


Transit police in Vancouver fail to make appearance at inquiry into taser use

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 VANCOUVER -Transit police decided to skip a scheduled appearance yesterday at a Vancouver inquiry into the use of Tasers, despite coming under fire last month for using the stun weapons against non-violent passengers. The Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service was to make a submission to former appeal court justice Thomas Braidwood at the provincially ordered inquiry, but decided not to attend. Inquiry counsel Art Vertlieb said it was regrettable the transit police did not attend. "The Braidwood inquiry is to get at the policies. It's not to lay blame," Mr. Vertlieb said. "They had issues in the media and it was a chance for them to be transparent, but they felt it was better to deal with the Police Complaints Commission." Transit police had used the electroshock device 10 times over 18 months. And on four of those occasions, they used Tasers on non-aggressive, non-compliant passengers, according to documents obtained through access to information.