

JOINT STATEMENT FROM LOWER MAINLAND POLICE CHIEFS AND COMMANDERS

Police in British Columbia share the concerns that the public have as a result of recent gang-related violence in communities across the Lower Mainland.

Senior police leaders in British Columbia met yesterday with Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth to discuss the current gang landscape and share their collective and unified strategies.

Led by the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU-BC), in partnership and collaboration with the RCMP and all municipal police agencies, there is an intelligence-led enforcement effort underway. This includes enhanced overt and covert operations, proactive enforcement targeting those who pose the highest risk to public safety, increased focus on personally interacting with those involved in gangs, and ensuring that those who engage in, assist, or support gang-related violence are held accountable.

The partnerships and level of integration that police in the region have is unprecedented. From the sharing of real-time intelligence so officers of all jurisdictions are informed of the most up-to-date information, to specialized teams working together with officers from neighbouring agencies because gang members do not recognize municipal boundaries. Police are working together and are unified in their resolve to end gang violence.

The disregard for the safety of the public and the police that gang members continually show, highlighted by recent events, is unacceptable and we are doing everything we can to hold those responsible accountable.

Your safety is our number one priority and we will not waver in our relentless pursuit to prevent, disrupt, suppress, and investigate those who choose to involve themselves in gang and organized crime activities.

The public's role in how successful we are in this fight cannot be understated. Your willingness to call police when you see something suspicious, or have information, could be critical in helping prevent someone from getting hurt or assist us in collecting crucial pieces of evidence. We want your help.

Lastly, to the gang members, we know many of you are afraid, unsure who to trust, and fearful that you might be targeted next. You have an opportunity to get out. Contact police before it is too late for you and those who love you.

Chief Constable Mike Serr - Abbotsford Police Department

Assistant Commissioner Manny Mann – Officer in Charge of CFSEU-BC and Chief Officer of the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia

Chief Constable Neil Dubord - Delta Police Department

Chief Officer Dave Jones - Metro Vancouver Transit Police

Chief Constable Dave Jansen - New Westminster Police Department

Chief Constable Dave Fleugel - Port Moody Police Department

Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Strachan – Commanding Officer for BC RCMP

Assistant Commissioner Dwayne McDonald - Officer in Charge of the RCMP's Federal, Investigative Services and Organized Crime for BC

Assistant Commissioner Eric Stubbs – BC RCMP Criminal Operations Officer - Core Policing

Assistant Commissioner Maureen Levy – Lower Mainland District RCMP Commander

Chief Constable Adam Palmer - Vancouver Police Department

Chief Constable John Lo - West Vancouver Police Department

