



Body Worn Camera & Digital Evidence Management System Alberta Royal Canadian Mounted Police

July 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.
- BWCs alone are not expected to change behavior; this is **one part** of a comprehensive RCMP strategy to address systemic racism.



66

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."



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. Accurate numbers will be confirmed once a vendor is in place. The Federal Government will fund the first 3 years of the roll-out.



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



Next Steps in Alberta

- Contract partners cannot opt out of BWC. This will be part of RCMP standards. There will, however, be some flexibility with respect to unique/local requirements for the deployment of additional BWC.
- Once exact costs are known we will provide financial forecasting to our communities with Municipal Policing Services Agreements.