

CD
Mr. Fitton
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Body Cameras

Many cities across Canada have been fighting for mandatory body cameras to be worn by police officers. Body cameras are beneficial to the police department, and can also help create a deeper connection and trust with their citizens. Body cameras are used by “95 percent of large police departments” (Ripley 2017) in the United States. The first reason all police departments should be required to use body cameras is the effect it has on human behaviour. When body cameras are monitoring police action, they are less likely to use excessive force and the cameras even led to a 90 percent complaint decrease found in a 2012 California study. Secondly, the use of body cameras can provide valuable information and add to the collection of evidence in a case. In a court case, it is the civilian's word against the officer's word when an officer is not wearing a body camera. The use of body cameras shows a clearer picture of what happened in an altercation and can provide a judge with more evidence. The third reason all police departments should be required to wear body cameras is the ways they can help train future officers. Law enforcement can use body camera footage to assess an officer's actions to increase professionalism within departments and develop new strategies to use in different situations. The use of the footage in this way will help train new and better cops in the future and overall benefit the police department and the citizens. In conclusion, I believe the implementation of body cameras should take place in every police department in Canada, as a way to provide safety and trust between police departments and the citizens they are protecting.

References

Ripley, A. (2017, October 20). A Big Test of Police Body Cameras Defies Expectations.
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