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CRIME

Man accused of racially motivated attack on B.C. bus dies of overdose: police

BY [SIMON LITTLE](#) - GLOBAL NEWS

Posted May 13, 2020 4:27 pm

Updated May 13, 2020 5:48 pm



— Metro Vancouver Transit Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a man, shown in a handout photo, suspected in a racially motivated attack against a woman. Police say a man who boarded a bus on the Downtown Eastside on April 15 made discriminatory remarks directed at two Asian women who got on wearing masks. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO-Metro Vancouver Transit Police.**

**-A****A+**

Metro Vancouver Transit Police say the man accused of attacking a Good Samaritan who intervened in a racist incident aboard a transit bus has since died of a drug overdose.

Investigators said the suspect was a 48-year-old Vancouver man of no fixed address who was “well known to police.”

READ MORE: [Suspect wanted in Vancouver bus attack on woman who stood up to racist comments](#)

The man died about a week after the incident, said police.

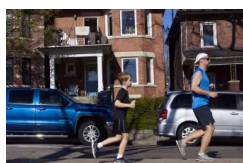
The man died about a week after the incident, said police.

Police say the attack happened on the afternoon of April 15, aboard a TransLink bus at Main and East Hastings Streets.

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According to police, the man told a pair of Asian women who had boarded the bus wearing masks to go back to their country.

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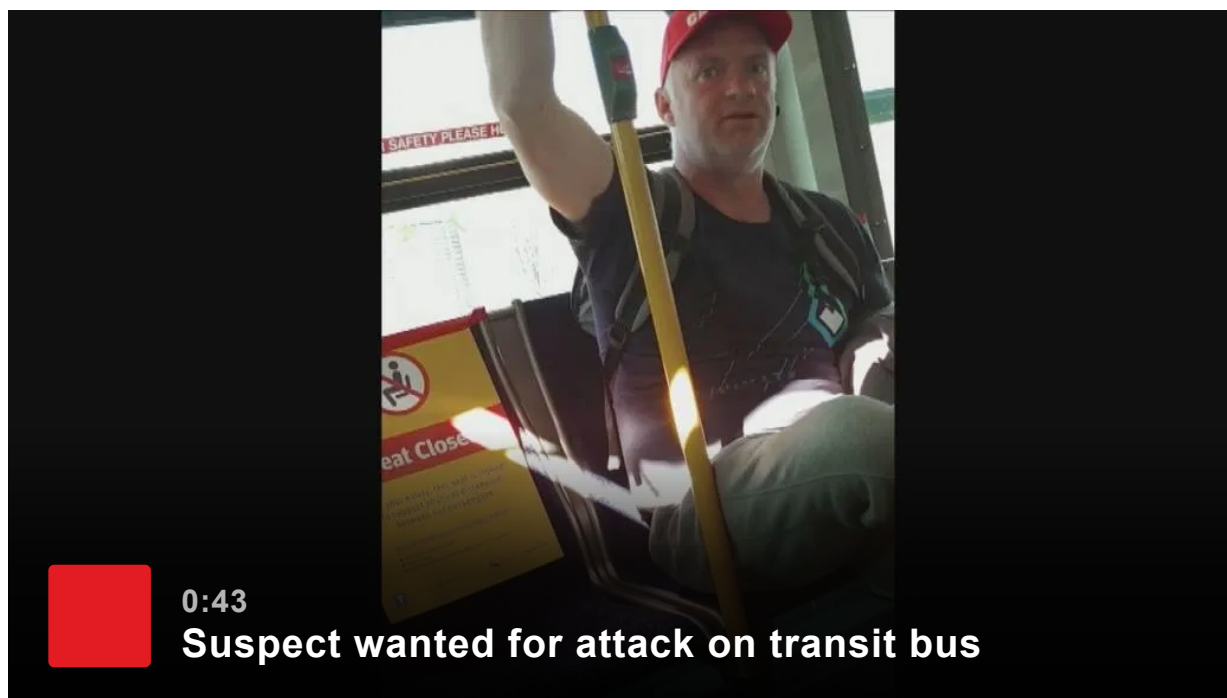
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Another woman on the bus told the man to leave the two women alone.

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According to police, an argument followed, after which the man kicked

the woman in the leg, pulled out a clump of her hair and punched her repeatedly in the head before fleeing.



— Suspect wanted for attack on transit bus

The attack is among a spike in incidents of anti-Asian racist outbursts, graffiti and assaults in the region in recent weeks.

Twenty anti-Asian hate crimes have been reported to Vancouver police so far this year, compared to 12 in all of 2019.

In recent incidents, [a young woman was punched in the face](#) while waiting for a bus in what Vancouver police called an “unprovoked attack” and a [92-year-old man was assaulted outside a convenience store](#) on March 13.

-With files from Amy Judd

Canadian cases

CONFIRMED

76,932

(Today: +1,077)

DEATHS

5,781

(Today: +102)

RECOVERED

38,444

(Today: +636)

1,355,665 tests administered (Today: +24,693)*Updates may take up to 10 minutes to appear in the table.*

Last Updated: EDT

Sources: [How we got the data](#)

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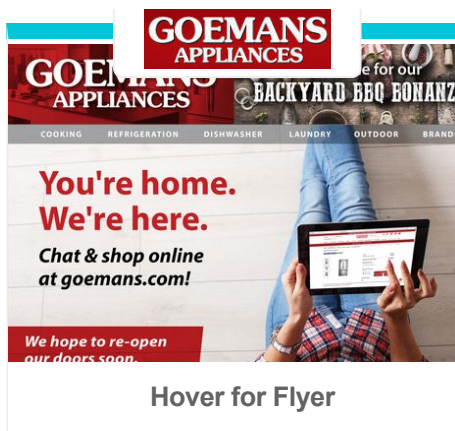
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