



## **NEWS RELEASE – B.C. ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE**

### **Statement on Street Checks**

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

At this week's meeting of the British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP), senior police leaders from across the province discussed the issue of street checks. This statement is the outcome of those discussions and provides the BCACP's position on this important issue.

The BCACP supports consistency in delivering respectful, lawful and bias-free policing practices throughout BC and this includes street checks.

A street check occurs when a police officer encounters someone believed to be involved in criminal activity or a suspicious circumstance, or there is concern for their wellbeing, and documents this interaction.

Street checks are neither random nor arbitrary.

Police officers in B.C. encounter suspicious circumstances in our communities on a daily basis. Member agencies of the BCACP fully expect their officers to engage individuals and conduct street checks as this practice falls within police common law and B.C. Police Act duties to prevent and investigate crime and apprehend offenders. If police officers see potential criminal activity or a threat to public safety, they have a duty to address it. The police have a legal obligation to preserve peace, prevent crime, and keep citizens safe.

Some of our street checks originate from concerned citizens' reports to police. Some examples of circumstances where street checks occur are:

- An adult is acting suspiciously and taking pictures of kids at a playground.
- A suspicious individual is knocking on doors in a residential neighbourhood.
- A vulnerable teenager is sleeping on a downtown sidewalk and is checked out of concern for her safety.
- A person is looking into car windows in a parkade or a neighbourhood.

Every day, police officers work hard to keep people safe across the province of British Columbia. This means being proactive when they can and using tools like street checks to help prevent British Columbians from becoming victims of crime.