



29 October 2009

Paul Kennedy, Chair
Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP
7337 137 Street, Suite 102
Surrey, BC
V3W 1A4

BY FAX: 604-501-4095

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

RE: RCMP Complaint regarding the in-custody death of a Nanaimo man

I am writing on behalf of the BC Civil Liberties Association to initiate a complaint under the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act* against the relevant member(s) of the Nanaimo RCMP detachment involved in the fatal shooting of Jeff Hughes on October 23, 2009 at his apartment in Nanaimo, BC.

Based on media reports, it is my understanding that one or more RCMP officers were responding to a noise disturbance by another resident in the apartment block. It is not clear whether Mr. Hughes had initially called the police regarding the noise which reportedly began causing a problem in the early morning hours. There are few details from that point forward but it is known that at some time before 7:00 AM, Mr. Hughes was fatally shot by an RCMP officer.

Neighbours reported to some news outlets that Mr. Hughes was involved with white supremacist groups. This would have been known to those visiting his residence as he was reported to have a Nazi flag prominently displayed. It is unclear whether these reports are true and whether this played a role in Mr. Hughes' death. Neighbours also stated that Mr. Hughes had been dealing with mental health issues over the years. Again, it is unclear whether these reports are true but neighbours did report Mr. Hughes to be a non-violent man who had concerns, as did other residents, over the noise level emitted by a neighbour. It is unclear why lethal force was necessary in the police officers' interaction with Mr. Hughes.

The BCCLA is concerned that the attending RCMP member(s) failed to meet appropriate professional standards in discharging their duty of care towards the deceased. A transparent and independent investigation is warranted in this case in the public interest.

To maintain and enhance the public's confidence in the RCMP, we request that your office monitor this investigation to the extent of your statutory authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DEB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby,
Executive Director