

**Former Vancouver police chief's pay outpaced that of B.C. counterparts.**  
By Stanley Tromp. *The Globe and Mail*. Toronto, Sept. 26, 2007

Retired Vancouver police chief Jamie Graham received remuneration of \$257,952 in 2006, an increase of 13 per cent over the previous year, the highest raise of any B.C. police chief.

By comparison, the police chief of Toronto, with four times Vancouver's population, earned about the same as Mr. Graham, \$261,304.

Constable Howard Chow, Vancouver Police Department spokesman, said the Vancouver chief's salary was justified because of the city's major challenges. "We police over one million people a day. This is a port city with a huge gateway for drugs, our property crime rivals that of Miami and more people sleep on the streets with our warm climate," he said.

After consulting the police board, David Hurford, spokesman for Mayor Sam Sullivan, said the term "raise" for the former chief was not quite right. "The correct language is an annual adjustment, to match the annual adjustment accorded by the city to its employees," he said.

The *Globe and Mail* obtained the salary figures through freedom-of-information requests.

The chief's bonus, however, was withheld. Although that figure has been reported in local media in past years, the police department now declines to publish it. The department's freedom of information co-ordinator wrote that "our position is that any specific figure for bonuses is personal information."

Mr. Graham served as chief from 2002 until August, 2007. He was popular with the rank and file for his tough law-and-order stand, but his term was marked by controversies over allegations of police brutality and misconduct.

The bonus question can be controversial, because then-chief Graham was criticized for receiving a \$15,000 bonus in 2004 (part of his \$223,856 remuneration) for his performance in 2003, despite the police department exceeding its budget. The bonus figures have not been revealed since then.

(Mr. Hurford and Constable Chow would not comment on the chief's bonus because an FOI request for it was still under way.)

In the past, the public could find the police salary figures on the website of the municipalities, which are obliged under the Financial Information Act to disclose the numbers.

However, last year officers from West Vancouver objected on "privacy" grounds, and obtained a legal opinion saying that such activity was questionable.

The province is reviewing the legal issue, and directed all municipalities not to publish the information in their annual financial statements.

The Solicitor-General has also been placed in the dark. In Victoria, an FOI official in the Solicitor-General's Ministry said the police forces used to inform the ministry of their salary figures, but stopped doing this after the West Vancouver lawyer's advisement.

Asked for the 2005 and 2006 figures, 10 of the 11 municipal police forces in B.C. (in areas not serviced by the RCMP) replied fully to The Globe's FOI requests. Abbotsford refused to release the salaries.

The chief of Vancouver was the highest paid in 2006, followed by those in New Westminster (\$160,672), Victoria (\$158,327) and Delta (\$157,765).

In 2006, the Vancouver chief charged the most in expenses (\$24,852), followed by those in Nelson (\$18,285) and West Vancouver (\$17,642).

The chiefs' salary raises from 2005 to 2006 range from a low of 2 per cent in Nelson and Saanich, to a high of 13 per cent for Vancouver.

The three highest paid deputy chiefs in 2006 were in Vancouver (Doug LaPard, \$171,089), Victoria (\$145,087) and Delta (\$142,593).

Maureen Bader, a spokeswoman for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, wants all the figures published. "We also care about privacy," she said, "but government transparency and accountability is paramount. All salaries and bonuses should be public, for the police as well. Publicity is a disciplining factor, so the secrecy gets me worried, because it could encourage the costs to rise when the public can't see what is happening."

\*\*\*

### **Police chief salaries**

#### **TOP B.C. POLICE CHIEF REMUNERATION, 2006**

Figures include salary, bonuses, gratuities and taxable benefits. Abbotsford has not released figures.

1. Vancouver \$257,952
2. New Westminster \$160,672
3. Victoria \$158,327

4. Delta \$157,765

5. Saanich \$142,653

**LARGEST POLICE CHIEF RAISES, 2005-2006**

1. Vancouver 13 per cent

2. New Westminster 8 per cent

3. Victoria 6 per cent

4. Oak Bay 5 per cent

5. Port Moody 4 per cent