

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY February 28, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 9

## Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## OPP names new commissioner

Feb 20 2014

**TORONTO - A new commissioner has been named to lead the Ontario Provincial Police.**

Vince Hawkes, who joined the force in 1984, will take over the top post from Commissioner Chris Lewis, who steps down on March 28 after a 35-year career.

Hawkes has served in a variety of senior positions, most recently as deputy commissioner of field operations where he's been responsible for services to more than 300 communities across the province.

He also served as provincial commander of investigations and organized crime, winning national recognition for his work on several committees on organized crime and leading the development of a national strategy.

When he takes over on March 29, he'll be the OPP's 14th commissioner.

Premier Kathleen Wynne congratulated Hawkes on the appointment Thursday, and thanked Lewis for helping to make the province "safer and stronger."



Hawkes is a graduate of the University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and has received the Police Officer Exemplary Service Medal and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

In 2010, he was invested as an Officer in the Order of Merit of the Police Forces in recognition of his exceptional service.



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Feb 20 2014

**VICTORIA - British Columbia's former lieutenant governor is one of two new judges appointed to the provincial court.**

Steven Point will start in his new position in Abbotsford on March 3.

He was first appointed to the provincial court in 1999 but took a leave of absence in 2005 when he was appointed chief commissioner of the B.C. Treaty Process.

Point retired from the bench in 2007 when he became lieutenant governor, a position he held for five years.

Judge Shannon Keyes will be assigned to Prince George and will begin her new duties next Tuesday.

She is leaving her current job as a lawyer for the Criminal Justice Branch, where she has worked for nearly 14 years.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 20 2014

**The B.C. Coroners Service has called an inquest into the death of a 52-year-old man who was shot and killed by Vancouver police in 2012 outside a McDonald's restaurant at Hastings and Cassiar.**

The inquest, which begins July 7, comes 10 months after the Independent Investigations Office cleared a Vancouver Police Department officer of any wrongdoing in the Oct. 29, 2012 shooting death of Christopher Ray.

Barbara McLintock, a spokesperson for

the coroners service, said the inquest was called because the mandate of the agency is different than that of the investigations' office, which can recommend charges to Crown counsel.

"We're a fact-finding agency, not a fault-finding agency," McLintock told the Courier.

Ray was killed after police responded to a report in the 400-block of Skeena Street of a man behaving erratically, including cracking the window in the lobby of a condominium complex and striking vehicles.

The report from the investigations' office said an officer shot Ray twice after he advanced on him "in what seemed to be a sprint." After Ray fell to the ground outside the restaurant, the officer found a Leatherman multi-tool knife on the ground next to Ray.

Several witness accounts revealed the officer repeatedly told Ray to stay back and keep away. One witness told investigators Ray was running "with his hand stretched out, like the guy was going to go and try to stab the cop."

One witness, who was interviewed 18 days after the shooting, said she observed the incident from across the street, which occurred about 8:30 p.m.

"She appeared to suggest that she did not see a reason for Mr. Ray to have been shot," wrote Richard Rosenthal, the Chief Civilian Director of the investigations' office. "She also made comments, however, which suggested that she was not certain of her own observations."

The officer had a beanbag shotgun in a police van when he arrived at the scene. But, he explained, the incident escalated too fast for him to grab the shotgun, which police often resort to when dealing with suspects difficult to restrain.

"Under the circumstances, the officer was in harm's way and lawfully used deadly force to defend himself," Rosenthal wrote.

Coroner Chico Newell will preside over the inquest at the coroners court in Burnaby. Although the jury cannot make any findings of legal responsibility, it can make recommendations aimed at preventing future deaths under similar circumstances.

(Vancouver Courier)

Feb 20 2014

**EDMONTON - High-needs homeless people receiving assistance through a collaborative community project in Edmonton are having fewer run-ins with police, freeing up resources for more serious matters.**

Launched last year, the Heavy Users of Service Project is slowly reaping benefits by identifying some of the city's most troubled and vulnerable individuals and getting them help. The initiative is a partnership between Edmonton police, the City of Edmonton, Alberta Health Services and 13 other health,

social and housing organizations.

"I think these individuals want help, they just don't know how to help themselves," David Veitch, superintendent for the Edmonton Police Service and project chairman, said after providing a one-year update at the monthly meeting of the Edmonton Police Commission. "That's what we want to do."

Veitch said better co-ordination is needed between partners to address the complex needs of the program's clients, who are often addicts dealing with mental health issues.

They are more often a nuisance than law-breakers, Veitch said.

"It is wrong for us to criminalize this type of behaviour. Some of these are things that people have to do when they live on the street," he said. "We want to help these individuals get to safer place, wherever it might be."

The goal of the project is to create individual care plans for 50 people and evaluate their progress over one to two years. Using that information, the group will try to streamline a system to best meet their needs.

Addressing the commission, Veitch and Lisa Bromley, who works for Edmonton police as part of the initiative, documented the history of several clients with whom they have been working.

One homeless man with alcohol and addiction issues and untreated mental problems had contact with police 80 times from March through December of last year. After going to detox and receiving continuing care through the program, he has come into contact with police only once in the last three months, and that was for a health issue.

"What we are finding is that, over time, we are getting a little more efficient at this," Veitch said.

The program is critical to help the homeless, and relieve the burden on police, deputy police chief Brian Simpson said.

"Seeing somebody 50 times in a short period is not sustainable for this police service," said Simpson. "We know putting them in jail is not going to help."

"We need to look at a better solution."

Feb 20 2014

**EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service is being sued for \$40,000 for identifying an accused young offender in three city newspapers during an effort to convince people with outstanding warrants to turn themselves in.**

The campaign, launched in February 2012, encouraged people to turn themselves in or risk being publicly identified and embarrassed by police. In April, police printed the name and photos of three people with outstanding criminal warrants under the banner "Do you know these people?" The information appeared in three newspapers and on the police department's website.

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One of the people identified was a 16-year-old girl. Under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, a young offender's identity can only be published with a court order. The girl's photo and description was removed from the police website the same day.

The public identification of the girl was "intentional and highly offensive," reads the girl's statement of claim. In addition to breaching her rights, the identification caused the teen "distress, humiliation, anguish and other mental suffering," the lawsuit states.

The suit names several officers, including Chief Rod Knecht; Staff Sgt. Regan James, then head of the targeted offender's section; and Steve Young, a former officer and current Tory MLA for Edmonton-Riverview. James and Young were both involved in launching the campaign.

Days after the girl was identified, Knecht released a written statement and acknowledged the girl's identity was released without authority.

"This was absolutely unacceptable for the Edmonton Police Service, and for this we sincerely apologize to the youth, the family and Edmontonians," Knecht wrote.

When the police campaign ended in April, nearly 2,700 people with outstanding warrants has been arrested.

The lawsuit points out that the EPS had previously "wrongfully publicized information about another young person."

In August 2011, police released the name and photo of a 17-year-old girl wanted for sexual assault after she failed to tell two partners she was HIV-positive. Police were granted a temporary court order to release the girl's identity, but police did not immediately remove all identifying information from the Internet once she was arrested.

Statements of claim contain allegations not proven in court.



Feb 21 2014

**Alexandria Harnum, who pleaded guilty to assaulting a sheriff's officer by pulling her hair out, has now been charged with assaulting other officers.**

Harnum, 22, is accused of assaulting three officers on Thursday. She allegedly kicked one officer and bit two others.

She is also charged with spitting on her lawyer Derek Hogan.

However, Hogan told the court on Friday that he will continue to represent Harnum, and that wants the charges dropped.

Harnum – who has a history of mental health issues – has had several outbursts in court.

She is due back on March 4.

(CBC News)

Feb 21 2014

**Two transit police officers initially charged with assault in relation to an incident on SkyTrain in February 2012 will appear in Vancouver court Friday, facing several more charges following an investigation by the Vancouver Police Department.**

Const. Bruce Shipley and Const. Alfred Wong are charged with public mischief, breach of trust, and fabrication of evidence, in addition to the original assault charges.

Transit police spokesperson Anne Drennan said the charges stem from new information related to Shipley's and Wong's actions in February 2012, when they allegedly physically assaulted and pepper-sprayed a 27-year-old man at Granville Station.

Both Shipley and Wong were charged in August 2013 and have been on administrative duties since.

(CBC News)

Feb 21 2014

**NEW YORK - A federal judge has ruled that the New York Police Department's surveillance of Muslims in New Jersey was a lawful effort to prevent terrorism, not a civil rights violation.**

In a decision filed Thursday in federal court in Newark, U.S. District Judge William Martini dismissed a lawsuit brought in 2012 by eight Muslims who alleged that the NYPD's surveillance programs were unconstitutional because they focused on religion, national origin and race. The suit accused the department of spying on ordinary people at mosques, restaurants and schools in New Jersey since 2002.

Martini said he was not convinced that the plaintiffs were targeted solely because of their religion. "The more likely explanation for the surveillance was to locate budding terrorist conspiracies," he wrote.

The judge added: "The police could not have monitored New Jersey for Muslim terrorist activities without monitoring the Muslim community itself."

Farhaj Hassan, a plaintiff in the case and a U.S. soldier who served in Iraq, said he was disappointed by the ruling.

"I have dedicated my career to serving my country, and this just feels like a slap in the face - all because of the way I pray," he said.

The Center for constitutional Rights in New York and the California-based civil rights organization Muslim Advocates, which represented the plaintiffs, also called the decision troubling.

"In addition to wilfully ignoring the harm that our innocent clients suffered from the NYPD's illegal spying program, by upholding the NYPD's blunderbuss Muslim surveillance practices, the court's decision gives legal sanction to the targeted discrimination of Muslims anywhere and everywhere in this

country, without limitation, for no other reason than their religion," CCR Legal Director Baher Azmy said.

The lawsuit followed a series of stories by The Associated Press based on confidential NYPD documents that showed how the department sought to infiltrate dozens of mosques and Muslim student groups in New York and elsewhere.

Martini faulted the AP for its use of the documents.

"The Associated Press covertly obtained the materials and published them without authorization," he wrote. "Thus the injury, if any existed, is not fairly traceable to the city."

The AP declined to comment on the ruling.

The city's Law Department also declined comment. Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly had been staunch supporters of the surveillance programs, saying they were needed to protect the city from terrorist attacks.

A similar lawsuit filed in federal court in Brooklyn is still pending.

Feb 21 2014

**CALGARY - A Calgary couple says they are returning money raised on their behalf for vet bills after they reported their dog had been taken from their backyard.**

The man said he searched the neighbourhood and found the pet hog-tied and with a belt around its muzzle.

An online fundraising site then raised 17-hundred dollars, to pay for the dog's vet bills.

But investigators found no evidence the dog was taken, and a vet found no injuries indicating the dog had been tied up.

The couple tells CTV Calgary they are returning the money for the vet bills.

Police say they are looking at having the donations returned to the donors.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 21 2014

**WINNIPEG - The Hells Angels Motorcycle Club has been officially deemed a criminal organization by Manitoba Justice.**

Attorney General Andrew Swan says Manitoba is the first jurisdiction in North America to take the action.

The change does not affect criminal code cases, but makes it much easier for the province to seize property from gang members and evict them from houses.

Until now, Crown prosecutors had to prove the gang was a criminal organization during each court case.

Swan first announced the plan to designate the Hells Angels as a criminal organization last May and the application was reviewed by a three-member panel.

Swan says the Hells Angels did not file any objections.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 21 2014

### **OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada says two Quebec men charged with drug and weapons trafficking will have to stand trial again.**

In a 6-1 decision today, the high court upheld a 2012 Quebec Court of Appeal decision ordering a new trial for Antal Babos and Sergio Piccirilli.

The two were arrested in 2006 during an RCMP-Quebec provincial police operation aimed at stopping drug and weapons trafficking.

Their trial ended with a stay of proceedings in November 2008 after the judge determined the Crown and police had abused their powers.

One of the accused said a prosecutor tried to intimidate them into pleading guilty by threatening to add more charges.

The other accused alleged that two police officers colluded to mislead the court about the circumstances surrounding a firearm seizure. And a third complaint involved the Crown gaining access to the medical files of one of the accused in an irregular manner.

The two men were appealing the new trial ordered by Quebec's highest court.

Feb 21 2014

### **EDMONTON - Alberta's top court has ruled the province's laws do not need to be printed and published in both English and French.**

The Court of Appeal of Alberta dismissed a challenge by two men who were given traffic tickets several years ago.

Gilles Caron and Pierre Boutet fought the tickets in court because they were written only in English.

A trial judge tossed the tickets in 2008, but a Court of Queen's Bench judge later overturned that ruling.

The Appeal Court says it agrees that Alberta is not constitutionally required to publish all of its legislation in both languages.

Lawyers representing the men are deciding whether to take the case to the Supreme Court.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 21 2014

### **COMOX, B.C. - Military police have arrested two soldiers over allegedly homophobic and racist comments made on a Facebook page.**

The Department of National Defence says military police received complaints of defamation and harassment in early January over posts on the "Cpl Boggins" Facebook page and two members of Canadian Forces Base Petawawa were arrested on Jan. 22.

No charges have been laid but earlier this month, military police received a new complaint for comments posted on another Facebook page with the same name.

Military spokesman Maj. Yves Desbiens says the investigation continues and

no further details can be released.

Katherine Bickford, a retired soldier whose same-sex partner works at 19 Wing Comox on Vancouver Island, says the couple has been identified and harassed on the page along with other same-sex, single-mother and minority members of the Forces.

Bickford says she believes some of the comments are threatening but Comox Valley RCMP have told her there's not much they can do about the online comments.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 21 2014

### **VANCOUVER - In a switch from the well-known dial-a-dope bust, Vancouver Police say they've busted a dope dialing - but the outcome was very similar.**

Const. Brian Montague says a man was pulled over on the city's west side for using a cellphone while driving.

When he couldn't produce a valid licence, police searched the vehicle.

That's when several thousand dollars worth of cocaine, crack, heroin and methamphetamine were seized during a search of his car.

Drug-related charges are pending, but officers say the man can mull some more immediate bills.

He faces fines of just under \$450 for the distracted driving and licence infractions.

Feb 21 2014

### **OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has restored a sex assault conviction against a Prince Edward Island man.**

Jeffery Lea Hogg of Kensington was convicted in 2012 and later sentenced to 27 months in prison.

In a split decision in August 2013, the Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal threw out the conviction and ordered a new trial.

The appeal court found that the trial judge erred in weighing the evidence.

The Supreme Court, in a rare ruling from the bench today, overturned the court of appeal and restored the original conviction.

Written reasons for the decision were not immediately released.

Feb 21 2014

### **SURREY, B.C. - RCMP in British Columbia are appealing for the public's help in identifying a man wanted in a disturbing acid attack.**

Mounties say the man entered a Surrey business on Sept. 7 and threw a jar of acid on the owner's wife in what police believe was a targeted attack.

He then fled on foot and likely got into a vehicle waiting nearby.

Surrey RCMP say they've exhausted all possible avenues of investigation and today released video footage, hoping someone in the public may be able to identify the suspect.

In the video, a white male can be seen

carrying a clear glass-type mug with clear liquid inside.

Cpl. Bert Paquet says the attack has had devastating consequences for the victim.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 21 2014

### **HALIFAX - A Halifax area man has been handed a 5 1/2-year prison sentence for breaking into a south-end Halifax mansion in 2012 and trying to abduct the owner, a mining executive.**

Twenty-year-old Aaron Patrick MacDonald pleaded guilty last month to four charges: break, enter and attempted abduction; break, enter and pointing a firearm; possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose; and wearing a mask in the commission of an indictable offence.

MacDonald was sentenced Friday in Halifax provincial court.

Judge Michel Sherar adopted a joint recommendation from lawyers and gave MacDonald two years' credit for his remand time, leaving him with 3 1/2 years to serve.

MacDonald was masked, wearing dark clothing and carrying a gun when he confronted Brad Langille on the lower level of his Oakland Road home on the morning of Oct. 16, 2012.

Langille hit a panic button and got away from MacDonald, who dropped his weapon, a replica 9-mm handgun, as he fled the property.

(Halifax Chronicle Herald)

Feb 21 2014

### **Oak Bay will welcome the 13th police chief in its history when Andrew Brinton takes office on April 22.**

The 51-year-old Brinton, currently a staff sergeant and detachment commander with Powell River RCMP, takes over from Mark Fisher.

Fisher is stepping down after 21 years with Oak Bay to lead the RCMP in Nanaimo.

Brinton brings 32 years of service to his new post, including stints as a watch commander in Parksville and a non-commissioned officer with the West Coast Marine Detachment. He said Powell River and Oak Bay have some similarities.

"Actually, Powell River population-wise and the office itself are very, very similar," he said. "And then I've worked in Parksville and that sort of thing, so it's not totally unfamiliar territory."

Oak Bay has 24 police officers while Powell River has 26.

Oak Bay Mayor Nils Jensen, chairman of the Oak Bay Police Board, said that Brinton stood out in a group of well-qualified applicants.

"He's got the kind of experience that we're looking for, and we're very pleased with the approach that we've seen him take in Powell River regarding community policing, which is the mainstay of Oak Bay," Jensen said.

"We have a 'no-call-too-small' policy where the officers of the department are

really part and parcel of the community, and help not only solve criminal issues but other issues.”

Brinton said he is looking forward to his time in Oak Bay.

“The first thing I’m going to have to do when I get there is kind of get my feet on the ground and assess the lay of the land,” he said.

He will get a start on that Sunday when he pays a visit to the municipality for an orientation session with Fisher.

Brinton said Fisher has a solid reputation that he will try to live up to.

“My role is just to carry on with what sounds like some pretty positive momentum.”

The announcement of Brinton’s hiring brings to four the number of new chief constables in Greater Victoria police departments in less than a year.

Bob Downie took over in Saanich this month, Frank Elsner started with the Victoria Police Department in early January, and Larry Chomyn was named to head the West Shore RCMP last June.

Feb 21 2014

**For the second time in two years, Montreal police officers will try out a new work schedule of more flexible patrol shifts so they’ll have more time with their families.**

Management and rank-and-file agreed to the pilot project after a vote in favour by a strong majority of the union’s 4,600 police officers, announced Thursday.

The new hours start March 9 and last until Oct. 4, and affect more than 500 officers, many of whom are young parents, in 11 of the force’s 33 precincts.

Thirty per cent of the force is female and 600 officers are in a conjugal relationship. Patrol officers with young families have long argued for more flexible hours.

Under their work schedule, established in 1978, officers have to work one week of days, one week of evenings and one week of nights, over 35 days. They have to work three weekends out of five.

Under the pilot project, over 70 days they’ll work 35 and have 35 off. Some will work mostly nights, some will work longer shifts up to nearly 12 hours, and none will work more than one or two weekend shifts.

The public shouldn’t notice a difference, the police say.

“Our priority is just to give the same service, at the same cost, and that at the end of the day it’s good for the officers who want to reconcile work and family,” said Ian Lafrenière, spokesperson for the Montreal police.

A spokesman for the police Brotherhood declined to comment.

In 2012, a year-long pilot project changing work hours for all police officers and investigators was tried, but management deemed it too unfair and too costly in

overtime payments.

Regular hours returned last March, upsetting the rank-and-file, who walked out in protest, blocking traffic downtown in noisy protests.

The Brotherhood took out full-page newspaper advertisements showing a fake application form for a job with the force, saying “the ideal candidate has no family life.”

The officers complained of working hours that shift from days to nights with no set pattern. They preferred less frequent switching from day shifts to night shifts, and more work in the evenings.

After more discussion, a tentative deal between the union and management was reached in December on the new plan, subject to a vote.

When the project ends in October, it will be evaluated to see if it should become the norm.

Feb 21 2014

**CALGARY- A man charged with killing an Alberta peace officer has been ordered to undergo further psychiatric evaluation.**

Trevor Kloschinsky is charged with the first-degree murder of retired Mountie Rod Lazenby.

Lazenby was investigating a dog complaint on a ranch near Priddis when he was killed on August 10, 2012.

It’s alleged Kloschinsky then drove Lazenby to a Calgary police station. Lazenby

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was later pronounced dead in hospital.

Police have never released the cause of death.

Kloschinsky has already had 60 days of psychiatric testing but on Friday that was extended for another two weeks.

"The assessment process is required because of the complexity," says Kloschinsky's lawyer, Maggie O'Shaughnessy. "Another psychiatrist is being brought in to deal with the assessment because it is a complex matter."

It's alleged Kloschinsky lay in wait for three days on his property in an attempt to catch the person he believed was stealing his dogs.

A search warrant document states after Lazebny arrived at the property, the two got into a fight and Kloschinsky overpowered the officer.

Kloschinsky will be back in court on March 7.  
(Global)

Feb 21 2014

### SURREY — Law enforcement agencies throughout the Lower Mainland will launch Canada's first Real Time Intelligence Centre this May.

Based in Surrey, it will provide a coordinated regional response to serious crimes, Surrey RCMP Chief Supt. Bill Fordy said.

"Immediate analytical support will be available during crimes that pose a risk to public safety, such as armed robberies, high-risk missing persons or gang violence," Fordy explained.

The RTIC-BC, as it will be known, will have 43 employees and will be located in the provincial RCMP headquarters in Surrey.

Fordy touched on the program Friday, during a Surrey Board of Trade breakfast meeting in Ocean Park.

"It will be the first of its kind in Canada," Fordy said. "Once we work through all the glitches, it will be awesome."

Fordy noted that there are similar crime-fighting initiatives in New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago and Puerto Rico. Since adopting its Real Time Crime Centre in 2006, the Memphis Police department has noted a 30 per cent reduction in serious crime and a 20 per cent reduction in violent crime.

Each municipality and city in the Lower Mainland will contribute to the RTIC-BC and costs will be shared between the federal, provincial and civic governments.

Fordy said RTIC-BC will be running 24/7, all year, by 2015 and will expand to include the Victoria Capital Regional District in 2016, and the entire province the following year.

It will focus on shootings, murders, attempted murders, armed robberies, sex assaults, AMBER alerts, high-risk missing persons cases, home invasions, hostage takings, acts of terrorism, gang-related incidents and "emerging events that threaten public safety."

Fordy said recent technological advancements have enabled police to be able to

store, search out, retrieve and analyze "vast amounts" of data. This, he said, can help police link "seemingly unconnected" crimes.

"By mining intelligence resources through multiple databases, RTIC-BC will help front-line police officers and investigators quickly identify and locate dangerous criminals," Fordy explained. "This will assist Lower Mainland police in overcoming challenges associated with jurisdictional boundaries and limited resources."

"Analysts working within the RTIC-BC will have a far greater breadth and depth of access to police and law enforcement databases that dispatchers, police officers and municipal police analysts simply do not have," he said.

(The Now)

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2014

Feb 22 2014

### TORONTO - Authorities in Toronto have charged a woman with trying to smuggle more than 10-thousand rough diamonds into Canada.

The Canada Border Services Agency says Helena Freida Bodner was arrested on February 3rd at Toronto's Pearson airport, and appeared in court yesterday.

The agency says Bodner carried the gems - about 15-hundred carats worth -



**BLUE LINE expo 2014**

**TRAINING**

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**NEW LOCATION**

**CCII Canadian Critical Incident Inc.**

Day 1: April 29th, 9am - 4pm  
*Crisis Negotiation*  
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**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

**DAY 1: April 29th - Counter Terrorism**

9am - 12pm: *Suicide Bomber - The Modern Urban Terror Threat: Understanding and Identifying the Suicide Bomber*  
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  
Early Bird Fee (before March 31):  
\$225 - one day; \$375 - two days

Full details & registration at  
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“internally,” though it didn’t elaborate.

Bodner is described as a “foreign national” and is due back in court next month.

The diamonds, meantime, have been turned over to the RCMP, which is trying to determine where they came from.

(The Canadian Press)

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2014

Feb 23 2014

### **Kenora OPP officer Troy Bender is being charged with Discreditable Conduct by the police force.**

Back in December, Bender was acquitted after being tried in Kenora on charges of Criminal Negligence Causing Death stemming from a September 2012 car accident he was involved in which caused the death of his prisoner, Gloria Assin, of Grassy Narrows First Nation.

Assin was in the back of Bender’s OPP Chevrolet Tahoe when it was struck by a semi-trailer while he was trying to turn off the bypass on his way to the Kenora OPP’s headquarters. Although Bender was acquitted of criminal negligence, he did plead guilty to one count of Careless Driving and was fined \$1,000.

Now that all criminal proceedings against him are over, the police force is beginning internal disciplinary proceedings against Bender.

“He has been charged with Discreditable Conduct, but there’s no hearing dates set at this point at time. However, he has been charged under the Police Services Act,” OPP spokesperson Shelly Garr confirmed.

According to the Ontario Police Services Act, discreditable conduct covers a wide range of unacceptable behaviours by officers which can discredit or compromise the proper functioning or discipline of their police force. Exactly what interpretation of discreditable conduct Bender is accused of committing is unknown.

(Kenora Daily Miner and News)

## MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Feb 24 2014

### **ST-CROIX, Que. - The suspect in a quadruple slaying south of Quebec City earlier this month has died in hospital without ever having spoken to investigators.**

Quebec provincial police say Martin Godin died Sunday in the hospital he’d been taken to after a suicide attempt.

Godin was suspected in the murders of his ex-wife, her new boyfriend and his own two daughters.

The deaths occurred in two different

towns in the Chaudiere-Appalaches region south of the provincial capital.

Police found Godin’s ex-wife, Nancy Samson, 44 and her new partner, Benoit Daigle, 39, outside a home in St-Croix. About 70 kilometres away, they found Godin and his daughters, Beatrice, 11 and Medora, 13, in a home in St-Isidore.

Godin, 54, was taken to hospital on Feb. 1 in critical condition and never regained consciousness. He was never formally charged.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 24 2014

### **REGINA - A public inquest is to be held into the deaths of three people after a carbon monoxide leak at a seniors home in Saskatchewan.**

The provincial government says the week-long inquest into what happened at St. Mary’s Villa in Humboldt in December 2010 is to begin Monday in Humboldt.

Staff initially thought seniors were getting sick because of a stomach virus or food poisoning.

Workers were getting splitting headaches, but they never thought gas poisoning was a possibility.

There were no carbon monoxide detectors in the home.

An 89-year-old priest died an hour after an evacuation of the home began and two other elderly women died in the weeks that followed.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 24 2014

### **VICTORIA - British Columbia’s Liberal government believes 190 lives have been saved since controversial new impaired driving rules were introduced three years ago.**

Attorney General Suzanne Anton says drinking and driving deaths have declined 52 per cent since September 2010, when police officers were given powers to issue immediate roadside suspensions for suspected impaired drivers.

Anton says that since the law was introduced, impaired driving deaths have decreased to an average of 54 a year from a five-year average of 112 deaths.

She acknowledges the law is facing a constitutional challenge, but Anton says the government has no plans to make changes to the overall thrust of the legislation, introduced to honour four-year-old Alexa Middelaer, who was killed by a drunk driver in 2008.

Under the rules, drivers who fail or refuse a roadside screening test can be fined, have their licence suspended, or their vehicle seized.

Part of the law was struck down as a violation of constitutional rights in November 2011, when a B.C. Supreme Court justice ruled that penalties for drivers were too serious not to have an adequate appeal system.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 24 2014

### **HALIFAX - A review of the Halifax police department’s handling of its investigation into the death of a blind woman almost four years ago will be conducted by officers from Quebec City.**

Halifax police say the investigation is being done because of the unusual circumstances surrounding the death of Holly Bartlett.

The 31-year-old woman was found unconscious under the McKay Bridge in Halifax early on March 27, 2010, and died in hospital the following day.

A police investigation at the time found she had become disoriented and fell off a concrete abutment, but last year her family told police they had concerns about the investigation.

Chief Jean-Michel Blais of Halifax Regional Police said officers from Quebec City’s police department were asked to carry out the review because they operate in a similar-sized city and are the closest with a large major crimes unit.

Blais expects the review and possible recommendations to take about two months to complete.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 24 2014

### **MONTREAL - A Canada-wide arrest warrant has been issued for a man wanted in the murder of a Montreal woman.**

Montreal police say Philippe Steele Morin is being sought on charges of second-degree murder in the slaying of Tricia Boisvert.

The 36-year-old Boisvert was killed in her Montreal apartment last month.

She was found six days later in a wooded area near Pontiac, a municipality in the Outaouais region in western Quebec.

The 30-year-old suspect is believed to be hiding out around the Ottawa area.

A Montreal charitable organization is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to Steele Morin’s arrest.

Police in Montreal say any information it receives will be treated confidentially.

Feb 24 2014

### **FREDERICTON - Two men have been arrested following a nearly three-hour standoff with police in Fredericton.**

Insp. Martin Gaudet says police cordoned off an area around the Howard Johnson Hotel on Prospect Street and negotiated with the two men in a room.

Gaudet says the men surrendered without incident.

He says one of the men is suspected to have been involved in the armed robbery of a pharmacy on the same street earlier in the day.

Gaudet says items were taken during the robbery, but he wouldn’t confirm if those items were drugs or money.

He would not say if any weapons were seized during the arrests.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 24 2014

**SARNIA, Ont. - A Sarnia, Ont., judge has acquitted a former Catholic priest of all but three of 18 sex-related charges he faced.**

Justice Joseph Donohue found Gabriele DelBianco, 57, guilty of one count of gross indecency and two counts of sexual assault.

He found DelBianco not guilty of various other charges - including threatening death or bodily harm - arising from incidents involving four teenage girls during the 1980s.

Donohue says the historical nature of the case made it difficult and he cited reliability of evidence as reasoning for acquitting DelBianco on several charges.

DelBianco left the priesthood in 1996 after serving at churches in Ontario communities including Wallaceburg and Windsor.

DelBianco is out of custody awaiting a sentencing hearing May 14.

(BlackburnNews.com)

Feb 24 2014

**TORONTO - Police in Toronto say they've made arrests in a drug-trafficking operation that was shipping bulk marijuana from British Columbia to Toronto for distribution.**

Police announced Monday that four arrests were made last week in Project Green Giant, an ongoing investigation that began early last year.

Investigators say they seized 205 kilograms of marijuana, three kilograms of hashish, and cash - including nearly C\$2 million, and US\$462,131, as well as British Pounds and euros.

Police say a large-scale hashish production lab housed in an industrial unit was dismantled as part of the investigation.

Three men - aged 35 to 50 - from Toronto and nearby Brampton, Ont., face a total of 18 drug-related charges, while a 31-year-old Toronto man is charged with failing to comply with a recognizance.

Staff Insp. Randy Franks says the cash was seized from safety deposit boxes and represents the largest one-time cash seizure Toronto police have been involved with.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 24 2014

**WINNIPEG - A doctor is suggesting that a man who beheaded a fellow passenger on a Greyhound bus in Manitoba should get more freedom.**

Vince Li's psychiatrist is asking the Criminal Code Review Board to let Li have unescorted day trips to Selkirk, Man.

Dr. Stephen Kremer says Li should also be moved out of a locked ward and onto an unlocked ward at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

Li has been at the mental hospital since

he was found not criminally responsible for the killing of Tim McLean in 2008.

Li, an undiagnosed schizophrenic at the time, said he heard voices telling him to kill McLean, a complete stranger who was sitting beside him.

The review board holds annual hearings to review restrictions on Li, who was initially kept inside a locked wing 24 hours a day.

Kremer told the hearing Li has never been violent in the hospital, no longer suffers hallucinations or delusions and has made "excellent" progress.

Kremer said the ultimate goal is to have Li reintegrated into society - something McLean's mother has opposed.

Carol DeDelley has said Li should be kept

in custody for the rest of his life because there is no guarantee he will always take his medication.

Feb 24 2014

**SASKATOON - A Saskatoon court has heard a city police officer hit a teen and blasted him with pepper spray while the youth was being held on the ground.**

Const. Luke St. Onge is charged with assault causing bodily harm and assault with a weapon.

The teen, who was 14 at the time, testified Monday that he was missing from his group home on May 27, 2012, when he saw some police officers and started to run.

At the time, the officers were searching

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for a boy who was suspected of firing bear spray at St. Onge.

Const. Chad Nolan told court that after he tackled the fleeing teen and pinned him face down on the ground, St. Onge struck the youth once in the head.

Another officer, Const. Joseph Taylor, testified he saw St. Onge make several punching motions towards the boy's head, but couldn't see if any of the punches connected.

(CKOM)

Feb 24 2014

### **KELOWNA, B.C. - The city of Kelowna is considering rules that would limit medical marijuana production to industrial areas, barring it from agricultural land within city limits.**

Council were to discuss the staff recommendation at a meeting Monday night, and would-be commercial pot growers worry their business plans will go up in smoke if the proposal passes.

"It just doesn't make good sense to recommend that an agricultural product cannot be grown in an agricultural zone," said Marlys and Grant Wolfe, owners of Falcon Ridge Farms.

Farmland properties have "low overhead and (a greater) ability to expand" pot production compared to industrially zoned properties, said Kevin Carta, founder of A Better Choice Medicinals.

Other municipalities have restricted federally licensed marijuana growing operations to industrial lands.

Industrial properties are said by municipal staff to be a better spot for indoor marijuana operations than farmlands for a variety of reasons.

These include the possible negative impact on adjacent farms, limited potential for re-purposing the property if the marijuana production business shuts down, the necessity of building other structures on farmland to support marijuana growing, and possible conflicts with nearby residential areas.

Under looming changes to federal drug law, all licences currently issued for the growing of marijuana for medicinal purposes within private residences will expire March 31.

After that date, marijuana can only be legally grown by commercial operators who have been federally licensed. Individual municipalities have the authority to say where the operations can be located.

The Falcon Ridge Farm owners said they've been working toward getting a commercial licence to grow marijuana for two years.

"We applied for the commercial licence for medical marijuana as it would be a good additional organic produce for the health products we already grow, produce and offer for sale on our farm," they said.

They say they're surprised and dismayed the city may choose to restrict such operations to industrial land.

"Why would this be allowed in any other zone before the zone for which agriculture was intended?" they asked in a letter to council.

Last week, Lake Country also took steps to prevent legalized marijuana growing operations from opening on farmland.

An active industrial zone is better suited for such operations, Lake Country Mayor James Baker said, because byproducts such as smell and the noise from venting fans would be less likely to bother adjacent landowners.

(Kelowna Daily Courier)

Feb 24 2014

### **TORONTO - Toronto's police chief is under investigation by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director.**



The complaint against Bill Blair is in two parts and was submitted by Toronto city Coun. Doug Ford.

Ford's criticism involves a fishing trip that Blair allegedly went on last year with Police Services Board member Andy Pringle.

The second part came out of an Oct. 31, 2013, news conference at which Blair said he was disappointed in Mayor Rob Ford.

At that news conference, Blair indicated police had possession of a video that media reports alleged showed Rob Ford smoking crack cocaine.

The police board has concluded the actions "may constitute misconduct" and that's why the director has been asked to investigate them.

(Newstalk 1010)

Feb 24 2014

### **The Nishnawbe-Aski Police want to demystify gang life to young people in its communities.**

Police say gangs are taking root and growing in native communities across the north. A criminal intelligence analyst with the police service said young people who are having trouble in school, and at home, are vulnerable to gang recruiters.

The recruiters portray gang life as secure and glamorous but, in reality, that way of life is brutal, Jennifer Duncan said.

"Gang leaders will eventually make you do things that are illegal, and immoral and they don't want to go to jail, but they don't care if you do."

Duncan said a police officer, along with other workers, will travel to communities across the north to deliver a two-hour presentation in which they'll educate and mentor young people to resist gang life.

Called Project NorthStar, the program illustrates how gang recruiters appeal to young people who are in trouble at home and at school.

Duncan said the gangs offer security and acceptance — and downplay negative aspects.

There is a lot of violence involved in the lifestyle, she said.

"Just even to join a gang you have to go through an initiation called a beat-in, where you stand and let the gang members you want to be a part of beat you for anywhere from one to three minutes," she said.

Gangs in native communities appear to be growing, Duncan noted, and she said they're trying to counteract that trend by reducing the number of teens joining.

(CBC News)

Feb 24 2014

### **MONTREAL — All four people injured in a collision late Sunday between a Longueuil police patrol car and another vehicle have been released from hospital, Longueuil police said.**

An investigation is underway into the incident, which took place near the Longueuil courthouse.

The vehicles struck about 11:20 p.m. at the corner of Jacques-Cartier Blvd. E. and Roland-Therrien Blvd., Constable Jean-Pierre Voutsinos added.

There are traffic lights at that corner, he said.

All the injuries were considered minor, Voutsinos said.

(Montreal Gazette)

Feb 24 2014

### **A second inquest into police use of force has been announced just weeks after a jury in a coroner's inquest ruled that three fatal shootings of mentally ill people by Toronto police were homicides.**

In a release, the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) said it will be examining how the force deals with emotionally disturbed people and individuals in crisis situations, and will also look into police training in de-escalation techniques.

"Recent high-profile cases of Toronto Police Service's use of force have raised concerns among Toronto citizens and affected public confidence in policing," OIPRD director Gerry McNeilly said in a release.

"In addition, my office has received public complaints that are significant enough, in

my opinion, to warrant a systemic review. I believe it is in the public interest for the OIPRD, as an impartial civilian oversight agency, to undertake this review.”

The OIPRD will be able to summon witnesses and access police documents as part of its review.

Earlier this month, a coroner’s inquest deemed three Toronto police shootings were homicides. The verdict means police shot and killed the people, but there will be no criminal implications.

In that probe the jury recommended more emphasis on verbal de-escalation techniques and recommended officers take into account whether a person is in crisis and refrain from shooting for as long as possible.

The inquest examined the deaths of Reyal Jardine-Douglas, Sylvia Klibingaitis and Michael Eligon, who were all gunned down after approaching police with knives or scissors.

(City News)

**TUESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2014**

Feb 25 2014

### **WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg police officer accused of assaulting a prisoner in a holding room has been cleared.**

A Queen’s Bench judge found Const. Ryan Law not guilty of aggravated assault on Monday.

Law was accused of beating Henry Lavallee and kicking him in the stomach in November 2008 following the man’s arrest on a number of charges.

Lavallee needed emergency surgery to repair two tears in his bowel.

Law testified at his trial that he didn’t harm Lavallee in any way.

Justice Joan McKelvey ruled the officer’s testimony was credible.

(CJOB, The Canadian Press)

Feb 25 2014

### **ST. JOHN’S, N.L. - An RCMP officer has been suspended with pay after he was charged earlier this month with perjury and obstruction of justice.**

The Mounties say Const. Shawn Greene was charged Feb. 10 after Halifax Regional Police conducted an independent investigation into a complaint made in May 2013.

A statement issued by the RCMP does not offer details about the alleged offences, except to say that the investigation looked into Greene’s work while he was stationed at its detachment in Harbour Grace, N.L.

Greene was transferred to Nova Scotia’s Richmond County in February 2012.

He is scheduled to appear in provincial court in Harbour Grace on April 9.

The Mounties say an internal investigation

is also underway.

RCMP spokeswoman Helen Cleary-Escott said Tuesday that she could not offer any specific details about the allegations.

“The matter is currently before the courts and once they are before the courts we can’t speak to it.”

Cleary-Escott said the RCMP waited until Tuesday to issue a news release because a summons officially notifying Greene of the charges was not served until Monday night.

She said no convictions or other proceedings are affected by the charges against Greene.

Const. Pierre Bourdages of the Halifax Regional Police confirmed the force investigated the matter and laid two charges. But he also said he could not provide specific details about the allegations, deferring those questions to the RCMP.

Feb 25 2014

### **LANGLEY, B.C. - Copper theft is not a new problem in Metro Vancouver, but officials admit they are stunned by the damage caused during a recent heist in Langley, B.C.**

Langley RCMP say two live power poles were chopped down and three attached electrical transformers were opened during one such theft on Feb. 16.

Mounties say B.C. Hydro technicians confirm the contents of the transformers were stolen, along with all the connecting cables, causing damage estimated at over \$75,000.

They say not only was the theft exceedingly dangerous, it put innocent members of the public at extreme risk because they could have accidentally contacted the live electrical wires.

Police hope someone saw the thieves bringing down the poles or stripping the transformers.

Feb 25 2014

### **MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario’s police watchdog has cleared two OPP officers in connection with the shooting death of a 45-year-old man last summer in an incident northwest of Kings-ton, Ont.**

The Special Investigations Unit says there are no reasonable grounds to charge either of the two Lanark County detachment officers with a criminal offence in relation to the man’s death in July 2013.

The SIU says four officers were sent to a home in a rural area of Central Frontenac to deal with reports of a suicidal man who had threatened he would burn himself to death.

The agency says the officers called out the man’s name as they approached his trailer and the man burst out the front door naked, then ran screaming to a picnic table where he picked up a scoped rifle and pointed it at the officers.

The SIU says the man repeatedly ignored orders to drop his weapon and although one of the officers deployed a conducted energy weapon, it was too far away to have any effect.

Two of the officers fired, striking the man six times, and he died in hospital three days later of “complications from multiple gunshot wounds.”

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 25 2014

### **LA RONGE, Sask. - A public inquest has been called into the death of a man in RCMP custody.**

The Saskatchewan government says a week-long inquest into the death of Walter Clinton McKenzie is to start Monday at the La Ronge courthouse.

McKenzie was found unresponsive in his cell at the La Ronge RCMP detachment on Sept. 7, 2010.

The 32-year-old was taken to the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, where he died the following day.

An inquest is required by law when someone dies while in custody, unless the coroner is satisfied that the death was due to natural causes and was not preventable.

The coroner’s jury at the inquest may make recommendations to prevent similar deaths.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 25 2014

### **SASKATOON - A Saskatoon police officer accused of punching and pepper-spraying a teen while the youth was held down on the ground is to hear the verdict next month.**

Const. Luke St. Onge is charged with assault causing bodily harm and assault with a weapon.

Defence lawyer Aaron Fox said in closing arguments that the officer’s actions were within bounds to make the boy stop struggling, to allow police to check him for weapons and to handcuff him.

Crown prosecutor William Burge said St. Onge was out of line in dealing with the 130-pound youth.

Testimony from the teen and the officers differed on how many times the boy was punched in the face before he was pepper-sprayed, but Burge said it should never have happened at all.

He said even though the boy wasn’t handcuffed, he was being pinned down by four constables and was no longer a threat.

“This was a significant factor that Mr. St. Onge either ignored or didn’t consider in his haste,” Burge said Tuesday.

Fox said the officers were concerned that the boy had his left arm underneath him despite another officer trying to pry it free.

“This is a case where there was a weapon involved in the incident being investigated, and

a reasonable belief that the suspect was armed with bear mace and maybe more,” Fox said.

Provincial court Judge Dan O’Hanlon is expected to deliver his verdict in late March.

In testimony Monday, the teen, who was 14 at the time, told the court that he had left his group home on May 27, 2012, when he saw some police officers and started to run.

At the time, the officers were searching for someone who was suspected of firing bear spray at St. Onge.

Const. Chad Nolan told court that after he tackled the fleeing teen and pinned him face down on the ground, St. Onge struck the youth once in the head.

Another officer, Const. Joseph Taylor, testified he saw St. Onge make several punching motions towards the boy’s head, but couldn’t see if any of the blows connected.

The teen testified that he was punched in the face between 10 and 15 times.

Taylor said the teen was also pepper-sprayed.

Police determined the teen was not carrying any weapons and he wasn’t charged with firing bear spray at St. Onge.

He was taken to hospital, where he was checked out before being sent to the police holding cells that night. He suffered bruising to the left side of his face that caused his eye to swell shut for between one and two weeks.

St. Onge has been suspended with pay pending the outcome of the trial.

(CKOM)

Feb 25 2014

### **COLD LAKE, Alta. - A 50-year-old man has turned himself into police more than two years after a fatal hit and run in northern Alberta.**

Gary Lee Curtis Lachance was 27 when he was hit by a vehicle in the parking lot of Casino Dene near Cold Lake in December 2011.

Lachance, who was from Frog Lake, Alta., was airlifted to an Edmonton hospital where he died of head injuries.

A police investigation did not lead to any suspects.

RCMP say Wayne Kytwayhat turned himself in at the detachment in Leduc, just south of Edmonton, on Saturday.

He has been charged with failing to remain at the scene of an accident and is to appear in court in St. Paul on Thursday.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 25 2014

### **MONCTON, N.B. - RCMP say a Moncton, N.B. woman faces 45 counts of fraud in connection with more than a half dozen cases.**

Twenty-nine-year-old Krisjana Buck appeared in Moncton Provincial Court today.

Police say Buck waived her bail hearing and is being held until March 11.

The Mounties say the charges are related to incidents alleged to have occurred between July 2013 and January of this year.

Police say further charges are anticipated in the case.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 25 2014

### **FREDERICTON - Fredericton police say two men arrested following a nearly three-hour standoff on Monday have appeared in court.**

Police say 26-year-old Tyson Paul Colford of Moncton and 24-year-old Kyle Alexander Cameron of Saint John were each charged with robbery during a court appearance on Tuesday.

Police allege a lone man carrying a weapon entered a pharmacy on Prospect Street in Fredericton and later fled in a black SUV with undisclosed items.

No one was hurt in the robbery.

Police say the suspects were later found at a hotel in the city.

They surrendered without incident after talks with police crisis negotiators.

Feb 25 2014

### **HALIFAX - A 21-year-old Halifax area man won't be going to prison for raping a female jogger at a park in 2011.**

Cody Charles Lemoine, of Dartmouth, pleaded guilty last fall to charges of sexual assault and forcible confinement.

He was sentenced Tuesday by Judge Ted Tax who said the crime warranted a sentence of 4 1/2 years in prison.

However, he gave Lemoine 35 1/2 months’ credit for his time on remand, leaving him with a sentence of 18 1/2 months in jail.

After Lemoine serves his time at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Dartmouth, he will be on probation for two years.

A 19-year-old woman was attacked at Shubie Park in June 2011.

(Halifax Chronicle-Herald)

Feb 25 2014

### **VANCOUVER - A coroner’s jury will examine what happened when a Mexican woman died after hanging herself while in custody of border agents at Vancouver’s airport, the B.C. Coroners Service announced Tuesday.**

Lucia Vega Jimenez, 42, was found in a shower stall in a holding cell at the airport on Dec. 20, and she died in hospital on Dec. 28, though the case didn’t come to light until details surfaced in media reports in late January.

Jimenez’s suicide raised questions about how the Canada Border Services Agency handled the woman’s case, and several advocacy groups have called for an independent investigation, ranging from a coroner’s inquest to a full-scale public inquiry.

Coroners service spokeswoman Barb McLintock said the agency decided to hold an inquest in large part because the incident that led to Jimenez’s death occurred while she was in custody.

“In those cases, the chances are very high that we will, for the sake of transparency, hold an inquest,” McLintock said in an interview.

“She was not free to go, so we have an extra responsibility to take care of her.”

A coroner’s jury is scheduled to hear evidence beginning Sept. 29. The jurors will then make recommendations to prevent similar deaths but, under the rules that govern the coroner’s office, they cannot make findings of fault or legal blame.

According to the advocacy group No One Is Illegal, Jimenez was a migrant who had been working at a Vancouver hotel when she was arrested in December over an unpaid transit ticket.

She was transferred to jail and then sent to the CBSA holding cells to await deportation, the group said.

Josh Paterson, executive director of the B.C. Civil Liberties, said he was pleased the B.C. Coroners Service called an inquest to examine the specific circumstances of Jimenez’s death.

Still, Paterson said the inquest won’t go far enough, and he still wants a public inquiry that could examine not only why Jimenez died, but what happened after.

“There are other questions that a coroner’s inquest is not going to answer, namely: Why did it take so long for the CBSA to reveal to the public that she had died in their care? Why was it that it took a month for this information to trickle out?”

A spokeswoman for the border agency declined to comment on the case in detail, but wrote in an emailed response that the Canada Border Services Agency “welcomes the opportunity to provide information and clarity on CBSA policies and procedures around detention.”

“What we can tell you is that the CBSA is committed to ensuring the health and safety of those in our care, and we will carefully review any recommendations that may result from this inquiry,” wrote Faith St. John.

St. John added that the agency has already launched its own review of its detention operations.

Paterson said he also wants to know more about the role of a private security company, Genesis Security Group, which has a contract to work at the agency’s detention centre at the airport.

“They’ve got a lot of involvement, but we understand very little about the kind of training that they have,” said Paterson.

“What we have here is law-enforcement functions, like the guarding of detainees, being contracted out, and we have a great concerned

about the standards in that context.”

Ashley Meehan, vice-president of Genesis Security, declined to comment on the specifics of the case, citing his company’s contract with Canada Border Services Agency.

“In general, we assist with running security for the holding centre and doing some of the transports with detainees,” he said in an interview.

“We will be working with CBSA and the B.C. Coroners Service to assist in any way possible.”

Feb 25 2014

### **EDMONTON - Const. Matt Williamson used to tell his young children that he gave bad guys time outs in jail while their dog, Quanto, helped by barking.**



But when the Edmonton police dog was stabbed to death last fall, Williamson’s six-year-old daughter started to ponder the real dangers of the work.

Crying, she went to her dad one day with a question.

“If Quanto’s job was to protect you from bad guys ... is a bad guy going to kill you?” Williamson recalled in a victim impact statement read in court.

“She now never lets me leave for work without a hug.”

The man who killed the dog, Paul Vukmanich, pleaded guilty Tuesday to six charges, including animal cruelty and flight from police.

Crown and defence lawyers both recommended he get 26 months in jail. A judge is to sentence him Friday.

Court heard the 27-year-old was on parole and high on cocaine and methamphetamine when he got caught driving a car with stolen plates on Oct. 7. When police tried to pull him over, he sped over a median and several curbs, sent sparks flying and blew out three tires.

He abandoned the car in a parking lot, then took off on foot.

Williamson warned him to stop or he’d send his German shepherd out. Vukmanich slowed down but refused to get on the ground. Instead, he backed away in a fighting stance.

Quanto was set loose and bit Vukmanich on the left arm and hand. Court was told Vukmanich pulled out a knife and started stabbing the dog in the chest.

Williamson pulled his pistol and ordered

the man several times to drop the knife. Other officers also yelled at Vukmanich to stop.

At some point, Vukmanich dropped the weapon and Williamson ran over and picked up his dog.

“Quanto’s legs began to fail and then his head fell,” said Crown prosecutor Christian Lim. “The officer carried the dog back to the truck with blood streaming out from it all over the officer.”

Williamson rushed the dog to a veterinarian, but it was too late.

In addition to jail, lawyers agreed Vukmanich should be banned from owning a pet for at least 25 years and be prohibited from driving for five. He had previously received a lifetime ban from possessing weapons.

Lim also asked Vukmanich be ordered to pay \$40,000 to the police force to cover the cost of a new police dog and its training.

Judge Larry Anderson said he would consider the request, although he said it sounded to him more like a civil claim.

He also said he wasn’t sure a 26-month sentence is long enough, since Vukmanich has a criminal record that includes two prior convictions for evading police.

“I am troubled, frankly,” said Anderson. “I want to think it through carefully.”

Officers complained after Quanto died that the strongest criminal charge that could be laid was cruelty to an animal.

The federal government said in its fall throne speech that it plans to bring forward “Quanto’s Law” to protect police animals, but didn’t specify what that might entail.

Williamson was in Ottawa when the announcement was made.

He wrote in his court statement that Quanto was like a pet to the Williamson family, but knew his primary role was as protector.

“I always knew if it was him or me, it would be him,” Williamson said.

“Quanto died well and proved his fearlessness.”

Williamson said he is to start training a new dog soon and will rejoin the canine unit in the spring.

Feb 25 2014

### **SYDNEY, N.S. - A charge of being an accessory after the fact to murder has been dismissed against a 39-year-old Glace Bay, N.S. man.**

Brian Augustine Deruelle was one of two people charged with being an accessory in relation to the May 2012 death of 21-year-old Laura Catherine Jessome.

The second accused, 37-year-old Robert Edwin Matheson, also of Glace Bay, is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing on the charge beginning Oct. 27.

The charge against Deruelle was withdrawn during a Supreme Court appearance Monday in Sydney with the Crown offering no explanation

other than that there was no reasonable expectation of a successful prosecution.

The two men were charged with being accessories after 38-year-old Thomas Ted Barrett and 23-year-old Morgan James MacNeil, both of Glace Bay, were charged with second-degree murder in connection with Jessome’s death.

Jessome’s remains were found inside a hockey bag along a bank of the Mira River in Marion Bridge.

(Cape Breton Post)

Feb 25 2014

### **SYDNEY, N.S. - Cape Breton Regional Police have reached an agreement with the Cape Breton District Health Authority to recover costs associated with the time police are required to spend with patients awaiting hospital care.**

Chief Peter McIsaac informed members of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality’s police commission of the agreement at a meeting Tuesday.

He says it had been an issue for upwards of a decade and should save the police service about \$100,000 a year.

McIsaac says if the health authority is unable to provide adequate security and police are required to stay beyond the time they are mandated, the police service will invoice the health authority to recover those costs.

He says the arrangement has been in place for a week.

(Cape Breton Post)

Feb 25 2014

### **Police officers in a Central California town took part in a scheme in which cars belonging to poor Hispanic people were impounded, towed and later sold or given away for free to some officers when the car owners couldn’t pay the fees, authorities said Tuesday.**

Four officers - including the recently retired police chief and the acting chief - have been arrested, and two other officers were also arrested Tuesday on unrelated charges, Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo said.

“There has been a significant breakdown in the internal leadership of the King City Police Department,” Flippo said. “It also appears to me that some officers have dishonestly their badge.”

The six officers account for more than a third of the 17-member force in King City, an agricultural town of 13,000 people about 150 miles (240 kilometres) southeast of San Francisco.

Early Tuesday morning, teams from the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, the FBI, the Salinas Police Department and the county district attorney’s bureau of investigation ar-

rested the officers after a months-long investigation, which began as a response to complaints of corruption and criminal acts within the department, Flippo said.

Authorities said that, in some cases, officers simply kept the cars for their own use.

The four officers tied to the alleged car theft scheme have each been charged with bribery, accepting a bribe or embezzlement.

The operator of a towing company who is also the brother of the acting chief has also been arrested in the case.

The front office of the King City police station house was closed Tuesday afternoon. King City Manager Michael Powers told The Associated Press that Monterey County sheriffs and officers from the nearby cities of Gonzales and Soledad have volunteered to help the city with police duties now that so many of its officers have been taken off duty.

“Obviously, people are in shock, and so is the city staff,” Powers said. “But at the same time, we can’t tolerate corruption in the police department.”



Feb 26 2014

**HALIFAX - A man diagnosed with schizophrenia has been sentenced to 18 months in jail for sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman in a Halifax-area park.**

Cody Charles Lemoine of Dartmouth pleaded guilty last fall to charges of sexual assault and forcible confinement.

Court heard that in June 2011 Lemoine spotted the woman jogging in Shubie Park and dragged her into the woods.

Lemoine turned himself in to police two days later.

Judge Ted Tax said the crime warranted a four-year sentence, but he reduced that yesterday to 18 months because Lemoine has already spent two years in custody at the East Coast Forensic Hospital in Dartmouth.

During that time, the 21-year-old was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia.

(Halifax Chronicle Herald)

Feb 26 2014

**SYDNEY, N.S. - A Cape Breton man accused of being an accessory to murder has been cleared of the charge.**

The charge against Brian Augustine Deruelle of Glace Bay was withdrawn during a Supreme Court appearance in Sydney.

Deruelle was one of two people charged with being an accessory after the fact to murder following the May 2012 death of 21-year-old Laura Catherine Jessome.

Jessome’s remains were found inside a

hockey bag near the Mira River in Marion Bridge.

The Crown says the charge was dropped because that there was no reasonable expectation of a successful prosecution.

The second accused, 37-year-old Robert Edwin Matheson of Glace Bay, is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing on the charge beginning October 27th.

Thomas Ted Barrett and Morgan James MacNeil, both of Glace Bay, were charged with second-degree murder in connection with Jessome’s death.

(Cape Breton Post)

Feb 26 2014

**SASKATOON - Water damage that occurred during a check for air leaks has delayed the final phases of work on the new \$122 million police headquarters in Saskatoon.**

Global News says the builder, EllisDon, confirms that problems occurred last Friday when pipes in the rooftop froze, causing fan coils to burst after cold outside air was pumped into the building to pressurize it for a thermal scan.

Jason Sheldrick, EllisDon’s area manager and vice-president, says more than 20 areas of the building were affected, prompting checks of electrical fixtures, insulation and some fire alarm devices to determine if they were harmed.

There’s no word on the damage estimate, but EllisDon is filing a claim with its insurance company.

City Coun. Darren Hill, who also sits on the board of police commissioners, says there are no financial implications for taxpayers but police may have to remain in their current building for an extra month.

The project is already behind schedule, as police were to have moved into their new headquarters last fall.

(Global Sask)

Feb 26 2014

**SASKATOON - The defence says a man facing gun-related charges in the shooting death of a neighbour’s pet dog had the right to protect his farm animals from the 11-month-old St. Bernard.**

But the Crown says Eugene Krawchuk put the owner of the dog, a 16-year-old girl, in danger when he raised his gun and fired as she pleaded for him not to kill her pet.

Closing arguments were made Wednesday in the trial of Krawchuk, who is charged with unlawfully killing the dog and careless use of a firearm, among other charges.

Krawchuk, 59, says the dog named Bentley had crossed over onto his property last spring and was chasing and harassing his animals.

The defence argues teenager Lianne Price didn’t have a leash with her when she tried to retrieve Bentley, who wasn’t responding to her commands.

The Crown says Krawchuk knew from the moment he heard commotion outside about a dog on his land that he planned on killing the dog.

Krawchuk has admitted to loading the rifle before knowing what the dog was doing, and the trial has heard there was bad blood between the families.

While the defence argues Krawchuk only shot once Bentley was clear from anyone else in the pasture, the Crown contends the farmer was tracking the dog with his rifle, meaning the weapon was momentarily aimed at the teenager as the dog ran in front of her.

The judge has reserved his decision on the case until March 20.

(CKOM)

Feb 26 2014

**INNISFAIL, Alta. - The RCMP is looking for signs of culprits after more than 30 vintage signs worth about \$40,000 were taken during an antiques heist in southern Alberta.**

The items were to be auctioned off last Sunday at a community hall in Innisfail, north of Calgary, and had been put on display the day before.

Police think the power meter was disconnected to disable the alarm system before the signs were swiped hours before organizers arrived to get ready for the event.

There are no signs of forced entry to the hall and only the most valuable signs were taken.

The merchandise was being sold on behalf of its Manitoba owner and Mounties believe the items were taken for resale.

Sherry Moore with Old Creamery Antiques says the theft was disheartening for collectors who had come to the event looking for a lot of variety.

(Global Calgary)

Feb 26 2014

**LANTZVILLE, B.C. - A body has been found in what remains of a burned-out home north of Nanaimo, B.C.**

Volunteer firefighters in Lantzville discovered the body after dousing the blaze early Tuesday evening.

They say the blaze began in the garage at around 6:30 p.m., and spread to the house.

No else was in the home at the time.

Members of Nanaimo RCMP’s serious crime unit have taken over the investigation while the victim is identified and family are contacted.

A cause of the fire is being investigated.

**TORONTO - An anesthesiologist convicted of sexually assaulting sedated women during surgeries will have to spend at least a few nights in custody as a judge decides whether he should get bail pending an appeal.**



Doctor George Doodnaught is appealing his 21 convictions for sexual assault, and wants to be released on bail until that appeal can be heard.

His lawyer, Brian Greenspan, says the appeal likely won't be heard until the summer or fall of 2015, and since Doodnaught's medical licence is suspended there's no risk he'll reoffend.

Doodnaught was on bail throughout his trial and Greenspan told a Court of Appeal judge today that he "religiously" complied with those conditions.

The Crown opposes bail, saying Doodnaught should start serving his 10-year sentence now.

The Crown says that even though Doodnaught has no prior criminal record, these convictions show he is a serial sexual offender. The judge is expected to decide in a few days.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 26 2014

**TORONTO - Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair says he is "deeply offended" by remarks Mayor Rob Ford made about him in a videotaped profane rant.**

Ford has admitted he had been drinking when he launched into a rant in Jamaican patois that was surreptitiously filmed at a Toronto restaurant.

The video in which Ford swears and references Blair and counter surveillance surfaced online weeks after Ford said he had given up alcohol.

Blair tells television station CP24 that it was "disgusting" to hear the mayor at the beginning of the rant call him a "pretty filthy obscenity."

The mayor has been under police investigation since the Toronto Star and the U.S. website Gawker reported on a video appearing to show Ford smoking crack cocaine.

Ford's friend Alexander Lisi was charged in that investigation with drug offences - he was later also charged with extortion in relation to the so-called crack video - and police

have alleged Lisi would use counter-surveillance techniques on them.

Feb 26 2014

**GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB - RCMP in northern Alberta say they will be charging three people in the abduction of a baby left inside an idling truck.**

Police issued an Amber Alert for the child when the pickup was stolen Tuesday from outside a home in Grande Prairie.

The seven-month-old girl named Addison was discovered a few hours later in her car seat on the porch of a rural home south of the city.

Police say a person in the house found the infant, who appeared to be unharmed.

A man and woman from Grande Prairie and a 14-year-old from Edmonton also face other charges, including child abandonment and theft of a motor vehicle.

The youth is also charged with failing to comply with a probation order.

Their names have not been released.

Feb 26 2014

**VERNON, B.C. - An American cross-country ski coach accused of voyeurism and making child porn stemming from a hidden video camera at a ski resort in Vernon, B.C., has pleaded not guilty to 10 charges.**

Jason Parr appeared in provincial court via video link.

He has been in custody since December and was denied bail last week because he is considered a flight risk.

The teacher from a private school in Seattle was arrested after a video camera was discovered in the room of female students at Silver Star ski resort.

The charges against Parr include break and enter and making or publishing child pornography.

A date for a three-day trial is expected to be set next week.

(CKIZ)



Feb 27 2014

**SYDNEY, N.S. - A two-year prison term has been handed to a Cape Breton man who beat his former girlfriend and kicked her puppy to death.**

Brian David Cooper pleaded guilty to two counts of assault with a weapon, two counts of assault and one count each of unlawful confinement, uttering a death threat and animal cruelty.

Prosecutor Darcy MacPherson says the woman told police how the 31-year-old Sydney man once held a wire coat hanger to

her neck and threatened to gouge her, after which he grabbed a machete, forced her to her knees and placed the weapon across her neck.

On another occasion, he said Cooper attacked the woman's eight-month-old puppy when he became enraged while breaking in to a number of cottages.

MacPherson said Cooper also bit her on the neck in another fit of rage.

Court heard the offences occurred in October and November of 2012 in Sydney and Big Pond.

Judge Peter Ross said there was no doubt that Cooper was guilty and that killing the dog was a message to his girlfriend of what he was capable of doing if she didn't follow his commands.

(Cape Breton Post)

Feb 27 2014

**VANCOUVER - Immigration officials have reserved their decision in the case of a British man who once led a banned Sikh separatist group and is facing deportation from Canada.**



Seventy-one-year-old Gurmej Singh Gill was returning to British Columbia on a family matter last November when he was stopped by border officials at Vancouver airport.

He was ordered to appear before the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Gill told a hearing in Vancouver yesterday that he led Babbar Khalsa in England but wanted it to abide by British law.

The group has been linked to the 1985 Air India bombings that killed 331 people and was added to a list of banned terror groups in Canada in 2003.

But Gill's lawyer, Sukhjinder Grewal, says the names Babbar Khalsa International and Babbar Khalsa are used interchangeably, and the group Gill once led in England is a different entity.

Gill's son, Navdej Singh Gill, lives in B-C and has also testified his father was only ever involved in peaceful protests, lobbying, and meeting with politicians.

Feb 27 2014

**EDMONTON - Edmonton police say they're concerned about the volume of the date-rape drug known as GHB they're encountering and how it's being stored.**

Det. Guy Pilon says the police seizures so far this year have been astronomical, with officers coming across 206 litres of the colourless and potent drug - enough for up to 70,000 doses.

Pilon says that volume would not have been seen on city streets five years ago, but it's made a resurgence over the past two years.

Four Edmonton residents are facing charges after the latest bust last Thursday when police discovered about five litres of GHB stored in large soft drink bottles.

Sgt. Grant Best, a spokesman for the Edmonton Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, says a child or possibly an adult could have died if they had taken a drink from the bottles without knowing what was in them.

Police Chief Rod Knecht calls the GHB spike troublesome, noting that police investigated 330 sexual assault cases last year but have been called in on 334 this year.

(CHED, CTV Edmonton, Global Edmonton)

Feb 27 2014

### **HALIFAX - A man sentenced to life in prison for fatally stabbing a 19-year-old Nova Scotia woman is planning to appeal his conviction.**

Crown attorney Patrick Young says Christopher Alexander Falconer has filed a prisoner appeal, but Young says he doesn't know the grounds for the action.

Falconer was given an automatic sentence of life in prison with no parole eligibility for 25 years after he was convicted in January of killing Amber Kirwan.

When she was last seen alive, Kirwan was leaving a pool hall in New Glasgow on October 9th, 2011.

A month later, Kirwan's naked, bound remains were discovered in a shallow grave beside a logging road in nearby Heathbell.

The province's chief medical examiner told the court that Kirwan bled to death after being stabbed at least 10 times, including once through her heart.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 27 2014

### **FREDERICTON - The New Brunswick Court of Appeal has ruled that a class-action lawsuit against a pathologist and a former regional health authority over pathology errors should proceed.**

In the decision, the appeal court ruled that a lower court decision denying the lawsuit is out of step with the Supreme Court of Canada's interpretation of certification legislation.

In March 2012, the Court of Queen's Bench dismissed the class-action suit sought by three patients of Dr. Rajgopal Menon,

concluding that the plaintiffs failed to establish an identifiable class.

Menon worked as a pathologist at the Miramichi Regional Hospital between 1995 and 2007 until an audit of his work found 18 per cent of 227 breast and prostate cancer reports were incomplete.

The review also concluded that three per cent of those tests were incorrect.

A later review of 23,000 tests done by Menon found a complete or partial change in the results in about a quarter of the cases.

A public inquiry in 2007 concluded that the hospital had hired Menon in a rush and without proper background checks on his level of competency.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 27 2014

### **TORONTO - Ontario police chief confirmed that hard drives from government computers were seized as part of a search of an unnamed facility last week.**



OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis says it was part of the criminal investigation into the deletion of emails on two cancelled gas plants in Oakville and Mississauga.

But he says he can't say whether a criminal act occurred or whether any charges will be laid.

The police also visited Premier Kathleen Wynne's office last November, which Lewis says was with her staff's full co-operation.

Police launched a criminal probe last June after the Conservatives complained that gas plant emails were intentionally deleted by senior staff in former premier Dalton McGuinty's office.

The Tories say the police raid shows the Liberals are corrupt.

(The Canadian Press)

Feb 27 2014

### **TORONTO - A teenager who sexually blackmailed her boyfriend into killing a 14-year-old girl she perceived as a rival lost her appeal against both her first-degree murder conviction and sentence Thursday.**

Melissa Todorovic had argued self-incriminating videotaped statements she gave to police after the death of Stefanie Rengel should not have been allowed as trial evidence.

Among other things, Todorovic argued

police had not properly informed her of her rights, including the right to have a lawyer present when she gave the statements.

The Ontario Court of Appeal disagreed, saying the trial judge had properly considered the issue and found the teen had waived the rights in question.

"Interpreting what occurred between the appellant and the police officers and, importantly, whether the appellant understood her rights was a matter for the trial judge, absent a palpable and overriding error," Justice Marc Rosenberg wrote on behalf of the panel.

"I have not been persuaded that there was any such error."

Todorovic, now 22, of Toronto, was convicted in 2009 for masterminding the murder of Rengel - a girl she had never met but considered a rival.

Evidence was that the then-15-year-old Todorovic had goaded her boyfriend, David Bagshaw, 17, into killing Rengel, someone he had briefly dated two years earlier.

Bagshaw, also convicted of first-degree murder, stabbed Rengel six times and left her to die in a snowbank on New Year's Day 2008.

Shortly after the killing, Todorovic told police that the murder was more her idea than Bagshaw's, but that she did not believe he would take her seriously.

She also admitted knowing Bagshaw was headed to Rengel's house that night to kill her and that she called him 15 minutes after the murder to ask: "Is she dead?"

Todorovic also told police that she had asked Bagshaw to come over to her house to show how he had killed the girl.

Those statements, her lawyer had argued, contributed to a miscarriage of justice.

For its part, the Crown had argued any rights breach was minor and the evidence against Todorovic - including reams of messages between her and Bagshaw in which she threatens to break up with him or withhold sex until he killed Rengel - was overwhelming.

Todorovic was sentenced as an adult to life in prison with no chance of parole for seven years - the maximum adult sentence for someone her age.

The Appeal Court, which heard the case in November, also dismissed her arguments she should have been sentenced as a youth.

Todorovic showed no empathy for Rengel and harboured ongoing thoughts of hurting others," the Appeal Court noted.

Bagshaw is also serving an adult life sentence after pleading guilty to first-degree murder.

Feb 27 2014

### **WINNIPEG - There will be no legal sanctions against a Winnipeg police**

**officer who was found by a judge to have committed multiple breaches of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms during a rape investigation.**

Provincial justice officials say they won't seek a criminal review of Det. Richard Arndt, who was slammed last month in the provincial court ruling for his misstatements in applying for a search warrant.

The ruling resulted in the warrant being tossed and left the Crown with no evidence against Marcus Baird, who had been accused of assaulting two women in their Winnipeg homes.

Judge Robert Heinrichs found Arndt deliberately withheld certain information and exaggerated other details to persuade a magistrate to issue the warrant that was vital in the investigation.

Heinrichs said the result made the police case look much stronger than it was.

The Crown will also not appeal the judge's ruling.  
(Winnipeg Free Press)

Feb 27 2014

**ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - Police in Abbotsford, B.C., are crediting cross-border teamwork in the arrests of two suspected drug smugglers.**

Const. Ian MacDonald says U.S. Border Patrol alerted officers east of Vancouver about two suspicious men heading north across the Canada-U.S. border at about 8:45 Wednesday night.

MacDonald says a police helicopter, dog team and several units rushed to the rural and remote section of southeastern Abbotsford in the Fraser Valley.

He says outstanding communication between Canadian and U.S. officers helped Canadian officials locate two men, aged 23 and 49, while U.S. officers traced two backpacks south of the border.

About 20 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine was found in the packs.

Two suspects remain in a Canadian jail awaiting a decision on what charges could be laid and where the case should proceed.

Feb 27 2014

**TORONTO - The Ontario government has launched an investigation into the death of an infant at an unlicensed home daycare in Toronto.**

Education Minister Liz Sandals says both police and her ministry are probing the death of the four-month-old boy on Feb. 14.

She says there's no record of complaints about the facility.

Sandals says she's not yet aware of the cause of the boy's death.

There have been similar incidents that have prompted the governing Liberals to propose changes to laws governing daycares.

The ministry is being sued by the family of a two-year-old girl who died last summer in another unlicensed daycare in York Region.

Police launched an investigation in November after the death of a nine-month-

old child at an unlicensed home daycare in Markham.

Feb 27 2014

**TORONTO - A man is facing 31 break-and-enter charges after Toronto police say numerous upscale homes were broken into by a thief who climbed walls and entered through high windows and skylights.**

The investigation - dubbed Project Spiderman - was launched after police say a number of high-end homes throughout the Toronto area were broken into between October 2010 and January this year.

It's alleged that millions of dollars worth of property was stolen during the break-ins, including jewelry and watches.

Police say their investigation revealed an array of sophisticated equipment was used to break into the homes, such as flexible spy cams, parabolic listening devices and precious-metal testers.

It's alleged the man often scaled the exteriors and entered the homes through skylights and second-storey windows in order to avoid alarm systems.

Police say Shane Gagnon (also known as Shane Louis Zwezdararyk), 43, of Bradford, Ont., was arrested on Jan. 31 following a chase.

Investigators say hundreds of stolen items have been recovered since then, after search warrants were executed in the Toronto area.

More than 800 photos of the recovered items have been posted on the Toronto police website and victims of break-ins are encouraged to check for property that may be theirs.

Feb 27 2014

**HALIFAX - Halifax police have charged a man and woman with murder in the death of Loretta Saunders, a university student whose body was found Wednesday on the side of a highway in New Brunswick.**



Twenty-eight-year-old Victoria Henneberry and 25-year-old Blake Leggette face charges of first-degree murder and are scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court Friday.

Henneberry and Leggette were charged earlier with stealing Saunders's 2000 Toyota Celica, which was found Feb. 19 in Harrow, Ont., south of Windsor.

Saunders remains were found at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the median off

Route 2 of the Trans-Canada Highway west of Moncton, N.B.

The 26-year-old Saint Mary's University student was last seen on the morning of Feb. 13 in the Cowie Hill Road area of the city.

Members of Saunders's family travelled to Halifax to make public appeals for help in finding the young Inuit woman, who was originally from Labrador.

Delilah Terriak has said her sister was set to graduate from university in May and was doing her thesis on missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Feb 27 2014

**OTTAWA - The Harper government is taking steps to crack down on sexual predators.**



Justice Minister Peter MacKay says the government is tabling legislation to create a publicly accessible database of high-risk child sex offenders.

Among other things, he says the bill would make anyone convicted of child sex crimes against multiple children serve their sentences consecutively, not concurrently.

The legislation would also require registered sex offenders to provide more information when they travel abroad and permit more sharing of information between federal agencies.

It would also increase sentences for certain child sex offences as well as penalties for violation of conditions of supervision orders.

Testimony from a spouse would be available to prosecutors in child pornography cases.

The government promised in the October throne speech to get tougher on pedophiles.