



Canadian Bankers Association
Canadian Banks Law Enforcement Award
Media Coverage

Produced by CBA's Strategy & Communications Division

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LA MÉDAILLE D'HONNEUR DES BANQUES CANADIENNES

LE CAFE SHOW (1) (CHFA-AM), Edmonton

25 Aug 2011

Time: 06:52am

Length: 00:06:28

Anchor/Reporters: RUDY DESJARDINS

YVES-GÉRARD MEHOU-LOKO (CHFA-AM): (...) Que le sergent Randy Rechner de la section des enquêtes générales de la GRC à Edmonton a reçu une distinction bien particulière. L'Association canadienne des chefs de police vient de lui décerner sa médaille d'honneur des banques canadiennes pour action policière méritoire. Vers la fin de 2009, il a traqué des bandits qui avaient effectué des vols à main armée dans le Nord de l'Alberta. Et après huit semaines il a réussi à mettre la main au collet de tous les suspects. Nathalie Clark, secrétaire générale et chef du contentieux de l'Association des banquiers canadiens nous explique comment être éligible pour ce prix.

NATHALIE CLARK (secrétaire générale et chef du contentieux de l'Association des banquiers canadiens): Écoutez, tous les policiers actifs, donc au moment de l'incident évidemment, que l'on juge d'avoir fait preuve d'une bravoure remarquable, d'une capacité d'enquête exceptionnelle ou d'une autre réalisation digne de mention à l'endroit des banques canadiennes, sont admissibles à cette médaille d'honneur là.

Les candidats doivent répondre à au moins un des critères suivants. Un des critères est la bravoure, donc d'avoir fait preuve d'une bravoure exceptionnelle ou d'un courage exceptionnel et avoir mis à contribution ses ressources internes lorsqu'il y a un danger pour sa vie, donc pour la vie de l'agent. S'être exposé au risque volontairement afin de protéger une personne, donc, ça peut être un employé, un client ou un bien d'une banque. Avoir participé à une enquête qui comprenait des menaces, mais surtout des menaces de blessures corporelles graves ou même un danger de mort.

Alors, le deuxième critère, c'est la qualité de l'enquête. Donc, avoir mené une enquête de manière unique. Avoir été au-delà de ce qui normalement est... est... allé au-delà de ce que normalement on demande à un agent. Et avoir mené une enquête même si les obstacles étaient inhabituels, mais si les circonstances étaient aggravantes. Et ça pour des longues périodes de temps. Et lien avec des sacrifices personnels, par exemple, le sergent Rechner qui a reçu la médaille d'honneur et qui est membre de la Gendarmerie royale canadienne dans le secteur d'Edmonton a réussi à appréhender ces voleurs à main armée pendant les vacances de Noël. Donc, il a sacrifié évidemment tout son temps avec sa famille pendant les vacances de Noël. Donc, ce type d'engagement est assez exceptionnel.

YVES-GÉRARD MEHOU-LOKO: Il y a une collaboration entre les banques et les corps policiers dans le secteur.

NATHALIE CLARK: Oui, absolument, les banques canadiennes collaborent avec les corps policiers depuis des années et pas seulement pour les vols de banque évidemment, mais pour toutes sortes de crimes financiers. Et cette collaboration-là est extrêmement importante. Parce qu'au-delà de la perte financière qui est quand même assez importante, les banques sont extrêmement concernées par la sécurité de leurs employés, de leurs clients. Donc, ce type de vol qui fait l'objet de la médaille qui a été remise au sergent Rechner est exactement le type de crimes qui nous concernent grandement puisque ça affecte principalement les employés, la sécurité de nos employés, mais aussi la sécurité des clients de la banque. Alors, évidemment, la bravoure que M. Rechner a démontrée durant cette enquête mais aussi durant l'arrestation est grandement appréciée. Puisqu'il s'agit de la sécurité physique d'individus.

YVES-GÉRARD MEHOU-LOKO: Lors de ces enquêtes, les informations qu'on en retire auprès de la police, est-ce qu'ensuite vous, ça vous aide à mieux préparer vos protocoles de sécurité pour vos employés, mais aussi la sécurité des clients et de leurs informations bancaires?

NATHALIE CLARK: Oui, absolument, je dirais que la sécurité à l'intérieur des banques est une fonction évidemment très sophistiquée. Et l'échange d'informations avec les corps policiers est une composante. Et évidemment, dépendamment des crimes auxquels les institutions financières font face que ce soient des crimes financiers hautement sophistiqués, ce que vous appelez les criminels en cravate ou que ce soit ce type de crimes qui est très physique, les banques apprécient grandement l'échange d'informations avec les corps policiers. Ça permet aux banques de réajuster certaines pratiques directement dans leurs succursales.

YVES-GÉRARD MEHOU-LOKO: Bon, avec ce que le sergent Rechner a fait, est-ce qu'on peut se sentir bien en sécurité ici en Alberta?

NATHALIE CLARK: Oui, un petit peu d'humour, bien écoutez, je vous dirais que c'est certainement un exemple du fait que le corps policier à Edmonton est extrêmement efficace à combattre ce type de crime-là. Alors, évidemment, je ne peux pas parler de l'efficacité du corps policier pour tous les crimes. Quoi que je suppose qu'elle est excellente, considérant la bravoure du sergent Rechner.

YVES-GÉRARD MEHOU-LOKO: Pourquoi la patrouille d'Edmonton est particulièrement efficace contre les crimes de cette nature?

NATHALIE CLARK: Écoutez, je vous dirais que tous les corps policiers à travers le Canada sont efficaces dans ce type de crimes. Il y a une collaboration qui est bonne entre toutes les personnes qui sont concernées. Et évidemment, il ne s'agit pas juste du corps policier en Alberta. Je crois que tous les corps policiers au Canada sont extrêmement dévoués à la protection des individus, à la protection des Canadiens. Les clients des banques, les employés des banques ne sont qu'une partie de cette population-là. Alors, je vous dirais que dans l'ensemble du pays, les corps policiers sont extrêmement dévoués et extrêmement efficaces à combattre ce type de crime.

YVES-GÉRARD MEHOU-LOKO: Nathalie Clark, secrétaire générale et chef du contentieux de l'Association des banquiers canadiens, merci beaucoup.

NATHALIE CLARK: Merci.



CANADIAN BANKS' LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

RADIO ACTIVE (CBX-AM) Edmonton

24 Aug 2011

Reach: 10,000

Time: 05:14pm

Length: 00:05:56

PETER BROWN (CBX): This is Radio Active on CBC Radio 1 in Edmonton. It's 15 minutes past five and as I speak RCMP officer Randy Rechner with Edmonton, is receiving an award. Sergeant Rechner tracked down and charged a number of people after a string of armed robberies in rural Alberta. Today he's receiving the Canadian Banks' Law Enforcement Award from the Canadian Bankers Association.

CBC Edmonton's Janice Johnson spoke with Sergeant Rechner earlier today.

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER (RCMP): A bank robbery had occurred in Lac La Biche in Alberta and a week later another bank was hit, very similar MO. We had a look at some of the photographs and it was... the one person was definitely had been involved in the Lac La Biche armed robbery, so it was at that time that I got onboard and we started sharing information between the two detachments and my unit. Another bank was hit a week later.

At that point in time we were able to identify... we had three adults and one young offender that we had identified. Warrants were sent out and we managed to pick up two of the adults on... just prior to Christmas Eve, and then on the 24th, as we were transporting one of them to jail another bank got hit, and it was at that time we... it was obvious these guys weren't going to be stopping anytime soon. They knew that we knew, you know, who was responsible. They were aware we were looking for them, but they just continued on. They continued on robbing banks. A shotgun was used at every... a sawed off shotgun was used at every robbery.

And the violence escalated. Actually, the very last one, the last armed robbery that they committed one of the tellers was hit. Because it's still before the courts there's not a whole lot more that I can say, but we were given a reason, etc., you know, that explained why they did what they did, but it's just... there was a lot of pressure on my team and myself to get these guys off the streets. Just because... it was just going to be a matter of time before somebody was shot.

JANICE JOHNSON (Reporter): You were worried about what might happened next if you didn't bring them into custody.

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: Absolutely. Because when you talk to the bankers and the tellers they know what to do. Somebody comes in and say give me your money they give the money up because that's what they're supposed to do, so that nobody gets hurt. We spoke to the tellers after the fact and the tellers' concern was for the safety of their customers. And that was one of their main concerns.

So these selfless ladies, you know, their concern for their own safety is one thing, but also the customers, it was astounding.

JANICE JOHNSON: Well, it sounds like just this group was on quite a crime spree over the Christmas season.

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: Well, and that was the thing. They just continued on and from what we could see, from our point, there was no end in sight, until they were caught.

JANICE JOHNSON: How many banks in total are they accused of hitting, Sergeant?

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: Well, in the space of eight weeks they committed seven armed robberies.

JANICE JOHNSON: So pretty much one a week then.

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: Pretty much one a week. They did take a break over New Year's.

JANICE JOHNSON: And what do you think about getting this award, Sergeant?

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: Oh, I just... I feel... like I said, I feel fortunate in the sense that I was able to quarterback the team. The fact that I was singled out, I'm very appreciative of that. However, it was without a doubt a team effort. And you know, for the RCMP it was multijurisdictional in the sense that it was a number of different detachments. Great work by all those guys, great work by the Alberta sheriffs and great work by Edmonton Police Service Robbery Unit and the Gang Units and whatnot. They were just... you know, they were always just a phone call away.

JANICE JOHNSON: And I guess it sounds to me as though in speaking to the tellers and the employees of these various banks that that's really what got to you, that you wanted to protect these people.

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: Oh absolutely. You know, and it's kind of a... it got a little personal when... when you know that they know and they're still out there doing these things, it gets a little personal, and you want to catch them really bad, and so it was just... so I just really appreciate the hard work that my guys put in for me, you know, in order that we could finally round them up.

JANICE JOHNSON: Was there ever a dollar figure on how much they ended up stealing, Sergeant?

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: I'm going to suggest around \$30,000. I think.

JANICE JOHNSON: I'm surprised. Yeah, that's quite a low amount considering...

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: It is.

JANICE JOHNSON: ...how many banks they held up, allegedly. When you see the movies they go away with a half a million dollars, so 30 grand's pretty small potatoes really, for this level of violence.

SERGEANT RANDY RECHNER: Exactly. You know, and that in itself is the scary part as well. You

know, like you say for the level of violence that was escalating, for the amount of money they were getting, you know, no amount of money is worth human life, but just... for them to be that brazen I don't know if they were happy with what they were getting. Maybe that's why they continued on. But just... they were successful in one aspect of it, but not in the other.

PETER BROWN: CBC Edmonton's Janice Johnson speaking with Edmonton RCMP officer Randy Rechner. Sergeant Rechner is being honoured right now with the Canadian Banks' Law Enforcement Award from the Canadian Banking Association.



EDMONTON POLICE OFFICER HONORED

NEWS (16:00) (CHQT-AM), Edmonton

24 Aug 2011

Reach: 8,000

Time: 04:05pm

Length: 00:00:51

LANDON KELLY (CHQT-AM): Local officer is being honoured for his fight against financial crime. Sergeant Randy Rechner of the Edmonton General Investigation Section of the RCMP will receive the Canadian Bank's Law Enforcement Award for his efforts in solving a robbery at a financial institution in Northern Alberta back in 2009. Sergeant Rechner says he couldn't have done it without the help of his team.

RANDY RECHNER (Sergeant, RCMP): I felt I was just doing my job and I was... I'll say I was fortunate in the sense that I quarterbacked the team. It was definitely a team effort. Without them, none of this would happen. And all I got to do was play Tom Brady and be the quarterback and just shut things.

LANDON KELLY: Rechner will receive the award this evening at a gala ceremony in Windsor, Ontario.



RCMP OFFICER RECEIVES AWARD

CTV NEWS AT 6 (CFRN-TV), Edmonton

24 Aug 2011

Reach: 146,000

Time: 06:36pm

Length: 00:01:04

Anchor/Reporters: CARRIE DOLL/ DARYL McINTYRE

CARRIE DOLL (CFRN-TV): An RCMP officer behind a major arrest that ended a bank robbery spree is receiving an award for his work.

DARYL MCINTYRE (CFRN-TV): Sergeant Randy Rechner led the team that arrested every suspect involved in a series of bank robberies in Northern Alberta late last year.

SGT. RANDY RECHNER (RCMP): My team of officers, Edmonton Police Service and Alberta Sheriffs, we all worked together really well and I just happened to be the quarterback.

DARYL MCINTYRE: Franklin Gladhue was one of four people taken into custody in January. He is facing 32 charges related to the robberies. Plus there are two teenage boys who between them are facing more than 20 charges.



Edmonton Police officer honored

1:33pm

EDMONTON/630 CHED

8/24/2011

A local RCMP officer is being recognized for his outstanding efforts.

Sargeant Randy Rechner of the Edmonton General Investigation Section will be receiving an award for his work in solving robberies of several financial institutions in Northern Alberta back in late 2009.

"I felt I was just going my job," says Rechner. "I'll say I was fortunate in the sense that I quarterbacked the team. It was definitely a team effort. Without them, none of this would have happened. All I had to do was play (New England Patriots' quarterback) Tom Brady and be the quarterback."

Rechner will receive this year's Canadian Banks Law Enforcement Award Wednesday evening at the gala in Windsor. (JSL)



EDMONTON POLICE OFFICER HONOURED

CALGARY NEWS (CBR-AM)

25 Aug 2011

Time: 06:32am,

Length: 00:00:45

Anchor/Reporters: TIM DEVLIN

TIM DEVLIN (CBR-AM): An Alberta Mountie has been honoured for tracking down suspects in a string of armed robberies in rural communities. Sergeant Randy Rechner was in charge of the investigation into seven bank robberies two years ago in smaller centres. He says the robberies were becoming increasingly violent and he was afraid someone would get shot.

RANDY RECHNER (RCMP): When you know that they know and they're still out there doing these things, it gets a little personal and you want to catch them really bad.

TIM DEVLIN: Three adults and two youths were awaiting... are awaiting trial on robbery charges. Rechner received an award yesterday from the Canadian Bankers Association.