



Date: Thursday November 20, 2008

Event: 2008 Police Honours Ceremony
Government House, Victoria

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- Thank you, Kevin (*Kevin Begg, ADM, Police Services Division*), for the introduction.
- I am honoured to be here as Solicitor General and on behalf of Premier Gordon Campbell this evening to recognize the contributions of police officers across the province.
- Your efforts, every day, are what make the uniforms you wear, and the badges you carry, enduring symbols of public safety.
- It takes strong character to be a police officer. But it takes an exemplary officer to go beyond what wearing the badge means.
- Tonight, we celebrate and honour that rare combination of courage, strength, and deep compassion for the people in our communities.
- I know that right now, despite encouraging statistical crime trends on many fronts and in many communities, people are concerned for their safety.
- On the Lower Mainland, recent events marking the first anniversary of the deaths of Chris Mohan and Ed Schellenberg have heightened public concern...
- As have high-profile shootings at all hours of the day, in all kinds of public locations.
- And in communities small and large, through the interior and the north, we are hearing of more incidents involving gang violence, organized crime and related activities, including grow-ops.
- I recognize that this continues to place unusual pressure on you.
- But you endure.

- You go out on every shift knowing you will face challenges and the possibility that your training and abilities will be tested.
- That is why it is an honour for me to be here with you.
- Tonight, 57 of you have been honoured for going beyond what was asked of you when you were first sworn in as police officers.
- Thirteen of you have earned the highest award for a police officer in this province — the award for *Valorous Service* — by knowingly placing yourselves at substantial risk while helping others in the face of extreme hazard.
- Forty-one of you have received an award for *Meritorious Service* — for acting in a manner far beyond the standard normally expected of you.
- As well, three of you, who happen to be retired Chief Constables, have received an award for outstanding service.
- You should be very proud of your achievements.
- I congratulate you for your commitment to the safety of your fellow citizens.
- I also appreciate that those supporting you at home make an enormous sacrifice for our benefit.
- I know your families are as proud as we are that you are helping to keep our communities safe – and often, that means putting your lives on the line.
- Despite the demands you face, you continue to make these tremendous contributions every day.
- It is a strong reminder that British Columbians can indeed feel safe, knowing you are out there and ready to respond.
- Thank you very much.