



Unclassified

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Your File Votre référence

Ms. Valerie Todd
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Our File Notre référence

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Dear Ms. Todd

CCMTA - Police Partnership Award

It is my pleasure to submit this application for consideration of the CCMTA Partnership Award. I am extremely proud of the work that the men and women at "E" Division Traffic Services do on a daily basis as we forge new partnerships and find better ways of making our roads the safest in the world. This partnership with the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles (BC) is the first of its kind in BC and is intended to be one that will be sustained over the long term.

As I look at our exceptional results for the last quarter of 2010, I have no doubt that our partnership with the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles was pivotal to our success on this road safety initiative. If our projections hold true we will see a 35% reduction in impaired related fatalities. That is a result never seen in our Province and we are truly excited to be able to contribute. I look forward to hearing the results of this award.

Respectfully,

Supt. Mike Diack
OIC "E" Division Traffic Services

(sent via e-mail)

CCMTA – Police Partnership Award Submission (2010)

In early 2010, RCMP “E” Division Traffic Services entered into a partnership with the Provincial government’s Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles (OSMV). This partnership was formed to ensure that new impaired driving and general road safety legislation was implemented in the most effective way possible. Using this legislation effectively will ensure that BC police can make a significant contribution towards making Canada’s roads the safest in the world.

Prior to the introduction of this new legislation, BC police had limited legal tools to address the serious problem of impaired driving. These existing tools had limited success as they were either non-punitive or had minimal deterrent effect due to the delay of the penalty. Additionally, the cost of processing impaired drivers under the Criminal Code was becoming expensive. It was not uncommon to see a Criminal Code investigation to take more than 40 hours to complete after all in-car and jail video had been transcribed. This new legislation addressed many shortcomings of the Criminal Code process and provided police with very effective tools to deal with impaired drivers.

“E” Division Traffic Services decided early in the process that participation with OSMV needed to be more significant than to attend some meetings. The legislation was scheduled to come into effect in 9 months. Programs with less complexity typically took 18 to 24 months to implement. Police needed to become full-time partners with OSMV to meet this aggressive implementation schedule. As such, Supt. Mike Diack (Officer in Charge, “E” Division Traffic Services) decided to commit a ranking member of the RCMP to the implementation team on a full time basis. S/Sgt. Marc Alexander was assigned to join the OSMV as the primary police representative. S/Sgt. Alexander was authorized to make decisions for all police in the Province as the representative of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police for the implementation of this legislation. Supt. Diack also provided additional part time resources as required to ensure the success of this program.

There are several components to this legislation including:

1. Immediate Roadside Prohibitions (IRP) for over 50 and 80 mg%
2. Vehicle Impoundments (VI) of varying durations for:
 - a. Over 50 mg%
 - b. Over 80 mg%
 - c. Refusing to provide samples
 - d. Excessive Speeding
 - e. Prohibited and Unlicensed Driving
 - f. other dangerous moving violations
3. Unlicensed Driver Prohibitions (UL)

These pieces of legislation were designed to work together to provide an effective dragnet for impaired driving and other dangerous driving behaviors.

The implementation team worked tirelessly to carry out the following primary functions:

- design business processes for initiation and adjudication of IRPs, VIs, and UL drivers
- develop, print, and distribute forms to over 200 police locations in BC
- develop, coordinate, and deliver police training through the entire Province over a 6 week period during peak summer holiday time
- monitor initial implementation with an 800 police hotline covered 24/7 by the police members on the team
- develop and execute public information strategies / materials

In the early weeks of the program the media and liquor based special interest groups fought hard to gain public and political support as the effects of this program were very effective and far reaching. The partnership maintained a high level of public support through a consistent and coordinated effort with regular fact based messaging. The partnership has become a permanent one that remains strong and determined to save many lives in the future.

Post implementation tasks included the development of a feedback process that did not compromise the independence of the OSMV adjudicators but ensured that police were able to address common errors. OSMV and police also collected statistics to determine the effectiveness of the program. Police in BC have never had such an integrated and cooperative partnership as they now have with the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles.

IRP became law on September 20, 2010. This program is expected to reduce impaired fatalities by 35% by 2013. 2010 statistics show that this goal will likely be exceeded well before the target date. Impaired fatalities are down approximately 50% over the previous year (2009) and 70% over the five year average for the same period (2005-2009). There was only one impaired driving fatality in the entire Province in January 2011. These dramatic results are unprecedented in this jurisdiction. The effective use of this legislation will no doubt be a significant contribution in making Canada's roads the safest in the world.