

June 18, 2015

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Commissioner Bob Paulson
RCMP National Headquarters
Headquarters Building
73 Leikin Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0R2
Via Facsimile: [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner Paulson:

RE: RCMP investigation into the police shooting death of Donald Dunphy, Mitchell's Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, April 5, 2015

I write to you on behalf of my client Ms. Meghan Dunphy. Ms. Dunphy is the daughter of Mr. Donald Dunphy who was shot and killed in his home in Mitchell's Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, on April 5, 2015 by a member of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary. On April 5, 2015 the Major Crimes Unit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police 'B' Division commenced both a *Fatalities Investigation Act* and *Criminal Code* investigation into this matter.

The RCMP 'B Division' and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary work very closely together in our Province. There exist several joint forces units immediately raising a real concern with the appearance of a conflict of interest in the RCMP conducting this investigation.

On Ms. Dunphy's behalf, I have been corresponding with Assistant Commissioner Tracy Hardy of 'B' Division. However, my correspondence with Commanding Officer Hardy has not been satisfactory. Ms. Dunphy has repeatedly requested that an outside force be brought in to investigate her father's sudden death as well as to take over the criminal investigation. Ms. Dunphy made these requests after discovering serious problems with the investigation. I am appending a complete copy of my letters since April 8, 2015 to the RCMP for your review. You will see that most recently (on June 11, 2015) Ms. Dunphy located a single bullet on the floor of her father's living room (the shooting scene) – 2 months after the RCMP released custody of the residence.

I think you will agree Commissioner Paulson that the failure of the police to collect a bullet on the floor from the scene of a police shooting smacks of negligence. There is simply no explanation for this kind of error. The presence of an independent observer does nothing to quell this kind of fundamental problem with the investigation.

Ms. Dunphy has no faith in the ongoing investigation. When her full story is made known as to what has occurred to date during the course of this investigation I am confident that the Canadian public will share her concerns. Further, the public is already demanding a public inquiry into Mr. Dunphy's shooting, a request that is fully supported by Ms. Dunphy. Ms. Dunphy will certainly be demanding that the conduct of the RCMP also be subject to examination at a future inquiry.

I am requesting on Ms. Dunphy's behalf that an outside force be brought in immediately to take over from 'B Division' to ensure that there is a thorough and objective investigation leading to trustworthy results.

I am available at any time to discuss this issue with you further.

Yours truly,


ERIN BREEN
PARTNER