



Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Commanding Officer

Gendarmerie royale du Canada  
Commandant divisionnaire

130 Dufferin Avenue  
P.O. Box 3240, Station "B"  
London, Ontario N6A 4K3

"O" Division

February 23, 2010

Mr. Scott Armstrong, President  
Cornwall and Area Chamber of Commerce  
113 Second Street East, Suite 100  
P.O. Box 338  
Cornwall, Ontario  
K6H 5T1

Dear Mr. Armstrong;

First, I must apologize for not receiving and replying to your letter. Paul Fitzpatrick was gracious enough to provide me a copy last week. Please know I was not ignoring your concerns, having been stationed twice in Cornwall and calling Glengarry home, the community of Cornwall remains close to my heart.

Thank you very much for the letter which outlines your concern about the portrayal of the Cornwall community in the *Courage in Red*, Customs & Excise episode. Both Mayor Bob Kilger and Paul Fitzpatrick brought these same concerns to my attention in December, 2009.

Knowing Cornwall and our enforcement challenges as intimately as I do, I agree with your assessment; the *Courage in Red* portrayal does not accurately reflect the reality of living and working in Cornwall. As you pointed out, incidents of gunfire are rare and certainly have not created a community living in fear.

I believe that generally the *Courage in Red* series has put the Force in a more positive light and given the public a broader understanding of the extensive police services that we provide. However, I am disappointed that there were some inaccurate portrayals and in some instances a narrow focus, as in the Customs & Excise episode. In many cases, our partners were not acknowledged despite the integral role they play in our daily operations.

I have forwarded a letter to the Director General of National Communication Services, Superintendent Tim Cogan and asked that he remove the above noted reference, regarding gunfire, from all promotional tools, including the RCMP and Gencor websites, YouTube and television trailers.

I hope that my response meets with your expectations. I will keep you informed of the outcome as a result of our request to the Director General.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions or concerns. I can be reached by telephone at 519 640-7254.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike McDonnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being more prominent than the last name "McDonnell".

Mike McDonnell, Assistant Commissioner  
Commanding Officer, "O" Division  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police