

# Leaked Calgary police document causes worries all around

## Police breach raises privacy, security issues

BY STEPHANE MASSINON, CALGARY HERALD JUNE 12, 2009 7:24 AM

CALGARY - The fact an internal police document that lists FOB Killers gang members was found in a rival gang's possession drew concern from the province's top police officer, the privacy commission and gang experts.

When police raided a Heritage Pointe house allegedly tied to the FOB gang in December in a gang bust, they found a list of rival FOB Killers gang members.

The police document from 2005 has mug shots of 37 suspected members, their names and is used by police for identification purposes.

"It's obviously very concerning when something like this happens," said Solicitor General Fred Lindsay. "It shows the increasing sophistication the gangs will take to get information."

Calgary police are conducting an internal review of how their own document made its way into gang members' hands.

Lindsay said he has "full confidence" the Calgary Police Service will review what happened and take the steps needed to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Alberta privacy commissioner Frank Work said his office was informed of the situation in a letter from Calgary police dated June 8. He said his office will offer police its expertise on managing information.

"The best that's going to come of it is making sure it never happens again," said Work.

Both Work and Lindsay said this is the first such case they could think of in recent memory where sensitive police information was somehow made public.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier's office referred calls to the police commission; commission member Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart said she's pleased the police service will conduct its own investigation to see what happened.

"Organized crime is so sophisticated that we need to keep ahead of them," said Colley-Urquhart.

Defence lawyer Adriano Iovinelli said he worries that the document was given to media and wonders who else may have a copy.

He said there is a security risk for the people identified in the documents as gang members and thinks if the wrong people get their hands on the papers, it could put people on that list in danger.

"It's already a very dangerous situation in Calgary and something like this only adds fuel to the fire," said Iovinelli.

Gang expert Cathy Prowse of the University of Calgary said organized crime groups, from bikers to street gangs, need intelligence and will take from police to further their own causes.

"I wish I could say this is without precedent."

She remembers, as a former police officer, a biker sweep in the 1980s in Calgary where police found their own intelligence in the hands of bikers. In that case, a Calgary police officer gave confidential information to the King's Crew biker gang and resigned from the service because of the melee.

"It is sloppiness. It's complacency, you just let your guard down," said Prowse.

"You really have to be vigilant." It should come as no surprise that gangsters seek information on police and their own rivals, she said.

"For our own investigations on them, they do it on us," said Prowse.

Leo Knight, a former police officer and security commentator, said organized crime groups all seek private information for their benefit.

"All of the different types of gangs will, at some level, try to find a source for confidential information," said Knight.

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