



# NEWS RELEASE

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## COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

**ORIGINATOR:** Mr. Leo Courville, Chairman  
Cornwall Police Services Board

**CONTACT:** A/Chief Carl Johnston  
Cornwall Police Service  
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**DATE:** January 11, 1994

**TOPIC:** POLICE BOARD ACCOUNT: INCIDENT INVOLVING ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT

In view of extensive media coverage over the past week concerning the investigation of an alleged sexual assault, and the possibility of a cover-up or other inappropriate action on the part of the Cornwall Police Service, the Police Services Board wishes to make the following facts known:

1. On December 9, 1992, a male complainant approached the Cornwall Police Service with allegations that he had been sexually assaulted by a member of the local clergy and a local Probation Officer some twenty years ago.
2. On December 9, 1992, an officer of the Cornwall Police Service was assigned to investigate the allegations.
3. On January 28, 1993, the complainant was interviewed by members of the Cornwall Police Service and requested to prepare a written statement setting out the substance of his complaint.
4. On February 10, 1993, the complainant informed the investigating officer that he did not wish to pursue a criminal investigation concerning the local Probation Officer.
5. On February 16, 1993, the complainant returned to Cornwall Police with an eight (8) page handwritten statement which he turned over to the investigators, which outlined the details of the allegations. On this same date, he also informed police that he was negotiating a settlement with the relevant church officials.

### **IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION/Distribution immédiatement:**

Chief of Police/Chef de Police      Deputy Chief of Police/Député Chef  
Sergeant Inspector/Insp. d'Equipe      C.I.B. Inspector/Insp. O.I.C.  
Administration/Special Services Inspector/Adm./Insp. Serv. Spec.  
Sergeant - S.D.O./Sergent - SDO  
Central Registry File/Fichier Central  
Standard Freeholder/S-Freeholder  
TV/CTV-TV

**ORIGINATOR'S SIGNATURE:**  
Signature: Promoteur

Crim. Prevention & Community Relations Bureau  
/Bureau/Prévention//Relations P.  
CJSS Radio/CJSS      Le Journal/Le Journal  
CBC Ottawa - Channel 6/CBC-Ottawa-Canal 6

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6. On March 2, 1993, the complainant contacted the investigating officer and informed the officer that there was no need to rush the investigation and to feel free to take whatever time was necessary to complete the investigation. Specifically, the complainant stated, "three months, six months, or eight months". Again, on August 24, 1993, the complainant for a second time, stated that there was no problem with the timing of the matter.
7. By August 24, 1993, the investigation was completed by Cornwall Police Service and arrangements made to meet with the office of the Crown Attorney to determine the specific charges, if any, that could be laid.
8. On or about September 7, 1993, the Cornwall Police Service received for the first time, written notification that the complainant no longer wished to pursue any criminal action against the clergyman, as he had reached a civil settlement with that party. At this time, the office of the Crown Attorney was contacted by the investigators regarding their notification of the civil settlement. The investigators were advised that in the absence of the complainant's active involvement in the case, the investigation should terminate.
9. On or about September 24, 1993, a Cornwall Police Officer, uninvolved in the investigation, approached the investigating officer and requested to be allowed to see the written complaint provided by the complainant. The investigating officer gave a copy of the written complaint to the uninvolved officer who took the document away for his private viewing, and had it in his possession for a brief period of time before returning it to the investigating officer.
10. On or about September 25, 1993, the previously noted uninvolved officer, of his own initiative and without sanction whatsoever of Senior Management of the Cornwall Police Service, provided particulars of the complaint to personnel of the local Childrens Aid Society.
11. On or about September 26, 1993, the previously mentioned uninvolved officer, discussed the statement of the complainant with a local Childrens Aid Society representative. On September 30, 1993, the uninvolved investigating officer turned over to the Childrens Aid Society representative a copy of the complainant's statement.
12. On September 29, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., the complainant came to the Cornwall Police Office and met again with the investigating officer indicating that he was satisfied that the investigation against the clergyman, should not proceed.

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- 13. On October 7, 1993, then Chief of Police Shaver and the Officer in Charge of the Criminal Investigation Section went to visit a very senior representative of the clergy in Ottawa, to advise the representative of the affected church of allegations of an impropriety by one of its clergy. The officers were referred back to a local senior clergyman in Cornwall, met with him, at which time the senior clergyman assured the Cornwall Police representatives of his co-operation.
- 14. On October 7, 1993, an internal investigation was commenced regarding the propriety of the actions taken by the uninvolved officer, insofar as such action may be deemed to constitute a serious breach of trust in disclosing to outside agencies, internal confidential information given in the course of a criminal investigation.
- 15. On November 4, 1993, the investigating officer was again contacted by the complainant, and told by him once again that he did not wish to pursue any criminal action against the local probation officer.
- 16. On November 24, 1993, the complainant called the Cornwall Police Service and advised that the civil negotiations were still ongoing. The complainant was questioned by the Police who the settlement was being made with, but the complainant refused to be specific.
- 17. On or about January 7, 1994, a local Cornwall radio station received what was purported to be a complete copy of the complaint filed by the complainant, with the Cornwall Police Service, on February 16, 1993. The Senior Management of the Cornwall Police Service had absolutely no knowledge of the transmittal of the document and accordingly has ordered an investigation into that matter, as well as a complete review of the alleged Sexual Assault investigation. These matters will be examined by personnel of the City of Ottawa Police Service.

SUMMARY:

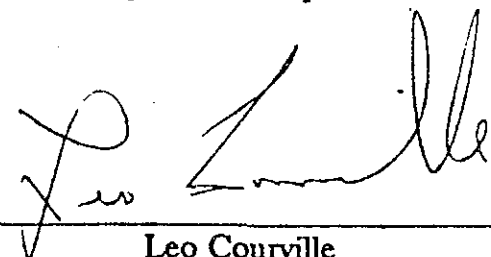
Given all of the foregoing facts, the Police Services Board of the City of Cornwall, are most anxious not only to fully inform the public what has actually happened to date, but in addition, to give its assurance that any and all future steps necessary to resolve all outstanding issues and questions, will be taken. The Board invites the complainant in this matter to pursue any further concerns that he may have at this time, with the Cornwall Police Service, or any other Police agency that is appropriate. In order to give full confidence to the complainant that any and all concerns he may still have, will be actively and impartially investigated, the Board shall seek assistance from other Police agencies. The Board also invites the complainant to avail himself of the Police Complaint procedures available to any citizen, under the Police Services Act of Ontario.

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The Board similarly wishes to assure any other parties aggrieved by this matter, that it will co-operate fully in undertaking any other investigation necessary, to resolve any and all outstanding issues.

In conclusion, an Ottawa television source reported on January 6, 1994, that the President of the Cornwall Police Association said the internal investigation into the matter is consistent with rank and file concerns which last year led to the Solicitor General's Office to investigate the way the Police Service was being run. Any suggestion that the subject investigation was a part of the overall inspection terms of reference, is completely unfounded.

LC:mv

  
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Leo Courville  
Chairman  
CORNWALL POLICE SERVICES BOARD