

From: [Colman-Sadd, Vanessa](#)
To: [Noble, Paul](#); [Burrage, Don](#); [Collins, Felix](#)
Subject: FW: VOCCM - RCMP Denies New Report on Winters Case
Date: Monday, May 7, 2012 3:13:48 PM

FYI

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Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 3:13 PM
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa; Mundon, Tansy; Gullage, Cheryl; Carter, Carol Ann; Drover, Rodney C; Oliver, Val
Cc: FitzGerald, John; Harvey, Michael; Walsh, Doris A.
Subject: VOCCM - RCMP Denies New Report on Winters Case

RCMP Denies New Report on Winters Case

VOCCM - Monday, May 7, 2012

The Mounties are denying a media report that the province was slow in helping in the search for Burton Winters. The Department of National Defence released the audiotapes to a media outlet. The tape contains a conversation involving Corporal Kimball Vardy, where he indicates to a search coordinator that searchers in Makkovik were asked to call back the next morning after they asked for air support in the Winters search. The 14-year old was reported missing at 8:00 p.m. on January 29. The RCMP say their Operational Support Services contacted Fire and Emergency Services the next morning due to weather conditions, and how the overall search was progressing. The call was made to the department at 8:19 a.m.

Fire and Emergency Services Minister Kevin O'Brien reiterates that the timelines in the Winters case are accurate and now verified by the RCMP. He says phone records for FES-NL are also verified by a record of call logs from Bell Aliant. O'Brien says he has stated this fact from the beginning that Fire and Emergency Services had no contact about the search in Makkovik on January 29. He says when they were called the next day, immediate action began by the department. The Minister is satisfied that their policies and procedures were followed.

The MHA for Torngat Mountains says the time for cover ups in search and rescue in this province has long since past. Liberal Randy Edmunds says there were few surprises when he listened to the calls today. He says it's time for the provincial and federal governments to stop playing the blame game. He says protocols need to be revisited surrounding search and rescue to ensure that everything is up to the appropriate standards, to avoid what he calls the many questions and confusion that keep arising.

Edmunds and his fellow Liberals have been pushing government for an inquiry into search and rescue protocol. Up until this point, Premier Kathy Dunderdale has said that she didn't think an inquiry was warranted. Edmunds says the Winters' family disagrees. He says the Winters family have

told him that they want an inquiry for one reason only, so that another family in Newfoundland and Labrador doesn't have to go through what they went through losing their son.