



BEYOND THE CALL

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



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
20²⁶
COMMENDATION AWARDS



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THE JIM AND VICKI CHU

Community Safety Leader Award 2026

MR. EDDY ELMER

As the recipient of the 2026 Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award, Eddy Elmer exemplifies extraordinary dedication to crime prevention, public safety, and community well-being. His passion for education, advocacy, and transformative dialogue has made a lasting impact in Vancouver and beyond.

As a gerontologist and researcher pursuing his PhD in sociology and social gerontology, Eddy is deeply committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion, with expertise in aging, mental health, and community engagement. His academic work focuses on stigma, aging, and loneliness among 2SLGBTQ+ people worldwide.

Eddy has made significant contributions to community research and resource development. His work on senior isolation highlighted the unique challenges faced by older 2SLGBTQ+ adults, and led to the VPD Diversity, Community, and Indigenous Relations Section securing grant funding for Elder Pride. This strengthened local efforts aimed at reducing loneliness and increasing social support for vulnerable seniors.

A respected public speaker, lecturer, and media contributor, Eddy consistently amplifies issues affecting marginalized communities, helping to foster a city where residents feel seen, heard, and protected. He has organized global webinars for corrections professionals, health care providers, and researchers – efforts that earned him the 2022 James A. Murphy Award for his commitment to knowledge-sharing and innovation in community corrections.

As a community builder, Eddy leads with knowledge and compassion. He brings together community members, law enforcement, and policy-makers in ways that produce tangible improvements in safety and social unity across Vancouver's neighbourhoods. He serves on numerous advisory committees, strengthening relationships between the 2SLGBTQ+ community and the VPD.

For his leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to making Vancouver a safer and more inclusive place to live, Mr. Eddy Elmer is awarded the 2026 Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award.



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. MR. THOMAS AFFOLTER MS. SASHA DUNCAN MR. JOEL MCCARTHY

Several 911 calls were made just before 2 a.m. on October 27, 2024, after a man stopped his vehicle mid-span on the Lions Gate Bridge and got out of the car. As he walked toward the railing, he began removing his clothing.

Three friends driving across the bridge noticed the man and stopped without hesitation. They immediately approached him, recognizing that he was in severe emotional distress and at imminent risk of harming himself. The friends held on to the man to prevent him from climbing over the railing, offering reassurance and comfort while shielding him from the pouring rain with a jacket.

The situation was extremely dangerous given their proximity to the edge of the bridge and the possibility the man could struggle. Despite the risk, they remained with him until police officers arrived and safely took over. The man was transported to hospital to receive care.

For their quick-thinking, compassionate, and selfless actions in coming to the aid of a stranger in crisis, Mr. Thomas Affolter, Ms. Sasha Duncan, and Mr. Joel McCarthy are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

2. MR. EJIOFOR LOUIS MR. AARON WONG

Just before noon on December 30, 2024, a man disguised as a delivery driver entered a downtown luxury retailer and approached staff. He demanded they fill a box with luxury handbags, threatening to shoot them if they refused. When staff declined and contacted security, the suspect fled the store.

Ejiofor Louis, a loss prevention officer, responded to the call and followed the suspect outside. He was quickly joined by fellow loss prevention officer Aaron Wong, who was on the phone with 911 providing real-time updates.

When the suspect entered a truck parked in a nearby alley, Louis and Wong intervened to prevent him from leaving. During the struggle to remove him from the vehicle, the suspect repeatedly reached for a shotgun on the passenger seat, threatening to kill them.

Police arrived to find the suspect on the ground and in handcuffs, with two seized weapons nearby. A subsequent search of the truck revealed improvised explosive devices, as well as a fully loaded shotgun.

For their courage and decisive actions, placing themselves in harm's way to prevent serious injury or loss of life, Mr. Ejiofor Louis and Mr. Aaron Wong are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

3. BAR WATCH

Vancouver was experiencing a wave of violent incidents at local bars and nightclubs in 2007. Recent years had seen a total of 46 shootings, 13 of which resulted in homicides.

In response, leaders from the entertainment industry partnered with the Vancouver Police Department to increase the safety of patrons and staff in bars and clubs. Bar Watch, which originally began in 1995, was relaunched with a new focus on preventing anyone involved in criminal activities, including gangs, firearms offences, or drug trafficking, from entering the venues participating in the program.

A code of conduct was developed, expanding the list of people banned to include anyone involved in threatening, sexual violence or assaultive behaviour toward patrons and staff. In a collaboration with the VPD, security awareness training was provided to staff to help prevent potential incidents of drink-spiking and sexual assault.

Originally 20 members, Bar Watch now has 40 participating venues throughout Vancouver, and the program has been replicated in other communities. More importantly, there have been no shootings or murders at any participating establishment in the 18 years since Bar Watch was relaunched. It has also contributed to a 69% drop in shootings in Vancouver overall and a reduction in police calls for service.

For their effective industry-based response to proactively preventing gang-related violence in bars and nightclubs, the members of Bar Watch are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

4. MS. MARINA PEREIRA

On the afternoon of August 20, 2024, Marina Pereira was near Abbott and West Pender when she witnessed a shocking and violent act. While waiting for her husband, she saw a man approach an individual sleeping in an alley and pour liquid on them. As she watched in horror, the man lit the person on fire and calmly walked away.

Without hesitation, Marina rushed to the victim and used her backpack to extinguish the flames. She then immediately followed the suspect, placing her own safety at risk. Moments later, when two patrol officers drove by, she flagged them down to tell them what happened. She identified the suspect, whom she had kept in view the entire time.

The police investigation revealed the suspect had a history of similar criminal acts, including setting fire to a makeshift shelter while people slept inside.

Marina did not hesitate to come to the aid of a stranger or to follow the suspect, despite the risk. If she had not intervened, the victim would have sustained serious injuries or worse, and the attacker may never have been found.

For her quick-thinking and courageous actions in rescuing a man on fire, and ensuring a dangerous individual was taken into custody, Ms. Marina Pereira is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S

Award of Valour

SERGEANT CALVIN LEUNG

It was just after 1 a.m. on January 6, 2026, and Vancouver Police Sergeant Calvin Leung was investigating a missing person. He was flagged down by the residents of 25 E. Hastings Street, who reported their building was on fire.

Sergeant Leung requested Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, grabbed the fire extinguisher from his patrol vehicle, and entered the building. As he reached the second floor, the heavy black smoke severely limited visibility and made breathing extremely difficult.

Despite these hazardous conditions, he carried on and located the source of the fire in one of the suites. A man sat next to a burning mattress, but he was unresponsive. Sergeant Leung entered the room and used his fire extinguisher to put out most of the fire. He grabbed the man by the arms and helped him into the hallway, where the sergeant was forced to the floor by the smoke. He was unable to carry the man further.

Constables Tristan Roest and Riley Sidoni arrived and did not hesitate to enter the building. It was difficult to see and to breathe as they arrived on the second floor, where they found Sergeant Leung on the ground. They helped him to his feet and escorted him outside to the fresh air. Firefighters carried the unresponsive resident to safety and extinguished the remainder of the fire.

All three officers suffered smoke inhalation. Sergeant Leung had the most severe effects and was treated by paramedics at the scene.

For his decisive, life-saving actions, and dedication to public safety under extreme conditions, Sergeant Calvin Leung is awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for bravery, the Award of Valour.



CHIEF CONSTABLE'S

Commendations



1. SENIOR CRIME ANALYST AREZO ZARRABIAN

As a senior crime analyst with the Vancouver Police Department, Arezo Zarrabian brings dedication, insight, and care to her work, using data and research to strengthen crime prevention and response. Her work supports senior leadership in making informed decisions about priorities and resources.

As the analyst for Project Barcode, which focused on violent retail crime, Arezo delivered accurate, high-impact analysis under tight deadlines. She developed an innovative analytical framework to track the project's results, which she later presented at an International Association of Chiefs of Police conference. She regularly represents the Department at community events and forums, clearly communicating complex crime data and public safety trends.

A respected mentor and collaborative leader, Arezo is widely sought for her expertise and guidance. She supports the Retail Crime Task Force by identifying prolific offenders and provides media-ready reports that consistently withstand scrutiny. Her analysis of street disorder and violent crime near a downtown overdose prevention site contributed to the City's decision to relocate the facility.

Arezo supports demanding initiatives like Project Barcode, the Retail Crime Task Force and other urgent requests in addition to her role as the senior crime analyst in District 1, one of the busiest patrol districts in Vancouver.

For demonstrating a consistent high level of performance and dedication as a leader in crime analysis, Arezo Zarrabian is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

2. SERGEANT DANIELLE BROCK

In 2020, two separate Vancouver police investigations into the production and trafficking of fentanyl in Vancouver led to multiple drug and firearm charges against Cody Casey. Two years later, and just two weeks before his trial, he cut off his court-imposed ankle monitoring bracelet and fled the country.

Sergeant Danielle Brock set out to find Casey and undertook an extraordinary investigation that spanned 14 countries.

She developed strong relationships with provincial, federal, and international agencies, and her unrelenting pursuit started to pay off in 2023 when she obtained an Interpol Red Notice requesting law enforcement worldwide locate and arrest Casey. He was also added to Canada's Most Wanted Fugitive List, and a \$100,000 reward was offered for information leading to his whereabouts.

Sergeant Brock tracked the fugitive to St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where she travelled in the fall of 2023. She missed him by mere hours, but returned to Vancouver with multiple investigative leads. The following year, she located Casey in Oman. He was arrested by the Royal Oman Police in October 2024.

After working with the RCMP and the Canadian government to seek extradition, Cody Casey was returned to Vancouver in April 2025.

For her exceptional work ethic and dedication in ensuring a high-level fentanyl producer and trafficker was brought to justice, Sergeant Danielle Brock is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

3. CONSTABLE TRISTAN ROEST CONSTABLE RILEY SIDONI

It was just after 1 a.m. on January 6, 2026, when Vancouver Police Sergeant Calvin Leung was flagged down by the residents of 25 E. Hastings Street, who reported their building was on fire.

Constables Tristan Roest and Riley Sidoni arrived shortly after and did not hesitate to enter the

smoke-filled building. They knew Sergeant Leung was inside the building and quickly rushed to his aid.

They made their way to the second floor, where they encountered heavy black smoke. It was difficult to see and breathe, as they advanced down the hallway. They located Sergeant Leung on the floor. He had discovered the source of the fire in one of the suites and assisted a resident into the hallway before he was forced to the ground by the smoke.

The two constables helped the sergeant to his feet and escorted him outside to the fresh air. Firefighters evacuated the unresponsive resident to safety and extinguished the remainder of the fire.

All three officers suffered smoke inhalation.

For coming to the rescue of Sergeant Calvin Leung, knowingly placing themselves in harm's way to protect the lives of others, Constables Tristan Roest and Riley Sidoni are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.



FROM LEFT:
CONSTABLE TRISTAN ROEST
CONSTABLE RILEY SIDONI



SERGEANT JOEL TUINGA

4. SERGEANT JOEL TUINGA

In March of 2025, Sergeant Joel Tuininga was walking the beat with another officer in the unit block of East Hastings. They were assigned to Task Force Barrage, a community safety initiative targeting organized crime groups who prey on vulnerable residents in the Downtown Eastside.

Suddenly, without warning, a man approached Sergeant Tuininga from behind, attacking him and stabbing him in the leg several times, then fleeing. Despite his serious injuries, Tuininga recognized the urgency in apprehending the armed and dangerous suspect, and despite his injuries, he and his partner immediately gave chase.

Following his broadcast for back-up and paramedics, additional officers arrived to assist. As they closed the distance and the man continued to ignore their commands to stop, one of the officers used a conducted energy weapon. The assailant fell to the ground and dropped the knife, and was taken into custody.

At the same time, two additional officers were treating Sergeant Tuininga's injuries, applying a tourniquet and other measures to stop the bleeding. Due to the seriousness of the injuries, and the delay of paramedics, the officers then transported the sergeant to hospital.

For his courage and determination in pursuing an armed and dangerous suspect, despite sustaining serious injuries, Sergeant Joel Tuininga is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

5. STAFF SERGEANT DAYNE CAMPBELL

Throughout his 21-year policing career, Staff Sergeant Dayne Campbell has demonstrated selfless leadership, rooted in respect for others and a commitment to collective over individual success. His teams will tell you that he always puts others first, remaining calm and decisive during high-risk calls, while providing sound direction and advice.

Staff Sergeant Campbell has led numerous critical training and safety initiatives, including active deadly threat and mass casualty response training. As lead for the Rescue Task Force training, he trained more than 700 learners, coordinated multi-agency participation, and filled 1,260 volunteer positions.

As a patrol sergeant, he initiated data analysis and a pilot project to improve breach arrest procedures. While on the Emergency Response Team, he researched and acquired specialized rifle systems to improve critical incident response, and ensured officers received training on privately manufactured firearms, also known as “ghost guns.”

A long-time advocate for Cops for Cancer, Staff Sergeant Campbell has cycled more than 13,000 km to-date, and will cycle in his 18th ride later this year. He has raised \$800,000 personally, and contributed to the team donating more than \$6 million, for pediatric cancer research and Camp Goodtimes. Following his daughter’s cancer diagnosis in 2024, he completed a 7,300 km cross-Canada cycling tour, bringing awareness about childhood cancer and Cops for Cancer, and raising over \$75,000.

For his dedication to equipping, training, and supporting his fellow officers, and for his inspirational community service, Staff Sergeant Dayne Campbell is awarded the Chief Constable’s Commendation.



STAFF SERGEANT DAYNE CAMPBELL



CONSTABLE QUINTIN NAKAMURA-MCMULLEN

6. CONSTABLE QUINTIN NAKAMURA-MCMULLEN CONSTABLE AUDI ORAHIM

On April 10, 2025, Constables Quintin Nakamura-McMullen and Audi Orahim were patrolling the Downtown Eastside as part of Task Force Barrage. This community safety initiative included a high-visibility police presence to target the organized crime groups victimizing vulnerable residents in the neighbourhood.

The officers observed two men involved in an offence and approached them. One of the suspects refused to comply with the officers and began to walk away. As Constable Nakamura-McMullen moved closer, the man became assaultive and an altercation ensued. When the constable fell to the ground, the suspect sprayed him with a combustible liquid and lit him on fire.

Fully engulfed in flames, Constable Nakamura-McMullen was able to separate himself from the suspect and smother the flames. The man then turned his attention to Constable Orahim, spraying him with the liquid and setting fire to his clothing.

The suspect fled on foot, with the constables giving chase. As they caught up to him and a physical struggle ensued, a large crowd gathered. Additional officers arrived and the suspect was taken into custody.

For their exceptional bravery in pursuing a dangerous suspect to ensure he was no longer a threat, Constables Quintin Nakamura-McMullen and Audi Orahim are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

7. CONSTABLE JOHN CRAWFORD

The VPD Marine Unit provides law enforcement and search and rescue assistance for 160 km of coastline, including 11 marinas with hundreds of vessels in Coal Harbour, English Bay, and False Creek.

When the R.G. McBeath, one of three Vancouver Police Marine Unit vessels, was passing its usable lifespan and no longer meeting required safety standards, the search for a replacement began. A review of weather and sea conditions determined that a much larger, more stable, and robust vessel was needed. There was nothing ready-made that met that standard, so a new vessel would have to be designed and built.

Constable John Crawford volunteered to lead the massive project, which stretched over four years and included extensive meetings, site visits, and technical specification reviews. He liaised with City of Vancouver engineers, an outside marine engineering consultant, and the boat builder. He researched all new equipment to ensure it met necessary safety standards and tested the new vessel during multiple sea trials. He problem-solved numerous issues, providing reasonable and cost-effective solutions.

The result was a state-of-the-art 45-foot cabin rigid hull inflatable boat, with four 350 HP engines, that was delivered on time and under budget. The new R.G. McBeath will ensure the safety of the police officers on board and give them the ability to respond quickly in any weather or sea condition. Constable Crawford completed the project by designing and implementing training for all the Marine Unit officers.

For his outstanding effort and four years of dedication, ensuring the members of the Vancouver Police Marine Unit can safely and swiftly answer any call for service, Constable John Crawford is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S *Citations*



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

INVESTIGATIONAL ASSISTANT ANDREA KOOL
 SERGEANT STU HURST
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BRENNAN LOWRIE
 SERGEANT DAVID STEVERDING
 CRIME ANALYST KIMISHA LOWE

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

CRIME ANALYST COLIN RINTOUL
 SERGEANT STAN HILL
 SERGEANT JENNIFER WHITE
 STAFF SERGEANT HARM RAI
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KAZ KUNIKATA
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER TANG

1. PROJECT REFUND

STAFF SERGEANT HARM RAI
 SERGEANT STAN HILL
 SERGEANT STU HURST
 SERGEANT DAVID STEVERDING
 SERGEANT JENNIFER WHITE
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KAZ KUNIKATA
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BRENNAN LOWRIE
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER TANG
 CRIME ANALYST KIMISHA LOWE
 CRIME ANALYST COLIN RINTOUL
 INVESTIGATIONAL ASSISTANT ANDREA KOOL

The team members of Project Refund were tasked with investigating an organized crime network that engaged in a pattern of violence, intimidation, and targeted extortion. For years, the criminal group committed robberies, thefts, and extortions, using threats of violence and exposure of private relationships between sex workers and their clients to coerce their victims.

The crimes were rarely reported due to the victims' embarrassment and concern for personal repercussions. The financial loss and emotional distress placed victims at an elevated risk of self-harm or further violence, and sex workers often faced violence from clients previously targeted.

The team undertook a complex and proactive strategy, infiltrating and disrupting the criminal network. The investigation resulted in four arrests, including the ring-leader, and the seizure of \$2.6 million in cash and property. All parties later pled guilty. There was an immediate and measurable impact on public safety. Reported extortions linked to the group went from a high of 25 incidents in 2022 to no incidents in 2024 and 2025.

For their dedication and innovation in dismantling an organized crime network, preventing further harm to vulnerable community members, the Project Refund team members are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Staff Sergeant Harm Rai, Sergeants Stan Hill, Stu Hurst, David Steverding, and Jennifer White, Detective Constables Kaz Kunikata, Brennan Lowrie, and Jennifer Tang, Crime Analysts Kimisha Lowe and Colin Rintoul, and Investigational Assistant Andrea Kool.

2. **CONSTABLE OPINDER KOONER**
CONSTABLE RILEY NELMES
CONSTABLE BRIAN ROGGER
CONSTABLE MICHAEL WU

On the morning of December 4, 2024, Constables Opinder Kooner, Riley Nelmes, Brian Rogger, and Michael Wu responded to a 911 call reporting that a man had entered a downtown restaurant and stolen liquor and knives. When they arrived moments later, the suspect had entered a convenience store across the street, where he stabbed a female employee in the head, back, and hand. The injured woman was trapped in the store with her attacker, along with a second employee.

The officers entered the store and attempted to de-escalate. When that failed, a constable used a conducted energy weapon to no effect. As the man began to approach the two women, lunging at them with the knife, another constable discharged his firearm and stopped the threat.

Medical care was brought in for the victims. Officers provided immediate first-aid, but the suspect succumbed to his injuries.

For their courageous and decisive actions to stop an active deadly threat, and save two women from further harm, the following officers are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Constables Opinder Kooner, Riley Nelmes, Brian Rogger, and Michael Wu.



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:
CONSTABLE MICHAEL WU
CONSTABLE RILEY NELMES

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:
CONSTABLE BRIAN ROGGER
CONSTABLE OPINDER KOONER



**3. SUPERINTENDENT MARCO VERONESI
INSPECTOR BRENT DERKSEN
STAFF SERGEANT EUGENE LUM
DIRECTOR RAYMOND LAI
PROJECT MANAGER BILL NG**

In 2021, a Vancouver Police operational review looked at opportunities for modernizing frontline operations. The project team examined ways to increase efficiency in managing patrol resources, improve communication of real-time intelligence and information to frontline officers, and use new technology to increase safety for both the public and Vancouver Police officers.

It resulted in the creation of the Operational Command Centre – a 24/7 hub of operations where people and processes operate and coordinate. Experienced patrol officers support units on patrol by providing relevant and necessary information, along with technical support. They help with decision-making in both real time and in the initial follow-up, to enable safe and effective outcomes.

The Operational Command Centre’s new integrated processes and software solutions ensure Vancouver Police resources are used as efficiently as possible. A new shoplifter investigation process saw patrol officers’ time commitment drop by approximately 75 per cent. A taxi project funded by Vancouver Police Foundation provided a fully funded option for transporting vulnerable people during severe weather to emergency shelters, saving members additional time. New initiatives continue to be developed and tested by the team.

For their creative problem-solving in modernizing Vancouver Police Department frontline operations, enhancing safety and efficiency, the following team members are awarded the Chief Constable’s Citation: Superintendent Marco Veronesi, Inspector Brent Derksen, Staff Sergeant Eugene Lum, Director Raymond Lai, and Project Manager Bill Ng.

4. PROJECT HEEDLESS

INSPECTOR MIKE HEARD
INSPECTOR RYAN SMITH
STAFF SERGEANT MARK BRAGAGNOLO
STAFF SERGEANT SCOTT HYDE
STAFF SERGEANT JOSE QUINTANILLA
SERGEANT JEREMY BIRNBAUM
SERGEANT MARK BRADSHAW
SERGEANT ALEXANDER CHARLES
SERGEANT TRAVIS FRASER
SERGEANT JULIE GILMORE
SERGEANT MARK LOBEL
SERGEANT KYLE NISHI
SERGEANT TIM RUSSELL
SERGEANT DAVE RUSSELL-COUTTS
SERGEANT BOB SANDHER
SERGEANT ANTON SCHAMBERGER
SERGEANT JESSE SCHELLENBERG
SERGEANT JENNIFER WHITE
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KRIS ADAMS
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE PAUL BENNETT
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JOHN BJORNSON
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DENNIS BLAAUW
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE RICHARD CARDAMONE
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DARREN CHO
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE WILL CHO
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE EMILY FLORKOW
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BRIAN HUNT
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JAMES LIM
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE CAM MACKAY
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ANTHONY WONG
CONSTABLE BEATRICE CHOW
CONSTABLE SIMON CRACKNELL
CONSTABLE KELSEY DAWES
CONSTABLE JACKY LAM
CONSTABLE TRENT LUKEY
CONSTABLE JASON MACDONALD
CONSTABLE MICHELE MCKNIGHT
CONSTABLE KATIE RANGER
CONSTABLE PAUL WOODCOCK
SPECIAL CONSTABLE KYLE HEARFIELD
SPECIAL CONSTABLE HEATHER WILSON
MANAGER SUE BAKER
EXAMINER ROB CAUNT

EXAMINER EVELYN PEDERSON
CRIME ANALYST SARA LEE
FORENSIC VIDEO ANALYST TAREK GRIMALOSKI
FORENSIC VIDEO ANALYST DONOVAN JOHNSON
FORENSIC VIDEO ANALYST CHRIS SINKEWICZ
FORENSIC VIDEO ANALYST CHRIS STODDARD
TEAM LEADER ANNIE QUAN
TEAM LEADER MADDIE SAUNDERS
INTERCEPTOR JASPREET BHATTI
INTERCEPTOR GEOK TEO-POON
INTERCEPTOR RUPI THIARA
INVESTIGATIONAL ASSISTANT RAJ MANGAT
CLERK TIFFANY LU
TECHNOLOGY LEARNING SPECIALIST
MICHAEL RYBACHA

DURHAM REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

STAFF SERGEANT DEAN ROY
SERGEANT MIKE DEFOE
DETECTIVE BRAD HARNUM
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE CHRISTINE FIRTH
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ADAM GILL

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT MICHELLE OLSZEWSKI
DETECTIVE RICHARD DUFFUS

CFSEU-BC

STAFF SERGEANT ROSS JOAQUIN
SERGEANT VIKKI SMALLEY
DETECTIVE KAREN BURRIDGE
DETECTIVE CARLA YOUNG



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

SERGEANT TIM RUSSELL
SERGEANT JEREMY BIRNBAUM
CONSTABLE BEATRICE CHOW
SERGEANT JESS SCHELLENBERG
INSPECTOR MIKE HEARD

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

SERGEANT TRAVIS FRASER
CONSTABLE JACKY LAM
DETECTIVE CAM MACKAY
STAFF SERGEANT JOSE QUINTANILLA

On January 13, 2018, Kane Carter waited in a van parked outside an E. Broadway restaurant. He was providing protection for a fellow gang member and his girlfriend, who were inside the restaurant. When the couple exited the restaurant and got into a taxi, rival gang member Kevin Whiteside opened fire. The pair escaped unharmed, despite Whiteside chasing the taxi and continuing to shoot. In response, Carter fired at Whiteside, killing him. Fifteen-year-old Alfred Wong, who was travelling in a car with his family, was tragically killed in the crossfire. A second innocent bystander was also wounded.

Investigators faced many challenges. Carter was a deeply entrenched Ontario gang member, who was familiar with police tactics. He disposed of critical evidence and fled back to Ontario just one week after the murders.

The investigative team grew to include staff from the Toronto Police Service, the Durham Regional Police Service, and CFSEU-BC. Using complex and covert investigative techniques, team members worked long hours, determined to hold Carter accountable for his actions and find justice for Alfred Wong's family. Carter was finally charged with two counts of murder and one count of aggravated assault in 2022.

When the first trial ended in a hung jury in September 2024, the investigative team continued pushing forward. In the second trial in December 2025, the jury convicted Kane Carter of two counts of murder and one count of aggravated assault.

For their dedication and persistence in a challenging eight-year investigation, resulting in a murderer facing justice, the members of Project Heedless are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation.



LEFT TO RIGHT:
 SERGEANT IAN FLETCHER
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER ANTONEL
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE SHAWN KANE

5. PROJECT BANKROLL

SERGEANT IAN FLETCHER
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER ANTONEL
 DETECTIVE CONSTABLE SHAWN KANE
 CONSTABLE VINCENT MARTIN

In the initial stage of the global pandemic that began in 2020, and well into a toxic drug crisis in Vancouver and beyond, four Downtown Eastside patrol officers identified three people they believed were responsible for large-scale production and distribution of fentanyl and methamphetamine.

Over the next four months, their investigation led to six locations related to the criminal enterprise. On July 27, search warrants were executed in Vancouver and Burnaby, resulting in a substantial seizure of fentanyl, methamphetamine, and smaller amounts of illegal and prescription drugs with a total street value over \$5 million. They also seized over \$300,000 in cash, \$100,000 worth of jewelry, \$169,000 in vehicles, two semi-automatic rifles, a shotgun, and a live grenade.

Three suspects were arrested and charged with 17 drug and firearms offences. The arrests and seizures had an immediate impact on the availability of street-level drugs responsible for the overdose crisis in the community. In the six weeks following, overdose deaths were reduced by 41% citywide and 33% in the Downtown Eastside.

For their dedication in initiating and coordinating a significant drug investigation, and improving safety in the community, the members of Project Bankroll are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Sergeant Ian Fletcher, Detective Constables Jennifer Antonel and Shawn Kane, and Constable Vincent Martin.

6. SERGEANT DAN AMES
 CONSTABLE NICHOLAS CHOW
 CONSTABLE NICOLE LAURO
 CONSTABLE COURTNEY SRIGLEY

On May 27, 2022, at 4 a.m., 911 calls began reporting the sound of glass breaking and a woman screaming for help. Further calls reported a man seen with a knife.

Officers arrived at the chaotic scene within minutes. People were running from the apartment building, screaming, many of them with blood on their clothing from brushing up against blood on the walls. It wasn't immediately apparent if there were additional victims or perpetrators. The officers encountered a woman with multiple stab wounds in the lobby, and a second victim just outside an open door to an apartment. As they peered inside, they could see blood on the floors and walls. A man, also covered in blood, was standing inside holding a knife.

The officers yelled at the man to drop the knife. He complied and they took him into custody. They immediately turned their attention to the victims, rendering lifesaving first aid and compassionate care.

For their quick and decisive response, stopping an armed and unpredictable suspect, and saving the lives of two women, Sergeant Dan Ames, and Constables Nicholas Chow, Nicole Lauro, and Courtney Srigley are awarded a Chief Constable's Citation.

**7. SERGEANT KAL PETKOV
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE PHIL LI
CONSTABLE ROUZBEH BARIRANI
CONSTABLE MICHAEL HICKS
CONSTABLE EDDIE TRAN**

In July of 2022, a woman was alone in her home in the early evening when a stranger entered through an unlocked door and attacked her.

He dragged her into her bedroom and began sexually assaulting her. She was able to free herself, run onto her patio, and call 911, but

her attacker quickly took the phone away and continued the assault.

E-Comm dispatchers mapped the incomplete 911 call to the closest intersection, and dispatched Detective Constable Phil Li and Constable Eddie Tran. Through searches on a police database, the constables determined the likely location of the call. As they reached the suite, they could hear a woman screaming for help.

Constables Rouzbeh Barirani and Michael Hicks arrived, along with Sergeant Kal Petkov. Fearing further and imminent harm to the woman, the

officers breached the door to rescue her. As they entered the suite, the attacker fled from the balcony and was arrested moments later.

For their quick and decisive action in preventing further harm to a sexual assault victim, and apprehending the person responsible, Sergeant Kal Petkov, Detective Constable Phil Li, and Constables Rouzbeh Barirani, Michael Hicks, and Eddie Tran, are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation.

**8. DETECTIVE CONSTABLE TIFFANY TAN
CONSTABLE BRIAN HADDON
CONSTABLE ANDREW HAIRE
CONSTABLE GRIFFIN KNIGHT**

When a report of a large fire at 169 E. Hastings Street came over the radio on the evening of July 6, 2022, Vancouver Police officers Tiffany Tan, Brian Haddon, Andrew Haire, and Griffin Knight raced to assist. Multiple Vancouver Fire Rescue trucks were at the scene, as the fire grew increasingly dangerous and volatile.

As all available firefighters battled the fire, the officers began evacuating residents in the building next door. It was beginning to fill with smoke and there was a high risk of the fire spreading. Complicating matters, the building's staff had abandoned their office, so officers were forced to breach the doors to each floor to clear the numerous residents from the building.

When they arrived on the 5th floor, firefighters advised them that all the occupants had now been evacuated, and directed them to turn back and leave the building. The constables made their way downstairs, encountering an incredible amount of smoke billowing in the front entrance. It became almost impossible to see or breathe. Disoriented, two of the officers ended up in the basement before finding their way back upstairs and out of the building.

The officers all suffered smoke inhalation and were treated by paramedics at the scene.

For putting themselves at extreme risk to rescue residents from the threat of fire, Detective Constable Tiffany Tan, and Constables Brian Haddon, Andrew Haire, and Griffin Knight, are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation.



LEFT TO RIGHT:
CONSTABLE ROUZBEH BARIRANI
CONSTABLE EDDIE TRAN
SERGEANT KAL PETKOV
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE PHIL LI

A portrait of Sue Baker, a woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue blazer over a dark top and a necklace with a small pendant. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

Civilian Professional of the Year 2026

MANAGER SUE BAKER

Sue Baker is a respected leader in the field of Victim Services. She holds a bachelor of social work degree from Ryerson University, with certifications and specialized training in crisis intervention, Critical Incident Stress Management trauma services, and leadership. She is actively involved with many non-profit organizations in the community.

As manager of the Vancouver Police Victim Services Unit, this background ensured that Sue and her team were ready to excel in the day-to-day challenges of their work. It also equipped Sue for her role in responding to one of the most complex and demanding incidents the Vancouver Police Department has ever faced: the Lapu Lapu Festival Tragedy in April 2025.

Working closely with the Chief of Victim Management, and the Team Commander, Sue led 20 crisis-response workers through an intensive initial crisis response. She continues to manage the support of over 600 affected victims, family members, witnesses, and community members.

The readiness and effectiveness of the Victim Services Unit in responding to a crisis of this scale was no accident.

From strengthening the full-time team of case-workers to establishing a Victim Services office within the Major Crime Section to contributing to the VPD Mass Casualty Working Group, Sue fostered strong collaboration between investigators and Victim Services caseworkers. The trust, expertise, and best practices she cultivated were firmly in place when the tragedy occurred, allowing the Unit to respond swiftly and effectively under extraordinary circumstances.

As a Justice Facility Dog handler to Lucca and Sydney, Sue paved the way for a productive partnership between the VPD and the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS). Her groundbreaking work provides trauma-informed support for victims and witnesses.

Sue's team describes her as steadfast, unwavering, and compassionate. Her priority is always taking care of people, including her staff.

For her diligence, leadership, and foresight in ensuring the Vancouver Police Victim Services Unit delivers trauma-informed, victim-centered care, Manager Sue Baker is the Vancouver Police Department's 2026 Civilian Professional of the Year.



Police Officer of the Year 2026

SERGEANT RYAN D'ONOFRIO

Sergeant Ryan D'Onofrio grew up in Delta and joined the Vancouver Police Department in 2000. Over the years, his career has spanned patrol, investigating property crime, surveillance work in Strike Force and in the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, and working in the jail. In every role, he has demonstrated adaptability, professionalism, and a deep understanding of the communities he serves.

Now working as a patrol sergeant in the Downtown Eastside, Sergeant D'Onofrio has proven to be an exceptional leader. He exemplifies integrity, mentorship, and community engagement, fostering a culture of excellence within his team and building trust with the public. His leadership has contributed to a measurable reduction in the threat of violence in the area they police.

Sergeant D'Onofrio guides his team to successful completion of investigations, ensuring they have the necessary time and resources. He skillfully manages complex priorities while maintaining operational efficiency, and consistently seeks opportunities to develop his team's skills. By recognizing individual strengths and areas for growth, he encourages officers to take on new challenges to reach their full potential.

In 2025, his team investigated eight separate extraordinary incidents in addition to their day-to-day policing in a challenging neighbourhood. The resulting charges ranged from drug trafficking to weapons offences, and included shootings and robberies. In total, the team seized 17 firearms, over 200 other weapons, and made more than 350 arrests on outstanding warrants.


Sergeant D'Onofrio fosters a strong work ethic, camaraderie, and a relentless pursuit of high achievement within his team. He leads his team to complete every task to the highest standard. Through high-visibility policing, community engagement, targeted arrests, retail crime enforcement, and focusing on organized crime groups, they have helped reduce both violence and property crime in the area.

For his dedication to cultivating leadership, advancing tactical expertise, and instilling community-focused policing values in the next generation of police officers, Sergeant Ryan D'Onofrio is the Vancouver Police Department's 2026 Police Officer of the Year.






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