



May 9, 2018

E-Comm User Committee
3301 E Pender Street
Vancouver, BC
V5K 5J3

Dear E-Comm User Committee,

Re: Media Access to Automated Notifications

I am writing to you on behalf of the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) to communicate our support for enabling journalists to have access to the E2MV notification system in Metro Vancouver and parts of the Fraser Valley.

As an organization that promotes and protects both privacy and access to information, the BCCLA has been following the move to encrypt communications amongst first responders in your area. We believe that a balance can be achieved to protect personal privacy and the integrity of police investigations while also providing real-time notice to news organizations of important incidents.

We understand that the Vancouver Fire Rescue Service uses the E2MV notification system to send automated alerts about dispatches to designated persons. We encourage your committee to consider allowing access to this system by designated journalists or news organizations. We are confident that a comprehensive discussion will resolve any privacy implications and elucidate a practical solution to accommodate the interests of emergency responders, news organizations and residents of the lower mainland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Meghan McDermott'.

Meghan McDermott
Staff Counsel (Policy)