



PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA DECISION

OFFENDER INFORMATION :

Name : **GRIFFON, PETER ALAN**

FPS :

Institution :

FILE NO :

TYPE OF REVIEW :

- FULL PAROLE - POST RELEASE (PANEL-VIDEO CONFERENCE)
- STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL. (PANEL-VIDEO CONFERENCE)

PANEL INFORMATION :

OBSERVER (S) PRESENT (except during deliberations) : **NO**

ASSISTANT PRESENT : **NO**

EXCLUDED FROM PART OF HEARING : **NOT APPLICABLE**

ELDER /ADVISOR : **NO**

REASON : **NOT APPLICABLE**

FINAL DECISIONS :

FULL PAROLE - POST RELEASE	REVOKED	2020-07-15
STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL.	CHANGE CONDITION	2020-07-15

LEAVE PRIVILEGES : NOT APPLICABLE

SPECIAL CONDITIONS :

STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL.

Condition	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVOID CERTAIN PERSONS Not to associate with any person you know or have reason to believe is involved in criminal activity. 	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TO CONSUME DRUGS Not to consume, purchase or possess drugs other than prescribed medication taken as prescribed and over the counter drugs taken as recommended by the manufacturer. 	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE Provide documented financial information to the satisfaction of your parole supervisor as per a schedule to be determined by your parole supervisor. 	IMPOSED

PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED SPECIAL CONDITION(S) STILL IN EFFECT : NOT APPLICABLE

NEW INFORMATION SHARED WITH THE OFFENDER : NOT APPLICABLE

FPS :

Name : **GRIFFON, PETER ALAN**

File No :



REASONS FOR DECISION(S) :

The Parole Board of Canada (the Board) reviewed your case by way of an audiovisual hearing to make a decision regarding the suspension of your full parole, as well as the imposition of special conditions on your upcoming statutory release. The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) recommends the revocation of full parole.

To make its decision, the Board must consider several legal criteria. In order to cancel your suspension, the Board must be satisfied that you will not, by reoffending before the expiration of sentence, present an undue risk to society. If necessary and reasonable to protect society and facilitate your reintegration into society, the Board may also reprimand you, alter the conditions of your parole, or order the cancellation not to take effect until the expiration of a specified period if you have violated the conditions of parole on the occasion of the suspension and on at least one previous occasion that led to a suspension of parole or statutory release during your sentence.

However, if the Board is satisfied that you will, by reoffending before the expiration of sentence, present an undue risk to society, it may terminate your full parole if the undue risk is due to circumstances beyond your control, or revoke your full parole in any other case.

Concerning special conditions, the Board must determine whether special conditions on your release are reasonable and necessary in order to protect society and to facilitate your successful reintegration into society.

Applying these criteria to your case, the Board revokes your full parole. The rationale for the Board's decision is as follows.

In making its decision, the Board has reviewed written representations from supports dated June 2018, in which the effort you put into Bible studies was extolled.

The Warrant of Apprehension and Suspension was issued and executed on May 5, 2020. CSC acted on information that you shared in which you admitted to stealing from your employer by producing decals that were eventually affixed to a falsified RCMP vehicle. The person who requested the decals, who was also the operator of the vehicle, would go on to murder a significant number of people, and terrorizing an entire province by doing so.

In the assessment of risk, the Board first looks to your index offences of Possession of Schedule I/II Substance for Purpose of Trafficking, Unauthorized Possession Prohibited/Restricted Weapon, Fail to Comply with Condition of Undertaking/Recognizance, and Unauthorized Possession of Firearm. Your sentence was in excess of six years, but with remand time considered, it translated into two years, nine months and eight days.

To be more specific on how you incurred the index offences, you became a person of interest to police who, in December 2014, were investigating a known Security Threat Group (STG), namely La Familia with ties to MS-13. Your vehicle was stopped, and a search uncovered a significant amount of cocaine, a considerable amount of cash and an extendable baton. This seizure resulted in a search of your residence, a converted warehouse of sorts. Again, considerable drugs and trafficking/production paraphernalia and money was seized. Further aggravating in the assessment of risk is the fact numerous weapons, mostly high powered and/or converted, were seized. File information would certainly suggest that these weapons were directly related to the drug trade, be it for protection and/or enforcement purposes. You readily admitted to working for a cocaine distribution operation and that your job was to store, process, distribute, and transport cocaine to traffickers. However, you adamantly denied being linked to an STG, and you stated that you only had casual knowledge of the weapons and ammunition. You suggested that the weapons in the warehouse were left by others involved with the cocaine trade and other illegal behaviours following a party. This, despite some of the weaponry being found in the loft of the building in which you resided. Your explanation for being involved in the cocaine trade for at least one year was that you needed to supplement your income to sustain a significant cocaine addiction. However, this was not low end and/or basic street level trafficking. The STG with which you were affiliated has a notorious international reputation.



The Board is mindful that while on bail, you did not honour your conditions and you left the province, remaining at large for several months. Like for the weapons, you plead ignorance, suggesting you misunderstood the expectations of bail.

The Board has looked to your criminal and personal history in the assessment of risk. In 2007, you were convicted of impaired driving, and you have attributed that matter to excessive drinking during that stage of your life. Otherwise, your lifestyle was not known to be criminalized. You reported a good upbringing and that you maintained quality family contacts. You self-reference experiencing anxiety and depression for which you were prescribed medication until 2016. High school was completed and you eventually migrated to western Canada in search of work. By all accounts, you were typically able to secure decent employment. However, feeling somewhat displaced, you found yourself in the company of questionable associates, and ultimately became involved in excessive drug use and trafficking. Regarding drug abuse, it has been your position that you stopped “cold turkey” following your arrest for the index offences.

Your score on the Statistical Information on Recidivism is 9, indicating that 4 out of 5 offenders will not commit an indictable offence upon release. Your static factors are rated as low, while your dynamic factors are rated as high. That score is highly influenced by the virtual absence of a criminal record.

In the latest correctional plan update in May 2020, CSC has identified the following factors as contributing to your criminality: attitude requiring a moderate need for improvement, and associates requiring a low need for improvement. At the beginning of your sentence, CSC had also identified substance abuse and education/employment as being contributing factors; however, these currently require no immediate need.

Your levels of accountability, motivation, and your reintegration potential are rated as moderate. You are considered to be engaged in your correctional plan, despite your suspension status.

It would appear that you used your time constructively while incarcerated, whether that be while on remand or in federal custody. You completed numerous job readiness courses, you worked with Corcan and you participated in Bible studies. You maintained a low profile.

On the strength of the aforementioned assessment, CSC supported your application for day and full parole in 2018. The Board granted both day parole and full parole in August of the same year with special conditions related to associates, drugs and financial disclosure. Leave privileges were authorized. Your day parole commenced in your home province. File information would certainly suggest that both forms of release were going very well leading up to your suspension. When full parole commenced in November 2018, you secured regular employment and were intent on re-establishing your credit and saving money. Your relationship with your case management team (CMT) presented as transparent and authentic. No behavioural issues were documented.

With respect to your suspension, in April 2020, you were interviewed as a part of a police investigation connected to the Nova Scotia mass shootings. At that time, you shared with your parole officer that you knew nothing of relevance to the case. Apparently, you were a rural neighbour to the accused. You would later advise CSC that another police interview was to be anticipated. Asked outright by your parole officer, you unequivocally stated that you did not make police decals that would be installed on the car utilized by the shooter. The interview resulted in police securing a search warrant for your workplace, discovering that you had in fact produced the decals, although you had been told not to. A photo of the completed work was found on your phone. You would later advise your parole officer that you had misled police and lied outright to your parole officer when first contacted and queried about knowledge of the shooting suspect. The workplace theft occurred in 2019. Charges are being contemplated, be they theft and or obstruction of a police investigation.

During your post-suspension interview on May 13, 2020, you expressed remorse for your actions and you admitted to the theft.

Your CMT is recommending that your full parole be revoked. You are alleged to have reoffended and admit as much. Equally important is the lack of transparency demonstrated. Your plan for



statutory release, a date that is rapidly approaching, will remain much the same as it was on your full parole. You will reside at a supportive close family member's home. You would be expected to actively search for employment. The same special conditions in place on full parole are being recommended.

At the commencement of your hearing, the Board had the benefit of submissions from your parole officers within the institution as well as in the community. Those shared from the community were certainly more relevant as they spoke directly to the circumstances surrounding the supervision and suspension of your case. At the heart of the recommendation is that you are believed to have obstructed a police investigation.

Difficulties with teleconferencing required the Board to paraphrase some of the comments shared by the community parole officer. You agreed that the Board, as well as yourself, had sufficient knowledge of what was shared.

The Board's initial questions focused on your involvement with weapons and drugs while living in western Canada. You confirmed that the transition to the west was difficult and that you found yourself heavily involved in cocaine use as an extension of your inability to make a connection to your new home. You shared that your addiction at one point reached using over \$1000 worth per day. That level of use was not sustainable on a legitimate income. In the pursuit of drugs, you met the individual that police connected to a notorious STG. Given the opportunity to deliver drugs for cash and drug access, the offer was quickly accepted. Consistent with file information, you maintained that you had absolutely no knowledge of the individual's link to a STG. Given that you were trafficking for at least one year, the Board struggles in accepting that declaration. That position was further fortified by the position you have taken regarding the weapons seized in your loft. The Board finds your explanation to be weak. Not really knowing who opened them and how they came to be in your immediate vicinity lacks credibility.

The Board then looked at the cancellation of your bail and your return to custody. You offered a plausible explanation that you were clearly of the understanding that you could return to your home province over the Christmas holidays. You stated that a police officer had given you his card and suggested that you could call if any issues arose. Repeated calls went unanswered. However, the Board places greater weight on the fact you were arrested and the Court found you guilty. Your decision represents yet another flawed thought process.

In terms of parole, the Board is satisfied that you were doing very well. A short day parole was successful. You transitioned to a more liberal release and, by all accounts, 18 months went by without a hitch. Your parole officer stated that a reduction in supervision contacts was being considered. Full-time employment, life with your family and no drugs were the cornerstone of the release.

Regarding the circumstances of your suspension, you acknowledged that you knew the individual responsible for the many murders, as he had a summer residence near your family home. In the course of that relationship, you routinely did odd jobs around his property for cash. Apparently, he asked you about making decals, as have been referenced on the file, for a car he was putting together. You referred to him as a hobbyist; someone who if told he could not do something would set out to prove you wrong. Hence, putting together a police car because no one else had. It never crossed your mind that his intent was to act as he did.

The decision to make the decals represented a significant lack of judgement. You knew that you were using materials for purposes unknown to your employer. Arguably, your behaviour consisted of theft. Because of that decision, you have been laid off. You disputed that you have not been fired.

To the core of the suspension, you were not transparent with your parole officer and the police. In hindsight, you state that you simply panicked. As someone convicted of drug and weapons charges, and on parole, you felt incredible pressure (self-imposed) to distance yourself from the mayhem that ensued. Social media was all-consuming, and your life in the small community most affected by the mass murders was becoming unbearable. You and your family lost close friends and family.



In the final analysis, the Board finds that there is a consistent theme to your case; being a lack of transparency, poor decision-making and minimization. Despite the lack of a criminalized lifestyle, historically and otherwise successful supervision periods, when you are under pressure your capacity for clear thought with consideration for consequences is compromised. The consequences of your most recent flawed decision-making contributed to a horrific end that touched every life in your province. Those decisions are inconsistent with being on parole. For that, you bear some responsibility.

You alone are responsible for the decisions that have contributed to your suspension. The issues aforementioned around transparency and minimization, with no thought to consequences, undermine the ability of CSC to effectively supervise your case. If released today, you would return home and pick up where you left off. The Board is not satisfied that those conditions give the degree of public protection required. Your risk increased because of your decisions and CSC was prudent to suspend your parole. Having carefully considered all aspects of your case, on the back of a thorough file review, it is the Board's opinion that you will present an undue risk to society if released on full parole and that your release will not contribute to the protection of society by facilitating your reintegration into society as a law-abiding citizen. Consequently, full parole is revoked.

Having reached that decision, the Board must consider the imposition of special conditions on your statutory release. CSC has recommended those related to associates, drugs and financial disclosure. You did not disagree with the recommendation.

The Board imposes the following special conditions on your statutory release because they are reasonable and necessary in order to protect society and to facilitate your successful reintegration into society. Given the relationship to risk, they are valid until warrant expiry.

Not to consume drugs

Not to consume, purchase or possess drugs other than prescribed medication taken as prescribed and over-the-counter drugs taken as recommended by the manufacturer.

Avoid certain persons

Not to associate with any person you know or have reason to believe is involved in criminal activity.

Financial disclosure

Provide documented financial information to the satisfaction of your parole supervisor as per a schedule to be determined by your parole supervisor.

You had developed a significant cocaine addiction that drew you into the company of other users and traffickers. In turn, you became a trafficker and you were ultimately convicted of several serious charges. The amount of drugs trafficked and the cash seized clearly suggests that you were a central player in the operation police brought down. When you were arrested and your residence was searched, police seized multiple phones and cash. It remains critical to effective risk management that you remain drug free, completely abandon all persons that are criminally active, and be completely transparent regarding financial matters. Drug trafficking is a cash business and the level to which you were involved suggests a degree of sophistication. CSC must have the ability to monitor your accounts, credit and cash flow.



DECISION(S) AND VOTES :

FULL PAROLE - POST RELEASE

REVOKED

2020-07-15

Board Member	Vote	Vote Date
O'BRIEN, P. J.	REVOKED	2020-07-15

STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL.

CHANGE CONDITION

2020-07-15

Board Member	Vote	Vote Date
O'BRIEN, P. J.	CHANGE CONDITION	2020-07-15

SIGNATURES :

O'BRIEN, P. J.

Board Member Signature Date