

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

November 29, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 48

## Executive Digest

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**OTTAWA -** The federal government wants to know how officers in this country are using force so the information can be offered up to inform training and police work nationwide.

To that end, Public Safety Canada is commissioning a research project focused on how to collect relevant police data, the details of which were outlined in a request for proposal issued this week.

Part of the job is to determine what data is needed to answer many questions posed over the years, the tender states, such as: Does erratic behaviour and mental instability relate to the degree of force used? Do officers apply more or less force at the start or end of their shifts? What use of force is most associated with officer and suspect injury or death?

The search for better information comes as the province’s ombudsman conducts a review of de-escalation methods following the Toronto police shooting death of teenager Sammy Yatim. As well, Ontario police chiefs have just received updated guidelines for use-of-force involving Tasers, following the provincial decision to expand the weapon’s availability.

Taser and firearm use have been hotly debated across Canada in recent years

following several high-profile deaths, although oversight typically falls to the provinces.

The purpose of the federal research project is two-fold, according to tender, which states the deadline for research to be completed is the end of March.

The first is to figure out what data would be needed to answer the many use-of-force questions posed over the years by Canadian academics, jurists, policymakers and police forces.

The second aim is to build on the existing national use-of-force guidelines, such as a continuum graphic that depicts when lethal and other force are appropriate. Adding to that information could help better inform training, the tender states.

Simon Fraser University criminology professor Rob Gordon said police across Canada fill out forms after they use force, whether it’s with a weapon or hand techniques.

Gordon said police forces have improved collection and analysis of information in the past decade. But thorough analysis is needed of why weapons are used and their results, Gordon said.

“The practice of reporting is more or less standard but the extent to which the stuff is analyzed, is not,” said Gordon, who was part of a panel that looked at the health effects of being Tasered. The panel recommended better



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information collection. "It's invaluable," he said.

The project, which is expected to cost less than \$60,000, isn't tied to any specific event, Public Safety Canada spokesman Kevin Miller said in an email.

He said the department's intention is to share the results with various stakeholders across Canada, who will be allowed to determine whether or not to use the findings for their data or analysis strategies.

The tender states that the project is related to a 2007 federal-provincial working group, which began sharing information about use of conducted energy weapons, and later expanded its mandate to other types of force. Law-enforcement stakeholders have recognized the need for research grounded in data, according to the tender.

Toronto police Deputy Chief Mike Federico, who co-chairs a Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police use-of-force committee, said there's a general discussion in police circles about collecting such data federally but many practical questions remain, including where information would be collected and who would co-ordinate information gathering.

"From a point of principal," he said, "knowing more about what challenges face our officers, and what decisions our officers make, and how they make decisions, is important for the advancement of police science."

There are more basic questions even within individual jurisdictions about when to report force, he said, giving the example of someone being arrested without incident or weapon use, when only verbal direction and handcuffs are used. "No force, technically, has been used, except the force that goes along with the authority of a police officer . . . it only becomes a question if somebody dies in custody," he said.

Although there are "practical challenges," including making sure an officer's time isn't consumed with paperwork, Federico said the questions researchers will be tasked with answering are important. "We're not all certain we're asking the right question or enough questions," he said.

(Ottawa Citizen)

## THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Nov 21 2013

**EDMONTON - Police say there were 50 less victims of crime this year in Edmonton thanks to the efforts of the Y-50 program.**

Edmonton Police Service (EPS) is geared towards high-risk and at-risk youth, the Y-50 program saw a 28 per cent decrease in the number of crimes the chosen 25 troubled youth committed when compared to last year's numbers.



"It's just creating an awareness that we can have some success but again it's acknowledging the fact that there's many challenges that we face when dealing with these high-risk and at-risk youth and I'm sure many of our community partners would agree with that," said Sgt. Greg Kitura, with Edmonton Police Service (EPS).

Out of the 25 individuals, seven of the youth have not committed a criminal offense in the past year, but nine of the individuals have had an increase in the number of crimes they committed.

The program—which was established to bridge the gap between youth services and police—was originally supposed to include 50 at-risk youth but due to limited police resources, 25 were chosen based on a number of factors.

Kitura said these youth are "extremely difficult" to work with but given the right opportunities, the program could make a difference in the lives of these troubled youth.

"Police have a new opportunity to set a new course to how youth are dealt with. We have a chance to strengthen the rope," said Kitura.

(Metro Edmonton)

Nov 21 2013

**OTTAWA - A gaffe by Health Canada has ousted thousands of medical marijuana users.**

Earlier this week, the department mailed 40,000 letters to medical marijuana users across the country, alerting them to major changes coming in the program beginning April 1.

But the letters came in an envelope that referred explicitly to the Medical Marijuana Access Program, and included the name of the

patient on the outside.

George Da Pont, the deputy minister at Health Canada, has issued an apology on the Health Canada website today, calling it an administrative error.

He says the department has reported the incident to the privacy commissioner.

Medical marijuana user Marcel Gignac says the gaffe has painted a target on the backs of medical marijuana patients across Canada.

Nov 21 2013

**ESSEX, Ont. - Provincial police say a transport driver is facing a careless driving charge following a collision that sent two Chatham-Kent police officers to hospital.**

OPP say Det. Const. Nelson Das Neves remains in hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries, while Staff Sgt. Kirk Earley was treated and released.

Investigators say the collision occurred Wednesday evening in the eastbound lanes of Highway 401 in Essex.

Police say the Chatham-Kent officers were speaking to a driver during a traffic stop on the right shoulder when a tractor-trailer struck the rear of the cruiser.

OPP say Parminder Singh Dhanqa, 30, of Brampton is charged with careless driving.

The highway was closed until early Thursday morning as police investigated the incident.

## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2013

Nov 22 2013

**They say you can never find a cop when you need one. In Trenton, N.J.—where budget cuts two years ago forced the city to shrink its police force by a third—the city learned just how badly it needs them.**

In August, the Garden state's capitol city set a record for homicides with 32 people killed. Last year violent crime was up four per cent, and property crime up seven per cent, from the year before, according to FBI data.

"It's unsustainable," said Shirley Turner, a Democratic state senator who has represented Trenton since 1998. "It's turned into the Wild Wild West. We have seen such an increase in gang activity and gang violence and guns as well as drugs. They've more or less taken over our communities."

It may be a while before citizens of Trenton, and dozens of other depressed American cities coping with rising crime rates, get their communities back.

Of all the line items in a city budget, public safety is the last to get cut. But the biggest shortfall in local tax revenues since the Great Depression left many local governments with no other choice. Since peaking at just over a million in 2008, the ranks of local police forces across the country have shrunk by nearly 7 percent. For the first time since the government

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ISSN 1704-3913  
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Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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began collecting data in 1986, the thin blue line is getting thinner.

In a series of surveys, more than half of police chiefs across the country have reported multiple rounds of budgets cuts, forcing layoffs, furloughs, hiring freezes, loss of specialty units, cutbacks on training and equipment, and service cuts.

For a time, local police departments managed to hold the line. But last year, crime rates began rising again nationwide after falling steadily since 2006, according to the FBI's Universal Crime Reporting database.

"When you lose (police officers), there is going to be an impact," said John Firman, research director at the International Association of Chiefs of Police. "We will be seeing this for a while to come; this is the early stage."  
(CNBC)

Nov 22 2013

**MONTREAL - While Montreal cops sent an armoured vehicle, canine squads and an army of 200 officers to Côte-des-Neiges on Thursday evening, two eagle-eyed Longueuil police officers with a computer printout spotted Michel Duchaussoy, suspected of shooting a cab driver, ambling down a Boucherville street at 7 p.m.**

Duchaussoy was the object of a manhunt as a suspect in the murder of Ziad Bouzil, 43, shot behind the wheel of his Diamond Taxi at the corner of Darlington Ave. shortly after midnight Wednesday.

Constable Martin Simard with the Longueuil police said all the officers had been provided with a photo of the wanted man, and two officers in a cruiser driving down the commercial street around 7 p.m. realized the man police sought was right there walking on the Nobel St. sidewalk, surprisingly not far from a Sûreté du Québec police station.

"It's a commercial sector with restaurants and hotels, and our people called it in," Simard said.

Duchaussoy offered no resistance to his arrest at 7:05 p.m., and after being placed in the back of a heavily barred cruiser, he was taken to SPVM investigators in Montreal.

Simard said that the two Longueuil officers who spotted Duchaussoy do not want to be identified.

(Montreal Gazette)

Nov 22 2013

**EDMONTON - Edmonton police are spending significant time waiting in area hospitals and it is costing the force financially and in manpower on the streets, according to numbers presented at the police commission Thursday night.**

From Aug. 2 to Nov. 2, officers spent 1,500 hours and had 390 visits to hospitals guarding while waiting for detainees, costing the police force about \$100,678 or \$1,100 a day.

"That's four police officers that we could

have extra in terms of the dollar value and those officers are tied up. They're highly trained individuals and they're best used on the street, patrolling, looking for bad guys," said Deputy Chief Brian Simpson, with EPS.

Since the wait time tracking process over the three months was voluntary, officials say these figures are the minimum amount of hours officers spent at hospitals.

"I personally was astounded by the magnitude of the situation," said Joanne Graham, director of Business Intelligence Competency Centre with EPS at the Edmonton Police Commission meeting Thursday.

Officials say the biggest concern with the numbers is that 54 per cent of the hours and 63 per cent of the activities dealt with the Mental Health Act.

"Mental health is an issue we deal with all the time. We see that in other areas so once that number was pointed out to us, it wasn't a surprise, just the actual volume of it—63 per cent—was," said Simpson.

The officer wait time issue is a concern

with police agencies across Canada and the United States, said Graham, with many having significant resource impacts due to officers being held up in hospitals with detainees.

Police are continuing discussions with hospitals and looking at solutions for the officer problem.

"The whole goal of this is to have discussions and to look at options to get ourselves to a better place, to get our clients to a better place and also service the community," said Simpson.

(Metro Edmonton)

Nov 22 2013

**HAMILTON, Ont. - A Hamilton police officer has been acquitted on an assault charge in connection with injuries suffered by a teen last year.**

The province's Special Investigations Unit charged Officer Ryan Gagnon with assault causing bodily harm after investigating injuries sustained by a 16-year-old boy on July 22, 2012.

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Hamilton police say the teen sustained a broken tooth and facial injury when he attempted to strike officers working in the custody area.

After a two-day trial in October, Gagnon was acquitted and exonerated on Thursday by Justice Ian B. Cowan in a Brampton court.

Cowan ruled that the officer used reasonable force in repelling a perceived assault and the force was not more than was reasonable in the circumstances.

Nov 22 2013

**OTTAWA - The federal government is launching an "in-depth" study of the country's civilian firearms industry as part of a program to combat gun crime and weapons smuggling and trafficking.**

A request for proposal seeking research bids was posted this week by Public Works.

The study, Characteristics of the Canadian Firearms Industry Supplying the Civilian Market, is to be completed by March 31, 2014.

Public Safety Canada wants up-to-date details on who is manufacturing civilian weapons, who's selling them, who's buying, who is exporting and importing and who works in the industry.

The research is also to examine "marketing approaches, prevalence and influence of the Internet on the import/export/domestic sales of firearms, estimate of volume and value of sales (and) market profitability," among many other factors, including international comparisons.

The study falls under the Investments to Combat the Criminal Use of Firearms (ICCUF) program, a \$10-million-a-year interdepartmental initiative that includes Public Safety, the RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency and the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada.

The ICCUF was created in 2004 with a five-year mandate that was made permanent by the Conservatives in 2009.

"To have an informed, national enforcement strategy to address gun crime and trafficking of firearms, the government of Canada must first have co-ordinated and comprehensive national firearm intelligence-gathering and analysis," according to Public Safety Canada's website.

Environment Canada is also seeking bids for a contract worth up to \$60,000 to study the use of lead bullets and shot and their impact on the environment and human health.

"In 1995, ammunitions were estimated to have contributed to releasing over 1,000 tonnes of lead in the Canadian environment; however regulations that entered into force in 1997 were expected to address half of these releases," according to the Environment Canada tender.

Nov 22 2013

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The Special Investigations Unit has cleared Port Hope police of any criminal wrongdoing in the death of a 30-year-**

**old man in June.**

The SIU says police spotted Christopher Thomson late on June 28 when the pickup truck he was driving swerved several times into the oncoming lane.

Officers began a pursuit which ended when the pickup veered onto the grassy shoulder of a road, collided with a tree, spun and flipped upside down.

The officers rushed to Thomson's aid and discovered a head wound and worked with a nurse who offered her assistance to stem the flow of blood and administer CPR.

Thomson died of his injuries and an autopsy revealed that his head wound, the cause of his death, had nothing to do with the collision, but was caused by a gunshot.

Acting SIU director Joseph Martino says the evidence indicates that Thomson shot himself in the head part way through the pursuit, and a firearm was discovered in the truck.

Nov 22 2013

**REDCLIFF, Alta. - An investigation is underway into an apparent domestic dispute that ended in a deadly crash east of Brooks, Alta.**

Police say they got a 911 hang-up call on Friday morning from a woman in distress in Medicine Hat, Alta.

Police went to the home and forced their way inside, but didn't find anyone.

However, the condition of the home led



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them to believe someone was in serious danger.

A suspect vehicle was identified with a man and woman inside, but though police tried to stop it the male driver kept going and RCMP took over the pursuit.

Eventually, the suspect vehicle collided with a semi.

Sources told Global News the two people inside the car were killed.

The driver of the semi - a man in his 30s - was taken to hospital in Medicine Hat with non life-threatening injuries.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, known as ASIRT, has been called in. (Global Calgary)

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2013

Nov 23 2013

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The province's police watchdog is investigating after a man was killed in a Mississauga crash.**

The Special Investigations Unit says OPP officers were conducting RIDE checks just before 6:30 a.m. on Saturday when a vehicle failed to stop for them.

The SIU says police officers tried to stop the vehicle, which hit a utility pole.

The driver of the vehicle was pronounced dead at the scene.

Nov 23 2013

**BLOCKHOUSE, N.S. - Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team says it is investigating a fatal crash after a vehicle tried to avoid being stopped by police on the province's South Shore.**

The province's police watchdog says the crash occurred shortly after 5 p.m. Friday after an RCMP officer attempted to pull over a vehicle believed to be speeding on the Cornwall Road in Blockhouse.

Investigators say the vehicle sped away and a short distance later crashed into a ditch and some trees on the opposite side of the highway.

A 23-year-old man, who was the lone occupant of the vehicle, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Nov 23 2013

**CALGARY - A Calgary woman facing an impaired driving charge will perhaps think twice next time she phones a friend for a ride.**

The 57-year-old woman provided the perfect anti-drunk driving message Friday night when, after being pulled over by police, she declined the offer of a taxi ride home and called her friend for a lift.

He was drunk too.

"It's sad, is what it is," RCMP Corporal Darrin Turnbull said.

"Nobody in their right mind would drive to a police officer knowing that they've been drinking. And yet this guy ... drives to the

scene knowing the police are going to be there."

The woman's preferred method of transport home, a car driven by a 54-year-old Airdrie man, arrived around midnight.

RCMP officers quickly realized the man had been drinking, and he failed a subsequent breath-alcohol test.

"You tell anybody this story they'd be like 'Seriously? No, nobody would do that'," Turnbull said,

"People who have been drinking do some crazy things."

The two motorists have been released from custody and will have the chance to explain the thinking behind their decisions when they appear in the Airdrie provincial court in the new year.

The man will face an impaired driving charge, the woman is likely to be charged with failing to provide an adequate breath sample.

It was believed the man and woman eventually took police up on their offer of a cab ride home. (Calgary Herald)

Nov 23 2013

**EDMONTON - Violent crimes have taken a plunge in Edmonton, according to the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) third-quarter report released last week.**

Cops say violence is down 6.6% from this time in 2012, with 115 fewer incidents reported. General assaults have dropped 7.1%, while robberies dropped 14.4%.

Tony Simioni, head of the Edmonton Police Association, said while violence is on the decline across Canada, Edmonton's change is especially significant.

"Part of it also has to do with the demographic is aging, so violence across this country is down, to a certain extent," Simioni said.

"Edmonton though, because of the transient population and because of us being traditionally more violent in the past, has had a bigger decrease based on the fact that we were in a worse place to begin with."

Reports of sexual assault in Edmonton increased by 7.4% in the third quarter, though year-to-date statistics show less sex assaults have been reported in 2013 than 2012.

Simioni said the EPS Violence Reduction Strategy, implemented more than a year ago, should get some credit. The strategy's initiatives include victim support teams that follow up with people involved in domestic violence, and offender management and warrant execution programs that hold offenders accountable to judicial sanctions.

"It looks like the chief's plan and the EPS plan on violence reduction has certainly borne some fruit," he said.

The police report notes community partners have also been instrumental in helping keep vulnerable people away from crime, specifically citing the Hope Mission's addition of intox beds, a growing number of outreach teams, and an increase of social service agencies outside the downtown core.

Meanwhile, cops are taking more drugs off the street. The report says the third quarter of 2013 was a major success for the Edmonton Drug and Gang Enforcement (EDGE) Unit, which seized five times more cocaine and twice as much pot than it did in the same period last year.

EDGE also seized 880 pounds of GHB and an increased amount of a cocaine cutting agent called "buff" or "super buff."

"The platform and the planks of the chief's violence reduction program were certainly picked up by EDGE and others, and I think it's a cumulative effect that has seen this decrease," Simioni said. (Sun Media)

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2013

Nov 24 2013

**One of the images in the Baby Hope case that led to the big break last month in the murder case was created more than 21 years ago by Canadian experts who used the actual skull of the dead child to create computer renderings of her face, according to NYPD officials.**



The image — depicting a three-quarter profile of the child now known as Anjelica Castillo — was used this past summer on a poster circulated around Washington Heights.

The poster, combined with an earlier police sketch and a photo of the picnic cooler she was stuffed in, sparked the anonymous call that led to the identification of Anjelica and the arrest of a cousin for her murder, according to investigators.

Anjelica's body was found in July 1991 in a wooded area by the Henry Hudson Parkway. She was stuffed in the cooler, with her legs tied above her head. In April 1992, her skull, with the flesh removed, was sent to the Metropolitan Toronto Police for computer analysis, according to NYPD officials.

The skull, which had some of the child's front teeth missing, was used to create a strip of computer images showing the progressive reconstruction of Anjelica's face, officials remembered. The resulting near-profile image showed a child with long dark hair, full cheeks and an overbite.

"I think that is what made this click," NYPD Assistant Chief Joseph Resnick said Friday. Resnick has been involved in the investigation for many years. The poster with

the images led to an anonymous caller tipping police to the identity of a woman who was a relative of Anjelica. The resulting investigation led to the arrest last month of Conrado Juarez, 52, who police said admitted killing Anjelica after sexually assaulting her. Juarez pleaded not guilty to a murder indictment last week.

Anjelica, who was 4 years old when she died, was buried in St. Raymond's Cemetery and for decades was known only as Baby Hope. But after the case was broken by the anonymous caller, her true identity became known.

Earlier this month, Anjelica's full name and birth date, April 24, 1987, were engraved into the headstone.

(Newsday)



Nov 24 2013

**EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service is to reveal a prototype official hijab for its officers this week, following testing to ensure its safety.**

It is understood the Muslim headscarf would be black, and designed to be worn underneath the standard police cap.

Unlike a traditional hijab, it is to be affixed with tear-away snaps, and designed so as not to obstruct an officer's vision, or even breathing, during a struggle or other dynamic situation. It is being tested by the force's tactics training unit, though a final version has not yet been decided, said Leila Daoud, a civilian spokesperson for the force.

A niqab is a full-face covering with small eye holes. A hijab is a headscarf to cover the hair.

(National Post)

Nov 24 2013

**CALGARY - A police officer was taken to hospital with serious injuries to his arm after he crashed through a ground-floor window while breaking up a fight early Sunday in downtown Calgary.**

Police were trying to break up an altercation at about 2:30 a.m. in the 600 block of 10th Avenue S.W. when one of the officers and one of the combatants went through a large window, said Det. Torrey Killam.

"Only the officer was injured and sustained significant injuries to his arm," Killam said, adding he was taken to hospital.

"My understanding is he's expected to make a full recovery."

(Calgary Herald)

Nov 24 2013

**STE-SOPHIE - Montreal police want three weapons charges laid against a shotgun-wielding man who was shot by the Sûreté du Québec on Saturday night in Ste-Sophie, in the Laurentians.**

Called in to probe the incident, the force said it will recommend prosecutors charge the man with unauthorized possession of a firearm, unauthorized possession in dangerous surroundings and pointing a firearm.

Around 11:15 p.m., the SQ was called to a residence on Mongrain St. to investigate a conjugal violence case. They were met by a 33-year-old man pointing a shotgun in their direction.

An officer fired at the man, hitting him in an arm and in a buttock, according to Montreal police spokesperson Simon Delorme. The suspect was taken to a hospital but his life is not in danger, Delorme said.

He'll appear Monday to face charges in court in St. Jérôme, either in person or by teleconference, depending on his health.

(Canadian Press, Montreal Gazette)



NOV 25 2013

**The RCMP is slamming a Vancouver Island newspaper that reported on officers' decision to leave two stray dogs in the wilds to die, after the dogs attacked a girl in a remote First Nations village.**

In early November RCMP officers were called to Kyuquot Sound — a region only accessible by air or water, four hours from Campbell River — after an 11-year-old girl suffered serious bite wounds from a pack of stray dogs. The First Nations village has been troubled by a feral dog problem.

Officers judged that the dogs were a threat to village children and had to be relocated or put down, the Campbell River Courier Islander reported Thursday. Instead of shooting the dogs on the spot, officers took the dogs to a distant beach and left them.

But a local spotted and rescued the dogs from a reef, and called Campbell River dog rescuer Maggie Tyerman-Norbjerg. Tyerman-Norbjerg travelled to the area and was appalled at the condition she found the dogs in. She says she called the RCMP to report the incident, only to find it was police officers that "dumped" the dogs.

"I am sickened and disgusted that in this day and age, anyone would treat any animal with such disregard," Tyerman-Norbjerg told the Campbell River Courier Islander, suggesting she believes officers stranded the dogs to certain death on an isolated reef endangered by a frigid, rising tide.

"How can they possibly believe that abandoning a dog to die a slow death of starvation, cold, wet, hungry and alone, is

acceptable in any way whatsoever?" Tyerman-Norbjerg said.

RCMP spokesman Cpl. Darren Lagan said the dogs were in fact left on the beach, but he denied that officers marooned the dogs on a reef. Lagan said the incident must be understood in the context of policing remote areas, and he defended the officers' actions as necessary for public safety in the First Nations village.

"If the dogs are somewhat feral we relocate them and let them fend for themselves, but we are quite rightly justified to euthanize dangerous dogs on the spot with our firearm," Lagan said.

On Friday, the RCMP responded to the Courier Islander's report with a sharply worded "open letter to the editor" written by RCMP Chief Superintendent Ray Bernoties.

Bernoties reiterated that the safety of children in the village was the reason the dogs were relocated, and he suggested that the Courier Islander's report seemed to have shown more empathy for the dogs than the child who was bitten.

"I can't help but think that if an 11-year-old girl in an affluent neighbourhood in your area had been attacked by dogs you would've shown at least some concern for the girl," Bernoties wrote, "as well as the dogs."

(The Province)

Nov 25 2013

**TRENT HILLS, Ont. - Provincial police say an 84-year-old man is facing a January court date after a car blew through radar at 64 km/h over the speed limit.**

Police say an officer conducting speed enforcement on a county road east of Peterborough, Ont., in the community of Trent Hills clocked a car at 144 km/h in an 80 zone.

The officer stopped the car and Werner Spletstoesser of Roseneath, Ont., was charged with racing.

Spletstoesser's driver's licence was suspended for a week and his car was impounded for seven days following the traffic stop last Friday.

Nov 25 2013

**OTTAWA - The Harper government has reintroduced legislation aimed at making it more difficult for people found not criminally responsible for crimes to get out from behind bars.**

The bill would create a high-risk designation that would keep some offenders in custody, even if they've been deemed by a court to have a mental disorder that prevents them from being convicted of a crime.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay says the legislation is designed to protect the public from people found not criminally responsible for their actions.

The legislation is almost a carbon copy of a bill that was introduced by the Conservatives last year, which died on the order paper when the prime minister prorogued Parliament.

If passed into law, the bill will have to be



reviewed after five years.

The legislation would also require the justice system to notify victims when an accused person found not criminally responsible is released from custody.

Nov 25 2013

### The Ontario Provincial Police's freeze on providing cost estimates for new contracts is causing difficulties for Selwyn Township as it plans for policing in Lakefield after Dec. 31, 2014.

Selwyn Township council will consider the issue when a staff report is presented at its meeting on Tuesday.

The OPP is in the midst of considering changes to its billing model for municipal contracts, Selwyn chief administrator Janice Lavalley notes in a report.

"As a result of this process they have advised that they will not be considering renewal of existing contracts or providing new costing at this time," she states.

Selwyn council has asked staff to consider a contract with the OPP or a contract with the Peterborough police service for policing in Lakefield after the de-amalgamation of the Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police Service on Dec. 31, 2014.

Peterborough city council voted in December last year to give two years' notice that the city will be terminating the policing amalgamation agreement under a clause in the agreement that created the police force.

Ontario Civilian Police Commission wants the city and the township to submit their post de-amalgamation policing plans to the commission by Jan. 31.

City chief administrator Brian Horton and Mayor Daryl Bennett have said that the city's plan is simple – change the name of the police service and continue business as usual.

(Peterborough Examiner)

**TUESDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 26, 2013**

Nov 26 2013

**OTTAWA - The country's prisons watchdog says minorities make up a disproportionate percentage of the country's prison population.**



And while the face of the corrections system is changing, Howard Sapers says prison hiring practices have not kept pace.

In his latest annual report to Parliament, the correctional investigator points out that close to a quarter of all inmates are aboriginal even though they make up only four per cent of the general population.

As well, he says, black inmates are over-represented, particularly in maximum-security institutions.

Sapers says black offenders also report facing discrimination by being marginalized by the corrections system.

He's calling on the federal government to develop a national diversity-awareness training plan and hire new staff responsible for building networks between the prisons and outside cultural groups.

Nov 26 2013

### FREDERICTON - New Brunswick Justice Minister Troy Lifford says he's willing to examine a suggestion to merge the provincial court with the

### Court of Queen's Bench.

The suggestion was made Monday by Court of Queen's Bench Chief Justice David Smith during a speech to the Moncton Rotary Club.

Smith says both courts handle criminal matters, and by merging the two there would be numerous efficiencies and fewer case delays.

He says the court structure would also be more easily understood.

Lifford says such a change could not be made quickly, but he would be interested in discussing the idea further with Smith.

Lifford says the department is examining many ways to make the justice system more efficient and will add Smith's suggestion to the list.

Canadian Police Curling Association  
CPCA ACCP  
Association Canadienne De Curling Des Policiers

Canadian Police Curling Championship

Winnipeg 2014

The Canadian Police Curling Association invites all police and peace officers to compete at the 2014 Canadian Police Curling Championship in Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 15th to 22nd, 2014

For more info on how you can represent your province or territory go to the web site at [www.policecurling.ca](http://www.policecurling.ca)



Nov 26 2013

**OTTAWA - The federal privacy commissioner says tiny, camera-equipped drones - some as small as birds or insects - could evade Canadian privacy law as people begin using the increasingly affordable aircraft to spy on others.**

A new study by the commissioner's office says model aircraft flown by hobbyists may be left entirely unregulated as the federal government focuses on drones flown for commercial or police purposes.

In Canada, unmanned aerial vehicles are regulated by Transport Canada as aircraft under the Canadian Aviation Regulations.

But drones that weigh 35 kilograms or less do not require a special flight certificate when flown for recreational purposes.

The study says the exception poses concerns given that companies are beginning to sell small, inexpensive drones than can stream live video to smartphones.

The privacy commissioner's office worries the recreational drones could fuel the growing trend of people using technology to conduct surveillance on fellow citizens.

Nov 26 2013

**HALIFAX - A second man is challenging the legality of an online police sting in Halifax last February that targeted individuals looking to pay for sex with girls under 18.**

Alan Tek of Halifax was one of five men arrested and charged with Internet luring after they allegedly showed up at hotels expecting to pay for sex with a 16-year-old girl.

In fact, the men had been communicating online with a police officer pretending to be a girl.

Tek's lawyer, Ian Hutchison, told the court he will argue that the online police operation, conducted without a warrant, violated Tek's right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.

One of the other men charged in the sting, Mitchell Gary Rose-Kays of Halifax, is making a similar argument.

Don Murray, lawyer for Rose-Kays, argued last week that the police sting was an interception of private communications and should have been authorized by a judge beforehand.

(Halifax Chronicle-Herald)

Nov 26 2013

**THE PAS, Man. - A court has found an RCMP officer guilty of assault causing bodily harm.**

RCMP said Const. Rene David Pashe has been put on administrative duties while his status is reviewed after the conviction. A date for a sentencing hearing has not yet been set.

RCMP said they were notified of an excessive force complaint in January 2011 following a December 2010 incident.

The complaint related to an incident during booking of a suspect by the RCMP Opaskwayak Cree Nation detachment

member, while at the RCMP The Pas Detachment, said police.

Following an RCMP investigation, Manitoba Justice recommended charges in October 2011.

Sentencing has been put over for an as-yet undetermined date to allow for a victim impact statement, said police on Nov. 26.

(CTV Winnipeg)



Nov 27 2013

**PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - The mother of a young boy has a police dog in Prince George, B.C., to thank for tracking her five-year-old - or she could have waited until naptime was over.**

The anxious mom called police when she couldn't find her son and concern grew as three RCMP officers unsuccessfully searched the home in the north central B.C. city, even moving a large dresser to check for the boy.

That's when Astro, the police service dog, and his handler, arrived at the scene, searched the perimeter of the home and then moved inside, where the dog almost immediately began indicating that someone was in the child's room.

Prince George RCMP Cpl. Craig Douglass says Astro focused on the same six-drawer dresser that had already been moved by officers, but instead of signalling behind or under the furniture, the dog stuck its head in one of the drawers.

Since there was still no sign of the youngster, the handler began to remove the drawers, quickly revealing that the boy had climbed into the dresser and was snoozing under the drawers.

Douglass says Astro is very good at playing hide and seek, while the five-year-old obviously excels at sleeping soundly.

Nov 27 2013 VERNON, B.C. - A charge of second-degree murder has been dropped against a 95-year-old Vernon, B.C., dementia patient.

The Criminal Justice Branch says Second World War veteran John "Jack" Furman remains confused, disoriented and in frail health and would likely be found unfit to stand trial if the murder charge were to proceed.

Branch spokesman Neil MacKenzie says officials appreciate the seriousness of the alleged offence and the tragic loss suffered by the family of 85-year-old victim William May, but pursuing the case is not in the public interest.

According to investigators, Furman showed no aggressive tendencies when he was admitted to the Polson Extended Care Unit in Vernon in early August but, just 10 days later, he was involved in a fight with May that resulted in the death of the younger man.

Furman is now receiving medical and psychiatric care at a facility in Kamloops, about 100 kilometres northwest of Vernon, and

is expected to remain there.

The news release from the Criminal Justice Branch says steps have been taken to address any risk that the man present to other patients, to staff or to himself.



Beechy

Blair

Nov 27 2013

**OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis has a new right-hand man.**

It was announced on Tuesday that OPP Chief Superintendent Brad Blair was promoted to Deputy Commissioner.

Blair replaces current Deputy Commissioner Larry Beechy who will be retiring at the end of the month.

Blair is currently the Commander of the OPP's Central Region and will be transitioning into his new role as one of four Provincial Commanders supporting Lewis.

He is a 27-year veteran and had also served as Commander of the OPP Aboriginal Policing Bureau.

(Bayshore Broadcasting)

Nov 27 2013

**A serious point of contention in the ongoing saga of the Treaty Three Police labour crisis appears to have been settled in favour of the officers' union, and likely means the police board will not be able to shield itself from the consequences of breaking their collective agreement last spring.**

The argument was over whether the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) has the jurisdiction to represent the officers of the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service.

The police service board had argued that the aboriginal policing program was created by the province of Ontario and therefore PSAC did not have the jurisdiction to represent the officers as it is a federal union.

Had the Canadian Labour Relations Board accepted this argument, the collective agreement negotiated between the police board and PSAC would become void and the officers would have been forced to reorganize under a provincially-accredited union.

The labour relations board determined the aboriginal police service was under federal jurisdiction because a First Nation's ability to create its own police force is derived from subsection 81 of the Indian Act and not the Ontario Police Services Act.

"The basis for the existence of the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) is found in the Indian Act, federal legislation enacted pursuant to Parliament's exclusive jurisdiction over Indians and lands reserved

for the Indians. Consequently, with respect to aboriginal policing generally, and police services created pursuant to the Ontario First Nations Policing Agreement specifically, the board concludes that the operations of the NAPS are a matter of federal jurisdiction," reads the decision.

Although technically the decision only applies to NAPS, it has huge significance for the Treaty Three Police, which launched a near-identical application to strip its officers of union representation to void a collective agreement which is said it could not afford to keep.

In fact, when the unilateral wage and benefit cuts were imposed by Treaty Three Police management last spring, then Police Chief Conrad DeLaronde said the entire plan to be able to keep the cuts in place relied on the labour relations board ruling in its favour; something he was confident would happen.

But now that Nishnawbe Aski's application has been thrown out, the union is confident that the similarities between the two applications will mean that Treaty Three's will fail if the police board still decides to pursue it.

"We believe that this has set the precedent we need so if a hearing on the Treaty Three matter is held there will be a decision to back up our jurisdiction as well," said PSAC regional executive vice-president Sharon DeSousa.

While the last Treaty Three Police Board under the leadership of chief Wayne Smith was determined to see the union stripped of its jurisdiction to represent officers — even going so far as to make it one of the conditions of their ultimatum issued to officers — the police board led by chief Eli Mandamin has avoided saying whether it intends to pursue the labour relations board challenge. DeSousa said she doesn't know what the police board plans to do either, but intends to speak with them soon about it.

Whatever way Treaty Three's application is resolved, if PSAC still retains its jurisdiction it will be free to pursue grievances with the labour relations board against the police service for the violation of a legally-binding contract, although Desousa said doing so would not be motivated by seeking damages or compensation.

"We have serious concerns and there have been serious violations to our collective agreement. We have filed grievances, and rightly so. We will have to resolve them, but we will have to resolve them in an efficient manner in which our member's rights are protected," said DeSousa.

Treaty Three Police Board members are currently attending a conference in Thunder Bay and could not be reached for comment. (Kenora Daily Miner and News)

Nov 27 2013

**FREDERICTON - The New Brunswick government is coming under increasing pressure to conduct a review of provincial exotic wildlife regulations, almost four months after**



Nov 27 2013

TORONTO - During a vacation visit to Savannah Georgia two years ago, Superintendent Selwyn "Sam" Fernandes of the Toronto Police Service (TPS) spotted a great anti-drinking and driving promotional vehicle that's half taxi – half police car.

Using the very apt and catchy "Choose your Ride" tag line, that promotional vehicle was the inspiration to "borrow" the concept back home in Toronto.

The car was created in partnership with Beck Cabs, Abram's Towing, TPS fleet management, and several summer-students employed in the TPS's Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) program.

Beck cabs contributed a retired 2008 Chevy Malibu taxi cab. The cab arrived in their traditional orange and green colour scheme.

The YIPI students prepared the front half of the car for repainting, and Abram's Towing



contributed by painting it in standard TPS white.

Once painted, the vehicle was transported to the TPS body shop where the new-vehicle preparation team transformed the car, adding a light-bar, TPS decals, stripes and all the custom messaging.

The basic premise of the car is to explain the financial and other implications associated with choosing one side of the car or the other.

The taxi cab side of the car advertises a cost of only \$40, while the police side of the car estimates the financial cost of being charged with impaired driving at \$15,000+.

An official media-launch event was held Nov. 27th at Mel Lastman Square in the North York area of Toronto.

(Tom Rataj)

**two boys were killed by a species of python that is banned in the province.**

Premier David Alward has said his government will launch a review once the RCMP complete their investigation into the Aug. 5 deaths of four-year-old Noah Barthe and his six-year-old brother Connor. The two boys were asphyxiated by a 45-kilogram African rock python that escaped its enclosure in an apartment above a pet store in Campbellton, N.B.

But the executive director of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums said there is nothing preventing the government from proceeding with a review to improve public policy without interfering with the police investigation.

"Let the RCMP do its work, but at the same time the New Brunswick government should be looking to see if its system needs a bit of a facelift," Massimo Bergamini said Wednesday.

"Our contention is that in New Brunswick and many other jurisdictions, it does."

Bergamini said many municipalities in Canada are left to deal with exotic animals through their bylaws, an issue he said needs to be resolved.

"Government needs to look at regulations,

look at enforcement, look at the kinds of resources that need to be put in place to ensure that we have a safe system for visitors, for staff and for animals as well," he said.

Nov 27 2013

**TORONTO - The Mounties say they've broken up an alleged organized crime ring that police estimate bilked the Ontario government and banks of millions of dollars.**

Police allege a group based in the Greater Toronto Area recruited people to come to Canada and then used "these victims" to defraud the government, individuals, businesses and chartered banks.

Police say the accused got the victims to collect social assistance through fraudulent means and also to defraud banks by depositing stolen cheques, increasing credit limits and withdrawing the funds from their accounts.

Investigators estimate that millions of dollars were lost through fraudulent social assistance payments, stolen cheques and bank related frauds.

The RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police and the Canada Border Services Agency executed multiple search warrants on Tuesday and arrested three Toronto residents.



The three are charged with fraud over \$5,000, possession of identity information, possession of property obtained by crime, and conspiracy to commit the other three offences.

Nov 27 2013

### **ORILLIA - Orillia Mayor Angelo Orsi is pleased with his first look at the proposed new OPP policing formula.**

Council was presented with the OPP's updated municipal policing cost-recovery formula at its Monday council meeting.

Orsi says it could result in savings of up to one million dollars for the city.

He says that saving would be for 2015.

That is the same amount of savings consultants promised if Orillia made the switch to a municipally run police service.

Orsi calls this a win-win situation as the city will save a substantial amount on the cost of policing and they get to keep the OPP as the city's municipal force.

He says under the new model, calls for service will be billed per call and if there are fewer calls, then there will be less costs.

(Bayshore Broadcasting)

## **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2013**

Nov 28 2013

### **KNIGHTSTOWN, Ind. - A police chief of a small eastern Indiana town who was shot by a stun gun as part of a fundraising event to buy a new squad car says he raised about \$800 in cash and received a \$25,000 pledge from a Texas company.**

Knightstown Police Chief Danny Baker says he's been receiving calls from all over the country and expects to collect more money.

His goal was to raise \$9,000 so the town of about 2,100 people 40 kilometres east of Indianapolis could lease a new squad car.

He says he might be able to get a second car.

He says the feeling of being hit with 50,000 volts of low-amp electricity Wednesday night felt like someone hitting him in the back of the head repeatedly.

Nov 28 2013

### **OTTAWA - A drug sweep has led to more than a dozen arrests in Ottawa and across the river in Gatineau, Que.**

Project Derapage - or skid in English - led by Gatineau police in partnership with Ottawa and provincial police, saw arrests made at 16 different locations on Thursday.

Twelve raids took place in Gatineau and four in Ottawa.

Police say 20 people were arrested and some are linked to a motorcycle gang.

Investigators were targeting cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana trafficking.

More details were expected to be released at a news conference Thursday.

(1310News)

Nov 28 2013

### **A Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer with a medical marijuana prescription thinks he should be able to smoke the drug while in uniform, but the RCMP says he can't smoke marijuana while in red serge or while wearing his regular working uniform.**

Cpl. Ronald Francis serves with J Division in New Brunswick, and received a prescription for medical-grade marijuana on Nov. 4.

Francis told CBC News marijuana has helped him to calm down and reduces his PTSD symptoms. His prescription allows for three grams a day, which he estimates to be nine to 15 joints, though he said he doesn't typically smoke that much.

"I get up in the morning, have my coffee and the marijuana. I go at lunchtime, have a marijuana joint, and then again in the evening. That would be my medical regime. But that may change with my tolerance to THC. It may take two joints in the morning, I don't know," said Francis.

"I'm just building up my immunity to THC levels, if I was to smoke two I'd probably get stoned to the point that I'm just totally relaxed. I'm still functional. But your nervous system is relaxed, and that makes a big difference," he said.

Francis, who is currently assigned to administrative duties, said smoking marijuana has no negative effect on his ability to be a police officer and that he intends to continue smoking on the job.

"There's no policy in the RCMP that prevents me from smoking marijuana. There's no policy in the RCMP that says I cannot smoke in public. I have the right to smoke it in my red serge."

But while the RCMP accepts that Francis's prescription gives him the right to consume marijuana, the force takes issue with members smoking in public or in uniform.

"Definitely a member that has been prescribed medicinal marijuana should not be in red serge taking his medication," said RCMP Deputy Commissioner Gilles Moreau. "It would not be advisable for that member, it would not portray the right message to the general public, it's definitely not something we would support or condone."

Moreau said the RCMP has a duty to

accommodate members' medical needs, but also has to consider the effect on other members and on public perceptions.

"Because this is relatively new for active members of the RCMP, we are looking at the internal policies to see, how do we set it up? To say, OK, if somebody is prescribed medical marijuana and they have to take it two or three times a day and have to take it at work, where is this going to take place? If it takes place outside, it has to respect the individual but also their co-workers, and it has to respect the Canadian population at large by taking it in a respectful way."

The RCMP has the right to challenge medical treatments it considers inappropriate, and to seek a second medical opinion, Moreau said, adding that RCMP will evaluate any member who obtains a medical marijuana prescription.

If they are found to be impaired in judgment or motor skills, the RCMP will place limits on the police functions they're permitted to perform, he said.

(CBC News)

Nov 28 2013

### **HAMILTON, Ont. - A Hamilton police inspector who's been suspended with pay for four years while facing a disciplinary proceeding has announced his retirement.**

David Doel will retire on March 31, effectively ending his Police Services Act hearing since the Hamilton Police Service loses jurisdiction in the case once he is no longer a cop.

Doel was facing more than a dozen misconduct charges following allegations of having sex on duty, keeping porn on his police computer and using police surveillance equipment to spy on an alleged former lover.

His retirement and stay of proceedings, which will be made official in April, means the public will never hear the evidence against him.

Doel, who declined to comment at a hearing Thursday, is 10 months shy of his full pension eligibility date.

Since being suspended with pay since 2009, Doel collected more than \$500,000 in salary, including more than \$138,000 last year.

(CHML)



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