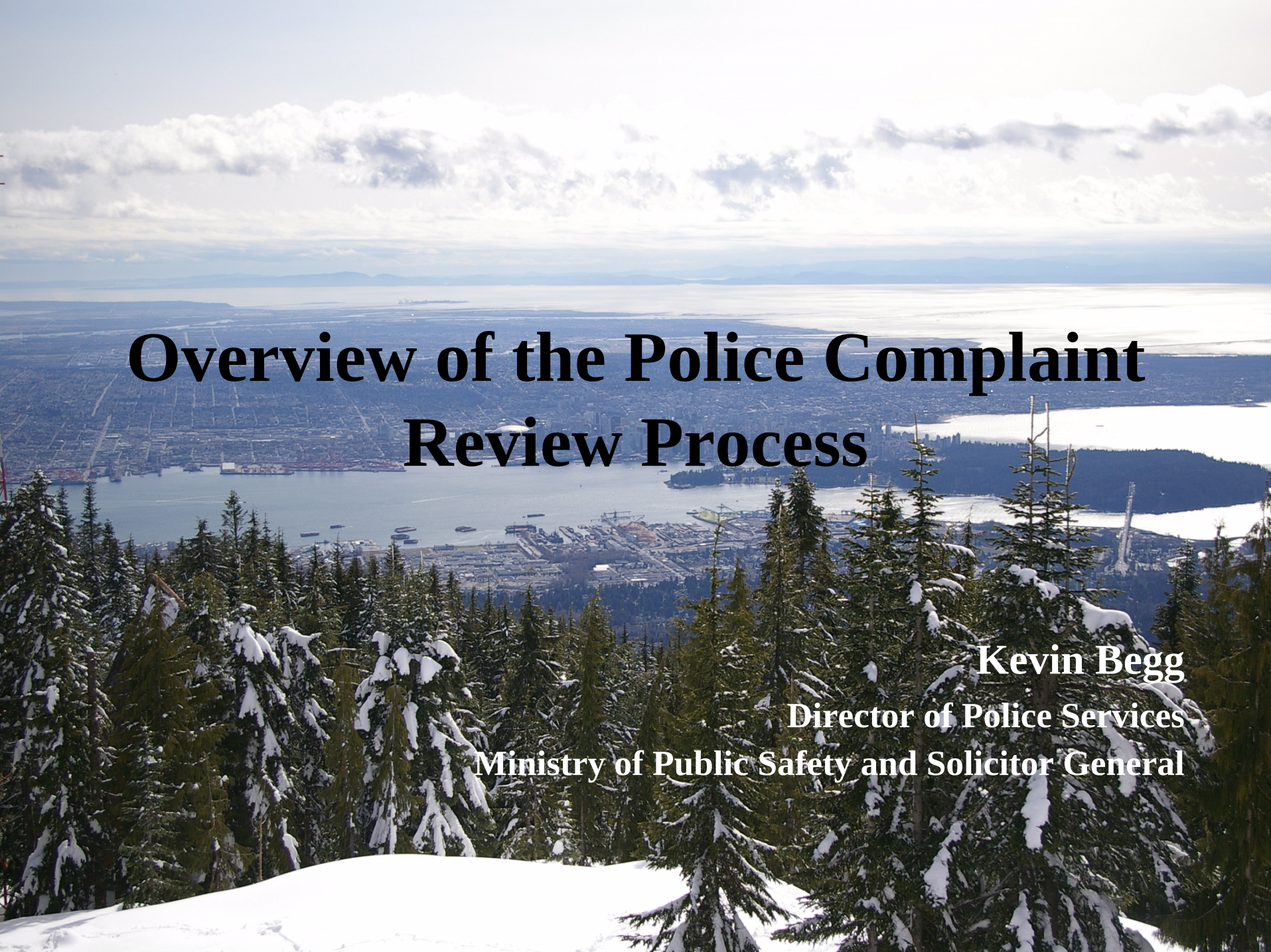


A scenic view of a city and harbor from a snowy mountain peak. The foreground is filled with snow-covered evergreen trees. In the middle ground, a large body of water (harbor) is visible, with a city and industrial areas on the surrounding land. The background shows distant mountains under a cloudy sky.

Overview of the Police Complaint Review Process

Kevin Begg

Director of Police Services

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Background*

- Review of the process for handling complaints against police, as outlined in Part 9 of the Police Act.
- Part 9 applies to:
 - 11 Independent Municipal Police Departments;
 - British Columbia Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit;
 - Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service
 - Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service
 - Kitasoo Xaixais Tribal Police

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Background*

- Review conducted under authority of s. 42 of the Police Act:

The director must, on request of the minister, and the director may, on the director's own initiative or on request of a council or board, study, investigate and prepare a report on matters concerning policing, law enforcement and crime prevention in British Columbia or in a designated area of British Columbia.

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *The Review Team:*

- Chaired by Josiah Wood, former Justice of the BC Supreme Court and the BC Court of Appeal;
- S/Sgt. Deborah Chisholm, RCMP “E” Division Anti-Corruption Unit;
- Crown Prosecutor Peter Juk;
- Research and Evaluation Unit, Police Services Division.

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Stakeholder Consultation*

- British Columbia Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police (BCAMCP)
- British Columbia Association of Police Boards (BCAPB)
- British Columbia Federation of Police Officers
- Vancouver Police Union
- Vancouver Police Non-Commissioned Officers Association
- British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA)
- Pivot Legal Society

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Objectives of the Review*

- Identify areas where the process can be improved and make recommendations for legislative changes.
- Ensure that the complaint process is fair, balanced and effective.

Police Complaint Review Process

- ◆ *Key areas being examined in the review:*
 - The adequacy of the existing complaint process, including implications for amending Part 9;
 - The conduct of complaint investigations by police;
 - Confidence in and satisfaction with the existing process.

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Methodology*

- Surveys
- Audits
- Interviews
- Analysis of Key Legislation and Synthesis of Findings

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Surveys*

- Telephone survey of 1,024 residents;
- 300 “face-to-face” surveys with marginalized persons in the downtown core areas of Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria;
- Web-based survey e-mailed to all sworn members (1,270 responses; 57% response rate).

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Audits*

- 300 closed formal complaint files and 105 informal or “non-lodged” complaint files:
 - Administrative audit (e.g., compliance with reporting requirements and procedural aspects of Part 9);
 - Investigative audit (e.g., completeness of investigations, appropriateness of conclusions based on evidence obtained, etc.).

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Interviews*

– Approximately 150 semi-structured interviews with key stakeholder groups, including:

- OPCC staff
- Chief Constables
- Internal Investigators
- Union reps
- Police Board reps
- Special interest groups
- Complainants
- Respondents
- Lawyers

Police Complaint Review Process

◆ *Analysis of Key Documents and Synthesis of Findings*

- Literature review;
- Review of Part 9;
- Departmental policies and procedures;
- Findings from the surveys, audits and interviews.

Police Complaint Review Process

- ◆ *Final report anticipated at the end of October 2006.*