



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Security Classification/Designation
Classification/désignation sécuritaire

Unclassified

Supintendent Derek Cooke
Officer-In-Charge
R.C.M.P. Lower Mainland District Traffic Services
12992 76th Avenue, Surrey, B.C.
V3W 2V6

Your File Votre référence

Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators
Attn: Valerie Todd, Projects Manager
2323 St. Laurent Blvd.,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 4J8 by email to: vtodd@ccmta.ca

Our File Notre référence
S.F. 36155

2009-03-18

Dear Ms. Todd

**CCMTA Police Partnership Award Submission
Strategic Partnerships to Reduce Impaired Driving Deaths in British Columbia**

Nomination of Staff Sergeant Ted Emanuels, Traffic Operations Officer, R.C.M.P.
Lower Mainland Traffic Services

Every year in British Columbia over 100 people are killed by alcohol or drug-impaired drivers. Traditional enforcement and education strategies have reduced the percentage of impaired-involved fatalities from 40% to 30% in the past 8 years. In some ways it may be said that the 'low-hanging fruit have been picked'. There is a need to raise public awareness and motivate law enforcement officers to make the detection, investigation and charging of impaired drivers a priority.

Staff Sergeant Ted Emanuels is the Traffic Operations Officer for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. S/Sgt. Emanuels oversees four traffic units and 65 R.C.M.P. officers who provide traffic policing service on the major highways from Whistler to the Fraser Valley. He has 28 years of policing experience.

S/Sgt. Emanuels is a catalyst for effective traffic programs to reduce fatal and serious injury collisions. As a collision reconstructionist for 13 years, he conducted technical collision investigations on 275 collisions; 150 of which were fatalities; many of those were the result of impaired driving.

S/Sgt. Emanuels is the author of the Traffic Services Strategic Plan for the R.C.M.P. in British Columbia. One of the objectives of the Strategic Plan is to reduce fatal and serious injury collisions caused by drug and alcohol impaired drivers through targeted enforcement and public awareness.

On May 17, 2008 4 year-old Alexa Middelaer was killed in Delta by an impaired driver at 5:00 in the afternoon as she stood at the roadside while feeding treats to a horse with her aunt and grandparents. Alexa's aunt sustained serious injuries. Alexa's grandparents, who were sitting in a car nearby, sustained minor injuries. The horse was also killed. Ironically the collision occurred on a day when the family had gathered to celebrate her older brother's birthday.

Alexa's mother, Laurel Middelaer, made a presentation to the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police (B.C.A.C.P.) Traffic Safety Committee. In the presentation she shared personal stories about her daughter's life, her untimely death and challenged those present to do whatever they can to stop the needless deaths at the hands of impaired drivers. Laurel Middelaer asked those present to share in her commitment for NO MORE Impaireds.

After hearing Laurel Middelaer at the B.C.A.C.P. Traffic Safety Committee meeting, S/Sgt. Emanuels approached the Executive Director of the British Columbia Automobile Association Traffic Safety Foundation (BCAA-TSF) with a proposal to increase public and police awareness of the impaired driving issue and challenge police officers in the Lower Mainland of B.C. to increase the number of impaired drivers detected and charged with impaired driving offences. The proposal was to create a partnership in which the BCAA-TSF and the Middelaers would recognize the top police impaired driving investigators. The police officers would be recognized as part of "Alexa's Team."

S/Sgt. Emanuels entered into a partnership with the BCAA-TSF and Laurel and Michael Middelaer to create Alexa's Team.

The objectives of the Alexa's Team Partnership are:

- To increase the level of public awareness of the drug and alcohol impaired driving problem.
- To motivate police officers to make impaired driving investigations a priority.
- To increase the number of impaired drivers detected and apprehended.
- To communicate to all levels of police management that impaired driving investigations should be an operational priority and to encourage supervisors to provide police officers with the time required to conduct a proper impaired driving investigation
- To discourage the use of 24 Hour Prohibitions and Administrative Driving Prohibitions as alternatives to complete impaired driving investigations.
- To formally recognize the top impaired driving investigators, both internally and publicly.

The primary objective of Alexa's Team Partnership is to pro-actively reduce the number of victims of impaired driving in British Columbia.

In consultation with Traffic managers from both the R.C.M.P. and municipal police departments, the BCAA-TSF, the Middelaers and S/Sgt. Emanuels set the criteria for police officers to become members of Alexa's Team.

Each police officer would have to conduct a complete impaired driving investigation on at least 10 impaired drivers in the 2008 calendar year. This minimum criteria encouraged police officers to 'get impaired drivers to court' and not be satisfied with 24 Hour Prohibitions or Administrative Driving Prohibitions for drivers who were 'criminally' impaired. Prior to Alexa's Team the average number of impaired investigations per year by R.C.M.P. Traffic members was seven.

S/Sgt. Emanuels organizes and chairs the Lower Mainland Traffic Managers Committee. The committee includes all of the R.C.M.P. and municipal police department traffic managers in the Lower Mainland; 12 R.C.M.P. Traffic managers; 6 Municipal Police Department traffic managers; 2 Integrated Road Safety Unit managers and three Traffic program managers. At the fall Traffic Managers Committee meeting S/Sgt. Emanuels challenged the managers to encourage their officers to meet the minimum standard and join Alexa's Team.

The Alexa's Team Project was communicated to all traffic police officers in the Lower Mainland in the fall of 2008. Police officers were challenged to 'go the extra mile' to qualify for membership in Alexa's Team by the end of 2008.

Twenty-six police officers in the Lower Mainland qualified and became charter members of Alexa's Team in 2008; 18 R.C.M.P. officers; 3 West Vancouver Police officers; 1 New Westminster Police Department officer; 1 Abbotsford Police Department officer; 1 Vancouver Police Department officer; and 2 Port Moody Police Department officers.

In 2008 the 26 members of Alexa's Team charged 389 impaired drivers, issued an additional 188 Administrative Driving Prohibitions and issued 1140 24 Hour Prohibitions. Alexa's Team removed 1717 drinking drivers from the roadways of the Lower Mainland in 2008!

One of the significant results of the Alexa's Team Project was an increase in the number of impaired driving investigations in the Lower Mainland of B.C. In December of 2008 there was a 150% increase in the number of impaired drivers charged over the same period in the previous year.

In partnership with the BCAA-TSF, the Middelaers and all of the traffic units in the Lower Mainland, a public recognition was held at the British Columbia Automobile Association Main offices in Burnaby. The print and television media covered the event. Laurel Middelaer was the primary speaker, thanking the police officers for their hard work and commitment and encouraging their supervisors to support them in their efforts. The members of Alexa's Team were presented with personal, unique Alexa's Team certificates, a personal letter from the Middelaers and an Alexa's Team ballcap.

The BCAA-TSF funded the ceremony, including the certificates, a professional photographer and lunch. R.C.M.P. Traffic Services funded the baseball caps.

One of the important aspects of the Alexa's Team recognition event was that police officers were being recognized by a family that were the victims of an impaired driver and by the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation, and not by the police community. It was imperative that the police officers and their supervisors got the message from the community.

In 2008, the total number of alcohol-related fatalities in British Columbia dropped by 15% over 2007. Providing an incentive to police officers by recognizing their accomplishments and continuing to make the public aware of the issue and consequences is a viable vehicle to further reduce the number of alcohol and drug impairment involved collisions. Reducing impaired-involved collisions by 40% is a Road Safety Vision 2010 objective. It is anticipated that this objective will be reached in B.C. by 2010.

In 2009 the Alexa's Team Partnership has been expanded from a Lower Mainland project to include all British Columbia R.C.M.P. and municipal police departments. Alexa's Team recognition events will take place at four major centers in the province to provide for local recognition and community awareness throughout the province.

Submitted and endorsed by:

Superintendent Derek Cooke
Officer-in-Charge
R.C.M.P. Lower Mainland District Traffic Services
email: derek.cooke@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Should this nomination be the successful submission for the CCMTA Police Partnership Award, Staff Sergeant Ted Emanuels would be honored to attend and receive the award.

Contact information:
S/Sgt. I.E. (Ted) Emanuels
Traffic Operations Officer
R.C.M.P. Lower Mainland District Traffic Services
12992 76th Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3W 2V6
ph: (604) 598-4230 Cell: (604) 290-7911
email: ted.emanuels@rcmp-grc.gc.ca