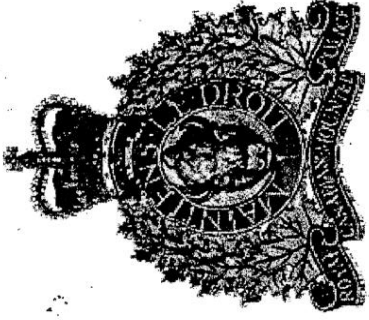


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# 2008-2009 Environmental Scan

Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
E-Division Headquarters

October 2007

E-DIVISION HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONS STRATEGY BRANCH

000001

	<p>make use of iPods, Blackberry devices, Internet Blogs, and an assortment of other personalized communication devices. However an E-Division research study shows that 41% of personnel are receiving "too much information not directly related to work," with only 20% agreeing they are receiving "the right amount of information."</p> <p>*Over three quarters of BC adults (83%) approve of law enforcement having the power to monitor Internet, email, and phone conversations when investigating criminal activities after they have a warrant to do so.</p> <p>* The proliferation of video cell-phones and easy access to Internet video sites such as YouTube makes it a simple matter for RCMP operational actions and behaviour by Members to be instantaneously publicized to the world. This creates intense scrutiny of Member actions, without the filter of at least the theoretical balance that might be afforded through traditional news media telecasts. In addition, postings on outlets such as YouTube often quickly make it to standard news media outlets such as radio, television, and the print media.</p>	<p>-Increasingly more public exposure of RCMP Member actions that some may perceive to be inappropriate</p>
<p><b>POLICING &amp; SECURITY</b></p>	<p>* The increase in private security firms continues in BC, with the actual number of private sector security personnel now exceeding the number of police officers (including RCMP and municipal police). Over the past six years there has been more than a 140% increase in private security companies in the province, with services increasing diversifying from straight-forward neighborhood patrols and building security to more sophisticated security dealing with financial issues and technology. It is estimated that private security personnel now outnumber regular police officers by 34% in British Columbia (as well as Canada)<sup>22</sup> with the latest available statistic showing there were 11,684 licensed security personnel in BC, up from 8,285 in 1996.</p> <p>* Crime and policing is not generally a top-of-mind issue for Canadians</p>	<p>-Organized crime infiltration of security firms</p> <p>-Increased trend for municipalities to contract out to private security firms (New Westminster council is currently examining the concept)</p> <p>-Increasing gap between public perceptions of crime and actual crime rates</p>

<sup>22</sup> BC Stats