

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A MOTION FOR POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS AND PATROL CAR CAMERAS TO BE PUT FORWARD BY PETER GOLDRING

OTTAWA - Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, is preparing a Motion to be introduced in the House of Commons calling on all police forces in Canada to make the use of body worn cameras (BWCs) and police dashboard cameras mandatory.

Mr. Goldring has long been a proponent of BWCs, but the decision to act on this issue by way of a Motion comes at the heels of the still unresolved incident in Bathurst, New Brunswick, where 51 year old Michel Vienneau was fatally shot by police in his vehicle; the 2013 Toronto streetcar shooting of Sammy Yatim by police, who was shot at nine times; and, most recently, in North Charleston, South Carolina, where Walter Scott was shot at eight times by police. It is noteworthy that North Charleston, with a population of 100,000, has dashboard cameras in its 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.

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 court-time. Police could spend more time policing and less time in the court room.

"The recent cases in New Brunswick, Toronto, and South Carolina clearly demonstrate the need for body worn and patrol-car cameras. As elected representatives responsible for the protection and safety of all Canadians, we must oblige. A Motion calling for body worn and patrol-car cameras being made mandatory will garner support for future 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," Mr. Goldring stated.

It is the belief of Mr. Goldring that dashboard cameras in patrol cars be used and BWCs worn by all police officers in Canada as a measure of public safety and investigative efficiency. These important tools must be made mandatory. More will follow on this issue in the coming weeks.

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