



RNC Association Seeks Political Support on Three Policing Priorities

For immediate release: September 26th, 2011

(St. John's, NL) – The RNC Association has engaged in political activity in light of the upcoming Provincial Election. “The RNC Association’s mandate is to improve its members’ quality of life and just as importantly, to promote public safety and confidence in its police service” stated Tim Buckle, RNCA President.

The RNC Association has identified three priorities that directly and indirectly affect public safety.

Public Complaints - The RNC Public Complaints Commission was set up to provide the public an assurance of accountability of its police service. In many cases the most vulnerable are children and seniors that are ill equipped to represent their interests when they are victims of crime. Additionally, police management decisions must be accountable and open to scrutiny. The RNC Association support changes to the RNC Act and Regulations that allow police officers to make public complaints. Front line police officers are in the unique position of having intricate knowledge of police investigations and are best positioned to identify wrongdoing and negative influence. The changes suggested by the RNC Association are comparable to "Whistleblower" legislation that protects the public interest.

Policing Standards - The Lamer Inquiry identified and recommended the need for Policing Standards to ensure a minimum requirement for police training and investigative techniques. This provides the public a level of confidence in its police service that ensures competent and complete investigations. Public reviews and judicial inquiries are a waste of public funds if the recommendations are disregarded. Standards are expected in many professions and policing must be no exception as recommended in the final report of the Lamer Inquiry.

Workers Compensation - Two separate review committee recommendations have suggested that Police Officers should receive 100% of their net salary when injuries as a result of their duties. The WHSCC Act already provides such compensation for those performing

rescue work in a mine and police officers should be provided the same financial protection. Police officers responding to dangerous situations, apprehending dangerous criminals and protecting property as they have been sworn to do should not face financial consequences as a result of carrying out their duties.

The RNC Association has asked to meet with leaders of all political parties and requested a commitment to support these initiatives in the interest of public safety.

RNCA President Tim Buckle works and resides in the Corner Brook area and can be contacted directly for further comment on these matters on Monday, September 26th, 2011 between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

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For more information, please contact:

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