

bc civil liberties association



FILE COPY

June 6, 2006

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Paul Kennedy, Chair
Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP
PO Box 3423, Station D
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6L4

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

RE: St. Arnaud Complaint

The present is further to John Russell's letter to Ms. Shirley Heafey, January 4, 2005 regarding the in-custody death of Mr. St-Arnaud in Vanderhoof, B.C.

The BCCLA wishes to make a complaint about the improper conduct and excessive use of force by the Vanderhoof officer who shot and killed an unarmed robbery suspect (St-Arnaud) who "approached [the officer] in a threatening manner" after being pursued by the RCMP officer.

I believe this serious incident warrants an independent investigation by the Commission and not merely a chair-initiated complaint which, in the final analysis, adds little more than the original result produced by the RCMP and the Vice-Chair of the Commission some time ago. The CPC merely conducts a paper review in the route you have chosen and that is far from an independent investigation that we believe should be conducted in a death-related incident such as this one.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that you will seriously consider the important initiative requested by the BCCLA for the benefit of public confidence in the RCMP.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Gratl,
President