

B.C.'s Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner: *a major obstacle to police accountability*

B.C.'s proposed new civilian investigation agency might come under OPCC jurisdiction

The B.C. government announced that possibility on June 18. Such a move would defeat Thomas Braidwood's intentions and the cause of police accountability.

The OPCC is much too close to the police to even carry out its current work impartially. (The OPCC supposedly "oversees" or reviews police investigations into other police, excluding the RCMP.)

The OPCC is headed by Stan Lowe, a staunch defender of the Dziekanski death squad

Lowe publicly announced that the five Taser shocks inflicted on Robert Dziekanski were "reasonable and necessary." He said that as a Crown attorney and member of the Criminal Justice Branch executive management that unanimously decided to exonerate the four Mounties involved in Dziekanski's death. One week later BC Liberals and NDP united to appoint Lowe B.C.'s police complaint commissioner.

The OPCC consists almost entirely of ex-cops

The few exceptions are people very close to the police. The OPCC even hires cops directly from the police forces it supposedly oversees.

OPCC staff are exempt from public scrutiny. They answer to no one. It shows in their work

OPCC staff don't answer to the Ombudsperson or anyone else. No one — absolutely no one — can question their work. Consequently they get away with covering up, excusing and rationalizing misconduct and criminal actions by police. The few exceptions are cases that get timely publicity, support from an influential group or caught on video.

The OPCC likely colluded with Vancouver police to cover up the VPD assault on a disabled woman

There's no credible indication that any investigation was ordered until nearly seven weeks after the assault — after the BCCLA released surveillance video and the media picked up the story.

Yet the B.C. government is talking about putting the OPCC in charge of Braidwood's recommended Independent Investigation Office

That's despite — or because — OPCC staff are cozy with police and answer to no one.

Even if the IIO were kept separate from these guys, the OPCC would continue covering up for "less serious" cases

That can include problems of an ongoing nature and "less serious" assaults.

More info online

www.bcpolicecomplaints.org/opcc_info.html

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