



Bob Paulson, Commissioner
RCMP National Headquarters
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February 17, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

I must admit. I found seeing Sierra Club Canada mentioned in a RCMP intelligence report as a potential advocate for unlawful activity disturbing. Neither Sierra Club Canada nor Sierra Club Canada Foundation has ever advocated to or broken Canadian law. Then on reflection I saw this revelation for what it really is - an opportunity. I hope you will agree.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney described climate change by saying, "...humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment whose ultimate consequences could be second only to a global nuclear war."

Part of Sierra Club Canada Foundation's mandate is to provide education on environmental and conservation issues to Canadians. We would like to provide you and your officers workshops on climate change, its causes, its implications and perhaps, most importantly, its potential impact on policing in Canada. There is much more to consider beyond potential demonstrations by protesters. I don't believe I need remind you of the challenges of policing extreme weather events like the Alberta floods.

RCMP officers authoring 'intelligence reports' should have at least a basic understanding of the issues motivating so many Canadians to utilize their right to free speech and public assembly.

We hope to bridge the gap demonstrated by documents quoted in the today's Globe and Mail (February 17, 2015). The use of words such as "assert", "they believe", "perceived environmental threat" and "promote a one-sided version of the actual event" indicate a fundamental lack of basic knowledge of climate science. We can help improve this situation.

Sierra Club Canada Foundation would welcome the opportunity to share the expertise of our members and the scientific community with the RCMP in a constructive atmosphere. I look forward to working with you and your officers.

Sincerely,

John Bennett
National Program Director

One Earth • One Chance
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