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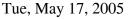
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Mounties aim to cash in on poll By BILL RODGERS, Parliamentary Bureau

SEARCH:

Canada's famed Mounties may always get their man but they don't always get what they think they should be paid.

RCMP rank-and-file members are not represented by a union or an association and they say their salaries are falling behind those of other police services.

Staff Sgt. Roy Hill said Mountie paycheques and benefits trail other services, including Toronto's cops and the Ontario Provincial Police.

"It's our position we should be in the top three of police forces in Canada and Canadians, I think, feel the same way," he said.

Hill, who is the chairman of the Mounted Police Members' Legal Fund, which helps resolve issues with management and the Treasury Board, commissioned a poll that backs up his statement. The SES Research survey of 1,000 people found 60.9% felt RCMP officers should be paid the same as the major police services across Canada.



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Another 23.3% thought they should be the highestpaid cops in the country, while 3.5% said their pay should be lower than other big police departments and 12.3% were unsure.

The average RCMP constable now earns \$65,000 a year, excluding benefits.

Discussions are now under way with the Treasury Board to consider a new compensation package for rank-and-file officers.

The SES poll, conducted between April 30 and May 4, is accurate plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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