



**Protective Services Unit**  
Quarterly Report  
2015-04-01 to 2015-06-30

**Cst. Ed Benoit**  
**Protective Service Unit**

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**OVERVIEW:**

The second quarter of 2015 was a busy period for the Protective Services Unit. Due to an unforeseen incident that resulted in a fatal shooting on 2015-04-05, the unit seen a change in personnel and an increase in security measures being taken surrounding the protection of Premier Paul Davis. To maintain this increased level of security, the unit also seen the addition of a new constable position which proved to be a positive addition. Although noteworthy or lengthy interprovincial or outside visits were fewer than previous quarters, there were a myriad of local events that required operational planning and significant time commitments from all members assigned.

**PERSONNEL**

In April of 2015 A/Sgt Joe Smyth was reassigned to the Criminal Intelligence Unit and Cst Edward Benoit was transferred into the Protective Services Unit under a temporary constable position. Cpl Doug Noel of the RCMP, operating under a Joint Forces Operation MOU, maintained his position since being originally assigned in January 2015.

In May of 2015 Cst Edward Benoit was appointed to temporary Acting NCO of the Protective Services Unit. Also in May, Cst Nicolas Cashin was laterally transferred to the Protective Services Unit from the General Investigation Unit on a temporary basis to assist with the increased level of security to be provided. Due to a personal conflict, however, Cst Cashin was transferred back to the General Investigation Unit effective July 2015.

Upon the departure of Cst Cashin, a call for applications was distributed to confirmed sergeants looking to fill the temporary Sergeant position within the Protective Services Unit.

Existing Personnel as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

A/Sgt Edward Benoit RNC #676  
Cpl Doug Noel RCMP JFO  
Vacancy (Sgt)

With the addition of the third member to the Protective Services Unit a three week rotation schedule was adopted which consisted of two weeks of a standard 12hr "2 & 3" schedule with the third week being that of a 8hr "9-5" schedule. All members currently work a 0800 to 2000 shift during the "2 & 3" weeks and 9-5 otherwise. In this scenario, every weekday sees 2 members working between



9am and 5pm with 1 member scheduled to work every Saturday and Sunday. All evening and weekend events that call for a second member accrue overtime.

Since the fatal shooting in April 2015, the PSU had implemented that all public appearances involving by the Premier be made with the utilization of 2 members. In such cases, the first member would advance the location to perform a cursory check and ensure that the site was clear for the Premier's arrival while the second member would carry out duties as both driver and body guard. This practice has greatly minimized any security gaps, however, the return to 2 member utilization has seen officer fatigue issues develop. A third addition to the unit has assisted in offsetting such fatigue, however, a fourth member would stabilize shifts by having 2 members work offset 12 hour shifts on a "2 and 3" schedule. This would have 2 members working every day and, as a result, reduce most accrued overtime and officer fatigue.

## FILES GENERATED

Files generated within the Protective Services Unit are typically created for either Persons of Interest or Travel/Events. Typical day to day activities and appearances by the Premier do not have files generated for them. During this quarter the unit has seen 21 files generated: 12 for persons of interest and 9 for Travel/Events.

Due to the media hype surrounding the fatal shooting involving a member of the Protective Services Unit, a number of individuals reached out to the Premier via various mediums to show their frustration in a somewhat threatening manner. With the assistance of the Criminal Intelligence Unit, several files were generated for identified persons of interest. Although no criminal charges had been laid, one person identified as \*\*\*\*\* was detained under the Mental Health Care and Treatment Act for comments made through social media. As time went on, the media attention surrounding the incident lessened along with comments against the Premier regarding same. Outside of that incident, several other files were generated for individuals throughout the quarter regarding various incidents which also seen no criminal action taken. Outside of the unit, the RCMP did lay charges against one individual, \*\*\*\*\*, for uttering threats towards government officials through the use of a sign on his front lawn.

In relation to Travel/Events, files generated consisted of various overnight stays both outside and throughout the province along with various electronic sweeps by the Technical Investigation Unit.



## PSU TRAVEL

During the second quarter of 2015, the Premier only travelled outside of the province on 2 separate occasions; The Climate Conference in Quebec with pre/post stops in Toronto/Halifax and a personal trip to the United States. Local travel included various regions of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In relation to travel out of province, budgetary restraints have seen that only one member travel with the Premier on business related trips except in situations where intelligence has suggested otherwise. For personal trips with family where risk is deemed to be low, the Premier will travel solo at his own discretion. Due to a heightened security risk in Quebec, 2 members travelled with the Premier, however, no members accompanied the Premier to the US.

In relation to travel around the province, 2 members have continued to be utilized for public events wherever possible. Arrangements have been made, however, for members assigned to other detachments to assist when possible to offset travel costs. Recent travel to Baie Verte and Labrador City are prime examples of this.

Significant travel during the second quarter:

- Climate Conference– Quebec City, Quebec (April 10-18)
- Gander Visit – Gander, NL (May 8-9)
- Lewisporte Event – Lewisporte, NL (May 23)
- Baie Verte Mining Conference – Baie Verte, NL (June 5-7)
- Lab West Visit – Lab City/Wabush, NL (June 18)
- Personal trip to US – US ( June 26-July 11)

Operational and logistical planning for the majority of travel is essential for outlining personnel and resource needs; however, due to the Premier's fluid schedule and availability of PSU members, it is extremely difficult to completely minimize overtime expenditures based on PSU schedules. The PSU will continue to prepare operational plans for significant events and travel. For more rudimentary matters, a PPD Travel Briefing will continue to be prepared and provided to the applicable police departments to ensure local law enforcement is properly briefed on our operations while outside RNC jurisdiction.



**PREMIER’S RESIDENCE**

During this quarter the Premier’s residence has seen numerous security measures implemented as a result of a security assessment completed by Sgt Roger Devereaux of the Technical Investigation Unit. Security features included:

- \*\*\*\*\*
- \*\*\*\*\*
- \*\*\*\*\*
- \*\*\*\*\*
- \*\*\*\*\*

Sgt Devereaux is still in the process of trying to schedule another visit to the residence during an evening shift \*\*\*\*\*.

In relation to personal security, there have been no security breaches or attempts at the Premier’s residence during the second quarter.

**ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE DUTIES**

There were several occasions during the second quarter where members of Protective Services were assigned additional protective duties, all of which were related to the same persons and events. Due to PSU staff schedules conflicting with 2 of the listed events, additional staff were obtained to assist from the General Investigation Unit.

- Minister of Health and Community Services – Steve Kent – had requested members attend 3 separate mental health seminars around the St. John’s area during the second quarter at times of heightened threat assessment. No incidents occurred at either event.

**OVERTIME, LEAVE AND ATTENDANCE**

While I do not have the breakdown of exact overtime expenses, the majority of overtime expenses occur during travel where members generally work early mornings and late evenings. Outside of that, overtime is accrued during evenings, weekends and periods of Annual Leave when a second member is required. As mentioned previously, although the unit has benefited from the addition of a third member, it is believed that optimal scheduling with the least amount of overtime could be achieved with the addition of a fourth member to the unit. Worth noting is that any upcoming election campaigning is sure to place a strain on PSU personnel.



In relation to Annual Leave, only Cpl Doug Noel had taken leave during this quarter at which time, the RCMP assigned a replacement to cover his shifts.

Attendance continues to be prepared on a weekly basis and forwarded to A/Insp Joe Gullage for review and submission.

## **COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS**

Blackberries adequately cover off the Protective Services Unit's communication needs for the majority of time while in RNC jurisdiction. PSU does have access to the RCMP VIP bank of radios, however, historically they have only been used for larger events in which more members were called upon to assist.

## **OFFICE AND COMPUTER ACCESS**

The Premier's Protective Detail continues to operate on the Premier's wing of the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Confederation Building. Access to RNC servers, CPIC, ICAN, GroupWise and other drives have been installed and connected to the computer located in the office. A second office that had been provided previously had all equipment relocated to a new office on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor which is directly adjacent to the primary office space. Arrangements are currently underway to have The RNC Network extended into this office.

## **PSU VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

The Protective Services Unit currently utilizes 2 vehicles that have been in operation for the last several years; a black GMC Yukon XL which was purchased in 2012 and a black Chevrolet Suburban provided by the RCMP in 2013. In way of upgrades, both vehicles had LED highway lights installed during the second quarter to improve visibility which travelling via highway at night.

In way of equipment, members assigned to PSU still use all use of force options available to those working uniformed duties. Suggestions have been made in the past for the PSU to be provided with equipment much better suited to concealment. This would include concealment firearms, batons and OC spray.

Aside from that, also mentioned in past quarters was that members in the PSU be issued "Raid-style" police jackets that members could utilize in times where a clear police identification is needed.



**PRIORITIES:**

- Addition of 4<sup>th</sup> member to unit to offset overtime, leave and added strains due to increased security and upcoming election campaigning.
- Research and obtain concealment firearms, batons and OC Spray for PSU members.
- Research and obtain raid-style jackets for proper identification in times of need

Submitted by

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Protective Services Unit  
Royal Newfoundland Constabulary

