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23-03

## BC Prosecution Service approves charges against Prince George RCMP officers

**Victoria** – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that manslaughter charges have been approved against two Prince George RCMP officers following the death of a suspect arrested by police on July 18, 2017, in Prince George. Three other Prince George RCMP officers have been charged with attempting to obstruct justice in connection with the events immediately following the arrest.

An Information charging Cst. Paul Ste-Marie and Cst. Jean Francois Monette with manslaughter contrary to section 236(b) of the *Criminal Code* was sworn on February 1, 2023, under Prince George Provincial Court file number 77923-1. A separate Information charging Cst. Arthur Dalman, Cst. Clarence (Alex) Alexander MacDonald, and Sgt. Bayani (Jon) Eusebio Cruz with attempting to obstruct justice contrary to section 139(2) of the *Criminal Code* was sworn the same day under Prince George Provincial Court file number 77924-1. The first appearance for all officers on these matters is scheduled for March 14, 2023 in Prince George Provincial Court.

Due to the nature of the incident the matter was investigated by the IIO (file 2017-083). The charges were approved by an experienced criminal lawyer who has no prior or current connection with the officers. The charge assessment guidelines applied by Crown Counsel in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in the BC Prosecution Service Crown Counsel Policy Manual and are available online at:

[www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines](http://www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines)

BCPS guidelines for assessing allegations against Peace Officers are also established in policy and are available at:

[www.gov.bc.ca/allegations-against-peace-officers](http://www.gov.bc.ca/allegations-against-peace-officers)

As these matters are now before the court, the BCPS will not be releasing any additional information or commenting further at this time.

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