

Key messages are provided to ensure consistent and up-to-date messaging by senior level OPP executives. They are to be used by designated OPP members and senior managers when speaking to the public or the media.

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Lloyd-Comeau (Williams/Project Hatfield) Investigation Review & Media Requests

Version 2 – April 19, 2011

s.21(1)
s.21(2)(f)
s.21(3)(b)

Issue: Media reports, a book, and television productions regarding the Williams investigation include mentions police/OPP are not granting further specific interviews on this matter.

Media may also request an update or the outcome of a review/de-brief of the investigation.

NOTE: The key messages below should be used only if contacted directly (**REACTIVE ONLY**). A proactive media release is **NOT RECOMMENDED** as the OPP has received no follow-up requests for this information from the media to date and risks raising those issues again.

Key Messages:

- (Cooperation and Sharing of Information) The partnership between the OPP, Belleville Police Service, Ottawa Police Service, and Canadian Forces National Investigative Service (CFNIS) created a cohesive team and allowed for the seamless sharing of information, the sharing of resources, and the coordination of the investigation.
- This success of the investigation was due to the dedication of police officers, skilled interviewers and investigators, excellent training and good old fashioned police work.
- (Review/Debrief of Lloyd-Comeau Investigation) A review of the investigation was held in Fall 2010 and involved all of the partners in the investigation and representatives of their respective investigative support/specialty services.
- As with all major investigations, the OPP conducts a de-briefing and a review to identify what worked well and what we could do to improve.

- As a part of this, we continue to develop procedures to guide in the decision as to what and when to distribute information to the media and public for violent crimes.
- (Public safety warnings and addressing OPP release of warnings; updated guidelines) Personal safety is a concern for all of us.
- The OPP regularly provides personal safety and crime prevention information to the public. The OPP's website, www.opp.ca, contains a number of useful resources, tips and links.
- The decision as to what information to release to the media and public in any investigation, including public safety warnings, is made on a case-by-case basis, according to *Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)*.
- The OPP regularly updates SOP as part of its practice of ongoing evaluation. It has recently done so regarding public safety warnings.
- (Denying requests for further/specific media interviews) During the court proceedings, a significant amount of information was made available to the media to provide the public with a clear understanding of the investigation and the offences.
- To allow the victims, families, friends and the communities the opportunity to continue the healing process and to move forward, members of the joint investigative team have elected not to provide any further media interviews.

If asked

- (Potential legal action against OPP by victim[s]) We are aware of other legal proceedings associated with the crimes committed by Russell Williams. As of this date, the OPP has not received a Statement of Claim.

Questions and Answers:

GENERAL – Reviews/De-Brief Post-Investigations

Q: When/where was the de-brief held in the Lloyd-Comeau investigation? Who attended? Were BPS/OPS/CFNIS/Crown/others involved? How long did the de-brief last?

A: The partners in this investigation had representatives in the room. The discussions were operational in nature, thus I'm not able to discuss

specific aspects of those discussions. We can always learn from each investigation and apply what we have learned to future investigations.

Q: Are you going to make the results of the review/de-brief of this case public?

A: The discussions were operational in nature. I'm not able to discuss all of the specific aspects of the discussions. However, I can tell you a number of things that were identified and discussed.

For instance:

- The partnership between the OPP, Belleville Police Service, Ottawa Police Service, and Canadian Forces National Investigative Service (CFNIS) created a cohesive team and allowed for the seamless sharing of information, the sharing of resources, and the coordination of the investigation.
- This success of the investigation was due to the dedication of police officers, skilled interviewers and investigators, excellent training and good old fashioned police work.
- At the onset of the investigation the OPP implemented a new strategy now known as the **Rapid Response Team** approach to complex or multi-jurisdictional investigations.
- The OPP Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB)-led integrated Rapid Response Team provides the investigative team with pre-identified/trained human resources and the supporting infrastructure (such as I-T, Facilities, and additional support) required to launch a complex investigation quickly and efficiently.
- We also continue to develop procedures to guide in the decision as to what and when to distribute public safety information to the media and public for violent crimes.

Q: Have you done similar de-briefs on similar multi-jurisdictional cases before? (Stafford?) How long did they take?

A: Yes, this is standard practice. We can always learn from each investigation and apply what we have learned to future investigations.

PUBLIC SAFETY WARNINGS

Q: Would you be able to comment on past cases and the issue of public safety warnings?

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Page 3 of 7

A: It is inappropriate to speculate on why public safety warnings were issued, or were not issued, during past investigations since these matters may be before the courts or such discussion about *Standard Operating Procedures* would have a negative impact on the integrity of the OPP's operations.

Tweed-specific Public Safety Warnings

Q. Why didn't the OPP issue a warning to the public after the first home invasion, sexual assault that occurred in Tweed on September 17, 2009?

A. The OPP did not distribute a media release after the first incident of on September 17, but did take this investigation seriously and committed significant resources to it:

1. conducted a door-to-door canvass of neighbours;
2. had OPP Canine Unit attend the scene;
3. utilized the OPP Forensic Identification Unit;
4. the OPP Behavioural Sciences Section, and,
5. the Centre of Forensic Science.

The door-to-door canvass did notify those persons that were the most directly impacted by the first incident.

After the second incident on September 30, 2009, the OPP distributed a media release regarding **both incidents** and of the concern for public safety.

As with all major investigations, the OPP conducts a de-briefing and a review to identify what worked well and what we could do to improve.

As a part of this, we continue to develop procedures to guide in the decision as to what and when to distribute information to the media and public for violent crimes.

Q. Did the OPP skip Williams' Tweed cottage/home in the canvass?

A. No. Williams was treated the same as everyone else during the canvass.

Q. I have heard that OPP told a neighbour that Williams was not a suspect due to his position with the military.

A. That statement was not made by the OPP. Williams was treated the same as everyone else during the investigations into the Tweed incidents.

Q. When Marie-France Comeau was murdered, why did the OPP tell the public that there was no concern for public safety?

A. The OPP distributed a media release on November 25, 2009 --the day that her body was discovered -- notifying the public of a suspicious death at a residence and three (3) additional media releases were distributed as the investigation progressed.

The content of the media releases was based on the evidence that the OPP had at that time.

As with all major investigations, the OPP conducts a de-briefing and a review to identify what worked well and what we could do to improve.

As a part of this, we continue to develop procedures to guide in the decision as to what and when to distribute information to the media and public for violent crimes.

Q. Comeau was with the military. Why didn't you make the connection to Williams sooner?

A. The OPP conducted a detailed investigation into the murder of Marie-France Comeau and the CFNIS was involved from the onset. Williams was not identified as a suspect until after the disappearance of Jessica Lloyd.

s.21(1)

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s.21(3)(b)

Q. Why didn't the OPP send out a warning to Tweed-area residents about the other break-ins?

A. These break-ins were never reported to the police. If we didn't know of them, we couldn't investigate, nor advise area residents.

Q. What can we do to protect ourselves in the future?

A. The best protection is:

- To practice personal safety at all times.
- Report suspicious activity/behaviour at the time. Don't wait.

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- Ask about "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" to help protect your homes and to deter intruders.
 - The OPP website at www.opp.ca has a wealth of information.

These crimes were not the fault of home owners. Williams had been conducting illegal activities for a long time. His first break-in was committed on September 9, 2007. He became very skilled at these crimes. He was also able to hide criminal aspects of himself to those who knew him best.

REQUESTS FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Q: Aren't you depriving the public of their right to be informed?

A: We continually balance the right to privacy of victims and their families with our need to be accountable to the public.

During the court process, a significant amount of information was disclosed to meet the interests of the media and public. At this time, we - the police services involved in the investigation - collectively feel that this is the right thing to do for the victims, families and communities.

Q: What about if I just want to do a profile on a unit, like the OPP Behavioural Sciences and Analysis Section?

A: We will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis as we always do.

Q: Are there any outstanding cases that Russell Williams is considered a suspect?

A: The investigative team is continuing to review unsolved incidents to determine if there are any connections to Russell Williams. As this review is ongoing, I am unable to provide further details.

Q: What can you tell me about the Belleville Police Service Officer who knocked on Jessica Lloyd's door when Williams was hiding in the backyard?

A: Jessica's death was a tragedy and impacted everyone -- principally, of course, her family and her friends -- as well as the communities and the police involved.

The officer should be commended for her keen power of observations; as opposed to being cast as a villain by certain media.

Her observations allowed investigators to narrow the search for a suspect vehicle.

After noticing an unusual vehicle in a field adjacent to Lloyd's home, she knocked on the door. There was no answer, but she noted the house was secure and also noted a description of the vehicle.

After Jessica was reported missing, this played a key role in helping investigators narrow down the possible list of suspect vehicles, in combination with tire tracks left at the scene.

Speculation about "what if" serves no useful purpose and cannot alter any of the facts of the crimes that occurred.