light of my gained expertise in Copyright & Trademark enforcement, I was selected to appear on a Radio Canada Show (Les 100 Watts) to discuss the RCMP's involvement with these types of investigations as well as provide public awareness prevention tips.

From 2001-2003, as an investigator at the "E" Division Integrated Proceeds of Crime Section, I took the lead as File Coordinator (FC) on numerous high profile IPOC investigations & assisted on a 3 month secondment at CFSEU . As the FC on Project "E-Money Grab", a major UC Operation involving the US Customs Office, I created an effective TIP ledger & meticulously organized the file. On another instance, as PI & FC, I was tasked, upon short notice, to prepare a lengthy & complex affidavit for the forfeiture of \$120,200 USD that had been seized as proceeds of crime. I successfully met the deadline & as a result, the Department of Justice (DOJ) lawyer was successful in obtaining the Judicial Authorization to forfeit the money. On "Project EDWINTWO", I was tasked as Affiant & FC where I prepared the RTCC on a complex international investigation involving the Public Security Bureau of the People's Republic of China. The elements of the offence in China, Hong Kong & Canada were extremely convoluted involving many suspects, occurrences & complex financial transactions.

In August 2007, I was selected for the position of NCO i/c of the Coquitlam Economic Crime Unit (ECU). My functions in this unit included routinely reviewing the member's files & incoming Detachment fraud files with regards to judicial authorizations, search & seizure, informants, exhibits & interviewing. I initiated crime prevention initiatives (Project Protect), oversaw and provided direction, & assigned responsibilities & roles with respect to files under investigation. I routinely liaised with crown counsel, other police, and government & private agencies in order to maximize efficiency & bring success to our investigations.

November 2008 to February 2012; I was promoted to Sgt at "E" Div Commercial Crime (CCS). I was given the opportunity to utilize the MCM principles as File Coordinator in a complicated sensitive investigation involving Public Officials (Project EPOSNET). In March 2009, I was selected as Counterfeit Coordinator for BC & the Yukon. My main function was to establish & maintain community-based policing measures throughout the Province as they pertained to identity theft, counterfeiting & payment card fraud. I received 2 awards in recognition of strategies I created to combat counterfeiting in the country (i.e; I convinced eBay to prohibit the selling of counterfeit Canadian coins worldwide). In conjunction with the Bank of Canada (BOC) & the U.S. Secret Service (USS), I developed, coordinated, delivered, monitored & evaluated public education programs. In this respect, I took the initiative to train the entire Vancouver Police Department, many local businesses & most RCMP Detachments in B.C. on counterfeit currency investigations. I also took over the responsibilities of Acting Advisory NCO at E Div. CCS when needed. These functions included providing guidance & managing both the "E" Div. CCS Integrated Counterfeit Enforcement Team & the CCS satellite office in Victoria.

As the Operations Officer at FSOC-FI Group 2 and throughout my service I have been involved, either a mentor and/or investigator in a wide range of drug, fraud and proceeds related investigations including the preparation and execution of search warrants, tracking warrants, general warrants, special search warrants, undercover operations and operational plans. My present mandate with regards to Money Laundering involves intelligence led detection, disruption and enforcement of organized crime groups involved in money laundering operating in British Columbia. All the investigations require a constant collaborative approach with either local, internal or external national and international partners such as CRA, CBSA, BCSC, FBI, HSI, DEA, etc...

In this capacity as Ops Officer, I successfully presented on the topic of the state of Money Laundering in British Columbia at the Pacific Region Cross Border Law Enforcement Forum in Surrey, B.C. on June 7th, 2019. The Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services Policing Security Branch, Brenda BUTTERWORTH-CARR commented on the value of my presentation and insights shared with the audience. I have also taken an active role in discussing the direction of the Federal

Money Laundering Program within the Division with Senior Management at RCMP HQ in Ottawa along with providing specific recommendations.

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E Division

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