



Legislative Library of British Columbia

Current Issue 2008:01/ May 2008

AMALGAMATING POLICE SERVICES

The inquest into the deaths of five people in an Oak Bay murder-suicide has renewed debate about the pros and cons of maintaining separate municipal police services versus regionalized forces in metropolitan areas. This list includes reports, publications and news stories related to the police amalgamation issue in British Columbia and Canada.

Prepared by Deborah Wilson
Researcher
Legislative Library of British Columbia

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BACKGROUND PAPERS AND BRIEFS

ABOUT THE PAPERS

Staff of the Legislative Library prepare background papers and briefs on aspects of provincial history and public policy. All papers can be viewed on the library's website at <http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/>

SOURCES

All sources cited in the papers are part of the library collection or available on the Internet. The Legislative Library's collection includes an estimated 300,000 print items, including a large number of BC government documents dating from colonial times to the present. The library also downloads current online BC government documents to its catalogue.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent the views of the Legislative Library or the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. While great care is taken to ensure these papers are accurate and balanced, the Legislative Library is not responsible for errors or omissions. Papers are written using information publicly available at the time of production and the Library cannot take responsibility for the absolute accuracy of those sources. Inclusions of websites or other sources should not be taken as an endorsement of any kind.

CONTACT THE LIBRARY

Legislative Library of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4
Tel: 250-387-6510
Email: LLBC.Ref@leg.bc.ca

INTRODUCTION

The inquest into the deaths of five people in an Oak Bay murder-suicide has renewed debate about the pros and cons of maintaining separate municipal police services versus amalgamated or regionalized forces in metropolitan areas. Three separate police forces responded to the emergency call the morning of September 4, 2007 when Peter Lee allegedly killed his wife, child and parents-in-law. Witnesses at the inquiry described confusion and delay in the response. The idea of amalgamating various municipal police forces in the Vancouver and Victoria area dates back at least three decades. Police forces in other provinces as well as in communities in the United States and the Great Britain have moved to amalgamation in recent years.

This list includes reports, publications and news stories related to the police amalgamation debate in British Columbia and Canada.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Reports

Central Saanich, Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria Police Force Integration Planning Committee, *Final Report*, November 30, 2003,
http://www.pssq.gov.bc.ca/police_services/publications/integration/FinalReport.pdf

The Honourable Mr. Justice Wallace T. Oppal, commissioner, *Closing the Gap: Policing and the Community; Commission of Inquiring into Policing in British Columbia*, July 31, 1994, p. 9, <http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/PubDocs/bcdocs/183392/closingthegap.pdf>

Robert Helsley, *Regional Policing: An Economic Analysis/ A report prepared for the Policing in British Columbia Commission of Inquiry*, Policing in British Columbia Commission of Inquiry, 1994.

Linda Graham, *Regionalization of Policing Services in British Columbia: Quality and Equity Issues*, Policing in British Columbia Commission of Inquiry, 1994.

Police Services Branch, Ministry of Solicitor General, *Policing British Columbia in the Year 2001: report of the Regionalization Study Team*, Police Services Branch, Ministry of Solicitor General, August 1990.

Chief Constable Jim Cessford, *Panel Discussion at the Forum on the "Creation of Regional Police Service for Metro Vancouver*, February 06, 2008,
http://deltapolice.ca/media/presentations/Wosk_presentation_080206.pdf

Chief Constable Jim Cessford, *From Integration to Organization: A Renewed Model for Policing in British Columbia*, Delta Police Department, 2008,
http://www.deltapolice.ca/media/presentations/integration_organization_paper_cessford.pdf

British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, “Police Amalgamation” (Policy Statement)
British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, 2006,
http://www.bcchamber.org/Policy_and_Positions/Provincial_Policy_Statements/Public_Safety_and_Solicitor_General/Police_Amalgation.aspx

News Stories:

Justine Hunter, “Police provide series of dueling timelines: Officers from two forces disagree on the timing of their responses to a 911 call and their control at the scene,” The Globe and Mail, May 2, 2008, p A5.

Justine Hunter, “Oak Bay 911 call made dispatchers ‘skin crawl,’” The Globe and Mail, May 1, 2008, p. A1.

Cheryl Chan, “Should Lower Mainland police be united?” The Province, November 25, 2007, p. A.4,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1389455571&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Kim Bolan and Neal Hall, “Who you gonna call? Gangbusters!; Lower Mainland police create squad in effort to staunch surge in violence,” Times-Colonist, November 8, 2007, p. A3,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1380881801&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Jonathan Fowlie, “Les softens stance on regional police,” The Vancouver Sun, November 8, 2007, p. 4,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1380876131&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

“Tragedy demands full public review; Coroner's inquest not powerful enough to answer all the questions in the Lee case,” (Editorial), Times-Colonist, September 8, 2007, p. A18,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1333610581&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Kim Westad, “Clement raises 'A' word in police budget debate,” Times-Colonist, February 20, 2007, p. B1,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1220283391&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

“Solicitor-general rejects mayors' call for police amalgamation task force,” The Vancouver Sun, December 6, 2006, p. B3,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1176257961&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Jim McDavid, “Police amalgamation leads to centralization,” Times-Colonist, December 6, 2006, p. A9,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1176264081&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Ben Anderson, “Criticism of Oak Bay police misleading;” Times-Colonist, November 28, 2006, p. A.11,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1170484241&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Carolyn Heiman, "Smaller police forces better? Not necessarily," Times-Colonist, November 22, 2006, p. B1,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1167405431&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Basil Boulton, "Police Amalgamation," Times-Colonist, November 15, 2006, p. A15,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1163751801&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

"Councils to probe police amalgamation," Times-Colonist, November 3, 2006, p. B2,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1156674771&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Bill Cleverley and Darron Kloster, "Legislate police amalgamation: report," Times-Colonist, July 19, 2005, p. C1,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=869856841&sid=2&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Judith Lavoie, "Peacemaker aims to integrate police," Times-Colonist, July 31, 2003, p. 2,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=380249581&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Alan Lowe, "Experience shows police amalgamation works well," Times-Colonist, June 28, 2003, p. A15,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=354938571&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Louise Dickson, "Oak Bay letter slams police amalgamation," Times-Colonist, June 25, 2003, p. B1,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=353751251&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Louise Dickson, "Most MLAs oppose unified police force," Times-Colonist, May 27, 2003, p. D1,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=342966991&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Ethan Baron, "B.C. needs one police force," The Province, October 28, 2005, p. A28,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=918817761&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Louise Dickson, "A decades-old war," Times-Colonist, May 25, 2003, p. A3,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=342346131&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Jim McDavid, "The case of police amalgamation," Times-Colonist, April 14, 2003, p. A7,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=326256551&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Judith Lavoie and Malcolm Curtis, "B.C. orders police merger of Esquimalt and Victoria," Times-Colonist, Victoria, B.C., July 27, 2002, p. A1,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=241534511&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

"Police unification faces many hurdles: Committed leadership, municipally and provincially, will be needed before B.C. can reorganize its policing systems into regionalized forces. Even the police are not sold on the benefits," The Vancouver Sun, February 25, 1999, p. A22,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=223079881&sid=4&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Mike Bocking, "Expert says GVRD needs a single force to police crime: POLICE: Expert says officer morale would soar in a larger, regional force," The Vancouver Sun, January 20, 1996, p. A1,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=22806991&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

CANADA

News Stories

Jake Rupert, "Ottawa-Carleton police now cover whole region: Last step in amalgamation complete," The Ottawa Citizen, July 5, 1999, p. D1,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=200654381&sid=6&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

John Duncanson, "Stakeout almost got Bernardo, report says," Toronto Star, July 15, 1996, p. A6,
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=18625622&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=58106&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Martin Mittelstaedt, Gay Abbate, "Police rivalry delayed Bernardo arrest No effort to share information, failure to analyze DNA among problems mentioned in judge's report," The Globe and Mail, July 12, 1996, p. A1.

Publications

Joseph Kushiner, David Siegel, "*Are services delivered more efficiently after municipal amalgamations?*" Canadian Public Administration, June 2005, p. 251.

James C. McDavid, "*The Impacts of Amalgamation on Police Services in the Halifax Region Municipality,*" Canadian Public Administration, Winter 2002, p. 538-565.

Andrew Sancton, "*Reducing costs by consolidating municipalities: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario,*" Canadian Public Administration, September 1996, p. 267-289.