

MEMBER COMMUNICATION 75
Feb 5th 2017



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Dear RCMP Membership

On Jan 30th MPPAC President Rae Banwarie, MPPAC Retired Members Alliance representative Dave Reichart and MPPAC's Labour Law firm representative Sebastien Anderson of Labour Rights Law were in Ottawa at the invitation of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs to advocate on behalf of all RCMP members and veterans on the issues of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

Occupational Health and Safety Canada have reported that during the past 10 years, at least 31 serving or retired RCMP Members have taken their own lives, more than twice the average of the general population. Many more have died prematurely or accidentally from the complications of alcohol or drug addictions often contributed to by both diagnosed and undiagnosed mental illness associated with their working careers making the exact numbers difficult to know.

The RCMP is beginning to face these issues but has lagged far behind most other police forces in Canada in addressing mental health and suicide prevention among its members.

MPPAC representatives briefed the Veterans Affairs committee on issues that are preventing many RCMP members from seeking assistance or receiving the assistance that they are seeking such as:

- RCMP policy requiring members seeking services to “consent” to mandatory disclosure of the personal medical information to the RCMP, Blue Cross, and their “affiliates”.
- Lack of access to professional mental health services in many of our posting areas.
- RCMP policy requiring employer consent and referral for RCMP members to receive treatment at Veterans Affairs or Canadian Forces Operational Stress Injury (OSI) Clinics.
- The RCMP restriction of allowing Members to only seek assistance from RCMP approved psychologists or psychologists employed directly by the RCMP.
- The development of RCMP Mental Health policies without any consultation with RCMP Members or member representative groups or other employee representative groups experienced in representing police officers in Canada.

<http://www.ohscanada.com/health-safety/rcmp-has-seen-31-officer-suicides-since-2006/1003176849/>

At the Standing Committee hearings, our MPPAC representatives made the following recommendations to the committee:

- Review RCMP Mental Health Services in consultation with RCMP Members and employee organizations.
- Allow RCMP Employees to receive treatment through the OSI clinics upon referral from a treating physician without the need for the RCMP Health Service's Officer's approval.
- End the practice of the RCMP collecting and disclosing RCMP Members' personal medical information to unknown third parties, and stop the practice of forcing RCMP Members to "consent" to disclosure of their private medical information in order to receive medical services.
- Allow RCMP Members to seek psychological services from the licensed psychologist of their choice. Eliminate the RCMP restriction of allowing only RCMP employed or approved psychologists.

An audio copy of our testimony can be found here:

[http://parl.vu.parl.gc.ca/XRender/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20170130/-/1/26519?globalstreamId=23&useragent=Mozilla/5.0%20\(iPhone;%20CPU%20iPhone%20OS%2010_2_1%20like%20Mac%20OS%20X\)%20AppleWebKit/602.4.6%20\(KHTML,%20like%20Gecko\)%20Version/10.0%20Mobile/14D27%20Safari/602.1](http://parl.vu.parl.gc.ca/XRender/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20170130/-/1/26519?globalstreamId=23&useragent=Mozilla/5.0%20(iPhone;%20CPU%20iPhone%20OS%2010_2_1%20like%20Mac%20OS%20X)%20AppleWebKit/602.4.6%20(KHTML,%20like%20Gecko)%20Version/10.0%20Mobile/14D27%20Safari/602.1)

MPPAC continues to work every day to address issues facing RCMP Members in every region in Canada and in all branches of policing. We believe that a strong, independent police association will help RCMP Members support one another and build a stronger and healthier RCMP for our retired, current, and future members.

LET US BE YOUR ADVOCATE

The Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada (MPPAC) aims to become the independent labour representative for all non-commissioned RCMP members. MPPAC was established in 2010 to fight for the right to engage in collective bargaining through an independent association on behalf of RCMP regular and civilian members across Canada. We strive for excellence in our conduct and obligations. We provide leadership to all of our membership, on justice issues which affect the quality of life of all Canadians. The Association does not seek or support the right to strike. To learn more, visit www.mppac.ca.

Become a member today and let's put forward a collective voice on work issues that concern us all. Please forward this message to your RCMP colleagues who are not yet members of MPPAC.

MPPAC | Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada
ACPMP | Association Canadienne de la Police Montée Professionnelle

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