



Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada
Association Canadienne de la Police Montée Professionnelle

Member Communication

This is the fifteenth in a series of communications from MPPAC, the Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada. Visit [our website](#) for more information on how you can [become a member](#), and to access our [previous messages](#).

DEAR COLLEAGUES

Our national membership continues to share their concerns about safety with us: from problems or issues related to working back-to-back shifts without adequate breaks in between, to insufficient training and opportunities to update training, and unequal access to the latest equipment and poor distribution of it to specific areas.

There's no reason why our employer cannot make each member of the force as safe as possible by providing the best training and resources while reducing undue stress and fatigue. Proper safety empowers us to do our job to the best of our abilities and it saves lives — the lives of our friends, coworkers, and the citizens we work hard to protect.

MPPAC wants to put your safety first: by using our collective voice to draw attention to safety issues, by pursuing occupational health and safety grievances on behalf of our members in our capacity as your labour relations representative, and by securing collective agreements with legally binding provisions through collective bargaining.

YOUR SAFETY IN THE NEWS: LEVEL FOUR HARD BODY ARMOUR

Recently, both national newspapers have expressed concern over the delay in outfitting our force with the latest (level four) hard body armour. Here's a brief summary of what they've reported:

- "In Canada's rural areas, shotguns and rifles are more likely to pose a threat to officers' lives than handguns, which are preferred by inner-city thugs. It is therefore dismaying that six years after the tragedy at Mayerthorpe barely 550 hard armour vests have been delivered to RCMP officers. Another 500 are expected to arrive this summer, and it is hoped that a further 2,000 might arrive by next year, meaning the RCMP will be able to provide class-four hard armour to one-sixth of its 18,000 peace officers."

- “...new RCMP vests won’t be issued to individual members but left in the trunks of police cruisers for rotating use. [Leading to concern that] they will not fit all officers properly.”
- Officers have resorted to acquiring this armour for upwards of \$800 at personal expense.
- While it was recently announced that another 2,000 sets will arrive this fall, it will take as late as April 2013 to “hopefully” deliver another 7,000 sets.

These safety deficiencies and oversights are simply not tolerated by our colleagues in other police forces — where their respective associations step up and defend their members’ interests. With only enough suits to cover roughly half the force “hopefully” scheduled to arrive by April 2013, our employer is just not taking our safety seriously.

THINK OUR EMPLOYER CAN DO BETTER?

Have a safety concern that you’d like you to share? We’d like to hear about it. Your thoughts and feedback are always welcome, write to: national@mppac.ca

Want to help us make a difference? Join your friends and coworkers who are already contributing to our collective voice and actively working to define our agenda. Become a member of MPPAC today: [just visit our website to register online or download the form.](#)

And don’t forget, we’re still looking for volunteer members who are interested in taking on leadership and organizational roles!

It’s your RCMP, it’s your future, you can make a difference!

SOURCES

Matt Gurney, “Tough-on-crime Tories need to get the RCMP their body armour,” *National Post* 19 July 2011.

Julian Sher, “Lack of body armour puts Mounties at risk,” *Globe and Mail* 17 July 2011.

John Cotter, “RCMP rolls out 2,000 bulletproof vests after Mayerthrope Mountie killings,” *Globe and Mail* 23 September 2011.