

North Vancouver Company offers advanced forensic services to assist in criminal and civil investigations

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In June of 2011, Vancouver was the victim of what has been called the largest crime spree in the city's history; the Stanley Cup riot. Since then, the Vancouver Police Department has laid charges against 64 people and has promised that more are soon to follow – charges that would otherwise not be possible without the application of forensic video analysis. This growing field within the realm of forensic science is what North Vancouver's Blackstone Forensics Ltd. does best.

"Last year's riot clearly demonstrated that the face of the criminal landscape today is drastically different from what it was even five years ago," says Dave McKay, President and Lead Analyst at Blackstone. "With the proliferation of mobile technologies and social media, amateur photos and videos have become the most prevalent form of evidence left at crime scenes."

Launched in 2010, Blackstone Forensics Ltd. is at the forefront of the industry, offering private forensic services that have traditionally been reserved for law enforcement. As specialists in forensic video analysis, which includes digital enhancement, clarification, authentication and presentation of video and photographic evidence for court purposes, Blackstone has been called upon to consult and/or act as a subject matter expert in a number of high profile cases. One such case involved the death of Robert Dziekanski at YVR. During the Braidwood inquiry, Mr. McKay served as an expert forensic video consultant to the legal counsel representing Polish government.

"Forensic analysis is absolutely vital when it comes to increasing the overall value and effectiveness of visual evidence," adds McKay. "At Blackstone, we use a variety of highly refined software and editing tools to convert digital evidence that may have previously been considered useless into clear visual information that can provide compelling courtroom evidence."

An example of Blackstone's work was recently posted on the News 1130 and CBC websites. Their assistance was requested by the Coquitlam RCMP in order to compile video footage of a stabbing suspect captured on video surveillance. Without their expertise it would have been difficult to provide the public with clear images of the suspect since the individual was captured on multiple camera views and from multiple security camera sources.

In addition to advanced forensic services, Blackstone also offers CCTV installation and security consulting services for the protection of residential and commercial properties.

#### **About Blackstone Forensics**

Blackstone provides expert forensic analysis and examination of recorded video, images, and other forms of multimedia evidence in relation to both criminal and civil investigations/cases. Our services include digital enhancement, clarification, analysis, and authentication.

Blackstone's secure lab is set-up to provide the latest in forensic services relating to video and other forms of technical evidence. Our casework is carried out under the direction of Blackstone's principal, David McKay, who was a former forensic specialist with the RCMP and has been qualified in both BC Provincial and Supreme Courts as an expert witness in digital video and image analysis.

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