

## West Shore RCMP News Release

2021-08-11

### Child abduction thwarted by police

On August 11, 2021 at approximately 8:30 am, summer camp staff at Pearson College in Metchosin called 911 to report an abduction in progress from their site.

A man unknown to the staff was on the property, picking up a 7 year old boy. The man was not on the approved list for pick up and was trying to leave in a light coloured SUV with the child. Multiple staff attempted to stop the man, one even using their personal vehicle in an attempt to block him from leaving.

West Shore RCMP Front line officers responded swiftly, locating the vehicle nearby after receiving a separate report of a suspicious occurrence. With the assistance of a member of the RCMP Emergency Response Team, officers arrested the man and secured the young child without further incident. The boy was physically unharmed and returned to his guardians.

“We wish to commend the staff at the summer camp and nearby residents for their quick actions and reporting,” said S/Sgt. Raj Sandhu, Operations Commander at the West Shore RCMP, “This enabled our officers to respond quickly and appropriately, leading us to the best case outcome, the safe and immediate recovery of the child and the arrest of the suspect.”

The man, who is a 46 year old Sooke resident, is in police custody and presently under arrest for Abduction. While the investigation is still ongoing, police can confirm the man is known to the child, but is not a parent.