



# Banner Page

Document ID:  
Investigation: DUNPHY – 2015-376186

Document Title

Doc Description

How Received

When Received

Date

Document Type:

Document Summary:

Statement of Eddie BENOIT.

This is a copy of a document already in the system

POC Content

Secured for Hold Back or Disclosure Issues

Vetting

Submitted/Recommended/Approved By

Date 2015-12-01

Number ID	Category	Reason
102	T	
NIPPARD, Mike	P	
BENOIT, Eddie	P	

Digital Recording  
File: 2015-376186

**STATEMENT OF:** Eddie BENOIT

**INTERVIEWED BY:** Cst. Mike NIPPARD, RCMP Major Crime Unit  
May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 commencing at 3:11 PM

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1 **Nippard:** Alright. Alright. I got that on. May 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, 3:11 PM and I'm here  
2 with Eddie Benoit. Benoit.

3 **Benoit:** Yes sir.

4 **Nippard:** Yes. And my name is Mike Nippard and we're at the Headquarters in St.  
5 John's and we're talking about the Donald Dunphy matter as well as  
6 Joseph Smyth obviously involved in that. So Eddie, I guess I'll start off  
7 with how long have you been a member of the RNC?

8 **Benoit:** Right now I'm a Constable...

9 **Nippard:** Yeah.

10 **Benoit:** ... and I've been a member since 2006.

11 **Nippard:** Okay. How long have you been in the Premier's Detail?

12 **Benoit:** I first joined the Premier's Detail, the Protective Services Unit ...

13 **Nippard:** Yeah.

14 **Benoit:** ... back in – it would have been May 2012.

15 **Nippard:** Okay.

16 **Benoit:** And I was there full time up until, I think it was, February or March of last  
17 year when the unit was reduced.

18 **Nippard:** 2014.

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- 1 **Benoit:** That's correct.
- 2 **Nippard:** Yeah, it went from four down two, is that right?
- 3 **Benoit:** That's correct.
- 4 **Nippard:** Okay. Ah, it was just – ah, when you started in May of 2006 – is that what  
5 you said?
- 6 **Benoit:** Ah ...
- 7 **Nippard:** Or just 2006 you said ...
- 8 **Benoit:** 2006 I started ...
- 9 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 10 **Benoit:** ... policing but the Unit ...
- 11 **Nippard:** Oh yeah that's right, yes.
- 12 **Benoit:** ... (unintel) ... 2012.
- 13 **Nippard:** May – May 2012. When you started in May 2012, ah, it was just you and  
14 Joe, is that right?
- 15 **Benoit:** No. No. I actually was the fourth member that was added on.
- 16 **Nippard:** Okay, so there was ...
- 17 **Benoit:** There was ...
- 18 **Nippard:** ... four back then.
- 19 **Benoit:** ... there was three members previously ...
- 20 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 21 **Benoit:** ... and I was added as a fourth.

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1 **Nippard:** Oh okay.

2 **Benoit:** And then one of the four got promoted and got moved on ...

3 **Nippard:** Okay.

4 **Benoit:** ... and that's when the RCMP came onboard and they made the ...

5 **Nippard:** Ahhh...

6 **Benoit:** ... fourth member.

7 **Nippard:** Okay.

8 **Benoit:** So that all happened within weeks of me starting up.

9 **Nippard:** Okay.

10 **Benoit:** Shannon McEntegart would have been the one that started just after me.  
11 I think she was two weeks, three weeks after I started.

12 **Nippard:** Okay. So Shannon was the first RCMP in there.

13 **Benoit:** That's correct.

14 **Nippard:** Okay. Ah, have you – how long have you known Joe?

15 **Benoit:** I've known Joe since I started work.

16 **Nippard:** So at least 2006.

17 **Benoit:** 2006. Our Force isn't overly big so you get to – if not everybody  
18 personally you get to know everybody anyway cause you're – everyone's  
19 together with the exception, we'll say, the units working ...

20 **Nippard:** Yeah, that's right.

21 **Benoit:** ... Lab West and Corner Brook ...

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1 **Nippard:** Yeah.

2 **Benoit:** ... which you see in training from time to time.

3 **Nippard:** Yeah that's right. Get to know everybody when there's not too – too many  
4 of ya. Ah, you were, ah, - so since May 2012, I'll go from there, ah, in your  
5 duties with the Premier's Detail have you ever had any instances where  
6 you've had to use force yourself personally on somebody?

7 **Benoit:** No, not that I can think of.

8 **Nippard:** Have you ever – has Joe? Have you ever seen Joe have to use force in  
9 front of you at any time?

10 **Benoit:** No.

11 **Nippard:** No.

12 **Benoit:** No.

13 **Nippard:** Or anybody else in the Unit?

14 **Benoit:** No, we've talked to several people who – just in relation to complaints that  
15 are made or person of interest that have come up due to whatever.

16 **Nippard:** Yeah.

17 **Benoit:** But, no, there's nothing I can recall where we've actually used force.

18 **Nippard:** Okay. How – how many – how often would you, ah, have to make home  
19 visits for investigating those, you know, threats or tips?

20 **Benoit:** Uhm.

21 **Nippard:** Comments made.

22 **Benoit:** Well in the year and half that I was there I'd only probably made, and  
23 again this would be rough, but actual visits to people and speaking with

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1           them in person maybe half dozen times. A lot of times stuff comes in and,  
2           ah, we identify people as people of interest and we'll say generate a file on  
3           'em just for our own purposes in the event that we see them out and about  
4           and any of the events that we go to. But if it's not, ah, you know, if there's  
5           nothing that, I guess, is in the gray area that can't be explained we usually  
6           don't generally go and – and deal with them at all. But ...

7   **Nippard:**    What would constitute a home visit, like going to see somebody? What  
8           would you usually wanna see or wanna have ...

9   **Benoit:**     But for the most part it all depends on, ah ...

10 **Nippard:**    Your background checks I would think.

11 **Benoit:**     Yeah, the – the background checks and, I guess, the nature of how they  
12           kind of came into our scope in the first place.

13 **Nippard:**    Okay.

14 **Benoit:**     Ah, depending on, ah, as you can imagine, through the Premier's Office  
15           we get a lot of correspondence. There's a lot of people that are – that are  
16           upset at different situations, at different parts of government or outside  
17           government, they're looking for government to help. Ah, you know, there's  
18           a lot of emotions involved. So a lot of times people say stuff off the cuff  
19           that is not directly a threat but could se – could be perceived and you –  
20           you need to speak to 'em in person to find out, I guess, what's kind of the  
21           motivation behind it.

22 **Nippard:**    Uhm...uhm.

23 **Benoit:**     Is it something that's gonna kind of, I guess, grow into a threat.

24 **Nippard:**    Yeah.

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1 **Benoit:** A lot of times when you speak to people and – and there's not issues. It's  
2 just kind of heat of the moment, yeah, I probably shouldn't have said that.  
3 That's the end of it.

4 **Nippard:** Okay.

5 **Benoit:** And in most of the situations that I've dealt with – all the situations I've  
6 dealt with that's been the case. We've never had to follow through – I've  
7 never had to follow through on charges for threats or harassment.

8 **Nippard:** What was Joe like to work with?

9 **Benoit:** I had no issues with him. He was the Supervisor of our Unit so he was  
10 more so the liaison between management and the Premier's Office. Ah,  
11 very easy going guy. Very easy to deal with from a – an employee  
12 perspective.

13 **Nippard:** Ah, the Premier when you guys – when you were there. Your first one, I'm  
14 assuming was Dunderdale.

15 **Benoit:** Yeah.

16 **Nippard:** Premier Dunderdale. And then who did you have after ...

17 **Benoit:** Would have been Marshall. Tom Marshall.

18 **Nippard:** Marshall for a period and then ...

19 **Benoit:** And then Davis.

20 **Nippard:** ... Paul Davis. Okay. You said there's never been an incidence where  
21 you've had to lay a charge, eh.

22 **Benoit:** Me personally.

23 **Nippard:** Okay.

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1 **Benoit:** And there's none that I can recall within the Unit. Now that being said, ah,  
2 depending on the nature of our Unit and the nature of, I guess, what  
3 comes in and how busy we are, ah, primarily before with – there were  
4 actual four people to work a lot of stuff would get pushed off to our  
5 Intelligence Unit and they do follow up some whatnot. Now I can't speak  
6 for them. I don't know if they've ever charged anybody.

7 **Nippard:** Okay.

8 **Benoit:** But myself specifically I've never laid any charges from the ... (unintel)...

9 **Nippard:** Okay. Ah, when it came to doing home visits, if you did have to do that,  
10 did you have any policies in place with regards to two people having to go  
11 or was it you could go by yourself or was there ...

12 **Benoit:** It was essentially on a case by case basis ...

13 **Nippard:** Okay.

14 **Benoit:** ... depending on what you were kind of dealing with, your background  
15 checks. Ah, for the most part, as you can imagine, a lot of the people that  
16 we dealt with ourselves would be in close proximity, within driving  
17 distance. Anyone we'll say on the other side of the Province and Labrador  
18 we get the – the local people to deal with it just for obvious reasons. We  
19 couldn't make the travel.

20 **Nippard:** Uhm...uhm.

21 **Benoit:** But, no, totally on a case by case basis.

22 **Nippard:** Did Joe ever have any like direct complaints made about him that you're  
23 aware or any issues with – with – any issues relate – related to his duties  
24 directly, public complaints or anything like that, that you're aware of?

25 **Benoit:** Not that I'm aware of.

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1 **Nippard:** No. Okay. Ah, after this incident happened, this shooting on April 5<sup>th</sup>, did  
2 you talk to Joe after that?

3 **Benoit:** Briefly, we'll say, in between. Because at that point, effective immediately,  
4 I was contacted the – to go and fill in and more or less take his spot back  
5 in the Unit.

6 **Nippard:** Okay.

7 **Benoit:** And, ah, just back and forth from him coming to get stuff at the office. I  
8 might have seen him two or three times and that was kind of in passing.

9 **Nippard:** Okay.

10 **Benoit:** No real chance to sit down. Obviously when I heard of what happened I  
11 had contact – I reached out and send him a message just to ask if  
12 everything was okay, if he needed anything but that was the extent of that.

13 **Nippard:** Okay. Did Joe ever get into details about what had happened with your  
14 or?

15 **Benoit:** No.

16 **Nippard:** No.

17 **Benoit:** Not specifically.

18 **Nippard:** Now did he ever – did he tell you what happened or did he give – cause I  
19 know he spoke to like, ah, he spoke to some other people, ah, Lindsey  
20 Anstey and a couple other members that were in that Unit and just kind of  
21 give them a rundown of what happened.

22 **Benoit:** Yeah, after the fact I – I did get bit and pieces of it.

23 **Nippard:** Yeah.

24 **Benoit:** I never, of course, got any of the nitty, gritty details.

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- 1   **Nippard:**    No.
- 2   **Benoit:**    But, yeah, to a certain extent.  Myself and – and Doug would have been in  
3                    the office.
- 4   **Nippard:**    Okay.
- 5   **Benoit:**    And that was - would have been days, probably a week after it happened.
- 6   **Nippard:**    Okay.  Did – that was face to face or – or talking to somebody else or  
7                    talking to Joe?
- 8   **Benoit:**    No, this would have been, we'll say, in – in the office ...
- 9   **Nippard:**    Oh yeah.
- 10  **Benoit:**     ... in our office.
- 11  **Nippard:**    Okay.  Alright.  And he came in and told you guys about it, I guess.
- 12  **Benoit:**    Yeah.
- 13  **Nippard:**    Okay.  Was there anything alarming that came out of those conversations  
14                    that made you think that something was wrong or off or ...
- 15  **Benoit:**    No.
- 16  **Nippard:**    ... anything of that ...
- 17  **Benoit:**    Not at all.
- 18  **Nippard:**    ... nature?
- 19  **Benoit:**    And again just by our nature I certainly wouldn't wanna dig in anything ...
- 20  **Nippard:**    Yeah.
- 21  **Benoit:**    ... knowing the background of policing as well and everything is under  
22                    investigation.  So we certainly weren't gonna dig ...

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1 **Nippard:** Yeah.

2 **Benoit:** ... or ask questions or – or weren't gonna put him in that kind of a spot  
3 anyway.

4 **Nippard:** Yeah. Ah, in your role with the Premier's Detail, did you ever hear that  
5 name come up before, Donald Dunphy?

6 **Benoit:** Never.

7 **Nippard:** Was it ever brought to attention or ...

8 **Benoit:** Not too my knowledge.

9 **Nippard:** ... somebody to watch out for? No. Okay. Ah, Joe you said was good to  
10 work with, a good Supervisor, and whatnot. Did he ever have a – any  
11 issues that you seen? Did he ever anger too quickly at people or ever  
12 have any issues of violence or anything like that that you've seen?

13 **Benoit:** No, nothing ...

14 **Nippard:** No.

15 **Benoit:** ... that I've seen personally.

16 **Nippard:** Okay. Ah, you said it was about maybe a half dozen times you would do –  
17 you've done home visits. Ah, now that's maybe a half dozen times you've  
18 done home visits for like a perceived threat or whatnot. But how many  
19 would actually come in that you would have to look at or do background  
20 checks or make a phone call or something like that ...

21 **Benoit:** Persons of interest ...

22 **Nippard:** ... in the run of a year?

23 **Benoit:** Now I – I just recently through we'll say our files ...

24 **Nippard:** Yeah.

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1 **Benoit:** ... and I think for the two of the years that I have been there we were  
2 upwards of probably, and I can't say for certain, but I think it was fifteen or  
3 sixteen.

4 **Nippard:** Okay.

5 **Benoit:** I think it was under twenty per year ...

6 **Nippard:** Okay.

7 **Benoit:** ... I will say person of interest files that were generated.

8 **Nippard:** Okay.

9 **Benoit:** Now that being said a lot of the people that we deal with, ah, case by  
10 case, are a lot of the same people. So if information comes in or there's a  
11 new, you know, a hit on a certain person we may not generally generate a  
12 new file.

13 **Nippard:** No.

14 **Benoit:** It may be added to the existing file from years prior.

15 **Nippard:** Okay.

16 **Benoit:** So again, but just to give a, I guess, ah, an average, it was under twenty I  
17 think. I think it was like sixteen, fifteen or sixteen...

18 **Nippard:** Okay.

19 **Benoit:** ... for each year that I was there.

20 **Nippard:** Okay.

21 **Benoit:** And that was new person of interest files.

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- 1 **Nippard:** So it wasn't something that you handled a lot. You – cause from what I  
2 noted from talking to the other ones, your main detail was to follow the  
3 Premier.
- 4 **Benoit:** Yes, of course. Yeah.
- 5 **Nippard:** And just to go ...
- 6 **Benoit:** And this would be something that would...
- 7 **Nippard:** ... any function.
- 8 **Benoit:** ... that would come through our ...
- 9 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 10 **Benoit:** ... we'll say, in front of us that we generate and kind of ...
- 11 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 12 **Benoit:** ... just be aware of in the event of our day to day ...
- 13 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 14 **Benoit:** ... functions ...
- 15 **Nippard:** Functions.
- 16 **Benoit:** ... that we had.
- 17 **Nippard:** Okay. No, that's, ah, all I can think to ask with regards to all of that.  
18 ... (unintel) ... (unintel) ... think I gotta talk to Lindsey about there. And  
19 you said in the Unit right now there's three of you.
- 20 **Benoit:** We just got a third person.
- 21 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 22 **Benoit:** Started today.

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1 **Nippard:** Okay. So is that the position brought back again or was it just vacant for a  
2 while or?

3 **Benoit:** Well essentially it's the position brought back again.

4 **Nippard:** Oh.

5 **Benoit:** Because – since this incident now ...

6 **Nippard:** Okay.

7 **Benoit:** ... they've, ah, they've kind of changed a little bit in relation to, I guess,  
8 how many people are attending functions.

9 **Nippard:** Okay.

10 **Benoit:** Just ...

11 **Nippard:** Cause of a little bit more attention.

12 **Benoit:** ...absolutely, yeah.

13 **Nippard:** Yeah. Got ya.

14 **Benoit:** Just as a precaution. So just to – to balance shifts again now.

15 **Nippard:** Okay. Is that, ah, that's a RNC member is it?

16 **Benoit:** Yes, that's correct.

17 **Nippard:** Okay. Alright. It's 3:23.

18

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23 *Transcribed by: Brenda P. Spurrell*

24 *Transcribed statement provided to investigator: 2015-05-26*

25 *Proofread by: M. Nippard 2015-05-26*



Cst. Mike Nippard  
"B" Division Major Crime Unit