

Crown seeks jail for Mounties who beat handcuffed prisoner

MIKE MCINTYRE
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
WINNIPEG

The Crown is seeking a four-month jail sentence for two Manitoba RCMP officers convicted of beating a handcuffed prisoner.

Cpl. Jeffrey Thomas Moyses, 42, and Const. Trevor Kyle Ens, 31, were convicted this year of assault after their claims of innocence were soundly rejected.

Queen's Bench Justice Perry Schulman said the pair made "deliberate attempts" to hide the truth and discredit their victim.

Moose and Ens returned to court Thursday for sentencing. Crown prosecutor Ryan Rolston told court only a term of real custody can properly address the serious "breach of trust" committed by Moyses and Ens.

Defence lawyers will make their submissions next week.

An RCMP spokesman, Cpl. Miles Hiebert, told the Winnipeg Free Press both officers have been reassigned to internal duties "and have no contact with

members of the public."

He said a further review of their job status will now be conducted, but a final decision could be delayed by the sentencing and potential appeal of their guilty verdicts.

Moose and Ens testified in their own defence this year and denied the alleged October 2008 incident in Traverse Bay, about 120 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg.

But Schulman said he favoured the evidence of Conley Papineau, 22, who told court he was punched in the face and stomach, kicked in the head and repeatedly thrown around by the accused after being confronted in a bar parking lot.

Moose and Ens admit they questioned Papineau in the parking lot of the Birchwood Motor Hotel because they believed he might have been attempting to drive while drunk.

Schulman said surveillance video of the parking lot showed Papineau displayed no signs of intoxication and appeared respectful of police.