

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

April 4, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 14

Executive Digest

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CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C. - A British Columbia pulp and paper mill employee heading to work one morning seven years ago had her life tragically altered when police in the local detachment were issued an urgent command.

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VANCOUVER - A tool to stop cell-phone robberies that was praised by Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu and his counterparts on the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has not been working, according to new numbers from the force.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Trained civilians could assist police, report proposes



Apr 01 2014

Your home has been burglarized and you call police. But instead of an armed officer, a specially trained civilian investigator shows up at your door.

That's one of many proposals in a new report by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute aimed at controlling skyrocketing policing costs in Canada.

The report says police need to return to their "core" functions and consider turning over certain duties — such as responding to break-ins, fingerprint and DNA collection, conducting background checks, enforcing parking rules, transporting inmates, transcribing interviews and others — to non-sworn members, special constables, community safety officers or private security companies.

"A great deal of work now done by highly

trained, well-paid and experienced uniformed officers is only tangentially related to law enforcement and could be done as well or better and more cheaply by someone else, freeing police to do their core job," the report says.

It cites Ontario's annual Sunshine List of public employees who make more than \$100,000. Several parking-enforcement officers with the Toronto police are on it.

"Police work is complex, difficult, and demanding and should be well-compensated. The real question is why police who are making upwards of \$100,000 a year are performing so many tasks that are not really core policing duties."

Tom Stamatakis, president of the Canadian Police Association, said Monday that police chiefs across the country are working to find ways to be more efficient, but cautioned



EXPERIENCED POLICE OFFICERS BRANDON POLICE SERVICE

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This competition is open to applications until April 22nd, 2014.

"Committed to Community Safety"

against overly “simplistic” solutions. Hiring civilians to perform forensic identification work or to be analysts can still cost an agency more money, he said.

Stamatakis said he suspects most citizens who report a burglary still want a sworn officer to respond. Further, the only way police can gather intelligence and prevent community crimes is by interacting with the public.

The report also doesn’t take into account geographical differences, he said. In some remote Canadian communities, it might not be uncommon for an officer to help a citizen change their light bulb. That’s not a “core” policing function but could go a long way to establishing relationships and maintaining order.

The cost of policing in Canada climbed to \$12 billion in 2012. Even though calls for service have remained stable over the past decade, police budgets have gone up at an average annual rate that is almost double GDP growth, the report said.

Part of what’s driving those costs is the changing nature and growing complexity of certain crimes, such as cybercrime and organized crime, as well as increasing demands for transparency and accountability.

“There’s a reasonable agreement that the current model is simply not workable. The risk we run if it becomes more unsustainable (is that) politicians will start to meddle in the affairs of police. That’s the last thing security organizations want,” said the report’s author, Christian Leuprecht, a political-science professor at Royal Military College of Canada and Queen’s University.

“Civilianization” has already occurred in some areas. Bylaw enforcement, emergency dispatch calls and complaints against police are often handled now by trained civilians.

In the U.S., some police agencies have taken it a step further. In Mesa, Ariz., civilian investigators now handle calls related to residential and commercial break-ins, stolen vehicles, fraud, forgeries and ID thefts.

Civilian investigators can respond more quickly to calls and can take the time to process the crime scene. They are trained to take photographs, look for fingerprints and collect evidence, Mesa police spokesman Lt. Dana McBride said.

“It improves timeliness and quality of service,” he said.

There is no reason, the report said, that sworn officers need to spend time on human resources tasks such as recruiting, carrying out routine background checks, performing media relations functions, and providing much of the instruction at police academies.

It also questions the need for sworn officers to appear at ceremonial functions, such as “red serge duty” in the RCMP, “when any number of retired members would do just as good a job” in return for being paid mileage and per diems.

(Ottawa Citizen)

FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2014

Mar 28 2014

VANCOUVER - Two Vancouver police officers are recovering from injuries after trying to arrest a break-and-enter suspect.

Police say one officer has a broken finger while the second officer had to be treated for scrapes, bruises and potential bacterial exposure.

The two officers were responding to an attempted break-in call in Vancouver when they spotted a man a laneway close to the home.

When the officers approached him, the suspect started throwing punches, but officers managed to arrest the man.

Police say the man continued to struggle and tried to hurt himself, so he was taken to the hospital with what is believed to be drug-induced psychosis.

Mar 28 2014

BRAMPTON, Ont. - A man wearing a long trench coat sparked pandemonium Friday when he walked into a busy multi-storey courthouse, pulled out a gun and shot and wounded a police officer before being shot dead by the officer’s colleagues.

The late morning incident in the lobby where security screens visitors sent unnerved people scrambling for cover.

The wounded officer, Const. Mike Klarenbeek, was in stable condition with his family at his side after being rushed to a trauma centre in nearby Toronto, police said.

Police did not name the gunman but said he was from Brampton.

Within moments, the Ontario Superior Court courthouse was locked down, trapping hundreds of people inside. Dozens of officers in cruisers along with ambulances rushed to the scene.

As two helicopters clattered overhead, police taped off the entire outer perimeter of the large complex and parking lot, only allowing first responders through.

Klarenbeek, a 30-year police veteran described as a family man, had been providing security at the courthouse when he was hit by a bullet, police said.

The Special Investigations Unit said the gunman was shot by police officers and pronounced dead at the scene.

The SIU said it had assigned 15 investigators and three forensic investigators to probe the incident.

Mar 28 2014

SASKATOON - A Saskatoon police officer has been found not guilty of excessive force when he punched and pepper-sprayed a 14-year-old boy during an arrest.

Luke St. Onge was charged in November 2012 with assault causing bodily harm and assault with a weapon.

He admitted there was violence when the boy resisted officers who were trying to arrest him for allegedly using bear spray on St. Onge.

The boy fit St. Onge’s description of his attacker. He was missing from his group home and ran when approached by police.

The boy was tackled by a constable who saw him being chased by a canine unit. St. Onge arrived on the scene shortly afterwards, along with other officers.

The boy landed with his left arm underneath his body. He testified that he was told to stop squirming every time he tried to pull it out. Two officers, along with St. Onge, testified that the boy was holding his arm underneath him, despite being told to take it out and after various attempts to pry it out.

In his ruling, provincial court Judge Dan O’Hanlon said he didn’t think St. Onge was looking for retaliation for the earlier bear spray attack.

Rather, O’Hanlon said he had to “look at the circumstances as they existed at the time, and as Const. St. Onge believed them to exist.”

The judge then ruled that St. Onge used reasonable force to secure the co-operation of a resisting and potentially armed suspect.

“Simply stated (the boy) was resisting bringing his arm out, he had chosen to run from the officers when he knew he was being pursued,” said O’Hanlon.

The judge added that, as far as he could tell, St. Onge’s actions escalated appropriately from verbal commands, to “soft hand” techniques (trying to pry the arm out) to “hard hand” techniques (the punches).


When those failed to get the suspect to yield his arm, O’Hanlon said St. Onge was justified in moving to the next step when he pepper-sprayed the boy.

Defence lawyer Brad Mitchell said outside court that the verdict closes a difficult chapter for his client.

“He hasn’t been working. It’s been psychologically, emotionally, very difficult for him,” he said.

St. Onge was suspended with pay once the charges were filed.

(CKOM)



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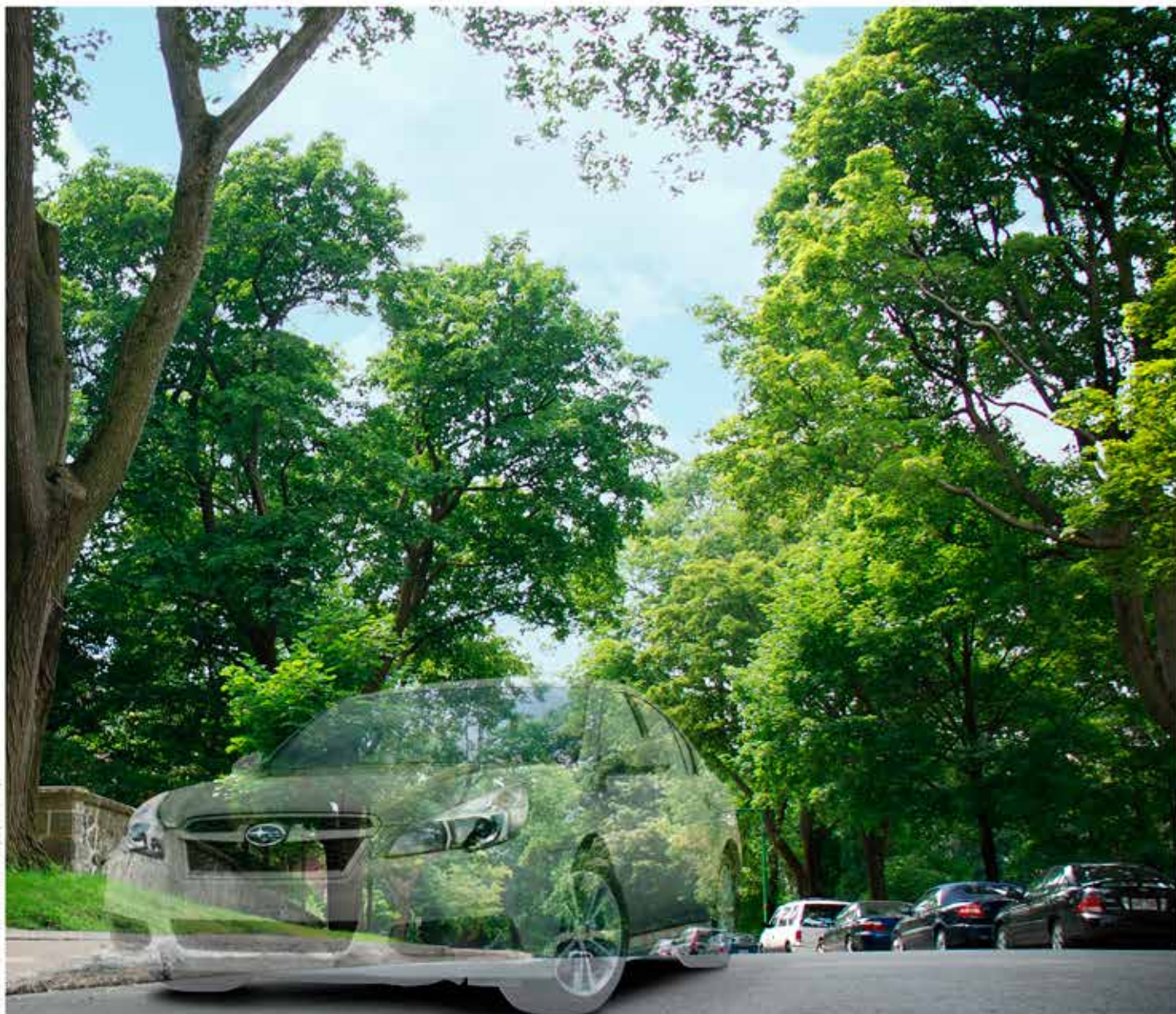
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Mar 28 2014

EDMONTON - Members of the Edmonton Drug and Gang Enforcement Unit (EDGE) have made the highest seizure of cash in one incident in the Edmonton Police Service's history following a series of drug busts.

On Mar. 21, EDGE members seized over \$800,000 in cash and 1.5 kg of cocaine, which has an approximate street value of \$85,000. The majority of the cash was found in a residence.

Kevin Correia, 35, Michael Mannara, 28, and Jocelyn Zunti, 22, are facing several drug-related charges, including conspiracy to traffic cocaine and possession for the purpose of trafficking. Cody Klemola, 25, is charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Five other trafficking investigations resulted in a minimum of eight individuals charged with at least one count of drug related charges. (Metro Edmonton)

Mar 28 2014

TORONTO - A man assaulted in Toronto police custody has had the charges against him stayed — the only possible remedy, according to a judge, to “address the depth and the breadth of the serious police misconduct in this case.”

Curtis Young was arrested in January 2012 and charged with public intoxication, obstructing justice and later assaulting and threatening police officers.

Earlier this month, Ontario court Judge Donna Hackett ruled there were no grounds for the accusations that Young had assaulted or threatened the officers. She also found the officers — constables Christopher Miller, Christopher Moorcroft, Joshua James and Adrian Piccolo — assaulted Young after he was brought to the 43 Division station in Scarborough and then “lied, exaggerated and colluded” in their reports of what happened.

The assaults were captured on cellblock video — what Hackett identified as crucial evidence against the police officers. After earlier ruling that Young's Charter rights had been breached, Hackett ruled Thursday that the proceedings against him would be stayed.

The Special Investigations Unit, which investigates cases of serious injury involving police, is now also conducting a preliminary investigation of the case, while the Toronto police professional standards unit continues to monitor the situation. (Toronto Star)

Mar 28 2014

EDMONTON - Hard work pays off. More than fifty runners and volunteers from “K” Division attended the Baker to Vegas Law Enforcement Challenge Cup relay from March 22-23, 2014. Alberta's provincial police force represented two of only three Canadian teams who traveled to the U.S. to participate in a 120-mile gruelling race through Death Valley from Baker, California to Las Vegas, Nevada.

The “K” Division open team placed 35th

in their category, and 195th overall, improving their time by 50 minutes from 2013 and running two hours faster than in 2012. The women's team placed ninth in their category, finishing in 19:52. They also showed significant improvement, shaving 88 minutes off their time since 2012.

The relay is the largest law enforcement event of its kind in the world, celebrating teamwork, camaraderie, physical fitness and competition.

Though American law enforcement agencies comprise the bulk of the racers (257 teams from 145 different law enforcement agencies), teams come from all over the world to challenge each other.

“The biggest highlight of participating has to be the esprit de corps,” stated Cst. Heidi Ravenhill of the Historical Homicide Unit, who has participated in the race for six years. “This year we raised \$2,500 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society of Alberta in memory of Ret. Supt. Ed Spaans, who passed away in 2012.”

“The challenging physical conditions and complex logistical elements of the race bring out the very best in our members,” says Cpl. D'Arcy Swabey, captain of the open team.

“Our American counterparts shake their heads when we tell them that three weeks prior to this event, most of our runners were training in -40 C temperatures in order to complete their hill programs.”

RCMP members and volunteers come from Edmonton, Strathcona County, Lloydminster, Wood Buffalo, Grande Prairie, Calgary, and Slave Lake.

(Net News Ledger)

Mar 28 2014

MONTREAL - Some Canadian police officers who served in Afghanistan feel shunned by Ottawa after they weren't given the same medal of recognition as their counterparts.

Patricia Bourgeois, a 26-year veteran of the Montreal police force, said she and approximately 40 other officers from forces across Canada didn't receive the Operational Service Medal, even though others doing the same job did.

“For me, it's the principle of it,” she said in an interview. “I worked there and should be recognized for what I did.

“But I have nothing, zip, dooda.”



CPC Discussion Paper Series

Publication of The CPC Discussion Paper Series Vol. 1: “The Prince Albert Hub, and the emergence of collaborative risk- driven community safety”- McPhee and Taylor, April 2014

The Canadian Police College (CPC) and its partners are pleased to announce the official release of the first in a series of Discussion Papers on Change and Innovation in Canadian Policing. “The Prince Albert Hub, and the emergence of collaborative risk driven community safety” by former police chief Dale Mc Fee and management consultant Norman Taylor, is an informative description of the philosophy, process and structure of an innovative multi-agency community problem-solving model successfully pioneered by the authors in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The paper provides readers with an accessible and timely overview of this promising new evidence-based approach to preventative policing and community safety that is currently being introduced by a number of Canadian police services.

The CPC discussion paper series was developed in response to the challenges facing contemporary Canadian policing and the lack of accessible knowledge and research on relevant policing change and innovation issues and strategies. To address this, subject area experts were invited to summarize the latest thinking, research and innovative practice on selected change and innovation topics of particular relevance to Canadian policing. The discussions papers will provide the Canadian public safety community with useful information, and will hopefully stimulate further discussion and interest in exploring issues relevant to the future of policing and public safety.

In the coming months a series of discussion papers will be released on topics such as: tiered policing models, the economics of policing in Canada and sustainable policing options, historical patterns of economy and policing change and the evolution of Canadian policing and progressive change. More information and copies of the discussion papers are available at www.cpc-ccp.gc.ca/en/cpclibrary/Discussion

Canada

No one at the Department of National Defence was available to explain the discrepancy, but according to the department's website it would appear Bourgeois and her colleagues should be eligible. It lists "members of recognized Canadian police forces ... who served in a theatre of operations, provided direct support on a full-time basis to operations conducted in such a theatre or served under dangerous circumstances outside Canada" as eligible.

Bourgeois was in Kabul from November 2011 to November 2012 to train Afghani police officers, especially 375 women in Kabul.

"The Canadian government, whether they realize it or not, is creating animosity amongst its 'missionaries' because they have made us distinguishable by dividing us into two different classes: the haves and the not-even-recognized-have nots," Bourgeois wrote in an email.

(Montreal Gazette)

Mar 28 2014

A man accused of killing peace officer Rod Lazenby two years ago will go on trial in December.

Trevor Jay Kloschinsky, 48, is charged with the first-degree murder of Lazenby in a Quonset on the accused's Priddis property on Aug. 10, 2012.

Lawyers told court on Friday the key issue in the hearing will be whether Kloschinsky was not criminally responsible for his actions because of a mental disorder.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Beth Hughes was told Kloschinsky has been deemed fit to stand trial on the charge.

According to information used to obtain a search warrant of the property, Kloschinsky lay in wait for three days in the Quonset to catch the person he believed was stealing his dogs.

The document said when Lazenby, a peace officer with the M.D. of Foothills, arrived that day, Kloschinsky got into a fight with him. Kloschinsky overpowered and restrained the officer with two sets of handcuffs attached to safety chains in the Quonset.

The accused, according to the document, showed up at the Calgary Police Service's District 8 office later with Lazenby's bruised, bloodied and heavily scratched body in the back of the municipal district vehicle.

Police attempted to give him CPR, but Lazenby was pronounced dead an hour later after being rushed to Rockyview General Hospital.

No cause of death has ever been released by police.

(Calgary Herald)

SATURDAY
MARCH 29, 2014

Mar 29 2014

VANCOUVER - A BC man who served five years in a Thai prison for sexually abusing children is scheduled to be in a Vancouver-area court on Monday to face new allegations.

Police say the new charges against Christopher Neil include sexual touching, invitation to sexual touching, and production of child pornography, which allegedly occurred in 2003 in Cambodia.

The charges fall under the so-called sex tourism law, which allows Canadian authorities to investigate and prosecute certain offences committed by citizens abroad.

Neil faces a separate count in connection with an RCMP investigation of possession of child pornography and additional counts of accessing and possessing child pornography.

None of the allegations have been tested in court, and Neil remains in custody.

Neil gained worldwide notoriety after a digital image obscured by a swirl was unravelled and revealed his face.

He was arrested in Bangkok in 2007

following an international investigation into sexual offences against children.

He was convicted in 2008 of sexually assaulting two boys and after his release returned to Canada in September 2012.

SUNDAY
MARCH 30, 2014

Mar 30 2014

OTTAWA - A long-promised victim's bill of rights is about to be introduced in Parliament, The Canadian Press has learned.

The arrival of the legislation is bound to drive another political lightning rod into

the already fractured ground in the House of Commons.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay, in a letter to the Conservative caucus on Sunday, said he looks forward to delivering on the throne speech commitment “over the next few days.”

The letter was obtained by The Canadian Press and the introduction of the legislation is bound to turn up the heat with the Opposition, which has been consumed by the fight against the Harper government’s proposed electoral reforms.

“As we have stated countless times, we are committed to introducing a comprehensive package of legislative reforms never before seen in our country’s history,” said the letter. “Victims of crime deserve to be treated with courtesy, compassion, inclusion and respect. It is important their rights be considered throughout the criminal justice system.”

MacKay, in an interview last fall, said the government’s intention is to extend the involvement of victims “from the time of the offence to the final disposition of the sentence.”

He said the government doesn’t want them to be just another Crown witness, but an effective voice.

The plan builds on other Conservative measures in what they’ve dubbed their “tough on crime agenda.”

Mar 30 2014

TORONTO - A Toronto Police officer's frozen four-day fundraising adventure was tough sledding — but it was also doggone fun.



Supt. Heinz Kuck had to dig deep during his Making Tracks expedition — his first dogsledding experience — but managed to surpass all of his goals and made it home from Algonquin Park unscathed.

The 11 Division commander also raised thousands of dollars for Victim Services along the way.

“Quitting was never an option,” Kuck said recently, recounting his unforgettable trek.

“I made a commitment to the people of Toronto, my donors, my sponsors and Victim Services Toronto that I would finish,” he said. “So even if I had to put a few dogs on the sled, throw a harness on myself and pull the sled, I was going to finish.”

The weather and the trail conditions were generally favourable. But Kuck said he and his guide, Jamie Sands, and 13 dogs had their mettle tested on numerous occasions.

Kuck ultimately smashed his goal of sledding 100 km — travelling 120 km in four days. He also raised about \$7,500 for Victim

Services — \$2,500 more than he initially hoped for.

Kuck, an officer for 34 years, has long appreciated the work done by Victim Services.

Each year the agency provides trauma counselling to about 20,000 people who have been emotionally or physically traumatized after losing a loved one to crime.

Kuck began raising money for Victim Services in 2012.

He and some fellow officers have canoed across Lake Ontario twice, collecting about \$35,000 in donations. But Kuck decided to switch gears this winter and chose something related to Canadiana.

(Toronto Sun)

**MONDAY
MARCH 31, 2014**

Mar 31 2014

TRURO, N.S. - Nova Scotia's police watchdog says there are no grounds to lay charges against two RCMP officers in the death of a man suspected of killing his wife last year.

The 49-year-old man died Oct. 16 from a self-inflicted gunshot during a standoff with RCMP in the Portapique area, about 40 kilometres west of Truro.

The body of his 47-year-old wife was found earlier in the day at an apartment in Truro Heights.

The Serious Incident Response Team says the distraught man, who was barricaded inside a truck, told police he had killed his wife and intended to commit suicide.

The team says the two Mounties who negotiated with the man for more than 12 hours acted appropriately as they tried to coax him into surrendering.

Despite their efforts, the team says the man took his own life at the scene.

Mar 31 2014

OTTAWA - The federal government will contest an injunction that allows people to continue to grow medical marijuana while a full legal challenge plays out in the courts.

It is the latest salvo in a series of legal actions over how the government administers its medical pot program.



Série de documents de réflexion du CCP

Publication de la série de documents de réflexion du CCP Vol. 1 : Le carrefour de Prince Albert et la transition vers une stratégie de sécurité communautaire axée sur la collaboration et la détermination des risques, McPhee et Taylor, avril 2014

Le Collège canadien de police (CCP) et ses partenaires sont fiers d'annoncer la publication officielle du premier d'une série de documents de réflexion sur le changement et l'innovation dans les services de police canadiens. Écrit par l'ancien chef de police Dale Mc Fee et l'expert-conseil en gestion Norman Taylor, le premier document intitulé *Le carrefour de Prince Albert et la transition vers une stratégie de sécurité communautaire axée sur la collaboration et la détermination des risques* est une description instructive de la philosophie, du processus et de la structure d'un modèle novateur de résolution de problèmes communautaire multiorganisationnel mis en place avec succès par les auteurs à Prince Albert, en Saskatchewan. Le document arrive à point pour offrir aux lecteurs un aperçu accessible de cette nouvelle approche prometteuse des services de police de prévention et de la sécurité communautaire axée sur les éléments de preuve qu'un certain nombre de services de police canadiens commencent à adopter.

La série de documents de réflexion du CCP a été conçue pour répondre aux défis des services de police contemporains au Canada et au manque de connaissances et de travaux de recherche accessibles sur les questions et les stratégies pertinentes de changement et d'innovation dans le domaine des services de police. C'est ainsi que des experts en la matière ont été invités à résumer les courants de pensée et les travaux de recherche récents ainsi que les pratiques novatrices sur des sujets choisis se rapportant au changement et à l'innovation particulièrement pertinents pour les services de police canadiens. Les documents de réflexion donneront également à la communauté canadienne de la sécurité publique des renseignements utiles, et il est à espérer qu'ils stimuleront la poursuite des échanges et l'intérêt pour les enjeux se rapportant à l'avenir des services de police et de la sécurité publique.

Au cours des prochains mois, une série de documents de réflexion sur des sujets seront publiés, portant notamment sur les modèles de services de police à plusieurs niveaux, l'économie des services de police au Canada et les façons d'offrir des services de police viables, les caractéristiques historiques des changements de l'économie et des services de police ainsi que l'évolution et les changements progressifs des services de police canadiens. Des renseignements supplémentaires et le texte des documents de réflexion sont accessibles à l'adresse www.cpc-ccp.gc.ca/fr/cpclubrity/Discussion

Canada

Earlier this month, Federal Court Judge Michael Manson ruled that patients currently licensed to grow their own marijuana would be permitted to produce the drug even after new regulations banning the practice take effect Tuesday.

The judge granted an application from medical marijuana patients seeking a temporary injunction to preserve the status quo until their constitutional challenge of the new system could be heard.

The government said Monday it will ask the Federal Court of Appeal to overturn the injunction.

Under the existing federal program, thousands of people have licences to cultivate marijuana for personal use to help ease painful symptoms of conditions such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

The government says growing marijuana at home poses hazards including mould, fire, toxic chemicals and the threat of home invasion by criminals.

It plans to allow only select commercial producers to grow marijuana under "secure and sanitary conditions" for distribution through the mail, in dried form, to medically approved patients.

Health Minister Rona Ambrose made it clear in a statement Monday that the only reason her department administers a program is a 14-year-old court ruling that said there must be reasonable access to a legal source of marijuana for medical purposes.

"I want to emphasize that marijuana is not an approved drug or medicine in Canada," Ambrose said.

However, the injunction stands for the moment, meaning patients can continue to grow pot - at least until the next ruling.

It is unclear when the federal appeal of the injunction will be heard.

If the government ultimately fails to overturn Manson's decision, it will leave the path clear for the patients' constitutional challenge of the planned new system.

As a result, the matter could be tied up in the courts for many months to come.

The number of people authorized to possess - and frequently grow - marijuana under the old federal program climbed to 37,000 this year from fewer than 100 in 2001.

Mar 31 2014

BRAMPTON, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog has identified a man fatally shot by police at a Toronto-area courthouse after an officer was shot and wounded on Friday.

The Special Investigations Unit says the victim was 45-year-old Charnjit Singh Bassi of Brampton, Ont.

Const. Mike Klarenbeek, 53, was providing security at the courthouse when a man wearing a long trench coat walked in and opened fire.

The 30-year-veteran of the Peel region police is out of intensive care but remains in hospital.

There has been no word on a possible motive for the shooting.



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Neighbours say Bassi was the father of a seven-year-old girl and was divorced about four years ago.

(The Canadian Press, 680 News)

Mar 31 2014

HALIFAX - Nova Scotians in the alcohol ignition interlock program will be able to apply for a temporary leave from it because of financial pressures or medical issues under regulation amendments.

The changes will also allow people to move outside Nova Scotia and be covered by similar programs in other provinces.

The program is for people who have lost their driver's licences because they have been convicted of alcohol-related offences.

It requires people to blow into devices to ensure they have no alcohol in their breath before their vehicles can start.

Since it came into effect in 2008, nearly 2,000 people have completed the program.

Mar 31 2014

ALLISTON, Ont. - Ontario's provincial police have a new commissioner.



Deputy Commissioner Vince Hawkes officially took command of the OPP at a ceremony Monday afternoon in Alliston, Ont.

Hawkes is the 14th commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police force.

During the ceremony, the OPP-Tipstaff, the symbolic mantle of OPP leadership, was passed by retiring commissioner Chris Lewis to Hawkes.

The Tipstaff ceremony was followed by the inspection of an honour guard comprised of current recruit class members.

Hawkes was appointed Deputy Commissioner in August 2006 and in November 2010 took responsibility for the OPP field operations command.

Hawkes has held numerous positions within the OPP, including commander of the Communications and Technology Services Bureau, Detachment Commander, and Regional Criminal Operations Manager.

Mar 31 2014

VANCOUVER - Police officers will not be criminally charged after breaking suspects' bones during two separate incidents in Vancouver and Williams Lake, B.C.

The Criminal Justice Branch says that in each case there isn't a substantial likelihood that the officers would be convicted of any offences.

The Vancouver case involved three officers and a police dog tracking down a suspect in a break-and-enter case in April 2013.

Police say the man put the dog in a choke hold and that officers used kicks, knee strikes and baton blows that resulted in broken bones in the suspect's shoulder and face.

Last August, RCMP officers in Williams Lake investigated a bar fight where a man was alleged to have a handgun, and he later complained that his jaw was broken during the arrest.

The complainant still faces a charge of assaulting a peace officer but few details have been released in the pending case.

Mar 31 2014

In small detachments in the Northwest Territories, RCMP officers are deciding whether back-up is needed after responding to calls alone.

That's contrary to a formal back-up policy that says at least two officers are supposed to respond to calls involving violence.

The policy was introduced seven years ago, after the shooting deaths of two mounties in the space of a month: 20-year-old Douglas Scott in Kimmirut, Nunavut and Christopher Worden, 30, in Hay River, N.W.T.

When it was introduced, the RCMP said police officers would no longer be allowed to go alone to investigate certain kinds of calls.

"Members have lost the discretion in terms of how they will respond to certain complaints, the type of complaints that involve violence or weapons," said RCMP



TRAINING

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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: Claire 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

CCII Canadian Critical Incident Inc.

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

Sergeant Larry O'Brien at the time. "Now members will have to attend these in pairs or more if necessary."

But only one police officer responded on March 22 in Fort Good Hope, when they received a call about a woman being beaten. They arrived on the scene to find the body of a young mother, Charlotte Lafferty.

"In certain situations, we have to look at it, and the member at that time makes the choice or the decision if an additional requirement is required," says Sergeant Barry Ledoux, who speaks for the RCMP.

But that's compromising officer safety, says Robert Creasser, who speaks for the Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada.

"The issue with going to a violent situation by yourself and then kind of risk managing whether you need that second person there to help you assumes you have time to make that call for help."

(CBC News)

Mar 31 2014

VANCOUVER - Transit Police have launched a new campaign warning the public "don't touch the operator" after two Metro Vancouver bus drivers were the target of separate violent and unprovoked assaults in March.

The campaign, which was officially launched at a news conference Monday morning, is the latest move by authorities intent on better protecting the men and women who move Metro Vancouver's commuting masses.

Last week, TransLink and other national transit authorities appealed to Canada's justice minister to institute stronger sentences for people who attack bus drivers.

The move, by the Canadian Urban Transit Association, comes as a Surrey bus driver was punched in the face last Wednesday night.

The latest attack brings to 42 the number of reported assaults in the region so far this year. The assaults range from death threats to physical abuse, but the majority involve being spit on and verbally threatened, according to bus drivers' union Unifor Local 111.

There were 134 assaults reported in Metro last year — up from 117 assaults a year earlier — contributing to the roughly 2,000 cases reported across Canada. This averages out to about five bus drivers being assaulted each day across Canada.

TUESDAY
APRIL 01, 2014

Apr 01 2014

WHITBY, Ont. - Durham Region police say a body found in Whitby, Ont., on the weekend has now been positively identified as that of a teacher who disappeared in January.

The confirmation of the body as that of Jeffrey Boucher, 52, of Whitby was made Monday night by the coroner's office.

Police say further lab tests are scheduled in hopes of determining the cause of death but

the results may take several weeks.

Investigators say no foul play is suspected and there were no signs of trauma to the body, which was found Saturday by a person out for a walk along the shore of Lake Ontario.

Boucher was reported missing Jan. 13 after it's believed he left his home in Whitby, a community just east of Toronto, to go for a morning jog.

Extensive search efforts failed to locate him, but one of his shoes was found earlier this month and the other shoe was found Saturday, shortly before the body was discovered.

Police say they remain in contact with Boucher's family and are continuing to offer support to help them through this difficult time.

Apr 01 2014

VANCOUVER - One Vancouver driver has rung up 26 tickets in just over three years for breaking the law by using his electronic device while behind the wheel.

Now, Vancouver Police say they have taken further steps to curb the man's dangerous habits, and he may not like how it all adds up.

His car has now been impounded for seven days after his arrest for driving while prohibited.

While he's without his vehicle, the unidentified driver may have time to use the calculator on his hand-held device to add up the \$167 fine for each of his 26 tickets.

The \$4,342 charge is in addition to the \$24,000 insurance premium the Insurance Corporation of B.C. will impose for his 69

penalty points - three per ticket - and that's not counting the towing and storage fees on his impounded vehicle.

Apr 01 2014

TORONTO - A decision allowing a man who killed a police officer with a snowplow escorted passes into the community was reasonable and should stand, Ontario's top court ruled Tuesday.

In rejecting arguments by the Crown, the Ontario Court of Appeal sided with the Ontario Review Board that granting Richard Kachkar the privilege posed minimal risk to the public.

The court leaned heavily on expert evidence before the board from a forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Philip Klassen, that Kachkar would show clear warning signs before developing full-blown psychosis.

"In my view, Dr. Klassen's evidence provided ample support to sustain the conclusion that the community-access condition would not compromise public safety," the Appeal Court found.

Sgt. Ryan Russell was killed in January 2011 as he tried to stop Kachkar, then 44, who had stolen a snowplow and gone on a rampage through downtown Toronto.

Kachkar, charged with first-degree murder, was found not criminally responsible on account of a mental disorder in March 2013.

"It is important to remember that, despite the respondent's actions on Jan. 12, 2011, and their tragic consequences, he was



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A Study Exploring Police Officers who Maintain Multiple Identity (Life) Roles

The purpose of this research project is to give police officers who have maintained multiple identity (life) roles throughout their career the opportunity to describe their experiences. It also provides individuals with an opportunity to discuss what has helped or hindered them in the process of maintaining multiple life roles and what might be helpful to them, if it were available.

The investigator for this study is **Stephanie M. Conn**, 604-780-1967. Stephanie is being supervised by **Dr. Bill Borgen**, 604-822-5261, and **Dr. Marla Buchanan**, 604-822-4625, Professors in Counselling Psychology at the University of British Columbia.

We would be interested in hearing your experience of maintaining multiple identity (life) roles IF:

- You are a police officer with at least five years police experience
- You identify as having multiple identity (life) roles
- You identify as being content with the number of identity (life) roles
- You are currently working or have worked in the last six months
- You are willing to talk about your experiences relating to maintaining multiple identity roles in a confidential 90-minute interview.

If you would like to participate, or would like further information about this study, please contact Stephanie Conn by email at stephmconn@gmail.com or by phone at 604 780-1967.

not convicted," the Appeal Court noted.

"The jury recognized that the respondent is not criminally responsible - but ill."

Apr 01 2014

HALIFAX - The commander of the RCMP in Nova Scotia has issued an apology to a Parrsboro-area woman after a report that a Mountie left a voice mail message on her phone making light of her domestic assault complaint.

RCMP Chief Supt. Brian Brennan said Tuesday the comments were unprofessional and unacceptable.

"The RCMP has zero tolerance for this type of behaviour," Brennan said. "As the commanding officer, I was extremely disappointed."

Brennan said when he heard the comments, his thoughts immediately turned to victims of domestic violence.

"The comments on this recording in no way reflect the core values of the RCMP," he said. "It's not how I want our members to be talking in terms of victims and domestic violence."

CBC Nova Scotia posted on its website what it said was a message left on the woman's voice mail. In it, a man is heard saying, "So did she deserve to get hit?" before laughing.

Brennan said the woman's complaint about domestic abuse stemmed from an incident that occurred after she went to retrieve her cellphone from her partner in the Springhill area. He said she was worried he might make harassing phone calls to her friends and family because the two had a disagreement.

Brennan said the call that was recorded on the woman's voice mail came after her number was inadvertently dialled from a Mountie's phone while it was in his pocket.

"She wasn't home to answer but the voice mail picked up," Brennan said. "That's how the recording happened."

RCMP officers have met with the woman and offered an apology for what happened, he said. An internal investigation has been ordered.

The RCMP have also followed up on the woman's abuse complaint and have charged a man with assault, he added.

Apr 01 2014

CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C. - A British Columbia pulp and paper mill employee heading to work one morning seven years ago had her life tragically altered when police in the local detachment were issued an urgent command.

"Bait car activation - let's go!"

In the ensuing moments, four RCMP officers dashed to their cruisers and mounted pursuit. Just 158 metres from the Campbell River, B.C., police station, one car struck the vehicle being driven by 27-year-old Erika Watson.

A judge awarded the woman almost \$1 million for the collision that he said caused her life-changing and potentially permanent injuries.

"In short, Ms. Watkins' life is profoundly different than it was before the accident," said B.C. Supreme Court Justice Murray Blok in his decision, posted online on Tuesday.

The judgement found Watkins suffered a traumatic brain injury when her car was T-boned as she turned left at the same time the officer tried to pass her vehicle in the March 2007 accident.

RCMP Const. David Dormuth admitted in court to speeding as much as 30 kilometres per hour over the limit as he rushed to where it was believed a bait vehicle was being stolen.

Blok ruled Dormuth made an "unnecessarily aggressive" move when he tried to overtake the woman's car. The officer could

have chosen a "much safer" option, especially because other police were responding to the incident, he said.

"Dormuth chose the option that created the very risk that materialized: a high-speed collision as he attempted to pass the Watkins vehicle by going in the oncoming lane of traffic," the judge said.

Watkins' injury has resulted in headaches, mood changes, anxiety, driving fears, memory difficulty, poor concentration, fatigue, problems with balance, irritability and noise intolerance, the judgement states.

The judge decided the high settlement on the basis that the collision was the defendants' responsibility and resulted in Watkins' losing future earning capacity.

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

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Apr 01 2014

MONTREAL - Bravo has ordered a second season of police drama 19-2.

The series, a remake of a popular Quebec show, stars Vancouver-raised Adrian Holmes (Arrow, Elysium) and Ontarian Jared Keeso (Elysium, The Don Cherry Story) as Nick Barron and Ben Chartier, two Montreal police patrol officers.

Bravo says 19-2 has averaged 190,000 viewers an episode, making it a Top 3 program for the channel, and that more than 800,000 unique viewers watch every week.

The series is set and shot in Montreal.

(Toronto Star)

Apr 01 2014

MONTREAL - Police made a discovery in a warehouse north of Montreal that may suggest a resurgence of the Rock Machine biker gang, thought to have vanished from Quebec a decade ago.

Provincial police say they arrested two men and seized three jackets bearing Rock Machine colours and logos during a raid Saturday.

Rock Machine bikers were the sworn enemies of the Hells Angels and fought them in a war that saw 160 people killed in Eastern Canada between 1994 and 2002.

Successive police raids pushed the gang out of Quebec to the west, but Rock Machine members showed their colours a few times in downtown Montreal bars in 2011 and 2012.

Police won't say if the weekend operation is a sign the Rock Machine is rebuilding in Quebec. Sgt. Anne Mathieu would only say the arrests and seizure relate to a business dispute that resulted in death threats.

Most Rock Machine members joined their Hells Angels rivals when the Quebec war ended with massive police raids.

The defectors included Salvatore Cazzetta, who co-founded the Rock Machine in 1985, as well as Paul "Sasquatch" Porter, who later founded a Hells chapter in Ontario.

The rest of the Rock Machine's known full-patch members in Quebec were arrested in 2002 and sentenced to long prison terms.

The gang has since maintained a presence in Ontario, where six of its members were killed in an internal purge in 2007.

There's also a Rock Machine presence in Manitoba, where the RCMP dealt them a blow last year in Project

(Sun Media)

Apr 01 2014

MONTREAL - Montreal police suspended an experienced organized crime investigator without pay on Tuesday because the department has been worried about some of his dubious associations.

Det.-Sgt. Philippe Paul had been reassigned to less important duties in January while he was the subject of a criminal investigation.

He is being investigated by the RCMP for allegedly leaking information to someone outside of the police force.

After being reassigned, he was not allowed

to have access to intelligence files or to contact his informants. Paul is believed to have accumulated many informants during his long career with the Montreal police.

Paul is well known among his fellow officers in the Montreal police. He and another investigator supplied the key information to their superiors that led to the suspension and conviction of Mario Lambert, a respected major crimes investigator with the Montreal police. Paul and the other investigator were tipped off by an informant that Lambert was improperly supplying information to his sources.

In May 2012, Lambert was found guilty of committing fraud by accessing a police database without justification and lost his job. Paul testified during Lambert's trial, but his testimony was provided to the court at a

closed-door hearing.

Last October, Benoît Roberge, another organized crime investigator in the Montreal police, was arrested for selling information to the Hells Angels. Roberge pleaded guilty to one charge of gangsterism and one charge of breach of trust. He will be sentenced on April 4.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 01 2014

VANCOUVER - A tool to stop cellphone robberies that was praised by Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu and his counterparts on the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has not been working, according to new numbers from the force.

Police spokesman Sgt. Randy Fincham



Enhancing Safety, Security and Community Partnerships

CHIEF OF POLICE Sault Ste Marie Police Service

The Ontario/Michigan border city of Sault Ste Marie, known to insiders as "God's country", is a safe and culturally engaged community. Over the years, the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service, in partnership with various agencies and its citizens, has made Sault Ste. Marie and Prince Township one of the safest communities in Canada.

The Sault Ste Marie Police Service is committed to the continued expansion of divisional policing and the Province's Mobilization & Engagement Model of Community Policing. Working with the community is a key priority as the Service focuses on social issues that draw on police resources. Through these collaborative partnerships Sault Ste Marie will build an even safer community with a sustainable future. To serve this exceptional City, the Sault Ste Marie Police Services Board is seeking a Chief of Police whose leadership will inspire the trust and confidence of the Service and the community.

An experienced law enforcement executive, you have the leadership skills to energize, motivate and guide an authorized strength of 182 fulltime members including 138 sworn police officers. Understanding the unique challenges of policing in a large northern community will be critical for success. You will instill the highest standards of integrity, dedication and professionalism across the Service. Working with the Police Services Board you will continue to develop a service delivery model that ensures the well-being of the community remains a shared responsibility with its citizens, members, stakeholder partners and government.

Sound and reasoned decision making and a philosophy that supports a contemporary management style will be key attributes to successfully manage issues and relationships, both internally and externally. An articulate spokesperson for the Service, you will invite dialogue and achieve consensus on challenging and long-range priorities. Above all, you will be an enthusiastic and trusted leader who inspires accountability as the Service proactively embraces the opportunities in the coming years.

For inquiries, please contact Amanda Bugatto at 416-366-1990.
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told 24 hours the department had expected cellphone robberies to drop by 50% since the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association launched a national "blacklist" of lost and stolen devices on Sept. 30 last year.

The hope police had was that those who lost their phones would call their wireless carriers to render the devices inoperable to anyone else.

"They would deactivate your phone and you would ask them to add your IMEI number to the database, which would prevent somebody from using your phone," Fincham said.

But the new numbers show that between October and March there were still 81 reports of phone robberies compared to 87 in the same period the year before — a mere 6.9% decrease, according to Vancouver police stats.

"It's incumbent on the owner of a device to report that device as being lost or stolen," Fincham said.

"There are a number of people we speak to that are unaware of the database when reporting the phone stolen to us."

He said it's more difficult to tell whether there have been fewer phone thefts — such as those swiped from coffee tables without confrontation — since it's not a statistic Vancouver police traditionally track.

Fincham said the database is only effective if victims are reporting their devices stolen to their wireless carriers.

It's unclear whether more people have been reporting lost phones since the database's launch, however. The CWTA said it would not have statistics on reported stolen phones post-Sept. 30, 2013 until this fall.

(24 Hours Vancouver)

Apr 01 2014

WINDSOR - The Windsor Police Service is currently refitting a Cougar variant of the Canadian military's AVGP (Armoured Vehicle General Purpose) for law enforcement use.



The six-wheeled, 10-ton armoured fighting vehicle was donated to the city by the Department of National Defence last year. It's valued at \$300,158.

Windsor police wouldn't comment on the acquisition, except to say that it should be ready for unveiling and operation this spring.

The Canadian Army retired its entire fleet of AVGPs in 2005, replacing them with the bigger, more modern LAV III.

The AVGP dates back to the late 1970s. At one point, Canada had more than 490 in use — including 195 big-gunned Cougar variants.

Since phasing out the fleet, the military

has been donating the surplus vehicles to law enforcement agencies across the country.

The Edmonton Police Service received a Grizzly variant in 2007. RCMP in British Columbia received two Cougar variants in 2010.

Police organizations typically modify AVGPs for emergency response purposes by removing the turret and all armaments — a configuration known as the Tactical Armoured Vehicle (TAV) variant.

The Cougar AVGP armour can withstand shrapnel and rifle fire.

It has a top speed of 100 km/h. The rear four wheels can be engaged for road travel, or all six wheels can be engaged for off-road.

(Windsor Star)

Apr 01 2014

HALIFAX - There will be less chatter on scanners in parts of Nova Scotia on Tuesday as the RCMP move to digitally encrypted radio systems in two of its three provincial districts.

The federal force has been implementing the change across Canada for last few years, with a mandate to have the process complete by 2016.

Sgt. Alain Leblanc said Nova Scotia's Northeast and Southwest Nova districts will make the change Tuesday.

"Encryption ensures transmissions of a sensitive nature ... are protected and can only be accessed by authorized parties," he said.

He said there's no timeline at this point to make the change in Halifax, which is jointly policed by the Mounties and Halifax Regional Police.

(Metro Halifax)



Apr 02 2014

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The chief of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says two officers will be disciplined for their actions in detaining a young man with autism five years ago.

An adjudicator with the constabulary's public complaints commission has concluded that constables Lisa Harris and Rodney Priddle acted contrary to the force's regulations when they arrested Dane Spurrell in the St. John's area after mistaking his autism for public intoxication.

Spurrell was 18 years old at the time of the April 2009 incident.

Chief Bill Janes says the disciplinary action against the officers has yet to be determined.

He says the force has made it a priority to ensure a similar incident does not happen again, adding that officers have since been trained on how to recognize and interact with people with autism.

(VOCM)

Apr 02 2014

REGINA - A Regina police officer has been placed on administrative leave over allegations of inappropriate use

of surveillance video.

Police confirm that the senior officer is accused of discreditable conduct and neglect of duty.

The officer was placed on leave after a complaint was filed with Saskatchewan's Public Complaints Commission by a Regina woman who had gone to a shopping mall to fax an inquiry to a swimming club about the organization's finances.

Andrea MacMurray says club officials confronted her and said they had surveillance video of her sending the fax, but she later learned police had asked the mall for the recording.

MacMurray launched a complaint with the commission - an oversight committee created by the provincial government to ensure complaints against police are properly investigated and assessed.

Regina police Chief Troy Hagen says the officer has not been charged, but he's promising to review the matter to determine whether further action is needed.

(CJME)

Apr 02 2014

TORONTO - Ontario's highest court has upheld a decision clearing a Toronto police officer of a homicide charge in the shooting death of a man during a drug and weapon search.

Const. David Cavanagh had been charged with second-degree murder, but two lower court judges separately ruled the death of Eric Osawe was accidental.

He was cleared after a preliminary inquiry judge decided there wasn't enough evidence to commit Cavanagh to trial, but the Crown appealed, asking for him to be tried instead on a manslaughter charge.

The Superior Court last year dismissed that appeal, but the Crown took the case to Ontario's Appeal Court.

In a ruling released Wednesday it too sided with the preliminary inquiry judge and dismissed the appeal, leaving Cavanagh cleared of the charges.

Cavanagh was part of an Emergency Task Force team that burst into Osawe's west-end Toronto apartment on Sept. 29, 2010, on a search warrant for cocaine and a handgun.

Osawe, 26, was lying on the bed and when he didn't immediately get to the floor as ordered, Cavanagh took him to the ground, Superior Court Judge Michael Quigley found last year.

Osawe struggled with several officers as Cavanagh turned him onto his chest, trying to subdue and handcuff him, and Cavanagh's MP5 submachine gun went off, Quigley wrote in his decision.

Quigley found the shooting was "entirely unintentional and indeed totally accidental."

"Mr. Osawe's death resulted from a tragic but accidental confluence of circumstances that occurred in a high-pressure and high-risk situation within seconds of the police officers entering his apartment," Quigley wrote.

After the gun fired, Cavanagh immediately moved away with his arms outstretched and

a panicked look on his face, the judge found.

The Crown had argued two scenarios. Cavanagh may have let go of his gun, which was connected to the front of his vest by a sling attached to both shoulders, which meant it pointed downward and discharged after getting caught on another item on Cavanagh's vest, the Crown said.

That is likely what happened, Quigley found, but letting go of the gun with both hands to help subdue a suspect doesn't go against police policies, he said.

In the alternative, Cavanagh may have unintentionally pulled the trigger, the Crown argued, but Quigley found no evidence of that.

Apr 02 2014 Despite spending millions of pounds on smartphones and other devices over recent years a "lack of technology" is costing UK police forces over £220 million a year.

Research from O2 and the Centre for Economic and Business Research (Cebr) reckons there are "mobile inefficiencies" of up to 193 hours per officer per year due "to a lack of connectivity".

The cost of these inefficiencies comes from police officers not being able to access systems and records they need outside the station.

The research says a frontline officer has to leave encounters on the beat or call outs to incidents 61 times a year, as they don't have access to the technology they need, or the ability to create reports and access records in real-time.

This is said to waste up to 65 hours per year in potentially unnecessary trips to and from base.

The Home Office is currently planning to spend hundreds of millions of pounds on a new communications network for the emergency services, to replace the existing Air-wave network, which current police smartphones are connected to.

(Computerworld UK)

Apr 02 2014

QUEBEC CITY - A Quebec City police officer died in North Carolina on Monday during a botched high-risk parachuting manoeuvre.

Sgt. Philippe De Blois, 35, died on his first day of training for a skydiving competition in Raeford.

He apparently made a technical error while "swooping," a low altitude dive in which skydivers glide along just above the ground and do high-speed tricks prior to landing.

The airport says De Blois was making a 180-degree turn to pick up speed and skim a landing pond when he crashed. It was his second jump of the day.

His friends accompanied him to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Friend Dominic Chaput said De Blois was an experienced skydiver.

"He was very powerful but not someone who was reckless," Chaput said. "But mistakes are unforgiving. It's a sport that's riskier than traditional parachuting."

News of De Blois' death sent waves of grief through the police force in Quebec City. His pregnant girlfriend is also an officer on the force.

(QMI Agency)

Apr 02 2014

VICTORIA - Distracted driving is killing more British Columbians than drunk driving and Attorney General Suzanne Anton says the government is considering higher fines and penalties to put the brakes on the carnage.

The most recent B.C. driver death figures for 2012 show 81 people died in distracted driver accidents, while impaired driving was labelled as the cause of death in 55 crashes.

Currently drivers aren't given demerit points if they're caught talking on the phone, but Anton says she's considering changing that, along with boosting the current \$167 fine for those caught talking, texting or emailing.

Anton says the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles will review distracted driver

statistics, with the government poised to introduce increased penalties later this year.

Ontario tabled legislation last month increasing distracted driver fines to \$1,000 and adding demerit points.

THURSDAY
APRIL 03, 2014

Apr 03 2014

EDMONTON - A fired Edmonton police officer will not have a criminal record after he pleaded guilty to a charge of obstructing a peace officer.

Adam Kube was told yesterday that he will get a conditional discharge after nine

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months probation and 90 hours of community service.

Court heard Kube cancelled his insurance and sold his motorcycle in 2011 to a woman who was stopped two months later for not having a licence, a licence plate, insurance or registration for the bike.

She called the officer, who was off-duty at the time.

He showed up, introduced himself to two other officers and indicated he was the previous owner of the bike.

He also presented his pink insurance card, although it did not show that the insurance had been cancelled.

Provincial court Judge Robert Philip told court that Kube was a good officer who has paid a high price for a ridiculous act, but police and the public need to know such behaviour will not be tolerated.

A previous police disciplinary hearing had found Kube guilty of corrupt practice and discreditable conduct.

He was fired in February 2013.

(CBC, Canadian Press, Online Out)

Apr 03 2014

OTTAWA - The Conservative government's long-awaited victims' rights bill would force people to testify in court against a spouse.

The legislation - tabled in the Commons on Thursday - would change the Canada Evidence Act, which allows spouses to refuse to testify except in certain specific cases such as sexual assaults or crimes against youngsters.

The changes are part of a sweeping government bill that codifies the rights of victims, makes it easier for vulnerable witnesses to testify and requires that victims be given more information about cases.

For instance, victims can request a copy of a bail order, a probation order or the details of a conditional release.

The federal Conservatives have long complained that too much emphasis is placed on the rights of the accused, giving short shrift to the people affected by the crimes.

"Victims of crime and their families deserve to be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect," says the preamble to Bill C-32, the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights.

It says victims have a right to be told when a criminal is deported or paroled and what parole restrictions may apply.

"It is important that victim's rights be considered throughout the criminal justice system," the preamble said.

Victims will also have the right to have the courts consider making a restitution order in all cases and to have such orders registered as a civil court judgment against the offender if the money isn't paid.

Apr 03 2014

TORONTO - Rob Ford feels his name has been "cleared" now that the Ontario Provincial Police have stepped back from a lengthy criminal investigation into the Toronto mayor's activities.

OPP spokesman Sgt. Pierre Chamberland says the provincial force is no longer

overseeing the Toronto police investigation as no new information has come forward.

But Toronto police say "Project Brazen 2" is ongoing and the OPP are still involved.

Spokesman Mark Pugash says when the investigation is concluded, Toronto police plan to sit down with the OPP and the Crown to decide on next steps.

The OPP had agreed to oversee "Project Brazen 2" last month after a request from Toronto police Chief Bill Blair, who said he had asked for the assistance to avoid "distractions" that could hamper the probe.

Ford has publicly accused Blair of wasting tax money with the investigation, and has repeatedly challenged the chief to arrest and charge him.

The investigation arose last spring out of a year-long guns, gangs and drugs probe.

It was during the initial probe that police uncovered a video showing Ford apparently smoking crack cocaine, and decided to investigate his activities.

Apr 03 2014

ESQUIMALT, B.C. - A Canadian naval ship deployed to watch for terrorism activities in the Indian Ocean has seized a large shipment heroin.

The Defence Department announced Esquimalt, B.C.-based HMCS Regina intercepted a small ship, or dhow, off the east coast of Africa and found 132 kilograms of heroin.

It's the first such drug seizure for the Regina as part of the ship's maritime security and counter-terrorism operation working with warships from 29 other nations.

Defence Minister Rob Nicholson said in a statement that the narcotics disruption during operation Artemis demonstrates the government's resolve in ridding the area of threats to maritime security and commerce.

The drugs were documented and then destroyed at sea.

Canada has taken part in the combined taskforce since May 2012 promoting the security in the international waters of the Middle East.

Apr 02 2014

There's no consensus among Canada's police chiefs on what the federal government should do now that the Supreme Court of Canada has struck down three of the country's prostitution laws.

The top court gave Justice Minister Peter MacKay until the end of December to draft new legislation. In addition to on-line consultations with the public, the department asked for input from police. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police initially tried to come up with a common position paper but found members had too many points of view.

Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson puts it this way, "The law enforcement community ranges from 'legalize it all, they're all Julia Roberts from Pretty Women' to those who agree with us and everything in between."

In his submission to government, Hanson told the government to outlaw prostitution altogether. However, Hanson doesn't actually want his officers to charge sex workers. "I think that you can create a series of laws where you can come down hard on the user and that you look at the provider as a victim," he says.

If that sounds like the so-called Nordic model of regulating prostitution, where selling sex is legal but buying it is not, Hanson makes it clear that it isn't.

Hanson says officers need the law as a tool to give them access to victimized men and women who were coerced into sex work. "Then you have courses of action to move that person towards treatment or counselling or getting them out of that lifestyle."

York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe says that's exactly how his officers had used the laws until the Supreme Court struck them down: "We take a very victim-centred approach. We haven't, in fact, charged a prostitute here in five years. But we have been able to extract, using the authorities that are given to us today, over 110 people over the last several years."

Jolliffe says having the power to arrest someone for prostitution, even if officers don't use it, helps police get behind the closed doors where the mentally ill, abused and those addicted to drugs have been forced into sex work.

Durham Regional Police Chief Mike Ewles didn't send a position paper to the government because he says he doesn't have a clearly defined opinion on how the government should regulate prostitution.

When it comes to the proposal to outlaw it though, "I think it really poses a significant risk. It's something we would have to think about very, very carefully."

Like his colleagues in York and Calgary, Ewles is also focused on helping the exploited and prosecuting abusive johns and pimps. He just doesn't think criminalization is the answer.

"We might drive it under into a subculture there that is so difficult for us to investigate and infiltrate and deal with," he says.

Ewles has also given considerable thought to the consenting adults who want to run regulated businesses.

"I really struggle with the notion of the individual's right to freely engage in what is essentially the second-oldest profession. We're not going to eliminate it."

He says he doesn't necessarily have a problem with people such as Terri-Jean Bedford, the Toronto dominatrix who led the challenge against Canada's prostitution laws.

"Bedford is an entrepreneur who wants to ply her trade and do her trade. She's a willing participant. I don't necessarily have a problem with that. Where I have a problem is for those people who are being extorted, assaulted, coerced into it."

(CBC News)