

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY  December 21, 2012 – Vol. 17 No. 51

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Vancouver Chief apologizes for Picton investigation

December 18, 2012

**Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu apologized this morning for the force's failure to capture serial killer Robert Pickton sooner.**

"On behalf of the Vancouver Police Department, I would like to say we are sorry again to the family and friends of the murdered and missing women. We could have and should have caught Pickton sooner," Chu said.

He noted that procedures have since changed and any missing person cases in the Downtown Eastside are now treated as high priority.

But Chu was non-committal to recommendations that Metro Vancouver's fragmented mix of municipal police forces and RCMP detachments should be replaced with a Greater Vancouver police force, saying there is already a high degree of integration between the forces.

The apology follows the release of the final report of the missing women inquiry by commissioner Wally Oppal on Monday that blamed "blatant failures" by police for allowing the serial killer to operate undetected for years on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Oppal said those causes included

discrimination, a lack of leadership, outdated policing approaches and a fragmented police structure in the Greater Vancouver region.

After the report was released, Chu issued a statement that said, "We know that nothing can ever truly heal the wounds of grief and loss but if we can, we want to assure the families that the Vancouver Police Department deeply regrets anything we did that may have delayed the eventual solving of these



murders."

It is not the first time Vancouver police have apologized for the botched investigation. In 2010, Deputy Chief Const. Doug Lepard released a highly critical internal report on the investigation, and apologized for the failings of the department.

Pickton was arrested in February 2002. He was convicted on six counts of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison in 2007.

The remains or DNA of 33 women were found on his pig farm. He once told an undercover police officer that he killed 49 women.

Chu was not chief of police at the time of the Pickton investigation.

CBC News



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# THURSDAY DECEMBER 13, 2012

## PORT HOPE - Port Hope Deputy Police Chief Garry Hull will soon be hanging up his hat and badge for the last time.

The Port Hope Police Services Board announced on Wednesday evening that Hull will retire on Feb. 28, 2013, ending a 28 year career.

Over the course of his career Hull conducted major criminal investigations and drug work. He also served on the OACP executive for Zone 3 and currently sit on the OACP Corporate Security Liaison Committee.

Hull was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2007.

Dec. 13 2012

## EDMONTON - An MP will not be getting access to all police radio communications on the night he was arrested for refusing to provide a breath sample.

Judge Larry Anderson ruled there was no evidence to suggest that the large volume of calls that night had anything to do with the case against Peter Goldring.

The 15-year MP for Edmonton-East is to go on trial January 17 on a charge of refusing to provide a breathalyzer sample after he was stopped leaving the parking lot of a north end sports bar last December.

Goldring was re-elected most recently as a Conservative but has sat as an Independent since shortly after his arrest.

Officers have told the court Goldring was acting in a belligerent manner and tried to negotiate his way out of stop.

None of those allegations have been proven at trial and Goldring's lawyer says he plans to file a Charter of Right's challenge to the arrest on Friday.

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Dec 13 2012

## WINNIPEG - Manitoba aboriginal leaders are blaming the RCMP for the death of a woman from Gods Lake First Nation.

Gods Lake councillor Hubert Watt says the Mounties ignored pleas for medical attention from Tracy Okemow until it was too late.

Okemow, who was 31, was taken into custody Nov. 28 on an intoxication complaint.

RCMP say she was taken to a nursing station, released into police custody and then complained about feeling unwell.

The next day, she was taken back to the nursing station and flown to hospital in Winnipeg, where she later died.

Aboriginal leaders and family members say RCMP and staff at the nursing station were too slow to get Okemow medical attention.

The matter is already being reviewed by the RCMP.

Dec 13 2012

## FREDERICTON - The New Brunswick government has launched a crime prevention and reduction strategy.



eastcoastconnected.ca

Premier David Alward said Thursday that a roundtable of police and community groups will suggest different programs and study what works best.

The strategy will focus on youth at risk, chronic repeat offenders and domestic violence.

Alward says if police and other groups can intervene sooner with actions such as education programs then maybe crimes can be prevented.

Acting Fredericton Police Chief Leanne Fitch says there are many opportunities to intervene with young people.

Fitch says she believes the approach will lead to a more coordinated approach across the province that can reduce crime.

Dec 13 2012

## OTTAWA - Canada will soon begin sharing biometric information and other data about refugee claimants and visa applicants with the United States - which then may provide it to third countries under a newly signed treaty.

It means the fingerprints and photo of someone who hopes to visit, study or work in Canada could be passed to Washington, which in turn might share them with another country to help verify the person's identity.

However, Canada would have to agree to the disclosure and could place restrictions

or conditions on how the information is shared, says the treaty released Thursday.

The biometric sharing initiative - affecting nationals of 29 countries and one territory seeking visas or refugee status in Canada - is part of a continental perimeter security deal reached last year.

The idea is to strengthen North American security while speeding the passage of goods and people across the 49th parallel.

Under the immigration agreement, biographic information - name, date of birth and gender of visa applicants and asylum claimants - will be shared by 2013. Biometric information, such as photos and fingerprints of select individuals, will be shared by 2014.

Information that Canada provides to the United States will be compared with various data banks to identify previously failed refugee claimants, deportees and those trying to enter under fraudulent names.

"If there is a positive hit, we will be notified of that," said Immigration Minister Jason Kenney.

"If the hit indicates something problematic - that perhaps that person had previously been deported by the United States, or that in fact the person has an alias - then we'll be able to more closely explore their real identity and whether they are admissible to Canada, or would constitute a security risk."

Washington will also check with Canada when someone applies to the U.S. for a visa or claims asylum.

Dec 13 2012

## WINNIPEG - Anyone convicted of impaired driving in Manitoba will have to have an ignition interlock device on their vehicle if they wish to drive legally.



winnipegson.com

Justice Minister Andrew Swan said Thursday that the new rule comes into effect on Saturday and will include first-time offenders.

Mandatory ignition interlock program currently applies to drivers who are granted conditional licensing during an active alcohol-related suspension, repeat convicted offenders or first offences with aggravating factors.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada says it fully supports Manitoba's tough stand against drinking drivers.

The mandatory ignition interlock term lengths are one year for the first and second convictions, three years for a third and lifetime for the fourth and subsequent convictions.



**MONTREAL - A pilot project that extended police shifts by a bit more than an hour a day has sparked a small-scale war of words between Montreal's police force and city hall, with front-page headlines and full-page newspaper ads serving as weapons of choice.**

The police union argues the longer shifts allow greater service to citizens during the witching hours of 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and a better lifestyle for its officers. Police chief Marc Parent agreed, but said Wednesday the shift changes hurt the force's overall ability to serve the public and must be scrapped.

The squabbling over the shift change, which police management said cost in the range of \$2 million last year, is the tip of the iceberg in a budgetary battle the city is fighting with many of its employees that has, at its base, the millions of dollars to be paid into pension funds.

The clash began in late November when the union began negotiating with police management. Starting last year, 2,400 of Montreal police force's 4,750 officers working in neighbourhood departments saw their shifts increased from 8.5 hours a day to 9.75 hours a day, which allowed some to work a three-day week some weeks and a four-day week the next. Officers average a 35-hour work week, and make \$74,000 after six years of service.

It was the first change in shift hours since 1978, a period when there were no women police officers, said Yves Francoeur,

change beneficial for officers, it allowed a 20- to 25-per-cent increase in the number of police available at night.

"The change was not only beneficial to police, it was good for the public," Francoeur said, citing a Léger Marketing poll that indicated citizens were heavily in favour.

Talks with management regarding keeping the shift changes did not go well, however. In early December the Journal de Montréal blared the headline "Police want to hang on to their three-day work weeks ... but not their bosses."

On Wednesday, the police brotherhood took out a full-page ad in The Gazette and La Presse with the heading: "Are Montreal's police officers privileged? NO." It says the city of Montreal has implied the police force is not paying enough into its pension fund, leaving taxpayers to foot most of the bill, and that the shift changes are a privilege, when, in fact, the union says they are a boon to the populace.

While the longer shifts are popular with officers and do help during the evening shifts, they hampered duties police need to accomplish during the day, police chief Parent said.

"The work police have to do has become much more complex, incorporating drug addiction, the homeless, the mentally ill and prostitution and also in the criminal realm with street gangs and conjugal violence," he said. To cope, police forces need to have teams of experts available during the day, in addition to alternative patrols working the ground on bike and foot, Parent said. The shift changes were taking manpower away from crucial daytime

duties, he said, and forced many officers to work nights full time.

"It's clear there were advantages and satisfaction of personnel was positive, but we have to analyze the rendering of the service to the public, along with the financial impact to the public," Parent said, adding that the force will be returning to its old timetable in January.

For its part, the city of Montreal issued a release Wednesday noting that it is looking to cut \$50 million a year in expenses by forcing city employees to pay more into their pension funds. A contract negotiated with the city's blue-collar workers will reduce city payments by \$6.3 million a year. The city is hoping to sign a similar deal with the police force's 7,200 employees that will reduce payments by \$18 million a year.

If it can't come to an agreement, city officials say they will resort to using a negotiator or asking the Quebec government for help.

Union head Francoeur said it will resort to pressure tactics if management tries to alter the shift changes.

(Montreal Gazette)

Dec 13 2012

**The RCMP is drawing criticism from within for waffling on whether to pay the legal fees of four Mounties charged in the Surrey Six murder investigation.**

Sgt. David Attew, Sgt. Derek Brassington, Cpl. Paul Johnston and Cpl. Danny Michaud have been accused of a combined 20 criminal counts, including fraud, obstruction of justice



The Police Leadership Award recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies leadership as "an activity not a position," and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organization and community perspective.

This award is open to active Canadian police officers below the rank of senior officer who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to service through deeds resulting in a measurable benefit to their peers, service and community.

The 2012 award recipient will be recognized in the May 2013 issue of *Blue Line Magazine* and will receive the award at a presentation held in conjunction with the *Blue Line Expo*, April 23, 2013.

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and compromising the safety of a witness, but their case is being delayed because the force hasn't decided whether to foot their legal bills.

"When we do conclude a decision we'll be letting the members know and then we can go from there, but it's a rather private matter between the members and us," RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson told CTV News.

The Mounted Police Professional Association said the lack of action is jarring, but not unique.

Association spokesman Rob Creasser, a former RCMP officer, said there have been cases in the past where it took more than a year after a Mountie was charged to come to a decision on legal funding.

"That decision needs to be made in a timely matter," Creasser said. "The commissioner, or his delegate, needs to be accountable not only to the courts but to the members and to the public."

Even the RCMP Staff Relations Representative Program, the Mounties' official labour relations organization, said it's frustrated by the apparent foot-dragging.

"I can't speak to the specifics of the RCMP members involved in the Surrey Six matter, I can say the issues around timely responses for legal assistance applications has been problematic," SRRP executive Abe Townsend said in a statement. "These delays not only affect the individual, but the administration of justice."

According to government policy, RCMP officers can be eligible for legal assistance only if their actions met three basic eligibility criteria: that they acted in good faith, within the scope of their duties, and did not act against the interests of the Crown.

Attew, Brassington, Johnston and Michaud were charged and suspended in 2010 after allegations arose that Brassington had slept with a witness in the 2007 murder case.

Further investigation led to numerous additional allegations, including that officers claimed false expenses and overtime while others tried to cover for them.

On top of the indecision over their legal funding, the four Mounties remain on the RCMP payroll – despite promises to cut them off dating back as early as July 2011.

So far, the tab for their salaries has cost taxpayers more than \$1 million.

(CTV News)

**FRIDAY**  
**DECEMBER 14, 2012**

Dec 14 2012

**OTTAWA - The federal government is promising to tighten the rules governing the release of those found not criminally responsible for their actions by the courts.**

The move follows the release Wednesday of a Quebec doctor who was convicted in the 2009 stabbing deaths of his two young children, but found not criminally responsible.

Guy Turcotte was freed after just 46 months under psychiatric care.

His release infuriated Isabelle Gaston, his ex-wife and mother to the murdered children, who described the decision as "freeing a criminal."

Heritage Minister James Moore denounced the release, saying Gaston does not deserve to live in fear of her children's killer.

Moore also suggested that the new law may require longer waits between formal reviews of the status of people held in psychiatric hospitals after being found not criminally responsible.

Dec 14 2012

**ST-REMI, Que. - Quebec's anti-corruption squad has arrested the mayor of St-Remi, a city of roughly 7,000 just south of Montreal.**

In a release issued this morning, the squad's commissioner confirms the arrest of Michel Lavoie, 58, on charges of fraud, conspiracy and breach of trust.

The squad alleges Lavoie used his influence as mayor to ensure projects in the city were developed and built by his close friends, relatives and business partners.

It's alleged he modified zoning regulations, altered requests for proposals and circumvented contract allocation rules.

Fraud and conspiracy charges have also been laid against Sebastien Lavoie, 36, whom media reports identify as the mayor's son.

Another man, Dominic Dorais, is charged with fraud, conspiracy and breach of trust, while a construction company bearing his name is charged with fraud.

Dec 14 2012

**HALIFAX - Police in Halifax say 28 people face 97 charges after a marijuana drug bust.**

The RCMP say 120 Mounties, Halifax and Truro police officers searched 14 locations on Thursday and made the arrests following an 11-month investigation.

The arrests occurred throughout the Halifax communities of Porters Lake, Lawrencetown, Hammonds Plains and Cole Harbour.

Police say they seized 20 kilograms of marijuana, about 2,200 marijuana plants, growing equipment and more than \$100,000.

The charges include possession and trafficking in marijuana.

Dec 14 2012

**HALIFAX - Police in Halifax said Friday that 28 men and women have been charged after an 11-month investigation into allegations that some of them were misusing medical marijuana licences.**

About 120 officers from the RCMP, Halifax and Truro police forces arrested 29 people on Thursday, 28 of whom are facing 97 charges.

The RCMP said a doctor was arrested but not charged. They declined to confirm the doctor's name, but alleged he was illegally selling prescriptions to

grow and possess marijuana.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia later said it suspended the licence of Dr. Dinesh Sinha after he was arrested in connection to the marijuana drug bust.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Roddie Macdonald said several places searched by police had licenses to grow and possess marijuana, but they were not following regulations set out by Health Canada.

"We are alleging that they were illegally growing marijuana and trafficking the marijuana," said Macdonald.

Police said they seized 20 kilograms of marijuana, about 2,200 marijuana plants, growing equipment and more than \$100,000.

The charges include possession, trafficking and conspiracy to produce marijuana.

The 28 accused will appear in court on March 13 to face the charges.

Dec 14 2012 A young RCMP officer has pleaded guilty in a deadly crash that killed a 20-year-old man in B.C.'s Fraser Valley last year.

Cst. Jordan Braid admitted to driving without due care and attention in Chilliwack court on Thursday, but a charge of dangerous driving causing death was stayed. He was fined \$1725, including a \$225 victim fine surcharge.

Braid, 23, was on duty just before midnight on July 12, 2011 in an RCMP vehicle when he responded to a reported domestic dispute.

While driving at 100 km/h along the Lougheed Highway near Agassiz, B.C. he swerved to avoid a dog and crashed head-on into a Ford Mustang driven by Steven Genberg.

At the time of the crash, a witnesses reported the cruiser's siren and emergency lights were not on prior to the crash that killed Genberg and injured his 19-year-old passenger, Jonathan Dauphney.

Braid was charged after Abbotsford Police conducted an independent review of the crash and now faces an internal RCMP review of his conduct.

Genberg, who worked as a tow truck driver in Mission, was expecting a child with his girlfriend.

(CBC news)

Dec 14 2012

**SURREY, B.C. - A 28-year-old Mountie who was killed when his unmarked police cruiser slammed into a transport truck near Vancouver last month was speeding as he attempted to locate a stolen truck and did not have his emergency lights on at the time, the RCMP says.**

Cst. Adrian Oliver, a 28-year-old who had been an RCMP constable since 2009, died on Nov. 13 after he was involved in a crash at an intersection in Surrey, southeast of Vancouver.

The RCMP issued a news release Friday that provided the first update on the investigation in weeks, revealing preliminary evidence suggests Oliver was attempting to locate a stolen pick-up just before the early-morning crash.

"During the course of those efforts, in the moments prior to the collision, he was



operating his police vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit, without his emergency equipment activated," Chief Supt. Bill Fordy said in a news release, issued late Friday afternoon.

The news release did not say just how fast Oliver's cruiser was travelling or how his speed compared with the posted speed limit. It said investigators were relying on GPS and video evidence

Police have already said Oliver, who started his first posting with the RCMP in June of 2009, was nearing the end of a 12-hour shift at the time of the crash. He worked general duty in Surrey.

The RCMP's criminal collision unit continues to investigate with external oversight by the Vancouver Police Department, the news release said.

The transport truck rig was not hauling a trailer at the time and the driver was not injured, police said last month. Friday's news release said the driver of that truck has been kept up to date with the status of the investigation.

Oliver, whose father and brother are also members of the RCMP, was given a regimental funeral a week after the collision.

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 2012

Dec 15 2012

**LONDON, Ont. - London police say several neglected dogs and cats have been rescued after a 13-year-old Husky alerted authorities by honking the horn of a truck where he, and four other animals, had been held for several days.**

The investigation first began when animal welfare authorities received a complaint about three dogs who weren't being properly looked after by their owners.

When officers went to check it out the next day, the owners and the dogs had vacated the apartment.

A week later, police were called after a muzzled husky was seen honking the horn of a delivery truck which had been sitting in a downtown parking lot for days.

Inside the truck, police found two other Rottweiler-husky mixed dogs, aged 4 and 5, and two cats. Police say all of them were living in deplorable conditions, and without care. (AM980)

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, 2012

Dec 16 2012

**WINDSOR, Ont. - A number of motorists in Windsor, Ont., corralled a suspected drunk driver until police arrived.**

Police say they received calls Saturday night about a vehicle swerving all over the road with no headlights.

When officers arrived, they spotted a jeep surrounded by four or five cars, preventing the vehicle from travelling anywhere.

Police say a 41-year-old Windsor man blew three times over the legal blood-alcohol limit.

He was arrested for impaired driving.

The vehicle was impounded for seven days and the man's licence suspended for 90 days. (CKLW)

## MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 2012

Dec 17 2012

**TOPEKA, Kan. - Two Kansas police officers were fatally shot outside a grocery store Sunday while responding to a report of a suspicious vehicle, authorities said.**

Topeka Police Chief Ronald Miller called the shootings of Cpl. David Gogian and Officer Jeff Atherly "unspeakable." He said both Gogian, 50, and Atherly, 29, were shot in the head by a gunman who opened fire on them within minutes of their arrival to investigate the vehicle.

"It's clearly beyond words. It's unspeakable almost about why this happens and why this is happening in America at this stage in our history," Miller said.

Police were searching for a 22-year-old man believed to have been the one who fired on the officers from the vehicle. He remained at large Sunday night. Miller didn't know the motive for the shooting but said the suspect has a criminal history, though he wouldn't elaborate.

A third officer who went to the scene to check on the vehicle was not injured in the shooting.

Gogian and Atherly were taken to a hospital and later pronounced dead.

Gogian started with the Topeka Police Department in September 2004. Atherly had been with the department since April 2011.

Miller said Gogian was a retired military serviceman. It wasn't immediately clear what branch of the military. He has a son who's also a Topeka police officer.

Dec 17 2012

**HAWKESBURY, ON - The Ontario Provincial Police Hawkesbury Detachment is the first detachment in the province to be fully operational in both English and French.**

All positions at the Hawkesbury OPP, both uniform and civilian, have been designated bilingual by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, effective December 1, 2012. There are 58 uniform and eight civilian full-time members working at the detachment.

The detachment's bilingualism gives it the ability to serve its local residents and visitors in either language and also ensures all employees of the detachment can communicate fully with each other. Eighty-three per cent of Hawkesbury residents are Francophones.

Although the OPP has numerous bilingually designated positions and offers French language services throughout the province, this

new designation of all detachment employees is unique to the communities that the Hawkesbury Detachment serves. (CNW)

Dec 17 2012

**WINNIPEG - Public Safety Minister Vic Toews says his government is doing the right things to protect citizens from the horrific gun violence that took place last week in Connecticut.**



hilltimes.com

Toews said Monday in Winnipeg that he was "horrified" by the slaying of 20 schoolchildren in Newtown, Conn.

"I can only imagine how horrifying it must be for parents to leave their children in what they believe is a safe environment and... then to be faced with the reality of that horrendous act," he said.

Toews said the Conservative government has taken a strong stand on gun violence.

"In fact in Canada today... we have the lowest firearms homicide rate in 50 years," he said, adding that homicides committed using handguns have dropped 30 per cent since 2008.

Toews also noted that Prime Minister Stephen Harper has made it clear that Canada will not relax laws governing the ownership of prohibited firearms.

"We made (it) very clear that there are certain types of firearms that simply should not be in the hands of civilians," Toews said.

"They have a very specific police or military purpose, but we believe that they should not be in the hands of ordinary citizens."

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Dec 17 2012

**VANCOUVER - Vancouver's police chief is applauding the federal government's move to end a program that allows people with medical conditions to grow marijuana in their own homes.**



bccomplaints.org

Chief Jim Chu, who heads the Canadian police chiefs association, says the change will help reduce the risk of criminals exploiting

medical marijuana because only companies meeting security requirements will be able to grow and sell the drug.

However, a grassroots coalition that supports home-grown medical marijuana is trying to rally support for a constitutional challenge of the changes by setting up a trust fund and asking anyone with a medical marijuana licence to join the effort.

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2012

Dec 18 2012

### **CALGARY - An investigation into the death of a little girl in Calgary has led to ill feelings between police and Alberta's chief medical examiner.**

Homicide investigators are seeking a warrant to obtain evidence they say the medical examiner won't share in the death of Meika Jordan.

Family members say the six-year-old fell down some stairs in November 2011, but an autopsy found she died from blunt force trauma and Meika's father and stepmother have been charged with second-degree murder.

Police are questioning the timeline in the autopsy and want a second opinion from an Ontario pathologist.

But email and telephone exchanges detailed in the warrant application suggest chief medical examiner Anny Sauvageau was upset police went directly to the outside pathologist before consulting her.

Alberta Justice says it will comply with the warrant, which requests microscopic slides, x-rays and photographs.  
(Global Calgary, CBC)

Dec 18 2012

### **VANCOUVER - Vancouver is the only major jurisdiction in Canada without a regional police force, but despite blunt recommendations contained in an exhaustive look at the failed investigation into serial killer Robert Pickton, there were few signs Tuesday that Vancouver-area municipalities would soon be moving towards a merged force.**



timescolonist.com

The political debate over a unified police force in the Vancouver region has been simmering on a backburner for a long time. It boiled over once again after Wally Oppal, commissioner for the missing women inquiry, said in his report that the controversy has nothing to do with better policing.

"I underscore that the barriers to a regional police force for Greater Vancouver are political," he concluded.

Oppal noted there were "colossal" mistakes made by police investigating Pickton, but said politics was also to blame for missed opportunities that might have snared the serial killer much sooner.

Oppal urged political leaders to quickly implement a plan for a Greater Vancouver police force.

"Let's not wait for the next Robert Pickton to strike," Oppal's report said.

But while Justice Minister Shirley Bond immediately addressed some of the report's recommendations, she steered clear of any commitment on regional policing.

"We're in the process of discussing a 10-year policing plan for British Columbia. I think the concept of what that model might look like deserves further discussion," she said, while refusing to say which model her government would prefer.

"I've always been willing to sit down with mayors in the Vancouver area to talk about that."

Vancouver Police Chief Jim Chu also declined to get into the subject at a Tuesday news conference.

"The questions and answers have been talked about for decades," he said. "Right now these decisions are up to political leaders."

However, Chu acknowledged that "if we were to design the ideal policing structure for the Greater Vancouver region, I don't think we would design what we have now."

Metro Vancouver's 2.3 million residents are policed by a patchwork of RCMP and independent police forces. There's a collection of integrated teams that some detachments share for issues like gangs, murders, traffic and forensics.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson said he is supportive of the regional-force approach and believes it's crucial to improving public safety and policing.

Cities in B.C. that are policed by the RCMP just recently signed a 20-year agreement. However there is a two-year option to get out of the agreement.

Dec 18 2012

### **REGINA - An RCMP puppy named Elf is bringing cheer to sick children.**

The 10-week-old German shepherd visited kids at a rehabilitation centre in Regina as part of the K9 Cops for Kids Christmas campaign.

RCMP Cpl. Sean Cleary says it's like bringing a little bit of home to the hospital.

He says the reaction on the kids' faces has been absolute joy.

Cleary, other RCMP officers and municipal police dog handlers expect to visit nearly 120 children in pediatric hospital units in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina.

Cleary says he hopes it can become an annual event that will expand across the country.

Dec 18 2012

### **REGINA - Regina police have laid theft charges against two former civilian employees.**

One case stems from a man's complaint that some of his money was missing when he was released from custody.

Police have charged Chantel Nicole Fayant, who is 25, with theft under \$5,000.

It's also alleged that an employee was pocketing some of the fees for criminal record checks.

Chrysta Marie Garner, who is 35, has been charged with theft over \$5,000 as well.

The women are no longer employed with the Regina Police Service.

(CTV Regina)

Dec 18 2012

### **REGINA - A Regina police officer has been charged with assault causing bodily harm stemming from an arrest made on May 7.**

A complainant alleges that Cst. Robert Power, 40, assaulted him during the course of an arrest.

The accusation was investigated by the Public Complaints Commission, an oversight committee created by the provincial government to ensure that complaints against the police are properly investigated and assessed.

Police Chief Troy Hagen says the complainant's wounds were relatively minor and the person was treated in hospital and released.

Hagen says Power has been placed on administrative leave; a move dictated by Saskatchewan's Police Act.

Hagen says it is not a good day for the city's police service.

(CJME)

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19, 2012

Dec 19 2012

### **OTTAWA - The Conservative government has repealed federal gun show regulations, on the advice of the same controversial advisory committee the prime minister recently rebuked.**

The changes kill a set of rules that were introduced by the Liberals in 1998, but never brought into force after years of deferrals.

The regulations would have required the sponsor of a gun show to notify local police and the chief firearms officer of the province before an event, and to ensure the security and safety of the location and the firearms.

The government says it consulted Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee, which felt the vast majority of gun show hosts and exhibitors already follow the rules.

Chief firearms officers from the provinces had told the government they supported the gun show regulations, and pointed to incidents of illegal trafficking and possession at such events.

Dec 19 2012

### **MONTREAL - Quebec's anti-corruption squad has produced a list of its activities from 2012 - and what a list it is.**



Forty-nine people arrested. Criminal charges against 13 companies. One-hundred and seventy-seven different charges laid. And arrest warrants issued 450 times.

Those are the numbers laid out at a news conference today by Robert Lafreniere, head of the provincial unit created last year.

But he suggests his squad is just getting warmed up.

"Acts of collusion and corruption exist everywhere in Quebec - in every region. Our investigations are proving this to us," Lafreniere told a news conference.

"We have discovered new stratagems that I will reveal at the appropriate moment."

He said more than 20 ongoing investigations touch on areas outside the construction industry into things like contracts for computer technology and work related to the Plan Nord. That's the provincial project to develop mining, tourism and infrastructure in the north.

The arrests so far have dealt essentially with alleged wrongdoing in the construction industry at the municipal level - with charges laid against the mayors of two small towns and the mayor of Laval resigning after his homes and offices were searched.

Lafreniere was asked whether his unit is also investigating activity at the federal or provincial level.

He replied that the ongoing investigations are looking into municipal and provincial activity.

"Corruption does not simply affect the construction industry and our field of intervention is vast. Our investigations are leading us to areas as diverse as computer technology, the hospital sector, the Plan Nord and infrastructure," he said.

Details of suspected fraud in the hospital sector have already emerged publicly. A \$2.3 billion hospital project was at the centre of fraud charges laid late last month against Pierre Duhaime, the former chief executive of engineering giant SNC-Lavalin.

Lafreniere said 3,500 people have been questioned as part of ongoing investigations.

**THURSDAY**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2012**

Dec 20 2012

**OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada will allow the appeal of a ruling that would compel the Ontario government to reveal the number of sex offenders in the province by partial postal code.**

The province's Community Safety Ministry and its Information and Privacy Commissioner have been locked in a lengthy battle over the data, which the government says could identify individual offenders.

Earlier this year, Ontario's top court ruled the information should be released.

The privacy commissioner had previously ordered the records be disclosed to an unnamed journalist, who made the request

under Freedom of Information laws.

Last year, the Divisional Court dismissed the ministry's application for a judicial review of the commissioner's decision.

The ministry had said the information could reasonably lead to an expectation of harm, facilitate the commission of an illegal act or hamper the control of crime.

However, in ordering release of the data in 2009, the privacy commissioner found the ministry's concerns baseless.

The ministry provided no evidence that providing the first three digits of the postal codes could be used to locate convicted sex offenders within communities, the appellate court ruled.

Sex offenders are required by law to notify the Ontario registry if they change addresses. Information in the registry is normally off-limits to anyone other than police involved in an investigation.

The ministry worried that disclosure of the information could prompt offenders to go underground out of fear of vigilantism.

On average, more than 24,000 people live in the "forward sortation area" identified by the first three digits of a postal code.

Dec 20 2012

**MONTREAL - Quebec police are saying 18 people have now been arrested in a massive maple syrup heist.**



cp24.com

The accused face a variety of charges including theft, conspiracy, fraud and receiving stolen goods.

Provincial police said in a statement today they are looking for seven more people in the case.

The sweet stuff was stolen in the town of Saint-Louis-de-Blandford between August 2011 and this past July.

About 2.7 million kilograms of maple syrup, worth up to \$18 million, was reported missing after a routine inventory check last summer.

Officers from the RCMP, the Canada Border Services Agency and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement helped Quebec police in the investigation, which featured interviews with 300 people in the maple syrup industry in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and the northern U.S.

Dec 20 2012

**ST. ALBERT, AB - St. Albert city council is setting the bar high when it comes to RCMP officers — too high, in fact, but that's on purpose.**

On Monday afternoon, council voted

unanimously to authorize the mayor to ask the federal government for five more officers to bring the local detachment's total to 61. It's all in an attempt to bring the city's complement of RCMP to the long-desired number of 54.

General manager of community and protective services Chris Jardine explained to council that, after many frustrating years of not getting as many officers as they ask for, the City has decided to "over-ask" to actually get what they need.

"We've struggled with getting the full complement supplied that we've asked for in the past. ... We're hoping to grow our complement from 48 this year to 54 and provide the inspector with the right number of boots on the streets," Jardine said.

Council was fully on board with the plan, especially after recent meeting with RCMP K Division officials and hearing about the process of recruitment and assigning members to different communities.

"It seems counterintuitive that you would ask for more than you really need in order to get what you really do need, but nonetheless that's sort of the mechanism we're going to use to receive the correct number of officers for St. Albert," Coun. Wes Brodhead said.

Coun. Malcolm Parker asked what would happen to the extra budgeted funds if the magic number of 54 officers is not reached. Jardine said that, in the past, those extra funds have gone toward the overall bottom line, but administration is looking at the possibility of creating a police stabilization for the "odd time when we may have one too many."

(St. Albert Leader)

Dec 20 2012

**OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada will not hear the appeal of two Ontario municipalities found liable for a crash that left two teen-aged sisters in wheelchairs for the rest of their lives.**

Shannon and Erica Deering, then 19 and 16, suffered catastrophic spinal injuries when their car left the road on their way to a movie theatre on Aug. 10, 2004.

The horrific crash left the Port Perry, Ont., sisters quadriplegic and gave rise to \$30 million in claims as well as an eight-year legal battle with the City of Oshawa and Scugog Township.

In 2010, an Ontario Superior Court found Shannon Deering to be one-third liable for the crash, and the municipalities - located east of Toronto - liable for the balance.

The municipalities appealed, but the Appeal Court found they had failed to ensure the road was safe and therefore mainly at fault even though the driver was speeding.

Today's decision by the Supreme Court puts an end to the municipalities' latest challenge. As usual, the country's top court gave no reason for its ruling.