

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

January 31, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 5

Executive Digest

Jan 23 2014

OTTAWA - The RCMP says it has completed a comprehensive file review of murdered and missing aboriginal women and girls within Mountie jurisdiction - more than 400 in all - and will continue to pursue outstanding cases.

Page 2

Jan 26 2014

TORONTO - An 8.55% pay increase for OPP officers — the result of a provincial government commitment to make them the highest paid cops in Ontario — is forcing up property taxes.

Page 4

Jan 27 2014

OTTAWA - When the RCMP's covert-operations unit secured a "top-secret" headquarters for an anti-terrorism project On Ottawa's east side in 2009, it was anything but clandestine.

Page 5

Jan 28 2014

EDMONTON - Alberta's chief medical examiner says the system is too splintered and disconnected when it comes to determining why and how children die in government care.

Page 6

Jan 29 2014

EDMONTON - Alberta's first top-ranking female RCMP officer says she has always been treated with respect as a gay officer in the force.

Page 8

Former top Quebec cops face fraud, theft and breach of trust charges



Deschesnes

Chabot

Audette

Jan 28 2014

MONTREAL - The former head of the Quebec provincial police force and three other former senior officers have been ordered to appear in court next month on charges of fraud, theft and breach of trust.

Charges filed in Montreal on Tuesday name Richard Deschesnes, the force's former director-general, former assistant director Steven Chabot, Alfred Tremblay, a former assistant director of investigations, and Jean Audette, another ex-assistant director in charge of investigations.

All four have been summoned to appear in court on Feb. 13. The date for the appearance was noted in the charges.

The group is charged with fraud and breach of trust in the performance of their duties and stealing more than \$5,000 from the Quebec government and the provincial police force.

The charges say the acts allegedly committed by Deschesnes, Chabot and Tremblay were committed on or around March 17, 2010, while those allegedly committed by Audette happened between Oct. 27, 2011, and Oct. 15, 2012.

Deschesnes stepped down unexpectedly and was replaced in October 2012 by Mario Laprise.

Laprise, who was named by the newly elected Parti Quebecois government, issued a statement Tuesday after the charges were made public.

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He said the force has instituted measures to review management policies and rules governing expenses.

"All the actions that have been taken in connection with this event have been adopted in the spirit of maintaining the highest standards of integrity within the organization and to retain the public's confidence in their institution," the director-general said.

"Every day, our 7,700 officers and civilian members pursue their mission of service to the public guided by these standards," Laprise said.

According to published reports, the four officers used money from a fund that included money for criminal investigations.

The provincial police news release also said the force will not issue any other comments on the nature of the charges out of the respect for the different legal proceedings that are currently underway.

Jean-Claude Hebert, the lawyer for Chabot, said in an interview that he would not comment on the charges because he doesn't have much information.

"All we know is the name of the accused (and) the charges, but the proof has not yet been divulged," he said. "I'm waiting for the disclosure of the proof and if there are things to say, we'll say them in the courtroom."

Hebert added his first step will be to determine what kind of trial will take place - whether it will by judge and jury or by judge alone.

When contacted by telephone, a secretary for Deschenes' lawyer said he was not granting any interviews.

The Crown prosecutor's office confirmed the charges in a news release.

It also pointed out that in December 2012, Quebec Public Security Minister Stephane Bergeron ordered an internal inquiry, which led to the creation of a special team of

investigators.

Crown spokesman Jean Pascal Boucher says the accusations were laid after "an analysis of all the proof and detailed work" which was carried out during the investigation.

Jan 28 2014

MONTREAL — Quebec provincial police have formally charged their own former director and three other ex-bosses with fraud, theft and breach of trust.

Steven Chabot, Alfred Tremblay, Jean Audette and former top cop Richard Deschenes are accused of siphoning money from a secret police fund to pay a bonus and illegal consulting fees.

The case has given the public a rare look into the internal workings of the police force, known as the SQ.

Deschenes ran the SQ from June 2008 until October 2012, when the Parti Quebecois reassigned him shortly after it took power.

His co-accused, Chabot, who retired in 2010, was the SQ's assistant director in charge of criminal investigations. Audette was Chabot's successor.

Tremblay, the fourth man charged this week, was once a chief inspector at the SQ.

All four men were to be fingerprinted and photographed Wednesday at a Montreal police precinct.

The former officers are scheduled to appear at the Montreal courthouse on Feb. 13.

In December 2012, shortly after the PQ removed Deschenes, Public Security Minister Stephane Bergeron held a news conference to announce an investigation into what he called "extremely disturbing" findings.

He said a secret SQ expense fund had been used for a severance payment and to hire a consultant who was ineligible to work for the government because of back taxes.

The off-the-books fund is earmarked for operations such as drug transactions by undercover officers or to pay informants.

At the time, the minister said the bonus was illegal and "could be a breach of trust by a public official, and fraud."

It later emerged that a \$170,000 severance payment went to Chabot, the former assistant director who's at the centre of the probe.

The case took two dramatic turns in the past two months.

Chabot filed a \$1.5-million defamation suit against current SQ director Mario Laprise, even getting a bailiff to serve papers directly to Laprise's home.

Chabot admits in his lawsuit that he received the \$170,000 retirement bonus and that he was entitled to the money as part of an under-the-table deal.

He accuses the Parti Quebecois of leaking information about the secret deal to the media to harm him and Deschenes.

Then, late last month, a suspicious fire

destroyed a cottage co-owned by Laprise and other former police officers.

One of Laprise's partners in the chalet venture is Bruno Beaulieu, whom QMI Agency later revealed as the man hired by Quebec to investigate the police payments.

QMI's revelations prompted the PQ to issue public statements of support for Beaulieu's independence, despite his relationship with the SQ's current boss.

One person was previously arrested and charged in the spending scandal.

Denis Despelteau, a former SQ senior officer and consultant, was charged last June with fraud, breach of trust, forgery and theft. (QMI Agency)

THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2014

Jan 23 2014

CALGARY - Officials have concluded a Calgary officer was justified in shooting a driver who struck two pedestrians as he was fleeing police.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team said Thursday the officer did not commit a criminal offence, and described his response as heroic.

"The actions of the uniformed police officer in this incident likely saved the elderly couple from being more seriously injured," the agency said in a news release.

Police had stopped a suspicious vehicle outside a bank on May 14 when it started backing up, hit a parked police car then struck the seniors on a sidewalk.

The vehicle reversed and was heading towards the couple again when the uniformed officer fired two shots.

"One of the rounds struck the adult male in the head, causing the vehicle to stop," ASIRT said.

The 38-year-old driver survived but was left permanently blind.

The female pedestrian, who was 78 at the time, underwent surgery for a broken elbow and hip. Her husband was treated in hospital for minor injuries.

Jason Harron is facing several charges, including criminal negligence causing bodily harm and evading police. He has yet to go to trial.

Jan 23 2014

OTTAWA - The RCMP says it has completed a comprehensive file review of murdered and missing aboriginal women and girls within Mountie jurisdiction - more than 400 in all - and will continue to pursue outstanding cases.

Newly disclosed briefing notes say the national police force has reviewed 327 homicide files and 90 missing-persons cases involving aboriginal females.

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In addition, the Native Women's Association of Canada says it is prepared to share its list of aboriginal women who may have met with a violent fate or simply disappeared - but only names gleaned from public sources such as newspapers and posters.

The association says it will not provide the Mounties with private details that may have come from family members and friends of the missing.

The effort would build on an earlier transfer of names to the RCMP involving cases where there was little information to go on.

That prompted the RCMP to ask the native women's association for all 582 names in its database.

Jan 23 2014

MONTREAL - They're no longer being funded by the federal government, but mixed regional police squads targeting organized crime will live on.

The Sûreté du Québec announced Thursday it has reached an agreement with participating police forces to continue operating the squads, which have been in place since 1995, and were credited with dismantling several prominent biker gangs in the province.

The squads combine the SQ, the RCMP and police officers from 19 different municipal squads throughout the province.

The federal government had provided \$8 million annually to operate the squads, but that funding expired last year.

The SQ and the RCMP will contribute half that amount, and the participating municipal police forces will contribute the other half.

In some cases, this has meant more resources from municipal squads have been diverted to the regional ones, but SQ Inspector Patrick Bélanger, who co-ordinates the squads, explained that for the most part, cities have picked up the slack by hiring more police officers.

Under the new structure, the squads will have a slightly different mandate. Rather than targeting street gangs and biker gangs exclusively, they'll go after organized crime in general, Bélanger said.

(Montreal Gazette)

Jan 23 2014

EDMONTON - A criminal charge against an Edmonton Police Service detective accused of assaulting a co-worker was stayed in December only two weeks after it was laid.

Det. Thomas Wilson, 47, was charged with assault on Dec. 4, though police did not publicly release that information until Dec. 10. At the time, a first court appearance for Wilson was scheduled for Jan. 15.

On Dec. 19, the case was moved forward and the charge was stayed at the request of a Crown prosecutor.

"There was no reasonable likelihood of conviction and there was little public interest in what was essentially an incident between two members of the Edmonton Police Service," said Wendy McGrath, a public affairs officer with Alberta Justice.

McGrath declined to comment about why the charge was laid in the first place.

Wilson, a 25-year-member of the EPS, was charged after an investigation by the police service's Professional Standards Branch and a subsequent review by Alberta Justice.

The alleged assault occurred in April 2011.

(Edmonton Journal)

Jan 23 2014


ORILLIA - Fifteen years ago, North Simcoe Victim Crisis Services was launched in a tiny makeshift office at the Orillia OPP detachment.

"Then we got moved up to the supply closet," recalls volunteer coordinator Kim Hewitt of the slightly roomier accommodations that followed.

Today, the service operates out of a portable situated behind the detachment, with a paid staff of four.

"This is a milestone year for us," executive director Pat Hehn says of the 15th anniversary.


Trained staff and a team of more than 70 volunteers help individuals cope with the



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Presenter: Nir Maman

1-4pm: *Iran, Hizbollah, Drug Cartels: Counter-terrorism Considerations*
Presenter: Clare Lopez, CIA (ret'd)

DAY 2: April 30th, 9am - 4pm
Law Enforcement First Response – Tactical Casualty Care (LEFR-TCC)
Presenter: David Steignaga, Yan Regis, Shawn Denty

DAY 2: April 30th
Mentally Ill and Law Enforcement

9am - 12pm: *Suicide by Cop*
Presenter: Jean Guy Gagnon, Forensic Psychiatrist

1pm-4pm: *The Mentally Ill in a Corrections Setting*
Presenter: Dr Yuki Kanomi, Clinical Psychologist

Fee: \$250 – one day; \$400 – two days
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\$225 – one day; \$375 – two days

CCII Canadian Critical Incident Inc.

Day 1: April 29th, 9am - 12pm
Crisis Negotiation

Presenter: Tom Hart, President CCII
Fee: \$100

INTERVIEWING & DECEPTION

Day 1: April 29th, 9am-4pm
The Non Accusatory Interview

Presenters: S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd) and A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret'd)
Fee: \$100

Day 2: April 30th, 9am-4pm
Dealing with Deception

Presenters: A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret'd) and S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd)
Fee: \$100

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impact of traumatic events, providing emotional support, practical assistance, information, and referrals, either on-site or by phone.

The program is offered on a 'victim-consensual' basis in conjunction with the OPP.

"We did over 460 calls last year," says Hehn. "In our first year, we did 187 calls."

Crisis responders are trained to assist individuals faced with a variety of traumatic situations, including domestic violence, sudden death and sexual assault.

(Orillia Today)

FRIDAY JANUARY 24, 2014

Jan 24 2014

WINNIPEG - Nearly 60 members and associates of the Manitoba Warriors have been arrested during a police sting.

The nine-month investigation by the Winnipeg police targeted the gang's drug cells.

Staff Sgt. Max Waddell says the arrests deal a big blow to the top street gang in Winnipeg.

Large quantities of weapons, drugs and cash were seized, including \$21,000 of crack and powder cocaine; \$13,500 cash; ballistic vests; stun guns and nunchuks.

Police and community partners are now working with the younger siblings of the 57 people arrested to try to steer them away from gang culture.

Waddell says it's about getting them involved in more positive activities where they find security and belonging they may otherwise find in a gang.

(CJOB)

Jan 24 2014

PERCIVAL, Sask. - An off-duty RCMP officer had a close call while helping out at an accident scene.

The officer stopped at the scene of a rollover on the TransCanada Highway near Percival, Sask., on Friday evening.

After the officer left his unmarked police cruiser, it was struck by a passing semi-tractor-trailer unit.

The officer was hit by his vehicle as it was knocked into the ditch.

Cpl. Kelly Guider says the officer appeared uninjured but was transported to local hospital to be checked out.

He was later released.

Jan 24 2014

EDMONTON - If forensic psychologist Liam Ennis and the team of police officers he oversees are doing their jobs properly, nothing happens.

Prevention is at the core of Ennis's role as the in-house psychologist at Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams or ALERT, where he works in the specialized practice

of threat assessment.

"We don't kick in any doors," said Ennis, who works for ALERT's Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre or I-TRAC.

Instead, Ennis trains police officers through an understudy program. They learn how to predict risk in domestic violence and stalking situations, with the ultimate aim of preventing violence from occurring.

"It's a really proactive job," said Cpl. Duncan Maxwell, one of six certified threat assessors for I-TRAC and one of 25 in Canada.

Maxwell was an officer for Stony Plain RCMP before beginning the arduous 18-month process in 2009 to become a certified threat assessor.

"Instead of waiting for the phone to ring and responding to a domestic violence situation or, in the worst case, a domestic violence homicide, we are preventing that from occurring," Maxwell said.

Between 2000 and 2010, Alberta recorded 121 domestic homicides.

Police forces across Alberta, be it a rural RCMP detachment or the Edmonton Police Service, can contact I-TRAC when they are concerned about a stalking or domestic violence file.

It's then up to the unit's threat assessors to gather data from a range of sources — boxes full of information, Ennis said — including criminal records, mental health reports and police documents, and to assess the likelihood of violent acts.

It takes about a month for threat assessors to bring all the information they've gathered into a report with detailed recommendations. They can also provide same-day consultation to police if needed.

The unit works on about 150 files a year.

(Edmonton Journal)

SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2014

Jan 25 2014

OAKVILLE - Halton police have begun converting their fleet of Ford Crown Victoria vehicles to the Ford Interceptor AWD Sedan and AWD Utility vehicles.

Police said an extensive evaluation was done to consider members' opinions, technology, maintenance and cost effectiveness — as well as officer safety.

In conjunction with the phasing in of the new vehicles, police said, new mobile workstations are being integrated into the design.

The Panasonic 'Toughbook 19 Notebook/Tablet' will allow officers to access critical information quickly and offer portability.

"The police officer of today operates within a modern and technologically-advanced mobile office that used to be known as

a police car," said Halton police Chief Steve Tanner.

"These new vehicles, complete with advanced mobile workstations, and the best of emergency equipment ensure we not only keep pace with the needs of our officers in the environment in which they work, but that we stay ahead of that curve. We are pleased to provide this high level of equipment to all of our front-line staff in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in all we do."

(Oakville Beaver)

SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2014

Jan 26 2014

TORONTO - An 8.55% pay increase for OPP officers — the result of a provincial government commitment to make them the highest paid cops in Ontario — is forcing up property taxes.

Municipal leaders in communities policed by the OPP say they have to explain to their unhappy residents why property taxes are going up.

And larger municipalities that have their own police services, like Toronto, are bracing for "replicating" arbitration as their officers seek parity with the OPP.

All communities expect difficult negotiations with firefighters and EMS who are eyeing the 8.55% increase.

As of Jan. 1 — when the pay hike took effect — an OPP constable with three years on the job started earning an annual base salary of \$90,621.

There is no complaint from the municipalities about the quality of the service provided by the OPP, but they say it has reached the point where local governments can't afford it anymore.

They're calling on the provincial government to deal with the arbitration system, which they say allows emergency service workers to leapfrog each other's wage hikes without any real consideration of the local taxpayers' ability to pay.

According to the 2012 provincial auditor report, 6,300 OPP officers provide front-line services in some areas of the province, contract with municipalities that do not have their own service, patrol highways and investigate complex criminal cases and organized crimes.

About one-third of the roughly \$1-billion OPP bill is covered by municipalities while the provincial government picks up the remainder.

The auditor pointed out that while serious motor vehicle accidents are down, and calls for service are stable, the cost to municipalities for OPP services has jumped 27% over the same period.

Municipal politicians say this is twice the rate that other services have gone up and has

become unsustainable.

The Ontario Liberal government, under former premier Dalton McGuinty, signed a contract with the OPP that gave them two years of zero increases followed by a catch-up in 2014 to make them the highest paid in the province.

That year has arrived and the 8.55% pay hike is costing municipalities hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Our government has taken steps to manage compensation growth while working in partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA)," said Seirge LeBlanc, a spokesman for Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Madeleine Meilleur.

"The OPPA agreed to a two-year wage freeze in 2012 and 2013," LeBlanc added in a statement. "In the three years prior to 2012, compensation increases were 1% per year lower than historic wage trends for comparable police forces. The most recent agreement will bring OPP officers in line with their colleagues across the province."

But as the Toronto Sun reported previously, even the two years of zero per cent came with a hidden salary sweetener — 2% and 4% hikes in 2012 and 2013, respectively, for 11 different categories of officers.

Prior to the two-year pay freeze, OPP officers got a 5% pay hike.

That contract was negotiated during an election year, and the next agreement could be as well.

(Toronto Sun)

MONDAY
JANUARY 27, 2014

Jan 27 2014

OTTAWA - When the RCMP's covert-operations unit secured a "top-secret" headquarters for an anti-terrorism project On Ottawa's east side in 2009, it was anything but clandestine.

Some Mounties were signing their real names to set up bank accounts for undercover business fronts headquartered at the Ottawa warehouse, and one administrative officer who asked about guidelines for setting up the covert fronts was told there were none.

These details about a secret anti-terrorism operation called Project RAVE were revealed at an RCMP disciplinary hearing Monday for Supt. Mike Gaudreau.

Gaudreau was the force's covert-ops expert before he was removed from office for alleged disgraceful conduct. The sanction came after a real estate agent — his girlfriend at the time — was paid a commission on a \$3-million commercial lease connected to the operation.

In testimony at the disciplinary hearing, a retired RCMP sergeant said he was new to

undercover work and thought it was odd that officers would be using their real names to establish bank accounts for the fronts.

Gilbert Bouffard testified that there were no RCMP guidelines about setting up business fronts for such an undercover operation.

The retired Mountie testified that he questioned why bank accounts for business fronts would be set up under real names of officers.

"How covert is that?" Bouffard asked.

Bouffard then said it seemed as though too many people knew about the force's secret anti-terrorism project. "Why do so many people know about a covert company if it's supposed to be covert?"

Bouffard wrote a memo to his superiors

on Sept. 10, 2009 saying it was "crucial" that someone be assigned to manage the \$1-million "top-secret" project. He also said he was told that the real estate agent could be trusted because she was Gaudreau's girlfriend.

The Mounties called in the Ontario Provincial Police anti-rackets branch in 2011 to investigate allegations that Gaudreau concealed his relationship with the real estate agent prior to her getting the \$3-million RCMP real estate deal.

A two-year probe yielded no charges.

The secret lease in question was for the warehouse to be used as the business front for Project RAVE.

Gaudreau says the allegation destroyed

~ NOTE ~

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BLUE LINE NEWS WEEK



January 24, 2014

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his career and reputation. He has filed a \$1.2-million lawsuit against the Mounties and its top officers, claiming they abused their authority to target him in a politically charged investigation.

In his statement of claim, filed in Ontario Superior Court, Gaudreau says he declared his personal relationship with the real estate agent and made it clear he was staying at "arm's length" because of it.

The senior officer also says the Mounties did a background check on her.

Gaudreau also says in court filings that the RCMP pursued an investigation against him, even though it learned from the outset that he did not conceal his relationship with the agent.

The allegation and the investigation took a toll, with his children left "embarrassed and humiliated." His relationships with family, friends and colleagues have suffered greatly, states his lawsuit.

Gaudreau says his life took a rapid turn after the allegation surfaced. His physical health deteriorated to the point that he was forced on medical leave and has sought counselling for emotional stress that made him the object of contempt and ridicule, say court filings.

His statement of claim also alleges that top Mounties leaked statements to the Citizen about the internal-affairs case to discredit him.

Gaudreau's hearing under the RCMP Act was to resume Tuesday.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Jan 27 2014

WINDSOR, Ont. - A veteran Windsor police officer has been demoted for 18 months.

Paul Bridgeman is being immediately reduced in rank from staff sergeant to sergeant in connection with an assault case involving a former detective on the Windsor force.

Bridgeman, who has 28 years of experience, was found guilty of neglect of duty and discreditable conduct in September, following a Police Act hearing.

Bridgeman was found guilty of endorsing a charge of assault against a city doctor when in fact, it was the doctor who had been assaulted by the former detective, David Van Buskirk.

The assault was caught on video outside of the Jackson Park Health Centre in 2010.

Jan 27 2014

OTTAWA - Canada's spy agency says the death of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden hasn't extinguished al-Qaida's desire to attack western countries.

In its latest public report, covering the period 2011-13, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service says the al-Qaida core remains a dangerous terrorist group.

CSIS says the group still intends to carry out spectacular attacks against the West and

to influence others to do the same.

The intelligence service expects the group's core will remain based in the Afghan-Pakistan border tribal areas for the foreseeable future, and that it will continue to pose a threat to Canadian security.

The report also says there have been a significant number of cyberattacks against Canadian agencies at all levels of government.

In addition, CSIS says it is aware of a wide range of such attacks against the private sector in Canada.

Jan 27 2014

VEGREVILLE, Alta. - A trial date has been set for a man accused of shooting one RCMP officer and running another over.

Michael Leslie Johnson, 33, of Vegreville, Alta., faces 36 charges including four counts of attempted murder.

His first court appearance was on Monday, and he appeared in Vegreville court via closed-circuit television from the Edmonton Remand Centre.

His trial will begin in Vegreville on May 20 and he will remain in custody.

Five officers went to a farm near Tofield on Jan. 6 to investigate reports of a death threat and the theft of some firearms.

They said they found a suspect hiding in a shed and a confrontation ensued, with one officer being grazed by a bullet and another being severely hurt when he was run over by a truck. (CHED)



Jan 28 2014

SURREY - A Surrey man accused of injuring two Mounties in a traffic crash in Newton on Monday has now been charged with two counts of criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

James Burton Weaver, 47, appeared in Surrey provincial court Tuesday.

The two Surrey RCMP officers were taken to hospital Monday after they were injured in a crash outside the Newton District police office.

Police say just before 3 p.m. Monday, a male officer was standing between two cars and was pinned when a vehicle travelling through the parking lot struck a parked police car, pushing it into another parked cruiser.

A female officer who was sitting in a police car at the time was also injured.

Both were taken to hospital with what was first believed to be serious, but non-life threatening injuries. It turned out the injuries weren't as bad as initially thought, and both have been released from hospital. The male sustained minor injuries to his leg and the female officer was treated for soft tissue injuries, a haematoma to

left shoulder and torn rotator cuff.

Surrey RCMP thanks the community for their kind words of support. "The outpouring of support for the officers from this community has been inspiring," said Sgt. Dale Carr.

(Surrey Now)

Jan 28 2014

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - The auditorium of a Kamloops, B.C., secondary school was filled to capacity Monday night as anxious parents received a crash course in social media and how its misuse could change the lives of their teenagers.

Mounties and the Kamloops-Thompson School District called the meeting after an investigation was launched earlier this month into several students, accused of sharing inappropriate material online.

Social media expert Jesse Miller told parents they must warn their children about the consequences of unacceptable online behaviour.

He says those repercussions can include being thrown out of school, stripped of a scholarship, or even having the incident affect future employment.

Corp. Bob Jones says the gathering was an important education for many families.

Police have released few details of the incident that sparked Monday's meeting, but Jones says charges being considered against some teens could range from uttering threats to intimidation or making and distributing child pornography. (CHNL)

Jan 28 2014

HALIFAX - Halifax police have arrested a man previously convicted of impaired driving causing death after he allegedly violated his court-ordered conditions by entering a liquor store.

Police arrested Michael Gerard Cooper, who was released from prison last week on conditions including a two-year order to abstain from buying, possessing or drinking alcohol.

Officers allege the 55-year-old man entered a liquor store in Halifax today, contrary to his court-imposed conditions.

Mike Maloney, a spokesman for Nova Scotia Liquor Corp., says an employee at the liquor store phoned police who later arrested the accused.

Cooper faces two charges of breaching his recognizance.

After Cooper's conviction in 2007, the Parole Board of Canada said he told them he would likely continue drinking and driving, which prompted the board to deny him an early release.

His case attracted attention after the parents of a teenager killed in a collision with Cooper's vehicle asked Nova Scotia authorities to provide Cooper's name and photo to liquor stores, bars and other licensed establishments.



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Jan 28 2014

EDMONTON - Alberta's chief medical examiner says the system is too splintered and disconnected when it comes to determining why and how children die in government care.

Dr. Anny Sauvageau told a meeting on foster care that the province needs to create a specific committee of experts with the authority and resources to examine all child deaths.

She also says her office needs a broader mandate to examine not only the manner of death, but to propose ways to prevent similar tragedies.

She says while current fatality review hearings are held to make recommendations to prevent deaths of children in care, no one in government is tasked with checking to see if the recommendations are ever acted on.

Sauvageau is one of several experts and policymakers attending a two-day conference to determine how to publicly report more information on children who die in government care.

The meeting is the result of a series of PostMedia stories late last year that found the province covered up the deaths of 89 children in care since 1999.

Jan 28 2014

L'ISLE-VERTE, Que. - The first provincial police officers on the scene of last Thursday's deadly nursing home fire prevented a much higher death toll, sources told QMI Agency.

Officers saved a dozen seniors from the inferno in this small town two hours northeast of Quebec City.

Provincial police on Tuesday announced that two more bodies have been pulled from the rubble, bringing the death toll to 16 dead with 16 others missing.

A source said one policeman ran into the home three times without a mask, holding his breath and smashing doors to drag people to safety.

Another officer persuaded a person stuck on a third-floor balcony to jump, a decision that saved the elderly man's life.

Provincial police said the officers are still in shock and don't want to be interviewed for now.

Recovery crews continued to sift through the rubble of the Residence du Havre on Tuesday. Three of the 16 bodies have been identified and the coroner's office has said its lab is "stretched to the limit."

(QMI Agency)

Jan 28 2014

VANCOUVER - A man who committed what the National Parole Board calls one of the most heinous crimes in the history of B.C. will be allowed to leave prison for up to 72 hours a month.

Steven Leclair shot and killed three people in a Vancouver bar in September 1980, then drove to the RCMP detachment in

Richmond, B.C., where he killed one officer and wounded another.

After more than three decades in prison, a board says he still has treatment needs and his reintegration into the community should be monitored and gradual.

The board says Leclair may have unescorted absences from prison for a total of 72 hours a month, including one 48-hour leave and another 24-hour leave, as long as he abides by a long list of conditions.

Leclair asked for longer leaves to spend time with his wife, shop, go to a movie and attend church in an undisclosed location somewhere in the Vancouver area.

In a written decision, the board says there will always be a question mark around whether Leclair will re-offend.

Jan 28 2014

GEORGIAN BLUFFS, Ont. - Ontario Provincial Police say they're investigating after one of their cruisers was hit twice on Highway 21 west of Owen Sound.

Police say an officer responded to a report of a vehicle in the ditch on the highway on Tuesday morning, and the parked cruiser was struck from behind by a van.

The officer - who had been sitting in the car - was taken to hospital as a precaution.

OPP say the disabled, unattended cruiser was struck from behind by a second vehicle about 90 minutes later.

Jan 28 2014

Prosecutors from across the country are planning a teleconference this week to discuss best practices for dealing with sex trade workers and their customers in light of a recent Supreme Court decision, according to New Brunswick's assistant deputy attorney general.

Luc Labonté said many jurisdictions are struggling with how to respond to last month's unanimous ruling, which struck down Canada's anti-prostitution laws.

The issue "has many implications" and "all my counterparts across Canada are trying to resolve how to best address this case," Labonté stated in an email to CBC News.

In its Dec. 20 ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada gave Parliament one year to come up with new legislation.

The confusion comes from the fact that the anti-prostitution laws remain part of the Criminal Code for the next year, while the government decides what to do.

Labonté expects the majority of prostitution-related offences before New Brunswick courts will be withdrawn until the legislation is rewritten. The exception would involve cases of exploitative relationships, he said.

On Monday, Crown prosecutors in Moncton dropped prostitution charges against six

men who were accused of trying to hire prostitutes in light of the ruling.

Last week, Saint John Police Force Chief Bill Reid said his officers won't be charging people with prostitution offences until federal laws are clarified.

"I think it would be a bit of a fool's errand right now to start laying charges, certainly in lieu of the decision by the attorney general's office not to go down that way."

Reid said his officers have resorted to sending registered letters to suspected 'johns' that explain their vehicles have been seen in an area that is frequented by prostitutes.

Once the heads of prosecution across Canada discuss the matter, Labonté said he expects to "review whether or not there is a need to amend our present course of action."

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 29, 2014

Jan 29 2014

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - The inquest into the fatal police shooting of a disabled former soldier is entering its final hours in Prince George, B.C.

A member of the Independent Investigations Office returns to the stand as a coroner's jury hears details about the death of Greg Matters in September 2012.

When testimony from Robin Stutt concludes, the jury is expected to begin considering evidence presented earlier this week and during two weeks of hearings last year.

Stutt has testified that he led the IIO team that examined the shooting, which happened as an emergency response team surrounded the 15-year military veteran on a rural property near Prince George, to arrest him for assaulting his brother.

Matters suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and had been investigated for several confrontations with police and court officials in the months leading up to the standoff.

An IIO report cleared the RCMP of any wrongdoing, but questions have been raised about the IIO finding that the 40-year-old was shot in the chest when a pathologist's report shows he was hit twice in the back.

(CKPG)

Jan 29 2014

SELWYN - Selwyn Township's CAO is recommending the municipality have soon-to-be-formed Peterborough Police Service handle policing duties in Lakefield next year.

The report, which will be discussed at Tuesday (Jan. 28) night's council meeting, is calling for the Township to enter into negotiations with Peterborough for a two-year

contract for police services for Lakefield.

Currently, Peterborough-Lakefield police are responsible for policing of the village. However, by the end of 2014 the police force will no longer exist and a new Peterborough Police Service will be created.

The decision by Peterborough City Council to go alone on policing has placed Selwyn Township in a tight spot. Two thirds of the municipality - former Smith and Ennismore townships - are policed by the OPP. However, the OPP is currently reviewing how it bills municipalities for police services and is unable to provide an estimate on what it would charge for providing policing to Lakefield.

In her report to councillors, CAO Janice Lavalley explains there are currently two options available for the township.

Option one is to negotiate a short, two-year contract with the City of Peterborough for police services in Lakefield.

Option two is to establish a pay-as-you-go arrangement with the OPP.

Ms Lavalley says option one is preferable because it would provide the least amount of transition for Lakefield. That would allow the municipality to have more time to examine its long-term policing needs as well as have a better understanding of how the new Peterborough police force operates.

If a deal cannot be reached with the City of Peterborough, she explains the township can then set up the pay-as-you-go arrangement with the OPP.

(Peterborough This Week)

Jan 29 2014

EDMONTON - Alberta's first top-ranking female RCMP officer says she has always been treated with respect as a gay officer in the force.

While the RCMP have been rocked by allegations of harassment in recent months and face several lawsuits, newly appointed assistant Commissioner Marianne Ryan said she has been treated well.

She choked back tears Wednesday as she thanked her partner during a change-of-command ceremony in Edmonton.

"I think it's important to be who you are and the RCMP is a very diverse and welcoming organization. And after 32 years, I'm very proud to be in the organization because of who we are," she told reporters afterwards.

"I'm very fortunate to be able to say the RCMP has always treated me with a great deal of respect."

An RCMP spokesman said Ryan is the first openly gay officer in charge of Alberta.

Ryan grew up on a farm in London, Ont., and joined the force in 1982, after graduating from university. She spent 19 years working her way up the ranks in Manitoba before transferring to Vancouver.

In 2011, she became the officer in charge of criminal operations for Alberta. Last fall,



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she was appointed commanding officer of the province, taking over for retiring deputy commissioner Dale McGowan.

Jan 29 2014

VANCOUVER - B.C.'s Criminal Justice Branch has announced that no charges will be laid in three separate incidents involving police in Chilliwack, Prince George and Vancouver.

The decision comes after the head of the Independent Investigations Office forwarded reports to the branch indicating the officers involved last summer may have committed an offence.

But in each of the three cases, the branch has concluded there isn't a substantial likelihood that the officers would be convicted.

In the Chilliwack case, a man suffered serious jaw injuries and was jolted by a Taser three times during an arrest after police responded to a man-with-a-knife call.

In the Prince George incident, police chased a driver and passenger on an ATV that crashed into the police cruiser, seriously hurting the passenger.

Vancouver police won't be charged after chasing a man through a steel fence with a police vehicle, sending him flying six metres and resulting in significant leg injuries.

Jan 29 2014

WHITE ROCK, B.C. - Mounties in Coquitlam, B.C., are conducting an independent investigation into why an RCMP officer in White Rock shot at a suspect vehicle with three people inside.

Sgt. Peter Thiessen says plainclothes officers were conducting a drug investigation into what's believed to be a so-called crack shack.

He says that during the investigation, an officer shot at the vehicle as it left the area.

Thiessen says there were no injuries to the three occupants, who were subsequently arrested.

Jan 29 2014

ORILLIA, Ont. - Two provincial police officers were injured Wednesday when their cruisers were struck by other vehicles.

Police say an officer was taken to hospital when his cruiser was hit by a tractor-trailer while he was stopped at the side of Highway 10 in Brampton, Ont.

The officer was trapped in the vehicle after it was pushed against a guardrail. His injuries are considered minor.

Earlier in the day, a female officer was injured after her cruiser was hit by a tractor-trailer west of Orangeville. Her injuries were also non-life-threatening.

Another cruiser was hit earlier this week, and this past weekend eight OPP cruisers were struck by passing motorists. Two police officers received minor injuries.

OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis says the

collisions are happening because motorists are not driving for the winter conditions.

(Newstalk 1010, The Canadian Press)



Jan 30 2014

VANCOUVER - The Canada Border Services Agency has commented on the in-custody death of a 42-year-old Mexican woman.

Lucia Vega Jimenez was rushed to hospital December 20th after she was found hanging in a shower stall at the Vancouver airport's immigration holding centre.

She died in hospital about a week later, but news of the death didn't surface in media reports until this week.

The group No One is Illegal says when Vega Jimenez's sister came to Vancouver last month to take her sister's remains back to Mexico, she signed a non-disclosure agreement with the agency.

The border agency refused a telephone interview but in an emailed statement says it never asked Jimenez's family to sign a confidentiality agreement.

The agency says detainees are informed of their legal rights and are allowed access to lawyers, telephones and visitors, and it's paramount concern is the health and safety of those in its care.

Jan 30 2014

CHARLOTTETOWN - Police in Charlottetown are carrying out a series of drug raids across the city.

Deputy chief Gary McGuigan says police expect to make more than 40 arrests today as part of a sweep of the city's drug trade.

McGuigan says the raids follow a four-month-long investigation called Operation Clean Sweep.

He says police from Summerside, Kensington and the RCMP are assisting as officers continue searches of homes and properties in connection with the operation.

McGuigan says police will be releasing more details as the raids unfold today and at a new conference on Friday.

Jan 30 2014

OTTAWA - A Conservative appointee to the Parole Board of Canada shared private details about offenders with the Ontario Provincial Police, says a new report by public sector integrity commissioner Mario Dion.

The findings shed light on why former police officer Frederick Tufnell was mysteriously demoted last fall from his position as vice-chairman of the Ontario/Nunavut

regional division of the parole board.

The Conservative government named Tufnell, a former York region police officer, to the board in 2009 and elevated him to the vice-chairman's job two years later.

Cabinet orders-in-council show the government demoted Tufnell in October and asked him to explain why he should not lose the posting. His explanation apparently did not satisfy the government, prompting his demotion.

However, he remains a member of the parole board.

A report released Thursday by Dion's office offered some insight into Tufnell's demotion.

Tufnell shared the release dates of criminals and the anticipated conditions of their releases with police, Dion said.

"There are policies governing these matters at both the parole board and the correctional service," he said.

"Mr. Tufnell went out of these channels and essentially did what he thought was appropriate but did not follow the rules that are applicable at the federal level."

It's unclear why Tufnell shared offenders' information with police. A call to provincial police spokeswoman Sgt. Kristine Rae was not immediately returned.

Dion's office also found that Tufnell behaved inappropriately towards female staff and put himself in a conflict of interest by getting involved in a file he had previously recused himself from for reasons of bias.

Tufnell apparently had some involvement with the person's case during his days as a police officer, Dion said.

The integrity commissioner's report says Tufnell sent emails expressing his view of the case, then ordered a second review of a decision made by the parole board and demanded that a new decision be taken.

The report says Tufnell ultimately got the decision he wanted - even though he wasn't supposed to have been involved in the case.

"All I know is he asked for a new review of a decision already validly made by two members," Dion said.

"I assume he did not like the decision, otherwise he would not have asked for a review."

The investigation also found that Tufnell would put his hands on the knees of female staff when speaking to them, touch their backs, arms, necks and hair and make flirty and offensive jokes.

Tufnell was also found to have given back massages to female staff and to have let a woman who worked with him rub his feet, which he later claimed was a form of palm reading.

He also criticized colleagues to people outside the organization.

Tufnell's actions came to light as part of another investigation into the parole board, Dion said, although he would not provide any details about that case.