



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

March 9th, 2022

Dear Lower Mainland Mayors;

I wish to let you know of a new addition to the RCMP's Online Crime Reporting (OCRe) system.

Beginning March 15, Hate Motivated Incidents (HMI) will be added to the BC RCMP's online reporting system. This will allow citizens in those jurisdictions to report hate motivated incidents that are non-emergency in nature and do not require an immediate police response.

This is a pilot project that will be introduced at Coquitlam and North Vancouver Detachments and is expected to be approximately six months long. This timeframe will allow the BC RCMP's Information Management and Technology (IMT) team to gather enough data to assess the reporting process and analyze how the public is using the platform. From there, it will be considered for additional municipalities using the OCRe system throughout the province.

Over the past two years, the RCMP and other police agencies have seen an increase in these incidents. For example, Burnaby Detachment recently reported a 350 per cent increase in HMI complaints. A number of municipalities asked how the RCMP could be more responsive to this trend. To that end, the Information Management and Technology (IMT) team created a program to allow the public to report these incidents online.

It should be noted that HMI are different from hate crimes, which require a specific enforcement response.

Hate Motivated Incidents are defined as: correspondence inciting hate, and hateful speech toward a person based on race, gender or sexual orientation. HMIs are not criminal offences but are defined as an encounter or experience where a person is targeted by another person based on motivation of hate or suspected motivation of hate. Some examples are, the distribution of flyers or correspondence that targets an ethnic group or a person being insulted or treated poorly because of their sexual orientation or race. HMI will be followed up by a police officer.

Hate crimes must be reported in person or by phone. A hate crime is a criminal offence motivated or suspected to be motivated by hate. Some examples are, physical assault or threats against a person based on race, language, sex, age. This requires police action and follow-up for potential charges submitted to BC Crown Counsel.

Once the pilot project is completed, the addition of HMI via the Online Crime Reporting system will be considered for additional municipalities within the province.

Sincerely,

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