



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

September 9, 2016

16-19

### **Charge Approved Against Police Officer in Penticton**

**Victoria** – The Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice (CJB) announced today that a charge has been approved against RCMP Cst. Ace Stewart arising out of a motor vehicle fatality in Penticton on September 15, 2015. The case was investigated by the Independent Investigation Office (IIO), which subsequently submitted a Report to Crown Counsel.

Information #44211-1 charging Ace Jimmy Stewart with driving without due care and attention, contrary to s. 144(1)(a) of the *Motor Vehicle Act* was sworn on September 9, 2016 at B.C. Provincial Court in Penticton. Constable Stewart's first appearance in the case has been scheduled for October 12, 2016 at the Penticton Courthouse.

Cst. Stewart was not on duty when the vehicle he was operating is alleged to have struck and killed a five-year old pedestrian at the intersection of Highway 97 and Green Mountain Road.

Following an investigation, where the Chief Civilian Director of the IIO determines that an officer may have committed an offence, the IIO submits a report to CJB. The Chief Civilian Director does not make a recommendation on whether charges should be approved.

The Charge Assessment Guidelines applied by the Criminal Justice Branch in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in Branch policy and are available online at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/cha-1-charge-assessment-guidelines.pdf>

As these matters are now before the Court, CJB is unable to release additional information or comment further.

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To learn more about B.C.'s criminal justice system visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: [www.gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice/)

### ***Branch Vision***

***Courageous, Fair and Efficient – A Prosecution Service that has the Confidence of the Public.***

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