

ABOUT THE IIO

The IIO is a civilian-led agency which was established in response to recommendations arising out of two public inquiries led by Justices Braidwood and Davies. These inquiries highlighted the need for independent oversight of police, and the IIO was subsequently created in 2012.

The IIO is established under the Ministry of Attorney General and is led by a **Chief Civilian Director (CCD)** who cannot ever have been a police officer. Although the IIO is part of the Ministry of Attorney General, all investigative decisions and the decision to issue a public report or refer a matter to Crown Counsel are completely independent from the Ministry. The CCD is eligible to be appointed for a maximum of two five-year terms by Order in Council.

iiobc.ca

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE OF BC

12th floor – 13450 102 Avenue
Surrey, BC V3T 5X3

Our office is located on the traditional and ancestral territory of the Coast Salish, s̓q̓əciyaʔt̓ t̓əm̓əx̓w (Katzie), s̓c̓əwaθenaʔt̓ t̓əm̓əx̓w (Tsawwassen), S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō), Á,LEᑕENEᑕ ɛTE (W̱SÁNEĆ), Kwantlen, and Stz'uminus Nations.

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WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE IIO?

Website: <https://iiobc.ca/>
Twitter: @iiobc
Facebook: Independent Investigations Office

LINKS

Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner
<https://opcc.bc.ca/>

Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for
the RCMP
<https://www.crc-cetp.gc.ca/>

INFORMATION ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

The Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia (IIO) conducts investigations into police-related incidents of death or serious harm to determine whether an officer may have committed an offence. All police officers in BC, whether they are on- or off-duty, are subject to the IIO's jurisdiction.

There does not need to be an allegation of wrongdoing for the IIO to investigate.

HOW DOES THE IIO IMPROVE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN POLICING?

The IIO gathers all evidence and, based on an objective analysis of that information, will determine whether a matter should be referred to **Crown Counsel** for consideration of charges.

The IIO is committed to being as transparent as practicable under the circumstances while respecting the integrity of the investigation and the privacy interests of those involved. Importantly, where a matter of public interest is not referred to Crown Counsel for consideration of charges, the CCD will often release a public report or media release outlining all of the relevant facts and reasons for the decision not to refer the matter. This allows the public to understand the basis for the decision.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AN IIO INVESTIGATION?

The IIO's office is located in Surrey and investigators will travel to any location within BC as required to conduct investigations. Typical investigative tasks include scene analysis, police and witness interviews, video and witness canvassing, review of medical information, pathologist and toxicology reports, and more.

The IIO refers to the person who has been seriously harmed or has died as the affected person. Affected persons and their families receive support from the IIO's **Affected Persons Liaisons (APL)** who are their primary contact at the IIO while the investigation is ongoing. If you are a witness to an incident, the APLs can assist by making referrals to support services if you have been emotionally impacted by the event.

WHAT TYPE OF EXPERIENCE DO IIO INVESTIGATORS HAVE?

The IIO's investigative teams are made up of investigators with a wealth of investigative experience in many different fields such as fraud investigations, law, policing, death investigations and more. In addition, the IIO has a team of forensic investigators who bring expertise in several areas, including video analysis and collision reconstruction.

HOW LONG DOES AN INVESTIGATION TAKE?

All investigations are carried out in as timely a manner as possible, while at the same time ensuring that they are as thorough as necessary. Investigations can last from a few weeks to many months depending on the complexity.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IIO, THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER (OPCC) AND THE CIVILIAN REVIEW AND COMPLAINTS COMMISSION FOR THE RCMP (CRCC)?

The IIO is mandated to investigate any incident involving police which results in serious harm or death. In addition, IIO investigations are conducted to a criminal law standard. Investigation and review of complaints against municipal police officers, such as improper conduct, are the responsibility of the **OPCC**. Similarly, complaints made against members of the RCMP are reviewed by the **CRCC**.

WHAT CONSTITUTES SERIOUS HARM?

Serious harm is defined by the *Police Act* as injury that may result in death, serious disfigurement and/or cause substantial loss or impairment of mobility of the body as a whole or of the function of any limb or organ.