



# Abbotsford Police Department

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**Bob Rich**  
Chief Constable

*"Protecting with Pride"*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE #

RELEASE # 1

DATE OF RELEASE: May 9, 2012

### **Incident: Two Abbotsford Police Officers receive the Order of Merit**

#### **Abbotsford – May 9, 2012.**

This morning in Ottawa, two Abbotsford Police officers received the very prestigious Order of Merit for Police from the Governor General. Deputy Chief Constable Rick Lucy, a 29 year veteran of the Abbotsford police department and Sergeant Mike Novakowski, a 22 year veteran, have achieved national recognition for their respective commitments to public safety and community development.

Deputy Lucy played a vital role in the integration of a Municipal Integrated Emergency Response Team that saw four partner agencies share resources and skills to enhance the safety of citizens in four cities. He established a property Crime Reduction Unit and oversaw the creation of a Gang Suppression Unit to pro-actively protect the people of Abbotsford and their belongings. In addition, Deputy Lucy introduced CompStat and Crime Analysis to the Abbotsford Police Department. These cornerstones in intelligence-led policing have enabled the APD to tackle crime more effectively and to objectively measure that effectiveness. Since the introduction of CompStat in 2009 the overall crime rate in Abbotsford has dropped 26%.

Aside from his accomplishments in policing, Deputy Lucy has been tremendously involved in the community. He is a director on the board of Special Olympics BC, he is a Provincial Director and current Chair for the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run, he is serving in his eighth year on the executive of the Abbotsford Youth Commission, and he was the 2010 winner of the Champion of Diversity Award presented by the Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Committee.

Sergeant Mike Novakowski created a publication 11 years ago to assist law enforcement officers navigate the constantly evolving and changing areas of case law and legal rulings. That "In-Service: 10-8" newsletter is a bi-monthly publication that is read and utilized by over 1500 people in every Province and Territory in Canada. Sergeant Novakowski holds two Masters Degrees, including one in law, and provides legal training to officers working in Abbotsford and elsewhere, on a regular basis.

*Our Mission:  
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*

Sergeant Novakowski is best known outside the Abbotsford Police Department for his tireless work on a multitude of anti-gang initiatives. Operation Tarnish (poster campaign), Operation Impact (secondary school presentations), Operation Veritas (video campaign), Operation Impact II (middle school presentations), Operation Lodestar (campaign directed at parents), Operation Reclamation (re-branding a seized vehicle with anti-gang messaging), Operation Acorn (elementary school presentations) and Operation Lodestar the movie (30 minute documentary) are all the result of his ideas and his passion. Abbotsford is a city with a population of a 138,000, and approximately 25,000 of those people have been part of an anti-gang presentation created by Sergeant Novakowski. His posters and videos have been viewed by thousands and have been used by police and other agencies across North America.

Today, these two Abbotsford Police officers received the Order of Merit for efforts that have markedly improved public safety in the city of Abbotsford and beyond. It is a very proud day for the Abbotsford Police Department. Congratulations Rick and Mike.



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