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

**The Honourable Mr. Austin F. Cullen, Commissioner**

**AFFIDAVIT OF CALVIN CHRUSTIE**

I, CALVIN CHRUSTIE of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] British  
Columbia, [REDACTED], SWEAR THAT:

- I am a retired Superintendent for 'E' Division RCMP and the former Officer in Charge of the Federal Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC) Major Projects 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.
- I testified as a witness in the Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia (the "Commission") on March 29, 2021.
- After providing testimony, I located a document that I believe is responsive to questions I faced about policing files during my tenure with the RCMP, specifically, during my time with the Integrated Proceeds of Crime (IPOC) unit. Attached as Exhibit "A" is a copy of my January 17, 2014 assessment conducted by then C/Supt. Kevin deBruycker (the "Assessment").
- I had not provided the Assessment to Commission counsel prior to my testimony as I did not anticipate examination on the subject of specific enforcement outcomes.
- I have been advised by Commission counsel, and believe, that the redactions to the Assessment were made at the request of the RCMP and federal government.
  
- While specifics are redacted, within the Assessment is reference to multiple collaborative international projects, the tonnage of drugs seized, multiple Canadians arrested, charged, and indicted, and millions of dollars of cash seized. These metrics reflect the strategic approach of collaborative, as opposed to assistance-based, operations between IPOC and international partners, focused at preventing the drugs from entering Canada and 'taking the fight' abroad versus allowing the drugs to flood the streets.

AFFIRMED at the City of Vancouver,  
this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021



A Commissioner for taking Affidavits  
within British Columbia



CALVIN CHRUSTIE

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TO  
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A/Comm. Wayne Rideout  
OIC CROPS (ISOC)

This is Exhibit "A" referred to in the Affidavit of Calvin Christie sworn before me at Vancouver, BC this 27 day of April, 2014

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - NOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE - VOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
DATE
2014-01-17

FROM  
DE

C/Supt. Kevin deBruyckere  
Deputy CROPS (Federal)

A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits for British Columbia

SUBJECT  
OBJET **Assessment of Insp. Cal Christie**

Through the national re-engineering of federal policing, Federal Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC) in British Columbia unites the skills and expertise from all of the former Federal Policing units into one single service. In February of 2013 the former Federal Policing programs were collapsed into 7 investigative groups each overseen/managed by an Inspector Operations Officer responsible for driving national level organized crime investigations. Federal re-engineering was initiated following a reported federal policing budget shortfall for 2012/13 that resulted in the transfer of over 40 RM's.

In addition to the building of project teams the Operations Officers were required to manage investigations from their former program areas. As noted in the 2012 Quarterly Reports Federal Policing was engaged in the Project Scrapyard initiated by NIOC in early 2012. Insp. Christie was an active participant in Project Scrapyard and a number of "E" Division IPOC investigations, managed by Insp. Christie were in support of the Scrapyard objectives.

As the Operations Officer for "E" Division IPOC Insp. Christie managed a three high level Proceeds of Crime/Money Laundering projects – ENARROW, ENEURITIS and ENUTSHELL, directly associated to Project Scrapyard:

1) ENEURITIS – "E" Division IPOC entered into a cooperative investigation with HSI targeting international money laundering activities associated to the [REDACTED]. As a result of the [REDACTED] investigation conducted in BC, seven BC-based targets have been indicted in the US, some of whom are identified on the Provincial Threat Assessment – [REDACTED]. Twenty scenarios were coordinated and facilitated by the Vancouver team with evidence being provided to US investigators. Insp. Christie has taken steps to ensure [REDACTED] opportunities are fully exploited with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] illustrate the extent of the involvement of BC based criminals in large scale, international drug trafficking operations. One of Insp. Christie's strengths is his ability to identify the international linkages through the relationships he's developed. The efforts of the investigators resulted in opportunities for subsequent investigations including ENUTSHELL.

2) ENUTSHELL – This is the "E" Division investigation associated to ENEURITIS. The team was lead by Insp. Christie as the Operations Officer for "E" Division IPOC and was comprised of investigators from the former CCS and IPOC. The investigation continued through Federal Re-engineering and Insp. Christie maintained the momentum of the investigation during the transition. This was an [REDACTED] investigation into the international

money laundering activities of a Vancouver-based Middle Eastern target. Information was received that the target of the investigation [REDACTED] laundered money for the [REDACTED] and was linked to [REDACTED]. These individuals are identified as high level figures on the PTA and are included on the 2013 NTA. Multiple search warrants were executed in the Spring of 2013 and a court brief was submitted to PPSC recommending charges of Money Laundering, Attempted Money Laundering and offences under the Proceeds of Crime, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Act. Investigators are working with PPSC on disclosure issues [V2: Police Investigative Technique] and this is being closely monitored by Insp. Chrustie. The businesses associated to the target are now closed.

3) **ENARROW** – This project began as a "money pick-up" scenario in November 2011 and quickly branched out into a number of other investigations of high level organized crime groups in "O" and "A" Division, as well as the Dominican Republic and the US. In October 2013 a Canadian target of the investigation was transferred to the US upon execution of a provisional arrest warrant. Although the targets were not specifically identified on the PTA/NTA it was the investigative theory that the targets worked for the Alkhalil Group. The resulting US investigation resulted in PII [REDACTED]. If not for the work in "E" Division on ENARROW the international opportunities would not have developed.

4) **EPHILHARMONIC** – This started as an [V2: Police Investigative Technique] assist the PII [REDACTED] with a money laundering investigation targeting a PII [REDACTED]. These investigations seldom result in charges in Canada, however, investigators under Insp. Chrustie followed the evidence in Canada recognizing the evidentiary challenges. In July 2013 a male was charged with Possession of the Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering and a warrant is outstanding for the arrest of the accused. Charges from these investigations are rare, however, Insp. Chrustie is aggressive in his pursuit of charges in these cases despite the challenges and this can be the result. Although not directly linked to the PTA the investigation highlights the international organized crime issues and challenges. Despite these challenges Insp. Chrustie's team was able to secure charges in Canada.

While continuing to oversee the above investigations Insp. Chrustie assumed the leadership of FSOC Group 6 comprised of investigators from the former BIP and IPOC Programs. Under the new structure Insp. Chrustie assumed the leadership of major, ongoing projects, most notably EPLATELET and EPANURGIC, the migrant vessel investigations. Both are on hold pending the results of an appeal, however, Insp. Chrustie took steps to ensure a witness management plan is in place along with an ongoing threat assessment. This requires the coordination of witnesses in three other provinces and increases the likelihood of successful prosecution if the Crown's appeal is successful.

Insp. Chrustie, from the start, fully supported the new model as other officers held on to their mandates associated to the former programs, ie. Border Integrity and Commercial Crime. He recognized that the focus of federal policing resources must be on high level, international criminal organizations posing the greatest risk to public safety in BC. In order to achieve success Insp. Chrustie recognized that a strong relationship with our international partners is critical and he works continuously to maintain and foster those relationships. Recognizing the strong national connectivity amongst groups, most notably with Ontario and Quebec as noted on Project Scrapyard, Insp. Chrustie initiated the "CEO" Operations Officers meetings which are held quarterly. These meetings have been highly successful and allow the Officers to have open and frank discussions; and has been endorsed by NHQ. One of his most significant accomplishments, recognizing the significant resource challenge FSOC was facing, was the securing of 17 officers from the Vancouver Police Department to support major investigations. This has allowed FSOC to focus resources on two major projects identified as Tier 1 Projects by Federal Policing Criminal Operations. Insp. Chrustie has displayed incredible leadership and imagination while developing his team to tackle these high profile projects.

#### EPLASTICINE, EPROCLAIM, ENATURALIST, STEREO

As reported by NHQ, while the investigations continue successes have been realized. To date this involves four money pick ups, three in Vancouver (approx 1.3 M) and one in Montreal (approx \$300K). Seizures include an incident involving 52 kgs of cocaine and approx \$600K cash (which also resulted in what is believe to be two kidnapping incidents), PII [REDACTED]

PII [REDACTED], V2: Police Investigative Technique [REDACTED] and lastly the seizure of PII [REDACTED]. In response to one of the reported kidnappings on Christmas Eve, Insp. Christie deployed four investigators to North Vancouver Detachment to support the investigation.

EPLASTICINE was an assistance file generated to support "O" Division PII [REDACTED]

EPROCLAIM started as what is routinely referred to as a money pickup file. Insp. Christie, because of his experience in IPOC recognized the potential value in accepting this request PII [REDACTED]. V2: Police Investigative Technique [REDACTED] the target of EPLASTICINE was quickly identified as the target of the money pick up file. The resulting [REDACTED] was highly successful, with \$1.3 million being moved in a series of transactions.

#### ENATURALIST

After the first money pick up on EPROCLAIM, PII [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This is the first time we've had insight into how money is moved to Columbia immediately resulting in the transportation of cocaine. This particular project was approved after Insp. Christie arranged for meetings to occur in Arizona with investigators and prosecutors. He, specifically, arranged for Martha Devlin to travel to Arizona to meet with PII [REDACTED] to explore opportunities to utilize the evidence from Arizona to support criminal charges in Canada. What resulted was described as a V2: Police Investigative Technique [REDACTED] and an agreement that could see this evidence utilized in a Canadian prosecution. This would not have occurred without the initiative of Insp. Christie.

#### STEREO

A nationally coordinated investigation was then approved by NHQ with "E" Division FSOC becoming the 'operational hub' for investigations related to these particular Sinaloa Cartel members and their Canadian associates. Insp. Christie arranged a meeting in "E" Division in October 2013 which was attended by investigators from PII [REDACTED] and the respective Attaches; as well as from the RCMP Divisions with associated projects - "K", "O", "C" and "H" Divisions. CBSA is also an integral partner and they have analysts/officers working alongside our members to ensure all aspects are covered. This relationship was critical as investigators dealt with an immigration issue associated to the targets.

I highlight these projects to illustrate the complexities associated with these national and international investigations. The multiple projects are required to ensure the complex disclosure issues are minimized and investigators can focus their efforts with clear objectives. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It's interesting to note that the evidence from the PII [REDACTED] is being utilized by US authorities to indict one of their main targets currently in custody in Mexico.

Through the course of a number of successful [REDACTED] investigators identified a number of high level organized crime targets associated to the cartel. Insp. Christie directed the investigation to focus on other targets to continue to gather evidence against these high level PTA, NTA targets - [REDACTED]. Recently, investigators targeted an individual who identified himself as a member of the La Familia Cartel (works with the Sinaloa cartel) resulting in the purchase PII [REDACTED]. The relationship with PII [REDACTED] and the ability to have access to their evidence has provided tremendous insight into organized crime in BC.

These investigations have not come without significant human resource challenges, however, Insp. Christie has been able to bring together a group of investigators with a variety of experience and skill sets. I have observed him provide guidance to members of the command triangle and to hold them accountable for delivering on results. He has also taken positive steps to ensure the principles of MCM are being adhered to by including an accredited TC (Brian Gateley) to work with the TC in place.

## 2) EPHOTOTAXIS

This project was initiated by "K" Division to target individuals associated to an African-based drug trafficking organization responsible for the importation of heroin into Canada. The organization uses couriers traveling by air to bring the heroin into Canada via South Africa and Europe. The "E" Division investigation began as an assistance to "K" to follow-up on evidence flowing from a "K" Division [REDACTED]. As a result of a number of heroin-related deaths in Vancouver, most notably the death of [REDACTED], Insp. Chrustie immediately recognized the significant threat to public safety posed by this group. He solicited the support of VPD and they seconded 12 experienced investigators to the investigation [REDACTED]. In the meantime, Insp. Chrustie organized a meeting in Vancouver with representation from – HSI, DEA, FBI from across the US, and RCMP Divisions "O" and "K", to gather additional insight into the organization. As the Vancouver-based investigation continued to advance through the success of the [REDACTED] PPSC in Alberta refused to support continuing with a subsequent [REDACTED]. Through Insp. Chrustie's perseverance the "E" Division investigation has continued and a substantial body of evidence in support of criminal charges has been gathered. Significant opportunities for further investigation internationally have been developed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Insp. Chrustie pushes aggressively to take these investigations to the next level. This approach is clearly consistent with the vision of Federal policing.

## General Comments

I arrived in my position March of 2013 as the new federal policing model in "E" Division was implemented. Upon arrival it was clear that the new model was met with mixed results with many officers questioning how the groups were formed, how the former mandates were to be addressed and how expertise would be developed and retained. Many of the investigators from the former units were also disgruntled as a result of being bombarded with constant change – PCA, Green Timbers move, parking, and shifting. As previously noted, Insp. Chrustie leads a team comprised of investigators from a number of units – IPOC, BIP and VDS, many of whom were vocally disgruntled. In a relatively short time this team has turned the corner. Some of the most disgruntled members are now FSOC's strongest advocates. Members have cancelled outgoing transfers and two members of Insp. Chrustie's team have withdrawn from promotional opportunities outside of FSOC to continue their careers in FSOC.

Insp. Chrustie has taken steps to ensure all investigators, including those from VPD, are provided with opportunities to develop, whether through the assignment of key investigative roles or through international travel where appropriate. Feedback from Deputy Chief Palmer has been very positive and there's now a desire to work towards formalizing the relationship. Insp. Chrustie has also forged a positive relationship with PPSC and with our international partners. He has also held these partners accountable when they have not honoured their own commitments, however, he never makes it personal and he always takes positive steps to ensure the relationships are maintained.

On a personal note, I did not know Insp. Chrustie prior to assuming my duties (other than by reputation). In a relatively short period of time I've come to appreciate Cal's enthusiasm, energy and his passion which carries over to his team.

The OIC of Financial Integrity and Operations oversees the operations of the former CCS/IMET programs, the District offices and the border teams. As the new federal policing model continues to evolve I require a strong and passionate leader who is not afraid to take risks in order to effect the positive change that is required and to bring some of our Officers out of their comfort zones. I'm convinced that Insp. Chrustie is that leader.

C/Supt. Kevin deBruyckere