



PUBLIC CYNICISM AS RESULT OF THE STORIES THE MEDIA CHOOSES NOT TO COVER

A short list of the missing news coverage on the RCMP Charter violations in High River, Alberta

Letter to the Editor of the Globe and Mail by Dennis R. Young

Re: [Free the Press: Democracy's necessary nuisance Editorial](#), May 4, 2019

Much of the public cynicism about the media coverage is not because of the stories the media covers but as result of the stories the media chooses not to cover. A good example is the shallow media coverage of the Charter rights violations and cover-up of the RCMP door kicking spree following the 2013 flood in High River, Alberta. Here is a short list of the missing news coverage on that one story alone:

- Of the 30 flooded communities, why High River was the only flooded community that police resorted to kicking in doors, searching homes and seizing private property;
- Reporting on the four telephone polls of High River residents showing the trust in the RCMP is broken in High River;
- Why the Charter of Rights and Freedoms failed to protect High River homes from this unprecedented RCMP action and/or why the Alberta Emergencies Management Act took precedence over the Charter;
- Long list of deficiencies in the terms of reference, investigation and report by the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP;
- Withholding of the 'legal authorities paper' requested by the Alberta Minister of Justice that the RCMP used to justify kicking in at least 754 doors in High River resulting in 2,210 damage claims being filed with the RCMP costing taxpayers \$2.45 million;
- The inquiries underway by the Alberta Information Commissioner in attempts to make public the above 'legal authorities paper';
- The results of Access to Information Act requests showing that not one report of a person being saved as a result of the RCMP's kicking in doors to at least 754 High River homes;
- Reports of the unlawful entries, unwarranted searches, unwarranted seizures and the charges laid, and convictions obtained as a result of these Charter violations;
- The targeted forced entry of Don and Jane White's home, extensive unwarranted search, unwarranted seizure of 11 legally secured firearms that took 51-minutes from the time the Mounties left the detachment and returned to the detachment (complete with the handwritten notes of RCMP Constable Jason Decoste).
- The results of Access to Information Act requests showing the extent of the involvement by the Canadian Armed Forces in assisting the RCMP to unlawfully enter homes and seize private property and why they ceded command of their forces to the RCMP while in High River;
- The 2013 and 2014 reports by the Alberta Property Rights Advocate indicating that only the Minister could have authorized the RCMP to kick-in doors to High River homes and his recommendation to improve property rights protections in the Alberta Emergency Management Act that was rejected by the Progressive Conservatives and the NDP;
- The in-depth legal analysis by Lacombe lawyer Rick Hemmingson showing that the emergencies legislation in place at the time of the flood did not authorize the forced entries into High River homes;
- Reporting on the 885 pages of documents on High River rights violations questions asked and withheld by the Federal Department of Justice and Attorney General citing solicitor-client privilege;
- Failure of the last two Premiers of Alberta to respond directly to the concerns raised in the Change.org petition calling for a judicial inquiry that has more than 2,500 supporters;