

Letter to the Editor
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Reading “Cops run amok” (Marni Soupcoff, March 31) provides a very selective interpretation of an incident based on, unfortunately, incomplete information. While a video showing a Vancouver police officer breaking a car window can seem, at first glance, to be a quick and perhaps shocking escalation of the situation, what this video doesn’t provide is the full context, which is the erratic driving the officer witnessed which was the initial basis for the stop, and the potential dangerous impacts of impaired driving are certainly not in dispute.

Despite Ms. Soupcoff’s assertions, incidents of police officers using force are not on the increase. In fact a recent study by Public Safety Canada on police use of force across Canada found that police only use force in only 2 percent of all interactions with the public. That means that 98 percent of the time professional police officers serving communities across this Country use their experience, training, and legal authority to successfully resolve conflict, including detaining and arresting suspect, without using any force at all.

The hard working women and men that represent Canada’s police services also deserve to be treated fairly and that includes a presumption of innocence until such time as there has been an actual finding of misconduct based on real evidence not speculation. There is no doubt police are, and should be held to a higher standard, but using a 2 minute video clip to pass judgement on all law enforcement, then suggest this shows our country on the road to “totalitarianism” is the height of irresponsibility, and that sort of hyperbole only serves to unnecessarily shake the public’s confidence in their police. According to Ms. Soupcoff, it seems she believes “innocent until proven guilty according to law” doesn’t apply when she’s judging the actions of law enforcement.

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