



News Release

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Dec. 14, 2011

File # 2011-7275

Police provide update on investigation linked to Justice Institute

The RCMP is confirming that approximately 13 people linked to the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) have been victimized in a series of arsons and shootings. No one has been physically harmed to date.

The number of victims has increased from approximately 10 to 13 as the investigation has looked back at previous arsons and shootings, and has linked a number of new incidents since September, 2011. The victims do not appear to be affiliated with any criminal activity.

“We can now state the investigation revealed a link to an ICBC employee, who allegedly accessed personal information of 65 individuals, including the 13 identified victims. That employee, along with other individuals, is under continued police investigation,” says Chief Superintendent Janice Armstrong, Operations Officer for the Lower Mainland District Regional Police Service. “ICBC has cooperated fully with the police investigators, assisting us in contacting and warning those whose information was compromised. Additionally, police continue to pursue significant investigative avenues to determine if others could be at risk.”

The RCMP-led investigation, in partnership with municipal police departments, was announced in early September, in concert with senior management at JIBC, a post secondary education institution based in New Westminister.

The incidents have occurred throughout the Lower Mainland, and do not target any specific area. None have occurred at the Justice Institute in New Westminister, or its campuses in other locations.

“We are appalled that one of our employees inappropriately accessed the information of so many customers without any apparent business reason to do so,” says Jon Schubert, President & CEO of ICBC. “Our main concern is for the customers who have suffered as a result of this privacy breach.”

“The person in question has had their employment with ICBC terminated with cause, and no severance,” says Schubert. “We have conducted a thorough internal and an independent external review of our systems as a result of the privacy breach and have taken steps to better guard against this type of incident from happening again.”

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“We recognize this is very disturbing for the victims and the individuals we warned,” says C/Supt. Armstrong. “In response to the victims’ concerns, I can say we have a large, dedicated team of investigators, who have gathered a considerable amount of evidence. We anticipate that all those responsible for these violent criminal acts will ultimately be brought to justice.”

The RCMP is working closely with municipal police departments and ICBC, sharing information about the investigation. It remains a top priority for all police in the Lower Mainland.

“We are very concerned that there have been additional incidents,” says JIBC President Jack McGee. “The safety and security of our students, staff, faculty, and the public who use our campuses is of paramount importance to JIBC. Enhanced security put in place at JIBC campuses remains in effect.”

“JIBC continues to have complete confidence in the RCMP-led integrated investigation team,” says President McGee. “We remain in close contact with the RCMP and continue to fully cooperate with the investigation.”

Police continue to ask the public to be vigilant, and to immediately report any suspicious activity to their local police. If you have any information about these crimes and wish to remain anonymous, call CRIME STOPPERS at 1(800) 222-8477 or leave a TIP online at www.bccrimestoppers.com.

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