

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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OTTAWA - The federal government is starting a pilot project to deal with female prison inmates with serious mental health needs.

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OTTAWA - The Mounties are not disputing a report that they have identified more than 1,000 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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RCMP tracking radicalized youth



Apr 27 2014

Canadians at risk of joining foreign terrorist groups in Syria and elsewhere are now being tracked under a program led by the RCMP, a senior counter-terrorism officer has revealed in an interview.

The program has brought together police and federal agencies to identify "high-risk travellers" and disrupt their plans using methods such as denying them passports, Assistant Commissioner James Malizia said.

The no-fly list, immigration proceedings and criminal charges are also among the tools available to prevent radicalized

youths from leaving for conflict zones like Syria, Somalia and North Africa, he said.

The head of national security investigations at the RCMP, Assistant Commissioner Malizia disclosed the existence of the High Risk Traveller Case Management system in an interview with the *National Post*.

He also acknowledged that in cases where police lacked sufficient evidence to lay criminal charges, government officials were turning to "mitigation" tactics to thwart would-be terrorists.

"Charges, that's what we're aiming for. But if we can do a disruption, we will. We certainly won't shy away from that," he



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said. "I cannot think of, in the CT [counterterrorism] realm, a higher priority for us. We are absolutely totally focused on each high-risk traveller."

Officials are using the term "high-risk traveler" because not all those being tracked are leaving Canada explicitly to take up arms. Some are seeking religious education, but because they are heading to regions where they are vulnerable to recruitment, they are also considered at risk.

Like its Western allies, Canada has been struggling to deal with a growing number of radicalized men in their 20s who want to travel to Syria to join extremist groups aligned with Al-Qaeda.

About 130 Canadians are currently serving in overseas extremist factions, including about 30 in Syria alone, according to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. Another 80 have returned to Canada either because they were injured, disillusioned or retired.

The problem was underscored last January when two men from London, Ont., took part in an attack at a gas plant in Algeria that left 39 foreign workers dead. Officials are also concerned that veterans of foreign conflicts could return to Canada to stage attacks — a scenario that Al-Qaeda encourages.

Last week, British police said they were increasingly worried about the number of young men intending to fight in Syria, and had been urging women to report them. Forty people were arrested in the United Kingdom on charges related to Syria in the first three months of 2014.

There have been no charges in Canada related to the Syrian conflict, but Assistant Commissioner Malizia said the case management system had been dealing with the problem through methods other than arrests.

The tactics used to disrupt extremists varied depending on whether they were preparing to leave Canada, were already abroad

or had returned after training or fighting, Assistant Commissioner Malizia said.

By working with other federal agencies, the RCMP was able to determine what "enforcement or mitigation action would be most appropriate depending on the circumstances, grounds and the threat," he said.

"Amongst others, this could include the removal of a passport. If there is a threat to aviation it could involve a referral for the Specified Persons List led by Public Safety. And in cases where the subject of investigation is not Canadian, the cancellation of a visa."

But the program may not be able to stop determined extremists. After serving a prison sentence for his role in the Toronto 18 terrorist group, Somali-Canadian Ali Dirie was still somehow able to travel to Syria, where he died last August.

(National Post)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 2014

Apr 23 2014

TORONTO - CTV News has enlisted the expertise of 35-year veteran and former OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis as the network's go-to resource for policing and public safety-related news.



The recently retired commissioner and former co-host of CP24's *The Commish* will become CTV News' public safety analyst, informing viewers on news stories from the unique point-of-view of a seasoned senior police officer.

Appearing on an ad hoc basis, Lewis' new role as public safety analyst will see him appear across all CTV News properties.

"I am thrilled to join the CTV news team and to be able to provide commentary and analysis on critical public safety matters," said Lewis. "Keeping the public properly informed on these important issues is vital to CTV and to me."

Beginning his career as a Provincial Constable in Kapuskasing, Ontario, Lewis rose through the ranks to become the OPP Commissioner in August, 2010. Throughout his tenure, he oversaw numerous high-profile assignments, from homicide and organized crime investigations to tactical operations and the OPP's involvement in numerous security operations including U.S. presidential visits to Ontario.

A decorated police official, he was the first police officer to have been awarded all three levels of the Canadian Order of Merit

of the Police Forces, presented by three successive Governor Generals.

THURSDAY APRIL 24, 2014

Apr 24 2014

HALIFAX - Halifax's police chief isn't dwelling on a new report from Statistics Canada suggesting Halifax had the highest rate of firearm-related violence in Canada in 2012.

"I'm concerned as a Haligonian and I'm concerned as the chief of police," said Halifax Regional Police Chief Jean-Michel Blais Wednesday. "But I also realize that we have to take a look at that in terms of the year-over-year, and things have been going down and things have been improving."

The "Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2012" report shows both the number of victims and the rate of firearm-related violent crime in Canada fell by more than one-quarter between 2009 and 2012.

Among Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs,) Halifax had 41 firearm-related violent crimes per 100,000 population — the highest in Canada — and Moncton had 39.

Blais said the number of homicides and gun-related homicides have fallen steadily since then, while the number of guns seized by police has climbed.

"It was prior to our Guns and Gangs unit being fully operational and having a better handle on what was going on with regard to firearms," he said, adding community-based programs have resulted in more family members intervening when young men start carrying weapons.

"They are actively engaging with these young men," he added. "One individual told me their concern is that we have a whole generation of young men that we're losing to this gangster mentality."

So far in 2014 there have been eight shootings, according to police. There were 53 in 2013 and 56 in 2012.

(Metro Halifax)

Apr 24 2014

WATERLOO REGION - The Waterloo Regional Police Board will look within the service and externally — something it hasn't done for more than 35 years — for its next chief.

But until the position is filled, an interim police chief will be selected, said police board chair Tom Galloway after a special board meeting Wednesday.

"We are looking for an individual who is established in police leadership in the province or in Canada," he said.

Galloway said a potential chief would also have an understanding of community policing, a model that was started in Waterloo Region, as well as inclined to use technology and have innovative ideas in sustainability from a

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financial point of view.

A new police chief could be chosen as early as midsummer or into the fall if it's an external candidate, he said.

The interim chief will be announced at a board meeting on June 4. The interim chief, who cannot be appointed chief, could be on the job for three to five months, Galloway said.

Police Chief Matt Torigian shocked his peers and the community when he announced last week that he was leaving the police service to become Ontario's deputy minister of community safety. He became chief in 2007.

Torigian's last day is June 8.

Galloway said applications will be accepted until May 31. Interviews will be conducted by the board and assistance will be provided from human resources at the Region of Waterloo.

A consultant or a company to help with the search will not be hired, Galloway said.

"We are looking broadly at what is available in the industry," he said.

Galloway said all local police chiefs have been employees of the service and not on contract, but that requirement hasn't been decided yet.

By next month's meeting, the board will formally announce all prerequisites it is looking for in a chief.

The service hasn't hired a chief from outside since Syd Brown. Every chief since has come up through the ranks.

Brown, a Toronto Police constable, was hired in 1977 and fired less than two years after allegations of police brutality following a raid on a biker gang's clubhouse.

(The Record)

Apr 24 2014

TORONTO - The return to work of a police officer charged in the videotaped gunning down of a teenager on an empty streetcar was denounced Thursday by the victim's family and supporters.

In a statement, they said they would be protesting on Sunday against the police handling of Const. James Forcillo.

"We are extremely disappointed that a police officer charged with second-degree murder - of which there is ample video evidence - is being allowed to return to duty," the statement said.

Forcillo should not be awarded with "a paid vacation for seven months, followed by a desk job," it said.

A preliminary hearing to determine whether Forcillo, 30, should stand trial is currently underway. He faces a charge of second-degree murder for the police shooting of Sammy Yatim on an empty streetcar late in the evening last July 27.

The incident was captured on surveillance and cellphone video on which nine shots can be heard following shouts for Yatim, 18, to drop a knife. Police tasered Yatim after he had been shot.

Hundreds of people subsequently protested the shooting, demanding answers.

Forcillo was released on \$510,000 bail

and had been suspended with pay. However, Forcillo quietly returned to active duty at Toronto Crimestoppers in an administrative role in February - something that only became public this week.

Apr 24 2014

MONTREAL - A Montreal police officer on a bicycle was run down by a driver Thursday night.

The officer was with two partners and all were on bicycles when they attempted to pull a driver over.

The driver allegedly refused to stop and, according to police, intentionally tried to run one of the officers over.

The driver hit the bicycle, dragging it 15 metres, police say.

The officer was not hurt.

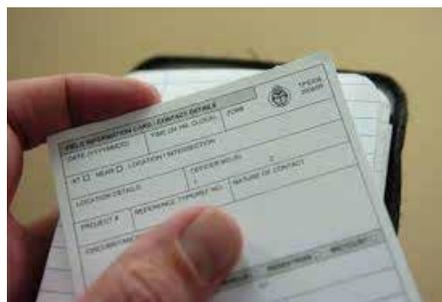
Police are treating this case as a hit-and-run and armed assault on a police officer.

The targeted officer did manage to see the driver's face.

(CTV Montreal)

Apr 24 2014

TORONTO - The Toronto Police Services Board has voted unanimously to approve a new carding policy that limits when officers can document people on the street.



Under the new rules, officers will need a reason relating to an actual occurrence or a series of occurrences before stopping someone on the street.

Police officers will have to provide a receipt for each interaction with their name and badge number, as well as the reason for contact.

"The intent of the policy is provide a clear direction and a clear framework of what is the proper use of community contact; the purpose for which police will engage in community contact; and the criteria based on which information from those contacts will be kept or stored in a police data base," said Toronto Police Services Board Chair Alok Mukherjee

"So it clarifies the field for officers. Its says to them we want you to engage with the community, respect peoples' rights, and don't engage in recording and storage and information that has no bearing on public safety."

The board was reviewing the issue over concerns of racial profiling related to the practice of street checks. It held a meeting in early April to hear community feedback on a draft policy developed by its counsel, Frank Addario.

One of the primary issues for critics of the policy was a clause that allowed officers to question members of the public "for no other reason than to collect intelligence," said Howard Morton, a criminal lawyer with the Law Union of Ontario who attended the vote.

"Now they have to be involved in a specific investigation and police simply can't go up to anybody and start peppering them with questions ... It's a good policy. It needs to be researched, reviewed and tinkered with, but by-and-large it's a very good policy."

Deputy Chief of Police Peter Sloly said that the new policy "matches up very closely" with 31 recommendations for improving community engagement included in an internal report commissioned by Chief Bill Blair in March 2012. Sloly says the TPS has successfully implemented 12 of those 31 recommendations to date.

Sloly said it's clear that there has been a steady "erosion of trust" between the public and the police force in the past decade.

"We are losing trust and we need to do everything we can to rebuild that trust, especially in the communities most at risk," Sloly said.

(CBC News)

FRIDAY
APRIL 25, 2014

Apr 25 2014

EDMONTON - A man who had charges against him stayed in the disappearance of two Alberta seniors is now filing a lawsuit against 59 people involved in the case.

Travis Vader's suit names RCMP officers, prosecutors, jail guards and jailhouse informants.

The lawsuit alleges misconduct on the part of RCMP, maltreatment of Vader by prison guards and malicious prosecution.

The claim was filed in court earlier this week.

It contends the conduct of the defendants constituted an abuse of the criminal justice system "which was high-handed and malicious and warrants an award of aggravated and punitive damages."

Lyle McCann and his wife, Marie, both in their 70s, were last seen alive as they fuelled up their motorhome in St. Albert, a bedroom community northwest of Edmonton, in July 2010.

(Global Edmonton)

Apr 25 2014

WINNIPEG - The Manitoba government is promising more money and personnel to help criminal proceedings move more quickly through the justice system.

The province says it will fund 10 additional Crown attorneys and five support workers.

The government is also paying for more civilian staff in the disclosure unit of the Winnipeg Police Service.

Justice Minister Andrew Swan says that will allow police and the Crown to share information more quickly with defence lawyers.

Apr 25 2014

MONTREAL - The Crown prosecutor in the Luka Magnotta case is hopeful an upcoming trip to gather witness testimony in Europe won't delay the accused's first-degree murder trial.

Louis Bouthillier says authorities are preparing to head to Germany and France in May or June to gather evidence from civilians and law-enforcement personnel.

Magnotta is accused of killing and dismembering university student Jun Lin in May 2012.

He was back in court today for a pre-trial hearing, where the Crown and defence debated whether the jury should be bilingual or English-speaking only.

Quebec Superior Court Justice Guy Cournoyer doesn't have to make a final decision on the matter until closer to the trial.

The trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 8 and Bouthillier says that start date remains the goal.

Apr 25 2014

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating the death of a 56-year-old man earlier this week in Timmins.

The Special Investigations Unit says Paul Mattinas was taken into custody on Monday evening and transported to the Timmins police station.

The SIU says Mattinas was later taken to the Timmins District Hospital and admitted, but at some point he checked himself out of the hospital.

Mattinas was found dead at a Timmins home on Tuesday morning.

The SIU investigates reports involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

Apr 25 2014

BARRIE, Ont. - A police officer and three special constables were sent to hospital for treatment Friday after a scuffle with a defendant in a Barrie, Ont., courtroom.

The altercation began Friday afternoon when the presiding judge asked for the man to be removed from the courtroom for being inattentive.

Police say the man - who was in court on charges of assaulting a peace officer, arson, and mischief - became angry, agitated and uncontrollable.

The officers were injured in the attempt to gain control of the defendant and remove him from the courtroom.

Police say the injuries include cuts, abrasions, a punch to the face, while one officer was pushed to the floor and a female special constable was hit in the head. One officer was spat on.

No charges have been laid related to the courtroom incident, but police say it remains under investigation.

Apr 25 2014

EDMONTON - Edmonton police say they've been a victim of a prank and they're not happy about it.

Police say they got a weapons complaint late Thursday night about a residence in the southeast part of the city.

They responded with patrol and tactical team officers, a canine unit, police helicopter, and emergency medical services, and set up a command post.

But it turned out the residents of the house were the victims of "swatting."

Police say swatting is a false report called into 911 about a serious incident often involving weapons and suggesting lives are at risk.

SWAT, the acronym for Special Weapons and Tactics, is commonly used name for special law enforcement units called out to high-risk operations.

Apr 25 2014

A Guelph police officer won't be charged for her role in the arrest of a 35-year-old man last fall.

Last November, a man was found to have a serious leg injury after being arrested for public intoxication,

The province's Special Investigations Unit was called in to investigate, and announced Friday that they had found no grounds to charge the officer.

Investigators discovered that the man injured his leg while falling off a police station bench and onto the ground while handcuffed.

He was treated in hospital.

"It would appear that the man's intoxication is to blame for his injury," SIU director Tony Loparco said in a press release.

"He simply lost his balance and, unable to right himself, slumped forward."

According to the SIU, none of the officers involved departed from normal police procedure, nor could they have moved quickly enough to stop the man from falling.

Four investigators were assigned to the case, interviewing three police officers involved in the incident and two civilian witnesses.

(CTV Kitchener)

Apr 25 2014

EDMONTON - ALERT investigators displayed results from a coordinated crackdown on a high-profile motorcycle gang, and released more details on their investigation.

On Wednesday morning, officers with ALERT, RCMP and the Edmonton Police Service executed ten search warrants in the capital region - ALERT said Friday that the warrants lead to the seizure of two handguns, 26 pounds of marijuana, and 19 vests.

The next day, ALERT said a total of six members of the Hells Angels motorcycle gang - the gang at the centre of the investigation - had been arrested and are facing organized crime charges.

"They're involved in things like drug trafficking, there could be human trafficking, gun trafficking, mortgage frauds," ALERT Insp. Darcy Strang said Friday. "Anything that makes money."

ALERT said it's the first time members of the gang have been charged with organized crime in Alberta.

In addition, ALERT said Friday that a seventh individual, a woman, was also charged in connection to the raids - but she wasn't listed in the initial release, police said, because she's not a member of the Hells Angels.

Police believe the bust has made a dent in the Hells Angels Westridge Chapter - as that clubhouse was one of the ten locations searched Wednesday.

The entire investigation was sparked after a clash in Drayton Valley in February, involving Hells Angels and a rival gang called The Warlock.

However, Insp. Strang said investigators were not allowed to search one item on that property - a white trailer - as officers didn't have a warrant to search it.

CTV News cameras later recorded the trailer in question being towed away - Strang admitted that trailer might've yielded more evidence.

"I wasn't at the scene, so I don't know what happened in relation to the timing and such, again we had over 200 people involved in this and most everyone was busy," Strang said.

The six men arrested as part of the investigation were expected to appear in court Friday afternoon.

(CTV Edmonton)

Apr 25 2014

CALGARY- The senseless deaths of five young students in Brentwood earlier this month sent shock waves through the city, especially among the post-secondary community. But the stabbing spree was also traumatic for emergency crews called to the scene, prompting some first responders to seek help from the CPS chaplain.

"The sense of watching over a city weighs heavy on the shoulders of a police officer," explains Paras Persad, who has been providing daily support to first responders since the mass murder. "I'm there for the person, for his needs, for his questions."

S/Sgt. Darren Cave supervises officers in the district where the stabbing happened, and was also there in the early morning hours of April 15.

"There is nothing that can prepare you for what those officers were exposed to when they attended that scene," Cave says. "I saw in them that morning physical and emotional exhaustion."

He adds that help from Persad is well received.

"Surprise, surprise, police officers are human beings too, and we're better now at recognizing that about ourselves than, say, 30 years ago."

Sadly, this is not the first time Chaplain Persad has been called in. Five years ago, he helped those who responded to a call in Dalhousie, where Joshua Lal killed his wife, two of his children and a basement tenant before taking his own life.

"I saw that need years and years ago, my dad was a police officer for 38 years," Persad says, in explaining why he's made counselling his vocation. "It's not just being present

at the scene, but it's providing ongoing support for all of our members."

Persad works full time out of the main Calgary Police Service campus, where there is a non-denominational chapel.

(Global News)

SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2014

Apr 26 2014

SASKATOON - Saskatoon police say they have a suspect in custody after one of their patrol cars was stolen.

On Friday night, police got a call about a man with a knife in front of a home causing a disturbance.

Officers say when they arrived on scene they were confronted by the man and employed a Taser in an effort to stop him from advancing.

However, the man managed to evade the officers and jumped into a nearby patrol car and tried to escape.

One officer received minor injuries when he was dragged a short distance.

A short criminal pursuit ensued, lasting less than five minutes, before the armed suspect collided with a truck and attempted to flee on foot before being apprehended by officers.

Apr 26 2014

MONTREAL - Montreal's mayor is putting his city's renowned nightlife to the test - and taking a shot at rival Toronto in the process.

Denis Coderre says he will allow bars on two downtown streets this summer to serve alcohol until 5:30 a.m., two and a half hours later than liquor laws currently allow.

Busy stretches of Crescent and Saint-Denis Streets will be part of the trial.

"The fact that we're having that pilot project, at least we'll know," Coderre said.

"It doesn't mean that it will be in every borough. It means that downtown you might have the capacity to do it."

The trial will run from June 12 to July 5, during weekends only.

The populist mayor used Friday's announcement to lob a playful jab at Toronto, saying that a metropolis "should be fun."

Last call in Canada's largest city is 2 a.m.

"There is a nightlife in Montreal. The only reason there is one in Toronto is because there's a half a million Montrealers who have moved there," Coderre told reporters.

Coderre said his city's traditional 3 a.m. cut off for alcohol sales causes problems because too many people head out into the streets at the same time, especially during the party-filled summer months.

Montreal's police chief is on board with the project, he added.

Coderre said the city will evaluate the economic and social impact of the extended hours before deciding whether to make the change permanent.

Apr 26 2014

The RCMP are introducing a new disciplinary regime that will force the Mounties to police themselves in a bid to win back the frayed trust of the Canadian public.



The goal for the national police force is to try to turn the page on years of negative stories involving "bad apples" and to showcase a commitment to a culture in which Mounties improve their own conduct – and report any wrongdoing by their colleagues.

The final version of the proposed code of conduct and other rules has just been posted on the Internet and is now subject to a final 30-day consultation period before being implemented. There are logistical changes in the overhaul, aimed at speeding up the way the RCMP reprimand, suspend, demote and discharge officers. But the changes also entail a new vocabulary that places the onus on the Mounties to improve their own behaviour.

"We won't be using the word discipline – it will all be about conduct," RCMP professional integrity officer Craig MacMillan told *The Globe and Mail*.

"We have a whole range of measures, as we call them. So don't call them sanctions or punishment or penalties. We have conduct measures," Chief Superintendent MacMillan added.

The new system is designed to replace a 25-year-old law that prevented the RCMP from quickly sanctioning officers, with any measure beyond a one-day suspension taking months, if not years, to be imposed. The old system capped the maximum suspension at 10 days; the new system doesn't have a maximum sanction, allowing greater discretion to local and regional managers to take their officers to task for any cases of misconduct and wrongdoing.

Whereas the RCMP had to assemble three-member panels to deal with most cases in the past, the new, whittled-down process will allow a one-member panel to handle much of the load. The new panels will have powers to prevent procedures from dragging on, including the ability to prevent officers from calling too many witnesses.

The RCMP have struggled to deal with a series of negative stories in recent years, from the death of Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver airport to allegations of systemic harassment. Commissioner Bob Paulson vowed in 2011 to foster a new culture of accountability and leadership.

"I tell you, one day, there is going to be the removal of the Stetson if we don't get this straight," he told *The Globe* shortly after taking over from his civilian predecessor. "We've got to get onto this. This is urgent."

The new rules are giving life to the

legislation passed last year that amended the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act.

The code of conduct prescribes the proper behaviour for Mounties, including a directive to "report as soon as feasible and take appropriate action if the conduct of another member contravenes this Code."

Chief Supt. MacMillan said that a recent survey inside the force showed that 77 per cent of members are prepared to report misconduct of other employees, a number that he hopes will increase under the new system.

"That's a positive thing and what we are doing ... is going to help to build on that and have even higher confidence levels in employees as they see that their organization is responding to these things in an even more timely way," Chief Supt. MacMillan said.

(Globe and Mail)

SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2014

Apr 27 2014

TORONTO - A First Nations police chief, fired without a hearing for branding Ontario's provincial police force and the RCMP as racist, takes his case against former OPP commissioner Julian Fantino to court Monday.



In his application, Lawrence Hay is calling on Divisional Court to quash a human rights tribunal ruling that his axing had nothing to do with his aboriginal status.

"The (tribunal) took a compartmentalized approach to the evidence that avoided consideration of whether, based on the totality of the evidence, race was a factor," Hay's factum states.

The province and Fantino argue the tribunal's decision was correct, and there's no evidence anything Fantino, now a federal cabinet minister, did was motivated by racism.

Hay had spent 19 years with the Mounties when he left to take up a post as chief of police of the Tyendinaga First Nation in eastern Ontario in 1998.

As required under provincial law, the commissioner of Ontario provincial police first appointed him as a First Nations constable.

During a protest in April 2007, Hay complained about police racism in an article published in a student newspaper.

"I realized just what a racist organization the RCMP was, and I came here to learn that the OPP and the (Surete du Quebec) ... are no different," Hay told the paper.

"It's deep-seated racism."

In light of the comments, Fantino suspended then revoked Hay's appointment as a

First Nations constable in October 2007, effectively ending his position as chief.

Normally, police officers in Ontario charged with misconduct have a right to a full hearing along with extensive rights of appeal under the Police Services Act.

Not so for First Nations officers, a fact criticized by the Ipperwash Inquiry into the police killing of Dudley George. The inquiry concluded that racism was a problem within the provincial police force.

Hay argued unsuccessfully before the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario that the different rules for aboriginal and non-aboriginal officers are discriminatory.

The tribunal also held that Fantino's failure to consult the band before suspending Hay was because of a decision to "act quickly."

In his factum, Hay argues his assertions of police racism were protected under the human rights code and Fantino's actions were retaliatory.

In response, Fantino's lawyers point out Hay's statement came during a volatile situation involving aboriginal land disputes and protests in the province.

"(Hay's) comments were made at a time of high tension," the factum states.

"The potential consequences of this degree of protest activity on the ability of the OPP to perform its policing functions were severe."

The lawyers also maintain Hay refused to co-operate with the investigation and nothing Fantino did was the result of racism or discrimination.

It notes the band's chief disapproved of Hay's comments.

Apr 27 2014

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Police say a driver in Newfoundland has managed to rack up more than \$160,000 in outstanding fines.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says the 20-year-old man was stopped in St. John's Saturday evening and charged with driving while suspended.

Police say officers also discovered that he owes more than \$160,000 in outstanding fines.

He was taken into custody and his vehicle impounded.

Apr 27 2014

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police continue to investigate an early morning collision between a police wagon and another vehicle.

Officers say the wagon was struck on its side by a car early this morning.

Police say the force of the impact pushed the wagon onto its side and into on-coming lanes.

Police say the officer driving the wagon kicked open the front windshield to exit and climbed on top of the vehicle to remove the prisoner inside.

Officers say no one was injured during the incident.

**MONDAY
APRIL 28, 2014**

Apr 28 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police say a man who spat at on-duty officers with the intent of communicating his disease to them during a recent arrest attempt has been charged.

Officers were called to an apartment building in the Weston Road and Humber Road North area last Thursday on a report that a man was threatening a random neighbour just before midnight, police say.

The man had knocked on the person's door and when the neighbour refused to open

it, police say the man attacked the door with a knife. The neighbour then called police, but by the time officers arrived to the scene, the suspect had left.

Police later returned to the same apartment building after midnight on a report that a man was screaming in one of the units. When officers knocked on the door, a man police believed to be the same suspect opened it.

Police said during the suspect's attempted arrest, the man tried to take an officer's gun. He failed. The suspect was eventually arrested, but not before he "spat at the officers, with the intent of communicating his disease to them," police said in a statement. Toronto police did not say what type of disease the suspect had.

Courtney Carter is charged with two

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counts of threatening death, mischief under \$5,000, two counts of assaulting a police officer, disarming a police officer, assault causing bodily harm and weapons dangerous.

(CTV News)

Apr 28 2014

MILTON, Ont. - The federal government says it will spend \$9.2 million this year to improve safety at railway crossings.

They money is being made available as part of a cost-sharing agreement with railways and governments that have authority over local roads.

Transport Canada says the improvements could include installing flashing lights and bells, gate barriers and other devices at crossings.

The Transportation Safety Board has said there have been 658 accidents over the last 10 years at so-called passive railway crossings, including 59 deaths and 107 serious injuries.

Studies suggest accidents and fatality rates drop significantly after grade crossing improvements are completed.

There is also money to encourage the closure of some railway crossings.

"This investment will enhance safety for pedestrians and motorists at over 600 locations across the country, and help save lives," Transport Minister Lisa Raitt said in release.

Last March the Transportation Safety Board said the federal government should conduct research into new low-cost alert systems to bolster safety at passive railway crossings.

It made the finding in a report into a collision involving a camper van and freight train near Broadview, Sask., that killed four people in broad daylight in August 2012.

The report said a Canadian Pacific Railway freight train travelling at 85 km/h sounded its horn and had its lights on, but struck the van broadside at a railway crossing that had only standard reflector warning signs.

The report warned the risk of such accidents remains until better warning systems are required at railway crossings without bells, lights and gates.

Apr 28 2014

VICTORIA - B.C.'s children's minister has announced the closure of a youth custody centre in Victoria, saying declining numbers mean it's not feasible to continue operating the facility.

Stephanie Cadieux says that on any given night last year, an average of 15 youth were detained at the Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre, which has 60 beds.

Cadieux says all three youth detention facilities in B.C. - including in Burnaby and Prince George - have been operating at 56 per cent capacity.

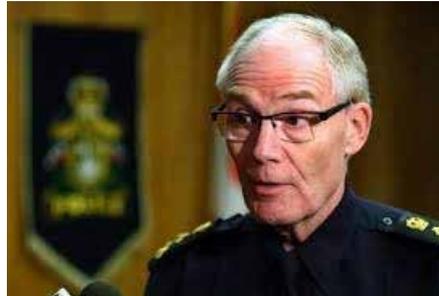
She says there's no decision on when the Victoria centre will be shuttered but that young people housed there will be transferred to Burnaby.

Cadieux says increasing use of technology means that those being held will be able to maintain contact with their families.

The minister says the closure that will save \$4.5 million in funding provided to B.C. from the federal government.

Apr 28 2014

SASKATOON - Saskatoon's police chief is renewing his call for stronger knife laws after officers were called out on the weekend to deal with a suspect wielding a blade.



Clive Weighill says several recent high-profile stabbings make it clear that better laws are needed for certain types of edged weapons.

He told a Saskatoon radio talk show that he was mainly referring to machetes, swords and long double-edged knives.

A 20-year-old man faces at least a dozen charges after a police patrol car was stolen in Saskatoon on Friday night.

Officers say they got a call about someone threatening two people with a knife, were themselves confronted at the scene and unsuccessfully tried using a Taser on him.

Weighill asked people to put themselves in the shoes of the responding officers.

"Your adrenaline starts to spike. You're focusing on that knife," he said Monday.

He said he can't understand why anybody should be allowed to carry a knife manufactured solely to intimidate and hurt people.

"For the life of me, I can't fathom why somebody has to carry a machete in downtown Saskatoon," Weighill said. "You're not cutting cane or anything, yet you need to carry a machete?"

(CKOM, The Canadian Press)

Apr 28 2014

PARIS - The director of the Paris police service says he wants the officers implicated in the alleged rape of a Canadian woman out of his department.

Bernard Petit's remarks Monday to French radio station Europe 1 came as authorities investigated two officers accused of raping the Canadian tourist at the city's police headquarters.

Both officers from the elite police unit, as well as a third who's considered a witness, have been suspended pending the outcome of an investigation that could take weeks or even months to complete.

French media have reported a 34-year-old Toronto woman met the off-duty officers in a bar last week and later went with them to their workplace.

As she left the station, she reportedly told another police officer she'd been raped, but a lawyer for one of the suspects told The Canadian Press the sex was consensual.

The police director told the radio station Monday he would not discuss the criminal allegations, but he called the behaviour of the officers from the noted anti-gang unit "absolutely unacceptable and intolerable."

"From an administrative point of view, things are clear in our minds," said Petit, who also noted they should have never have let someone from the outside into the headquarters.

"These boys no longer have a place within our unit."

The famed police headquarters, where the SWAT-like team is based, is often referred to in France simply by its address: 36 Quai des Orfevres.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve announced over the weekend the officers had been removed from their posts during the investigation. He also said a disciplinary inquiry within the force is already underway.



Apr 29 2014

OTTAWA - The Ottawa Police Services Board is unanimously endorsing buying up to 100 more stun guns and letting more staff use the devices.

The decision on a two-year plan recommended by the police service came during the board's meeting Monday.

Currently, only supervisors and tactical unit members can use the devices, but the new strategy would expand their use to front-line constables.

The new conducted energy weapons are expected to cost about \$2,000 each.

It will be 2015 before any new devices are purchased and used, and this year will provide more training for officers.

Police Chief Charles Bordeleau says that message was heard loud and clear from both the community and board members.

"They want to ensure ... when we're issuing new tools, that they have the training to support the very difficult work that they do," he said.

A report from the police service had said the weapons were not readily accessible to front-line first class officers in violent or life-threatening situations since only five to 15 of them are out on the road at any one time.

Being able to buy up to 100 more of them would increase the number of the devices on the road to between 29 and 39, the report said.

The report, released last week, was the result of a review by Ottawa police following the release of revised Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services guidelines. The guidelines announced last year allow boards to authorize front-line police officers to carry stun guns.

Ottawa police will report back to the board on the effectiveness of the plan at the end of 2015.

(CFRA, The Canadian Press)

Apr 29 2014

NORTH BATTLEFORD, Sask. - Saskatchewan is building a new hospital in North Battleford that will provide mental health services to the general population as well as to inmates.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan says the hospital will have 188 beds for mental health patients who require in-patient rehabilitation.

The complex will also include an adjoining 96-room correctional facility for both male and female offenders.

Programming and treatment for the two populations will be separate.

The hospital will replace the existing Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford.

Construction on the public-private project is to begin the summer of 2015.

Apr 29 2014

VANCOUVER - Thirty-two years ago, a petite woman with blue eyes and brown frizzy hair packed all she could fit inside a suitcase and set off to find a haven after being kicked out of a low-rent Vancouver apartment building in the middle of the night.



She didn't get far. Kristin Gurholt's body, naked with her skull fractured, was found nearby in a dirty alleyway on Sept. 4, 1981. Police have never made an arrest.

Moving details of Gurholt's 34-year life and her ghastly death, some never revealed publicly before, are now posted on a new website that the Vancouver Police Department hopes will shut the file. It joins seven other historic murders, found at vpdcoldcases.ca, that remain shrouded in mystery while family members still look for answers.

The website was launched Tuesday as an additional effort by the force to crack 113 unsolved homicides that have stacked up over the past 40 years. The eight cases online span between 1981 and 2008, while the force plans to add more over time.

"We just want to breathe some life back into these cases," Deputy Chief Adam Palmer told reporters, explaining he hopes the clickable files, maps and photographs refresh memories.

"Get them to recall things they may have been uncomfortable talking about at the time - either witnesses who may have seen something or heard something ... but now with the passage of time, they realize they may not be in any peril or it may be the time to step forward and do the right thing."

Families of the victims support the website approach, said Palmer, which the force believes could garner tips from a large public audience. Often a small lead, perhaps chatter along the grapevine, could be all that's necessary to re-activate a case, he said.

"Armchair detectives" are encouraged to scroll through the files, he said.

"We're happy to hear from people, as well, if they have any information or leads or theories or anything that comes to light that they may dig up. Any information is good."

The concept already exists. The Toronto Police Service and national RCMP also post cases, as do many forces in the U.S., though most are not nearly as interactive or visually appealing as the site that cost the Vancouver force less than \$10,000.

The San Diego Police Department began posting its cold case homicide information online within the past 10 years as a supplement to other lead generators like Crime Stoppers, said Det. Sgt. Frank Hoerman.

The 32-year police veteran, who keeps track of the historic files, said the force does receive tips from the site. Every year his team closes a couple among the thousand-or-so unsolved cases dating back to the late 1800s.

He believes the Internet's vast reach, along with other technological advances like DNA testing, are driving new momentum in solving crime.

"They've gone cold for a reason, either for a lack of evidence or a lack of information," Hoerman said. "The most daunting issue is just looking for that one piece of physical evidence, witness evidence or some other type of information that can move the investigation forward."

But whether high-tech methods or good old fashioned sleuthing is involved doesn't really matter, so long as the job gets done.

"They feel very successful. Because they are so few and far in between," Hoerman said of investigators. "(But) the bigger issue is for the families of the victims, getting closure.

"That's what it really comes down to."

Apr 29 2014

EDMONTON - It turns out criminals aren't the best drivers.

Edmonton police are developing a program to catch criminals using traffic stats from the city, after finding a strong correlation between traffic violations and other crimes.

The COGNOS program overlays crime data with collision data to find "hotspots" for officers to target, as a strong correlation has been found between traffic violations and other crimes.

"Policing is extremely expensive, and you can't have a policeman on every corner 24/7, so you need to work smarter. So you focus your activities where the problem is," said Dennis Tetreault, traffic safety supervisor with the city and co-chair of the International Conference on Urban Traffic Safety.

The conference runs through Friday at the Shaw Conference Centre, where a crime analyst with the Memphis Police Department made a presentation Tuesday via Skype highlighting an MPD initiative that uses cutting-edge technology to nab criminals at collision hotspots.

Edmonton city police started developing its own program a year ago.

In addition to collision data, the city's office of traffic safety relays information to police on "high-risk" drivers caught speeding more than 50 km/h above the limit, and vehicles that have received dozens of violations in a one-year period.

"We pick out all those bad drivers that we know are just ripe for collisions, and provide it to police, and police will target them," Tetreault said.

City police methods analyst Allison Bouthillier said Edmonton's hotspots are always changing, though 23 Avenue - spanning southwest and southeast Edmonton - and Stony Plain Road at 178 Street are two current problem areas.

"It's not hard to find a hotspot for crime and collisions in Edmonton," she said.

(Edmonton Sun)

Apr 29 2014

ORILLIA - Orillia's police detachment will be the first in the OPP to see the installation of live-scan fingerprint technology.



"I'm ecstatic about it. Our squeaky wheel gets the grease," Orillia Police Services Board (OPSB) member Ralph Cipolla said Tuesday.

The OPSB has been rallying to replace the ink-to-paper fingerprinting method since 2011.

Orillia OPP detachment commander Insp. Malcolm Quigley made the announcement during Tuesday's OPSB meeting.

"Because of the volume of criminal reference checks and vulnerable sector checks that are going in and the continuing increase in demand for them, we have been identified as a priority in the province," Quigley said.

In 2013, the Orillia OPP completed 3,015 criminal record and vulnerable-sector checks. This year, to date, 889 checks have been completed.

Quigley said there are other priority locations, but Orillia will be first due to its proximity to OPP headquarters.

Quigley said the detachment hopes to have live-scan running this fall.

(QMI Agency)

Apr 30 2014

EDMONTON - A fatality inquiry judge says there was nothing two Edmonton police officers could have done differently during a 30-second fight with a man who was shot during an arrest.

Shawn Michael Price, who was 36, died in May 2009 during a scuffle with the officers, who were investigating a report of a robbery.

The inquiry, held in February, heard that Price struggled to get free after he was stopped for questioning and told he was being taken into custody.

Price tried to take the gun from one of the officers, but the second officer drew her gun and fired twice, striking Price in the back and chest.

The final report from a provincial court judge makes no recommendations on how to prevent similar deaths.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team had earlier ruled that the officers' actions were justified.

(CHED, The Canadian Press)

Apr 30 2014

SASKATOON - A psychiatric assessment has been ordered for a man accused of stealing a police car in Saskatoon.

The assessment was ordered when Shayne Penner, who is 20, appeared in court Tuesday on several charges that include assault with a weapon, dangerous operation of a vehicle and obstruction of police.

Investigators have said officers were called to a home last Friday after getting reports of someone threatening people with a knife.

The officers confronted a man and tried to subdue him with a Taser electronic stun gun when he refused to put down the knife.

When the Taser failed, the suspect allegedly climbed into a police car and sped away before crashing into a truck and fleeing on foot before he was arrested.

Penner remains in custody and will return to court on Friday.

(CKOM)

Apr 30 2014

MONTREAL - Police forces on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border have dealt a major blow to an illegal tobacco ring that they say was linked to the Mafia and aboriginal organized crime.

Officials from the Sûreté du Québec, the Canada Border Services Agency, the RCMP and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security were on hand Wednesday as 400 officers fanned out in Montreal and the surrounding regions and began raiding dozens of properties. Among the locations targeted just before dawn were homes in St-Léonard and Valleyfield and a strip club in Dundee, near the border.

In all, \$7 million worth of contraband was seized and 28 people arrested. Police are

still searching for seven people linked to the criminal ring, which allegedly involved close collaboration between the Mafia and aboriginal organized crime.

Residents of Kahnawake said it was the first time they'd heard police refer to "aboriginal organized crime" and said the raids will affect many members of their community who depend on the cigarette industry to make an honest living.

"It benefits the whole community both directly and indirectly," said Peggy Mayo, a former chief of the band council. "Why would the local government have supported it for the past 25 years if the Mob was involved?"

Christine Zachary Deom, a chief on the band council, said that even though making and selling cigarettes is controversial — "we're not making baby food" — it's a source of income close to home.

"We're not hand-out people," she said. "We prefer to make our own way."

According to the head of the SQ's organized crime division, Michel Pelletier, dismantling the complex system that brought unprocessed tobacco over the border from North Carolina was also a collaborative effort. In addition to provincial and federal police forces, officers from municipal bodies in various towns, along with several from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, were instrumental in the investigation.

The probe into illegal tobacco imports is the largest ever conducted in North America.

Police believe that the unprocessed tobacco was initially purchased in bulk by the Mob and then transported over the border hidden in shipments of cedar mulch. It was then resold to buyers on the Akwesasne and Kahnawake First Nations reserves, who processed the contraband and distributed it. The two organizations divided the profits, Pelletier noted, with the Mafia taking 60 per cent and the aboriginal groups taking 40 per cent.

Officials in Quebec first got wind of the operation, allegedly masterminded by businessman Nicola Valvano, in September 2012 following a tip from U.S. authorities. Several of the men arrested on Wednesday have been linked to alleged Mob boss Raynald Desjardins, who is in prison.

"This case ... has a direct impact on both of our countries," U.S. Homeland Security official James Spiro said at a news conference held Wednesday morning. "When we take contraband and money from criminal groups, we're significantly impacting their ability to operate."

In total, officers raided 32 locations and seized \$450,000 in cash, 40,000 kilograms of tobacco, 1,300 marijuana plants, 14 vehicles and one gun. The 28 people in custody and the seven still on the lam are facing charges of fraud, sale of contraband and gangsterism.

Police estimate that their 18-month investigation and the ensuing arrests will put an additional \$10 million in the government's pockets. Even as the number of smokers in Quebec has decreased in recent years, Pelletier said, tax revenues linked to cigarettes and

other tobacco products have risen — a sign that the police crackdown on illegal tobacco is having an effect.

Since 2010, police and border guards have seized 30 tonnes of illegal tobacco at or near border crossings in the Montérégie and the Eastern Townships.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 30 2014

TORONTO - Police say a "chance meeting" between two men on an east-end Toronto sidewalk last month ended in them gunning each other down.

Jonathan Stefan Khan, 21, and Shawn Chestnut-Reddick, 22, both died of multiple gunshot wounds after the March 19 incident outside a club.

Det. Shawn Mahoney says the two men knew each other and travelled in the same circles but they had a "pre-existing conflict" with each other before they met unintentionally on the sidewalk that day.

Mahoney says an argument ensued, leading to a fist fight altercation that ended with both men pulling out guns and shooting each other.

He says Chestnut-Reddick suffered three gunshot wounds and Khan seven. No one else was injured.

Both men were known to police.

Apr 30 2014

TORONTO - The Ontario government could have reduced the potential for catastrophic accidents involving drivers with medical problems if it had been more proactive in keeping tabs on at-risk drivers, watchdog Andre Marin said Wednesday.

His latest investigation found an "outdated" and confusing system for reporting and monitoring drivers with potentially unsafe medical conditions such as uncontrolled hypoglycemia, the ombudsman said.

Forms and medical information are archaic, doctors aren't reporting at-risk patients and, in some cases, the ministry either isn't getting all the information or isn't acting on it, he said.

"Right now, what's happening in Ontario is bureaucratic calamity mired by general chaos," he said.

Vehicles in the hands of drivers with uncontrolled or unaware hypoglycemia are "uncontrolled" missiles that are "a huge danger to the public," Marin said.

"The public doesn't realize really the extent to which they are vulnerable on our roads and highways," he said.

According to the Ministry of Transportation, there were 7,336 drivers who were considered insulin dependent in 2010, Marin said.

It's estimated that 25 per cent of them will suffer hypoglycemic episodes - low blood sugar that can cause dizziness, drowsiness and vision changes - without being aware of it.

His report focused on a 2009 car crash that killed three people, caused by a diabetic Hamilton man who was experiencing severe uncontrolled hypoglycemia.

Allan Maki, 40, had started experienc-

ing episodes of uncontrolled hypoglycemia in 2002. He renewed his driver's licence in 2007, but got an outdated form that didn't ask specific information about his use of insulin, the report said.

Maki ate a snack before the accident because his blood sugar level was low, but didn't wait to confirm that his condition was stable before getting behind the wheel, it said.

"This is more than a time bomb waiting to explode because it did explode, causing the death of three people," Marin said.

The high school teacher was convicted in 2011 of dangerous driving causing death, but the Ministry of Transportation failed to suspend his licence until 18 months after the crash.

Fortunately, his bail conditions barred him from driving, Marin said.

The emergency room doctor and police both sent reports to the ministry following the accident, but it couldn't find them, he said.

The ministry did get in touch with police about Maki's criminal charges in 2010, but they weren't from the department that deals with medical reviews, the report said. His licence wasn't suspended until nine months later.

Ontario doctors are required and paid \$36 to report patients to the ministry if they have medical conditions that might make it unsafe for them to drive, Marin said.

"But the requirement is of no value if it's not followed up, or if it's too confusing, or if it just amounts to paperwork that is just shuffled lost or forgotten," he said.

The ministry shoulders most of the blame for letting the system slip, but the medical community has to take it more seriously and police need to be more diligent, he said.

The government has agreed to implement all of his recommendations to improve the system, Marin said.

Some of his 19 recommendations are part of a program review that's currently underway, while others have already been acted on, Transportation Minister Glen Murray said in a statement.

Marin recommendations include extending mandatory medical reporting requirements to nurse practitioners and other health-care professionals.

He also wants Ontario to set up a system where whistleblowers can report potentially unsafe driving, just like Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. It can prompt the government to make inquiries to confirm that someone is fit to drive.

Apr 30 2014

NANAIMO, B.C. - Two employees at a Vancouver Island sawmill were killed, two others were injured and one of their former co-workers was arrested Wednesday after a gunman opened fire in the mill's parking lot and continued shooting inside, RCMP said.

The shooting happened shortly before 7 a.m. at a Western Forest Products sawmill in Nanaimo, about 100 kilometres north of Victoria.

Supt. Mark Fisher said investigators were still attempting to piece together what happened and why.

Fisher said police believed the attack began in the parking lot and then moved into the mill's offices. Four men were shot by the time officers arrived minutes later, he said.

Members of the RCMP emergency response team arrested a 47-year-old Nanaimo resident, said Fisher, though he didn't release any further details about the suspect and he declined to speculate about what may have motivated the shooting.

Police seized a shotgun at the scene, he said.

The company said the suspect was a former employee, but it wasn't clear when the man left the mill and under what circumstances.

Fisher said police believed the shooter acted alone.

"We have no indication that there are any other suspects involved in this incident," said Fisher.

Don Demens, president of Western Forest Products, which is based in Vancouver, confirmed the man was a former worker, but he declined to say anything else about him.

None of the victims' names were released.

The Island Health Authority said one of the surviving victims was airlifted to hospital in Victoria in critical condition and the other was in hospital in Nanaimo in stable condition.

The two other victims were transported to hospital in Nanaimo, where they were pronounced dead, the BC Coroners Service said.

(Nanaimo Daily News)

Apr 30 2014

TORONTO - A review board has ruled that a man who killed a Toronto police officer with a snowplow must stay in the secure unit of a mental health hospital.

Richard Kachkar has been detained in the Ontario Shores mental health hospital in Whitby, Ont., for about a year, since he was found not criminally responsible for killing Sgt. Ryan Russell.

At his first annual hearing in front of the Ontario Review Board, which decides if and how NCR patients should be detained, Kachkar asked, through his lawyers, to be transferred to a less secure, general forensic unit.

The board issued its decision Wednesday, with reasons to follow later, which orders Kachkar to remain in the secure unit and preserves all of the same conditions Kachkar has had for the past year, including community access.

The board stirred controversy last year following Kachkar's initial hearing when it allowed him escorted trips into the community and the Crown unsuccessfully appealed that provision.

The hospital didn't let Kachkar off its grounds while that privilege was under appeal, but it revealed at the first of Kachkar's annual hearings last week that since the appeal was dismissed he has been escorted by staff three times to a local plaza.

Kachkar's attending psychiatrist told the hearing that the medical team felt Kachkar isn't ready to move to the general forensic unit, where the ratio of staff to patients is lower.

Dr. Zohar Waisman told the board he still does not have a definitive diagnosis for Kachkar, other than he falls somewhere in the spectrum of psychosis.

It is difficult to assess Kachkar's future risk because those predictions are harder with more serious offences, he said. Kachkar does appear to be responding to his anti-psychotic medication, but he has only been on it since September, which is not a very long time for someone with such a complex history, Waisman said.

Apr 30 2014

TORONTO - Sgt. James Patterson wanted to go home on the day of his retirement from the Toronto Police Service, but not using his usual mode of transportation.



The Toronto police mounted unit celebrated the retirement of Sgt. Patterson with a 22-horse, 50-kilometre ride from Exhibition Place to Pickering on Wednesday.

It took the 36-year police veteran nine hours to ride all the way home.

"The ride worked out really well," Sgt. Patterson said after arriving in Pickering just after 5 p.m. He admitted he was concerned about Wednesday's rainfall but said the trip surpassed his expectations.

Graham Queen, a staff sergeant with the mounted unit, says this event is the first of its kind. "It started out as a small kind of venture — just a few people were going to join in — and it became a whole unit-wide initiative," he said.

"This was Jim's idea, he's been with the mounted unit over 20 years and he approached me and asked if he could ride from the stables here at Exhibition Place all the way home to Pickering."

The ride included 21 officers, some of whom were on duty. "Some of them came in on their days off to be part of the ride," said Sgt. Patterson. "I was very touched by that."

He spent 22 years of his police career with the mounted unit. During that time he was a training sergeant and was responsible for teaching other officers how to ride.

"Jim's a very accomplished rider, one of our best riders here," Staff Sgt. Queen said, adding that Sgt. Patterson was in Washington to ride during both of President Obama's inauguration ceremonies.

The celebration ceremonies offered to members of the police service at the time of their retirement differs from case to case, depending on the officer's request, Staff Sgt.

Queen said. An officer who had finished a 38-year career celebrated his retirement by riding around the mounted unit's barn at Exhibition Place and making a last exit under a set of raised lances.

Sgt. Patterson said he had no immediate plans for retirement and plans to take a couple of months off, noting that he was drinking a Kronenbourg beer at the end of the ride.

(National Post)

Apr 30 2014

VANCOUVER - A new trial has been ordered for four men accused of human smuggling in connection to one of the cases that prompted a federal government crackdown on the offence.

In a unanimous ruling Wednesday, the B.C. Court of Appeal overturned a January 2013 decision by the B.C. Supreme Court that found a section of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act was too broad.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Arne Silverman ruled Section 117 infringed on charter rights because humanitarian workers could be prosecuted under the act. Silverman ruled the section was unconstitutional and the charges were dismissed against the men.

But B.C. Court of Appeal Justice Kathryn Neilson disagreed, saying the act was not too broad.

"Parliament intended to create a broad offence with no exceptions, directed to concerns of border control and the particular issue of deterring and penalizing those who assist others in entering Canada illegally," said Justice Kathryn Neilson in a written ruling.

Neilson said while there may be difficult cases in which prosecutions are unpalatable, she noted that Parliament also enacted a centralized process so attorneys general could assess all circumstances, including motive, before proceeding with charges.

Neilson set aside the acquittals and ordered new trials for Francis Appulonappa, Hamalraj Handasamy, Jeyachandran Kanagarajah and Vignarajah Thevarajah.

The Crown alleged the men organized the voyage of the MV Ocean Lady and were the captain and chief crew members. The ship was stopped off the west coast of Vancouver Island Oct. 17, 2009, and authorities found 76 Tamil migrants aboard. None of the people aboard had the proper documents to enter Canada.

THURSDAY
MAY 01, 2014

May 01 2014

NANAIMO, B.C. - A 47-year-old Nanaimo, BC man has been formally charged in connection with a fatal shooting Wednesday at a sawmill.

Kevin Douglas Addison is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

He remains in custody and is to appear in Nanaimo court on Thursday.

The tragedy at the Western Forest Products sawmill claimed the lives of two men, while a third man was taken to Victoria and listed in critical condition and a fourth taken to a local hospital.

The names of the victims have not yet been released.

May 01 2014

PENSACOLA, Fla. - An apparent gas explosion rocked a jail in the Florida Panhandle late Wednesday, killing two inmates, injuring more than 100 other people, and causing the building to partially collapse, according to a county spokeswoman.

At the blast site Thursday morning, glass was strewn about on the ground in front of the jail. The front of the building appeared bowed out, with cracks throughout.

The explosion happened about 11 p.m. CDT at a booking facility at the Escambia County Jail, and as many as 150 inmate and corrections officers were injured, said Kathleen Castro, the county's public information manager. About 600 inmates were in the Pensacola building at the time, and the uninjured were taken to jails in neighbouring counties, she said.

The Pensacola area was drenched by rains and severely flooded Wednesday as part of a large storm system making its way across the U.S., and Castro said the building was affected. But she said officials did not yet know whether the flooding and explosion were directly related.

Search-and-rescue teams combed the building several times and think everyone is accounted for, Castro said. Investigators were on the scene.

May 01 2014

OTTAWA - The federal government is starting a pilot project to deal with female prison inmates with serious mental health needs.

It's a response to the death of teenager Ashley Smith, who choked to death in a cell as guards at an Ontario prison watched.

The project involves the Royal Ottawa health care group's Brockville Mental Health Centre, which will set aside beds for troubled female offenders.

L'Institut Philippe Pinel in Montreal and East Coast Forensic Hospital in Dartmouth, N.S. are also taking part.

The Public Safety Department says recent statistics show that at admission, 13 per cent of male offenders and 29 per cent of women offenders in federal custody self-identified as having mental health needs.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney says the project will expand the system's ability to deal with the most troubled inmates.

May 01 2014

OTTAWA - The Mounties are not disputing a report that they have identified more than 1,000 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls.

The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network reported that the RCMP arrived at their tally after contacting other police forces across the country.

APTN also reported the Public Safety Department is sitting on a copy of the RCMP report, which the network says was supposed to come out March 31.

Supt. Tyler Bates, director of national aboriginal policing and crime prevention services, referred questions to the RCMP's media relations office in Ottawa, which did not deny the APTN report.

But Sgt. Julie Gagnon says the RCMP report is not finalized and it would be premature for her to comment further.

Public Safety has yet to respond to questions.



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