



F O U N D A T I O N
SIERRA CLUB CANADA
F O U N D A T I O N

Scot Doran, Chief Superintendent
RCMP National Headquarters
73 Leikin Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0R2

Friday, March 13, 2015

Dear Superintendent Dorn,

Thank you for responding to my letter to Commissioner Paulson. I appreciate you taking the time.

The document may not be directly accusing Sierra Club of being a criminal threat, but the inclusion of our name anywhere in the document taints our reputation. We see no reasonable grounds for including us.

Sierra Club played no role in the protest in New Brunswick other than to inform our members what happened after the fact. Therefore, we fail to understand why Sierra Club, an organization that has never broken a law or advocated others break the law in Canada and, in fact, has a policy prohibiting members and staff from taking part in such actions in its name, is mentioned in a document describing "criminal threats" of any kind.

Or why, if the author believed we should be included, no attempt was made to contact us and verify the facts.

Further, we ask what reasonable link there is between our success or failure in raising funds to criminal activity? Many other organizations have raised money to inform the public about climate change and the role that fossil fuels play and are not mentioned in this report.

Why?

It's pretty clear the Sierra Club name was inserted in the report based only on our success raising awareness about public issues, establishing our name in the public consciousness. Not because of any links to criminal activity, past or future.

One Earth • One Chance

Sierra Club Canada Foundation

1510 Nicholas St. Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

Normally, we would shrug off this kind of misunderstanding as a human error and move on, but in light of the contents of Bill C51, the presence of our name in a police report on “criminal threats” places our organization and staff in great jeopardy of being included in a very wide definition of terrorism.

We, therefore, request the RCMP apologize for including us in this document and provide written assurances it will never be used as grounds for police or CSIS action against Sierra Club and/or its members.

Secondly, my letter to Commissioner Paulson concerned statements in the report that clearly indicates the RCMP does not understand the implications of climate change on policing in Canada beyond dealing with protesters.

Events like the Alberta floods two years ago already led to difficulties for the force because officers were forced to create policy on the fly. This lack of understanding ‘threatens the safety of the Canadian public and first responders’ which is why we offered to provide training to the RCMP to help you better prepare the force for new challenges.

You did not respond to our offer.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John Bennett
National Program Director

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