



History of Protective Services Detail

Members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary have been providing protective services to the Premier and other Government Elected Officials dating back to the early 1980's.

While no formal section was established, it is known that back in the early 1980's Sergeant Robert Garland was assigned to Premier Brian Peckford for VIP services. Sergeant Garland worked directly out of the Office of the Premier for a number of years.

After the resignation of Premier Brian Peckford and the election of Premier Clyde Wells, the protection of the Premier remained a responsibility of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary for a short period, at which time Premier Wells made a decision not to continue with this security detail but hired a retired RNC officer on contract for the purpose of continuing these duties.

On the resignation of Premier Wells, this privately hired position continued under the term of office of Premier Brian Tobin and any criminal complaints of threats were investigated by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

When Premier Roger Grimes was chosen as Premier of the Province and a General Services strike occurred, members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary were again assigned to a Premier's Detail.

With the election of Premier Danny Williams and the appointment and subsequent election of Premier Cathy Dunderdale, members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary continued to provide protective services on an ad hoc basis only when requested by the Premier's office.

After the resignation of Premier Williams and the election of Premier Cathy Dunderdale, the Premier's Protective Service Detail took on a more formalized process in which members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary were assigned to the Premier's Office on a continuous basis. Two members were originally assigned and then after approximately one year, increased to three members; approximately one year later increased to four members with the fourth member being a member of the RCMP.

After the resignation of Premier Dunderdale and the appointment of Premier Tom Marshall to that office, this detail was formally scaled back to two members – one RNC member and one RCMP member. This process continued with the appointment of Premier Paul Davis in September or 2014.

This process was in place on the date and time of the incident in Mitchell's Brook resulting in the death of Mr. Donald Dunphy.

In November of 2015 with the election of Premier Dwight Ball, the process of having one RNC officer and one RCMP officer assigned continued until February 2016 when it was decided by the Premier's Office that this detail would no longer be required.

As a result of the decision the Protective Service Detail as outlined above would operate on a part-time basis, all complaints in relation to the Premier and elected Government Officials were handled by members of the Intelligence & Organized Crime Section of the RNC and personal security was only assigned to Premier Ball on a request from the Office of the Premier for a security detail for a specific purpose.

Some of the RNC members of the Premier's Protective Service Detail over the past 30+ years are:

- Sergeant Robert Garland
- Inspector Paul Woodruff
- Sergeant Hubert Marrie
- Sergeant David White
- Sergeant W.F. James
- Sergeant Colin McNeil
- Sergeant Ken Jackson
- Acting Sergeant Joe Smyth
- Constable Ed Benoit
- Constable Tammy Madden
- Constable Jessica (Singleton) Brown
- Constable Nick Cashin
- Superintendent Joe Boland
- Various members of the RNC Tactical and Rescue Team
- Various members of the RNC Criminal Intelligence Unit

Members of the RCMP assigned to the Premier's Protective Service Detail:

- Constable Shannon McEntegart
- Constable Lindsey Anstey
- Corporal Wendy Smith
- Corporal Doug Noel

Prior to the formalization of the Premier's Protective Service Detail under Premier Cathy Dunderdale, complaints/threats against the Premier and elected government officials, were handled under the Intelligence & Organized Crime Section and were maintained in the following manner:

Prior to 2012, all requests for the Premier's Protective Service Detail were on an as-needed basis and specific file numbers were not generated for each request. After the formalization of the Premier's Protective Services Detail under Premier Cathy Dunderdale, specific file numbers were only generated on files which members assigned to the Protective Service Detail felt required further investigation or follow-up. There was no formal administrative policy process in place for requests forwarded to the Protective Service Detail.

However, in 2013, the Protective Service Detail developed a more formal administrative process whereby RNC file numbers were formally generated for complaints/threats/escorts, etc. that required follow-up. During 2013, 16 formal file numbers were generated for follow-up by the Protective Service Detail.

Since 2013, ICAN files are now being generated on all Protective Service requests or complaints that require follow-up by members of the Unit.