

Idiom by Lon Yan

深思熟慮

shen1 si1 shu2 lü4

Can you ever be too cool? Obviously you can, and that's what happened with the new Toronto police cruiser.

Last month, the city's police started to replace its old white Ford Crown Victoria vehicles with Ford Interceptors painted in a dark shade of grey, with "POLICE" printed in highly reflective decals on all four sides, complete with white fluorescent taping.

But residents of the city hated the new look of the car fleet, calling it "badass police cruisers straight out of Robocop" that "have a look that is somewhere between stealth and menace".

Cooooo! You might say. But Canadians being, well, Canadians, they think police cars should be nice and friendly. So cool look no more, and all cruisers went back to their old familiar white, red and blue color scheme.

By way of explanation, police chief Mark

Saunders said, "There was just a moment when I did it, there was no deep thought in it." What he was admitting to was lack of "深思熟慮" (*shen1 si1 shu2 lü4*).

"深" (*shen1*) is "deep," "思" (*shi1*) "to think," "to consider," "深思" (*shen1 si1*) is "deep thought," "to reflect deeply," "to ponder." "熟" (*shu2*) is "ripe," "慮" (*lü4*) "to think over," "to consider." "熟慮" (*shu2 lü4*) means "careful thought."

Literally, "深思熟慮" (*shen1 si1 shu2 lü4*) is "deep thinking, careful thought." The idiom means "careful consideration," "thorough deliberation," "sufficient reflection," "to think over carefully," "to ponder deeply over."

If you want to emphasize that your decision is not rash, you can say, "This decision is made after "深思熟慮" (*shen1 si1 shu2 lü4*)."

Terms containing the character "熟" (*shu2*) include:

熟練 (*shu2 lian4*) – proficient

成熟 (*cheng2 shu2*) – ripe; mellow; mature

熟食 (*shu2 shi2*) – cooked food

煮熟 (*zhu3 shu2*) – to cook thoroughly