

MEDIA RELEASE

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Special Committee to Review the Police Complaint Process releases report

VICTORIA – The Special Committee to Review the Police Complaint Process presented its unanimous report to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia today.

The Special Committee held public consultations to seek input regarding improvements to the police complaint process and makes 38 recommendations to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and accessibility of the police complaint process.

“The Committee Members thank all stakeholders, organizations and individuals who participated in our consultation process,” said committee chair Rachna Singh. “The Committee’s recommendations will streamline and simplify the police complaint process.”

“Continued confidence in the police complaint process is essential,” added deputy chair Mike Morris. “The Committee’s recommendations will improve accountability, transparency and fairness in the process.”

The Legislative Assembly appointed the Special Committee to conduct an audit respecting the outcome or resolution of randomly selected complaints and investigations, pursuant to section 51.2 of the *Police Act* [RSBC 1996] c. 367.

The overall results of the audits conducted by MNP LLP were positive and Committee Members endorsed the auditor’s 10 recommendations. Committee recommendations include measures to ensure appropriate supports for complainants, a review of the timelines in Part 11 of the *Police Act*, and the expanded use of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The Special Committee also recommended that the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner enhance training, public outreach and communications. Committee Members would like to see the *Police Act* amended to provide the Police Complaint Commissioner with the authority to arrange a public hearing at any stage in the process when the public interest demands it.

Other recommendations include adding a 'fast-track' process for minor complaints, and improving training opportunities for discipline authorities and investigating officers.

Further information about the special committee, including its report, is available at:
<https://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/pcp>

The members of the committee are:

Rachna Singh, Chair, MLA Surrey-Green Timbers
Mike Morris, Deputy Chair, MLA Prince George-Mackenzie
Garry Begg, MLA Surrey-Guildford
Ellis Ross, MLA Skeena

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