

## Ex-Mountie dogged by false rape claim settles out of court

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The RCMP has agreed to compensate, and apologize to, former Mountie John Hudak. ((CBC))

A former Alberta RCMP officer who was falsely accused of sexual assault has settled a \$5-million lawsuit with the force and will be receiving a public apology from the provincial justice minister.

John Hudak sued the RCMP and Alberta Justice for \$5 million for damaging his reputation in a case that began seven years ago. He's not allowed to discuss or disclose the amount of the out-of-court settlement that was reached last week.

But Hudak told CBC News on Tuesday that he is "overjoyed" with the settlement, which is to include a public apology from the province and the RCMP later this week.

“The apology is meant to offer a sincere expression of profound regret that the justice system put Constable Hudak through this ordeal,” said Alberta justice spokesman David Dear.

Hudak was charged with sexual assault while working as an RCMP officer in Rocky Mountain House, 142 kilometres northwest of Calgary.

Mildred Johnson, 65, made the allegations in 2000. The nurse had previously made repeated phone calls to Hudak's home and hung up, inquired about dating him (which he declined), and filed a false police complaint against the officer.

During Hudak's trial, Johnson admitted lying and was later convicted of perjury and fabricating evidence.

It turned out Johnson had been convicted of harassing and uttering death threats against a former boyfriend's wife in Houston, a criminal record the RCMP did not check before charging Hudak.

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The judge, astonished by how weak the case was, threw out the charges against Hudak.

But the RCMP veteran of 24 years discovered being vindicated in a court didn't mean his name was cleared.

When he returned to work with the RCMP, he transferred to Calgary but soon had to leave because some of the women in the office didn't want to work with him.

He then moved to Trail, B.C., where he was forced to quit after a member of the public complained she didn't want a rapist on the force.

“I wanted to help people. Never did I imagine I would become a victim myself,” Hudak said in a CBC documentary in 2004.

With the settlement, Hudak said he can now walk away from the long, emotional case with his head held high.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/ex-mountie-dogged-by-false-rape-claim-settles-out-of-court-1.666422>