



Date: April 2, 2009

**Event: 320 More Patrol Car Cameras
For RCMP and Municipal Police Vehicles**

Check Against Delivery

- Thank you, and welcome to you all.
- Cameras continue to grow in value as sentinels of public safety in British Columbia.
- A few weeks ago, I announced a major expansion of our red-light camera program, which has proven to reduce the carnage at targeted intersections.
- And yesterday, I announced new bait-car camera technology to make arresting car thieves safer for police and road users alike.
- Bait Car Live will give dispatchers the ability to watch and hear auto thieves in real time.
- Bait-car footage itself will continue to have value as an educational tool and as evidence...
- It will help the courts to deal effectively with people who endanger police, the public and themselves.
- Today, I'm pleased to announce major expansion of yet another camera program, to save lives on our roads and time in our courts.
- Car cameras are currently in use in about 133 police vehicles across British Columbia.
- You may recall my ministry provided 33 of them to municipal police departments just last year.
- We'll show you some recent footage from B.C.'s existing cameras in a few minutes...
- But these cameras catch impaired drivers falling out of their vehicles, trying to flee on foot or even assaulting police officers who've just pulled them over.
- Today, we are committing \$1.8 million toward purchasing and installing another 320 cameras in traffic-duty vehicles.

- This will more than triple the number of in-car cameras in British Columbia.
- The case for this investment is as solid as the evidence these cameras record.
- We know impaired and dangerous drivers who see footage of their crimes – like failed sobriety tests at the roadside – are more likely to plead guilty.
- And those who choose to fight charges have greater difficulty convincing a judge, when the Crown has an impartial witness that saw what happened from the dashboard of a cruiser.
- But these cameras also make police work safer, more efficient and more accountable.
- Cameras document traffic violations in a more timely way – saving officers time in court.
- They enable officers to conduct more traffic stops with greater confidence, knowing their silent partner has their back.
- Cameras also show when officers have complied with procedures and policies – protecting our police against false allegations.
- I know the BC Association of Chiefs of Police remains a steadfast supporter of this technology – with good reason.
- Impaired driving alone continues to kill or injure about 3,300 people in B.C. every year.
- That’s about nine of us every day.
- In that context, it’s hard to think of a better way to invest \$1.8 million more in improving road safety.
- We’re getting tougher on dangerous drivers because they’re tough on innocent road users and our police.
- More than ever, patrol-car cameras will be part of the solution.
- Thank you very much.