



CANADIAN - POLISH CONGRESS  
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The Honourable Stockwell Day  
Minister of Public Safety  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Day,

I would like to bring to your attention the recent incident related to the use of taser guns, which occurred on October 14, at Vancouver International Airport. I was horrified to learn of the death of a Polish immigrant to Canada after being "stunned" with a taser gun by R.C.M. P Officers.

Mr. Robert Dziekanski was a newly arrived immigrant to Canada who became distraught after spending 10 long hours stranded at Vancouver International Airport, following a lengthy trip here from Poland. Mr. Dziekanski spoke no English and became agitated and began throwing items, as he was unable to communicate his problem to airport officials. Rather than seeking the assistance of a Settlement Worker located in the airport, R.C.M.P. Officers were called and within minutes used their tasers to subdue Mr. Dziekanski who fell dead after being electro-shocked.

Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident of accidental death by tasers. More than 70 people in Canada and the United States have died since 2001 after being electro-shocked with taser guns.

As the President of the Canadian Polish Congress I feel compelled to act on the behalf of not only the Canadian Polish community here, but also all Canadians to ask for an immediate moratorium of the use of tasers by all law enforcement officers pending the outcome of the investigation into Mr. Dziekanski's death and the related issue of the use of tasers in subduing individuals.

I ask that all government agencies and law enforcement officers cease using tasers and similar devices until the release of the outcomes from an extensive investigation and study into their use and effects.

If this is not possible I then ask that their use be limited to situations where authorities would otherwise be justified in resorting to deathly force or where no other or lesser alternatives are available.

I hope that you will give priority to enacting this moratorium on the use of tasers for the safety all Canadians and visitors to our country. I also trust that appropriate concern be given to the investigation into the death of Mr. Robert Dziekanski.

Time is of the utmost importance in this matter. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Wladyslaw Lizon  
National President  
Canadian Polish Congress