



Transit Police 2014 Awards



Inspector's Certificate of Appreciation

Curtis Starinovich and Kreshnik Adzijaj

On August 7 2014, both Curtis Starinovich and Kreshnik Adzijaj were on duty as security officers at Metropolis Shopping Mall adjacent to Metrotown SkyTrain Station. These officers observed a man who they believed to be the subject of a recent Crime Stoppers Bulletin, walking towards Metrotown SkyTrain Station. Kreshnik boarded an inbound train with the suspect and texted updates to Curtis, who contacted Transit Police. The suspect was met by Transit Police at Nanaimo station and taken into custody. This successful outcome was due to the initiative shown by these two security officers. For assistance in apprehending an offender, Curtis Starinovich and Kreshnik Adzijaj are being awarded with Certificates of Appreciation.

Shiraaz Hanif, Emmanuel Agiba, and Kreshnik Adzijaj

On November 9 2014, Transit Police were investigating a serious offence. During the course of that investigation, two suspects were identified as having been at Metropolis mall in Burnaby. Transit Police provided limited descriptions to the staff of Concord Security and asked for assistance in identification from images potentially captured by the mall's closed circuit TV system. The members of the security team searched tirelessly through a large volume of imagery and managed to collate images of the suspects. These images greatly assisted the investigation subsequent charges. For assistance in apprehending an offender, Shiraaz, Kreshnik and Emmanuel are being awarded with Certificates of Appreciation.



Photo: Inspector David Hansen, Shiraaz Hanif, Emmanuel Agiba and Kreshnik Adzijaj

Bonnie Low

On December 20, 2011 two women, a mother and daughter, who are both deaf, were traveling on a packed SkyTrain. When the daughter gestured for the woman sitting in front of them to move her bag from the empty seat, to allow an elderly woman to sit down—that passenger became aggressive.

The aggressive passenger escalated the conflict which became physical. At one point, the mother intervened, pulling the aggressor and the elderly woman

apart. The passenger then assaulted the mother. Due to communication challenges, Transit Police members who attended were unable to ascertain what had happened. Bonnie, a Coast Mountain Bus Company employee, who witnessed the incident, readily provided a statement and later attended court proceedings. Bonnie's statement was instrumental to the successful prosecution of this case. For standing up and providing a voice for the deaf and hard of hearing, Bonnie Low is being awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Photo: Inspector David Hansen and Bonnie Low

Joseph Fadel

On January 1, 2014 Transit Police received an email from SkyTrain Attendant Joseph Fadel, indicating that he had located photos and useful information on Instagram related to a prolific graffiti tagger. This tagger was actively vandalizing SkyTrain stations. The valuable information that Mr. Fadel provided was key in Transit Police submitting charges of 12 counts for Mischief to Crown. Without the information that Mr. Fadel provided, this prolific graffiti tagger would have continued

to vandalize the transit system, costing thousands of dollars. For his assistance in locating information and photos related to an active graffiti tagger and sharing it with Transit Police, SkyTrain Attendant Joseph Fadel is being awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Photo: Inspector David Hansen and Joseph Fadel

SkyTrain Control Supervisors

Monitoring of the many closed circuit TV (CCTV) cameras throughout the transit system is one of many responsibilities of staff within the OMC-BCRTC. On numerous occasions during 2014, supervisors became aware of police related incidents and proactively monitored those incidents using CCTV cameras to assist Transit Police in investigations. On one specific occasion, through active monitoring, staff identified a suspect armed with a knife that had changed clothing to avoid being detected. This information was provided to Transit Police and assisted with the apprehension of the suspect. On another occasion, involving the discharge of a firearm adjacent to Brentwood SkyTrain Station, supervisors were able to confirm descriptions of the suspects and advise they had not accessed SkyTrain property. This information greatly assisting with Transit Police's search parameters. For assisting in the apprehension and attempted apprehension of offenders, the SkyTrain Control Supervisors are being awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation. (Accepted by Val Waldron on behalf of the supervisors).



Photo: Inspector David Hansen and Val Waldron

Kevin Miket

On October 31, 2014, Kevin Miket was working as the Manager of Security at the Great Canadian Casino in Richmond. He received information relating to a person who was absent from Richmond General Hospital and for whom a Director's warrant existed. As a result of quick work by Mr. Miket, security staff identified that the wanted person was on casino property and relayed this information to Transit Police. Mr. Miket followed the individual as they made their way off property towards Bridgeport Station where they were apprehended by Transit Police. For his assistance in apprehending a wanted person, Kevin Miket is being awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Photo: Inspector David Hansen and Kevin Miket

Adam Durante

On Tuesday, October 21, 2014 Canada Line Attendant Adam Durante was on duty at Waterfront Station. He noticed a woman who appeared to be crying and upset while seated near the tracks on the platform. Adam approached and engaged her in conversation noting at the same time that she was very distressed and had bruises on her legs and arms. Mr. Durante immediately recognized that the person might be suicidal and quickly radioed Transit Police for help. Upon arrival



Photo: Sgt. Jason White and Adam Durante

of police, it became apparent that Mr. Durante's assessment was accurate and the woman was unable to care for herself. She was transported to hospital where she was admitted for treatment. For coming to the assistance of Transit Police during an incident that had potential life threatening consequences, Transit Police is pleased to award Adam Durante with this Certificate of Appreciation.

Allan Hung

On July 11, 2014 at Stadium Station, Allan Hung came to the assistance of Transit Police making an arrest. Officers were involved in a lengthy and exhausting struggle on the platform. In a violent effort to escape, the suspect pulled the officers towards the rail track and grabbed at one of the officer's duty belts. Concerned the suspect was trying to reach weapons on his belt, the officer requested assistance from the surrounding crowd. Mr. Hung stepped in and grabbed



Photo: Inspector David Hansen and Allan Hung

the suspect's hand but was unable to pry the hand loose. Mr. Hung continued to hold onto the suspect's hand while the suspect continued fighting to escape. Mr. Hung controlled the suspect's hand until two other police officers arrived and eventually gained control of the suspect. For coming to the assistance of Transit Police at an incident that had potential life threatening consequences, Allan Hung is being awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Kent Ngan, Turguy Tugayli and Chad Freeborn

On August 4, 2014 Kent, Chad and Turguy were on duty in the Canada Line Operations and Maintenance Centre (OMC). Through close inspection on the CCTV monitors, the crew noticed what appeared to be a garbage bag on the platform near the guide way at Vancouver City Centre. Upon close inspection, it was determined that the bag was actually a woman dressed in black, sitting the yellow strip at the guide way edge of the platform with both of her legs dangling into the guide



Photo: Inspector David Hansen, Kent Ngan, Turguy Tugayli and Chad Freeborn

way. At the same time, an outbound train from Waterfront Station was quickly approaching. Through the prompt and decisive actions of Kent, Turguy and Chad, trains were stopped just 50 yards from the woman, saving her life. **For their lifesaving efforts, and commitment to the safe use of public transit, Transit Police is pleased to present Turguy, Kent and Chad with Certificates of Appreciation.**

Inspector's Commendation

Constable Richard O'Rourke

On February 16, 2014 Constable O'Rourke and a colleague were called to Waterfront Station to deal with a potentially suicidal man seen wandering on the rail tracks. Constable O'Rourke located the distressed man sitting on a rock in a fenced off area beside the water. Due to the man's state of mind and potential for self-harm, other resources including a police boat and negotiator were called in.

While the resources were being sought, Constable O'Rourke stayed with the man and gained his trust. Constable O'Rourke seized the opportunity to take hold of the man to prevent him harming himself. With assistance of other Transit Police and Vancouver Police officers, they were able to lift the man over the fence to safety. For demonstrating the highest standards of humanitarianism and police conduct, Constable Richard O'Rourke is being recognized with an Inspector's Commendation.



Photo: Inspector David Hansen and Cst. O' Rourke

Deputy Chief Officer's Commendation

Constable Rod Pedersen

During the winter months of 2014, Constable Pedersen recognized the need to better provide for the homeless and marginalized. Taking his own initiative, Constable Pedersen liaised with the Salvation Army and convinced them to commit to supplying blankets that Transit Police could provide to the homeless. Constable Pedersen informed and periodically reminded patrol members of the arrangement and had the blankets placed in police vehicles for distribution as required during patrols. For demonstrating the highest standards of humanitarianism and police conduct, I am pleased to award Constable Rod Pedersen an Inspector's Commendation.

Eileen Marsland

In 2014, the payroll system (TruTrack) was replaced with a new system called MyTime. During the period leading up to the transition to this new system, Eileen was involved in its user testing. During the implementation, both payroll systems were run in parallel for two complete pay periods. Due to challenges with the implementation process, staff responsible for data entry on the new system had not received adequate training. As a result, Eileen was required to enter all changes on both systems and act as primary point of contact within Transit Police for all questions relating to the new system. Despite the enormous workload during transition, Eileen ensured that payroll was accurate and that cut-off deadlines were met. For demonstrating exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of her duties, over time, Transit Police awards Eileen with the Deputy Chief Officer's Commendation.



Photo: Deputy Chief Barry Kross and Eileen Marsland

Customer Service Awards

Sandra Boleak

In 2014, the Chief Officer identified four Operational Priorities for Transit Police. Work carried out in relation to each of the priorities was guided and overseen by a working committee. Sandra Boleak provided administrative support to each of the four committees. Through commitment and initiative, Sandra designed consistent monitoring processes, kept detailed records of all of the work undertaken by the committees and supported committee members. This work enabled each committee to track and report all efforts in support of the Chief Officer's declared objectives and subsequently created a template as the organization moves forward in 2015. For exhibiting a pattern of consistency in the delivery of outstanding customer service and demonstrating a sense of dedication to duty and ingenuity, Sandra Boleak is being recognized with a Customer Service Award.



Photo: Chief Officer Neil Dubord and Sandra Boleak

Constable Rob Dalla Zanna

From March 2014 to January 2015, Constable Rob Dalla Zanna was the recipient of letters of thanks and other appreciation from members of the public for providing what they acknowledged as service beyond the expectations of normal police duties. One such occasion referred to the extensive enquiries made to ensure the safe return of personal belongings to a person with disability. Another acknowledgment referred to the lengths to which Constable Dalla Zanna went to return them safely home and assistance he provided in retrieving their property. For exhibiting a pattern of consistency in the delivery of outstanding customer service, Constable Rob Dalla Zanna is being recognized with a Customer Service Award.



Photo: Chief Officer Neil Dubord and Cst. Rob Dalla Zanna

Community Bravery Award

Larry Tuck

On October 10 2014, while working at New Westminster SkyTrain Station as a SkyTrain Attendant, Larry was approached by a security guard and advised of someone camped out in the emergency exit, three storeys above the ground. After Larry approached the person, it became clear through both words and actions that they were attempting to commit suicide. Larry quickly took control of the situation by grabbing the person's shirt and pulling them back from the railing, safely onto the floor. Then he stayed with the distressed person until Transit Police arrived to transport them to hospital where they were subsequently admitted for treatment. For taking initiative in the face of danger and preventing a suicide, Transit Police is pleased to award Larry Tuck with the Community Bravery Award.



Photo: Chief Officer Neil Dubord and Larry Tuck

Lorne Hussey

On January 1, 2015 Lorne Hussey was carrying out his duties as a Coast Mountain Bus Company operator in Vancouver. A woman boarded the bus and sat at the rear of the vehicle. Minutes later Lorne heard a commotion, shouting and screaming. He saw the same woman strike two other passengers with an umbrella. Lorne had the presence of mind to safely stop the vehicle and physically intervene by holding the assailant while directing one of the victims to call police. He also restrained the assailant until police arrived and arrested her for assault with a weapon. For acting on his own initiative in the face of danger and assisting in the apprehension of an offender, Transit Police are pleased to award Lorne Hussey with the Community Bravery Award.



Photo: Chief Officer Neil Dubord and Lorne Hussey

Chief Officer's Commendation

Kelly Steele

Kelly joined the Transit Police Training Unit in 2013. Since joining the unit, Kelly has worked tirelessly to transform many elements of the unit's work to ensure they reflect both the needs of the organization and employees. Systems developed by Kelly have ensured that allocation of the training budget has been administered efficiently and effectively and thus resulted in a maximum return on investment. In particular, Kelly created and populated a Master Training Log that provided a foundational reference point for both staff and management to fully understand existing competencies and skills as well as highlighting opportunities for additional training. Kelly willingly undertook this monumental task on her initiative and very successfully completed it without specific direction. For developing a program that has had a substantial effect on the operation of Transit Police, Kelly Steele is awarded with the Chief Officer's Commendation.

Sergeant Wendy Hawthorne

In May 2013, Sergeant Wendy Hawthorne took on the position as the first Client Support Sergeant for Transit Police. Since that time, she has worked hard to advance sexual offending awareness, build relationships with jurisdictional police partners at the Mental Health Working Group and deliver safety and violence in the workplace presentations to newly hired Coast Mountain Bus Company operators.

Sergeant Hawthorne has successfully coordinated and attended dozens of community events throughout Metro Vancouver and worked hard to elevate the positive image of Transit Police. For her tireless dedication in developing and advancing each of the four operational priorities, Transit Police is pleased to recognize Sergeant Wendy Hawthorne with the Chief Officer's Commendation.



Photo: Chief Officer Neil Dubord and Sgt. Wendy Hawthorne



Transit Police

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