



# How to Assess the Quality of an Investigation

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# 8 Principles of Excellent Investigation

1

Independent



2

Trained  
Experienced



3

Relevant issues

Identify

Pursue



4

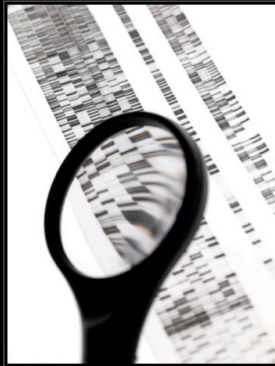
Sufficient  
resources



# 8 Principles of Excellent Investigation

5

## Physical Evidence

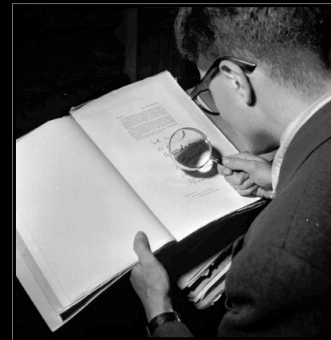


Identify  
Preserve  
Collect  
Examine



6

## Documentation



Secure  
Review



7

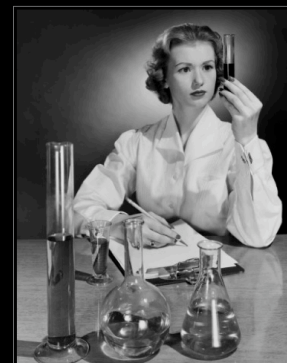
## Witnesses



Identify  
Segregate  
Interview thoroughly



8



**Analysis**  
Objective  
Fact-based



**Challenges of  
investigations into  
police conduct  
-some of them  
unique**





# **The integrity of the investigative process**

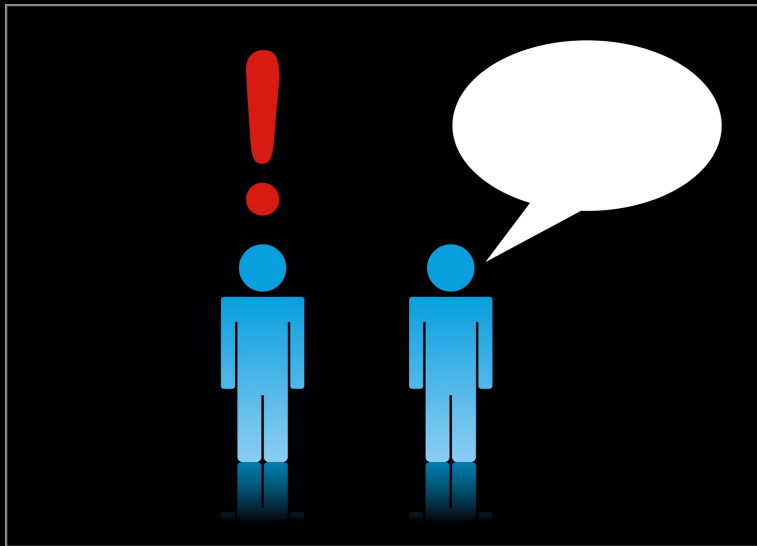


**The complexities and nuances of law that  
allow police officers to use force;  
sometimes lethal force; when certain  
conditions exist**



**The fact that police officers voluntarily  
put their lives on the line every  
working day**





**Provision of  
information to the  
persons involved**

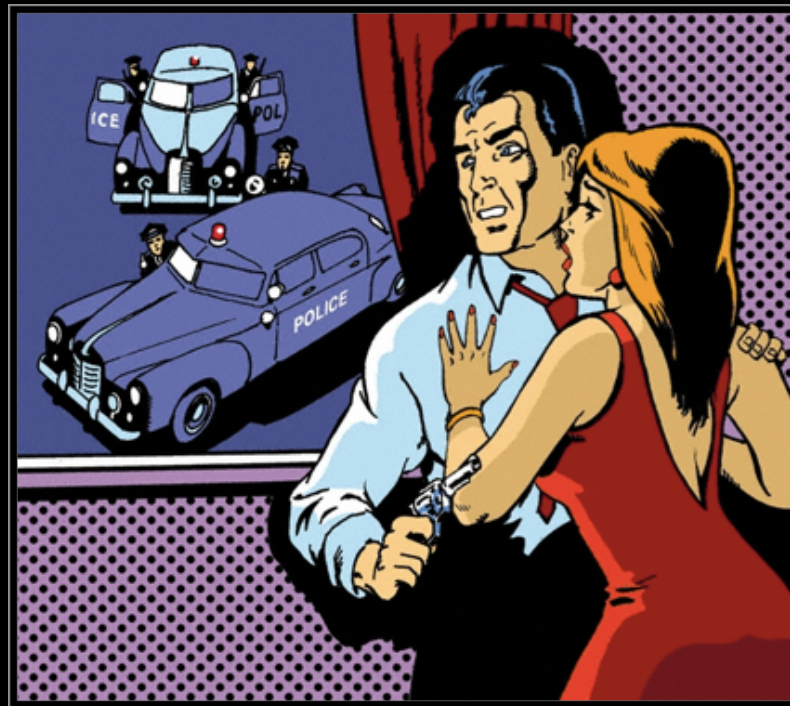
# **Intense media scrutiny**



# **The right of the public to know what happened**



**The detection and prosecution of any  
crimes committed by civilians involved in  
the incident**





# **Special Interest Groups**

**Civil liberties organizations**

**Police Management groups**

**Police Unions**



# **The confidence of the public in the police force that serves it**



Superficial or cursory investigations of officer-involved shootings in general and particularly in instances where citizens are wounded or killed can have a devastating impact on the professional integrity and credibility of an entire law enforcement agency.

International Association of Chiefs of Police National Law Enforcement Policy Center  
Investigation of Officer-Involved Shootings: Concepts and Issues Paper (1999)

**The tendency to be wary of oversight,  
particularly when it comes from the  
outside**

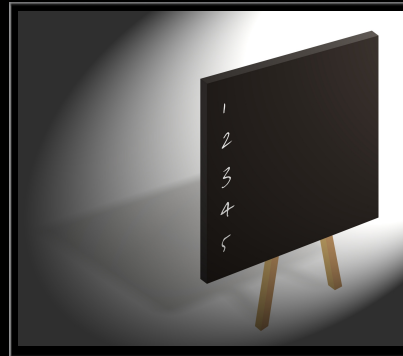


**There appeared to be, on the part of certain of the police witnesses and certain police associations, an almost Pavlovian reaction against a civilian agency investigating the conduct of police officers**

**in carrying out their duties and against the idea that such an agency could conduct an investigation which would be fair to police officers.**

**This is particularly surprising when the statistics given in evidence establish that in about 97% of the cases, the investigation exonerates the subject police officer.**

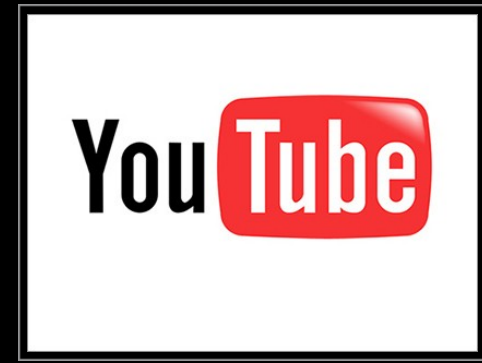
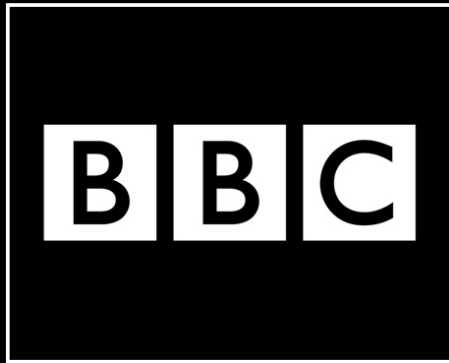
**Wiche v. Ontario, [2001]  
O.J. No. 1850 (Ont. Sup. Ct).**



**Does the investigation pass the test  
set by the  
8 Principles  
of Excellent Investigation?**







**The Taser Shot Heard  
the World**

**Around**



**Alleged discrepancies  
before and after video  
made public**





**Only the RCMP know the truth.**  
***Don't expect a straight answer.***

**Excerpt from Globe and Mail editorial**  
**November 17, 2007**