



RCMP BURNABY DETACHMENT

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2021-MAY-05

FROM: OIC BURNABY DETACHMENT

FILE: 2410-20

SUBJECT: YOUTH SECTION PROGRAM/POLICE IN SCHOOLS

In response to news media coverage of the withdrawal of School Liaison Officers in New Westminster and Vancouver, I would like to provide the Committee with an update on the Burnaby RCMP Youth Section Program and our ongoing engagement with the Burnaby School District.

Burnaby RCMP Youth Section Officers are different than the police officers in Vancouver and New Westminster in that they are not School Liaison officers, but rather members of a Youth Section. Historically Burnaby RCMP Youth Section officers have been referred to as School Liaison or School Resource Officers. Youth Section Officers are not in the schools full time. Officers work in the community with youth. In Burnaby, each high school has a safe school specialist, a school district employee, who works closely with the RCMP Youth Section officers to support students and ensure student and staff safety. Since the start of the Pandemic, Youth Officers provide presentations virtually and only go to schools when asked by the Administrative Staff to, or to deal with a specific incident. In the past year, such incidents included threats of school shootings, other threats, traffic accidents, child custody and domestic disputes, missing children, sharing of intimate images, and bullying.

The Burnaby School District BIPOC working group has been engaged with addressing systemic racism. The District is supporting the engagement process with a survey, which is scheduled to go out in May.

RCMP leadership has been meeting with the District since last June

RCMP Leadership will continue to engage with the Burnaby School District and be involved in these critical conversations in order to determine the best way forward in the evolution of the police/school relationship in order to meet the needs of Burnaby School students and staff and to address systemic racism.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Graham de la Gorgendiere".

Graham de la Gorgendiere, Superintendent
Officer in Charge
Burnaby Detachment