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Executive Council
April 6, 2015



Media Advisory: Premier Davis to Hold Media Availability

The Honourable Paul Davis, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, will be available to the media today (Monday, April 6) at 12:30 p.m.

The availability will be held outside of the House of Assembly, East Block, Confederation Building.

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VOCM Coverage- Dunphy Case

Premier Davis Unaware of Threat Investigation Until After Shooting

Monday, April 6 2015 | 1:05:11 PM

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has addressed a fatal shooting in St. Mary's Bay yesterday by one of their members.

RCMP are conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident, during which an RNC officer shot and killed a 59-year old Mitchell's Brook man. The dead man, identified by people in the community as Don Dunphy, had apparently engaged a provincial cabinet minister in a public conversation on Twitter that at one point used threatening language in reference to political figures.

An RNC officer, who was part of the Premier's security detail, was in Mitchell's Brook yesterday to follow up on an investigation, and had attended the man's residence alone.

RNC Chief Bill Janes addressed the media this morning at RNC Headquarters.

He offered his condolences to the family of Don Dunphy but could not say much on what lead the RNC officer to the man's home, or the subsequent shooting.

He says it's all part of the RCMP's investigation into the incident.

The officer involved is off for the time being. Chief Janes says he's been speaking with the officer, who is being offered assistance in dealing with the situation.

He says he believes the officer's feelings will change over time, and they have an employee assistance program to help them with the situation.

Premier Was Unaware of Investigation Leading Up to Shooting

Premier Paul Davis says he was unaware of the matter leading up to the RNC investigation and shooting.

Davis told reporters today that he's spoken with the officer involved, a man he's known for some time, and offered him his best regards. The Premier, who is a former RNC officer, says the matter is upsetting.

Davis says there are no immediate plans to change policy surrounding the way in which elected officials engage with the public.

He says for now, he's leaving that up to individual members.

Davis says things have changed, and while he likes to attend some functions without security, that may need to change.

He says just yesterday he attended a hockey game with his wife in Paradise with no security. He says he's had that conversation with his security staff and his family and he may need to change the way he does things.)

Davis says he has not yet contacted the Dunphy family to offer his condolences.

Earlier Story

VOCM News has uncovered more details about the fatal shooting in Mitchell's Brook yesterday and its connection to the Premier.

Officials with Paul Davis' office and the RNC are not commenting, but sources have told VOCM News that the fatal shot was fired by a member of the Premier's security detail, who is also a member of the RNC.

People who live in the area have told VOCM that the man who was killed was 59-year-old Donald Dunphy.

Dunphy had an exchange on Twitter with Cabinet Minister Sandy Collins on Friday that stated "won't mention any names this time, 2 prick MHAs might have good family members I may hurt." It's not known if that was the exchange that prompted the visit by the officer who went to the home yesterday afternoon at about 2:30 to investigate a 'perceived threat'.

VOCM News has been told the officer was only inside the home for a few minutes when the man he was questioning pulled a shotgun. That's when the officer fired his weapon.

At this point, it's not clear if Dunphy fired his gun at any point during the incident. The officer was not injured. The 59-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The RCMP have confirmed that the RNC officer was in the area of Mount Carmel yesterday afternoon conducting follow-up inquiries as part of an investigation when the shooting happened.

But RCMP Sgt. Greg Hicks wouldn't get into the specifics as to why.

Hicks says it's not uncommon for an RNC investigation to overlap RCMP jurisdiction. Because it's so early in the investigation Hicks says he's not in a position to release the duties of the RNC officer.

An autopsy will be conducted today on the victim.

The Telegram Coverage of the Dunphy Case:

Fatal shooting came as police probed tweets flagged by Nfld. premier's staff

ST. JOHN'S — The Canadian Press

Published Monday, Apr. 06 2015, 6:06 AM EDT

Last updated Monday, Apr. 06 2015, 11:47 AM EDT

Premier Paul Davis of Newfoundland and Labrador says his staff told police about tweets that prompted an investigation into a perceived threat during which a man was shot dead.

Davis says he wasn't aware about the tweets until he heard about the death of Don Dunphy, who was fatally shot by an officer with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary on Sunday.

He says he was deeply saddened when he heard about the shooting and his thoughts and prayers are with the Dunphy family.

Chief William Janes of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says the officer involved was a member of its protective services unit, which provides security and ongoing threat and risk assessments for the premier and elected officials.

Janes says the officer was working a regularly scheduled shift Sunday when he went to the home of Dunphy in Mitchells Brook, about 80 kilometres southwest of St. John's, as part of an investigation.

Janes says he wasn't aware of the officer having any partner or backup when he went inside the home at about 2:30 p.m. and shot Dunphy.

The officer was not injured in the shooting.

Janes declined to identify the officer and the RCMP are now investigating the shooting.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/man-killed-in-newfoundland-incident-linked-to-alleged-threat-to-premier/article23803061/>

Premier says he was shocked, saddened by shooting deathJames McLeod

Published on April 06, 2015

Premier Paul Davis says he was shocked and saddened by Sunday's shooting death of a man on Salmonier Line and has offered condolences to Don Dunphy's family.

Davis, speaking to reporters this morning about the incident, said he wasn't aware of a tweet by Dunphy or the investigation by the RNC until after the shooting happened yesterday.

Paul Davis says staff alerted police to perceived threat prior to shooting

Premier knew nothing of police investigation until Don Dunphy shot dead in Mitchells Brook

[CBC News](#) Posted: Apr 06, 2015 6:48 AM NT Last Updated: Apr 06, 2015 5:09 PM NT

The man shot dead Sunday at a home in a tiny Newfoundland community during a confrontation involving Premier Paul Davis's security pointed a gun at police shortly before the fatal shooting following a perceived Twitter threat, CBC News has learned.

- [Premier's security involved in fatal shooting in Mitchells Brook](#)

Sources say Don Dunphy, 59, had pointed a long gun at the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) officer soon after he arrived at the man's house in Mitchells Brook, which is on Newfoundland's southern Avalon Peninsula.

But RNC Chief Bill Janes on Monday refused to confirm that and other details of what happened at Dunphy's house, calling it evidence that would need to be assessed by the RCMP, which polices the rural area.

An RNC officer had travelled to Dunphy's house on Sunday afternoon to investigate perceived threats, particularly a comment made on Twitter last week.

Dunphy, who had frequently railed against authorities over how he was treated as an injured worker, had responded to an otherwise innocuous tweet that Child Youth and Family Services Minister Sandy Collins made about listening to music while travelling with Davis.

[@SandyRCollins @PremierOfNL @ShermanDowney](#) won't mention names this time, 2 prick dead MHAs might have good family members I may hurt [#nlpoli](#)

— [@sculpen](#)

"Won't mention names this time, 2 prick dead MHAs might have good family members I may hurt," Dunphy tweeted Friday, prompting an RNC officer to visit Dunphy's home.

It was the culmination of a series of tweets directed to Collins's attention.

[[Read the full thread here.](#)]

Dunphy was very active on Twitter, where his biography described him as "a crucified injured worker" in a province "where employers treat injured [workers] like criminals."

Janes would not comment on what role Dunphy's Twitter activity may have played in the matter.

"That would form part of the investigation, of what led the officer to the location, and I have to be careful to protect the integrity of the investigation and allow them to do their work," he told reporters.

However, Davis told reporters Monday afternoon one of his staff members responsible for monitoring his Twitter accounts had alerted police to the tweet sent from Dunphy's account Friday.

'Terrible tragedy'

Davis said he was otherwise unaware of the situation until he was notified about the fatal shooting on Sunday.

"I was shocked, deeply saddened yesterday to learn of the events that had taken place yesterday. This is a terrible tragedy for so many reasons. My thoughts and prayers today are with the Dunphy family."

He added that the nature of the Twitter comments, which he said appeared to be directed at himself, another MHA and their respective families, was troubling.

"It's upsetting when you see a comment made like that that appears to be directed toward me and another cabinet minister and the people most important to us, our families," Davis said.

"They never put their hand up. I put my hand up and that's disconcerting. There's no two ways about it."

Davis added he usually prefers to go places unaccompanied by security when he's not on official duty, and Sunday afternoon he and his wife spent the day at a hockey game without staff or security.

However, he's not sure what, if any, changes need to be made.

"I can tell you that the RCMP and RNC have had numerous discussions with me about that, and my wife as well, and it's something we've got to give very serious consideration to," Davis said.

"I think it's fair to say we're in a very different time today than we were a number of years ago."

Multiple gunshots heard

Neighbours told CBC News that they heard multiple gunshots during the incident Sunday.

Walsh, Doris A.

From: Hemeon, Tess
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 1:19 PM
Subject: NTV- Premier says he had no knowledge of investigation before fatal shooting

Premier says he had no knowledge of investigation before fatal shooting

Posted on [April 6, 2015](#) by [ntweditor](#) in [Eastern Newfoundland](#), [Justice](#), [Local](#) with 0 Comments

Premier Paul Davis said Monday he had no knowledge that a member of his protection unit was conducting an investigation Sunday that ended with a fatal shooting in Mitchells Brook.

Davis told reporters he was shocked and saddened by what happened and that his thoughts were with the family of 59-year-old Don Dunphy, who was declared dead on Sunday afternoon. Davis said he also spoke briefly with the RNC officer involved in the shooting, but added they did not share any details of the investigation.

Speaking earlier on Monday, RNC Chief Bill Janes released few details about what exactly happened. Janes would not confirm Dunphy had pointed a gun at the investigating officer as it is an evidentiary matter being handled by the RCMP.

Janes did confirm that the investigating officer was a member of the protective services unit, which provides security for Premier Paul Davis, other elected officials, and dignitaries visiting the province.

Dunphy's Twitter profile identifies him as a "crucified injured worker from N.L." On April 3, he posted a series of tweets ([which can be read at this link](#)) addressed to the premier's official Twitter account and cabinet minister Sandy Collins. It was not clear from Janes or Davis whether it was those tweets alone that caused the officer to travel to Mitchell's brook to conduct a "risk and threat" assessment.

The RCMP reported Sunday that a 59-year-old man was declared dead at the scene after shots were fired during the investigation.