



Metro Vancouver Transit Police 2021 Awards



METRO VANCOUVER TRANSIT POLICE AWARDS 2021

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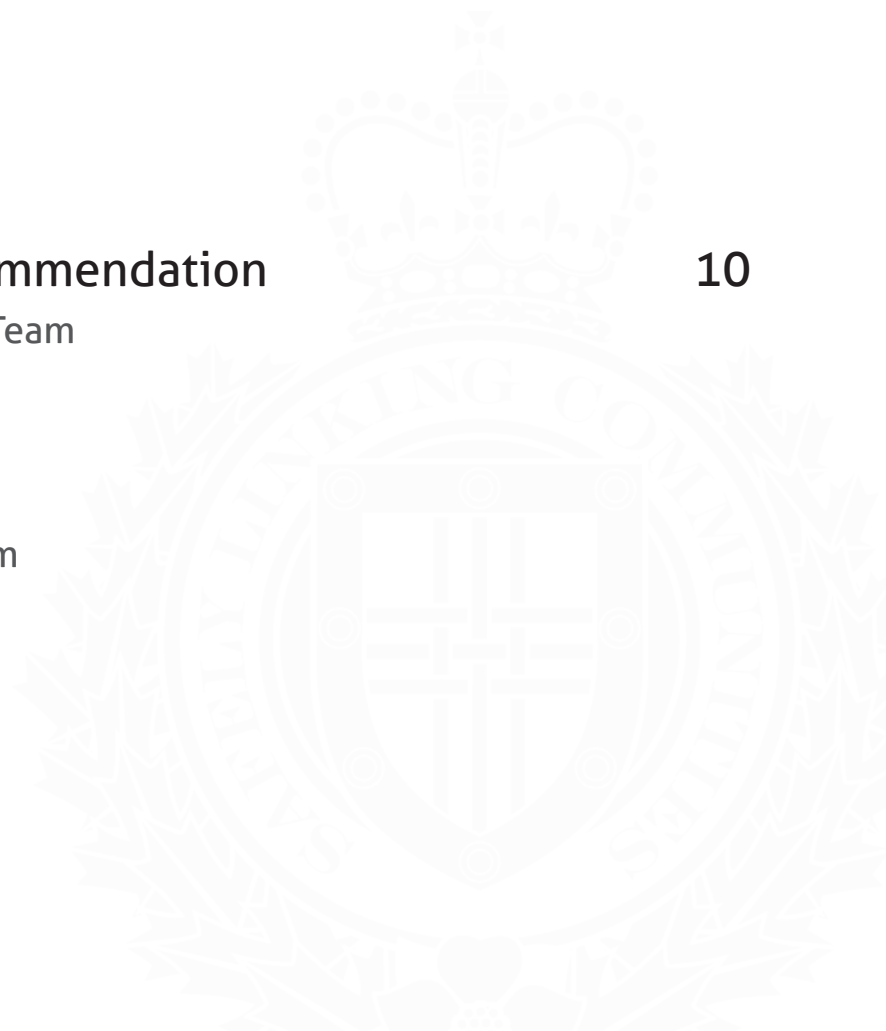
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Police Exemplary Service Medals

The Police Exemplary Service Program recognizes police officers for long and exemplary Canadian police service in qualifying Canadian police forces. Each recipient has dedicated 40 years of service to keeping our communities safe.



Photo (L-R): Inspector Daffydd Hermann and Staff Sergeant Douglas Fisher.

Receiving the second bar to the Police Exemplary Service Medal, recognizing 40 years of service:

Congratulations to Inspector Daffydd Hermann and Staff Sergeant Douglas Fisher for completing 40 years of exemplary service to public safety in Canada.

Inspector Commendations

Constable Angelo Pupo

On March 3, 2021, Constable Angelo Pupo was near Lansdowne Station when he received a radio alert by Richmond RCMP about a man with blood all over his face near the Earls at Lansdowne Mall.

Cst. Pupo headed to the scene immediately after hearing the call. He quickly assessed and identified the man who was suffering with a serious laceration to his neck and artery.

Recognizing the severity of an injury to the artery, Cst. Pupo applied pressure to the injury and performed CPR. His actions undoubtedly contributed to saving the man's life. For taking quick action to ensure an injured individual's survival and transportation to hospital, Constable Angelo Pupo is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Constable Angelo Pupo

Constable Shiraaz Hanif

During the summer of 2020, Constable Shiraaz Hanif was working as the Neighbourhood Police Officer for Commercial-Broadway Station when he came to know a homeless Indigenous man living under the SkyTrain guideway. Cst. Hanif worked to build trust and rapport with the elderly man.

Cst. Hanif engaged with Indigenous community resources and was able to secure a bed for the man at the Vancouver Friendship Centre. He also worked with multiple resources to obtain new clothes and food, and provided the man with transportation between locations. In the months that followed, Cst. Hanif continued to regularly check in with the man to ensure he was receiving all the support services required. For demonstrating compassion and empathy to an individual in need and ensuring a successful resolution and long-term support services for him, Constable Hanif is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Constable Shiraaz Hanif

Inspector Commendations

Constable Michael Woolley

In 2020, Constables Michael Woolley and Jag Johal identified an increase in crime and disorder issues surrounding Main Street-Science World SkyTrain Station, resulting in decreased feelings of safety by passengers.

The two constables decided to initiate a year-long project to address the decline in real and perceived safety at the station and surrounding area. They enlisted the support of all of the squads to ensure a consistent patrol presence in the area. They also worked with local businesses, transit employees, Parks Rangers, bylaw officers and other stakeholders. The result was a marked improvement at the station and surrounding area. For taking initiative and leading proactive efforts to improve safety at a significant transit hub, Constable Michael Woolley is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Constable Michael Woolley

Constable Jag Johal

In 2020, Constables Jag Johal and Michael Woolley identified an increase in crime and disorder issues surrounding Main Street-Science World SkyTrain Station, resulting in decreased feelings of safety by passengers.

The two constables decided to initiate a year-long project to address the decline in real and perceived safety at the station and surrounding area. They enlisted the support of all of the squads to ensure a consistent patrol presence in the area. They also worked with local businesses, transit employees, Parks Rangers, bylaw officers and other stakeholders. The result was a marked improvement at the station and surrounding area. For taking initiative and leading proactive efforts to improve safety at a significant transit hub, Constable Jag Johal is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Constable Jag Johal

Inspector Commendations

Constable Pardeep Pharwaha

On January 30, 2019, an unconscious and unresponsive male was discovered on board a train. Constable Pardeep Pharwaha and his partner arrived at Bridgeport Station to assist and several doses of Naloxone were administered to the man. He was hooked up with an Automatic External Defibrillator and CPR was performed as per the prompts from the AED. The man eventually regained consciousness as a result of these efforts and was transported to the hospital. For his considerable and protracted efforts to save a man's life leading to a successful outcome, Constable Pardeep Pharwaha presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Constable Pardeep Pharwaha

Volunteer Se Hoon Kim

On September 25, 2021, Se Hoon Kim was working as a Waterfront Community Policing Centre volunteer when he responded to a report of a man on the ground at the corner of Howe and Cordova Streets. Se Hoon and his co-volunteers arrived to find a bystander performing CPR on the man. The volunteers contacted 911, administered a dose of Naloxone and assisted in performing CPR. When emergency services arrived, they then assisted with traffic control of the area. After two more doses of Naloxone, the man sat up and was assessed by EHS as being okay. For performing life-saving first aid, Se Hoon Kim is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Waterfront Community Policing Centre Volunteer Se Hoon Kim

Inspector Commendations

Volunteer Ilya Kovalenko

On September 25, 2021, Ilya Kovalenko was working as a Waterfront Community Policing Centre volunteer when he responded to a report of a man on the ground at the corner of Howe and Cordova Streets. Ilya and his co-volunteers arrived to find a bystander performing CPR on the man. The volunteers contacted 911, administered dose of Naloxone and assisted in performing CPR.

When emergency services arrived, they then assisted with traffic control of the area. After two more doses of Naloxone, the man sat up and was assessed by EHS as being okay. For performing life-saving first aid, Ilya Kovalenko is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Waterfront Community Policing Centre Volunteer Ilya Kovalenko

Volunteer Evan Chong

On September 25, 2021, Evan Chong was working as a Waterfront Community Policing Centre volunteer when he responded to a report of a man on the ground at the corner of Howe and Cordova Streets. Evan and his co-volunteers arrived to find a bystander performing CPR on the man. The volunteers contacted 911, administered a dose of Naloxone and assisted in performing CPR.

When emergency services arrived, they then assisted with traffic control of the area. After two more doses of Naloxone, the man sat up and was assessed by EHS as being okay. For performing life-saving first aid, Evan Chong is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Waterfront Community Policing Centre Volunteer Evan Chong

Inspector Commendations

Volunteer Josh Ramirez

On August 9, 2021, Josh was part of the Waterfront Community Policing Centre team at Main Street-Science World SkyTrain Station. Josh and his co-volunteers identified a man that appeared to be injured. Upon assessment, they determined that the man was unresponsive with slowed breathing. Using their training to recognize signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose, they quickly engaged in the protocol and administered a dose of Naloxone, while advising Transit Police dispatch and requesting an ambulance. By the time the paramedics arrived, the male was now conscious and his breathing showed improvement. For providing the necessary medical intervention during a potentially serious overdose situation, Josh Ramirez is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Waterfront Community Policing Centre Volunteer Josh Ramirez

Volunteer Md Nahidul Islam

On August 9, 2021, Nahidul was part of the Waterfront Community Policing Centre team at Main Street-Science World SkyTrain Station. Nahidul and his co-volunteers identified a man that appeared to be injured. Upon assessment, they determined that the man was unresponsive with slowed breathing.

Using their training to recognize signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose, they quickly engaged in the protocol and administered a dose of Naloxone, while advising Transit Police dispatch and requesting an ambulance. By the time the paramedics arrived, the male was now conscious and his breathing showed improvement. For providing the necessary medical intervention during a potentially serious overdose situation, Md Nahidul Islam is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Waterfront Community Policing Centre Volunteer Nahidul Islam

Inspector Commendations

Volunteer Ryan Boehm

On August 9, 2021, Ryan was part of the Waterfront Community Policing Centre team at Main Street-Science World SkyTrain Station. Ryan and his co-volunteers identified a man that appeared to be injured. Upon assessment, they determined that the man was unresponsive with slowed breathing.

Using their training to recognize signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose, they quickly engaged in the protocol and administered a dose of Naloxone, while advising Transit Police dispatch and requesting an ambulance. By the time the paramedics arrived, the male was now conscious and his breathing showed improvement. For providing the necessary medical intervention during a potentially serious overdose situation, Ryan Boehm is presented with an Inspector Commendation.



Photo: Waterfront Community Policing Centre Volunteer Ryan Boehm

Deputy Chief Officer Commendations

Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team

In Spring 2020, the Metro Vancouver Transit Police set out to establish a new Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team with a mandate to conduct targeted, enhanced enforcement in and around the public transit system, including bus lanes and associated highways.

In September, the new team became a reality with a sergeant and three constables. Despite the difficult task at hand, the team quickly rose to the challenge. They expanded their knowledge and proficiency in Motor Vehicle Act enforcement, became the agency's subject matter experts on the new E-Ticketing system and later took on enforcement of the mandatory mask mandate during COVID. For successfully developing a new team from its inception, during a demanding time of significant change, the Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team is presented with a Deputy Chief Officer Unit Commendation.



Photo:(L-R): Constable Trevor Pomeroy, Sergeant Steve Newton, Constable Stacey Shannon and Constable Brad Dow

Constable Julien Ponsioen

Constable Julien Ponsioen was the Neighbourhood Police Officer for Downtown Vancouver. While working with other Community Policing Centres throughout the city, Constable Ponsioen identified the need for Transit Police to establish a Community Policing Centre at Waterfront Station. This initiative was large in scope, requiring a business case and budget, followed by securing sponsorships, recruiting volunteers, procuring clothing and equipment, developing performance analytics and mentoring team leaders. Through his dedication, perseverance and hard work, Constable Ponsioen launched the program with 60 volunteers in 2021, overcoming the additional challenges of a global pandemic. For his considerable and ongoing efforts to make this program a success, Constable Julien Ponsioen is presented with a Deputy Chief Officer Commendation.



Photo: Constable Julien Ponsioen

Deputy Chief Officer's Commendations

Constable Dave Savoy

Constable Savoy completed his Drug Recognition Expert training in 1998 and then went on to become a Standardized Field Sobriety Test instructor and Drug Recognition Expert instructor. He has taught across North America, from the West to the East Coast.

2020 posed a particularly challenging year for police agencies as many people experienced difficulties coping with the stresses of COVID and turned to alcohol and drugs. During this time, Cst. Savoy continued with active enforcement, resulting in 27 impaired drivers being taken off the road. For his proactive work to make the streets and our communities safer, and in recognition of his longstanding work in this area, Cst. Savoy is presented with a Deputy Chief Officer Commendation.



Photo: Constable Dave Savoy

Constable Kirk Rattray

In 2020, Constable Kirk Rattray took on the newly created role of Indigenous Liaison Officer for Transit Police. As part of his portfolio, he took the initiative to develop a program for youth aged 12-15, which incorporates an Indigenous cultural approach.

Constable Rattray applied for and subsequently received funding to launch the Blue Eagle Community Cadet Program. Despite the impacts of the COVID global pandemic, he was able to launch the program in March 2021, which sees 20-30 youth participate every week. For developing and launching a program that supports community policing and Indigenous engagement, Constable Kirk Rattray is presented with a Deputy Chief Officer Commendation.



Photo: Constable Kirk Rattray

Deputy Chief Officer Commendations

Constable Miles Teitelbaum

On December 19, 2016, Constable Miles Teitelbaum and his partner were enroute to an unrelated call when they received an alert to a weapons call at 29th Avenue Station. The officers arrived at the station to find a man wielding a machete on the SkyTrain. The officers put themselves in harm's way, shielding nearby passengers, evacuating the train and then containing the suspect within the train by closing the doors. Vancouver Police officers arrived as backup. A short time later, the suspect breached containment by kicking out the train window and advanced on the officers with the machete. A Vancouver Police officer shot him once and then took the suspect into custody. For taking actions that allowed nearby passengers to escape, while placing himself at risk, Constable Miles Teitelbaum is presented with a Deputy Chief Officer Commendation.



Photo: Constable Miles Teitelbaum

Constable Drew Van Wallegghem

On December 19, 2016, Constable Van Wallegghem and his partner were enroute to an unrelated call when they received an alert to a weapons call at 29th Avenue Station. The officers arrived at the station to find a man wielding a machete on the SkyTrain.

The officers put themselves in harm's way, shielding nearby passengers, evacuating the train and then containing the suspect within the train by closing the doors. Vancouver Police officers arrived as backup. A short time later, the suspect breached containment by kicking out the train window and advanced on the officers with the machete. A Vancouver Police officer shot him once and then took the suspect into custody. For taking actions that allowed nearby passengers to escape, while placing himself at risk, Constable Drew Van Wallegghem is presented with a Deputy Chief Officer Commendation.



Photo: Constable Drew Van Wallegghem



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