



2025 ATS Vancouver – Biographies



Mayor Ken Sim

Ken Sim is the 41st Mayor of Vancouver, having taken office on November 7, 2022. Born on October 18, 1970, in Vancouver, he is a businessman and co-founder of Nurse Next Door and Rosemary Rocksalt, and he is the first Chinese Canadian to hold the mayoral position in the city. Sim has focused on issues like homelessness, public safety, and mental health during his tenure.



Chief Superintendent Wendy Mehat

Chief Superintendent Wendy Mehat became the Officer in Charge (OIC) for the Surrey Provincial Operations Support Unit, in November 2024. As the OIC, Chief Superintendent Mehat leads a detachment of over 500 police officers and oversees RCMP operations, including three districts of Frontline, Community Services and Investigative Services along with Operations Support Services teams for policing in the City of Surrey. She is also responsible for facilitating the Surrey police transition from the RCMP to a municipal police force and the monumental task to demobilize the Surrey RCMP detachment over the next few years.

Chief Superintendent Mehat has over 25 years of service with the RCMP and she has spent a combined 18 of those years at Surrey detachment. She began her career in Surrey General Duty, followed by postings with the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team, Coquitlam RCMP and Federal Serious and Organized Crime. Most recently, Chief Superintendent Mehat served as the Officer-in-Charge of the Ridge Meadows RCMP detachment for four years prior to returning to Surrey.

Chief Superintendent Mehat is the current President of the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP), representing all senior police leadership in British Columbia from both the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the 13 municipal policing agencies. In 2018, Chief Superintendent Mehat was awarded the Surrey Board of Trade's 'Officer of the Year' award for her unwavering commitment to public safety in Surrey and for her community collaborations. She has been invited by the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement to share her insights on 'Adversity and Crisis in Leadership' to strengthen Women Leadership in Policing. In 2024, Chief Superintendent Mehat was invested as a Member to the Order of Merit of the Police Forces. Chief Superintendent Mehat grew up in Squamish, B.C. and resides in the Lower Mainland with her husband and two daughters.



Dr. Matt Logan

Dr. Matt Logan completed his Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia while he was an active police officer. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for 28 years serving in five communities within British Columbia and a tour of duty in Ottawa and at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia.

As the first Operational Psychologist in Major Crime, S/Sgt (ret.) Logan co-founded the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Behavioural Science Unit in Vancouver and has been involved as a consultant to Serious Crime Sections, Undercover Unit, Interview Team, Child Exploitation, and Crisis Negotiation Teams. In 2020 he became the Criminal Investigative Psychologist in Behavioural Sciences at RCMP HQ in Ottawa. Psychological Risk and Threat Assessments are still provided on suspects in serious crime investigations and Expert Evidence is given in Court on violent and deviant sexual behaviour. Dr. Logan has been involved in the investigation and review of hundreds of homicide files in North America and internationally and has been declared an expert in many courts in Forensic Psychology, Psychopath, and Sexual Offending. He has been registered as a Psychologist since 1999 in NWT and is in good standing and has been also registered (Temp) in both Wa and Texas for the purposes of Forensic Psychological assessment.

An FBI trained hostage negotiator, Dr. Logan is a conference speaker and facilitator specializing in, Psychopathy, Risk for Violence, Sexual Predators, Conflict and Crisis Management and Trauma. He teaches regularly at police academies and has served as adjunct faculty at the University of Victoria, Trinity Western University, and BC Institute of Technology.



Imam Abd Alfatah Twakkal

Imam Abd Alfatah Twakkal was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. He holds a BA Honours in Religious Studies, a BSc in Zoology, and a Master's degree in Islamic Studies. Imam Twakkal has been engaged for several years in many aspects of interfaith dialogue, the media, youth and family counseling and outreach. He lives in London, Ontario where he served as the Imam of the London Muslim Mosque for four years and its Director of Community Outreach and Engagement until June of 2018. He currently serves as a volunteer Muslim Chaplain for the London Police Services, the RCMP Central Region, the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre and London Health Sciences Centre. From 2018 to 2024, he worked at a non-religious social service family support agency, the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration in London, Ontario, serving as their Intercultural Community Relations Coordinator, offering faith-based supports in a social service context. Since 2019, he has been serving as the Teacher and Resident Scholar of Al-Ghazali Centre based in London, Ontario. He currently serves at the Canadian Director of a reputable UK-based humanitarian organization, ILM (International Learning Movement).



DR. TIM SCHROEDER

Upon completion of an intensive profile assessment of Tim Schroeder, the assessor concluded that he does not fit typical categories. Although a member of the clergy he is often found in non-clerical roles.

A pastor for 41 years, Tim was the Senior Pastor of Greenfield Baptist Church in Edmonton and Senior Pastor and Teaching Pastor of Trinity Church, Kelowna. He has been a regular presenter for the Global Leadership Network, Canada, widely sought as a public speaker. His leadership credibility flows from the fact that in a day of religious decline he led the growth of Trinity Church from 400 weekly attenders to more than 2400.

Outside the church his extensive community involvement has made him one of the most recognizable faces in the city, crossing all religious persuasions.

Tim's commitment to the community has been expressed in several unorthodox arenas. He served for more than 10 years as an Auxiliary Constable with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police working the streets weekly. He was also appointed Chaplain to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Kelowna Rockets Hockey Team. He served for 14 years as Chaplain to the City of Kelowna Fire Department, including during the historic Firestorm of 2003. He has received numerous awards for his community service including the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, and The Anita Tozer Memorial Award.

Currently, Tim is Chaplain for the RCMP South East District, a territory paralleling the district of Interior Health.

Tim holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta, a Master of Divinity from Edmonton Baptist Seminary and a Doctor of Ministries from the North American Baptist Seminary.

He is a runner, with 15 marathons and 13 half marathons to his credit, a cyclist who has completed the Cops For Kids thousand kilometer ride 5 times and also holds a black belt in karate. His book, "Life By The Hour" has been widely read.



Sgt Amberia Sovdi

Amberia Sovdi will be discussing Mass Casualty Incidents, their impact to victims, victims' families, communities and first responders. This will include components on how to prepare, how to engage with those impacted, and the critical role that Chaplains can play in supporting law enforcement before and after their exposure to these types of events.

Amberia is currently serving with RCMP's Pacific Region National Security Program, leading its public engagement and prevention efforts in academic, corporate, cultural and religious communities. As a member of a national inter-agency working group, Amberia is leading efforts in BC to develop the RCMP's inter-agency, victim-centered response to mass casualty incidents. Beginning her RCMP career in 2004 at Surrey Detachment, she served in General Duty, GIS, and Serious Crimes until 2012. Since then, she has contributed to or led various projects and teams within the National Security Program and has represented the RCMP's terrorism prevention efforts to international audiences. An avid traveler, Amberia takes advantage of opportunities to see new places, enriching her perspective of people, cultures, faith, politics and delicious food



Alex Sterling

Alex Sterling MA, RCC is a Senior Associate Clinician with Wounded Warriors Canada, specializing in clinical work with Trauma Exposed Professionals, and working extensively in promoting trauma informed work environments across Canada. She has co-developed multiple, nationally delivered programs including Wounded Warriors Canada's TRT, TRT-L and Trauma Resiliency Programs (TRP1 and TRP2) and has trained trauma clinicians internationally to deliver the WWC COPE program.



Bruce Ewanyshyn

After closing in on 34 years of active law enforcement, Bruce retired as a Constable Specialist with the Brandon Police Service on May 7, 2024. On that day, the BPS Police Chief Randy Lewis presented Bruce with a plaque acknowledging him as a BPS Honorary Chaplain. At that time, Bruce had served over nine years as the “boots on the ground” police chaplain for BPS combining his roles as Constable and Chaplain. He continues to support his peers at BPS as an Honorary Chaplain despite moving to Prince Albert, SK with his wife Sheryl in May 2024.

Bruce travels frequently to Manitoba where he is a Casual Instructor for the Police Studies Program through Assiniboine College. Bruce is also actively employed as a contractual Instructor for the Manitoba First Nations Police Service Recruits and Senior Officer classes. Bruce designed a two-week course entitled, “Forensic Crime Scene Management for Frontline Officers” which he facilitates at the College, MFNPS, and this summer for Brandon PS.

Bruce has also accepted invitations to serve as Police Chaplain for the Manitoba First Nations Police Service including sharing some words and a prayer at the opening of the Regimental Funeral of MFNPS Police Chief Doug Palson in February, 2025. The photo below was taken on April 17th while Bruce shared some words and a prayer to bless the MFNPS Troop 2 Graduates.

Bruce & Sheryl continue to serve as Ordained Ministers on the Apostolic Team for Holy Spirit Sands Church in Carberry, MB where they lead worship. They hold membership with the Christian Ministers Association. They enjoy adventures together camping, hiking, kayaking, snowmobiling, motorcycling, and cycling. They have been working on renovating a riverfront property which they hope will become a couples retreat in the future where couples can come to be refreshed and encouraged.

Having served as a Police Specialist in Forensics for over 20 years, Bruce took the lead on many murder investigations, and is well versed in crime scene processing and protocol. Bruce looks forward to sharing some advice regarding Crime Scene Etiquette with all who attend the ATS in Vancouver. This will be Bruce’s final ATS as a CPCA President. He has enjoyed 52 months serving the members of the CPCA as their President and has learned much from his chaplain peers and values every contact.



Damien Pellew

Damian Pellew is a child of the King, father of two and works as a police officer. Damian has specialized as a tactical operator with the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team. Damian along with members of his team and local police department responded to a hostage taking at a local bank when a violent gun fight occurred. This battle left two assailants dead and six members of the team injured, including Damian. Damian was hospitalized and later released to a life of full time rehab as he works towards a goal of returning to his team.



Sgt Lorna Berndsen

Sergeant Lorna Berndsen has been a police officer with the Vancouver Police Department for 19 years. She has worked in various capacities: a beat officer in the Downtown Eastside, a patrol member in East Vancouver, a surveillance member for the RCMP “E” Division Integrated Sexual Predator Observation Team, an investigator in the Organized Crime Unit, an undercover operator, a member of the Public Safety Unit, and a supervisor in the Vancouver Jail, Mental Health Unit, Research and Policy Unit, and now the Employee Wellness Unit. With a strong focus on mental health, peer support, and team well-being, she is passionate about creating a healthy and resilient workplace for all VPD employees. For self-care, she spends an abundance of outdoor time with her dog, Pippa, as well as cycling, hiking, and Nordic skiing.



Departmental Sergeant Major Ray Gardner

Ray Gardner joined the Vancouver Police Department in 1995 as a Reserve Constable before transitioning to full-time status in 1999. He worked in patrol for his first 12 years, including an assignment as a Community Police Officer. Ray went on to experience detective work in the General Investigation Unit before being promoted to sergeant, and returning to patrol as a supervisor for another 4 years. In 2019, he was appointed to the position of the Departmental Sergeant Major, and later promoted to Staff Sergeant. His current posting requires him to be an expert in departmental protocol, ceremony, and tradition. He is the lead drill instructor, and coordinates events such as: recruit swearing-in ceremonies, Special Constable Graduations, promotion and commendation ceremonies, Departing with Distinction (retirement) ceremonies, Remembrance Day parades, BCLEM parades, police funerals, and memorials. He is an advisor to all elements of the VPD ranging from the cadets, sworn officers, civilian professionals, and the Executive.

Ray has enjoyed a fulfilling and rewarding career, which also included his time with the Public Safety Unit, Military Liaison Unit, and the Ceremonial Unit.

His volunteer commitments involve being a director with the Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Ribbon Society, a member of the BC Law Enforcement Memorial Committee, and the president of the South Vancouver Veterans Council.

Ray is grateful for his wife Maggie who has supported him throughout his whole career since the police academy. He is a proud father of Emily (18) and Riley (14), and their three cats.



Carol McFetridge

Thirty-eight years ago, Carol McFetridge began her policing career with the Edmonton Police Service. She was the lone female police officer in North Division Station which provided her with a vast array of experiences both professionally and personally. Professionally Carol overcame great challenges; she managed adversity, developed an appreciation for change and built confidence while working in 8 distinct positions within the police service. Personally, she faced the loss of both parents, her sister, walked through her son's hospitalization and marital tension within an 18-month time frame. These experiences pivoted her career and personal life as they drew her into a deeper understanding of trauma; the realization of traumas long lasting effects, and the value of community to invite new purpose into your life. Carol is passionate about providing emotional and spiritual care to those suffering trauma regardless of the causation. To introduce individuals into a journey of rediscovering or discovering, for the first time, their value, hope and faith and somewhat levelling the playing field for their lives. Gods unique plan has placed her as the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Canadian Law Enforcement Chaplain Coordinator and she has responded both nationally and internationally to natural and man-made disasters. Carol specializes in caring for the needs of current and retired police members, leads the Law Enforcement Chaplain Team, co-hosts a national Law Enforcement Appreciation Conference, responds as a Rapid Response Team Chaplain and mentors both addiction recovery and incarcerated women. Together, Carol and her husband, Kelly, have been blessed with two adult children. Through her story Carol has developed a deeper trust and faith in God's path and an understanding that adversity is a tool for God's growth. She now empowers individuals to move through their trauma and transition into a new and fulfilling purpose that God has designed for them.



Curtis Hinds

Curtis Hinds is an ordained and licensed minister in the province of Ontario. He has travelled to over twenty-four different countries around the world speaking in training conferences and Seminars since 1996.

Since 2008, Curtis has proudly served as Coordinator of Chaplaincy and Spiritual Supports for Peel Regional Police and has been hired to serve Peel Regional Police in a fulltime capacity.

“As the Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services and Spiritual Supports, I have the unique and much needed role of supporting all our members in all aspects of their lives. Many of our members would prefer to identify as ‘Spiritual’ rather than ‘religious’. This allows for support, and guidance that connects with the heart of our members.

My availability crosses many areas of our organization. From ‘Ride-Alongs & Divisional Visits’, to supporting our members and their loved ones in times of difficulty and stress and being there to just ‘talk’ about life.

I consider myself to have a very simple and genuine style of connecting with people of all different cultures, religions, and ethnicities. I like to see my role among other things as one who... ‘Loiters with Intent’. My intent is simply to be there for our members...”

Quote – *“I am only here to Help”*

He carries a wealth of training and experience in helping people.

Curtis has been married to Debbie for 35 years and have lived in the Region of Peel for have lived in the Meadowvale community of Mississauga for 24 years and they have 3 children, Richard, Kara, Deelan, and one granddaughter Gwendolyn.