

## **Frank Stanford's comment**

CFOX 1070

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IS THERE ANY LEGITIMATE REASON WHY A SPEEDING TICKET WRITTEN BY A SHERRIFF'S DEPUTY SHOULD BE ANY LESS VALID THAN THE SAME TICKET WRITTEN BY A POLICE CONSTABLE?

I DON'T THINK SO. AND NEITHER, APPARENTLY, DOES THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. STORY THIS WEEK SAYS B-C WILL PROCEED WITH A PILOT PROJECT, IN EXPANDING THE DUTIES OF PROVINCIAL SHERRIFF'S.

I WOULD HAZARD A GUESS THAT MOST BRITISH COLUMBIANS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHERRIFFS DO AND DON'T DO; A LOT OF US PROBABLY AREN'T AWARE THE SERVICE EXISTS; AND SOME OF US, INFLUENCED BY AMERICAN TELEVISION, PROBABLY THINK THEY PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT ALREADY.

IN FACT THEY'RE SEEN MOST OFTEN AT THE COURTHOUSE. THEY TRANSPORT PRISONERS FROM JAIL TO COURT, AND PROVIDE SECURITY IN COURT. YES, ARMED SECURITY, BY THE WAY. THEY ARE PEACE OFFICERS.

THE BCGEU HAS LONG ARGUED THAT SHERRIFFS ARE UNDER-UTILIZED, AND POINTS TO ALBERTA AS AN EXAMPLE. THAT PROVINCE EXPANDED THE ROLE OF SHERRIFFS IN 2006, TO INCLUDE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT; COLLECTION OF SOME DNA EVIDENCE; AND EXECUTIVE PROTECTION FOR THE PREMIER.

IN B-C THE PILOT PROJECT WILL INVOLVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE GEU SEEM TO AGREE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA. I THINK THE PUBLIC WOULD AGREE. IF A SHERRIFF'S DEPUTY'S SALARY IS 20 THOUSAND DOLLARS LESS THAN A POLICE CONSTABLE'S WE SHOULD PREFER THE CONSTABLE BE OUT DOING SOMETHING "MORE IMPORTANT"...LIKE "CHASING ROBBERS".

ISN'T THAT THE AUTOMATIC GRIPE EVERY TIME YOU GET A SPEEDING TICKET?

THIS IS FRANK STANFORD