



# Metro Vancouver Transit Police 2019 Awards

Justice Institute May 6, 2019





# METRO VANCOUVER TRANSIT POLICE AWARDS 2019

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## POLICE EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDALS AND COMMISSIONS

The Police Exemplary Service Program recognizes police officers for long and exemplary Canadian police service in qualifying Canadian police forces. Each of our recipients today has dedicated 20 or 30 years of service to keeping our communities safe.



*Photo: Chief Officer Dave Jones, Sgt. Randy Regush, Cst. Scott Hogg, Cst. Gordon McGuinness, Cst. Rob Dalla Zanna and Sgt. Roopjit Baweja*

### Receiving the first bar to the Police Exemplary Service Medal recognizing 30 years of service:

Congratulations to Sergeant Randy Regush, Sergeant Malcolm Evanson, Constable Scott Hogg, Constable Gordon McGuinness and Constable Rob Dalla Zanna for completing 30 years of service.

### Receiving the Police Exemplary Service Medal recognizing 20 years of service:

Congratulations to Sergeant Roopjit Baweja and Constable Donna Deis for completing 20 years of service.

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

On January 30th, Metro Vancouver Transit Police Constable Josh Harms was shot at Scott Road SkyTrain Station while on duty. There were a number of TransLink Enterprise employees who went beyond the call of duty and helped both Metro Vancouver Transit Police and Surrey RCMP officers working the crime scene.

### Graeme Haigh and Phaer Bianco

SkyTrain Attendants Graeme Haigh and Phaer Bianco were at Scott Road Station at the time of the shooting. They immediately ran to Cst. Harms and began administering First Aid. The two attendants remained with Harms, keeping him as calm as possible until the paramedics arrived. For their quick action in administering First Aid to Cst. Harms, Graeme Haigh and Phaer Bianco are presented with Certificates of Appreciation.



*Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Phaer Bianco, Graeme Haigh and Inspector CJ Kyle*

### Martin Schaefer

SkyTrain Control Operator Martin Schaefer was in charge of train operations on the Expo Line at the time of the shooting. He quickly rerouted trains to avoid them stopping at Scott Road SkyTrain Station, enabling its closure for investigation and to preserve evidence at the crime scene. For playing a key role in assisting Metro Vancouver Transit Police and the Surrey RCMP in securing the crime scene, Martin Schaefer is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



*Photo S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Martin Schaefer and Inspector Cj Kyle*



## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

### **Ryan O'Connell, Lynne Albertini, Tony Pena, Will Hebert and Jay Syverson**

Duty Managers Ryan O'Connell and Jay Syverson, Field Supervisors Will Hebert and Lynne Albertini, and SkyTrain Attendant Tony Pena were part of the BC Rapid Transit Company Field Operations team that helped in evacuating and securing Scott Road SkyTrain Station after the shooting. The team attended and monitored the platform while it was an active crime scene, gathered witnesses and held them at the scene for the police. For playing a key role in assisting Metro Vancouver Transit Police and the Surrey RCMP following the shooting, Ryan O'Connell, Tony Pena, Lynne Albertini, Will Hebert and Jay Syverson are each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



*Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Jay Syverson, Ryan O'Connell, Lynne Albertini and Inspector CJ Kyle*

### **Jeff Kim, Doug Fergus, Dale Mackie and Bobby Chand**

Transit Security Officers Jeff Kim, Doug Fergus and Dale Mackie, and Security Operations Coordinator Bobby Chand, were part of the Coast Mountain Bus Company team that assisted in evacuating and securing the station after the shooting. The team then assisted with crowd control, traffic control and securing the area perimeter. For going above and beyond in supporting the Metro Vancouver Transit Police and Surrey RCMP officers working the crime scene, Jeff Kim, Dale Mackie, Bobby Chand, and Doug Fergus are each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



*Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Jeff Kim, Doug Fergus, Dale Mackie, Bobby Chand and Inspector CJ Kyle*

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

### Nick Kelloff

On July 13, 2018, Transit Security Officer Nick Kelloff brought Transit Police's attention to a post on Twitter describing a sexual assault that had occurred on transit. Due to his actions, the victim was positively identified and, once contacted, agreed to file a report, which she had been reluctant to do prior. Kelloff continues to be a champion for Metro Vancouver Transit Police on social media and frequently shares transit safety messaging. For his role in ensuring that a sexual assault was reported and a victim provided with the assistance she required, Transit Security Officer Nick Kelloff is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Nick Kelloff and Inspector CJ Kyle

### Katie Marando

In early 2018, SkyTrain Attendant Katie Marando was working at a Millennium Line SkyTrain Station when she saw an individual who she believed was potentially a suspect from an previous assault at another nearby SkyTrain Station. She contacted Metro Vancouver Transit Police, who were able to use the information she provided to positively identify and arrest the man. For her strong attention to detail, getting to know the passengers at SkyTrain stations and providing essential information to catch a known offender, SkyTrain Attendant Katie Marando is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Katie Marando and Inspector CJ Kyle

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

### Stuart Crawford, Owen Crawford, Craig Shimmons and John MacDonald

On October 24, 2018, Stuart Crawford, Owen Crawford, Craig Shimmons and John MacDonald were driving past Moody Centre SkyTrain Station when they saw two Metro Vancouver Transit Police officers trying to arrest a man with an outstanding warrant. The man had used pepper spray and was resisting arrest. Stuart Crawford, Owen Crawford, Craig Shimmons and John MacDonald assisted the officers, so that the suspect could be arrested. For choosing to stop and help, instead of continuing to drive past, Stuart Crawford, Owen Crawford, Craig Shimmons and John MacDonald are each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



*Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Stuart Crawford and Inspector CJ Kyle*

### Karen Ahiaba

On October 26, 2017, Karen Ahiaba was on the SkyTrain when she came across a woman in distress. Karen approached the woman and remained with her, missing her own station, until they reached police waiting to take the distressed woman to hospital. Karen showed compassion, bravery and selflessness in remaining with the distraught woman even after the police were on scene. For her selfless act of compassion, Karen Ahiaba is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



*Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Karen Ahiaba and Inspector CJ Kyle*



## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

### Dan Kealey and Sandra Kralemann

On September 28, 2018, two young men were assaulted onboard a SkyTrain. Metro Vancouver Transit Police later released a public appeal to help identify the suspect. Dan Kealey and Sandra Kralemann, security guards with the City of Vancouver, were on duty at the Gathering Place Community Centre when they witnessed a man at a Laundromat across the street who matched the description issued by Transit Police. They reported the individual to Transit Police, resulting in the suspect's arrest in a matter of hours after the public appeal was issued. For being observant, not just at their place of employment, but also of the surrounding areas, as well as their timely actions and going beyond the call of duty, Dan Kealey and Sandra Kralemann are each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



*Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton, Sandra Kralemann, Dan Kealey and Inspector CJ Kyle*

### Surrey Crime Prevention Society

Surrey Crime Prevention Society volunteers support Transit Police every week on a variety of joint initiatives including, but not limited to, promoting 'See Something Say Something' messaging and the Transit Police text service, working with the Surrey Neighbourhood Police Officer on joint community engagement, lock out crime awareness outreach and audits, distracted driving and speeding enforcement campaigns. Their regular presence at transit hubs in Surrey B.C. not only assists in crime prevention but also provides another visible source of safety reassurance to passengers using the system. For going above and beyond in ensuring the day-to-day safety and security of travelers in Surrey, the Surrey Crime Prevention Society volunteer team is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



*Photo: S/Sgt. Bruce Hamilton and Inspector CJ Kyle with Surrey Crime Prevention Society volunteers*



## Inspector's Commendation

### Cst. Shiraz Hanif

In 2018, Constable Shiraaz Hanif collaborated with the RCMP on safety initiatives and outreach in the Muslim community, attending 16 events at various mosques across Metro Vancouver within six months, and continuing to do so today. He has reached almost 30,000 members of the Muslim community to establish trust and encourage reporting. For providing assistance and helping build goodwill in the community, Constable Shiraaz Hanif is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



*Photo: Inspector Hermann Daffydd with Cst. Shiraz Hanif*

### Csts. Wilson Leung and Laki Avgerinos

On February 22, 2019, Constable Wilson Leung and Constable Laki Avgerinos went to check the well-being of two elderly women at a SkyTrain station, both of whom were reported to be suffering from some mental health issues. The officers found that the women were living in an uninhabitable home, and got them set up with temporary housing and food. They also helped the women connect with mental health resources to assist in finding permanent living arrangements and ongoing mental health care. For going beyond the call and helping the elderly women access the help they needed, Constables Wilson Leung and Laki Avgerinos are each presented with an Inspector Commendation.



*Photo: Inspector Hermann Daffydd with Csts. Laki Avgerinos and Wilson Leung*

## DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER COMMENDATIONS

### Cst. Amanda Steed

On September 20, 2018, while on vacation, Constable Amanda Steed observed a woman attempting to rescue a friend who had gone into medical distress while swimming. Constable Steed quickly swam over, pulled the unconscious woman out of the water, and immediately began chest compressions. After several rounds of CPR, the woman began to breathe again. Emergency personnel arrived and transported the woman to the hospital where she made a full recovery. For her professionalism, quick response and saving a life, Constable Amanda Steed is presented with the Deputy Chief Officer Commendation.



*Photo: Deputy Chief Mike Cumberworth with Cst. Amanda Steed*

### Sgt. Randy Regush

In 2018, Sergeant Randy Regush identified a significant panhandling problem involving several chronic offenders on the Canada Line. He researched options with key stakeholders including Crown Counsel and ProTrans to develop a plan that was achievable and sustainable. Over a period of several months, he coordinated resources, planned, monitored and coordinated the execution of the plan. Sergeant Regush also maintained communication with the key stakeholders to ensure the plan would be sustained over the long term. For identifying a problem, developing and implementing a solution, and for empowering others within Metro Vancouver Transit Police to deal with chronic panhandlers, Sergeant Randy Regush is presented with a Deputy Chief Officer Commendation.



*Photo: Deputy Chief Mike Cumberworth with Sgt. Randy Regush*



## LETTER OF APPRECIATION

### Surrey RCMP

On January 30, 2019, Metro Vancouver Transit Police was challenged with a situation that no police agency wants to be in, after one of our officers was shot in the line of duty.

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, and in the days, weeks and months that have followed, Surrey RCMP have provided an overwhelming level of support to Transit Police, including the officer who was injured and his family, fellow officers who were on scene or responded afterwards, and all other staff who have had to deal with the after effects of this significant event.

Surrey RCMP demonstrated the highest level of professionalism in responding to the scene and ensuring the safety of all Transit Police, TransLink staff, passengers and local citizens.

Their efforts culminated in the successful arrest and charge approval of the suspect involved, assisting in the healing process within Transit Police.

For their exemplary and steadfast support for their brothers and sisters of Metro Vancouver Transit Police, Surrey RCMP is presented with a Letter of Appreciation



*Photo: Chief Dave Jones, A/Commissioner Dwayne McDonald, Inspector Cliff Chastellaine, S/Sgt. Winston Shorey, Cpls. John Cosmidis and Ann Grydeland*

## COMMUNITY BRAVERY AWARDS

### Jag Punn

On March 26, 2018, Jag Punn assisted Metro Vancouver Transit Police Constable, Michael Woolley, in the arrest of a man at King George SkyTrain Station. Constable Woolley was by himself when the man, who had an outstanding warrant, tried to flee from arrest. At one point, the individual managed to escape and get through the fare gates. As Constable Woolley was trying to regain control of the man, Punn stepped in of his own accord and helped restrain the individual. Punn was extremely calm and composed and placed himself in harm's way to protect the public and a police officer. For his selfless act of courage, Jag Punn is presented with a Community Bravery Award.



Photo: Chief Dave Jones with Jag Punn

### Jake William Taylor

On December 4, 2017, Jake William Taylor was onboard the Canada Line SkyTrain when he saw a young woman being assaulted without any provocation. Taylor stepped between the two individuals, shielding the victim from the attacker. He confronted the attacker and, when the train stopped at Vancouver City Centre Station, shoved the assailant back until the man exited the train. After the attacker disembarked, Taylor remained with the victim, consoling her and providing reassurances about her safety until the police and paramedics arrived. Taylor's actions prevented further assault on the victim. For his bravery, willingness to intervene in an assault and protection of the victim, Jake William Taylor is presented with a Community Bravery Award.

### Kurt Bublitz

On December 19, 2016, Kurt Bublitz was on duty as a Power Technician for BC Rapid Transit Company, and aboard a SkyTrain, when he noted an agitated male armed with a machete. Metro Vancouver Transit Police members met the train at 29th Ave Station and Bublitz immediately began assisting the officers and SkyTrain Attendants by clearing passengers off the platform. He then stood guard at the station entrance to prevent anyone further from entering. When the man tried escaping towards the entrance, Bublitz reacted quickly to keep bystanders out of harm's way. Ultimately, the officers were forced to shoot the agitated man to prevent injury to others. For going beyond his duty as a technician, remaining calm in the face of danger and taking proactive action to ensure public safety, at considerable risk to himself, Kurt Bublitz is presented with a Community Bravery Award.





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**POLICE**

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