

## **More Gang Violence in North Fraser Pre-trial**

By Kim Bolan  
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As the number of gang members in pre-trial custody continues to grow, B.C. pre-trial jails are struggling to deal with tensions between rival groups.

The latest attack at North Fraser last week was particularly serious: gangster Hanif Emambakhsh ended up with a broken neck in the assault. He has had links to the Red Scorpions and more recently the break-away Red Lions. Apparently he has a massive Lion tattooed on his back.

He is expected to survive. Coquitlam RCMP says they are getting little help with the investigation.

Things are particularly tense in North Fraser and in Kamloops, according to union representative Dean Purdy. Interestingly, while the B.C. government keeps track of how many inmate on inmate assaults take place, they don't maintain a record of how many are gang-linked.

I think it is disturbing that a known gang member has been putting money in the accounts of pre-trial inmates. This particular person is linked to the Independent Soldiers. I don't know if he is the one who paid for Emambakhsh to get beaten.

The government official confirmed to me that ANYONE, including a known gangster or convicted drug trafficker, can go up to the counter at a pre-trial jail and put money in the account of an inmate. There is no limit on the amount that can be put in. The funder has to show ID, but that's it. So it is easy for gangs to pay people to beat up other inmates.

Here's my latest story:

Late last year, I reported on the hot buttering of Mike Shirazi at North Fraser. In that case, another inmate – Joshua Straker – was charged. He has since been convicted of assault causing bodily harm and got 677 days in jail.

Coincidentally, Shirazi was in Vancouver Provincial Court Thursday for an appearance on the gun charges that landed him in North Fraser. He and co-accused, Christopher Iser, are due to go to trial later this year.