



BY EMAIL - Adam.Palmer@vpd.ca

December 7, 2017

Office of the Chief Constable
Vancouver Police Department
2120 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4N6

Attn: Adam Palmer, Chief Constable

Dear Chief Constable Palmer,

Re: The British Columbia Civil Liberties Association's Support for Police Judo

I am writing to express the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association's immense support for integrating and expanding police judo training. We firmly believe that the innovative program of judo tailored specifically for law enforcement that was founded by members of the Vancouver Police Department and evolved over the last two decades is making a critically important contribution to ensuring appropriate police use of force.

The BCCLA has been very keen to learn about police judo in BC. We have had members of our staff and board attend police judo training sessions and we believe that the training that is provided is critical to an ethical use of force in policing. It is evident that techniques that allow for effective control greatly reduce the risk of injury to both law enforcement and individuals involved in encounters. We appreciate, of course, that some physical control techniques are part of basic training, but also that there is often a gap between having learned such techniques and having an array of techniques engrained and refined through regular practice so that they are effectively available in real-life, chaotic incidents.

The safety benefit of applying police judo techniques in appropriate circumstances applies as it were 'across the board'. That said, we know that the practice of police judo likely makes its single greatest contribution in daily police encounters with extremely vulnerable individuals, such as those suffering from addictions, trauma, and mental health issues. Not only does the ability to appropriately use effective physical control vastly improve the safety of encounters between police and vulnerable individuals, it can prevent distressed or intoxicated individuals from being able to carry out an assault on a police officer, with all the harms that ensue, to all parties, from such actions.

Approximately two years ago we published a piece on our website in praise of police judo (<https://bccla.org/2016/01/in-praise-of-police-judo/>). Since that time, our support has grown even further and we are pleased to extend to the Vancouver Police Department any assistance from the association that might serve to support increased integration of police judo into use of force training and practice.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Vonn", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Micheal Vonn
Policy Director