

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

July 25, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 30

## Executive Digest

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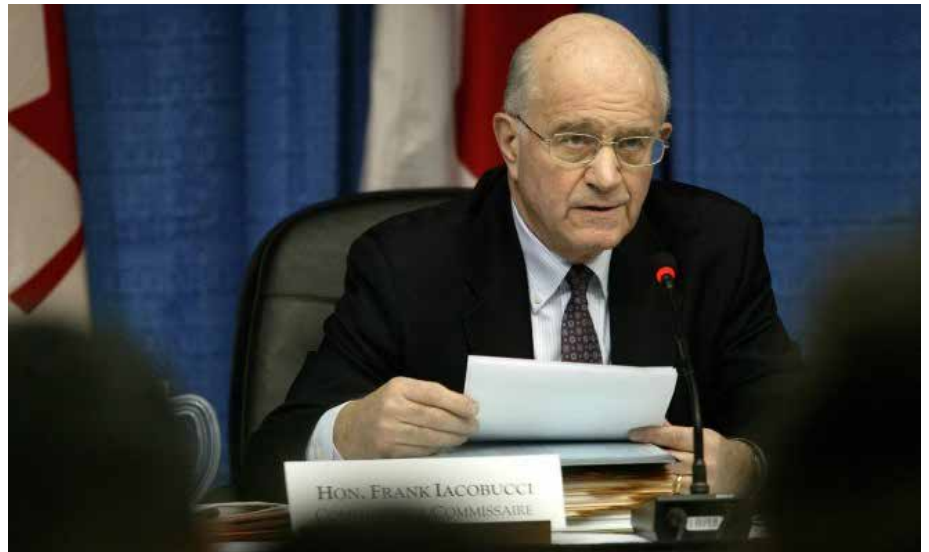
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## Sweeping report released on police encounters with those in crisis



Jul 24 2014

**TORONTO** - Expanding the use of Tasers by front-line police officers, equipping them with body-worn cameras and giving them deeper access to information about people in crisis could help prevent deadly use of force by police, says a new report.

Former Supreme Court of Canada justice Frank Iacobucci's report on the Toronto Police Service, which was sparked by the killing of a teenager on an empty streetcar last

summer, makes 84 recommendations aimed at reducing the number of deaths during officers' interactions with the public.

"If reasonable steps can be taken to prevent even one unnecessary death, then those steps must be taken," Iacobucci said Thursday. "It is clear that the police are part of the mental-health system. They have become the front-line mental-health workers."

The release of the report comes just days before the one-year anniversary of 18-year-

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old Sammy Yatim's death and amid a lawsuit by the teen's family against the officer who shot him and another who Tasered him as he lay dying.

The incident, which was captured on video, sparked a public outcry and prompted Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair to ask Iacobucci last August to take a broad look at how officers interact with people in crisis and to come up with recommendations.

"This is not a report that will gather dust," Blair said as the 346-page document was made public. "This is a report that will gather momentum."

Iacobucci and his team interviewed more than 100 people - including the families of individuals killed by police - and analysed more than 1,200 documents as well as submissions from the public in putting together the report.

The team also looked at recommendations from previous Ontario coroners' inquests and the advice of experts from the U.S. and the U.K.

"When analysing how to prevent deaths in such encounters, one must focus on how to prevent either the crisis itself or the encounter with the police from occurring in the first place, which involves improving the mental-health system among other things," said Iacobucci.

"A failure to de-escalate can arise from a number of causes, including lack of understanding by police regarding the level of risk posed by the person in crisis or a lack of knowledge or ability on how to de-escalate effectively."

Advocates for people with mental illness expressed some concern about a number of recommendations relating to expanded use of Tasers, saying police should always aim to de-escalate situations before using conducted energy weapons.

Iacobucci's report recommended Toronto police consider conducting a pilot project to assess the potential for expanding Taser access within the force.

It also suggested the force issue body-worn cameras to all officers who may encounter people in crisis to ensure greater accountability and transparency.

Among the report's other recommendations is a suggestion that Toronto police create a comprehensive police and mental health oversight body to help share health-care information with police, including a voluntary registry of vulnerable people.

It also recommends the force "more proactively and comprehensively educate officers" on mental-health resources and give every officer a point of contact in the mental-health system they can contact for advice.

There are also recommended changes to the city's Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams, which currently only operate within limited hours.

Iacobucci recommended having the teams notified of every call involving a person in crisis and also called for the development of a pilot Crisis Intervention team to complement the program, with the aim of being able to provide a specialized response to those in crisis around the clock.

A number of recommendations also focused on the selection of police officers, with Iacobucci suggesting all new constables required to complete a mental-health first-aid course.

He also recommended that while hiring, preference be given to applicants who have community services experience, past involvement related to the mental-health community and higher education.

Iacobucci noted that his report was not about laying blame on anyone but rather was meant to consider how lethal outcomes can be prevented in the future.

"The premise of the report is that the target should be zero deaths when police interact with a member of the public," he said.

Jul 17 2014

## **MONTREAL - The pension fund manager for the federal public service, the Canadian Forces and the RCMP says it earned a return of 16.3 per cent for its financial year ended March 31.**

The Public Sector Pension Investment Board says the "solid overall performance" was driven by strong results in the stock market as well as in its private equity, renewable resources, real estate and infrastructure portfolios.

PSP Investments said it earned net investment income of \$12.6 billion for the year and received \$5 billion in net contributions.

Consolidated net assets reached a record \$93.7 billion, an increase of \$17.6 billion or 23 per cent over the previous year.

The results beat its benchmark policy portfolio return of 13.9 per cent.

"Once again, performance was strong across the board with all investment teams contributing to value added over benchmark returns," said John Valentini, interim president and CEO and chief financial officer.

Jul 17 2014

## **BIBLE HILL - You're sitting in your car on the side of the road talking on the cellphone and all of a sudden an RCMP cruiser pulls up behind you.**

'Uh, oh,' you think. 'What's that about? I'm not doing anything wrong.'

Precisely. And under the above scenario, chances are, that instead of receiving any sort of ticket, the officer is approaching to offer you a treat certificate for practicing good driving behaviour by pulling over to make your call.

Welcome to the Driver Rewards Program, an initiative formed through a partnership between the Colchester RCMP officers and the Cobequid chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

"It's an opportunity for the public to be recognized for good behaviour," said RCMP Const. Cheryl MacKinnon, who coordinated a partnership with MADD for the local initiative after hearing of its efforts in New Brunswick when her own brother was rewarded with a certificate for pizza and pop after he was seen pulling over to the side of the road to make a phone call.

"Often, unfortunately, our contact is at times negative and it's at these moments (under the Driver Reward Program) that we can say more than just thank you for doing a good job," she said. "We're giving them a small token of our appreciation for doing things the way you're supposed to be doing them."

Cobequid MADD members routinely participate in roadside spot checks with the RCMP and MacKinnon said it was a natural extension of that effort to introduce a reward program for good driving behaviour.

It also offers officers "a nice balance to have positive interactions while doing our job," she said.

The program, which began in June, is beginning a second wave of handing out certificates because the RCMP members have been so keen in participating and handing them out, MacKinnon said.

(Truro Daily News)

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

THE CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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**Group Publisher:** Morley S. Lymburner  
**PUBLISHER:** Kathryn M. Lymburner - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca  
**NEWS EDITOR:** Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca  
**Subscriptions:** Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca  
**ADVERTISING:** 1-888-640-3048  
12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1  
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## THURSDAY JULY 17, 2014

Jul 17 2014

### **KIRKLAND LAKE, Ont. - Provincial police say a seven-month-long undercover investigation in northeastern Ontario has led to a total of 250 drug charges against 45 people.**

Cocaine, crystal meth, marijuana, cannabis resin and morphine were seized in raids Wednesday, along with \$12,500 in cash and two vehicles.

Police say eight search warrants were executed in the Kirkland Lake area and one in LaSarre, Que.

Those charged range in age from 17 to 62 and most are Kirkland Lake residents.

Charges include possession of a controlled substance, trafficking, commission of an offence for a criminal organization and possession of property obtained by crime.

(CJCL, The Canadian Press)

## EDMONTON - Edmonton Public Transit is teaming up with Edmonton police to patrol part of the LRT line.

Starting this week, four police officers will team up with transit peace officers to patrol the line, for the first time since the LRT opened. The six-month pilot project will end in mid-December.

"In this partnership, we are going to be able to better provide service to the people of Edmonton, a wider range of service," said Staff Sgt. Gary Beaulieu. "We are limited by budget and resources, so this is a partnership that just makes sense."

Safety has been a growing concern among many LRT riders.

A video was posted online of a massive brawl that broke out on a crowded LRT platform after the Canada Day fireworks this year. The fight involved a group of young people and has received thousands of views on YouTube.

Transit officials were at another station when the brawl had started and by the time security arrived, the crowd had dispersed.

Coun. Tony Caterina says he is extremely happy with the move. He says he has spent the last few years trying to improve security and the perception of safety on the LRT.

"This has been something that has been worked on for the past two or three years by myself and others, to improve that perception and improve security and certainly for the stadium and coliseum stations," Caterina said.

"We want to make sure people feel comfortable being on that line at any time of the day or evening."

The pilot project will be evaluated once it wraps up in December.

(CBC News)

## TORONTO – Two more of Canada's first responders killed themselves this week, bringing the total number of suicides by Canadian paramedics, firefighters, police officers, dispatchers and prison staff to 13 in roughly ten weeks.

Nancy Nadeau, a police officer in the Quebec city of Levis, killed herself with her own service weapon on Tuesday, according to Le Journal de Quebec.

And an unidentified police officer in Ontario killed themselves overnight, according to Vince Savoia, the founder of the Tema Conter Memorial Trust.

The revelations come as Ontario's government tries to figure out what public institutions can do to address post-traumatic stress disorder and mental illness among Canadians whose job it is to charge toward violent, traumatic situations when everyone else runs the other way.

Canada's suicide rate was about 10.8 per 100,000 in 2011, according to Statistics Canada. That year, a total of 3,728 Canadians of all ages killed themselves.

But in 2011 it was the second-leading cause of death for young adults: 544 Canadi-

ans aged 25 to 34 killed themselves in 2011 – more than five times the number killed by someone else.

The vast majority of suicides for which an underlying cause can be identified are connected to mental illness.

"It is a shocking number and I think as a society we're just starting to come to grips with this issue," said Labour Minister Kevin Flynn. "We're starting to talk about it in a way involving our first responders[?], involving the armed forces. We're starting to talk about it in a way we should have talked about in the past."

Flynn said the government has been consulting with the Workplace Safety and Inspection Board and the broader community of first responders for nearly two years and has just finished a report on the issue.

The report's top priorities? Education and prevention.

But Toronto Paramedics Association President Geoff MacBride says the province could start by making it easier for first responders to get benefits from WSIB.

Right now, first responders suffering from PTSD have to prove their symptoms are the reason they can't work.

MacBride says the burden of proof prevents paramedics from coming forward with their problems.

"This stuff comes from the work that we do and there should be policy and procedures in place to allow the personnel who are dealing with these things to access resources," he said in an interview Thursday.

Toronto Emergency Medical Services has a psychologist on staff leading a team trained to deal with PTSD, crisis intervention and steering affected people toward the right resources.

MacBride said frontline staff can also help themselves and assume some of the responsibility of helping their colleagues.

"As the stigma of this ailment continues to be lifted, we're seeing more and more engagement from all levels. But I would suggest the most important level is your colleagues," he said.

Toronto Police Association President Mike McCormack says five Toronto police officers have killed themselves in the last 20 years.

The Toronto Police Service has a number of resources for employees, McCormack said, including two psychologists, employee assistance programs, and benefits for private help should employees choose that over in-house staff.

The police service also puts its officers through annual training to deal with situations where mental illness is a factor.

The biggest problem, he said, is dispelling the notion that first responders are immune to mental illness.

"There has been a historical stigma attached to not only PTSD but mental health issues. And in the policing community there has been a historical reluctance to come forward for the fear of being judged or pigeonholed because of these type of illnesses," he said.

But, McCormack pointed out, some of

the police officers who have killed themselves in Toronto were getting treatment.

"It's not that [there has] been a defect in getting assistance," he said. "We're trying to make the system perfect but it will never be perfect. There will always be people that you cannot prevent from doing this."

Toronto Fire Services refused to comment on this story, citing a lack of time.

(Global News)



## HALIFAX - Police in Halifax say one of their officers was injured when a man allegedly punched and cut him during a pursuit.

Police say they were confronted by a man at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday while they were looking for someone wanted on a warrant.

They say they scuffled with the man when he tried to remove one of their guns and threw punches with a makeshift brass weapon.

Police say one of the officers sustained several cuts before the man was subdued and taken into custody.

A 39-year-old man is facing several charges, including attempting to disarm a police officer, assault with a weapon, resisting arrest, assaulting a police officer and uttering threats.

## A senior RCMP communications adviser alleging sexual harassment and assault by a superior officer is the latest to join more than 300 women with similar claims across Canada in seeking legal action against the force.

The lawyer bringing the class action said in the two years since the lawsuit was filed, hundreds of women, one-third of them still with the force, have come forward.

"When we hit 100 I was surprised," said lawyer David Klein of Klein Lyons, the firm handling the class action. "As we hit 200, I was less surprised, and then 300 even less, because we were beginning to have a sense of the magnitude of the internal problem at the RCMP with women in the force."

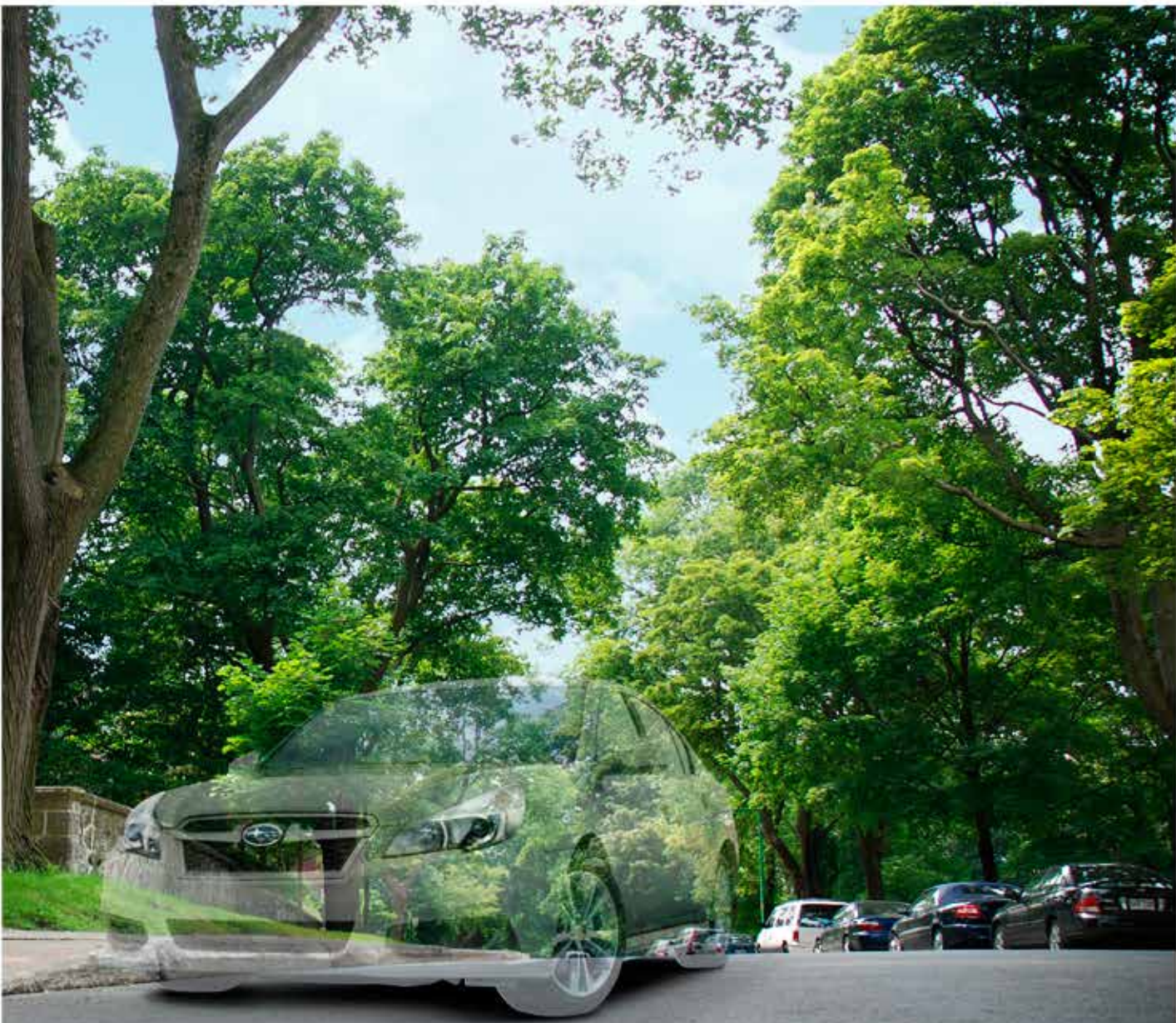
The suit, which now has 336 complainants, alleges widespread systemic discrimination by the RCMP against female members. Janet Merlo, a former RCMP officer based in Nanaimo who filed the lawsuit on behalf of the others, said she suffered bullying and harassment throughout her career of nearly 20 years.

A certification hearing has been pushed back to next June to allow lawyers more time to gather information.

Corporal Catherine Galliford, a former RCMP spokeswoman whose claims of sexual harassment in 2011 have been credited with opening the door for others, said she is encouraged to see women coming forward, but saddened they did not before.

Corporal Galliford, who said she still

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has post-traumatic stress disorder from years of harassment, has been on sick leave since 2006. Her case is scheduled to go to trial in February.

An internal RCMP report released in 2012 suggested gender-based harassment happened frequently to the female officers who participated in a study of their experiences of being bullied by colleagues and superiors.

In response to the report, Deputy Commissioner Craig Callens announced the creation of a 100-member team to investigate harassment complaints.

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Rob Vermeulen noted the force's formal response to the allegations will be filed in a statement of defence.

"These unproven allegations now form part of a recently filed civil suit, and as such, we are not able to comment further," he said. (Globe and Mail)

Jul 18 2014

**MONTREAL - City Hall is asking Montreal's police department to look into ways it might generate additional revenue for the city by expanding its services for hire, Radio-Canada has revealed.**

Montreal's police department already gets around one per cent of its budget from contracts like traffic duty for film and commercial shoots.

The City of Montreal, however, would like to emulate examples like Toronto, whose police department gets about four per cent of its budget from sources other than the city's taxpayers.

That was the conclusion of a report issued last February by Montreal's public security commission.

However, the commission's chair Anie Samson has yet to elaborate on the recommendation, which the city wants the police department to explore in more detail for its 2015 budget.

Montreal police Cmdr. Ian Lafrenière told CBC News that his department was looking into options, but that it wouldn't be a "rent-a-cop" kind of thing.

"You got a house, and you don't want anyone to steal from your house, or you got a wedding, or you're late for the airport, and you need a ride, you need someone to escort you faster to the airport - and believe me we get numerous requests each year to get that — it's not going to happen," Lafrenière said. (CBC News)

Jul 18 2014

**CALGARY - A prominent Calgary lawyer has made a formal complaint about the actions of Calgary police in conducting a so-called "perp walk" earlier this week after the arrest of a suspect in the slaying of a five-year-old boy and his grandparents.**

Douglas Garland faces two counts of first-degree murder and one charge of second-degree murder in the deaths of Alvin and Kathy Liknes and their grandson Nathan O'Brien.

Police escorted Garland, with his hands cuffed behind his back, into the arrest processing unit in front of the media on Tuesday evening.

Alan Pearce, chairman of the policing committee for the Criminal Defence Lawyers Association, says the long walk in front of the cameras was unnecessary and undermines the administration of justice.

He says the fact police did not stop a reporter from asking repeated questions of the accused during the walk is comparable to "putting an arrestee in stocks in a public square and letting the public throw rotten vegetables."

Pearce said it is important that no matter how horrendous the crime, people are presumed innocent until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

"What if a person that goes through this ... is innocent?" he asked. "The perp walk makes you look guilty."

Pearce said police should treat all accused the way they treat one of their own members when one of them is accused of a crime.

"Are you aware of an example where (a) cop (has) his hands behind his back, head is down, with two other cops on him?"

Calgary police declined comment. (CTV Calgary, Global Calgary)



Jul 19 2014

**VICTORIA - A former Mountie who asked a colleague to take a paternity test for him has been handed a six-month conditional sentence in BC Supreme Court.**

Thirty-seven-year-old Gregory Doncaster pleaded guilty to fabricating evidence to obstruct the course of justice.

Judge Robert Johnston heard that Doncaster had an extramarital affair, that the woman became pregnant, and that the BC government later took steps to recover child support.

The judge heard fellow that RCMP officer Dereck Carter agreed to take a necessary DNA test for Doncaster but a photo taken at the clinic revealed the ruse.

Defence lawyer Richard Neary said his client will never be able to express the full scope of his shame and remorse.

Doncaster resigned from the RCMP and now works as a landscaper.

Carter is expected to appear in BC Supreme Court on August 12th.

Jul 19 2014

**EDMONTON - A program at Edmonton's Castrol Raceway has been giving people the opportunity to race against the law.**



"Kids can come up and challenge us to a race and it doesn't matter what the result is, if they win they get a t-shirt that says 'I raced the law and I won'," Stony Plain RCMP Cst. Gordon Buck told CTV News.

Cst. Buck explained that Y.I.E.L.D has been trying to make roadways safer through education.

"I've been with the RCMP over 34 years and over that time we've shown that strict enforcement itself won't stop racing or high risk activities on the street. Only through the strong education program can we ever hope to make some sort of a difference."

One of the program volunteers credits the legal racing program for changing his life.

Forest Ohneck was caught street racing on Highway 16A and was looking at having to pay thousands in fines. However, Ohneck was able to make amends by volunteering his time with the program.

"At first I thought I was in the wrong place at the wrong time but this whole program has been a real blessing and I credit the program to saving my life. It's hard to say where I would be at this point.

"A few years prior to me getting my community service I had a friend of mine nearly killed in a street race on Groat Road so I took it to heart."

Y.I.E.L.D holds the racing events each summer. (CTV Edmonton)



**Under fire for not doing enough to respond to stress related illness, the RCMP has begun to track the number of suicides within its ranks, and the initial tally is staggering.**

Officials disclosed to Postmedia News Friday that they are aware of at least 31 serving or retired members who have committed suicide since 2006. The revelation came as a memorial service was held for Ken Barker, a recently retired corporal and dog handler in Manitoba who took his life last weekend.

Each division has been asked to pull the occupational health records of each of those members to see what can be learned from them, Assistant Commissioner Gilles Moreau said in an interview. It's part of a broader strategy to reduce stigma surrounding post-traumatic stress disorder and to make members feel more comfortable getting help.

"Definitely it's moving forward. Enough of this," said Moreau, who acknowledged he contemplated suicide earlier in his career. "We need to look at what we have not been doing in the past. What do we need to do differently to address this very important issue?"

Barker, 51, bore the profile of an upbeat and gregarious guy, but in recent years wasn't the same, said friend and former Mountie Steve Walker. Years of responding to terrible crime scenes - including the grisly beheading of a Greyhound bus passenger - had taken its toll. "In a testosterone-driven environment, there's an expectation they're infallible," Walker said.

"Over the years, it takes a wear and tear. ... It's cumulative and corrosive."

Walker said it was not uncommon in the past for members struggling with PTSD to get pushed aside. If it wasn't told to their face, it was strongly implied they should just "suck it up, buttercup."

The suicides of Barker and other Mounties in recent months - Postmedia News confirmed at least four in the past year - have prompted louder calls for the force to provide better early detection and support for members. One vocal critic is Jeff Morley, a 23-year member who left the force last year to become a fulltime psychologist.

"The RCMP's new mental health strategy focuses on education and stigma reduction. Sounds great, but there's still no specific strategy for that and, more importantly, no budget attached to it," Morley said.

Members are essentially at the mercy of community resources, which vary greatly across the country, Morley said. Furthermore, if a member visits a psychologist more than six times a year, the psychologist is obligated to disclose reasons why to the RCMP. This causes many members to avoid further counselling because they don't want to disclose mental-health issues to their employer.

Moreau, the RCMP's assistant chief human resources officer, said the force asks psychologists to provide reports on members requiring more than six visits so it can determine if it's safe for them to remain on front lines.

"We have a responsibility to know that

they're healthy. It'd be irresponsible of us to send someone (to a psychologist) 25 times and not know anything about it," Moreau said. "We carry guns."

Moreau said members have access to in-house psychologists, as well as help in the community, including the same operational stress injury (OSI) clinics used by Canadian Armed Forces members and military veterans. While members may have been shunned in the past for seeking help, the goal today is to get them the help they need so they can return to duty, Moreau said.

That was evidenced last month, he said, by the support provided to members in the wake of fatal shootings of three officers in Moncton.

(Postmedia News)



Jul 21 2014

**WASHINGTON - A new report suggests American law-enforcement doesn't just stop terrorism suspects - it creates them, too.**

A Human Rights Watch study accuses police of overly aggressive undercover operations where, first, they find people who fit the terrorist profile, then come up with attacks for them to commit, push them to get involved in the plan and then arrest them.

The authors interviewed 215 people related to 27 American terrorism cases.

It says some of the people targeted as potential terrorists suffer from mental illness or financial problems and are given the motive and the means to commit crimes they might never even have considered.

It quotes a New York judge who declared of one particular suspect that only the government could have made a terrorist out of him - because his "buffoonery is positively Shakespearean in scope."

Jul 21 2014

**A Quebec coroner is calling for better adapted mental-health services and better adapted police training to respond to mentally ill people in crisis.**

The recommendations, which also include a renewed call for Montreal police patrollers to carry Tasers, come in the wake of the police shooting of Farshad Mohammadi, a mentally ill homeless man who was shot to death by police in Bonaventure métro station in January 2012.

Mohammadi was shot in the back as he evaded two officers after he attacked them with a knife, coroner Jean Brochu has concluded.

The coroner's report was released Monday morning.

(Montreal Gazette)

**WINNIPEG - The Manitoba government has ordered an independent investigation into the shooting of a man by the RCMP in full view of children and families at a baseball tournament in a northern aboriginal community.**

The shooting occurred Sunday afternoon on the Norway House Cree Nation reserve. The RCMP say an officer discharged a firearm and a Norway House resident suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

The Mounties haven't commented further except to confirm an investigation is ongoing.

In a two-sentence statement issued Monday, the province said it has asked the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, known as ASIRT, to investigate the shooting.

"They are currently travelling to the community to begin their investigation," the statement said.

Premier Greg Selinger's office says he talked to Norway House Chief Ron Evans about the independent investigation hours after the shooting on Sunday. Evans said he welcomes the outside investigation since many had concerns about the idea of the RCMP investigating its own officers.

ASIRT's mandate in Alberta is to investigate serious injuries or deaths in which police have been involved. The unit has a civilian director and most of its members are civilian.

The young people who witnessed the shooting on his reserve are traumatized, Evans said.

"It's something that they only see on TV, not in real life," the chief said Monday. "They saw all of it ... Some of the parents told me that their kids had a hard time sleeping. I imagine most of the kids are that way."

The community of about 8,000, which is about 450 kilometres north of Winnipeg, immediately dispatched councillors to help those upset by what they had witnessed.

About 200 people were watching two baseball games involving 12-year-olds and 17-year-olds at the time of the shooting, Evans said. RCMP officers recognized a suspect there and began chasing him, he said.

When he was told to stop, the man kept walking, but put his hands up and declared he had no weapons, Evans said.

"They shot him anyway. The member fired four times and I think he hit him twice in the shoulder in front of all these kids.

"There's absolutely no reason for that to happen the way it happened. It was poor judgment on the part of the officer that fired the shots."

Many people caught what happened on their smartphones, Evans said. That video evidence will be turned over to the independent investigation team rather than the RCMP, he said.

Evans said he met with RCMP Assistant Commissioner Kevin Brosseau on Monday and told him it will take the community some time to heal the rift caused by the shooting. He pointed out that with so many children and families nearby, the shooting could have easily turned tragic.

“There are homes in the area. There were lots of children. With a stray bullet, it could have been a lot worse.”

Jul 21 2014

**HAMILTON - Hamilton's Police Services Board has rejected a call to hire an external auditor to monitor police finances, and instead asked the city's internal auditor to provide assurances that those accounts are in order.**



Shekar Chandrashekar, a retired city accounting supervisor, spent months analyzing police and city financial documents before presenting the board with a report outlining a number of issues and possible discrepancies.

His report made four recommendations, including hiring an external auditor and merging the police legal, accounting and human resources with the city's — none of which were accepted by the board.

At Monday's board meeting, Chief Glenn De Caire pointed out that the city already audits different sections of the police budget. He also outlined the various existing checks and oversights on police spending.

“We comply with the law,” De Caire said.

He was backed by board chair and city councillor Lloyd Ferguson, who said “I'm satisfied that our books are in order, (but) just to get total closure on this.”

Ferguson also suggested the board “ask the city of Hamilton to use the services of our internal auditor to review the issues outlined by Shekar ... and confirm back to the board that everything is satisfactory.”

His motion was passed unanimously.

(Hamilton Spectator)

**TUESDAY**  
**JULY 22, 2014**

Jul 22 2014

**OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that RCMP breached the rights of a man from Cochrane, Alta., who crashed his pickup truck, hurting three passengers.**

Jamie Kenneth Taylor was initially convicted of impaired driving causing bodily harm after the April 2008 crash.

But the Alberta Court of Appeal later ruled he was not guilty because RCMP breached his charter rights by not providing him a phone to contact a lawyer, either at the crash site or at a hospital.

The Crown appealed that decision to the Supreme Court, which backed the appeal court ruling.

The high court called it a “case not so much about delay in facilitating access, but about its complete denial. This ongoing failure cannot be characterized as reasonable.”

The court ruled while Taylor was informed of his rights to a lawyer, officers forgot to get that to him during his stay in hospital, even though they obtained blood samples in that time.

(CHQR)

Jul 22 2014

**NEWMARKET, Ont. - The Special Investigations Unit has been called in following a police-involved shooting early Tuesday in Newmarket, Ont.**

The SIU says just after midnight, York Region police officers responded to a 911 call about shots being fired near an apartment building.

Officers were confronted by a man armed with a handgun, who advanced toward them, prompting the officers to fire their weapons.

The unidentified man was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

No police officers were injured during the incident.

Jul 22 2014

**HAMILTON, Ont. - The federal government says 20 members of a human trafficking ring have been removed from Canada.**

The deportation was announced today by Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney in Hamilton, where the gang had operated.

Blaney says 22 members of the Domotor-Kolompar criminal organization have been convicted of human trafficking charges under the Criminal Code of Canada.

All but two have been deported.

The government says victims of the Domotor-Kolompar extended family were transported from Hungary with promises of a better life and work in Canada.

They were forced to work illegally, live in deplorable conditions without adequate food, and were intimidated or attacked repeatedly.

Jul 22 2014

**TORONTO - A Toronto police officer has been cleared in an incident in which a 52-year-old man was shot and wounded in the leg and chest.**

Ontario's Special Investigations Unit says there are “no reasonable grounds” to charge the officer after he fired twice at a man who was advancing toward him with a knife.

The agency says the unnamed officer was one of two who had gone to an apartment on Nov. 4, to accompany the man's daughter while she collected her belongings.

It says the man argued with his daughter, then went to the kitchen where the officer heard him shuffling through utensils and then saw him with a knife in his hand.

The officer drew his gun and repeatedly ordered the man to drop the knife but the SIU says the man did not comply and the officer backed against a wall - fired his weapon.

Acting SIU director Joseph Martino says the officer believed his life was in danger and was legally justified in shooting the man.

“These were very tight quarters,” Martino said.

“With nowhere left to retreat and confronted by a man holding a knife and pointed in his direction, the subject officer shot when the man refused to drop the knife and neared to within six feet of his location.”

Martino says the officer's account of what happened is supported by the other officer who witnessed the incident and also corroborated by forensic evidence at the scene.

Jul 22 2014

**OTTAWA - A newly released report says Canada's border agency had 19,000 outdated electronic notices warning officers to be on the lookout for suspicious travellers.**

The Canada Border Services Agency deleted the old notices following a review of approximately 117,000 active lookouts to ensure each contained up-to-date information.

The agency is supposed to use lookouts to intercept suspected terrorists, organized criminals and others attempting to enter Canada.

The notices are based on intelligence information, past customs seizures, immigration violations and known national security risks.

Last fall the auditor general found the agency was not consistently monitoring the results of lookouts and lacked a consistent process for recording the results when someone was intercepted.

The government recently issued an update on its efforts to respond to the auditor's concerns.

Jul 22 2014

**ACCOKEEK, Md. - Beretta U.S.A. Corp. says concerns about a gun-control bill that passed in Maryland last year have made it necessary to move its weapons making out of the state to Tennessee.**

The well-known gun maker announced Tuesday it will move to a new production facility it is building in Gallatin that is set to open in mid-2015.

Beretta general manager Jeff Cooper says an initial version of the gun-control bill passed by the Senate would have prohibited the company from being able to make, store or even import into Maryland the products it sells. He says while lawmakers reversed some of those provisions, the company is concerned restrictions could be reinstated in the future.

Beretta says it has no plans to relocate its office, administrative and executive support functions from Accokeek, Maryland.

Jul 22 2014

**NORTH GLENGARRY, Ont. - Ontario Provincial Police have charged two of their own after an investigation into the disclosure of private information in eastern Ontario.**

The force says they were tipped off in summer 2012 about the alleged disclosure by an officer, with the investigation finding offences allegedly occurring between 2009 and 2014.

Two constables with a combined 22 years on the force, who were with the North Glengarry detachment, have now been charged.

Luanne MacDonald, 44, is charged with three counts of breach of trust by public officer and one count each of obstructing justice, voyeurism, distribution of voyeurism material, theft of telecommunications service and fraud.

John Bernard, 41, faces two counts of breach of trust by public officer.

Both have been suspended with pay and are due in court Sept. 3.

Jul 22 2014

**NANAIMO, B.C. - A feisty Vancouver Island woman is being applauded by Mounities for taking down a male burglar who broke into her home.**

Nanaimo RCMP Const. Gary O'Brien says homeowner Jamie Fawcett is only five foot two, and the alleged thief was about six inches taller, but she tackled him anyway.

O'Brien says someone broke a window to get into Fawcett's home early Sunday, and while at first she thought her cat made the noise, she yelled when she saw the man.

Police say the woman chased after the man in her bare feet and even caught up to him, but he managed to get away.

When the man later showed up near Fawcett's home, police say she ran out and tackled him to the ground while a passerby came over to help her and called 911.

O'Brien says police don't generally advise people to take matters into their own hands, but officers who attended the scene were duly impressed with Fawcett.

Jul 22 2014

**TORONTO - Toronto Police Services Board members are free to express their opinions in public even if their views are critical of police spending or leadership, board chairman Alok Mukherjee said Tuesday.**



In an email to the Toronto Star, Mukherjee said he has written to Councillor Michael

Thompson (Open Michael Thompson's poli-card), who is vice chair, and "confirmed our belief that Board members have the right to speak publicly on policing matters."

Four board members complained that Thompson may have breached the board's code of conduct for comments he made last winter.

In a story published in the Star on Feb. 12, Thompson said the police force needed a "complete shakeup."

"There is a need for things to change within the organization and I've been very clear on that," Thompson said at the time, adding Blair was not the person for the job.

"I wouldn't support it. We need fresh blood."

His comments followed what he called "staggering" statistics on police strip searches and ongoing tension between board members and the chief over cost savings.

"The board was concerned that the comments could create legal issues when it had to make a decision respecting the chief's employment agreement with the board," Mukherjee wrote. The chief's contract expires in April 2015.

The board asked the Minister of Community Safety for "guidance," and the minister, in turn sent it to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, which declined to examine it.

With no response from "senior authorities responsible for police board governance," the board found "such speech ... consistent with the Code of Conduct in the Police Service Act."

The councillor said in a press release he would be withdrawing his application to the courts for a judicial review.

(Toronto Star)

Jul 22 2014

**The RCMP in Nova Scotia have five new crime-fighting weapons -- drones which it will deploy in detachments across the province.**

Each light-weight machine costs around \$30,000 and can deploy in under five minutes, a "game changer" said Const. Mark Skinner.

The drones will help police with collision reconstruction, search and rescue, major crimes and officer safety.

"If we have a scenario where there's an active shooter or we have an urgent life-threatening situation we can deploy it. we can be able to know where the suspect is to tell our officers on the ground what's going on," he said.

Skinner has already put a drone to work getting aerial photos of car accidents. He says the shots will help investigators reconstruct accidents.

"When you have a major collision happen on the highway often there's multiple cars involved, multiple ways the cars are going in forces. So it's really great where we can deploy it up in the air, we can get a good aerial shot. Very easy for the collision analyst then to articulate in court or in his report exactly what he believes happened," said Skinner.

RCMP in Saskatchewan credit their drone

with saving a man's life last year after he walked away from car crash and could not be found. Officers were able to track the disoriented man down using the drone's infrared camera.

(CBC News)

Jul 22 2014

**NEW YORK - All New York City police officers are expected to undergo re-training in the wake of a man's death on a city sidewalk shortly after he was placed in a chokehold by officers, Bill Bratton, the police commissioner, said on Tuesday.**

The dying moments of Eric Garner, 43, can be seen in two bystanders' videos, which have provoked outrage in the city. Garner can be seen arguing with several police officers, who were arresting him on suspicion of selling untaxed cigarettes, before he is grappled onto the sidewalk, pleading that he cannot breathe.

Bratton called Garner's death a "terrible tragedy" on Tuesday, but also described it as an opportunity to reform.

"The legacy is that we go forward and develop a state-of-the-art training procedure for NYPD officers that allows them to effectively interact particularly with communities of color," Bratton told reporters at the city's police headquarters.

Bratton said it appears one of the officers used a chokehold on Garner, who was an African-American father of six children and previously worked for the city's parks department. The city's police have been barred from using chokeholds, which can be deadly, since 1993.

The city's medical examiner is yet to rule on the cause of Garner's death.

(Reuters)

Jul 22 2014

**WINNIPEG - There will more cops patrolling schools in Winnipeg for the next three years.**

The Winnipeg Police Board approved the three-year extension of the program on Tuesday, which added two new police officers and expanded their Resource Officer Program to the St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

Working in partnership with the province and the school divisions, the three-year commitment will run from September 2014 to June 2017.

Under the new deal, police officers will be deployed in the Pembina Trails School Division (two officers), Winnipeg School Division (nine officers), and St. James-Assiniboia School Division (two officers). The school resource officers will serve at high schools and middle and elementary schools within the divisions.

Police Chief Devon Clunis said the expansion will build a safer environment in schools through engagement with police.

"When the officers are engaged in the schools, we have discovered it really does build a relationship with kids, with parents, with teachers," he said. "It is really about pro-active engagement in the community."

(Winnipeg Sun)



## **VANCOUVER - A Vancouver company is developing a new tool that could help police get stoned drivers off the road.**

West Point Resources has created a marijuana breathalyzer that can detect THC.

Compared to blood tests, which detect the presence of the drug for up to three days, the breath test is limited to about two hours.

“And that two-hour time period just happens to be very, very important for law enforcement,” West Point Resources CEO Rav Mlait told CTV News Channel. “Because we don’t necessarily want to know if someone has consumed marijuana several hours ago, or 24 or 72 hours ago. We’d like to know if they’ve actually consumed it very recently and gotten behind the wheel of a car.”

Kal Malhi, the co-inventor of the device, is a former British Columbia RCMP officer. He said the test will help curb “drug-and-drive” rates like the original breathalyzer did with drinking and driving.

“People are becoming very afraid to drink and drive nowadays because they feel that they will get caught and charged, but they’re not afraid to drug and drive because they don’t feel that law enforcement will do anything about it,” Malhi told CTV Vancouver in June.

Mlait said the device is still in the development stages, but he hopes that it will be publicly available by the fall of this year.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**JULY 23, 2014**

Jul 23 2014

## **EDMONTON - Edmonton police allege that three drug dealers trying to drum up business were handing out cocaine samples to young people.**

Police spokesman Scott Pattison says the trio parked a truck in a popular location on the city’s south side and began luring potential customers over.

Pattison says their contact information for future purchases was printed on the back of five-gram packages of the drug.

Pattison says it’s like they were giving out their business cards.

Jesse Levesque, 22, Chris Hefford, 22, both from Edmonton, and Dan Friedrich, 25, of Spruce Grove, Alta., have been charged with trafficking, possession for the purpose and living off the proceeds of crime.

Jul 23 2014

## **CALGARY - A 22-year-old man accused of stabbing five young people to death at a Calgary house party is to undergo a psychiatric assessment.**

This will determine if Matthew de Grood can be found criminally responsible if convicted.

He was charged in April with first-degree

murder in the slayings at a celebration near the University of Calgary campus to mark the end of the school year.

De Grood appeared in court yesterday for the first time since his arrest - his earlier appearances were via closed-circuit television.

Defence lawyer Allan Fay says although his client has already been declared fit to stand trial, the new assessment will provide more details about his state of mind.

The Crown asked for the assessment.

The accused, the son of a senior Calgary police officer, has been in psychiatric care since his arrest.

The victims - all in their 20’s - were Zackariah Rathwell, Lawrence Hong, Joshua Hunter, Jordan Segura and Kaiti Perras.

Jul 23 2014

## **FREDERICTON - Police say they have completed a probe into the case of two New Brunswick boys who were asphyxiated by a python.**

The Mounties have handed the case to the Crown to determine whether charges should be laid.

Four-year-old Noah Barthe and his six-year-old brother Connor died last August in Campbellton after the python escaped its enclosure inside a friend’s apartment

RCMP Constable Jullie Rogers-Marsh says it was a lengthy investigation.

She says there is a chance the Crown could want the Mounties to do further investigation before they make their decision.

Rogers-Marsh says RCMP don’t recommend whether charges should be laid.

No one from the province’s Crown Prosecutors Office or the lawyer for the owner of the apartment could be reached for comment.

Jul 23 2014

## **VANCOUVER - A British Columbia man wanted by the FBI for allegedly directing hackers to steal military secrets from Boeing and other defence contractors will learn Wednesday if he’ll be freed on bail.**

Su Bin, a Chinese citizen with permanent residency in Canada, was arrested by B.C. Mounties on June 28 and is facing extradition to the U.S.

The FBI alleges Su is the mastermind behind an elaborate operation that had hackers illegally accessing Boeing’s computers in California and stealing information about the aircraft company’s military projects.

While U.S. authorities want Su, Canadian officials are trying to strip him of his permanent residency status.

Immigration and Refugee Board spokeswoman Melissa Anderson said federal officials tried to remove Su’s residency status last November, but he is appealing the decision.

While Anderson couldn’t reference his specific case, she said such a status is typically stripped when the resident has spent too much time out of Canada.

Su is charged in the U.S. with unauthorized access of a computer and obtaining information, and for accessing a computer to defraud and obtain value. He appeared in a B.C. Supreme for a bail hearing last week.

A 50-page affidavit filed by FBI special agent Noel Neeman said Su heads a China-based aviation technology company called Lode-Tech, which also has an office in Canada.

Su allegedly began working with two unidentified hackers in China in 2009 to target Boeing’s computer network, the documents said.

The affidavit cites a report prepared by the two unnamed hackers in 2012. In the report, titled “C-17 work summary,” they outline an extensive operation that involved them bypassing Boeing’s guarded internal network within months, then stole 630,000 digital files on the C-17 transport jet. The stolen data included detailed diagrams of the military-transport aircraft as well as flight test documents.

The FBI affidavit also said the hackers targeted other military technology, such as the F-22 and F-35 - the fighter jet that Canada is considering buying.

Jul 23 2014

## **TORONTO - A new report says Canada’s bail system is set up to punish innocent people because of an increasing use of pretrial detention.**

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association released the report today.

Study author Abby Deshman says Canadians spend more than \$850 million on pre-trial detention when for the most part those arrested are facing non-violent and minor charges.

She says heading down this path has a personal, societal and financial cost that is “overwhelming.”

The report says costs to the individual in pretrial detention include loss of income, emergency child care and missed medication.

The study gives recommendations such as the review of Crown policy manuals in order to prompt a system-wide return to the presumption of innocence.

Jul 23 2014

## **OTTAWA - Statistics Canada says the number of crimes committed was lower last year, but so was the severity of those criminal acts.**

The agency says the police-reported Crime Severity Index fell by nine per cent in 2013, the tenth consecutive annual decline.

The index, which measures the volume and severity of crime based on average prison sentences handed down for convictions, was

36 per cent lower in 2013 than a decade earlier.

StatsCan says the traditional crime rate also declined last year compared with 2012 by eight per cent.

The national crime rate has been on a downward slide since the early 1990s, reaching its lowest level last year since 1969.

Canadian police services reported just over 1.8 million Criminal Code offences were committed in 2013, down approximately 132,000 from the previous year.

Most offences were down, but there were increases in the number of some offences reported, including extortion, identity theft, aggravated sexual assault, child pornography and sexual violations against children.

Most provinces and territories recorded a decrease in the severity of crimes committed, except in the Yukon and Newfoundland and Labrador, where they saw slight increases.

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba recorded the largest declines among the provinces and territories.

On a municipal scale, none of Canada's census metropolitan areas recorded increases in crime severity.

And Victoria saw the biggest decline compared with 2012, down by 17 per cent.

The violent CSI fell 10 in 2013 compared with the previous year, says StatsCan, marking the seventh consecutive decrease.

Police services reported approximately 384,000 violent incidents last year, down about 32,000 from 2012, mainly resulting from a drop in robberies.

Homicides were also down. Police reported 505 of them in 2013, down 38 from 2012.

The homicide rate was also at its lowest level since 1966, at 1.44 victims per 100,000 population.

Jul 23 2014

### **FREDERICTON - The manager of the Magnetic Hill Zoo in Moncton has been appointed to chair a new task force to examine New Brunswick's exotic animal laws and regulations.**

Bruce Dougan is a former president of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums and will be one of six people on the task force.

The announcement comes following news the RCMP have completed their investigation into the deaths of two boys who were asphyxiated by an African rock python last August in Campbellton.

African rock pythons are not permitted in New Brunswick.

The file is now in the hands of the Crown Prosecutors Office to determine if charges will be laid.

Natural Resources Minister Paul Robichaud says the task force will review existing legislation to determine if any changes are needed to oversee captive exotic animals within the province.

Jul 23 2014

### **OTTAWA - The Conservative government is proposing new legislation that would ease restrictions on transporting firearms, make firearms-safety courses mandatory for first-time gun owners and prevent people convicted of spousal assault from legally owning guns.**

Under the government's proposed Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act, gun owners who allow their weapon permits to lapse will be given a grace period to renew them.

While their permits are expired, firearms owners won't be allowed to buy new guns or ammunition, but would no longer face possible jail time as a result of the expiry.

"We will create a grace period at the end of the five-year licence to stop people from immediately becoming criminalized for paperwork errors," Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said as he announced the proposed overhaul at a shooting range in northern Ontario.

"The threat of prison time for something you were legally authorized to possess the previous day is not acceptable."

The length of the grace period has not yet been specified.

The government also plans to combine two licences currently needed to own and use firearms - the possession and acquisition licences.

Once the law is passed, there will be just one licence required, said Blaney.

"We are intending to announce the merging of those two licences so there's one single licence in this country for possession and acquisition of firearms," he said.

The proposed legislation would also see Ottawa to take on powers currently held by some provincial authorities.

Under the proposed law, gun owners would also be permitted to transport weapons as part of their firearms licence.

Currently, gun owners in Ontario, Quebec and P.E.I. have to apply to their provincial chief firearms officer when they want to transport a restricted or prohibited weapon.

Changes being proposed to the Criminal Code would also "strengthen firearms prohibitions for those who are convicted of domestic violence offences," said the minister.

Blaney also announced Wednesday his department is extending the amnesty for owners of Swiss Arms and CZ 858 rifles until March 14, 2016. The Mounties prohibited the rifles earlier this year, an action that Blaney said turned law-abiding citizens into criminals overnight.

Jul 23 2014

### **VANCOUVER - A British Columbia man has been charged under a new anti-terrorism law for allegedly leaving the country to join Islamist fighters in Syria.**

It's the first time the recent Criminal Code legislation has been used as a tool to fight terrorism, said Cpl. David Falls.

Police say 25-year-old Hasibullah Yusufzai is accused of committing an offence for the benefit of a terrorist group or was directed by or associated with such a group.

"The individual is known to have travelled to Syria to join Islamist fighters," the RCMP said in a statement.

It's alleged Yusufzai left Canada on Jan. 21. "This case underscores the reality that there are individuals in Canada who have embraced the extremist ideology and who are willing to act upon it," the RCMP statement said.

"More importantly, it highlights the fact that there are new tools within the Criminal Code that enhance the RCMP's ability to counter terrorist activity."

A woman who answered the phone at Yusufzai's home in Burnaby said he wasn't there, then said she didn't speak English.

Roh Yusufzai told The Globe and Mail that his brother wasn't in Syria and went to Turkey for the month of Ramadan. He said his brother is not capable of joining a terrorist group or being violent.

Mounties say they're working on the case with their international partners.

"The RCMP is concerned about Canadians travelling abroad to participate in terrorist-related criminal activity," the statement said.

It said countering radicalization to violence also depends on the public taking an active role, including helping police by reporting suspicious or and illegal activity.

"In conjunction with local police, the RCMP outreach and engagement activities are designed to help Canadian communities and families see the indicators of vulnerability to violent extremism, and understand the responsibilities they share with law enforcement in maintaining Canada's national security."

RCMP Assistant Commissioner James Malizia said the investigation underscores the reality that there are people leaving Canada to take part in terrorist activities.

He said the new legislation enhances the force's ability to combat terrorists activity.

"These charges reaffirm the RCMP's resolve to aggressively pursue terrorist acts to the fullest extent of the law."

Jul 23 2014

### **CALGARY - Police admit a "communications breakdown" left a pro-Palestine rally that turned violent last week with no uniformed presence.**

Last Friday, what began as a peaceful demonstration flared into a chaotic melee after a group of visible pro-Israeli counter protesters showed up across the street, and were targeted by some members of the 1,000-strong rally at city hall.

Spokesman Kevin Brookwell said while

a police presence was in the area, they were not directly on site as they were when a more peaceful rally was held a week earlier.

“We didn’t have any officers there at the beginning,” Brookwell said.

“We have to balance between too much police presence and not enough — it’s our job to keep the peace.”

Calgary Jewish leaders criticized cops on Tuesday, saying the violence that targeted a Calgary area family may never have happened had they been there from the start.

“The Calgary Police Service failed to protect its citizens in this instance,” said Jeffrey Smith, chair of the Calgary Jewish Federation’s community relations committee.

“We are in discussions with police to ensure this does not happen again.”

The small group that was attacked suffered injuries ranging from bruises and a concussion to a broken nose and a bite wound.

Brookwell said to date two people have come forward claiming to have been assaulted and investigators are asking for others who feel they were victimized to contact police.

With another pro-Palestine rally slated for Friday, Brookwell said there will be an appropriate police presence to ensure no further violence erupts.

“We’ll take the necessary steps to have an appropriate police presence there,” he said.

“We will have the ability to call in additional resources if we need to.”

(Calgary Sun)

**THURSDAY**  
**JULY 24, 2014**

Jul 24 2014

**HALIFAX - Nova Scotia’s Serious Incident Response Team says there was no excessive force used in a case involving a woman who suffered a broken arm during an arrest by Halifax police.**

A report by the police watchdog says the incident occurred March 20 after officers received a call from the 21-year-old woman’s boyfriend who said she was threatening to take her own life.

The woman was found in a restaurant building near the Armdale roundabout, but refused to go to hospital with the officers who then attempted to arrest her under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act.

The report says a struggle ensued during which one of the officers was kicked several times before the other succeeded in getting the woman into handcuffs, but not before a “pop” was heard from her arm.

The woman was taken to hospital and treated for a broken upper right arm.

The investigation concluded the woman’s arm was broken unintentionally, so no charges are warranted against either of the two officers involved.

Jul 24 2014

**The RCMP is getting far less than its asking price at the online auction of a controversial Italian-made plane ordered by former commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli.**



The Piaggio P180 Avanti luxury turbo-prop was listed for sale on the government of Canada’s surplus website last spring with bids starting at \$2.5 million.

A spokesperson at the department of Public Works tells CBC News it accepted a winning bid of \$1.3 million for the Piaggio on July 17. The identity of the buyer is protected under the Privacy Act and the number of bids will not

be released until the sale is formally closed.

The RCMP paid more than \$8 million for the nine-seater executive aircraft when it bought the plane in 2002. At the time, many viewed the plane as a vanity purchase. Zaccardelli hand-picked the spiffy-looking turbo-prop aircraft.

A source in Canada’s aviation industry, who did not want to be identified, calls the P180 a niche aircraft, “You’ve really got to want an Avanti. The market is very limited,” he said.

He added that the aircraft is not very desirable because it has a short range of roughly 1,500 kilometres and is noisy. Even so, he said, someone got a deal, because according to the plane’s age, history and specifications, it should have sold for around \$2 million.

The RCMP retired the Piaggio on April 1, 2014, as part of its efforts to cut costs. A spokesperson for the Mounties told CBC News the decision was made after “an evaluation of maintenance costs and operational requirements.”

(CBC News)

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