



BC Association of Chiefs of Police  
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July 22, 2014

Honourable Senator Bob Runciman  
Chair, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
351 East Block  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

Dear Senator Runciman:

The Police Chiefs associated with the British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) are charged with the responsibility of protecting the communities in British Columbia. We are keenly aware of the dramatic impact an assault of a public transit operator can have on the perception of safety and security in our communities. The assault of a public transit operator puts at risk the operator, the passengers in the transit vehicle, as well as vehicular passengers and pedestrians proximate to the transit vehicle.

The BCACP have had the opportunity to review the proposed Bill S-221 which would see amendments to the Criminal Code requiring the Courts to consider it an aggravating circumstance for the purpose of sentencing, if the victim of an assault is a public transit operator engaged in the performance of his or her duty. Bill S-221 is distinguished from other legislative initiatives in that it includes taxi drivers in the definition of public transit operator and it does not suggest a mandatory penalty.

The BCACP believes it plays an integral part in community safety and both supports and recognizes Bill S-221 as being one part of the solution to the complex issue of transit operator and public safety.

Yours truly,

A blue ink signature, appearing to be "L. Goerke", is written over a white background.

Len Goerke, D/Chief Constable  
President, BCACP

cc: Chief Officer Neil Dubord-Metro Vancouver Transit Police

