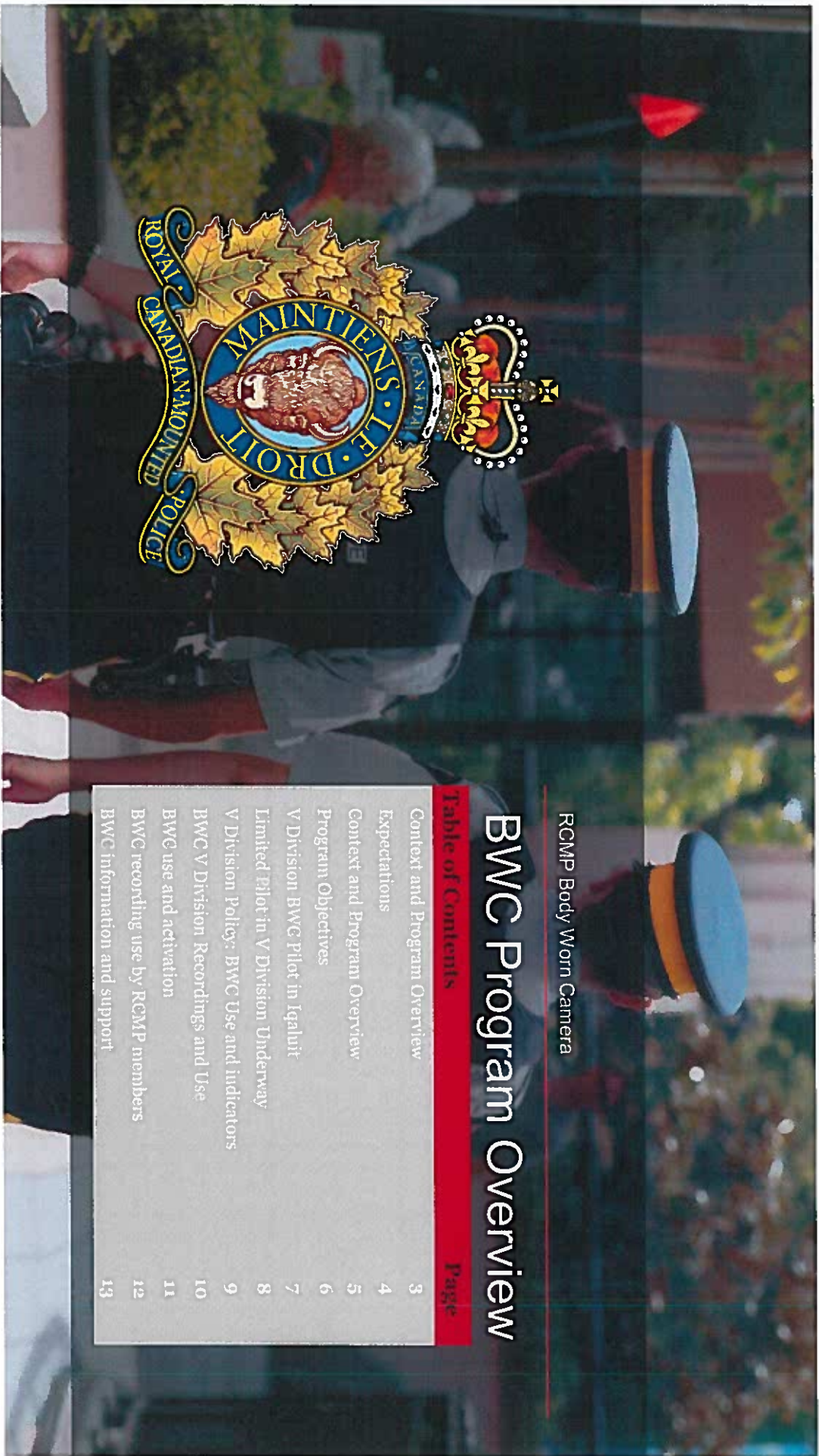


April 28, 2021

RCMP Body Worn Camera BWC Program Overview





RCMP Body Worn Camera

BWC Program Overview

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Context and Program Overview

The reason behind the Body Worn Camera (BWC) Program

Why are we getting Body Worn Cameras?

In keeping with the Prime Minister's commitment from June 2020 and as part of a broader strategy to enhance transparency, trust and confidence, the RCMP will be rolling out body worn cameras (BWC) in FY 2021.

To meet this requirement, the RCMP is equipping all RCMP officers who have operational interactions with the public with a body worn camera while on duty. This is estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000 cameras. This will include RCMP officers in both Contract and Federal Policing.

“ 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

Expectations

What BWCs will contribute to the RCMP and Canadian Public

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:



Context and Program Overview

Body Worn Camera (BWC) use and impacts to contract partners

The RCMP expects BWC will become a national standard for RCMP members that are interacting directly with communities

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.

When will the RCMP have the Cameras?

The RCMP is planning to procure BWCs and a Digital Evidence Management Service through a transparent process. A Request for Proposals will be launched in summer 2021.

There is an expectation that BWC will start to be rolled out in **fall 2021** as part of a phased approach (i.e., starting in 3 locations – northern, rural, urban) and an understanding that roll-out could take up to 18 months.

How much will the Cameras Cost?

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

RCMP policing services contract partners will not have to fund this until 2024/25.

Program Objectives

What we expect and what we don't know

What are the expected benefits/outcomes?

Improved Evidence Gathering for Prosecutions

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

Timely resolutions or withdrawal of complaints upon video viewing

Improved police and public behaviour

What are some things we don't know?

- What services* an external vendor will provide vs. what will be handled within RCMP.
- 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.
- The true impacts* on workload.

V Division BWC Pilot in Iqaluit

Body Worn Camera (BWC) testing and lessons learned

Starting November 30, 2020, some officers in Iqaluit Detachment were equipped with body-worn-cameras (BWC) while attending calls for service.

The V Division BWC Pilot was launched to help the Nunavummiut to feel protected and respected by the police and enhance trust between the RCMP and the communities in Nunavut.

This pilot is important as it serves to inform the wider RCMP organization on how to implement BWC.

The RCMP expects BWCs will become a national standard for RCMP members who interact directly with communities. The processes and policies used by V Division will guide the developing National policies and procedures.

Keys to BWC implementation:

The BWC pilot in V Division (Nunavut) found that by actively engaging with stakeholders in a transparent manner they were able to secure the communities support with the BWC implementation. Proactive engagement was conducted using discussions through their existing network connections and communicating with information about the pilot on posters and pamphlets.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Limited Pilot in V Division Underway

Pilot will inform community engagement strategies and how best to use the cameras

BODY WORN CAMERAS IN IDALCUT

Starting in November 2016, some 5000 officers in the V Division (including 1000 in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions) will be wearing body-worn cameras. The pilot will help us learn how best to use the cameras to better serve the community.

STARTING TO USE THE CAMERAS IN PHASES

There will be three phases in the roll-out of the cameras in phases:

PHASE 1
1st October 2016
2 officers in each shift in 1st and 2nd Divisions
8 cameras total

PHASE 2
January 2017
4 officers in each shift in 1st and 2nd Divisions
16 cameras total

PHASE 3
February 2017
15 general duty officers in each shift in 1st and 2nd Divisions
75 cameras total

It is hoped that this pilot will inform make decisions based on better information.

WHY USE BODY WORN CAMERAS

Canada has led in the world in the use of body-worn cameras. The pilot will help us learn how best to use the cameras to better serve the community. The pilot will help us learn how best to use the cameras to better serve the community. The pilot will help us learn how best to use the cameras to better serve the community.

HOW OFFICERS WILL USE THE CAMERAS

PHASE 1: 1st October 2016
Officers will use the cameras on duty calls for service including:
- Social media calls
- 911 calls
- Crime in progress
- For investigations
- Public disorder

PHASE 2: January 2017
Officers will use the cameras on duty calls for service including:
- Social media calls
- 911 calls
- Crime in progress
- For investigations
- Public disorder

PHASE 3: February 2017
Officers will use the cameras on duty calls for service including:
- Social media calls
- 911 calls
- Crime in progress
- For investigations
- Public disorder

GETTING YOU SEEN THE CAMERA

Not all officers will be wearing cameras. The pilot will help us learn how best to use the cameras to better serve the community. The pilot will help us learn how best to use the cameras to better serve the community. The pilot will help us learn how best to use the cameras to better serve the community.

- ### V Div Pilot
- Launched November 30, 2016
 - 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

BWC use and activation

When the BWCs will be activated and how that decision is made

What is the general expectation for BWC use?

BWCs are to be activated:

- Prior to arriving at a call for service
- When initiating contacts with a member of the public for the purpose of investigation
- To record information to support lawful execution of duties

Not intended for:

- 24 hour recording
- Surveillance or covert recording
- When intimate searches are conducted
- Areas with a high expectation of privacy unless there are exigent circumstances

Can BWCs be turned off by the officer?

When the BWC is activated, it shall not be deactivated, deliberately repositioned or covered except when there is a reasonable belief that the collection audio/video media no longer:

- Supports officer or public safety
- Benefits the investigation
- Support the rationale of the use of BWC

Some examples: Intimate searches, incidents of a sensitive nature, investigative discussions/enquiries between police personnel, formal statements normally taken at a detachment interview room, etc.

BWC Use and indicators

Examples of how officers may inform bystanders of its use

What are examples of situations where Body Worn Cameras will be used?

V Division Officers may activate their BWC during calls for service, including:

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

Officers to let you know the camera is recording

- When possible, officers will let you know when the camera is recording.
- You can tell the camera is recording by the light above the lens. A green means the camera's power is ON, while a red light means the camera is ON and recording.
- These lights will always be on, unless the officer turns them off for their safety (e.g., in low- or no-light situations). This is permitted but the reason why must be recorded on the video or in their notes.

BWC V Division Recordings and Use

V Division recording procedures and processes have informed a model for national use

Bystanders caught on video

Effort will be made to not capture unrelated incidents, investigations or members of the public. However, you might be caught on video even if you're not involved in the call.

You can make an Access to Information request to get a copy of a video.

Length of time V Division keeps videos

The amount of time we will keep a video will depend on the type of call an officer attends. The shortest possible time V Division keeps a video for is 2 years. If a video doesn't capture a call for service, and does not contain any personal information, it will be discarded after 30 days.

After time expires:

- We will destroy it,
- We will send it to Library and Archives Canada if it has historical value, or
- If we were helping another non-Government of Canada agency, we will transfer it to them.

Like all RCMP holdings, legislated retention periods will be respected.

BWC recording use by RCMP members

How the recordings are used by the recording officer and who has access

Does the use of BWC replace officer note taking?

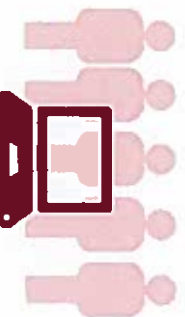
- Members will write notes in the same manner as any other investigation or use of force incident before viewing footage.
- When members watch their video, they will document that in their notes including date and time viewed.

Who can review and/or has access to BWC video?

- The member who captured the video or were present when the video was recorded
- Supervisor of the member that recorded the video
- Chain of command when there is a legitimate investigative or administrative reason to view it (approval required before it can be viewed)
- A member who needs to see it for an investigative purpose (approval required before it can be viewed)
- A member from the Conduct Authority Section (approval required before it can be viewed)

BWC information and support

Sources of BWC information or ways to speak to the RCMP about BWCs



How do I request to view a recording?

The process is the same for any information held by the RCMP.

Members of the public can make a Privacy Act or an Access to Information Act request to get a copy of a video at the following link:

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/access-information-and-privacy>

Feedback

Do you have feedback on the implementation of Body Worn Cameras?

Let us know!

Email: e_bwc@rcmp-grc.gc.ca