



October 17/ 2009

Paul Kennedy, Chair
Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP
National Intake Office
7337 137 Street
Suite 102
Surrey, British Columbia
V3W 1A4

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

RE: Complaint to the RCMP regarding the in-custody death of Ida Paul

I am writing on behalf of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) to initiate a complaint under the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act* against the members of the RCMP's North Battleford, Saskatchewan detachment involved in the handling of Ms. Ida Paul, who died on June 11, 2009 while in the custody of the RCMP.

Based on media reports, it is our understanding that RCMP officers arrested Ms. Paul for causing a disturbance. A bystander told an officer that Ms. Paul had taken pills. Ms. Paul spent the night in custody, and was only taken to the hospital the following morning when she said that she was in pain. She died that afternoon.

The BCCLA is concerned that RCMP officers failed to meet professional standards in discharging their duty of care towards Ms. Paul. If attending officers were told that Ms. Paul had taken pills, they should have immediately responded with appropriate action. We feel that this should have involved, at minimum, contacting and consulting with medical personnel. Medical personnel should have done a thorough assessment of Ms. Paul. There is no indication in media reports that this was done.

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.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

David Eby