

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

March 21, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 12

Executive Digest

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Report predicts RCMP injuries to double by 2027



Mar 17 2014

The number of RCMP officers disabled while on duty is expected to almost double in less than 15 years, leading to a dramatic spike in the cost of their compensation fund, according to an internal report.

The report, recently posted on the RCMP's website, warns that the national police force must do more to better understand the causes of disability conditions, to mitigate risk and to improve occupational health and safety policies and practices.

"Understanding and addressing work-related

injuries specific to the RCMP will ultimately contribute to prevention of work-related injuries that cause disabilities," the report warns.

An evaluation of the program designed to compensate Mounties who suffer mental and physical injuries on the job projects that the case load will nearly double from 11,344 members in 2013-2014 to 19,053 by 2027-2028.

Costs of administering the compensation fund are expected to triple to \$382 million from the current \$130 million.

The disability compensation fund is administered by Veterans Affairs Canada on



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behalf of the RCMP and Canadian Armed Forces, and tinnitus, hearing loss and post-traumatic stress disorder have ranked as the top conditions for clients in the past five years.

The projections are based on actuarial reports and VAC reports that forecast a growing caseload, though it's not clear exactly what is driving the dramatic rise.

By 2027-28, the number of Mounties receiving a disability pension will almost double to reach about 19,000, which is the approximate number of RCMP members currently serving in the force.

"The increase may be explained, in part, by a higher level of awareness among our members of the importance of putting their health first and dealing with injuries and illness - whether physical or mental - as early as necessary," Cpl. Laurence Trotter told CBC News.

"Policing is a dangerous profession. While the RCMP makes every effort to provide our members with a safe work environment, illness or death can unfortunately occur as a consequence of our members performing their duties."

Trotter said the RCMP will "carefully monitor" the number of disability pension claims to determine if the transfer payment is sufficient, but noted that increased payments would not affect the force's operational policing budget.

The program was introduced in 1959 to provide financial and health care assistance to regular and civilian RCMP members or their families when an injury, illness or death leads to a loss of quality of life.

(CBC News)

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Group Publisher: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
Subscriptions: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048
12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 2014

Mar 12 2014

Speeding motorists helped Edmonton post a \$9.2-million surplus in 2013.

The city announced in its 2013 operating budget Wednesday that photo enforcement revenue came in \$11.2 million higher than expected, which administration credits in part to new hand-held laser equipment.

Mayor Don Iveson said he's comfortable with money coming from photo radar, saying drivers have avenues to appeal tickets and if they're legitimately busted they should pay their tickets "like grown-ups."

Iveson noted the money is reinvested into traffic safety programs, and said the city will look at putting future speeding ticket proceeds toward neighbourhood safety modifications.

"Speeding, especially on collector roads in certain neighbourhoods, the only way to combat that is with physical modifications to the roadway," he said. "So if we can use the proceeds of photo radar revenue to pay for some of those infrastructure changes, then it's not coming from the taxpayer."

A chunk of the photo radar earnings - \$8.1 million of a total \$41.3 million - was used to pay off the new equipment.

(Edmonton Sun)

THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2014

Mar 13 2014

SASKATOON - Police in Saskatoon say they had to use a Taser on a woman who came at officers with a butcher knife.

They say officers were responding to an early-morning call from a 26-year-old woman who was threatening to hurt herself.

Officers tried to disarm her several times before she was zapped with an electronic stun gun.

The woman was taken to hospital as a precaution and is now in police custody charged with assault.

A preliminary review has found the officer who used the device acted within police service guidelines.

Police say it's the first time a Taser has been used since the force began reissuing them to officers in December.

(CKOM)

Mar 13 2014

MONTREAL - A man who spent nearly 30 years in jail for three murders he insists he didn't commit has been set free after the Crown decided not to proceed with a new trial.

Yves (Colossus) Plamondon was released from prison in January pending a new trial in April.

The Crown announced Thursday it

accepted his acquittal on the first murder charge and was stopping proceedings on the two others.

The Crown said witnesses and investigators have died and evidence has been destroyed since the case was first heard back in the 1980s.

Plamondon, who spent 28 years behind bars, refused to admit his guilt - a necessary step for him to ask for conditional release.

The man, who is now 64, was sentenced in 1985 for three murders.

He was linked to the drug trade in the 1980s and was connected to the victims.

Plamondon left court Thursday looking visibly relieved.

"I'm very happy, it's over," he said, his voice tinged with emotion.

"It's something. I've been waiting 30 years for this. It's finished, it's finished."

Mar 13 2014

TORONTO - About 80 people gathered at a board meeting Thursday to get a look at the first draft policy on police carding - collecting personal information from people and adding it to an internal database.



Lawyer Frank Addario, who was hired to create the policy by the Toronto Police Services Board in December, said he was not in favour of ending carding.

He said that would just drive bad practices underground, adding that carding has fallen dramatically - 83 or 90 per cent - in the past year.

The draft report says procedures need to be developed that would ensure compliance with human rights laws, such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Human Rights Code and municipal laws.

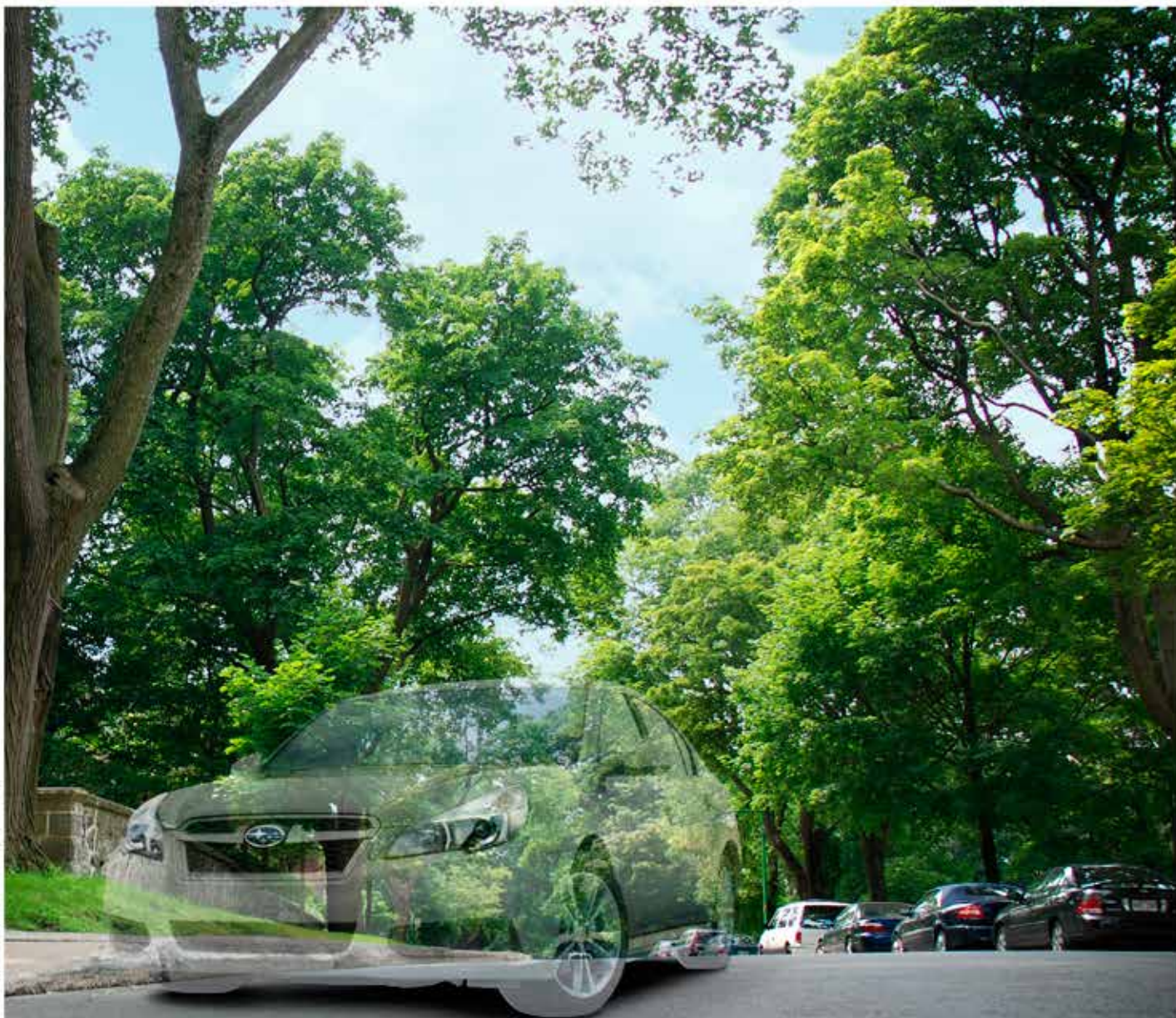
"Eliminating carding would be simplistic. It would not improve the police service's reputation or public trust. Instead, it would frustrate the board's oversight function and affect their ability to communicate with the community," he said.

Addario consulted several sources to draft the policy, like Toronto police and Toronto Police Association, social scientists, lawyers and community members, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario and the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

There was little discussion and some members of the public were dismayed they couldn't get a glimpse at the draft policy.

It was placed on the Toronto Police Services Board website after the meeting was underway, and there were fewer than 30

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Addario expects the full final policy to be upheld for examination at a special board meeting on April 8, where the public can submit feedback orally, and adopted on April 10.

Police board chair Alok Mukherjee said while the board would like the policy to be finalized in April, they will not tie themselves to the exact date of April 10.

Mar 13 2014

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - The Crown has stayed charges against a police officer in southern Alberta.

A trial began Thursday for Lethbridge Regional Police officer Const. Norman Smith, but ended a few hours later.

Smith was charged with assault and unlawful confinement of a 16-year-old boy during an arrest in December 2012.

The teen testified he was drunk and when the officer put him in handcuffs, he says the constable smashed his head on the back of a police car.

Smith, who is 33, had pleaded not guilty. (CJOC)

Mar 13 2014

METRO VANCOUVER - Richmond Mounties got a surprise Thursday morning when a suspected drunk driver, allegedly involved in a series of hit and runs earlier that day, coasted into their parking lot.

At around 7:10 a.m. Deas Island RCMP tracked down a 1994 Honda Civic that had been reported stolen from Vancouver earlier Thursday morning.

The vehicle had already been involved in a number of hit and runs in Delta and, by the time police located it, was driving northbound through the Massey Tunnel.

Richmond RCMP then caught sight of the vehicle as it exited the tunnel. As police prepared for a high risk takedown, the vehicle turned south onto No. 5 Road, heading directly towards the Richmond RCMP Detachment.

As police activated their emergency lights to initiate the stop, the Honda continued a short distance south on No 5 Road before making a sharp right-hand turn into the first available parking lot.

The parking lot belonged to the headquarters of Richmond RCMP. Numerous police officers in the parking lot joined the high-risk vehicle stop and the male driver, who is known to police, was arrested without incident. Alcohol was determined to be a factor.

Richmond RCMP are considering several charges including possession of stolen property, impaired driving, prohibited driving and failure to remain at the scene of an accident. (Richmond News)

Mar 13 2014

EDMONTON - Police have smashed an international auto theft ring with ties to Edmonton, recovering 53 stolen

vehicles worth more than \$3 million, Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams said Thursday.

The investigation started in November 2012 and involved law enforcement agencies, including ALERT, Service Alberta's Special Investigations Unit, RCMP, Quebec Provincial Police, and the Insurance Bureau of Canada. More than 100 vehicles were stolen in what police called a complex and highly organized scheme.

Det. Stewart Kirtio, the lead investigator on the file, described the investigation as "very interesting and challenging."

He said Alberta officials became aware of the auto theft ring when registry agencies in Quebec noticed some "peculiar registrations" involving vehicles in Alberta and Quebec.

Investigators allege trucks, SUVs, and luxury sedans were stolen in Quebec and then re-identified using counterfeit vehicle identification numbers. The vehicles were registered by associates in Alberta and other provinces using federally numbered corporations at various local registries. The process used fraudulent bills of sale and new vehicle information statement cards.

Most vehicles were then re-registered in Quebec and sold at steep discounts through a network of friends and associates. Buyers likely knew they were purchasing stolen property, police said, but most people would not be able to tell the vehicles were stolen.

"Driving down the road, a normal policeman is not going to know that's a stolen vehicle. 'That's how well done it is,'" Kirtio said.

Police say the network saw certain people given the job of stealing particular makes of vehicles, others with manufacturing the labels and VINs, and others responsible for registrations and "legitimizing" the vehicles.

"This is a very sophisticated fraud requiring thousands of documents," Kirtio said.

ALERT has recovered 53 of the stolen vehicles, including 13 in Edmonton, one in Calgary, three in Fort McMurray and 27 in Quebec. More vehicles are being recovered almost daily in Quebec, officials said.

Seven vehicles were traced to Ghana, Africa, and two more were intercepted on the way to Costa Rica in a shipping container. The vehicles recovered in Edmonton included a 2012 Ford F350, two Ford F150s, a 2013 Ford Mustang and three Dodge Rams.

"This group is closely connected to organized crime and has benefited from the trading of stolen vehicles resulting in millions of dollars of profit," Insp. Darcy Strang said.

Police have identified several suspects in Alberta and Quebec and investigators are in the process of recommending charges in consultation with crown prosecutors. The investigation continues. (Edmonton Journal)

FRIDAY
MARCH 14, 2014

Mar 14 2014

EDMONTON - An agency that investigates serious incidents involving police in Alberta has recommended that an RCMP officer face charges in a crash.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team investigated a crash on July 7, 2013 involving an unmarked police vehicle and a private vehicle in Edson.

Two people in the private care were injured. ASIRT's executive director Clifton Purvis determined that RCMP Const. Dave McKenna should be charged with two provincial driving offences.

McKenna was charged in January with careless driving and driving with inappropriate speed and is set to appear in court in Edson on April 9.

The driver of the private vehicle is charged with making an improper left turn.

Mar 14 2014

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The leaders of the three main political parties in Newfoundland and Labrador are calling on Ottawa to launch an inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women.

The provincial government issued a joint news release Friday with the Opposition Liberals and NDP saying they support an all-party motion that will be introduced in the legislature next week.

The call comes following the death last month of Loretta Saunders, a 26-year-old Inuit woman whose body was found by the side of the Trans-Canada Highway in New Brunswick.

Saunders was a student at Saint Mary's University in Halifax who was working on a thesis project about violence against aboriginal women.

Nova Scotia's political parties supported a similar request to Ottawa earlier this month.

The federal Conservatives have rejected pleas for an inquiry and say they renewed funding to combat violence against aboriginal women in their recent budget.

Mar 14 2014

WINNIPEG - Police officers in Winnipeg have approved a contract offer that will raise their wages through 2016 by a total of 9 1/2 per cent.

There are several other parts of the deal including a slight pay raise for cadets and widening their responsibilities to cover Highway Traffic Act offences and enforce anti-smoking, drinking and trespass legislation.

Cadets will also be used to staff the central booking unit.

Right now, the starting wage for a police officer is \$46,000.

After five years, a first-class police officer earns \$85,000.

The deal still needs to be ratified by city council. (CJOB)

Mar 14 2014

A police officer has been cleared of playing a role in the death of a woman who fell from an Etobicoke balcony in his presence in January.

Tony Loparco, director of the Special Investigations Unit, concluded there were no reasonable grounds to charge the Toronto Police officer with a crime.

The woman, 22, fell from the 25th floor of an apartment building at 330 Dixon Rd. after phoning 911 to say she was about to commit suicide.

Officers responded to the call and found the woman standing near the balcony railing. She reportedly thanked the officer in question and said goodbye before jumping to her death.

"There is nothing in the circumstances that he could have done to prevent her jumping," Loparco said in an SIU news release.

The SIU interviewed 12 witnesses as well as the officer during its investigation.
(Toronto Star)

SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2014

Jan 15 2014

MONTREAL - Police slapped 288 demonstrators with fines of \$637 for participating in an illegal demonstration in Montreal Saturday, while another four men and one woman, aged between 19-14 were arrested on a variety of charges, including armed assault on a police officer and mischief.



The eighteenth annual anti-police brutality protest began at 3 p.m. Saturday but as organizers failed to provide an itinerary, the demonstration was declared illegal three minutes later and police briefly detained those assembled and handed out the fines and made the five arrests.

Municipal bylaw P-6, enacted during the 2012 student protests, requires demonstrators to provide police with an itinerary and route of a protest before it begins, a requirement that was not respected, police say.

Police dressed in riot gear kettled a group of protesters where the demonstration began.

At one point, the protesters split into two groups, with one small group were travelling on adjacent streets while the larger group was kettled.

A 22-year-old protester sustained a minor injury and was attended to on site by paramedics.

The march is an annual ritual of spring in Montreal since 1997 and regularly leads to dozens of arrests and fines, with the highest-ever police roundup taking place in 2002 when 370 were detained.
(CTV News)

MONDAY MARCH 17, 2014

Mar 17 2014

REGINA - Regina police is putting a one-time cash payment from the provincial government towards trying to solve a triple murder.

Chief Troy Hagen announced that \$100,000 will be dedicated to the investigation into a triple homicide that is nearly four years old.

Hagen wouldn't give any details about what the money will be spent on.

On August 6, 2010, a man, woman and

child were found dead in a north Regina townhouse.

Police say the investigation into the deaths of Gray Nay Htoo, 31, Maw Maw Htoo, 28, and their son Seven June Htoo, 3, has been the biggest in the city's history, with 60 investigators having spent time on the file over the years.

The money is half of the provincial government's first payout under the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund - the victims' fund also got \$100,000.
(CJME)

Mar 17 2014

Ontario has designated a day to honour and celebrate its first responders. May 1 of this and every year thereafter

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has been proclaimed as First Responders Day.

A private member's bill proposed by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees was passed into law in December after receiving unanimous support. Klees credited author Vali Stone and her books *911: True tales of courage and compassion* for inspiring the bill.

"I have an extremely high level of respect for all emergency responders," said Stone, "and wanted to give them a voice."

Married to a police officer for more than 38 years, Stone, who also wrote *Cops don't cry*, said the stories first responders told her motivated her to push for a day to recognize them.

"I am proud that we can honour and stay true to these heroic people and the role that they play in our society. I am happy that the public can find the so much needed admiration towards responders as well as their families. Even though the stresses are high, they have chosen to remain in the job, because they want to help us; it's what they know, it's their way of being."

Stone says many celebrations are being planned across Ontario to mark the day. For more information, contact Stone at 289 380-2616 or Klees at 905 750-0019.

Mar 17 2014

OTTAWA - Health Canada says it will tell police if medical marijuana users fail to declare they have disposed of their homegrown stashes - a requirement of strict new federal rules.



The department says it will share relevant information - including the names and addresses of those who flout the new system - with law enforcement.

Under the existing federal program, thousands of people have licences to cultivate marijuana for personal use to help ease painful symptoms.

Beginning April 1, the government plans to allow only select commercial producers to grow marijuana under "secure and sanitary conditions" for postal distribution to medically approved patients.

Health Canada says anyone other than a licensed producer growing marijuana as of that date is breaking the law.

It means those who now possess or grow marijuana under the old rules must destroy and dispose of plants, seeds and dried pot by March 31.

It is sending letters to those enrolled under the old rules to say they must submit a signed form by April 30 confirming they have

stopped growing pot. Users are also required to list the number of plants - and the number of grams of dried marijuana and seeds - they have destroyed.

Those who fail to comply will be reported to police, Health Canada says in a notice on its website.

Mar 17 2014

VANCOUVER - Families of the victims of serial killer Robert Pickton will each receive \$50,000 to settle their legal action over a botched criminal investigation.

Lawyer Jason Gratl says the settlement involves 13 plaintiffs who filed civil action against the provincial and federal governments, the City of Vancouver and several RCMP officers.

Gratl says 11 family members have accepted the proposal, one person is expected to respond shortly and B.C.'s public guardian must approve a settlement accepted by a boy who has not yet turned 18.

Gratl says although the deal is final with the government defendants, the families are still pursuing wrongful death lawsuits against Pickton and his brother David.

The report from a 2012 public inquiry included a recommendation for financial compensation to the children of 33 women whose DNA or remains were found on Pickton's farm after he was arrested in 2002.

Pickton was convicted of six counts of second-degree murder and is serving a life sentence with no parole for at least 25 years.

Mar 17 2014

DELTA - Delta police are examining the remains of a motorhome with a trap door and equipped with siphoning gear that was used early Saturday morning in an attempt to steal hundreds of litres of gasoline from storage tanks at a Delta service station.

The botched heist is the most recent in a spate of dangerous gasoline thefts across Metro Vancouver that police say have become commonplace against a backdrop of high and rising gas prices.

The thieves' cunning-but-failed scheme came to an abrupt end when an explosion rocked a Petro Canada gas station at about 3 a.m., injuring two men and a woman.

Delta police officer Sgt. Sarah Swallow said the two men who were found by emergency personnel outside the motorhome are in hospital in critical condition after suffering extensive burns. The woman fled the scene, but was later found in New Westminster where she was treated for injuries.

Swallow said the three suspects, who have not been publicly identified, drove the motorhome over plates that cover the in-ground fuel lines to storage tanks located at the side of the service station.

She said a trap door in the floor of the motor home was positioned over the fill-up points, then the thieves unscrewed a cover plate so they could pump gas out of a tank into a large plastic storage tank inside the motor home.

"This happened at 3 a.m. and it would be hard for anyone to tell something criminal was going on unless they were able to shine a flashlight under the motor home and pick out a hose," said Swallow.

The trio were in the process of removing gasoline when the fuel ignited, causing the explosion.

Swallow said the suspects were known to police for stealing gasoline.

The method may signal a departure from a previous pattern that had thieves using stolen credit cards to fill up custom-built tanks in vans capable of holding up to 1,000 litres — often going to a number of different service stations to avoid detection.

"It's possible the suspects have moved on from the credit card fraud side of it and decided 'It would be much easier if we did it this way,'" said Swallow.

(Vancouver Sun)

Mar 17 2014

CALGARY - City police hope the days of being lost in translation will soon be a thing of the past.

In what the force is calling a Canadian first, a permanent database of translators fluent in dozens of languages and available at all times to cops is being readied.

It's something that's badly needed as the face of Calgary continues to rapidly change, said Sgt. Bill Dodd of the diversity resource unit.

"In the last four months of 2013, we had to use interpreters in 168 different languages," said Dodd.

That language gap when dealing with witnesses has contributed to suspects and defendants walking free, he said.

"Things fall through the cracks, people fall through the cracks," said Dodd.

The database, which could receive the force's final approval in the next few weeks, would supply translators on call through email, tweets, phone and text.

Health care and educational agencies have interpreter rosters "but nobody's shared them," said Dodd.

"This would be more standardized, more reliable."

(Sun Media)

**TUESDAY
MARCH 18, 2014**

Mar 18 2014

VANCOUVER - Canada's first 911 service for the deaf is now serving southwestern British Columbia.

E-Comm, the 911 answer point covering the region, says T911 service for the deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech impaired community launched early Tuesday.

Those registering can use their cellphone to text police, fire or ambulance across a wide region of Metro Vancouver, north to Pemberton and the Sunshine Coast.

E-Comm says calls from pre-registered

cellphones will trigger an alert at the call centre, enabling a special messaging system so the 911 operator can communicate by text with the deaf or speech impaired caller.

The text service is available to the deaf in Metro Vancouver and several other areas in southwestern B.C., but E-Comm officials say similar T911 capability is planned for other centres across Canada.

At some point in the future, T911 will be followed by text service for all cellphone users, but E-Comm officials remind the general public that voice calling remains the only way to contact 911 for those who are not hearing or speech impaired.

Mar 18 2014

THUNDER BAY - Thunder Bay police officers will soon have a new tool in their crime-fighting arsenal. The force plans to replace the mobile data terminals in its cruisers with tablet computers — or tablets.



Police Chief JP Levesque said the tablets will be used for communication and reporting.

He noted the force has a policy that forbids officers from using these devices while on the road, he noted.

“A two-person car helps a lot, so it’s the passenger who’s actually doing any input and communications,” he said. “But historically, there’s always been a radio in a police car. So that’s a distraction, so there’s always been something.”

In a one-person car, the driver must pull over to use the tablet, Levesque added.

The force will implement the tablets — a model known as “Tough Pad” that is manufactured by Panasonic — over the next few months.

About 30 tablets were purchased for the force, at a cost of about \$90,000.

(CBC News)

Mar 18 2014

CALGARY - Calgary’s police chief wants the Alberta government to follow Ontario’s lead on distracted driving.



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Ontario is introducing a new law that would see drivers convicted of distracted driving get three demerit points.

Police Chief Rick Hanson says that is the route this province should go as well.

Hanson says police did see better behaviour in Alberta drivers when the distracted driving law came into place nearly two years ago.

But he says the \$172 fine in this province did not stop drivers from going back to bad habits.

A spokesperson for Alberta Justice says there are no plans to introduce new distracted driving laws in the spring session.
(CBC News)

Mar 18 2014

NORFOLK, Ont. - The provincial police says the Criminal Investigation Branch has been called in following the theft of an OPP issued handgun from the Norfolk Count detachment.

Police say that the Sig Sauer P229 handgun and ammunition magazine was stolen from a locked gun box within the detachment sometime between March 6 and March 14.

Acting Det. Insp. Dave Robinson of the Criminal Investigation Branch is conducting the investigation.

Mar 18 2014

CALGARY - The widow of a fallen Calgary Police officer is bringing her story of overcoming grief and loss to the stage.

Maryanne Pope — whose husband, Const. John Petropoulos, was killed in the line of duty on Sept. 29, 2000 when he fell through a false ceiling — spent the last 10 years penning *Saviour: A Tough Love Story*, which she is now working to bring to the stage in Calgary and Edmonton in the fall.

Based on the actual events of John's death and Maryanne's mourning process, the 90-minute play centres on four characters — Sam, a gruff police officer in his early 30s killed in a fall while investigating a break-in; Adri, his extroverted wife who is a clerical worker and aspiring writer; Tom, a compassionate police officer in his 40s who is Sam's sergeant, and Virginia Woolf, the famous author who took her own life in the 1940s.

Following Sam's fall, the spirit of Virginia Woolf helps him come to terms with his impending death, while showing him how life will be for Adri while Tom helps her recover emotionally from the loss.

"It's kind of like a Christmas Carol in that Virginia Woolf takes Sam into moments in the near future and moments in the past then you get to see the two different sides of the stage, even though they're in different time frames, the characters go back and forth," said Pope.

Being produced by the John Petropoulos Memorial Fund — a charity started by Pope which strives to make workplaces safer for emergency responders — the cost of bringing the play to the stage is upward of \$150,000, which they are working to raise through sponsors.

The money, said Pope, will go hiring set designers, a stage manager and director,

along with the actors, renting the two theatres and transporting the stage to Edmonton.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the production can contact the JPMF managing director Ian Wilson at 403-891-4269 or ian@jpmf.ca.
(Calgary Sun)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19, 2014

Mar 19 2014

FREDERICTON - The New Brunswick government has introduced changes to the Motor Vehicle Act to clamp down on drivers using hand-held devices.

Public Safety Minister Bruce Northrup

said Tuesday the changes will toughen earlier amendments, which prohibited the use of hand-operated electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.

The new amendments make it illegal for a driver to use such devices while operating a motor vehicle even when stopped in traffic or at a red light.


But, motorists who pull off the road and stop can use a hand-operated electronic device.

The amendments will also exempt two-way radio operators from the prohibition.

Mar 19 2014

TORONTO - The province's Special Investigations Unit has invoked its mandate after a pedestrian was stuck by an unmarked police van in east end Toronto.


Police say the SIU began their



TRAINING

PART OF CANADA'S PREMIERE LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENT

AJAX CONVENTION CENTRE, 550 BECK CRESCENT, AJAX, ON



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



Day 1: April 29th, 9am - 4pm
Crisis Negotiation
Presenter: Tom Hart, President CCII
Fee: \$100

INTERVIEWING & DECEPTION

Day 1: April 29th, 9am-4pm
The Non Accusatory Interview
Presenters: S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd) and A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret'd)
Fee: \$100

Day 2: April 30th, 9am-4pm
Dealing with Deception
Presenters: A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret'd) and S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd)
Fee: \$100

Full details & registration at www.blueline.ca/expo/courses

investigation around 2:40 this morning.

The pedestrian suffered non-life threatening injuries in the incident at a plaza.

Police say one person is under arrest but it's not clear how the person is connected to the incident.

Toronto police are also conducting their own investigation into the incident.

(Newstalk1010)

Mar 19 2014

EDMONTON - Charges have been stayed against a man accused in the deaths of an Alberta couple who disappeared almost four years ago.

The Crown abruptly stayed two counts of first-degree murder against Travis Vader during a pre-trial hearing Wednesday.

RCMP declared Vader a person of interest in the case shortly after Lyle and Marie McCann were reported missing in July 2010. The couple, who were in their 70s, lived in St. Albert, a bedroom community north of Edmonton.

They were last seen alive fuelling up their motorhome for a trip to British Columbia to vacation with their family. The burned-out vehicle was found west of Edmonton two days later. A week later, the SUV they'd been towing was also discovered.

The couple's bodies have never been found.

Vader's defence lawyer, Brian Beresh, said his client was "shocked and elated" by the surprise stay.

Vader was scheduled to go to trial on the murder charges next month.

Crown prosecutor Michelle Doyle did not explain the stays in court.

Vader still faces other charges unrelated to the McCann case and remains in custody.

THURSDAY
MARCH 20, 2014

Mar 20 2014

TORONTO - A "catastrophic" backlog in Toronto police background checks for students, health professionals and other workers could grow worse if the RCMP makes fingerprinting a mandatory part of the process.

The Toronto Police Services Board is grappling with how to manage the 200 new requests for checks received each day, contributing to a backlog that peaked at almost 17,000 requests last year. Waiting times for a check can stretch for months.

At stake are timely job acceptance and school placements for thousands of applicants every year.

Police checks meant to uncover a potential criminal record are mandatory in a variety of workplaces. Last year, Toronto police received more than 108,000 requests for the two types of checks they provide.

In a case where the gender and birthdate match with someone on a database, such as the registry for pardoned sex offenders, the RCMP requires fingerprints to confirm the applicant's identity. That requirement is the result of a 2010 policy change aimed at capturing pardoned sex offenders who make an unreported name change.

But the RCMP may soon require everyone who needs a VSS check to submit fingerprints — which could have a "severe impact" on the system, according to a report from Chief Bill Blair to the board.

And the system could continue to be flooded with requests after future legislation changes that will require all Ontario health professionals — and possibly driving instructors as well — to get VSS checks.

(Toronto Star)

Mar 20 2014

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that retroactive changes to parole eligibility brought in by the Harper government are unconstitutional.

The top court was the third successive

court to find that the March 2011 legislation was in clear breach of the Charter of Rights because it imposed new punishment on people who had already been tried and sentenced.

The retroactive changes - which lengthened the amount of time a non-violent, first-time offender had to spend behind bars before being eligible for parole - were deemed by the court to be a form of double jeopardy.

The ruling means dozens or more prisoners may be locked up illegally under the Conservatives' Abolition of Early Parole Act.

The Supreme Court ruling is just one of a number of constitutional challenges being launched against the Harper government's tough-on-crime legislative agenda.

It comes after a Justice department lawyer blew the whistle on what he says is lax vetting of new federal laws for their ability to withstand Charter challenges.

A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM:
**A SWORN MEMBER'S
RISK
FOR SUICIDE**

Thursday, May 22 | Friday, May 23, 2014
Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire, Calgary, Alberta


**Understanding and Preventing
Suicide in Municipal Police Services**

This 2-day symposium will address the risk for suicide and homicide-suicide among police.

Throughout the symposium, individual case studies and general forensic research will be explored - along with 'blue culture' barriers and how to overcome them to prevent tragedies.

The Symposium is on a first come first served basis registration.
Registration and meals are free of charge, parking is available at a cost.

To register, contact Pat Mazan at: T: 403.428.8380 E: pat.mazan@calgarypolice.ca.

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