

## Michael Taylor-Noonan

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**From:** taylornoonan [michael@taylornoonan.com]  
**Sent:** July 5, 2004 3:11 PM  
**To:** mike@taylornoonan.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: Global BC - Chief Medical Officer Maintains Stance on Toxic Bus

--- In Transit-Vancouver@yahoogroups.com, John Wollenzin <wollenzin@t...> wrote:

On the BCTV Noon News on Global, Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Blatherwick maintains his original stance on "mass hysteria". Evidently methyl chloride is also found in cigarette smoke and aerosols. Truth be told, Drivers have been know to have a smoke at the end of the line inside the bus. Aerosols are commonly used to clean various messes on the bus. The ventilation filters where the chemical was found are not changed all that frequently, and the coach in question had cloth seats. Dr. Blatherwick was particularly perturbed that the VPD would release their report on the methyl chloride without discussing it with him first and while he was on vacation.

No matter which side of the fence you stand on this issue, one thing is clear. The Police and Health Authorities are going to have to learn to work together better if they are ever going to have a hope of combatting more serious problems in the future.

<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/globaltv/story.html?id=5447cb2c-7d37-4214-alc9-3403cad72461>

>'Toxic' bus battle continues

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>Global BC

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>Monday, July 05, 2004

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>The war of words continues over a so-called "toxic bus" incident back in May.

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>Vancouver's chief medical health officer  
>maintains the toxic scare was nothing more than  
>a case of hysteria.

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>The Vancouver Police Department, meanwhile, says  
>it is convinced the bus was a target of a  
>chemical attack.

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>The bus was quarantined in downtown Vancouver on May 25.

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>Passengers reported that a man getting off the  
>bus told the driver his day was about to get  
>worse. Shortly thereafter, the driver fell ill.

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>Nine other people also became sick, including two paramedics.

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>Vancouver police announced two weeks ago that  
>investigators had found trace amounts of methyl

>chloride, a potentially lethal chemical, in  
>filters on the bus.  
>  
>They characterized the incident as an "attack,"  
>and continue to insist that terrorism has not  
>been ruled out.  
>  
>"This really still is nothing," said health  
>officer Dr. John Blatherwick. "This is a common  
>substance; this can't be the thing."  
>  
>Blatherwick insists methyl chloride can be found  
>in such things as cigarette smoke and aerosols.  
>  
>VPD spokeswoman Cst. Anne Drennan said a  
>specialist's analysis showed sufficient  
>concentrations of the chemical that it "was in  
>fact some sort of an attack."  
>  
>Blatherwick says he plans to meet this week with  
>VPD Chief Jamie Graham about the incident.  
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--- End forwarded message ---