

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

August 22, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 34

## Executive Digest

Aug 15 2014

**PRINCE ALBERT, Sask.** - An inquest jury in Saskatchewan is recommending mandatory recertification in CPR and first aid for jail guards and police officers.

Page 5

Aug 18 2014

**VANCOUVER** - Vancouver police and RCMP are increasingly concerned about police operations being compromised by the expanding use of social media.

Page 6

Aug 19 2014

**VANCOUVER** - The federal government is still assessing whether to allow police to ticket people caught with small amounts of marijuana instead of pursuing charges, says Justice Minister Peter MacKay.

Page 8

Aug 20 2014

**VANCOUVER** - RCMP in British Columbia will make staff cuts in a specialized gang unit and to their major crimes division to make up for a \$4.2 million budget shortfall next year.

Page 9

Aug 20 2014

**TORONTO** - The Toronto Police Services board has officially begun its search for a new police chief, and hopes to announce a replacement for Chief Bill Blair by January of next year.

Page 9

BLUE LINE  
NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK

52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100<sup>00</sup>

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

## Quebec premier condemns Montreal pension protest



Aug 19 2014

**MONTREAL** - Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard has condemned a raucous pension reform protest at Montreal city hall and the perceived inaction of local police as it quickly degenerated.

Couillard called the ransacking at Monday night's council meeting dishonourable and appealed for calm as the protests head to the legislature Wednesday.

The premier was equally critical of Montreal police, whose officers appeared to do nothing as demonstrators over-ran city hall and the council chamber itself, tossing papers and plastering the building with stickers.

No amount of anger or disagreement can justify such behaviour, Couillard said Tuesday.

"We cannot accept as a society and I cannot

accept as leader of the Government of Quebec what happened yesterday," Couillard said.

Tensions have been rising as municipal employees, including police officers, firefighters and other city workers, demonstrate across Quebec over a provincial proposal to overhaul pension plans.

The government wants contributions and future pension deficits to be split 50-50 between municipalities and unionized workers, a proposal that would entail reworking 170 collective agreements affecting about 22,000 employees.

Hearings into the legislation begin on Wednesday, with a huge demonstration planned outside the national assembly in Quebec City.

Montreal police Chief Marc Parent

## BADGE OF LIFE CANADA

Enabling individuals to have a safe place to go for direct support through positive connections with volunteer peers, trauma and PTSD survivors and/or front line professionals.

Serving active and retired police officers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, civilian support staff and families of all police service members

*BadgeOfLifeCanada.com*

promised a full investigation into Monday's events and said criminal charges against protesters and disciplinary action for police officers is possible.

Parent reminded his officers they are required to maintain peace and security regardless of their personal opinions and that there are not "two classes of protesters."

But Couillard suggested an impression of such a double standard is on the mark.

"Not only the demonstration itself in the midst of a municipal council meeting but the attitude of the police force to remain passive while other people have the impression — which I think is justified — that (with) different types of demonstrations, the treatment is different," Couillard said.

Police officers often cracked down quickly on students during their numerous demonstrations in 2012.

Monday's protest featured municipal workers storming the main chamber and unfurling a sign calling Mayor Denis Coderre a thief.

One councillor told of being struck while others said they were pelted with water. Coderre recounted being followed as he took refuge in his office. The demonstrators left of their own accord and no one was arrested.

Montreal's police brotherhood said in a statement a full investigation is necessary — one that includes what orders police brass gave — before officers are accused of being lax or complacent.

Parent insisted Tuesday not all police officers can be lumped together and said video will show some officers did try to act.

"Unfortunate incidents have shaken Montrealers' sense of security," the chief said.

"For a lot of people, the events that went on during the city council meeting have raised a doubt regarding the SPVM (police) officers' ability to do their job in a total neutrality and with the professionalism rightfully expected

by the population."

Coderre denounced the protest as intimidation and bullying and said there will be consequences.

"They (protesters) violated city hall last night, they violated democracy," he told reporters, reiterating his confidence in the police and Parent.

"They didn't attack Denis Coderre last night, they attacked Montreal and Montrealers through city hall."

The Liberal government introduced Bill 3, its proposal to overhaul municipal pensions, in mid-June, saying the plans carry a collective deficit of about \$3.9 billion and aren't sustainable in the long term.

Unions dispute those figures and say it's a cash grab by municipalities looking for labour cost savings and that the government isn't willing to negotiate.

Couillard said he hasn't heard any constructive suggestions from unions thus far, just loud protests.

He is hoping union members act responsibly. "I've been somewhat disappointed by the lack of frank condemnation from certain union leaders vis-a-vis what happened (in Montreal) yesterday," Couillard said.

In the aftermath, various union leaders did weigh in. The Montreal firefighters' union issued a statement appealing for calm from its members after earlier defending their frustration.

In Quebec City, union leaders from outside Montreal told a news conference that incidents like Monday's only serve to undermine their cause.

Denis Marcoux, head of the federation of public service employees, called the incident "unacceptable" but warned of mounting frustration among his members.

## WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13, 2014

Aug 13 2014

**TORONTO - The provincial ombudsman says Toronto should ensure its next police chief understands that he or she must answer to a board on both operational and policy matters.**

"Right now, there is a window of opportunity that has been opened, a golden opportunity to build in accountability to the civilian board as a condition of employment," André Marin told CBC Radio's Metro Morning today.

Marin said that police chiefs and boards have traditionally recognized a wall between oversight of operation and policy issues, even though a report from retired judge John Mordean has asserted this is not correct.

"I'm saying, use the report, put it in your contract when you're hiring the new police chief," he said. "And if he or she feels that, you know, they can't in all good conscience sign on the dotted line, fair game — move to the next candidate."

Marin said that "there's general frustration from all police service boards in Ontario" over these same issues.

"They basically feel that they're powerless to give direction or to consult with their police chiefs over these important issues. The provincial government, as usual on these issues, has just sat on the sideline and watched the flares go off."

The Toronto Police Services Board recently decided not to extend Chief Bill Blair's tenure beyond a second term.

That means that Blair's time is up at the end of April and the board must launch a search for his successor.

Marin has penned an op-ed that ran in the Toronto Star on Wednesday, which alleged Blair had demonstrated a "disdain for civilian oversight."

Asked about this assertion on Metro Morning, Marin pointed to a report that he had conducted as ombudsman, which reviewed scores of letters that were sent to Blair from the former head of the SIU.

"We catalogued over 80 letters written by [former] SIU director Ian Scott to the chief of police of Toronto, documenting breaches of the Police Services Act, problems with witness officers trampling the scene, not doing their notes on times, these kinds of things, with no response," he said.

"You would think a police chief should be held responsible for the actions of his police officers who are alleged to have broken the law during SIU investigation and that should be in the contract and he should have to respond to the SIU at least."

The police board has not yet outlined the search process it will use for the next chief, though Marin said it should consider a wide range of candidates.

"I think all the options should be on the table," said Marin. "So, it could be within the Toronto police, outside the Toronto police, it could be a civilian, it could be someone from another country."

(CBC News)

## THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 2014

Aug 14 2014

**REGINA - Saskatchewan's top court is setting aside a man's speeding conviction because there wasn't proof that tuning forks on a radar unit were tested for accuracy.**

The Court of Appeal says there was no evidence the tuning forks an RCMP officer used to test the radar unit were vibrating at the proper frequency when he pulled over Peter Abrametz in September 2007.

The constable reported that Abrametz's vehicle was going 135 kilometres an hour on Highway 11 between the towns of Duck Lake and Rosthern.

The appeal judges say the most important fact was that at trial, the officer agreed it was essential for the court to know whether the tuning forks worked properly.

They also say the trial judge made a mistake by not giving weight to the officer's

**BLUE LINE  
NEWSWEEK**  
A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY  
**ISSN 1704-3913**  
Copyright 2014  
*Blue Line Magazine Inc. & The Canadian Press*  
Permission to reprint may be obtained in advance from  
**Access Copyright**  
Phone 1-800-893-5777 Info@accesscopyright.ca  
  
Published weekly by *Blue Line Magazine, Inc.* as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.  
  
Most information supplied in this publication is from news-wire services. As such Blue Line Magazine does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of articles as supplied.  
  
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic database or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers. One Year Subscriptions are \$10500 (GST Included). Paid subscribers may make up to four (4) copies of this publication for distribution within their organization.  
  
**Group Publisher:** Morley S. Lymburner  
**PUBLISHER:** Kathryn M. Lymburner - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca  
**NEWS EDITOR:** Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca  
**Subscriptions:** Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca  
**ADVERTISING:** 1-888-640-3048  
12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1  
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca



# DON'T WASTE ENERGY ON ENERGY-WASTING CARS.



NEW-GENERATION  
**2015 OUTBACK**

An easy way to limit your expenses is to make sure your employees drive fuel-efficient cars. If you opt for the brand new and redesigned 2015 Subaru Outback, they will. They're also going to be able to count on renowned safety features and a legendary all-wheel drive system.



**SUBARU**

*Confidence in Motion*

To consult our Fleet ordering guide or for more information  [fleet.subaru.ca](http://fleet.subaru.ca) or call **1 877 293-7272**

admission that he wasn't trained to test the frequency of tuning forks.

The written decision means Abrametz can move forward with an appeal.

Aug 14 2014

**TORONTO - The federal government has rejected a call to conduct a systemic review of convictions secured through the use of so-called Mr. Big police sting operations.**

The call from the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted comes just weeks after the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that confessions obtained through the investigative technique must be presumed inadmissible in court.

The group says that from the early 1990's to the late 2000's, more than 350 Mr. Big investigations have been conducted across Canada, and that they resulted in many wrongful convictions.

But a spokeswoman for Justice Minister Peter MacKay says the Criminal Code already provides a mechanism for remedying miscarriages of justice.

She also notes the Supreme Court's recent decision does not prohibit the Mr. Big investigative technique, but simply refines the law surrounding its use.

The association says a government review is needed because many of the cases are no longer in the judicial system.

Aug 14 2014

**TORONTO - A former Philippines actor traded in television scripts for a police badge in Toronto.**

Police officers of the 32 Division in Toronto were confused when Constable Don Laurel would do calls.

"When he went out on the road and did some calls I noticed that he had a little bit of a fanfare following him around and recognizing him," said Sergeant Lawrence Sager of the Toronto Police Service 32 Division.

It all became clear when they discovered Laurel was once a star in the Philippines.

He appeared on 1990s TV shows but Laurel said his dream as a kid was always to be a police officer.

"I'm very proud to wear this uniform and helping out not just the Filipino community as well, but the whole city of Toronto," Constable Laurel said.

He's been living the dream for six years as a frontline officer for the 32 Division.

Since then, Laurel has contributed a lot to Filipinos who are the second largest ethnic community in Toronto.

He works with the Philippine Consulate in Toronto and holds information sessions for newcomers, explaining the laws and their rights to them.

Laurel's acting and ethnic background have helped him on the job.

"I'm always looking for people that can represent the police service in a professional way that can talk well to people and can interact and he has the advantage of knowing language," said Superintendent Sam Fernandes.

Laurel tells kababayans not to be afraid to reach out to the police for help.

"I just want them to know that it's ok to speak, we're there to help you," he said. (ABC-CBN)

Aug 14 2014

**STIRLING - A former Stirling-Rawdon police chief is taking aim at the upcoming mayoral race for the local township.**



Brian Foley said he's ready to challenge the incumbent for the mayor's seat in the October municipal election.

"I was approached by many of the residents and they all suggested that I run for mayor," he said. "I'm retired and have time on my hands."

The 59-year-old cemented his mayoral ambitions this week by filing nomination papers Wednesday.

"I finally decided on Tuesday and went and did it on Wednesday before I changed my mind," Foley said.

Foley ended his 23 years of service as an officer with the municipality last December, when he was turfed from the service by a police service board which declined to renew his contract, triggering his untimely retirement.

"I had planned on staying for a few more years," said Foley, who started his 32-year career in Peterborough.

He started out as a constable before working his way up to running the Stirling-Rawdon force. Foley said taking on a political life would be an ideal extension to his 32 years in public service as an officer.

(Sun Media)

Aug 14 2014

**TORONTO - Most municipalities that pay Ontario Provincial Police for local law enforcement will see their policing costs go up over the next five years, the governing Liberals said Thursday.**

The OPP is introducing a new billing model that the government said will simplify, clarify and more evenly distribute costs among municipalities, who are concerned about having to hike property taxes to pay rising policing costs.

Community Safety Minister Yasir Naqvi said the new model, which would separate base costs and service call costs, won't increase the amount of money the OPP recovers from municipalities. But it will change how much those communities are paying for OPP services, which have varied widely throughout the province.

Some municipalities are paying less than \$10 a year per household, while other similar communities are paying over \$800 per year, he said.

Ontario's auditor general criticized those discrepancies in the 2012 annual report, also noting that while crime rates have gone down, policing expenditures have gone up.

Of the 324 municipalities who rely on OPP services, 207 will see an average increase of about \$83 per property, which will include business and industrial properties as well as households, while 115 communities will see their cost decrease by about \$70 per property.

The changes will be phased in over five years, starting in January, with annual increases capped at \$40 per property, Naqvi said. Decreases will start at \$18 and reach \$98 in the final year.

"This will provide stability and predictability for both taxpayers and municipalities," he said.

The bill will be split 60-40 between base costs - which includes routine patrols, crime prevention, local detachments, officer training and administrative duties - and calls for service, such as a car accident.

Municipalities are not charged for provincial duties those same officers may perform, such as patrolling provincial highways and waterways, said OPP Insp. Bert McDonald of the Municipal Policing Bureau. They're also





compensated when officers are called out to major events, like the devastating Goderich tornado or the upcoming 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Games.

Naqvi said all municipalities will end up paying the same amount - about \$203 per property - to cover base costs. Communities will also get "very detailed" reports on the type and volume of service calls.

The new model may clarify policing costs, but it does nothing to contain them, which is a big concern for many towns and cities, said Pat Vanini of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

According to the OPP, salary, benefits and overtime account for about 85 per cent of the bill it sends to municipalities.

"I don't know any municipal government where policing costs isn't the highest portion of the tax bill," Vanini said. "It's in Toronto, even where municipal forces are."

The OPP received an 8.5 per cent wage hike this year after a two-year pay freeze, having signed a contract with the province that guarantees they'll be the highest paid cops in Ontario.

The cash-strapped Liberals have said for several years that there's no new money for salary increases as they struggle to slay a multibillion-dollar deficit. But critics remain skeptical, saying the hefty pay hike proves it's just lip service.

Naqvi insisted Thursday that there's no new money for pay hikes, but wouldn't say whether the Liberals' commitment to make the OPP the top paid police in the province would be withdrawn in their next round of negotiations with the Ontario Provincial Police Association.

**FRIDAY**  
**AUGUST 15, 2014**

Aug 15 2014

**VANCOUVER - The federal health ministry says it's considering its options after a BC court ruled a federal ban on allowing only dried pot to be used as medical marijuana is unconstitutional.**

The BC Appeal Court ruled in a 2-to-1 decision yesterday that the law infringes on the charter rights of those who require other forms of cannabis to treat illnesses.

The ruling sided with Owen Smith, a Victoria man who argued some patients want to use their marijuana medicine in butters, brownies, cookies and teas.

Smith was arrested in 2009 while he was cooking up pot medicine as the head baker of the Cannabis Buyers Club of Canada.

His lawyer, Kirk Tousaw, says many people who use medical marijuana don't know how to cook pot products safely, and should be allowed to pay someone to do it for them.

The Appeal Court's judgment will be suspended for one year to give Parliament time to amend the existing marijuana regulations.

Aug 15 2014

**WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg woman has tearfully begged a judge for a longer sentence, saying she needs extensive help to get her troubled life back on track.**

Kayla Allen, 28, pleaded guilty to a residential break-and-enter from 2008 and has been in custody since May.

She says she realizes the only way to break a vicious cycle of addiction is for a lengthy stay behind bars which will allow her to get much-needed treatment and therapy.

As a result, lawyers made a joint recommendation for a two-year sentence to be served in a federal penitentiary, on top of her time already served.

That 27-month total sentence is much longer than a person would typically get for a single break-and-enter into an unoccupied house.

Provincial court Judge Rocky Pollack expressed concern about the length of the punishment but went along with the request after Allen spoke candidly in court about the help she requires.

"I just want this sentence. I just want to find myself," she said in tears. "When I get out I want to go to a halfway house to get re-integrated because I have nowhere to go."

Allen has no real family or friends in the community and is "hopelessly addicted" to crack cocaine and crystal meth, court was told. She has no memory of the 2008 crime but can't dispute that she committed it given that her blood was all over the scene.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Aug 15 2014

**PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - An inquest jury in Saskatchewan is recommending mandatory recertification in CPR and first aid for jail guards and police officers.**

The coroner's inquest was called after the death two years ago of Morris Ermine, who was 77.

Ermine was found unresponsive in a Prince Albert police cell and was later pronounced dead in a Saskatoon hospital.

Ermine had been picked up by police for public intoxication.

The jury also suggested better communication between police and the local health authority, increased capacity in detox programs and the hiring of a cardiologist to perform angiograms.

Over the course of the three-day inquest this week, the jury heard testimony from witnesses and saw police video of the night Ermine was taken into custody.

Provincial legislation requires a coroner's inquest any time someone dies in police custody unless the coroner determines the death was from natural causes or couldn't have been prevented.

(CJLR)

Aug 15 2014

**EDMONTON - Alberta's largest public-sector union is calling on the justice minister for more legal-aid funding following a provincial court judge's warning.**

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees says the government isn't doing enough to address a legal-aid crisis.

Assistant Chief Judge Larry Anderson has said he will stay charges in three criminal assault cases unless legal aid provides lawyers to the defendants.

Anderson points out the three are on social assistance and living below the poverty line, but their income is still too high for legal help.

The province raised eligibility thresholds by about 30 per cent in 2010.

A spokesman for Justice Minister Jonathan Denis says the ministry respects the judge's decision and will work with Legal Aid Alberta to ensure representation is provided.

Aug 15 2014

**NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. - A man is in hospital with wounds police believe are self-inflicted after an encounter with officers, prompting an investigation from B.C.'s police watchdog.**

New Westminster police say officers responded to a report of a domestic disturbance and found a man with a knife.

Staff Sgt. Paul Hyland says a taser was used and the man was arrested.

Police say the man suffered a significant injury and officers contacted the Independent Investigations Office, which is reviewing the case.

Hyland says charges have been laid against 28-year-old Christopher Lindsey Gilkin of New Westminster.

Police say Gilkin faces one count of possession of a weapon and two counts of disobeying a court order.

Aug 15 2014

**WINNIPEG - Several damning audits involving questionable, and often controversial City of Winnipeg real estate transactions and construction projects, are now being reviewed by the RCMP.**

The material includes five years worth of real estate deals, a firehall land swap and the new downtown police headquarters.

The RCMP say they will review the material, and launch a further investigation if that review reveals more questions than answers.

Council voted to pass the audits onto the province last month.

Allegations of preferential treatment towards some developers and a lack of oversight on major projects have plagued the city's administration for two years.

Friday the head of Shindico - the company involved in several of the transactions under review - told Global News he has no concerns. "It should bring closure to the city," said CEO Sandy Shindleman.

(Global)

Aug 15 2014

**OTTAWA - Ottawa police have seized more guns used for crime this year than all of 2013, saying it's tied to an arms race in the city's criminal underworld.**

They said they've seized 43 "crime guns" so far in 2014, which includes guns used for a

crime, carried with the purpose of committing a crime or guns with the serial number erased.

That number has increased from 36 seized over 12 months last year.

Det. Chris O'Brien of the Ottawa police said it's an alarming trend.

"Once one bad guy has a gun, everyone will try to get a gun to try and maintain their competitive status in the criminal underworld," he said.

"I definitely do think there are more guns out there now than say five, 10 years ago."

Insp. Chris Renwick said most of these guns are easily-concealed handguns.

"The drug trade and criminals who are using guns for protection and for enforcement," he said.

There have also been 25 shootings in 2014, which is on pace to surpass the 30 that happened in the city in 2013.

(CBC News)

## SUNDAY AUGUST 17, 2014

Aug 17 2014

### **A Surrey RCMP officer escaped with only minor injuries from a dramatic crash on King George Boulevard on Saturday night.**

The officer, a constable who has been with the detachment for a number of years, was northbound at about 10:15 p.m. when he made a lane change at 76th Avenue and hit the concrete median, Staff Sgt. Blair McColl said Sunday. The officer was not responding to a call at the time and the vehicle's emergency equipment was not activated.

The police vehicle flipped over and landed in the southbound lane, skidding on its roof for about 300 metres before coming to a stop.

"It took some work to get him out," McColl said. "He had his seatbelt on which was a good thing."

The officer was taken to hospital for treatment and released. The vehicle sustained considerable damage, McColl said.

Collision analysts and the Surrey RCMP traffic section are still gathering information and ask anyone who witnessed the crash, or has video, to contact them.

(The Province)

## MONDAY AUGUST 18, 2014

Aug 18 2014

### **SURREY, B.C. - A Langley, B.C., man now faces many more charges related to alleged trafficking of firearms and other weapons.**

Sgt. Lindsey Houghton, with B.C.'s Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, says an additional 37 charges have been laid against Bradley Friesen, who faces a total of 46 counts.

The 37-year-old was charged last week with nine counts related to trafficking, possession, and importing or exporting of unauthorized weapons.

Houghton says the additional charges laid Friday include 10 counts of possession contrary to a prohibition order, six counts of careless use of a firearm related to storage regulations, and multiple counts linked to trafficking, possession and importing or exporting of weapons.

Numerous weapons, including assault rifles, a sub-machine gun, many rounds of ammunition and silencers were found during a search of a Langley home.

Friesen remains in custody in Surrey, awaiting his next court date.

Aug 18 2014

### **REGINA - Police say they took five teens into custody after someone directed laser beams at planes at the Regina airport.**

Airport CEO Jim Hunter says pilots on a United Airlines flight that landed about 11:25 p.m. on Sunday first reported laser beams shining into the cockpit.

Hunter says the pilots were uninjured and there were no consequences.

Police discovered five teenagers on a rooftop and took three boys and two girls into custody.

Officers confiscated a laser from one of the males.

An investigation into a second laser beam coming from the north end of the city did not yield any suspects.

(CJME)

Aug 18 2014

### **EMERSON, Man. - The union representing Canada's border guards says three of its Manitoba members have been suspended without pay after leaving their posts at the request of the RCMP to help arrest a suspect.**

Jean-Pierre Fortin, president of the Customs and Immigration Union, says the guards were asked a few months ago to provide backup for the RCMP less than a kilometre away from the Canada-U.S. border in Emerson. The guards left their posts to help the Mounties, who were staking out a hotel and bar where they had tracked a suspect believed to be involved in the kidnapping of a child.

Two guards kept watch over several exits while a third guard went into the bar, said Fortin, who added the border remained staffed by three other guards on the night shift.

The three who went to help the Mounties returned to their posts less than an hour later following the suspect's arrest, he said.

The Canada Border Services Agency investigated and announced last week that it was suspending the guards for up to 25 days without pay because they left their posts for an "unauthorized purpose," Fortin said.

The guards had no choice but to help the RCMP, he said, because the Criminal Code compels them to co-operate fully with law enforcement officers.

"They did the right thing," Fortin said.

"They haven't done anything wrong."

Both RCMP and border guards fall under the federal Public Safety Department, Fortin said.

Neither the RCMP nor the Canada Border Services Agency responded to several requests for comment.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney also wouldn't comment.

But in a letter dated Aug. 12 to the president of the agency, the minister said he was "concerned" about the disciplinary action.

Blaney said, while he understands the agency has the authority to discipline its officers, the Criminal Code requires any citizen assist law enforcement officials.

"Therefore, I would like to request a report on this incident and further clarification on the policy of the agency on requests for assistance in cases such as these," reads the letter, which was obtained by The Canadian Press.

Right after the arrest, the guards were thanked by the RCMP for their help, Fortin said. It's not unusual for border guards to help other law enforcement agencies, he added.

The guards, who cannot be identified, should be commended rather than punished, he suggested.

"These officers should actually be applauded and be recognized (for) reacting to keep - not only our border safer - but our community safe."

The suspended guards were armed and had received some of the same training as RCMP officers, Fortin said. The guards weren't new recruits and some had many years of experience on the job.

The union will be exploring all options to fight the suspensions, he said. At the very least, Fortin expects the guards to grieve the decision.

"We strongly feel this is abusive on behalf of the Canada Border Services Agency."

Aug 18 2014

### **SASKATOON - The City of Saskatoon is looking at fining drivers who allow dogs to freely roam in the back of pickup trucks.**

On Monday a city council committee voted to instruct staff to draft amendments to the animal control bylaw.

If the draft is approved, drivers could face a fine of \$100 for a first offence and \$200 for a second offence.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association recommends that all pets be protected during transport by the use of crates or with tethering devices such as seatbelts.

The draft amendment is expected to come back to city council next month.

(CKOM)

Aug 18 2014

### **VANCOUVER - Vancouver police and RCMP are increasingly concerned about police operations being compromised by the expanding use of social media.**

"Our primary concern is the safety of the public and our members," Vancouver Sgt. Randy Fincham said in an interview about people tweeting information, particularly

during shootings, manhunts and other police operations.

"There are times when our members are in situations where it's not beneficial for the bad guy to know where they are. Certainly if our officers were in a plainclothes capacity and were watching somebody who might be in the process of committing or planning a serious offence, if those people should see that Twitter feed or somebody says where they are or what they're doing, obviously that could have a negative impact on the safety of that officer as well as the safety of the public."

Fincham couldn't recall a tweet compromising a police operation here, but said the potential is real.

He was commenting after police in Washington state asked the public to stop tweeting during shootings and manhunts to avoid telling suspects what the police are up to. The "TweetSmart" campaign, which began in late July and involves a nine agencies, including the Washington state patrol and the Seattle police, hopes to raise awareness about social media's potential affect on law enforcement.

Although critics call the TweetSmart campaign a silly step that could lead to censorship, police say it's just a reminder at a time when cellphones and social networks allow the lightning-quick spread of information.

A social media expert at the International Association of Chiefs of Police in the U.S. said the concerns that prompted the campaign are growing.

"All members of the public may not understand the implications of tweeting out a picture of SWAT team activity," said Nancy Korb, who oversees the Alexandria, Va., organization's Center for Social Media. "It's a real safety issue, not only for officers, but anyone in the vicinity," she said. She said she is not aware of any social media post leading to the injury of a police officer, but said there have been a few close calls.

Fincham agreed there is a flip side to the concern, events such as the Stanley Cup riot in Vancouver in 2011, in which suspects were identified through social media.

RCMP has similar concerns about tweeting during police operations.

"Social media can certainly help get safety messaging and information to the public in a quick and timely manner," said B.C. RCMP spokesman Sgt. Rob Vermeulen in an email Thursday.

"Used irresponsibly however, it can potentially interfere with police operations, compromise investigations and put the police and public at risk. Policing high risk situations can obviously be dangerous and having tactical information made public can jeopardize public safety." That includes information about the locations of officers, vehicles, their staging areas and the like.

"Social media can be a great tool, but users must also be guided by social responsibility."

(Vancouver Sun)

## TUESDAY AUGUST 19 2014

Aug 19 2014

**OTTAWA - Khurram Syed Sher, a doctor who once sang on the Canadian Idol TV show, has been found not guilty of conspiring to facilitate terrorism.**

The doctor of pathology from London, Ont., was charged along with two other men in August 2010.

Following the high-profile arrests, police said they seized terrorist literature, videos and manuals, along with dozens of electronic circuit boards allegedly designed to detonate homemade bombs remotely.

During the trial, the Crown said Sher, 32, had joined a homegrown group dedicated to supporting "violent jihad" by whatever means possible.

Federal lawyers said Sher agreed with two others to raise money, send cash abroad, take paramilitary training, make and use explosives, and scout targets in Canada.

Sher had pleaded not guilty.

Aug 19 2014

**The number of Vancouver residents complaining to police about drones buzzing around their homes is on the rise. But experts say they may have little recourse unless the operators can be identified.**

Vancouver resident Conner Galway videotaped a drone flying near his downtown high-rise after it flew within a few feet of his 37th-floor balcony Sunday night.

"I didn't want to be out there when I had no idea what this thing was," Galway told CTV Vancouver on Monday. "And so we went back inside and thought 'that was strange' and we moved on."

He said the drone remained in the area 45 minutes later. That's when he began recording and called police.

Vancouver Police say Galway is the tenth person since May to complain about intrusive drones flying too close to homes and high-rises. (CTV Vancouver)

Aug 19 2014

**TORONTO More than one-third of Canada's IT professionals know — for sure — that they'd had a significant data breach over the previous 12 months that could put their clients or their organizations at risk, a cybersecurity study suggests.**

And as startling as that statistic may be, the actual number of breaches could be higher since the same international study found 56 per cent of the 236 Canadian respondents said they believed threats sometimes fall through the cracks.

"Even the best-protected networks have regular security incidents," says Jeff DeBrosse, director of security research for Websense, a U.S.-based security company that



## FOCUS YOUR RESOURCES WITH COMMISSIONAIRES

We support the police forces by taking on non-core duties, so you can return to the policing job you signed up to do.

We provide:

- By-law enforcement
- Process Serving
- Administration Support
- Photo Radar
- Detainee Services
- Crime Scene Security
- Traffic Control

Get resourceful. Get Commissionaires.

 **COMMISSIONAIRES**  
TRUSTED • EVERYDAY • EVERYWHERE



commissioned the study.

"It's a 24-7 onslaught. It's a barrage of attacks and attempts to penetrate the defences."

Debrosse says it's a real challenge for organizations to understand their vulnerabilities, let alone prevent breaches. Technology is improving, he adds, but it's more important to share information about attacks within and among organizations.

"It's not just about the vendors, it's about creating this ecosystem of threat intelligence. And that's a very important area of focus today," Debrosse says.

A Statistics Canada report in June said that six per cent of the 17,000 private Canadian enterprises it surveyed had experienced an Internet security breach in 2013. About one-quarter of those reporting a breach — representing roughly 260 companies — said client or proprietary information had been corrupted, stolen or accessed without authorization.

"It's a bit misleading because we're not 100 per cent sure exactly how accurate the numbers are, really," says Mike Park, an Ottawa-based cybersecurity expert now working for Trustwave, which has its global headquarters in Chicago.

"It seems, in the last couple of years, the only time you're really heard anything — a major breach or anything like that — is when it has become such big news that no one can keep a lid on it . . . or when its politically expedient."

The Websense report done by the Ponemon Institute, a private-sector think-tank that conducts independent research on privacy, data protection and information security policy, was based on responses from 4,881 IT and IT security specialists in 15 countries surveyed in November.

Among other things, Ponemon found 36 per cent of the Canadian companies in the study had experienced one or more cyber attack over the previous year that infiltrated networks or enterprise systems.

It also found 89 per cent of the Canadian respondents said they personally know another security professional whose company had sensitive of confidential data stolen as a result of an inside threat.

Aug 19 2014

**WINNIPEG - Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay is rejecting calls for an inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women following the death of a 15-year-old girl in Winnipeg.**

Tina Fontaine's body was wrapped in a bag and dumped in the Red River.

She was discovered Sunday and police are treating her death as a homicide.

Fontaine's death has shocked many across the country and prompted renewed calls for a national inquiry.

MacKay says his thoughts and prayers are with the girl's family.

He says in a statement that the Conservative government is addressing the tragedy in other ways, including supporting aboriginal justice programs and a national DNA missing person's index.

But David Langtry, acting chief commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, says Fontaine cannot become a statistic.

He says she now joins almost 1,200 missing and murdered aboriginal women and it's time for a national action plan to deal with the problem.

Aug 19 2014

**VANCOUVER - The federal government is still assessing whether to allow police to ticket people caught with small amounts of marijuana instead of pursuing charges, says Justice Minister Peter MacKay.**

But if government were to introduce looser pot laws, it would have to happen sooner rather than later, MacKay said Tuesday ahead of a meeting with law enforcement experts in Vancouver.

Any legislation would have to happen within the next six months, the minister said.

"With some eight justice bills right now in the House or in the queue to come before Parliament, we're running out of runway as far as bringing legislation forward," he said. "But that's one that I do view as important, so if we are going to introduce it, it would have to happen within the next six months."

MacKay said he has been speaking with police and his staff have been looking at other jurisdictions, including in the U.S., to see whether ticketing for pot possession is an effective option.

Canada's police chiefs have long called

for such a move. Last year, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police said that under current laws, the only enforcement option that officers have when confronted with simple possession of pot is either to turn a blind eye or pursue charges, which often results in a lengthy court process.

MacKay has already said the government was taking that into consideration.

But he stressed again Tuesday that the government remains opposed to decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana.

"We believe the harmful effects on the development of health and welfare of children in particular warrants holding the line and looking for ways in which we can assist the police in their ability to protect communities and their ability, in this instance, to make marijuana less readily available," MacKay said.

"I don't believe that the position of others to normalize marijuana, to make it more available to young people, is the direction you will ever see coming from our government."

Aug 19 2014

**WINNIPEG - A transient, frequently-jailed alcoholic, who became known as the "Homeless Hero" after saving two people from drowning, battled his demons right up until his death in the same river where he made his rescues.**

Faron Hall of Winnipeg gained fame and civic honours in 2009 for putting his own life



## KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

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.

**All submissions may be made to  
[uniforms@blueline.ca](mailto:uniforms@blueline.ca)  
before September 15, 2014**



on the line when he dove into the Red River on two separate occasions to pull people out.

His body was recovered from the water by police on Sunday.

Details of how Hall died are sparse. Police have only said that the death was not suspicious and have left it to relatives to confirm his identity.

Aug 19 2014

### **WINNIPEG - An inmate escaped from a Manitoba jail and was gone for about five hours before staff even knew he was gone.**

Police say staff at the Brandon Correctional Centre found out the inmate escaped when Mounties in Saskatchewan called them about his arrest.

Brandon police Staff Sergeant Larry Yanick says the 27-year-old inmate was being held in the gym and escaped through a door that had been propped open for ventilation around 3 a.m. Monday.

He then scaled a building, and once on the roof, made his way to the front and jumped to the ground.

The inmate then used a set of keys which had been stolen earlier from a maintenance office to start a Manitoba government pickup truck from the parking lot.

He was arrested more than 200 kilometres west of Brandon by Oxbow RCMP after a citizen made a complaint, but police didn't give any details.

Yanick said that RCMP called the Brandon jail around 8 a.m. on Monday to ask if they were missing an inmate and supplied the name of the man.

"The jail quickly found out that the person... in custody was indeed an inmate from their facility," Yanick said.

"Through their own investigation, they found that he had escaped sometime during the night...without being noticed."

(Brandon Sun, CTV Winnipeg)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**AUGUST 20, 2014**

Aug 20 2014

### **Police arrested a man late Tuesday evening after a Cochrane RCMP cruiser was stolen at an impaired-driving checkpoint Saturday night.**

Lorenzo Anthony Bearspaw, a 25-year-old member of the Stoney First Nation, was arrested without incident in Calgary on Tuesday night. As of 10 p.m., the detachment was working to recover the car, which they believed to be in the area of the reserve.

Police said they were running a checkpoint Saturday along Horseshoe Drive, north of the Stoney Casino, when they took a man into custody and placed him in the back of a police cruiser.

Shortly after, they noticed the car moving. "Officers on scene, who were also dealing with several individuals and damaged vehicles at the time, subsequently observed

the police vehicle departing the area," read a terse release earlier Tuesday.

A warrant was issued for the arrest of Bearspaw on three charges: theft of a motor vehicle, impaired operation of a motor vehicle and escaping lawful custody.

Police said the cruiser did not contain any police service weapons at the time of the incident.

Before Bearspaw was arrested in Calgary, police searched the Stoney First Nations reserve from the ground and air.

(Calgary Herald)

Aug 20 2014

### **VICTORIA - A British Columbia man who was 15 when he murdered four people, including his parents, will be allowed an unescorted temporary absence from prison.**

James Ruscitti is serving a life sentence for the 1996 slayings of Rocco and Marilyn Ruscitti, his brother's 17-year-old girlfriend and a boarder who lived in their home near 100 Mile House, 500 kilometres northeast of Vancouver.

In a written decision released Wednesday, the National Parole Board granted Ruscitti's request for a 60-day absence to attend a residential substance abuse treatment facility on Vancouver Island.

Now 33, the parole board members noted that Ruscitti is considered a moderate to high risk for violent reoffending but found he has made progress in his rehabilitation.

"You have now voiced remorse for your crimes," the decision said.

"You apologized to the victims and said you regret your crimes. This appears to be genuine."

The unescorted absence is the first step in what parole board members called a "very gradual" reintegration into society.

As a youth at the time of the crime, Ruscitti has been eligible for parole since 2004.

Aug 20 2014

### **VANCOUVER - RCMP in British Columbia will make staff cuts in a specialized gang unit and to their major crimes division to make up for a \$4.2 million budget shortfall next year.**

Deputy Commissioner Craig Callens, the commanding officer of the force in the province, says Mounties have already reduced the size of their fleet, slashed travel costs and taken other measures to trim spending.

Callens says there are no further savings to be found and the only way to deal with the reduced budget is with staff cuts.

Cutting one of six 12-member Metro Vancouver teams at the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, which focuses on organized crime, will save \$2.8 million.

There will also be 13 full-time investigators cut from the Provincial Major Crime program, saving \$1.4 million.

The shortfall is a result of a reduction of about one per cent in the \$325 million in provincial funding for the RCMP.

Aug 20 2014

### **TORONTO - The Toronto Police Services board has officially begun its search for a new police chief, and hopes to announce a replacement for Chief Bill Blair by January of next year.**

The police board published a notice on Monday looking for a recruitment firm to assist in the hiring of a new police chief for Canada's largest municipal police force. The notice says that the board plans to complete interviews in December of this year, and announce a new chief by January 5, 2015 – two months after a new council and, possibly, a new mayor, are elected.

This quiets speculation that the current board, in denying Chief Blair a third term, was hoping to quickly make its own pick for a new chief. The October municipal election will end the term of the three councillors on the board (Mike Del Grande, Michael Thompson and Frances Nunziata), while a fourth council-appointed spot (Andy Pringle), will also be up for renewal. Alok Mukherjee's position as chair will be up for a vote in January, while his term on the board – along with the other two provincial appointees – ends in 2016.

"The successful executive search firm will have solid understanding of the complexities involved in policing Toronto, global issues that may impact upon policing in Toronto and the importance of finding a Chief of Police who has the knowledge required to deal with the various issues and challenges currently facing the city," the request for proposals says.

It also offers some insight into what the board is looking for in a replacement for Chief Blair – most notably, a willingness to control costs on a nearly \$1-billion budget, and focus on "organizational change."

"These issues and challenges include the cost and sustainability of policing services, diversity and equity within the police service and providing service to the community, ensuring that community contacts are handled fairly and professionally and dealing with individuals experiencing mental illness," it says.

Mr. Mukherjee has publicly stated that one of the main reasons for denying Chief Blair a third term after his contract expires in April is because he and the board could not agree on how to control policing costs.

The chair has also spoken publicly about the need for "fundamental transformation," and has said that the search for a new chief will include consideration of international candidates.

The timeline of searching for a new chief also opens the door to the possibility of Chief Blair putting his name in the hat again – despite his request for a contract extension renewal being denied just a few weeks ago by the current board.

When asked last week whether he would consider doing so, Chief Blair said it wasn't an option he was actively considering, but didn't rule out the possibility, either.

(Globe and Mail)

Aug 20 2014

### Michael Johnson apparently couldn't wait to show his hot new ride to his probation officer.

Unfortunately for him, the stolen electric shopping cart drove him straight behind bars.

The 18-year-old New Mexico man was arrested Monday after police say he drove the Walmart cart to his scheduled meeting at the Metropolitan Courthouse in Albuquerque.

When asked where he got the cart, Johnson admitted to having swiped the vehicle from the store, the officer stated in her report obtained by the Smoking Gun.

Johnson, who has several other arrests under his belt, was arrested and charged with larceny and receiving stolen property, records show.

He also violated his probation.

(New York Daily News)

## THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2014

Aug 21 2014

### TORONTO - Provincial police are urging caution on the roads as motorcycle deaths are on track to reach a seven-year-high in Ontario.

Police say that as of August 18, 26 people - 25 motorcyclists and one passenger - have died in motorcycle crashes within OPP jurisdiction.

That compares with 29 deaths in collisions involving motorcycles last year, and 26 the year before.

Sgt. Kerry Schmidt says with four more months left in the year, it's likely Ontario's motorcycle-related deaths will surpass last year's record.

He says police want to dispel common myths about motorcycle collisions as they urge all motorists to drive defensively.

Police say while many think young, inexperienced motorcyclists account for the largest number of victims, only 16 out of the 175 motorcyclists who've died on Ontario roads between 2008 and August this year have been under the age of 25.

They say those aged between 45 and 54 account for the highest number of fatalities, followed by those aged 55 to 64.

Police also say that in the majority of fatal motorcycle crashes, the driver of the motorcycle was found to be driving properly at the time.

They say because motorcycles are harder to see than other vehicles, the actions of another driver are often a factor.

Police are reminding motorcyclists to wear high visibility equipment and position themselves properly in lanes to increase their chances of being seen, while also reminding other motorists to be on the watch for motorcycles, especially before changing lanes.

Aug 21 2014

### GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alta. - Several charges that include two counts of assaulting a police officer with a weapon have been laid against an Alberta man accused of ramming an RCMP vehicle during an arrest.

Two Mounties in Grande Prairie suffered minor injuries Tuesday night while trying to subdue a person who had been seen driving erratically and who had allegedly made threats to shoot an officer.

An attempt was made to arrest the driver at a gas station, but police allege he drove into one of their vehicles and tried to assault one of the officers before a Taser electronic stun gun was used to get him under control.

Two officers were treated for minor injuries and the suspect was taken to hospital as a precaution.

Mikkial Vaughn Cardinal, who is 28, is facing a total of 10 charges.

The Smith, Alta., resident has been remanded in custody following a bail hearing and will appear in court again Sept. 3.

Aug 21 2014

### MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog has concluded there are no reasonable grounds to charge a Huron County OPP officer with any criminal offence in relation to an incident which took place in March.

The Special Investigations Unit assigned three investigations and one forensic investigator to probe the incident in which an 18-year-old woman and a 17-year-old man were injured.

The investigation found that the officer and his partner had received reports of a stolen car and began to follow the vehicle, which the man and the woman were in.

The SIU says the woman, who was driv-

ing the car, noticed the police cruiser behind her and accelerated, at which point the officer turned on his emergency lights and siren.

The woman eventually lost control of the car, hit a snowbank and the vehicle rolled over before coming to rest in a field.

The SIU found that the officer who was driving the car "conducted himself well within the limits prescribed by the criminal law."

Aug 21 2014

### SAINT JOHN, N.B. - The RCMP says an officer with a police department in Rothesay, N.B., used reasonable force when a 26-year-old man who was armed with two knives was shot and later died in hospital earlier this year.

The report by the RCMP says three officers with the Kennebecasis Regional Police Force responded to a domestic dispute on Feb. 28 on the Shipyard Road at about 7 p.m.

Investigators say when officers arrived, William David McCaffrey was highly agitated and waving two knives.

McCaffrey later died from his injuries at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

The report says evidence shows that attempts made by the officers to reason with McCaffrey were unsuccessful, and when he began to injure himself they attempted to use a conducted energy weapon on him.

Investigators say it was ineffective and McCaffrey lunged at an officer, prompting another officer to shoot him twice.



RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE  
LE CENTRE DU PATRIMOINE DE LA GRC  
MAY 23, 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2014  
RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE  
5907 DEWDNEY AVENUE, REGINA SK  
[WWW.RCMPHERITAGECENTRE.COM](http://WWW.RCMPHERITAGECENTRE.COM)