

## SAMPLE OF A POLICE COMPLAINT LETTER

(Note: this letter is fictional and not based on real-life events)

[Your First and Last Name]  
[Your Street Address]  
[Your City, Province, and Postal Code]

[Contact Information for OPCC or CRCC]

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[Current Date]

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Complaint for Police Misconduct against RCMP in Fort George, BC

Please accept this letter as a complaint for misconduct against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Fort George, British Columbia. This complaint relates to an incident that took place with two officers of the Fort George RCMP on July 1, 2018. As background, I am a 53-year-old Indigenous man. I have a degenerative condition in one of my hips, which requires me to use a walking cane.

At approximately 11:45 p.m. on July 1, 2018, I left the Sandbar Hotel on Centre St. after attending a Canada Day celebration, and started walking toward my car on the 1600-block of Centre St. As I was walking, an RCMP patrol car pulled-up beside me. The female officer in the passenger side rolled down the window and asked me where I was headed. I told her that I was headed to my car. The officer then asked me where I was coming from, and I said the Sandbar. The male officer in the driver's seat asked me what I had to drink. I told the officer that I didn't drink (which is true), and told him that it was none of his business anyway. I continued walking down the street.

As I was walking, I heard the male officer behind me tell me to "Stop!" I felt him put his hand on my shoulder. As he went to spin me around, I lost my balance and fell on my side. The male and female officers pulled me to my feet. I asked for my cane, but they refused to hand it to me. The female officer said, "We just have a few more questions." I told them to let me go. I tried to pull one of my hands free. The female officer told me not to resist. I was not resisting. The male officer then

pushed me up against a parked car and handcuffed me. He told me that I was being arrested for obstruction. When my face hit the side of the parked car, my glasses broke and fell off my face. The officers put me in the back of their patrol car, and brought me to the police station. I was held at the station for two hours, then released without any charges. It was the middle of the night, and I had to walk 45 minutes to get back to my car.

I didn't get the names or badge numbers of the two officers. The male officer was heavy set and about 6 feet tall. He had dirty-blond hair and a mustache. The female officer was thin and about 5 feet 5 inches tall. She had shoulder length brown hair. I have no names or contact information for witnesses to this incident. However, the Sandbar Hotel had a doorman on duty that night named "Mike", who may have witnessed the event.

I believe the officers' conduct constitutes misconduct for a number of reasons. First, I believe I was stopped in the first place because I'm Indigenous. I wasn't asked had I been drinking. I was asked what had I been drinking. I had had nothing to drink, and there were no grounds to stop me. Second, I believe the officers used excessive force when they spun me around, made me fall, and then pushed me into the parked car where my glasses broke. Third, I believe I was falsely arrested. I was not resisting. I was trying to balance myself so I wouldn't fall again. The officers refused to hand me my cane, even though I told them I needed it to stay standing.

As a result of the officers' conduct, I have had to replace my glasses at a cost of \$325. As part of this complaint, I want the Fort George RCMP to compensate me for the full cost of replacing my glasses.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me by phone at [your phone number] or by email at [your email address].

Sincerely,  
[Your signature]  
[Your First and Last Name]