



# BEYOND THE CALL

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VPD COMMUNITY

## COMMENDATION AWARDS 2024





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# 2024

## THE JIM AND VICKI CHU

# Community Safety Leader Award

**MR. CRAIG JACKS AND MR. DAVID WOSK**

*MANY VANCOUVERITES go about their days and sleep through the night, completely unaware that there are people out in the community sacrificing their personal time to make Vancouver a safer place. Craig Jacks and David Wosk are two of those volunteers, close friends who are leaders within their communities.*

*David joined the VPD Community Crime Watch, then known as Citizens' Crime Watch, in 1986. Nine years later, in 1995, Craig joined him. As unpaid civilian volunteers, they patrol the city on Friday and Saturday nights, reporting crimes and suspicious activity to their police coordinator. Now both retired from their day job, they are showing no signs of slowing down, and continue to take almost every patrol shift available.*

*Road safety is another passion for the pair. They volunteer for Cell Watch, working with a traffic enforcement officer, observing and reporting drivers using cell phones. You will find them at ICBC Counterattack roadblocks, volunteering from early evening to early morning, as professional observers, looking for occupants switching places or throwing objects out windows, or making u-turns to avoid being caught.*

*Caring for their community continues with their charitable work, processing monthly donations to marginalized people and others in need. With a small team, they sort items, like diapers, toys, clothing, bedding, and home furnishings, and deliver them personally.*

*With their vast experience, David and Craig coach and mentor new volunteers. They have been directly involved in mentoring volunteers that have gone on to become police officers and special municipal constables.*

*As of December 2023, David completed 956 patrol shifts in Community Crime Watch, which amounts to 5736 hours of volunteer time. Craig completed 1656 patrol shifts, which is 9936 hours. They continue to face every shift with enthusiasm -- the first ones out on the road and the last ones to come in.*

*For their decades of dedication to crime prevention and public safety in our city, the Vancouver Police Department is proud to award Mr. Craig Jacks and Mr. David Wosk the 2024 Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award.*





# VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

# Award of Merit



*The Award of Merit is presented by the Vancouver Police Board to community members who, on their own initiative and in the face of actual or anticipated danger, have made an attempt at saving a life or have assisted the police in preventing a crime, or in apprehending or attempting to apprehend an offender.*

## 1. MS. MARY HOLLEY

It was 9 in the evening of November 14, 2020, when Mary Holley heard screaming coming from near her home. She stepped outside with her adult son and found her neighbour had dragged himself into an adjacent backyard, and he was suffering from multiple stab wounds.

Mary quickly entered the rear lane and saw a man wiping a knife on his pants. It was covered in blood. As he began to walk away, she quickly jumped into her car, which was parked in the laneway, and pinned the man up against a wooden post. When he escaped moments later, she followed in her car, providing updates to 911 until police arrived to arrest him.

Mary returned home to wait for forensic investigators. As it began to rain, she ensured her son held an umbrella over the bumper of her car to prevent any potential evidence from washing away.

Mary's neighbour did not survive his injuries, and her actions were critical to ensuring his attacker was arrested and held accountable for his actions.

For quick-thinking courage under pressure, leading to the arrest of a very dangerous man, Ms. Mary Holley is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

## 2. MS. MIYA COUTLEE MR. MASON REMESZ

Miya Coutlee and Mason Remesz were walking along Sunset Beach in the pre-dawn hours of October 3, 2021, when they heard screaming. They quickly learned that a woman had suddenly and unexpectedly gone into the water, and disappeared from view of her friends, who were on the beach and frantically calling for help.

Without hesitation, the pair immediately entered the water. They found the unconscious woman in deep water and pulled her back to shore. Mason and Miya began CPR at the shoreline until police arrived to take over. Sadly, the young woman later died in hospital.

For entering the cold and dark water to rescue a stranger, at great risk to their personal safety, Ms. Miya Coutlee and Mr. Mason Remesz are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

## 3. MS. REBECCA CHAPMAN

On September 10, 2019, Rebecca Chapman was working as a support worker at a residence for people living with mental health concerns. Just after 8 p.m., she was in the kitchen when she heard a noise and someone yelling from upstairs.

A resident ran into the kitchen, surprised to see her. Before she could say anything, he continued running out the door. Seconds later, another resident stumbled into the kitchen and collapsed, bleeding profusely from a wound on the left side of his neck.

Rebecca did not initially realize the man who had run from the house was responsible for the attack, and believed the suspect was still upstairs. That did not deter her from remaining in the house to provide first aid. When officers arrived, she was giving chest compressions, as the man's condition was quickly deteriorating.

Despite Rebecca's heroic efforts, the victim was pronounced dead at the hospital. The person responsible was arrested in the area a short time later.

For her courageous actions in trying to save a life, without concern for her own safety, Ms. Rebecca Chapman is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

## 4. MR. RICHARD WASNOCK

It was the summer of 2022, in the early evening, when a despondent woman posted a suicidal message on social media, along with a photo of her location.

Her daughter and three of the woman's friends all saw the message. They recognized where she was and immediately rushed to help.

Richard Wasnock was the first person to arrive at the building, but he was unable to get in. He quickly jumped on a vehicle and hoisted himself up onto his friend's apartment balcony, where he found her unconscious. He began life-saving first aid to resuscitate her, before Vancouver Fire Rescue arrived and took over.

The woman was taken to hospital to recover and receive help.

For coming to the aid of a friend in desperate need, using whatever means necessary to help save her life, Mr. Richard Wasnock is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

## 5. MR. SOICHIRO OKU MR. DONALD PAINCHAUD

Soichiro Oku and Donald Painchaud were walking across the Cambie Street Bridge just after 2 a.m. on October 23, 2022, and noticed a man stripping off all of his clothing. When he began to climb over the guardrail, the pair raced toward him.

They grabbed the man, who was intoxicated, and pulled him back over the guardrail to safety. The man resisted their help, so they held on to his arms and pinned him against the concrete barrier separating the pedestrian and bike path from traffic.

A cyclist flagged down two VPD constables in front of police headquarters at the south end of the bridge. They arrived to find Soichiro and Donald struggling with the man and quickly rushed to help. Before they could intervene, the man broke free and ran again toward the railing.

The officers grabbed his arms, as he continued to struggle. They were able to take custody of the man, and he was taken to hospital for treatment.

For putting their safety at great risk to save the life of a man they had never met, Mr. Soichiro Oku and Mr. Donald Painchaud are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

## 6. MR. GARY CONNELL MR. RICHARD MCDONALD

On the early morning of May 11, 2023, Gary Connell was walking his dogs near the marina at W. 1st Avenue and Creekside Drive. Two fishermen on one of the boats called out to him and another passerby, Richard McDonald, alerting them to a man in the water.

The man had been working on his sailboat, which was docked at the marina, when the fishermen saw him slip, hit his head, and fall unconscious into the water.

Without hesitation, Gary and Richard jumped into the cold water, where the man lay face down. They pulled him to the dock, and Connell performed CPR.

Paramedics arrived and treated the large gash on the back of the man's head, before taking him to hospital.

For their swift response in saving the life of a stranger, Mr. Gary Connell and Mr. Richard McDonald are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.



# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S *Award of Valour*

## DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BLAKE CHERSINOFF AND CONSTABLE SCOTT MACDONALD

ON THE MORNING OF JULY 5, 2021, two grandparents watched in horror as their two-year-old grandson was snatched by a neighbour and taken inside his locked suite.

Officers arrived and attempted to talk to the man through his door. He was yelling and the child was crying. They knew they had to breach the door.

Constable Blake Chersinoff was the first officer through the door. He was met by the man brandishing a butcher knife in each hand. Chersinoff immediately warned the officers behind him, as the suspect lunged at him, stabbing him in the shoulder and chest area. Constable Scott MacDonald took the still-armed man to the ground, injuring his hand. He continued to struggle to control the attacker, along with two other officers.

Despite serious and potentially life-threatening injuries, Constable Chersinoff hurried to the child to ensure he was unharmed. Additional officers arrived and the suspect was taken into custody. He was charged with kidnapping, forcible confinement, and attempted murder.

For extreme heroism in protecting a child from an armed suspect, who was intent on causing them serious harm or death, Detective Constable Blake Chersinoff and Constable Scott MacDonald are awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for bravery, the Award of Valour.



CONSTABLE SCOTT MACDONALD AND DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BLAKE CHERSINOFF





## CHIEF CONSTABLE'S *Award of Valour*

CONSTABLES STEVE HEREJK, CHRIS BOWATER, MATTHEW NIELSEN, JASON BARHAM, DANIEL ANZULOVICH, KELSEY WOODS, ACTING SERGEANT GREG PARKES, AND CONSTABLE ADAM HOHMANN

SERGEANT JORDAN CRONDAHL  
ACTING SERGEANT GREG PARKES  
CONSTABLE DANIEL ANZULOVICH  
CONSTABLE JASON BARHAM  
CONSTABLE CHRIS BOWATER  
CONSTABLE THOMAS GYSLER  
CONSTABLE STEVE HEREJK  
CONSTABLE ADAM HOHMANN  
CONSTABLE MATTHEW NIELSEN  
CONSTABLE KELSEY WOODS

On the evening of April 27, 2022, Constables Thomas Gysler and Daniel Anzulovich, and Acting Sergeant Greg Parkes, were called to a residence to assist paramedics. They encountered a man who refused to take his hand out of a small shopping bag. As the man got to his feet, he pulled a handgun from the bag and began firing at them. The officers, along with another resident and the paramedics, retreated into the hall.

Additional officers arrived from across the city and surrounded the building. The man continued to fire the gun out into the hallway and out of the ground floor level patio.

Anzulovich, Parkes, and Constables Adam Hohmann and Kelsey Woods risked gunfire and entered the building, guarding the inside door of the suite so the shooter did not escape into other areas of the building. The gunman came out and fired at them, then quickly retreated back inside when they returned fire. The group went to work evacuating residents and escorting people to safety.

Sergeant Jordan Crondahl attempted to locate the shooter, and directed evacuation efforts and resources. Constable Steve Herejk was by his side, and the two officers exposed themselves to potential gunfire numerous times. Herejk was also struck in the face with a shattered piece of fence, splitting his lip and breaking several teeth, which did not stop him from resuming his cover position.

Constables Barham and Nielsen also risked gunfire, as Barham shielded fellow officers and returned gunfire, and Nielsen helped pull Herejk to safety when he was injured.

Constable Chris Bowater, a medic, was working to set up containment, and his close proximity to the gunman put him at risk for gunfire. When the gunman was shot by police two hours after the incident began, he assisted with medical intervention for the gunman. The man did not survive.

A significant quantity of firearms and ammunition was found inside the suite.

For exposing themselves to grave danger in order to preserve civilian life and the lives of other officers, the following officers are awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for bravery, the Award of Valour: Sergeant Jordan Crondahl, Acting Sergeant Greg Parkes, and Constables Daniel Anzulovich, Jason Barham, Chris Bowater, Thomas Gysler, Steve Herejk, Adam Hohmann, Matthew Nielsen and Kelsey Woods.



# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S *Commendations*



## 1. **CONSTABLE JESSE LEE** **CONSTABLE RILEY ROBAZZA**

Constables Riley Robazza and Jesse Lee were called to an apartment building on Keefer Street in July 2021 when a two-year-old boy was grabbed by his grandparents' neighbour, and taken inside his apartment. The constables arrived, along with two other officers. They could hear the man yelling and the child crying inside the suite, and realized immediately that they would need to breach the door.

When they entered the suite, the man was waiting for them, armed with a butcher knife in each hand. The first officer through the door was stabbed and suffered serious injuries. The second officer took the suspect down to the ground, injuring his hand in the process. Robazza and Lee joined the struggle, as the suspect continued to resist arrest.

Constable Robazza saw a small window of opportunity to use her Taser, which gave the other constables the advantage to gain control and handcuff the suspect.

The little boy was not physically injured in the incident.

For their tenacity in stopping a man intent on harming their fellow officers, and rescuing a child from potential danger, Constables Riley Robazza and Jesse Lee are awarded the Chief Constable's commendation.

## 2. **SERGEANT DESMOND ROBERTS** **CONSTABLE ELLEN FALLIS** **CONSTABLE ALISON LOADER**

Constables Ellen Fallis and Alison Loader, and Sergeant Desmond Roberts, were doing a wellness check at the Portland Hotel on February 11, 2022, just before noon. As they finished, a fire alarm started sounding. Staff advised that it wasn't uncommon for people to smoke in the stairwells and set off the alarm.

LEFT: CONSTABLE JESSE LEE

As the officers walked down the stairs to leave the building, they arrived to complete chaos on the third floor. The alarm was still sounding loudly, dogs were barking, and several tenants living with mental illness had come out into the hallway and were yelling unintelligibly. The floor was coated in thick smoke, making it difficult to breathe and to orient their next course of action. It was clear there was a growing fire somewhere on the floor and the tenants were confused and at grave risk.

Vancouver Fire and Rescue were requested, but it would be several minutes before they arrived. One of the constables found a fire extinguisher, while the other two began evacuating tenants. Many of the building residents live with physical and mental health issues, substance dependencies, and other challenges. Trying to reason with them during a time of total confusion and when they were unaware of the potentially deadly situation they were in was challenging. The officers had to breach the doors to some of the suites, and evacuated all of the tenants, including a man in a wheelchair and a dog.

They located the suite where an active fire appeared to be creating the smoke. It was unclear if anyone was inside and the smoke was so thick they crawled inside on their hands and knees. They used the extinguisher on a piece of furniture that seemed to be the source of the fire.

There were no civilian injuries, but the officers were taken to hospital to receive treatment for smoke and carbon monoxide inhalation.

For their bravery in taking quick and decisive action to protect vulnerable citizens from harm, at great risk to their own personal safety, Sergeant Desmond Roberts, and Constables Ellen Fallis and Alison Loader, are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.





DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ANISHA MYETTE AND SERGEANT SANDY AVELAR

### 3. SERGEANT SANDY AVELAR DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ANISHA MYETTE

When Sergeant Sandy Avelar and Detective Constable Anisha Myette were partners and investigating gang crime on the frontlines, they encountered a significant number of young women. When looking for ways to help steer them away from the gang life, there did not appear to be education or resources available to support women and girls.

The two officers created Her Time, a program to prevent young women from entering the gang lifestyle, and to provide those already entrenched with an exit strategy. Through outreach, they educate parents and community members, and supply other law enforcement agencies with information on female involvement in gangs.

With the support of the Vancouver Police Foundation and the Washington Kids Foundation, Her Time provides in-school and afterschool programs to help girls gain skills in relationship building, technology, finances, and health and fitness. They work in collaboration with Safer Schools Together, the Odd Squad, and B.C. Crime Stoppers.

Sergeant Avelar and Detective Constable Myette have presented locally, nationally, and internationally, and have involved women who have successfully exited their lives in organized crime to share their experiences and stories. In 2019, they were recognized with an International Association of Women Police community service award.

For identifying a need and developing a program with a continued and long-lasting effect for young women in the community, Sergeant Sandy Avelar and Detective Constable Anisha Myette are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.





CONSTABLE JASON DOUCETTE

#### 4. CONSTABLE JASON DOUCETTE

Constable Jason Doucette patrols the West End of Vancouver as a Neighbourhood Police Officer. When the behaviours of a woman, who was living on the street and suffering from mental health and substance use issues, began to cause a significant disruption to the community, he was determined to find a solution.

Every day, police were receiving an average of three to four calls involving the woman, who was causing disturbances day and night, blocking access to buildings, banging her head and body against the windows and walls of businesses, damaging restaurant washrooms or using illegal drugs, and more — over 650 calls in 2021 alone. She had also been assaulted more than once by other homeless people in the area.

For 18 months, Constable Doucette persevered, taking a compassionate approach to address the root cause of her behavioural issues, while balancing the needs of the community. He provided daily updates to her mental health team to help them better understand the scope of her issues, and arranged for them to give medical treatment on the street.

Constable Doucette had daily meetings with residents and businesses and addressed their concerns. He checked on the woman frequently — often multiple times during his shift.

His efforts resulted in a new home for the woman in a modern mental health facility that was capable of addressing her unique health needs. Constable Doucette ensured that long-term care would be provided to prevent her from being cycled back onto the street.

For his compassion and persistence in solving a complex issue, improving the quality of life for a vulnerable citizen and an entire community, Constable Jason Doucette is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

#### 5. SERGEANT COREY BECH CONSTABLE BRIAN HADDON

In the early morning hours of September 9, 2021, a man entered a Fairview shelter and began throwing items and assaulting the staff. He doused the office and the employees with an accelerant and threatened to light them on fire.

The staff fought their way into a back office, shut themselves inside, and called 911.

When Sergeant Corey Bech and Constable Brian Haddon arrived, people were fleeing from the building, screaming that a man had gone crazy and was trying to burn the building down. Without hesitation, the officers went inside and noted a strong smell of lighter fluid. They could hear the staff yelling for help and saw a man spraying a door and wall with liquid, then lighting it on fire.

As flames went up the wall, they called out to the man to get on the ground. He walked toward them, accelerant in one hand, matches in the other. As they tried to take hold of him, he fought, and the officers ended up in a fight for their lives. In addition to hitting and kicking the officers, he attempted to disarm them by trying to rip their guns from their holsters.

When additional officers arrived, the suspect was placed in handcuffs. He was arrested for arson endangering life, assault with a weapon, assaulting a police officer, disarming a police officer, assault, carrying a concealed weapon, and possession of a dangerous weapon.

For their heroic actions in preventing serious injury or death to the shelter staff and residents, Sergeant Corey Bech and Constable Brian Haddon are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

#### 6. SERGEANT BRIAN BARUZZI DETECTIVE CONSTABLE CARLA YOUNG

Taskforce Tourniquet was formed in March 2017 when an increase in gang violence through the Lower Mainland became a deadly public safety threat. The taskforce grew into a large-scale, multi-jurisdictional initiative led by the VPD.

The taskforce went to work on Project Tariff, which centered on a group of violent drug traffickers operating in Richmond and on the south slope of Vancouver. The group was responsible for extorting a drug user for his vehicle and over \$30,000, and once fired shots into the air when police arrived at their residence for a report of firearms.

Detective Constable Carla Young devised an undercover operation to target the group, and coordinated 34 high-risk scenarios. As the primary undercover operator, Sergeant Brian Baruzzi successfully infiltrated the group.

On arrest day, Young ran a complex operation, involving the purchase of fentanyl and two semi-automatic assault rifles from two suspects. It required precise timing and coordination with surveillance teams and Emergency Response Team members.

During the exchange for the firearms, Baruzzi maintained his composure when the suspects suddenly stole back the delivered guns. He continued working with them, still securing the fentanyl deal. The firearms were later recovered by investigators.

For demonstrating outstanding skill, judgement, and courage, resulting in convictions for firearms and drug-related offences for all five members of a criminal gang, Sergeant Brian Baruzzi and Detective Constable Carla Young are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.





## 7. SERGEANT KEITH HOWSON-JONES CONSTABLE JESSE SCHELLENBERG

In a densely populated Vancouver neighbourhood in April 2022, 40 Vancouver Police officers responded to an apartment building after a man began actively shooting at police officers who had been called to assist paramedics. The man barricaded himself inside one of the suites, and was firing both inside and outside of the building.

Sergeant Keith Howson-Jones, a long-gun operator, was positioned on the second floor of an adjacent building, attempting to get a view from above, exposing himself to possible gunfire. He smashed the window of a second floor suite to get a possible angle for a shot. A fence surrounding a ground-floor patio obscured sight lines, and there were poor lighting conditions on the patio and at the front of the building.

From his front containment position, Constable Jesse Schellenberg attempted to subdue the gunman with rifle fire. He risked potential gunfire, as he tactically repositioned to a construction site across from the building to get a better view of the shooter's suite.

Two hours after the incident began, the gunman was shot and killed by police. A significant quantity of firearms and ammunition was found inside the suite.

For their extreme bravery while under the threat of gunfire, Sergeant Keith Howson-Jones and Constable Jesse Schellenberg are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

LEFT: SERGEANT KEITH HOWSON-JONES AND CONSTABLE JESSE SCHELLENBERG



# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S *Citations*



## 1. **PROJECT TEMPER**

**SERGEANT MIKE BAL**

**SERGEANT SCOTT FISHER**

**SERGEANT ROB JABERG**

**SERGEANT SONNY THIARA**

**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KEVIN BOYLE**

**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BOB SANDHER**

**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER WHITE**

As part of Taskforce Tourniquet, a multi-jurisdictional initiative to tackle gang violence, Project Temper focused on a violent group operating in the South Slope area of Vancouver under a known gang associate.

In October 2017, investigators received a tip that the group was planning to commit murder, so they set in motion a series of covert investigative tactics. This led to identifying the suspects and arresting them less than a block from the location of their intended victim.

Further information was received the following day that the gang was planning a second murder. The two suspects were arrested as they tried to flee from the location they had planned to commit the murder, and a firearm was recovered.

All four men were later convicted of murder conspiracy.

For making multiple lifesaving decisions, in a volatile and difficult investigation, the following members of Project Temper are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Sergeants Mike Bal, Scott Fisher, Rob Jaberg and Sonny Thiara, and Detective Constables Kevin Boyle, Bob Sandher, and Jennifer White.

LEFT: DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BOB SANDHER, SERGEANT SONNY THIARA, DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER WHITE, SERGEANT ROB JABERG, AND SERGEANT MICHAEL BAL





DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER WHITE, PORT MOODY SERGEANT FRASER RENARD, DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ANNEMARIE UNHEIM, SUPERINTENDENT LISA BYRNE, CONSTABLE MATTHEW NIELSEN, SERGEANT SCOTT HYDE, AND ANALYST CLARABELLE CHAN

## 2. PROJECT TERRITORY

**SUPERINTENDENT LISA BYRNE**  
**SERGEANT KYLE DAVIES**  
**SERGEANT JAY EDWARDS**  
**SERGEANT SCOTT HYDE**  
**SERGEANT TIM RUSSELL**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DEREK HILL**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ANNEMARIE UNHEIM**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER WHITE**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LISA WU**  
**CONSTABLE MATTHEW NIELSEN**  
**SPECIAL CONSTABLE MARK LANGHAM**  
**ANALYST CLARABELLE CHAN**  
**RCMP CORPORAL LANDEN TONN**  
**PORT MOODY SERGEANT FRASER RENARD**  
**DELTA POLICE CONSTABLE JASON MACDONALD**

Project Territory began in 2017, targeting two crime groups responsible for some of the most violent events in the Lower Mainland. For five years, investigators worked on the project, including officers and civilians from all the police agencies in the region, conducting operations across the country and into the U.S.

The investigation called for high-level and covert police techniques. Lower Mainland investigators also worked with the Ottawa police, when two hitmen were called to Vancouver to carry out a retaliatory murder.

Results included the prevention of at least three murders and the high-risk arrests of 17 high-level organized crime figures, all of whom were convicted of firearm, drug, and murder conspiracy offences. In total, 146 firearms were seized, along with 61 prohibited devices, two live grenades, 50 kgs of drugs, nearly \$2 million in cash, a live pressure cooker bomb, and the asset forfeiture of 50% of a farm believed to have been used as a staging area to commit murders.

For their lifesaving efforts in dismantling organized crime groups, contributing to a 42% province-wide reduction in gang related murders, the following members of Project Territory are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Superintendent Lisa Byrne, Sergeants Kyle Davies, Jay Edwards, Scott Hyde and Tim Russell, Detective Constables Derek Hill, Annemarie Unheim, Jennifer White and Lisa Wu, Constable Matthew Nielsen, Special Constable Mark Langham, Analyst Clarabelle Chan, RCMP Corporal Landen Tonn, Port Moody Sergeant Fraser Renard, and Delta Police Constable Jason Macdonald.

## 3. SERGEANT WADE RODRIGUE CONSTABLE CLIFTON LOUIE CONSTABLE RYAN MILLER CONSTABLE CHRIS MUI CONSTABLE NICHOLAS WONG

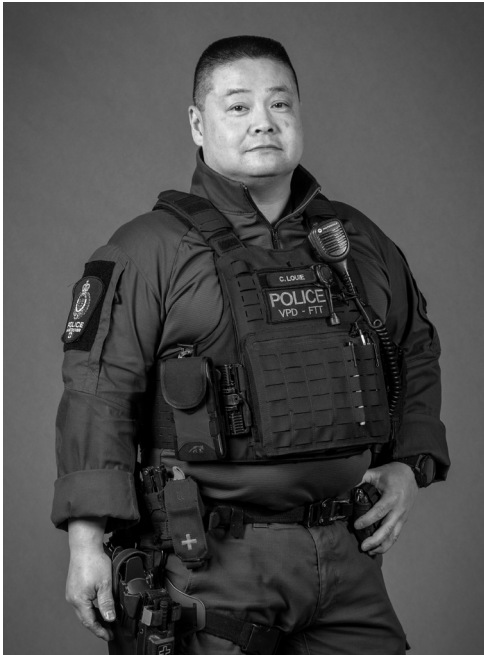
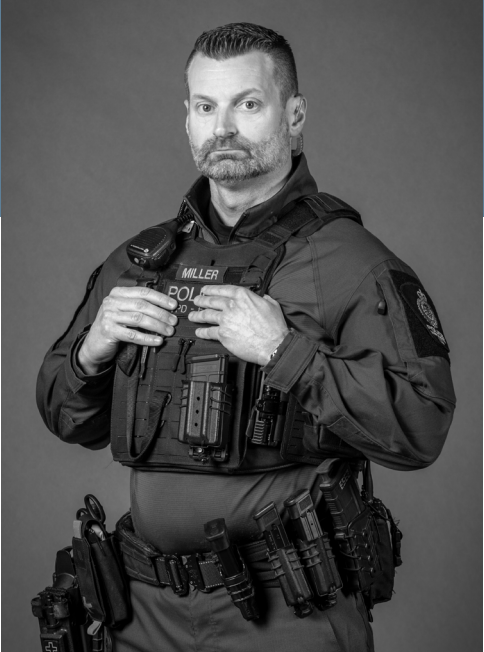
In April 2022, a call for help went out after a man fired shots at officers assisting paramedics at a call. The VPD Firearms Training Team, who were training at the Tactical Training Centre, immediately armed themselves for duty and set off in the Armoured Rescue Vehicle to the scene.

The shooter had barricaded himself inside an apartment and was continuing to shoot both inside and outside of the building. As 40 officers from across the department responded and fulfilled their roles, the rescue vehicle was safely positioned to protect officers and get closer to the gunman.

The fence around the ground-floor patio was partially obstructing the line of sight, so the officers used the rescue vehicle to knock it down, which drew fire from the gunman out on the patio, still firing his gun. Officers returned fire and this time the shooter was finally stopped. He died at the scene.

Despite numerous exchanges of gunfire in an incident that lasted for two hours, there were no residents or police officers injured by gunfire.

For quickly responding to help stop a dangerous threat, protecting citizens and their fellow officers from potential harm or death, the following members are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Sergeant Wade Rodrigue, and Constables Clifton Louie, Ryan Miller, Chris Mui and Nicholas Wong.



TOP TO BOTTOM: CONSTABLES RYAN MILLER, CLIFTON LOUIE, AND CHRIS MUI





ACTING SERGEANT GLYNIS GRIFFITHS, SERGEANT HANS DYKMAN, SUPERINTENDENT ALISON LAURIN,  
SERGEANT JP ST. AMANT, AND ACTING INSPECTOR SALLY DAVIES

SPECIAL CONSTABLE HEATHER WILSON, DETECTIVE CONSTABLES LAWRENCE LUI, JENNIFER ANTONEL,  
STEPHEN HARAS, AND CONSTABLE JENNIFER GIESE

4. **PROJECT REALITY**

**SUPERINTENDENT ALISON LAURIN**  
**ACTING INSPECTOR SALLY DAVIES**  
**ACTING SERGEANT GLYNIS GRIFFITHS**  
**SERGEANT J.P. ST. AMANT**  
**SERGEANT HANS DYKMAN**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER ANTONEL**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DEAN GREENE**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE STEPHEN HARAS**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LAWRENCE LUI**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ANTONY RYCHKUN**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LISA WU**  
**CONSTABLE JENNIFER GIESE**  
**SPECIAL CONSTABLE HEATHER WILSON**  
**ANALYST PEGGY IRWIN**  
**ANALYST CHRIS STODDARD**

Sandip Duhre was publicly executed on January 17, 2012, while dining at the Vancouver Wall Centre, during the midst of a war between two gangs. The complex investigation that followed, named Project Reality, would grow to over 100 VPD officers, with cooperation from police agencies across the country.

The investigation team believed that Duhre was killed in retaliation for the 2011 Kelowna shootings of Jonathan Bacon and Larry Amero. Amero survived and began plotting revenge, conspiring to commit the murder of Duhre with Dean Wiwchar, identified as the suspected shooter, and Robby Alkhalil as his accomplice.

The investigation would also tie Wiwchar and Alkhalil to another murder in Toronto.

The trial began in 2021, after two years of pre-trial applications. Alkhalil and Amero were both convicted of murder and conspiracy to murder. Wiwchar is still awaiting trial.

For their role in the one of the lengthiest and complex investigations ever undertaken by the VPD, and disrupting organized crime nationwide, the following members of Project Reality are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Superintendent Alison Laurin, Acting Inspector Sally Davies, Acting Sergeant Glynis Griffiths, Sergeants J.P. St. Amant and Hans Dykman, Detective Constables Jennifer Antonel, Dean Greene, Stephen Haras, Lawrence Lui, Antony Rychkun and Lisa Wu, Constable Jennifer Giese, Special Constable Heather Wilson, Analysts Peggy Irwin and Chris Stoddard





CONSTABLES DALLAS TAYLOR, PRABH DHALIWAL, MALCOLM UPTON, SHANAN D'SOUZA, AND SEAN FERGUSON

5. **CONSTABLE PRABH DHALIWAL**  
**CONSTABLE SHANAN D'SOUZA**  
**CONSTABLE SEAN FERGUSON**  
**CONSTABLE DALLAS TAYLOR**  
**CONSTABLE MALCOLM UPTON**

The chilling 911 call came in just before 3 a.m. on May 22, 2021, from a mother reporting that her son had just murdered his friend in their home. Her son, who suffered from mental health issues, had then chased her and her husband around their home until they barricaded themselves in their bedroom.

Vancouver Police officers raced to the home. They could see into the kitchen from the backyard. The suspect was standing over the victim holding a blood-covered butcher knife.

Weapons drawn, the officers approached the back door to the kitchen and called to the man to drop the knife. He complied and the officers quickly took him into custody. They administered first aid to the victim, but he died at the scene. Officers searched the residence to ensure there were no other suspects or victims, and rescued the terrified parents from their bedroom.

For courageously confronting a man armed with a knife and stopping the threat of further harm, the following officers are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Constables Prabh Dhaliwal, Shanan D'Souza, Sean Ferguson, Dallas Taylor, and Malcolm Upton.



# 2024 *Civilian Professional of the Year*

## MS. LEAH MARLAY

*FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, LEAH MARLAY has been dedicated to public service in Vancouver. Since 1992, she has worked in a variety of sections, including Planning and Research, and as an Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Operations and to the Office of the Chief Constable. As a Victim Services Crisis Intervention Worker, Leah's compassion and kindness were instrumental in supporting families and loved ones during grieving and court processes.*

*In 2008, Leah became the VPD Block Watch Coordinator. She has worked tirelessly to maintain and continuously improve the Block Watch Program, which today serves 400 Vancouver neighbourhoods, with 8000 captains, co-captains, and participants.*

*Leah ensures that Block Watch volunteers are given all the necessary tools to fulfil their role. She has written and produced crime prevention and how-to videos and other materials, and sends out weekly emails and newsletters with tips about ongoing crime trends, success stories, and preventing crime. She created a webpage for Block Watch captains and co-captains, full of resources and information.*

*Leah has organized successful conferences and events, but her real passion lies with training the Block Watch participants. Her "crime-mode" training, focused on identifying the behaviour of suspicious people, is now used throughout B.C. by other police agencies. During COVID-19, she stepped up to keep the program going by creating online training and presentations in response to community concerns, which are now used province-wide through the Block Watch Society of B.C.*

*Leah has a strong drive to market the Block Watch program, always searching for ways to educate the public and recruit new volunteers. She has a keen understanding of the connection between extra eyes and ears in the community and an increase in public safety. In 2022, she received the Chief Constable R.J. Canuel Award for Community Crime Prevention, only the second civilian to earn the honour.*

*For creating positive partnerships between the VPD and thousands of community members, and her dedication to increasing public safety in Vancouver and beyond, Ms. Leah Marlay is the 2024 Civilian Professional of the Year.*



# 2024 *Police Officer of the Year*

## SERGEANT JANA MCGUINNESS

*SERGEANT JANA MCGUINNESS began her policing career as a patrol officer in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver in September 1998, where she built a strong foundation in police work.*

*While in the Traffic Section, she became a member of the Motorcycle Drill Team — the third woman in VPD history to ride with the team. In 2005, when Vancouver saw an alarming rise in pedestrian fatalities involving seniors, Jana created the “Be Safe, Be Seen” safety campaign. She visited more than 40 care homes and seniors’ lodges, giving presentations on pedestrian safety. Senior fatalities began to decrease and her hard work earned her an education award from the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police.*

*As media spokesperson for the Department, Jana’s strong strategic and communication skills, coupled with her respectful, warm and caring nature, helped maintain public trust during challenging events. Her dedication and commitment to her work were evident during the Stanley Cup Riot in 2011, when she managed to do a national radio interview while suffering the effects of tear gas exposure.*

*After two years in Professional Standards, Jana joined the Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit, where she led a team investigating hundreds of difficult cases. These included a successful conviction after a mother was shot in front of her toddler, and the safe recovery of a child who was kidnapped by a parent and taken to another country.*

*Her career came full circle when Jana returned to Patrol in the Downtown Eastside in 2020. As a leader, she brought exceptional commitment to providing the best possible public service. She guided her officers through challenging times, taking a genuine interest in their lives and wellbeing, and helping them achieve career goals. She has never failed to show appreciation for the work being done.*

*Sergeant Jana McGuinness’ relentless compassion and caring for people who need it most is admirable. Long after she retires, the impact of her contribution will live on in the officers who have benefited, and who will follow in her footsteps.*

*For her dedication to ensuring that people feel valued and cared for, and embodying an exemplary level of service that others greatly respect, Sergeant Jana McGuinness is the Vancouver Police Department’s 2024 Police Officer of the Year.*







# 2023

## THE JIM AND VICKI CHU

# Community Safety Leader Award

### NII K'AN KWSDINS

*NII K'AN KWSDINS, also known as Jerry Adams, is one of British Columbia's most prominent and influential leaders. He is a member of the Eagle Clan from the Nisga'a Nation, and has dedicated over 40 years of his life to create a culture of truth and reconciliation in Vancouver and the greater community.*

*At the end of a professional career in the social service field, spanning four decades he worked as the Aboriginal Justice Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster, fostering reconciliation and understanding between the church and the Indigenous community.*

*Jerry is a highly engaged Indigenous community leader and has a passion for developing services for youth. He served as the Executive Director of the Urban Native Youth Association, and was a recipient of the Spirit of Crazy Horse Award from Reclaiming Youth International, which advocates on youth issues throughout the world.*

*As Executive Director of the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society, Jerry worked to reintegrate Indigenous men and women coming out of federal prison into the community.*

*Jerry served on the Vancouver Police Board, and on the boards of many Aboriginal and community organizations. His legacy has made Vancouver a more inclusive, safer place for its diverse communities.*

*For working tirelessly with the police and the Indigenous community to build relationships and networks to foster healing, reconciliation, and community, the Vancouver Police Department is proud to award Mr. Jerry Adams the 2023 Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award.*





# 2023 *Civilian Professional of the Year*

## MRS. JEN MOUNCE

*JEN MOUNCE began her career with the VPD in September 2007. She worked in the Transcription and CPIC Support Unit, the Quality Control Unit, and then moved to the PRIME Management Unit, first as a PRIME trainer and then as a Systems Application Specialist.*

*In her newest role, Jen has done exceptionally well learning and overseeing three complex systems, one of which involved the purging and retention of police records. She was instrumental in the creation and success of the program, and brought the Department in line with best practice standards. She worked tirelessly to ensure retention schedules were met, while safeguarding important investigative files that required longer retention.*

*As the administrator for a digital evidence management system that advances how VPD officers gather, manage, and disclose evidence, she trained civilian professional staff, and played a significant role in the successful rollout. She is also the administrator for a legal application process that provides important information regarding criminal charges and dispositions, and ensures users are well-trained.*

*While she has a BA from SFU, and a diploma in adult education from UBC, much of Jen's learning has been self-taught. An exceptional leader, her decisions and recommendations regarding complex applications have had a significant impact on VPD users and operations. Her subject matter expertise is highly sought after throughout the Department, as is her rare ability to think strategically about the big picture while still meticulously caring about important details.*

*Jen volunteers her time with charitable initiatives like Jeans Up for BC Children's Hospital, Pink Shirt Day, the Shoebox Project for Women of the Downtown Eastside, the backpack drive for Covenant House Vancouver, the Variety Club Children's Charity Telethon, and the Special Olympics.*

*For exemplifying excellence at work, and for her significant contributions to changing the way the VPD manages data and information, Jen Mounce is the Vancouver Police Department's 2023 Civilian Professional.*





# 2023 *Police Officer of the Year*

## DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KERRY-ANNE HORGAN

**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KERRY-ANNE HORGAN** joined the VPD in 2011, after immigrating to Canada in 2006. Her career has taken her from Patrol, the Property Crime Unit, and the Organized Crime Section, to her current assignment investigating sex crimes in the Investigation Division. Along the way, she has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues with her consistent quality of work, her willingness to assist, and her humble demeanor.

As a seasoned sex crimes investigator, Detective Constable Horgan has developed an extensive investigative skill set. Her work is difficult and involves complex investigations, including abductions and the sexual assaults of children, seniors, and other vulnerable people. Her unmatched work ethic and her dedication to solving cases, arresting offenders, and caring for the needs of vulnerable victims is exemplary.

Kerry-Anne is an active member of the Forensic Interview Team and a lead instructor on the VPD file coordinator course. As one of two VPD representatives to the Policing and Security Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, she will assist the VPD Training Unit in implementing provincially mandated training for sexual assault investigations.

As a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team and Peer Support Unit, Detective Constable Horgan routinely supports co-workers who have experienced traumatic or critical incidents. She offers confidential peer support to members struggling with both professional and personal issues, often outside her regular work hours.

As a member of the Women's Personal Safety Team, she volunteers her time to help women feel safe and empowered. When COVID-19 brought a halt to in-person workshops, she and another instructor brought the workshop to Zoom, where 1,500 participants took part.

For serving as a mentor and an inspiration, and for her selfless and inclusive approach to everything she does, Detective Constable Kerry-Anne Horgan is the Vancouver Police Department's 2023 Police Officer of the Year.










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