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Member of Parliament  
1997-2015

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## BODY WORN CAMERAS

Through my 2015 Parliamentary Motion 603, I urged all police forces in Canada to use body worn cameras (BWCs) and police dashboard cameras.

I have long been a proponent of BWCs, but the decision to act on this issue by way of a Motion comes because of the incident in Bathurst, New Brunswick, where 51 year old Michel Vienneau was fatally shot by police in his vehicle; the 2013 streetcar shooting of Sammy Yatim by police, who was shot nine times; and in North Charleston, South Carolina, where Walter Scott was shot eight times by police. It is noteworthy that North Charleston, with a population of 100,000, has dashboard cameras in police cruisers, which did help determine the circumstances surrounding Mr. Scott's murder. The city had previously ordered 120 BWCs for its officers, and has now ordered cameras for all police. With a population ten times the size, Edmonton should do the same.

We have the technology readily and economically available to help explain these tragic encounters and many others less tragic. This would provide substantive evidence to protect both the police and the public, as well as save vast amounts of very costly court time. Police could spend more time policing and less time in the court room.

These recent cases clearly demonstrate the need for BWCs and dashboard cameras. I was hoping that this Motion would garner support for action throughout the various police jurisdictions, showing the support of the House of Commons for such a cause, and eventually lead to a legislated response.

It is my belief that dashboard cameras in patrol cars be used, and BWCs

worn by all police officers, as a measure of public safety and investigative efficiency. These important tools must be mandatory, especially in our own community.

Why do police officers in Edmonton want to keep their pencil and paper evidence notebooks that can be written anywhere, anyhow, anytime?  
Hmmm, I wonder!

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