

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

May 16, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 20

## Executive Digest

May 08 2014

**TORONTO** - A veteran cop is turning the heat up, 140 characters at a time, on the city's hundreds of murders that have gone cold.

Page 3

A Vancouver Sun investigation has found that over a 12-year period, 290 murders remain unsolved across the Lower Mainland.

Page 5

May 12 2014

**EDMONTON** - A man has been shot dead and a police officer has been injured during a gunfight in Edmonton, the second shooting in Alberta in a matter of days in which police were hurt.

Page 7

May 12 2014

**OTTAWA** - The federal government is pressing First Nations to absolve Ottawa of its responsibility for policing on reserves, even as native leaders say people's lives are in jeopardy because their forces are so poorly funded.

Page 7

May 14 2014

**OTTAWA** - The Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the national security certificate against terror suspect Mohamed Harkat, opening the door to the next step in deporting him.

Page 11

May 14 2014

The search for the new police chief in Waterloo Region is under way, but there's only just over two weeks to submit applications.

Page 11

## BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Three officers injured in Alberta shootout



May 12 2014

**EDMONTON** - Alberta's top Mountie says a weekend shooting that left three officers injured was an unprovoked attack.

Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan said Monday that the shooting came from "out of the blue" and the officers are lucky to be alive.

Police have said shots were fired at the RCMP detachment in St. Paul, a small town east of Edmonton, and within 30 minutes a police vehicle pursuing a suspect inside a truck was rammed on a downtown street.

A shootout followed and the suspect, health food store owner John Quadros, died at the scene.

About the same time, RCMP discovered a Catholic priest, Rev. Gilbert Dasna, had been shot dead inside his rectory. Police have not said whether the two incidents are linked but do not believe the public is at risk. Autopsies on both bodies are to take place Tuesday.

Ryan has talked with all three wounded officers. She said bullets smashed through a cruiser's windshield and grazed one officer's hand, while another officer was hit with shards of flying glass. The two men were treated and released from hospital.

The third officer, a woman with about five years on the force, received the most serious injuries when the RCMP truck she was riding in was struck. The impact crushed her lower limbs, said Ryan.

She visited the officer in hospital after she had surgery that placed pins in both her feet.

"She actually told me that when she was extricated from the vehicle, she felt like her toes were touching her shins."

The officer's bulletproof vest, seatbelt and a deployed airbag likely saved the rest of her body from injury, said Ryan. She still faces more surgery and rehabilitation, but is anxious for the day she can return to work, "which is truly remarkable."

Police were also dealing with the



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aftermath of another shootout on Sunday which left a suspect dead and an Edmonton police officer with non-life-threatening injuries.

It happened while four Edmonton police officers were trying to execute an arrest warrant on 24-year-old David Charles Sandaker, who had been named by police last month as a suspect in the shooting death of 38-year-old Michael Alan Hill.

Ryan said officers are trained and prepared to handle anything, even surprise attacks, but she wonders whether more can be done to improve their safety.

"Those are the things that keep me awake at night," Ryan told reporters.

"You can never predict where these things are going to happen and when they're going to happen. But we continue to examine our training and our policies and make sure they all do go home at night."

Ryan couldn't say if Quadros was known to police.

Justice officials said the 55-year-old had faced charges going back to July 2010 of assault and mischief under \$5,000. They were dealt with through alternative measures.

The RCMP and Alberta's Serious Incident Response Team, known as ASIRT, is helping with the investigation. ASIRT is a provincial unit that reviews the use of force by police.

Clifton Purvis, the head of ASIRT, said investigators will co-operate with the RCMP's review so as to not hinder that work in any way. ASIRT's goal is to determine if an officer caused a death and whether or not it was justified.

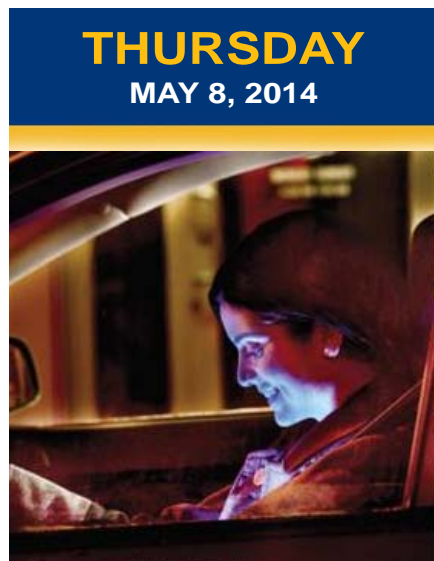
As well, Mounties in St. Paul issued a news release asking people who were in a red Cavalier that was near the shootout to contact police as soon as possible.

"The occupants of this vehicle are believed to have information that would be valuable to the investigation," Mounties said.

Meanwhile, the St. Paul diocese announced details of plans to hold vigils and a service for Dasna. Prayer vigils will be held Friday in St. Paul and Saturday on the Saddle Lake First Nation.

Funeral prayers will be held in St. Paul on Sunday and on Monday the funeral will be held, also in St. Paul, though Dasna's remains will be sent for burial to Nigeria.

— With files from CHED, Global Edmonton, CTV Edmonton



May 08 2014

**EDMONTON - Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht believes that fines are not enough to stop people from texting or talking on their phones while driving.**

The fine for distracted driving is \$172 but Knecht believes demerit points would have a greater effect.

"The \$172 fine — it isn't changing behaviour at all," Knecht told reporters at a media availability Wednesday.

"I'm of the view probably demerits will change behaviour. Because if you get two or three, it's bumping up against you losing your license. You're going to take that a little more serious."

Knecht said that speeding continues to be a concern for Edmonton Police especially now that weather is getting warmer.

Last year, police wrote 369 tickets to drivers who were speeding at more than 50 km/hr over the speed limit.

Fortunately, Knecht says more people are helping police by reporting speeders.

(CBC News)

May 08 2014

**EDMONTON – The City of Edmonton is looking into a controversial program known as wet housing, which houses and feeds homeless alcoholics, but also allows them to drink.**

The concept already exists in Edmonton with Urban Manor, a men's dorm-style house where residents buy their own beer but have it doled out by qualified staff every hour to 90 minutes.

The house ensures residents get food in between drinks to protect them from bingeing,

which often occurs in the homeless community to prevent theft or confiscation. Medical support is in place to ensure residents are taken care of.

"There's not enough of it, and the demand exceeds the supply," Jay Freeman from the Edmonton Homeless Commission said. "It currently is only for men, and there are more people that require that type of housing."

He added, "Their health improves, and their use of emergency services — both health and police — reduces and I think one thing that will surprise people is we find their alcohol use decreases."

As for the public concern about spending money for this type of housing?

"I would argue if you look at the cost of not doing that, the costs are far higher," said Freeman. "We looked at one fellow, we'll call him Steve, over a one year period."

With discussions underway, Global News asked Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht about the idea.

"We want to take a real close look at it to understand what we're doing, how we're doing it, and how we're administering it," Knecht said Wednesday. "I think the police are a really important part of the discussion."

"I've done some reading on it, talked to some people. There have been some successes and failures."

Edmonton City Council began the discussion last month, as the city's 10-year-plan to end homelessness reached its half way point.

(Global News)

May 08 2014

**VANCOUVER - A marijuana activist has been distributing a legal kit for people who want to grow their own medical pot, which has helped potential plaintiffs flood the Federal Court with more than 200 lawsuits.**

The court issued an injunction in March allowing a group of patients who were legally licensed to grow their own marijuana to continue to do so, despite the government's ban on the practice.

That injunction was related to a court case filed by a group of patients challenging the new laws, which is expected to be heard next year.

Since then, 222 people have filed lawsuits demanding a similar exemption, including patients who were previously licensed to grow their own pot and some who claim they need marijuana for preventative medicine or something described as "self actualization."

A Federal Court judge says any of the plaintiffs who are covered by the terms of the March injunction can benefit from the same exemption, while the rest of the cases have been stayed until the court's decision next year.

Changes that took effect on April 1 restrict the growing of medical marijuana to licensed commercial producers.

May 08 2014

**TORONTO - Toronto police are denying the allegations in a U.S. court**

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**document that says names and addresses of more than 500 confidential police informants were hacked by an online group led by a former U.S. navy nuclear systems administrator.**

The tiny American group, known as "Team Digi7al," successfully attacked Toronto police computers between May 23 and June 1, 2012, according to a document filed this week by the U.S. Attorney's Office in a Tulsa, Okla., court.

The allegations have not been proven in court.

"No informants were compromised," Toronto police spokesman Kevin Masterman said Thursday. "They didn't breach any internal systems."

Hackers were able to access some outdated information such as crime alerts and community bulletins, but nothing of a confidential nature, Masterman said.

His comments are at odds with the court document, which refers to a juvenile hacker known as "Member B": "Between May 23, 2012, and June 1, 2012, TD (Team Digi7al) Member B hacked at least one TPSC (Toronto Police Service) protected computer and downloaded a large file containing over 100 tables with the following sensitive and private information: more than 3,500 email addresses; over 2,500 usernames and cleartext passwords, including administrator usernames and cleartext passwords; names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of citizens who gave police tips through TPSC's online tip system; names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of greater than 500 police informants; suspect descriptions; and press releases, police reports, and Tweets."

The alleged hackers were motivated by a mixture of anti-government politics, ego and boredom, according to the court papers.

They were led by Nicholas Knight, 27, of Virginia, who once worked as a nuclear system administrator on the aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman and who went by the online names of "Inertia," "Logic" and "Solo," the document states.

Knight, a hacker since age 16, has since been kicked out of the U.S. Navy after he was caught trying to hack into a navy database while at sea, according to the court document.

It states that Knight "called himself a 'nuclear black hat' who fought for the people of the United States, not the government."

Also charged was Illinois community college student Daniel Krueger, who studied network administration and was known online as "Thor," "Orunu" and "Gambit."

Knight and Krueger are due back in court on May 20. They each face a possible five-year prison term and \$250,000 fine.

Three underaged members of their group from Alabama, Louisiana and Georgia were also mentioned in the court papers as "Members A, B and C."

Knight and Krueger have each been charged with conspiring to steal identities, obstruct justice and damage a protected computer.

According to the court document, group

members used Twitter to taunt Toronto police and boast about their exploits on what they called the "lulz crusade across #Canada."

A Twitter account still online with the group's name shows the user fired off tweets to a Globe and Mail staffer and the CBC, boasting of their alleged hacks.

On June 3, 2012, someone tweeted: "@Torontopolice why is there nothing on your site about us hacking you? Don't tell us your trying to sweep it under the rug into the dark. (sic)"

On June 8, 2012, the Twitter user posted: "@TorontoPolice you are trying to figure out who hacked you? It was us as we said numerous times."

(Toronto Star)

May 08 2014

**TORONTO - A veteran cop is turning the heat up, 140 characters at a time, on the city's hundreds of murders that have gone cold.**

Toronto Police Det.-Sgt. Brian Borg, who is in charge of the service's cold case homicides, has so far only dipped his feet into the Twitter pool.

But he plans to dive all the way into social media in the near future, believing Twitter and Facebook can be "a great tool" for unsolved murders.

"Social media is yet another platform that gives us an opportunity to talk to more people," Borg said Thursday.

Toronto has more than 500 unsolved murders dating back about 90 years — two-thirds occurring since the mid-1990s — and Borg is anxious to clear some of those cases.

When he took over the cold cases earlier this year, Borg said he recognized the importance of reaching out to the Twitterverse. But, admittedly, he's still learning how best to utilize its power.

"Obviously it's important to understand how to use social media to get the full value," said Borg, who is undergoing training this week.

Borg has already begun tweeting from his new twitter handle — @torontocoldcase — and will soon set up Toronto Cold Case on Facebook.

"We've got a lot of unsolved cases," he said. "But with the many advances that have been made, in all sorts of technologies, there are lots of opportunities for us to solve many of these cases."

Borg has been in homicide for nearly a decade and prior to that he was in the sex crimes unit, where he developed that squad's cold case investigations.

"It's extremely important work," he said of cracking cold cases and helping victims' families "get some closure."

"Our job is not to reinvestigate old cases," he explained. "We look for opportunities that maybe didn't exist at the time."

He believes social media, like DNA and fingerprints, is yet another emerging technology that can help catch killers no matter how long they have been on the run.

(Toronto Sun)

**FRIDAY  
MAY 9, 2014**

May 09 2014

**AURORA, Colo. - A Colorado man who was released from prison 90 years early due to a clerical error has returned to serve the rest of his sentence.**

Rene Lima-Marín was free for nearly six years due to the mistake. He had a child, married his former girlfriend and held a job.

But a prosecutor noticed the mistake in January, and a judge immediately ordered Lima-Marín back to prison.

A judge in 2000 sentenced Lima-Marín to serve back-to-back sentences on eight convictions, for a total of 98 years.

But a court clerk mistakenly wrote in his file that the sentences were to run at the same time. Corrections officials depend on that file to know how long an inmate should serve.

The case draws more attention to how clerical errors have let criminals evade prison time.

May 09 2014

**BRANDON, Man. - A sexual assault case in western Manitoba has collapsed after an inmate managed to call the alleged victim hundreds of times from jail, prompting a stay of the charge when she refused to co-operate with the Crown.**

The 27-year-old man was being held at the Brandon jail where he made more than 650 calls to his common-law wife within 45 days, despite the fact he wasn't supposed to make contact with her.

Crown lawyer Deidre Badcock told a Brandon courtroom this week that the complainant went from being co-operative to unco-operative, forcing officials to stay the charges from the alleged assault near the city in April 2013.

A police investigation led to the discovery of the calls and Badcock indicated to the court that the inmate used some sort of ruse by referring to the woman by a false name.

She says that during the calls, he described the Crown lawyer's office as corrupt, made it clear he didn't want his girlfriend to attend court and told her he could help with her children if he was released.

The accused pleaded guilty to obstructing justice for making the calls and assaulting his girlfriend on other occasions.

(Brandon Sun)

May 09 2014

**EDMONTON - Police and school resource officials in Edmonton say they're concerned about a growing number of teenagers who use electronic cigarettes to smoke marijuana.**

Investigators say that in the past two weeks, officers have caught five high school



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Confidence in Motion



students with so-called e-cigarettes filled with marijuana oil.

They say the devices mask the potent smell of the drug and that e-cigarette cases are turning up at marijuana grow operations.

Sgt. Kelly Rosnau with the police school resource officer unit says youths are jumping on this smoking trend very quickly.

The battery-powered cigarettes simulate tobacco-smoking by using a heating element to vaporize a liquid solution that may or may not contain nicotine.

Both school divisions in the city have banned the devices on school property.

(CHED, Global Edmonton)

May 09 2014

### **CHARLOTTETOWN - The government of Prince Edward Island is changing the penalties for chronic impaired drivers.**

The Highway Traffic Act is being amended to increase the sentence using ignition interlock devices, among other things.

Under one of the changes, a driver would be sentenced to use the device for five years rather than the current penalty of two years if he is convicted of a second offence and his blood-alcohol content was above 0.16, which is twice the legal limit.

The device would be used for 10 years, up from five years, for a third and subsequent offences.

The government says it is making the changes because the proportion of second- and third-time offenders has increased slightly, even though impaired driving convictions have dropped over the past four years.

The province says the amendments would take effect July 7.



May 09 2014

### **VANCOUVER - If murder is the worst crime, then solving cases where someone's life has ended violently and prematurely should be a top priority for law enforcement agencies in Metro Vancouver.**

But a Vancouver Sun investigation has found that over a 12-year period, 290 murders remain unsolved across the Lower Mainland.

The Sun compiled information for a comprehensive database from 2002 to the end of 2013 from police releases, news archives and court files.

Canada's largest murder squad — the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team — worked with The Sun to verify the 178 murders on our list for which IHIT has sole responsibility.

The Vancouver Police Department has conduct of another 90 unsolved homicide cases in the same time period, including files from West Vancouver and Port Moody that the VPD was contracted to investigate.

Not surprisingly, most of the unsolved murders took place in Vancouver or Surrey — the two largest cities in the region.

Vancouver had 86 cases over the 12-year period, while Surrey had 76.

But smaller cities in the region also have many unsolved murders. Burnaby has 22. Abbotsford — twice declared the murder capital of Canada at the height of the gang war — has 24.

The victims in a startling 86 per cent of the unsolved cases were men.

Sixty-three per cent of the total number of victims — or 184 — had links to either the drug trade, gangs or organized crime. The most common form of death was gunfire — with fatal shootings accounting for 168 of the 290 victims.

Police officers investigating murder cases say that while the public might be alarmed by the number of unsolved files, there are several reasons why there are so many murder cases in Metro Vancouver where charges have never been laid.

They point to B.C.'s charge approval standard, which is the highest in Canada.

Supt. Kevin Hackett, the veteran Mountie in charge of IHIT, said in the vast majority of his agency's open files, investigators have identified a suspect.

"I would think that in 90 per cent of our investigations, if not more, not only do we have an idea, we could likely, if we lived in another jurisdiction arrest them and charge them," Hackett said in an interview.

In every other province besides Quebec, police have the power to lay charges where they believe on "reasonable grounds" after a thorough investigation that an offence has been committed, according to Justice Canada.

But in B.C., Crown prosecutors decide if and when a charge is laid using a two-pronged

# **PRESENCE, COMMAND, IMAGE**

The three aspects of law enforcement authority to which all police and security agencies aspire are presence, command and image however they differ on which is the most important.

Many studies indicate that image is a primary factor and unspoken asset in encouraging voluntary compliance. Appearance can be the one determining factor that improves community respect for an agency in general and the officer in particular.

For many years *Blue Line Magazine* has looked at Canadian law enforcement attire and apparel with a view toward encouraging an atmosphere of continuous improvement from both agency and industry. Toward this end we have now set aside a single issue each year to recognize the agency which best exemplifies quality improvement and function in its uniform attire and apparel. Emphasis will be placed on the success of the image projected to the community along with the cooperative efforts of both



members, stylists and industry manufacturers and fabricators.

The *Blue Line Uniform Image Award* may be bestowed upon any police or parallel law enforcement agency where a uniform is a primary part of day-to-day operations. The

award can recognize design and style of an entire array of uniforms or one improved aspect of the uniform kit which creates a demonstrably enhanced public image. Factors considered include style, safety, comfort and innovation.

Apply to be considered for this recognition by supplying appropriate photographs and supporting documentation outlining the process, goals, and achievements made in the attire and/or apparel. All submissions will be viewed by a group of judges with extensive experience in law enforcement, manufacturing, retail and design.

Recipients will be the featured cover story in the November edition of *Blue Line Magazine* and receive a plaque of recognition suitable for display. All submissions may be made to [uniforms@blueline.ca](mailto:uniforms@blueline.ca) before September 15, 2014.

*Blue Line Magazine* will also be entertaining resumes and suggestions for judges for this award up to August 31, 2014.

approach. First, the Crown must be convinced that there is "a substantial likelihood of conviction," based on the police report outlining the evidence.

And secondly, the Crown decides whether it is in the public interest to lay a charge.

If, for example, a suspect in a slaying has already been convicted in another killing and is serving a life sentence, the Crown might decide there's no public interest in having a second trial. So the file remains open.

"Let's say we've charged one guy with murder and we have evidence to potentially charge him for two or three more, but Crown says it's not in the public interest so we are not going to charge him," Hackett explained. "It's solved because we know who did it and we could charge him and yet it's unfair that it remains unsolved and it drives your clearance rates down, when actually we could throw it to Crown or lay an information and they would just stay it. And they have a point — if he's doing 25 years."

Still, Hackett says, IHIT has an excellent relationship with prosecutors despite the charge approval standard.

Murders are investigated a variety of ways in the Lower Mainland. IHIT is the largest agency by far, with 84 investigators plus support staff covering homicides cases for RCMP detachments from Squamish to Chilliwack, as well as municipal forces in New Westminster, Port Moody and Abbotsford.

Vancouver police investigate their own murder files as a stand-alone agency, but have a close relationship to IHIT.

The VPD has had an agreement with West Vancouver police since 2008 to also probe murders in that city.

As part of the deal, a West Van cop is seconded to Vancouver's homicide team.

(Vancouver Sun)

May 09 2014

### **OTTAWA - The federal prison service wants to make it easier to search inmates and visitors in an effort to keep drugs out of institutions.**

Newly proposed regulations would lower the threshold for triggering a search, including strip searches of prisoners - the latest federal move in an ongoing attempt to reduce drug use behind bars.

The federal Correctional Service says hundreds of people pass in and out of prisons every day, creating opportunities for contraband smugglers.

Regulatory amendments would give the prison service the authority to impose new restrictions on inmate visits and conduct additional searches on prisoners, staff and visitors.

The Correctional Service is already using drug detector dogs, electronic screening technologies and various types of searches.

May 09 2014

### **MILTON, Ont. - An Ottawa teen is facing 60 charges following an investigation involving police forces from**

### **across North America that arose from a bomb threat last month at a school in Milton, Ont.**

A Milton teen was arrested and charged with public mischief two days after the April 30 incident that led to the evacuation of Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School in the community west of Toronto.

Investigating officers say they learned the accused had planned for the threat - which said explosives placed in the area of the school were going to detonate - to be delivered by an "online" acquaintance.

Investigators say they identified the acquaintance as a 16-year-old from Ottawa believed to be responsible for dozens of incidents across North America designed to get a police SWAT team to respond - called "swatting."

The Ottawa youth was arrested Thursday and faces charges that include public mischief, mischief to property, uttering death threats, and conveying false information with intent to alarm in relation to swatting incidents across the continent.

In addition to Halton Regional Police, the multi-jurisdictional investigation included Laval Police, Quebec provincial police, Calgary Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## **SUNDAY MAY 11, 2014**

May 11 2014

### **PETERBOROUGH, Ont. - The province's police watchdog is investigating after three people were taken to hospital following a highway pursuit near Peterborough, Ont.**

Police say officers began a short pursuit when a vehicle being operated erratically on Highway 7 on Saturday evening refused to stop.

OPP say the vehicle crossed into oncoming traffic and struck another vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle being pursued was taken to a Toronto hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Two people in the second vehicle were admitted to a Peterborough hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The Special Investigations Unit is investigating.

(CKRU, The Canadian Press)

May 11 2014

### **WASHINGTON - A pair of newly released reports show two countries moving in opposite directions on law and order: Canada gearing up for stricter sentencing laws just as the tough-on-crime era winds down in the United States.**

Canada's auditor general issued a warning last week about increasingly overcrowded prisons in an era of stiffer jail terms.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., these are tough times to be tough on crime. The prison

population actually receded in the U.S. in recent years, a new study shows - a dramatic shift from a decades-long trend that made America the undisputed world leader in incarceration with more than two million prisoners, or one-quarter of the entire international total.

The National Research Council study explained how drug laws turned the U.S. from a country with normal incarceration levels to a place with imprisonment rates six times higher than Canada's.

Three per cent of American children now have a parent behind bars, and the impact has been especially devastating in the black community - which has six times more people imprisoned than whites.

The cost: U.S. corrections spending increased from 1.9 per cent to 3.3 per cent of state budgets since 1985, rising from US\$6.7 billion to \$53.2 billion. Adjusted for inflation, states' combined corrections spending increased by just over 400 per cent, while the number of prisoners increased by 475 per cent.

So what did Americans get for their money? Not much, according to the study, which concludes that the policies might have contributed to an overall decrease in crime, but not significantly.

As Canada adds mandatory minimum sentences to its Criminal Code, the U.S. study recommends doing away with them.

Congress is considering a handful of softer-on-crime measures, while since 2009, some 40 U.S. states have relaxed their drug laws. However, when it comes to severity of punishment, Canada is still not even close to the U.S.

In Canada, the maximum penalty for cocaine trafficking might be life imprisonment - but mandatory minimum sentences of one and two years would apply only if the crime was committed within a gang or near a school. Compare that to the U.S., where carrying five kilos of cocaine is an automatic 10 years to life in prison for a first offence, and 20 years to life for a second offence.

Canada's federal prison population has increased about seven per cent since 2009, with a similar rate of growth forecast for the next few years.

Auditor general Michael Ferguson reported last week that half of Canada's federal penitentiaries were running at, or above, their rated capacities.

The Harper government has added mandatory minimums through five major pieces of legislation, related to drugs, gang activity, white-collar crime and property theft. Some of them are under attack, and the Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case where mandatory minimums were tossed out for some gun crimes.

The government says it's committed to the tougher approach.

"For certain offences, our government firmly believes that a minimum period of incarceration is justified," said an email from the office of Justice Minister Rob Nicholson.

"Canadians lose faith in the criminal



justice system when they feel that the punishment does not fit the crime.”

May 11 2014

**OTTAWA, Ont. - The federal Justice Department has chopped \$1.2 million from its research budget, and is tightening control to ensure future legal research is better aligned with the government's law-and-order agenda.**

Previous legal research in the department sometimes caught senior officials “off-guard ... and may even have run contrary to government direction,” says an internal report for deputy minister William Pentney.

The budget cut on April 1 this year - described as a “significant loss of resources” - represents about 20 per cent of research spending, and arises from deficit-cutting measures first set out in the 2012 budget.

The reduction means the loss of eight experienced legal researchers, most of them social scientists.

The result is a diminished research capacity, which now must be better controlled from the top to ensure it supports the government policies, says the report.

“The review confirmed that there have been examples of work that was not aligned with government or departmental priorities,” says the October 2013 document, obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

Some past projects have “at times left the impression that research is undermining government decisions.”

The report did not cite specific studies, but a department report last year on public confidence in the justice system appeared to be at odds with the Conservative government's agenda.

Researcher Charlotte Fraser found many Canadians lacked confidence in the courts and prison system, but suggested it was the result of misunderstanding rather than any failures in the system, and that education could rectify the problem.

Critics said the finding was contrary to the government's approach, which is to pass tougher laws and impose harsher penalties rather than to cultivate a better-informed public.

Another 2011 study, on the sentencing of drunk drivers, found that harsher terms for first offenders had little bearing on whether they re-offended - a finding critics held to be contrary to the government's agenda of tougher sentencing through mandatory minimums and other measures.

A spokeswoman for the department said many of the 13 recommendations in the internal review are being implemented, and there is a “continued refinement of (research) work plans to focus on government and ministerial priorities.”

But she said departmental researchers will be free to reach any conclusions.

“Research is not undertaken according to what the potential conclusions might be but rather to obtain information on current

priorities,” Carole Saindon said in an email.

The report canvassed users of the department's research as it existed before the cuts, and found the work was “perceived as non-biased and ... valued for its high quality.”

May 11 2014

**The Sûreté du Québec is investigating after a 40-year-old man died following a police intervention in Granby early Sunday morning.**

The man was taken to hospital with serious injuries after Granby municipal police were called to a private residence around 12:30 a.m., said SQ spokesperson Anne Mathieu. He died in hospital several hours later, she said.

Mathieu would not say what his injuries were, but said they were not caused by a gun. The SQ is investigating all possibilities, including the wounds were self-inflicted, she said.

Quebec Public Security Minister Lise Thériault appointed the SQ to investigate Sunday morning, a standard procedure when there is a death involving a police force.

(Montreal Gazette)

**MONDAY  
MAY 12, 2014**

May 12 2014

**EDMONTON - A man has been shot dead and a police officer has been injured during a gunfight in Edmonton, the second shooting in Alberta in a matter of days in which police were hurt.**



The shooting happened Sunday evening at a townhouse complex in southwest Edmonton where officers had gone to execute a search warrant.

Police say there was an exchange of gunfire with a suspect, who died at the scene. An officer was taken to hospital with a non-life-threatening wound.

Shawn Dunington, who lives in the townhouse complex, said he heard shots outside his suite.

“There was nine for the first set, then angry shouting, then eight (shots), then silence,” said Dunington. “By that point I had gotten to the corner and started dialling 9-1-1. I poked my nose around the corner a quick second and there was a vehicle up there and a guy lying down beside the truck.”

Chief Rod Knecht told a late-night news conference that the wounded Edmonton member had to undergo a series of tests.

“I can tell you the officer is coherent and heavily sedated for pain. The (officer's) family is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. You know this is Mother's Day. I think it hits close to home and it's a very difficult situation for everyone.”

Alberta Justice Minister Jonathan Denis released a statement following the Edmonton shooting. In it, he said the violence “serves as another stark reminder of the dangers our police and peace officers face daily.”

May 12, 2014

**OTTAWA, Ont. - Nine months after Justice Minister Peter MacKay said he wanted to toughen drunk-driving laws, there's still no government bill before Parliament.**



MacKay said last September he was considering giving police the power to stop drivers randomly to administer breath tests, unlike now where police first must have evidence of alcohol-impairment before demanding a driver blow into a breathalyzer.

And a newly released briefing note to MacKay may explain why there's a delay.

The note from last October, obtained under access to information, notes the Supreme Court overturned part of a current law on breathalyzers, a ruling that has since clogged the courts with cases where defence lawyers now are challenging breathalyzer readings.

The wave of cases may be stalling any move to expand the use of breathalyzers to random police roadside checks.

A spokeswoman for MacKay did not comment on the cases, but said the government continues to consult with the provinces on tougher impaired-driving laws.

May 12 2014

**OTTAWA - The federal Conservative government is pressing First Nations to absolve Ottawa of its responsibility for policing on reserves, even as native leaders say people's lives are in jeopardy because their forces are so poorly funded and equipped.**

The funding and the liabilities of the on-reserve police program have always been the shared responsibility of the federal government, the provinces and the First Nations.

But chiefs say the new tactic would leave First Nations on the hook for the fallout of police systems in which underpaid officers work alone in life-threatening situations, often without required equipment such as radios, and where decrepit police stations lack the most

basic of amenities.

Over the past several months, in advance of an Auditor-General's report on the First Nations Policing Program that was released this week, the government sent funding agreements to those First Nations that have their own police forces. Documents related to the agreements and correspondence between the First Nations and federal authorities were obtained by The Globe and Mail.

The agreements, which were drawn without the input of the First Nations, include a clause relieving Canada of responsibility for policing in the native communities. They also say the First Nations are obligated to meet "the standards expected from a police service" or the funding agreements could be terminated.

But First Nations leaders have been saying for many years that the quality of police services on reserves is significantly inferior to that in the rest of Canada.

Despite their misgivings, some native leaders have signed the agreements to meet their police payrolls. First Nations that refused saw their federal funding cut off at the end of March.

The discussion around policing follows RCMP revelations last week that police had compiled nearly 1,200 cases of murdered and missing aboriginal women in Canada over the past 30 years – a number that is three to four times higher than their average representation in the country.

"All our families, women, young girls, deserve to live in a safe home in a safe community. They need to feel safe wherever they are," Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), an organization representing 49 First Nation communities in Northern Ontario, told a news conference Wednesday. Because of the state of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, Mr. Fiddler said, "we cannot guarantee their safety."

That is why, he said, NAN's Grand Chief Harvey Yesno wrote a public safety notice to the chief coroner for Ontario in February, 2013, saying his people were in jeopardy because of chronic underfunding to local law enforcement.

That notice, which was also sent to former public safety minister Vic Toews, pointed to the case of a 24-year-old woman on the Kasabonika Reserve who died by suicide in the back of a police truck where she was being detained because the community police detachment had no heat.

The notice was resent this year to Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney. But Mr. Fiddler says the minister has never responded or agreed to talk with the chiefs about policing on reserves.

The minister's office did not respond to questions on Wednesday – the day after the federal Auditor-General's report said his department does not have reasonable assurance that policing facilities in First Nations communities are adequate.

A lawyer who works for two of the indigenous forces says the government may be trying to end its funding of the First Nations Policing Program.

"If it's true that the federal government has no legal responsibility for aboriginal policing, it follows that, down the road, all funding could be withdrawn by the federal government without recourse," said Julian Falconer, who represents the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service and the Anishinabek Police Service.

At his recommendation, neither of the forces have signed the agreements presented to them by the government.

Federal negotiator Shammi Sandhu suggested in an e-mail in January that NAN's unwillingness to co-operate would "likely jeopardize" the construction of a police station on the Eabamatoong First Nation, a community of about 1,300 that had been waiting for a detachment for more than 10 years.

Mr. Falconer said the federal government backed down on that threat under pressure from Ontario.

(Globe and Mail)

May 12 2014

**VANCOUVER - The B.C. Court of Appeal has blocked an investigation by the province's police complaint commissioner into the conduct of two officers who decided not to warn a pregnant woman about a potential murder plot in the days before she was killed.**

Det. Const. Craig Bentley and Staff Sgt. John Grywinski received a tip in November 2005 about a murder-for-hire plot targeting 21-year-old Tasha Rosette, but they decided to investigate the tip rather than warn Rosette.

When they finally went to see Rosette five days later, she had been murdered.

An internal review by the Vancouver Police Department cleared the officers in 2009, but two months later the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner ordered the case to be re-opened after concluding such an investigation would be in the public interest.

However, the officers noted the law sets a 30-day time limit for such an order, and

because the commissioner missed the deadline, they asked that the order be thrown out.

The B.C. Court of Appeal has agreed with the officers, overturning an earlier B.C. Supreme Court ruling that cleared the way for the investigation to proceed.

May 12 2014

**MONTREAL - Montreal police have a new plan and a new mindset when it comes to prostitution and sexual exploitation.**

The city is considered a hub for prostitution and human trafficking, with police saying women and teenaged girls are brought into the city and forced into what amounts to sexual slavery.

Montreal police commander Ian Lafreniere said the force is trying to change how its internal culture when it comes to dealing with prostitutes, considering them victims instead of criminals.

"These are people that have been forced to do that job with no money, beat up and in very bad conditions. On the jagged edge for them to call police it's been seen as them doing something illegal," said Cmdr. Lafreniere.

Last fall Mayor Denis Coderre said he wanted the crack down on massage parlours that operate as fronts for prostitution, even as the Supreme Court of Canada ruled three of Canada's laws against living off the avails of prostitution, street soliciting and keeping a brothel were unconstitutional.

Cmdr. Lafreniere said police want to focus on eliminating the sexual exploitation of minors, human trafficking, and street walking.

"For them it's horrible and these consequences are there for years so we have to see this as a very serious thing," said Lafreniere.

To that end police hope to communicate more with their counterparts in Laval and Longueuil in order to improve their expertise in dealing with prostitution, and to increase the awareness of citizens about how women become prostitutes.

(CTV News)

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May 13 2014

**EDMONTON - Prime Minister Harper says his government will introduce new legislation called Quanto's Law.**

It's named for Quanto, an Edmonton police dog stabbed to death while trying to apprehend a fleeing suspect last October.

The proposed Justice for Animals in Service Act calls for tougher penalties for anyone who harms a service animal, including those working for police and the military.

Harper says these dogs are not pets and are very valuable as tens of thousands of dollars go into their training and they perform very specialized duties.

The legislation a minimum six-month jail sentence for anyone who kills a police dog, with a maximum sentence of five years.

Quanto's killer, Paul Joseph Vukmanich, pleaded guilty earlier this year to animal cruelty and other offences, including evading police.

He was sentenced to 26 months in prison and banned from owning a pet for 25 years.

May 13 2014

**WINNIPEG - A Manitoba police force has settled a human-rights complaint filed by a military veteran who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.**

Billy-Jo Nachuk filed the complaint after officers with the Brandon police removed him from a bar in April 2011.

Nachuk said he had a service dog with him to help him with his PTSD - and had the certification papers to prove it - but police refused to listen to him.

Earlier this year, the police service offered a settlement of \$5,500 but Nachuk turned it down and the Manitoba Human Rights Commission said it was too low.

The commission says a new offer was put forward and agreed to, but it is confidential.

Another veteran was turned away from a restaurant in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, in March because he had a service dog for PTSD.

May 13 2014

**WINNIPEG - Manitoba's attorney general says the province's drug treatment court is in jeopardy unless Ottawa comes up with more money.**

Andrew Swan says federal cash runs out next year for the court which helps turn lives around through supervised rehabilitation.

Swan says it costs Ottawa \$600,000 a year, but the Conservative government won't commit to a funding extension.

Associate Chief Judge John Guy says the court, which is believed to be unique, is facing an uncertain future.

He says it takes up to two years for people to complete the program and it is hard to admit new participants without long-term funding.

A spokeswoman for the federal Justice

Department would only say discussions about the court's funding are ongoing.

May 13 2014

**VANCOUVER - A proposal to set up a police tent this summer at Wreck Beach has upset defenders of Vancouver's world-famous nude enclave.**

Sgt. Drew Grainger of UBC RCMP says his detachment intends to pitch a collapsible tent each afternoon from the May long weekend to Labour Day as a public-safety measure — not to bust law-abiding beachgoers.

"We know drugs and alcohol will be sold on the beach no matter how heavy-handed we are," said Grainger. "The idea is to proactively enhance our presence on the beach."

"If it gets to the point where you're risking yourself or putting others at risk, we will move in."

Grainger said the problem is those who consume drugs or alcohol in excess at the remote beach.

"There are 465 steps (leading up from the beach to Marine Drive). It's onerous to remove someone who's had too much," said Grainger, who said each and every officer will be assigned to the beach beat — "everyone from our detachment commander to our freshest recruit."

Grainger and his fellow officer Cpl. Brenda Winpenny strolled the strand Monday.

Asked about patrolling with a large crowd in various states of undress, Winpenny said: "Everyone is treated the same. We're not here to be heavy-handed. I think people will realize the fact that we're here to ensure that everybody can enjoy the beach. We're here to build a relationship."

The smell of marijuana wafted by regularly, but Grainger and Winpenny simply shrugged their shoulders.

"After decades of patrolling this beach," Grainger said, "we know we can't ticket and arrest our way out of this."

(The Province)

May 13 2014

**ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A suspended Halifax police officer accused of sexual assault has been charged with nine counts of breaching court-imposed conditions following a public complaint in St. John's.**

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says Const. Chris Mosher was arrested Sunday at a licensed establishment on George Street.

The charges represent the latest in a number of alleged breaches of court conditions for Mosher since he was charged with sexually assaulting a woman in Nova Scotia in February 2013.

Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team says the officer is also accused of giving her a substance, though it declined to specify what that was.

Mosher has been remanded into custody at Her Majesty's Penitentiary in St. John's.

He remains suspended from Halifax Regional Police without pay or benefits.

Mar 13 2014

**TORONTO - In the latest move in a nearly decade-long review of strip-searches, the chair of the Toronto Police Services Board is recommending the force itself be examined — via random spot check — to monitor officers' use of the practice.**

Alok Mukherjee, at the Thursday board meeting, plans to recommend asking Police Chief Bill Blair to examine how and when officers carry out strip searches — a probe that would include random spot checks at all 17 police divisions.

The aim is to get a better understanding of why a strip search was conducted in one out of every three arrests last year, despite a Supreme Court ruling stating the tool cannot be employed "routinely."

"The point of (random spot checks) would be to find out exactly: How are the police officers justifying their request for search, and what are the supervisors — the sergeants, staff sergeants — basing their approval on?" Mukherjee said Tuesday.

Concerns persist about strip-searches despite the procedures and policies that have been put in place by both the police service and the board.

Mukherjee calls those policies "robust and comprehensive."

They require, among other things, that officers performing a strip search must explain the legal grounds for it to a superior officer beforehand. That superior must then consider the justification for the search.

"I believe that it is critical to now look beyond the governance tools and examine how officers and their supervisors are operationalizing our policies and procedures in their day-to-day work," Mukherjee wrote in a message to board members, contained in Thursday's board agenda.

He suggests the spot checks be carried out between June 15 and Aug. 15, allowing the chief time to compile and report the findings at the October board meeting.

How these spot checks would be done, by whom and how often, would be determined by Blair, Mukherjee said in an interview Tuesday.

Blair also expects to return to the board in June with a report on the possibility of using alternative technologies, such as airport-style scanners, in place of strip searches.

The board is scheduled to meet at police headquarters at 1:30 p.m. Thursday. (Toronto Star)

MAY 13 2014

**EDMONTON - Edmonton's population is increasing and with more people comes more crime.**

But city police are hopeful a crime-free housing initiative will help more residents do their part to keep those numbers in check.

Police Chief Rod Knecht announced the beginning of crime prevention week with a nod to the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program (CFMH), an ongoing program that couples

housing residents, owners and managers with cops to lower crime rates.

"We can build relationships with neighbours to be sure those housing developments are having a positive impact in those neighbourhoods," said Knecht.

The CFMH has been ongoing for 13 years and has certified 270 sites - but with a boom in population expected in the next few decades, police hope to have even more.

"Our primary role when we're involved is manager training, so providing good tenant-screening practices and providing practical information in terms of selecting good tenants, the type of tenant that everyone wants to live beside," explained Const. Reid Nichol, co-ordinator of the program.

The CFMH works initially by empowering property owners and managers to find tenants less likely to attract crime to the neighbourhood.

Police then do a physical inspection of the area to pinpoint any environmental elements that could make crime proliferate or make policing it difficult.

Lastly, tenants are invited to learn about the program through a social event that incorporates food and beverages with information.

"We ask them to be the eyes and the ears of their property," Nichol explained, adding the program is working very well.

He agreed that it saves policing time and costs in the long run but it also means some short-term changes to deal with.

"Typically in the short-term, we actually see a spike ... in calls," he said, adding this could be because tenants are aware of what crimes exist in their neighbourhood and how to report them.

That increase lasts for about 16 to 18 months but drops off dramatically afterward. He said some communities that were seeing more than 150 calls in a year decreased those statistics to single digits.

"We're dropping it down to a really manageable level because we're dealing with the problems at the root," he said.

The program isn't just a retrofit for existing communities, either. In order to get building approval for new housing, the city is asking builders to certify their sites with CFMH as a prevention measure.

(Sun Media)

May 13 2014

**HALIFAX - Halifax's municipal police force is developing its own version of a police academy in an effort to boost the number of women and visible minorities among its ranks.**

Halifax Regional Police Chief Jean-Michel Blais told the Board of Police Commissioners Monday that senior brass are working on a program that will allow members of the general public - with or without policing experience - to apply and then be trained in-house at HRP.

He said the traditional practice of hiring

from college programs or from other police forces tends to produce a very diverse workforce.

HRP recently added eight new members to its ranks, and although Blais said the combined level of policing experience was "very positive," all eight hires were white men.

"There's so few hirings that go on, and we've got such a large number of police officers who would want to come in from another police service...it's a bit of a challenge to get the requisite number of women and visible minorities out there," said Blais.

"The reality is that...our complainants are not just white males. Our bad guys are not just white males."

The chief said improving diversity is about more than just meeting quotas or being politically correct. He said there's economic and organizational benefits to a police force made up of people of all genders, races, and backgrounds.

"By only having people who look the same and who for the most part act the same, you end up getting the same results," he said. "And we want to have different results."

The chief said there are several other municipal jurisdictions, as well as the RCMP, that use similar in-house training programs.

The Halifax version won't be launched until 2016, giving senior brass time to develop a curriculum and time for a "critical mass" of vacancies to accumulate as current members retire.

(Metro Halifax)

**WEDNESDAY**

**MAY 14, 2014**

May 14 2014

**OTTAWA - The parents of two victims who took their own lives are at odds over a proposed law designed to crack down on cyberbullying.**

Carol Todd, the mother of BC teen Amanda Todd, says portions of Bill C-13 affecting privacy rights should be removed.

But Justice Minister Peter MacKay defends the legislation, saying those provisions are needed to fight crime.

He says without the ability to preemptively prevent online crime, "we will not be able to save the lives of people like Amanda Todd, Rehtaeh Parsons and others."

Glen Canning, the father of Rehtaeh Parsons, agrees, saying the bill needs to be passed regardless of any concerns about private information.

Canning and Todd were among parents and victims who spoke about Bill C-13 at a Commons committee yesterday.

The forthcoming Conservative legislation would create a new offence of non-consensual distribution of intimate images, aimed at curbing cyberbullying.

It would also give police new tools to help investigate the distribution of such images, as well as to probe electronic evidence transmitted over the Internet.



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May 14 2014

**OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the national security certificate against terror suspect Mohamed Harkat, opening the door to the next step in deporting him.**



The high court also rejected Harkat's constitutional challenge of the security certificate regime, unanimously ruling the process is consistent with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Harkat, 45, was taken into custody in Ottawa in December 2002 on suspicion of being an al-Qaida sleeper agent - an accusation he denies. The federal government is trying to deport the Algerian refugee on a security certificate - a seldom-used tool for removing non-citizens suspected of involvement in terrorism.

Harkat's lawyers argued the process was unfair because the person named in a certificate doesn't see the full case against them.

The Supreme Court says the security certificate regime does not violate the person's right to know and challenge the allegations they face.

May 14 2014

**VANCOUVER - A public hearing has been ordered into the actions of a Vancouver police officer who's accused of kicking a suspect in the chest while he was handcuffed.**

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner says Const. Jessie Tiwana was involved in the Aug. 15, 2012 arrest of Ryan Felton, who was alleged to have robbed a store and then hijacked a vehicle in an attempt to escape.

The office says it received a video four days later of the police arrest of Felton that allegedly showed Tiwana assaulting the man who was handcuffed behind his back.

The office says the allegation was investigated and adjudicated through the Vancouver police disciplinary process, which determined that misconduct had not been proven.

However, police complaint commissioner Stan Lowe's review of the investigation has determined that a public hearing is necessary because there's reason to believe the finding is incorrect.

The public hearing will be conducted before a retired provincial court judge, though a date has not yet been scheduled.

May 14 2014

**RICHMOND - A Richmond RCMP officer with a history of assault is once**

**again in trouble with the law. But this time his superiors are seeking his dismissal.**

On Thursday the city's Mounties announced Const. Kenrick Whitney is facing charges of theft under \$5,000 and breach of trust for alleged crimes that took place while he was on duty. In June, Whitney was suspended from duty and stripped of his police identification and was suspended without pay in February 2014, according to Chief Superintendent Brian Cantera.

"This alleged behaviour is unacceptable and not in keeping with the core values of the RCMP and public expectations," stated Cantera.

According to an RCMP news release, Whitney's alleged thefts took place within the detachment. In addition to the theft, Whitney is officially charged with breach of trust by a public officer.

The case as it is set to go to Richmond Provincial Court on May 27.

(Richmond News)

May 14 2014

**OTTAWA - Canada's tax minister says police will not be able to ask for tax data under a new government bill, but police and the bill itself say otherwise.**

Bill C-31 allows Canada Revenue Agency employees to give private tax data on Canadians to police without a warrant if they believe a serious crime has been committed.

National Revenue Minister Kerry-Lynne Findlay told the House of Commons on Tuesday that police cannot ask for this information.

"Let me be clear: information cannot be shared on the mere suspicion of criminal activity, or based on a request initiated by law-enforcement authorities," she said.

The legislation says the agency must have reasonable grounds to believe a crime has been committed for information to be handed over. But at no point does the bill say police cannot ask for the information.

In fact, police are already planning to use the new powers.

"My understanding is it would be a police-driven request. That's my read of it," Ontario Provincial Police Det. Insp. Paul Beesley said in an interview.

Police would likely make these requests while investigating organized crime and political corruption, said Beesley, who heads the OPP's anti-rackets branch.

He seemed somewhat surprised that the bill does not require a warrant for disclosures. Asked if he saw judicial oversight as a burden, he said no.

"Typically when police obtain information where there's an expectation of privacy, and I think it's fair to say tax information is one of those areas, typically there is some form of judicial authorization," Beesley said.

"I don't think judicial oversight of police is a problem at all. We deal with that mechanism every day, and it's good to have judicial review."

Currently, police can only obtain tax data if charges have already been laid or if a judge signs off in specific situations.

The government argues that on rare occasions, Canada Revenue Agency officers come across clear evidence of crimes but cannot share that with police. The government has repeatedly cited the example of finding child pornography on a person's computer.

Though auditors would not typically go through someone's computer, the agency does have the ability to seize records in tax evasion cases.

Because Canadians are required to file taxes, one lawyer has questioned whether the Charter of Rights and Freedoms would allow for this information to be freely used against them.

"It does raise questions as to whether or not it could survive a constitutional challenge," Stephane Eljarrat, partner at Montreal law firm Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg, said in an interview Monday.

Late Tuesday, Findlay's office sent an email saying the intention of the bill was not for law enforcement to request information.

(Chronicle Herald)

May 14 2014

**The search for the new police chief in Waterloo Region is under way, but there's only just over two weeks to submit applications.**

Police Services Board Vice Chair Sam Purdy told 570News that both internal and external candidates will be considered.

"Anyone who is a Canadian citizen and has been involved in the police business, all across Canada quite frankly, are eligible to apply. They need to be a bonified police officer, that's governed by statute."

Postings are available on the Regional Police Service's website; the deadline to apply is May 31.

Purdy says a decision will be made by the board as a whole, with a decision expect in the summer.

Chief Matt Torigian becomes Ontario's Deputy Minister of Community Safety for the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services next month.

(570 News)

May 14 2014

**NEW YORK - Some of the largest US retailers are banding together in hopes of protecting consumers' personal and financial information from hackers and thieves.**

The Retail Industry Leaders Association, along with several top retailers ranging from Gap Inc. to Walgreen Co., on Wednesday launched an intelligence sharing centre focused on the prevention of cybercrimes against retailers.

According to RILA, the centre will allow retailers to share information about data breaches and potential threats and also inform members of law enforcement and industry analysts.

May 14 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.

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.

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.

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, tobacco related tax revenue have risen - a sign that the police crackdown on illegal tobacco is having an effect.

(Vancouver Sun)

May 14 2014

**VANCOUVER - Two girls who vanished from their Alberta school on Monday are safe and their mother has been arrested in British Columbia.**

RCMP say six-year-old Taya Meisel and her 12-year-old sister, Talisha, were located in Boston Bar, in B.C.'s Fraser Canyon.

Their mother, 48-year-old Trina Meisel, faces two counts of abduction.

Acting on tips from the public, police say they found the trio and took them into custody without trouble.

Police are working with the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development with respect to the girl's care.

The alert was cancelled just hours after police in Alberta warned that their investigation led them to believe the girls could be in grave danger.

May 14 2014

**REGINA - A Regina police officer is in stable condition with non-life-threatening injuries after being the victim of a hit and run.**



Police say the officer was in civilian clothes when he was hit Wednesday afternoon by what witnesses described as a white truck with an Alberta licence plate.

They said the vehicle sped from the scene, driving through stop signs along the way.

One witness said he was standing on the corner down the block, heard the commotion and looked back to see a man lying in the middle of the street.

The officer's shoes, ball cap and sunglasses remained at the scene after he was taken to hospital.

Another black truck was also damaged.  
(CJME)

**THURSDAY**  
**MAY 15, 2014**

May 15 2014

**OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear an appeal from a British Columbia man who spent 27 years in prison for sexual assaults he did not commit and who wants to sue the Crown for negligence.**



In 2011, Ivan Henry filed civil lawsuits against the provincial and federal attorneys general, the City of Vancouver and three members of its police department.

He sought damages for malicious prosecution, abuse of process, misfeasance in public office and an award for charter damages for what he says were serious breaches of the Crown's disclosure obligations.

In April 2013 a judge allowed him to amend his pleadings on the topic of charter damages and include an allegation that the Crown's actions were an unacceptable departure from the reasonable standards expected.

The defendants appealed, arguing Henry shouldn't be allowed to seek compensation for conduct that was negligent and the provincial Court of Appeal agreed.

The Supreme Court will hear Henry's appeal from the decision.

Henry was convicted of 10 offences involving eight complainants in 1983 and was declared a dangerous offender.

The B.C. Court of Appeal acquitted him of the offences in October 2010, after hearing the judge made several mistakes during his trial.

The Crown also conceded that evidence wasn't disclosed to Henry, as it should have been, and if he was tried again he wouldn't be convicted.

May 15 2014

**REGINA - Saskatchewan's children's advocate says a 10-year-old boy, who police say killed a six-year-old boy, probably should not have been in the community unsupervised.**

Bob Pringle says the 10-year-old was getting help from Social Services because he was diagnosed with a developmental disorder shortly before the six-year-old was killed last August.

But Pringle says there were significant gaps in aid provided by the local child welfare



agency on the case.

Pringle says his investigation found nine child protection concerns reported to the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services, but as far as his office could determine, two concerns were never even investigated.

He also says the RCMP had alerted the agency to the boy's behavioural issues.

Mounties believed he was involved in a break and enter in May 2011 when a pregnant dog and her unborn pups were killed.

May 15 2014

**OTTAWA - The Ontario Court of Appeal has upheld a judge's decision that an Ottawa sociology professor should be sent to France as a suspect in a decades-old terror bombing.**

In its ruling, the appeal court said both the lower-court judge, and subsequently the federal justice minister, made no legal errors in coming to the conclusion Hassan Diab should be handed to French authorities.

France suspects Diab, 60, was involved in the anti-Semitic bombing of a Paris synagogue in 1980 that killed four people and injured dozens of others.

In June 2011, Ontario Superior Court Justice Robert Maranger committed Diab for extradition to face French authorities despite acknowledging the case against him was weak.

The following April, then-justice minister Rob Nicholson signed an extradition order surrendering Diab to France.

Diab has denied any role in the deadly attack, saying the unwavering moral principle throughout his life has been promoting equality and respect for all.

May 15 2014

**The RCMP have arrested a man accused of duping Passport Canada into issuing passports under fake names to some of Canada's most notorious criminal suspects, CBC has learned.**



Gabad

Alkhalil

The RCMP alleges the passport fixer was aiding high-level cocaine traffickers including the infamous Alkhalil brothers, one of whom is wanted for two deadly shootings in Toronto and Vancouver.

He was facilitating the obtaining of Canadian passports in exchange for money, • said RCMP National Division Insp. Costa Dimopoulos, who told CBC News that criminals are willing to spend \$5,000 to \$20,000 for a genuine document issued under an assumed name.

Police charged Harbi Mohamoud (Dave) Gabad last Friday with a string of passport and identity fraud offences after the RCMP's Sensitive and International Investigations Section (SIIS) searched his Gatineau, Que., apartment looking for hard drives, photos and other evidence.

Canadian passports are coveted by people in the criminal underworld, • Dimopoulos said. "It's allowing you to move freely internationally without fear of being captured. It allows you the ability to hide, essentially, from police."

To date the RCMP have linked Gabad to 13 fraudulent passport applications, including eight that were actually issued by Passport Canada under assumed identities, according to search warrant documents filed in court.

Police say the passports were winding up in the hands of a crime group tied to the remaining members of the Alkhalil family (two of the five Alkhalil brothers were gunned down

in gang-related violence in B.C. in the early 2000s).

"The Alkhalil brothers are a family that moved here a number of years ago from the Lower Mainland of British Columbia," • Ottawa police Acting Insp. Mike Laviolette told CBC News. "They are well-known in the law enforcement community for criminality mainly dealing in cocaine and the violence associated to this family and their associates." •

Passport Canada has spent tens of millions of dollars enhancing security of Canada's "ePassport" • to make the document difficult to counterfeit by criminals and potential terrorists. To combat fraudulent applications among the five million requests they receive each year, they have used facial recognition technology since 2009 to scan for duplicate images within a database of 34 million photos.

In 2012 that technology detected two passports issued to murder suspect Robby Alkhalil — one in his own name and a second under an identity allegedly arranged by Gabad. Passport Canada's identity fraud desk alerted the RCMP.

Investigators then discovered a series of passports and applications that shared a pattern: all were mailed from applicants living in the Outaouais area of Quebec; all used Quebec birth certificates as proof of citizenship; and many shared identical guarantors and related references and emergency contacts.

It led the RCMP to Gabad, who they allege paid desperate drug addicts, the homeless and mentally ill to forfeit identity documents to be used to submit fraudulent applications on behalf of high-paying criminals.

Police are now sorting through evidence seized in their search of Gabad's apartment earlier this month to determine whether there are any more fraudulent passports or applications in circulation, in addition to the ones already frozen or denied.

(CBC News)



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