



**SOUTH COAST BRITISH COLUMBIA
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
POLICE SERVICE
COVERT OPERATIONS**

Effective Date: May 9, 2005
Revised: October 31, 2005

POLICY

1. Covert operations within the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (SCBCTAPS) will:
 1. be undertaken in full compliance with constitutional and other legal requirements,
 2. be implemented where the circumstances of the investigation warrant the use of covert methods,
 3. be used as an aid to the investigative process,
 4. have supervisory approval,
 5. be conducted using appropriately selected and trained personnel, and
 6. be conducted using the applicable general criteria required for all investigations and established criteria for the particular type of crime being addressed.
2. Covert operations will only be undertaken in cooperation with the Jurisdictional Police Department (JPD).
3. Plainclothes operations may be conducted on a regular basis.

REASON FOR POLICY

4. To ensure that covert operations comply with constitutional and other legal requirements.
5. To distinguish between covert operations and day-to-day enforcement which may involve plainclothes operations.

PROCEDURES

Definitions

6. **Covert Operation** - an investigation in which a police officer assumes the role of a **qualified undercover operator**, concealing the police officer's true identity or occupation in an effort to gain intelligence and/or evidence as part of a criminal investigation.

7. **FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement**
[Redacted]

- 8. FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement
 [Redacted]
- 9. **Surveillance Officers** - police officers that are involved in a Covert Operation surveillance techniques only.
- 10. FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement
 [Redacted]
- 11. **Project** - an operation which requires an element of planning which extends beyond day to day enforcement, or constitutes a series of continuous enforcement strategies of an extended nature.
- 12. **Plainclothes Operation** – a police officer dresses in mufti and conducts surveillance and other investigational duties while assuming a role designed to conceal the police officer’s true identity or occupation in an effort to gain intelligence and/or as part of an investigation.

Authorization –Plainclothes Operations

- 13. The Watch Commander may grant approval for plainclothes operations where the operation is of a short term (within four day block).
- 14. Authorization from the Deputy Chief Officer is required for expending of resources for plainclothes operations of a longer term (exceeds four day block) and where SCBCTAPS resources are requested from a JPD in support of a joint forces operation.

Authorization – Covert Operations

- 15. Authorization from the Deputy Chief Officer is required for SCBCTAPS and its Members to be involved in covert operations with other JPDs.
 - 1. Prior to SCBCTAPS participation in a covert operation, the Deputy Chief Officer will ensure there is an Operations Plan (OPS plan) and letter of agreement with the JPD (e.g., command, estimated time frame, overtime cost responsibility, financial requirements, court requirements, coverage or liability issues in regards to using outside agency vehicles or other property).

- 16. FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement
 [Redacted]

Safety

- 17. In all covert operations, the safety of the public and police officers is paramount.

18. Members will not acknowledge covert or surveillance personnel in a public place unless first acknowledged by the covert/surveillance officer.