

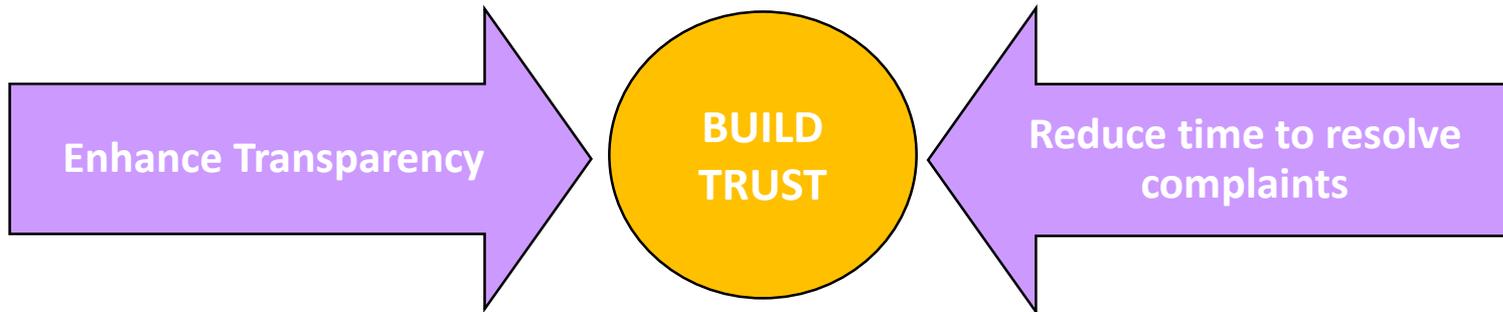


# Body Worn Camera and Digital Evidence Management System for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

March 2021

# Why Body Worn Cameras?

- Body Worn Cameras (BWC) are intended to overtly capture an accurate unbiased and reliable audio/video account of incidents involving uniformed police
- Increasingly deployed by police in Canada and internationally to:



- Other potential benefits?
  - a reduction in the number of public complaints
  - increased usage of video evidence in court proceedings resulting quicker resolution

# Why Now?

- The RCMP is committed to enhancing trust with the communities it serves. One way to increase trust is by increasing transparency of police interactions with citizens.
- BWC alone are not expected to change behavior; this is **one part** of a comprehensive RCMP strategy to *address systemic racism*.



“

Providing body-worn cameras to RCMP officers is viewed as an important step to strengthening RCMP trust, transparency and accountability, with a focus on strengthening trust and relationships with racialized and Indigenous communities.”

Fall Economic Statement 2020



# Initiative Objectives

Improved evidence gathering and prosecutions



Improved transparency and accountability for police leading to increased public trust confidence in police



Timely resolutions or withdrawal of complaints upon video viewing



Improved police and public behaviour

Work is underway to identify specific metrics to measure the achievement of results



# What we know



BWC will become a ***national standard*** for RCMP members that are interacting directly with communities.



Based on research, the RCMP estimates BWCs will cost \$2000-\$3000 per camera per year. These numbers will be confirmed once a vendor is in place.



There is an expectation that BWC will start to be rolled out in Fall 2021 and an understanding that **roll-out could take up to 18 months.**



Once vendor is selected, **implementation will be phased.** Pilots in various settings (e.g., rural, remote, and urban) expected to assist in refining and adjusting procedures and training materials prior to broad implementation.



# What we don't know...

- Exactly **how many** members will wear a camera....and how we will determine **who wears** a camera.
- **How** cameras will be rolled out across the country and the factors that will be considered to make this determination (network capabilities, stakeholders consultations, size of detachment).
- **How video evidence** will be handled and transferred to the courts.
- How and **what will be redacted** to respect various privacy requirements across the country.
- **What services** an external vendor will provide vs. what will be handled within RCMP.
- **What methodology** will be used to recover the costs of the program.
- Etc.



# Procurement for this Initiative

A procurement strategy has been developed for the program. The assumption is that we will contract for services and outsource as much of the program as feasible.

STEP	TIMELINE	COMPLETE
Issue Request for Information (RFI)	October 2020	✓
Hold an Industry session	November 2020 (12 participants)	✓
One-on-one sessions with industry	December 2020	✓
Intent to Qualify	Spring 2021	
RFP	Summer 2021	
Contract award	Late Summer/early Fall 2021	



# Limited Pilot in V Division Underway

Pilot will inform community engagement strategies, how the cameras will be used, training needs, and video use at trial.

**BODY-WORN CAMERAS**

**BODY-WORN CAMERAS IN IQALUIT**  
Starting in November 2020, some RCMP officers in Iqaluit will have body-worn cameras. They'll be starting to use the cameras over the next few months. This pilot will help us roll out cameras to other officers across the country.

**STARTING TO USE THE CAMERAS IN PHASES**  
There will be three phases to the pilot of the cameras in Iqaluit.

**PHASE 1**

- November 2020
- 2 officers on each shift will have cameras
- 8 cameras total

**PHASE 2**

- January 2021
- 4 officers on each shift will have cameras
- 16 cameras total

**PHASE 3**

- February 2021
- All general duty officers on each shift will have cameras
- 24 cameras total

We're doing it this way so we can make changes based on new information.

**WHY USE BODY-WORN CAMERAS**  
Canadians need to feel protected and respected by the police. Body-worn cameras can help to increase the trust between police and the communities they serve, because:

- they show what happens during police stops
- the videos can be used as evidence for complaints or in court
- they can encourage better police and public behaviour

**HOW OFFICERS WILL USE THE CAMERAS**

**TURNING THE CAMERA ON**  
Officers may turn the camera on during calls for service, including:

- Mental health calls
- Interactions with people in crisis
- Crimes in progress
- For investigations
- Public disorder

They may also turn the camera on when they interact with the public, but not in every situation.

**TURNING THE CAMERA OFF**  
You can ask the officer to turn off the camera. The officer will consider your right to privacy versus the nature of the call, the location, and the situation. Based on this, they may or may not turn off the camera. If you disagree, you can:

- contact the detachment
- make a public complaint
- make a privacy complaint about the RCMP

**LETTING YOU KNOW THE CAMERA IS RECORDING**  
If possible, officers will let you know when the camera is recording.

You can tell the camera is recording by the light above the lens. Green means the camera is on and red means it's recording.

These lights will always be on, unless the officer turns them off for their safety (in low- or no-light situations).

**BYSTANDERS CAUGHT ON VIDEO**  
As a bystander to a call for service, you might be caught on video even if you're not involved in the call. To protect your privacy, we will:

- Blur your face and/or licence plate
- Mute or distort your voice

**REQUESTING A COPY OF A VIDEO**  
You can make an Access to Information request to get a copy of a video.  
[www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/access-information-and-privacy](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/access-information-and-privacy)

- V Div Pilot**
- Launched November 30, 2020
  - 24 cameras rolled out to general duty police officers
  - Communication and engagement activities effective
  - Public response positive; no significant concerns
  - Draft policy/procedures serve a good working model
  - Working closely with Crown to meet disclosure requirements



# Stakeholder Engagement

- Various questions and concerns about BWC:
  - Privacy vs Transparency
  - Digital evidence and disclosure
  - IT Infrastructure and remote/northern communities
  - Cost vs Benefit
  - Etc...
- Proactive engagement at **national and local levels at various stages** to raise awareness, answer questions, engage and seek feedback on policy and planning, and to support implementation.





# Questions

- Do you have any concerns regarding RCMP use of Body Worn Cameras?
- What could we do to help address those concerns?
- Do you have any other advice or suggestions?