

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

August 29, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 35

Executive Digest

Aug 21 2014

WHITEHORSE - Prime Minister Stephen Harper says police investigations, not a national inquiry, are the best way to deal with crimes involving missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Page 2

Aug 21 2014

Police forces should be sympathetic to the plight of cash-strapped municipalities facing rising policing costs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario says.

Page 2

Aug 22 2014

VANCOUVER - Harassment and bullying hasn't been stamped out inside the RCMP workplace despite high-level assurances that action would be taken, says a Liberal MP who has met with dozens of Mounties.

Page 3

Aug 26 2014

VICTORIA - The head of Canada's police chiefs says there have been talks over the past year with a number of members of government about letting police hand out tickets to people caught with small amounts of marijuana.

Page 5

Aug 27 2014

MONTREAL - A Quebec judge has approved eight class-action lawsuits against the City of Montreal connected with police kettling practices.

Page 7

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK
52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100⁰⁰

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

Mentally ill need help, not handcuffs: police, mental health association



Aug 27 2014

VANCOUVER - There has been a significant increase in the number of interactions between police and people with mental illness over the past five to seven years, says a new report by the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Law enforcement agencies across the country have warned repeatedly that police are becoming the first line of contact for the mentally ill.

The report, which was released Wednesday, said a lack of treatment and support for people with mental-health problems, along with the stigma of mental illness, leave police to deal with those in crisis.

"I think we'd all agree that certainly in many communities there's a need for more - and more accessible - mental-health community programming and services for many of these people that police ultimately end up interacting with," said Dr. Terry Coleman, one of the report's two authors.

The report looks solely at police

training. It is the third such report, following previous releases in 2008 and 2010.

"The education and training are about recognizing behaviour ... and how to best handle that by how they speak and how they conduct themselves to avoid the situation escalating," he said.

Coleman and co-author Dorothy Cotton found that most police organizations are doing a reasonable job training officers about how to deal with people with mental-health issues.

Virtually all police academies include a firm grounding in understanding mental illness, the report said.

But there are gaps, the authors said, and they made 16 recommendations for improvement, including:

- More training in non-physical intervention, calming techniques and de-escalation.

- Anti-stigma education to challenge attitudes toward people with mental illness.

- Provincial policing standards that

include mandatory basic and periodic requalification in training for mental-health situations.

- Training teams that include mental-health professionals, mental-health advocates and - most importantly - people living with mental illness.

“Direct interaction is best for changing behaviours,” the report said.

The report was released at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in Victoria, where more than 400 law enforcement leaders gathered.

Saskatoon police Chief Clive Weighill, the association’s newly elected president, said mental illness is a challenge for officers.

“It’s a continuing large problem right across Canada, dealing with people who have mental illness, substance abuse issues, who come into contact with police,” Weighill said.

But many police agencies are well on their way to meeting these recommendations already, he said, and more now have crisis teams that include mental-health professionals, which can be called out to aid front-line officers.

Federal Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney welcomed the report, but he said the judicial system cannot be used to solve health issues.

“As important as police training in matters of mental health is, police are not doctors and should never be expected to act as such,” the federal minister said after a speech to police chiefs.

Health care is the explicit jurisdiction of provinces, he said.

“We’ll look to our provincial partners to provide the necessary intervention and assistance for the mentally ill before they encounter the criminal justice system.”

THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2014

Aug 21 2014

OTTAWA - The RCMP and the Canadian military have spent nearly \$11.5 million in the last eight years on a national search-and-destroy mission for illicit marijuana crops.

Federal figures show the annual Mountie-led effort, known as Operation Sabot, has led to tens of thousands of pot plants being wiped out each year.

Liberal defence critic Joyce Murray uncovered the data.

Last year the military spent more than \$360,000 on helicopter support for the operation, which resulted in eradication of over 40,000 plants.

The military put more than \$2.5 million toward the project in 2009 - the highest annual tally among the figures disclosed to Murray through a parliamentary order paper question.

The RCMP says the goal is to target outdoor marijuana growing operations and reduce the supply of pot available in Canadian communities.

Aug 21 2014

WHITEHORSE - Prime Minister Stephen Harper says police investigations, not a national inquiry, are the best way to deal with crimes involving missing and murdered aboriginal women.

The death of a 15-year-old aboriginal girl found wrapped in a bag and dumped in the Red River has prompted renewed calls for a national inquiry.

Tina Fontaine had been in Winnipeg less than a month when she ran away from foster care.

Her body was discovered Sunday in the river and police are treating her death as a homicide.

But Harper, who is in Whitehorse as part of his yearly trek to the North, says most such cases are addressed - and solved - by the police.

He says it’s important to keep in mind that these are crimes.

“We should not view this as sociological phenomenon,” the prime minister told a news conference Thursday.

“We should view it as crime. It is crime against innocent people, and it needs to be addressed as such.”

The Conservative government has rejected all calls for a national inquiry into murdered and missing aboriginal women, saying it prefers to address the issue in other ways, such as through aboriginal justice programs and a national DNA missing person’s index.

In May, the RCMP issued a detailed statistical breakdown of 1,181 cases since 1980. The report said aboriginal women make up 4.3 per cent of the Canadian population, but account for 16 per cent of female

homicides and 11.3 per cent of missing women.

“As the RCMP has said itself in its own study, the vast majority of these cases are addressed and are solved through police investigations, and we’ll leave it in their hands,” Harper said.

Aug 21 2014

Police forces should be sympathetic to the plight of cash-strapped municipalities facing rising policing costs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario says.

Only then can serious discussions begin on changing how policing is delivered with an emphasis on reducing costs, AMO executive director Pat Vanini said Thursday.

“Managing costs, bottom line, is a core responsibility no matter what service it is. . . . We got to find a way to get police services delivered at less cost as it is in other provinces,” Vanini told the Toronto Star.

Outgoing AMO president Russ Powers told municipal leaders this week in London that policing and firefighting costs — by far the largest expense for most communities — are unsustainable.

His comments came on the heels of last week’s announcement by the Ministry of Community Safety and the Ontario Provincial Police that a new billing model is being introduced to better distribute the cost of policing in communities without their own police departments.

Vanini said whether or not police organizations want to acknowledge the position municipalities find themselves in, “the public is questioning the cost and certainly municipal governments are questioning the cost.”

AMO has suggested the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) is “consistently and remarkably tone deaf to the fact that all public services have to manage budgets.”

OACP executive director Ron Bain said the problem is municipalities want police services to provide the same level of care but at a cheaper price, and denied suggestions police managers are resistant to change.

“The police chiefs are not really hearing any complaints about what it is they (police departments) are doing, (only that) it just costs too much. They want the same service or more of it (but) just cheaper,” Bain said

“We are not hearing what it is they actually want us to stop doing.”

Vanini said the fact remains that other provinces, including Quebec and Saskatchewan, are tackling the hefty costs of policing.

More than two years ago the province created — OACP says at its insistence — a Future of Policing Advisory Committee, representing policing organizations, police services boards and the AMO. A report is expected this fall. In the interim AMO has created its own “modernization of policing” committee.

BLUE LINE NEWS WEEK

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
Email: 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 newswire 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 \$105⁹⁹ (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 B.A. - 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 Canada L3R 1N1
Phone: 905 640-3048 • eMail: news@blueline.ca

“We have simply been saying: can we improve the way policing is delivered in Ontario? . . . What we have been saying to the police community, why wouldn't we? Vanini said.

“There is a lot of things that can happen differently. It just requires us to start to lead that way,” she said, adding the policing community must embrace change as the health care system has done for some time. “This model of policing hasn't been reviewed since the 1990s and things have changed.”

Bain said policing needs a sustainable funding solution “and that's where we say there ought to be a real discussion about how we fund emergency services and take it off just the residential tax base. But no one seems to really want to engage in that discussion.”

(Toronto Star)

FRIDAY AUGUST 22, 2014

Aug 22 2014

BROSSARD, Que. - Nearly one-half million dollars has been stolen in an armoured truck robbery in the Montreal suburb of Brossard.

Police say two men wearing Halloween masks attacked two employees of the Garda security firm at a Royal Bank branch in a mall at about 11 p.m.

Longueuil Police spokesman Sylvain Stringer says the thieves hit the guards with pepper spray before making off with \$431,000.

Stringer says police will be checking security camera footage to learn more about the robbery, such as the kind of vehicle the robbers used to flee.

Aug 22 2014

CALGARY - An Alberta agency that investigates police is looking at how Calgary officers handled the case of a young man they arrested and later found dead.

Police took 18-year-old Colton Crowshoe into custody on July 2 and charged him with trespassing and break and enter.

He was released the same day.

Media reported that his family said he had come home with bruises and scratches on his face and told them he had been roughed up by officers.

A few days later, the family reported him missing, saying he had been last seen the night of July 3.

His body was discovered three weeks later in a city pond and his death was ruled a homicide.

An Alberta Justice spokeswoman said Friday that Calgary police requested that the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, also known as ASIRT, investigate the matter.

A news release from ASIRT said the agency is looking into police interactions with Crowshoe before his disappearance, as well

as “a possible breach of trust” in the handling of his family's missing person complaint.

Aug 22 2014

VANCOUVER - Harassment and bullying hasn't been stamped out inside the RCMP workplace despite high-level assurances that action would be taken, says a Liberal MP who has met with dozens of Mounties.

MP Judy Sgro wants a judicial inquiry into “horrible and graphic” conduct within the country's national police force after hearing a slew of allegations during a series of private forums across the country.

“Every one of those sessions was emotionally draining and very sad,” Sgro told those who attended a Liberal party-hosted breakfast in Vancouver on Friday.

“It continued to diminish the image we all have, and that we want to have, of the RCMP being there front and centre to protect people.”

Sgro and Senator Grant Mitchell heard from participants in Ontario, Vancouver, Newfoundland and Alberta between April and October 2013.

Some 18 to 80 people assembled for each session, including both civilian and operational members, current and former.

Participants alleged recurring incidents that happened with the direct knowledge of superiors, claiming they were dismissed as hazing, character building or “just the guys blowing off steam,” Sgro said.

They also spoke about work environments where abuse escalated to the point where some members' careers were destroyed, and others suffered from physical and mental ailments or family breakdowns.

Sgro alleged that widespread and systemic issues prevail, even though RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson told her and a House of Commons standing committee that the force is “making progress” in bringing about positive change.

In February 2013, Paulson released an action plan entitled “Gender and Respect” that included 37 items to help the force respond to harassment complaints.

“We've taken a big step forward,” he told the committee on the status of women, outlining reforms to combat what he described as “misuse of authority.” He said there was not “systemic” sexual harassment.

On Friday, Sgro said Paulson attempted to convince the committee “changes were really going to happen.”

“Well, what ended up happening was they ended up revictimizing many of these very people,” she said.

In particular, Sgro cited Bill C-42, which amended the RCMP Act she said threatens dismissal for members of the force who speak out in a disparaging way.

“The reason you have not heard anything more on this issue for the last six months is because it's shut down everyone,” she said.

An RCMP spokesman in Ottawa responded to a request for comment by emailing a lengthy statement previously posted

online.

“The RCMP is committed to providing a safe and respectful work environment, free of discrimination, offensive behaviour and harassment,” the statement said.

It said the force amended its internal policy last year and that employees are currently completing an online course called Respectful Workplace.

A report outlining the findings of the cross-country meetings will be presented after Parliament resumes in September.

Aug 22 2014

A man was hurt Friday morning in Dolbeau-Mistassini during a police intervention involving the MRC Maria-Chapelaine division of the Sûreté du Québec.

The investigation was transferred to the Service de Police de la ville de Québec (SPVQ) by Lise Thériault, Quebec's minister of Public Security, in accordance with ministry rules when someone is killed or badly hurt following a police intervention.

The events occurred around 7:15 a.m. in a residential area. SQ police officers arrived on the scene after a call concerning a man in crisis, according to Marie-Ève Painchaud, spokesperson for the SPVQ.

Le Quotidien reports that the individual was shot in the chest after having charged towards police officers, but this could not be confirmed by Painchaud as the investigation was underway.

It's known that the man is in his thirties and was transported to the hospital. He's in a stable condition and doctors no longer fear for his life, according to Le Quotidien.

(CP, Montreal Gazette)

Aug 22 2014

CALGARY - Criminals' seized wealth will help foil youth recruitment of gangsters, including potential Mideast terrorists, Calgary police Chief Rick Hanson said Friday.

Over the next two years, \$500,000 from proceeds of crime will fund the YouthLink Interpretive Centre in Calgary attached to the main police headquarters at 5111 47 St. N.E. which will raise awareness of police roles and the hazards of lawless lifestyles.

With Calgary being cited as a prime Canadian recruiting ground for Mideast jihadists, Hanson said the effort should pay dividends in tackling that activity.

“Kids that feel alienated from society are at the highest risk to gravitate to gangs and that includes being recruited into radical groups,” he said.

“When young people are killed in the Middle East his friends said he'd lost his way.”

Hanson made the comments amid a partially-built, 26,000-sq.-ft., \$5 million YouthLink Interpretive Centre that, beginning next year, will offer hands-on activities and instruction to steer kids away from crime.

Hanson said that effort, and other youth programs such as those in schools are a vital

investment in reducing crime and improving the lives of young people.

"If it's predictable, it's preventable...they are going to get straight talk about all of the things they'll be facing in junior and senior high school," said Hanson.

"This is the most important thing we do in policing today."

It's an approach that cuts down on policing costs to make everyone safer and is an ideal use of criminals' cash, said Alberta Justice Minister Jonathan Denis.

"This is important to all Albertans," he said.

Outside, eight young graduates from a YouthLink summer came crowded around TAC team members and equipment that included sniper gear and an armoured car.

The camp has given its participants an insight into police work, and the choices that kids face, said Jaden Page, 11.

"We get to know stuff the public doesn't get and we won't get into drugs when we're older," he said.

(Calgary Sun)

Aug 22 2014

VANCOUVER - Seeking to profit from Canada's new medical marijuana regulations — which put the production and sale of high-grade weed into the hands of corporations and penny-stock outfits — promoters are turning to former police chiefs and prominent politicians to help sell their products and attract mom and pop investors.

"I've never smoked pot and I don't want to," says John Reynolds, a former MP with the Progressive Conservative, Reform and Canadian Alliance parties. "I have no interest in using the product whatsoever."

But he was just named advisor to Vodis Innovative Pharmaceuticals Inc., a Vancouver-based, publicly traded company that hopes to obtain a Health Canada licence to sell high-quality marijuana to medical patients. Joining him on the Vodis advisory board is Senator Larry Campbell, a former Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer and Vancouver mayor.

As with all things marijuana, British Columbia is a hotbed of penny-stock pot promotion.

The two men may disagree on marijuana reform — Mr. Campbell wholeheartedly endorses legalization, while Mr. Reynolds is more cautious — but they have similar roles as corporate cannabis advisors.

They believe they can help Vodis organize its affairs and compete with other marijuana start-ups and established companies. "The company's young executives might know plenty about growing potent bud, but they don't know s-t from shinola about business," says Mr. Campbell.

That's why he signed on, he adds: To help them with corporate regulations, audits and security matters.

In exchange for his counsel, he received purchase options on about 250,000 Vodis

shares.

For his part, Mr. Reynolds thinks he can help Vodis with disclosure requirements and public outreach, such as engaging with the communities where the company hopes to grow its marijuana. But he insists he won't lobby.

To date, Health Canada has granted MMPR production licences to 22 operations, from Moncton, N.B., to Vancouver Island. For arcane privacy-related reasons that even Health Canada spokesmen cannot decipher, only 13 licence holders have been publicly identified; of those, just a handful are now producing and selling marijuana to customers.

Others are waiting for federal bureaucrats to inspect and approve their products. Dozens more companies are waiting for their MMPR applications to be reviewed.

Health Canada has already predicted the number of Canadians authorized to possess marijuana for medical use will increase almost tenfold in the next decade, to about 309,000, as more evidence about the drug's efficacy emerges and more doctors become willing to prescribe it to patients.

It estimates by 2024, the legal marijuana supply industry may be worth \$1.3-billion. "It's going to be like when they found [different uses for] Aspirin," says Mr. Campbell.

Other public figures entering the medicinal weed business include: Kash Heed, a former West Vancouver police chief and B.C. solicitor general, who acts as a consultant for several hopeful marijuana producers; and Barry Daniel, a former Abbotsford police chief.

(National Post)



Aug 23 2014

TORONTO - Many drunk drivers are escaping justice by heading to the emergency room after a crash and leaving innocent victims in their wake, says MADD Canada.

But it's a loophole the group feels the federal government can close by making blood testing mandatory for all motorists involved in collisions with serious injuries or death.

"The chronic drunk drivers know to ask to be taken to hospital after an accident," MADD Canada CEO Andrew Murie said recently. "It's like a get-out-of-jail-free pass."

He said by asking to go to the ER, the motorist's medical treatment becomes the priority and cops must put any thoughts of a road-side breath test on hold.

And once the patient is at the hospital, Murie said there's a good chance of getting off scot-free.

The investigating officer may go through the difficult process of obtaining a court-ordered warrant to seize a blood sample for alcohol testing, which is fairly routine when a driver is obviously drunk.

But drivers whose impairment is less noticeable can slip through the cracks, Murie said.

Privacy laws prevent ER doctors from informing police when they suspect a patient is impaired, he said, explaining the physicians' hands are tied unless an officer shows up with a warrant.

Murie pointed to a recent study that found only 11% of the injured impaired drivers treated at a British Columbia hospital between 1992 and 2000 were ultimately convicted of impaired driving charges.

However, that study's results also included accused drunk drivers who were charged but managed to beat the rap.

Carolyn Swinson, the Director of Victim Services for MADD Toronto, is all too familiar with the pain victims' families endure when the death of a family member goes unpunished.

Her son, Robert, 27, was driving home after buying his girlfriend a Valentine's Day gift in 1996 when he was killed by a car driven by 32-year-old woman.

"Her blood alcohol level was two-and-a-half times the legal limit, but she was later acquitted on a technicality," Swinson said.

Impaired driving has become "so technical" that unless the officer has been "absolutely meticulous," defence lawyers will "find a way to get their client off," she said. "It's infuriating."

She believes drunk drivers would have one less avenue to exploit if the feds made blood tests mandatory following serious crashes.

Toronto Police Const. Clint Stibbe disputed MADD Canada's claim that drunk drivers are escaping charges by going to the hospital, at least in Toronto, but said they would support any initiative by the government that would mean safer roads.

"If even one life is saved then it's absolutely worthwhile," Stibbe said.

(Toronto Sun)

Aug 23 2014

TORONTO - Four people have been charged after border officials at Toronto's Pearson airport say they seized 37.5 kilograms of cocaine.

Canada Border Services Agency says officers found the drugs hidden in three different shipments of machine parts that originated from Panama.

Three men and a woman, all from the Toronto area, were arrested between Aug. 7 and Aug. 20 after a multi-agency investigation.

Philmore Jarvis, 47, Michelle Maraj, 36, and Wilson Jaramillo, 37, all from Mississauga, and Vernon Bouillion, 38, of Milton, face charges including importing a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Aug 23 2014

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Service says its new language service to help with 911 calls is working well.

When someone who doesn't speak English

makes an emergency call, the 911 operators can use their bilingual employees, called emergency communications officers, or turn it over to an interpretation service. That capability is making a big difference for callers.

"From sometimes panic to, you can hear it goes to relief that 'Oh, I know someone's going to get this,'" said Ayuz Mukadam, an emergency communications officer. "They're always going to get the help they need. Now it's like they know."

The Calgary 911 centre receives about 200 non-English calls each month.

With the emergency communications officers and interpreters, the centre can help people calling in about 200 different languages.

(CBC News)

SUNDAY AUGUST 24, 2014

Aug 24 2014

Nassau County of New York is forgiving thousands of speeding tickets issued this summer from malfunctioning speed cameras, totaling about \$2.4 million in fines.

The Long Island county executive, Edward Mangano, said cameras from Arizona-based American Traffic Solutions near six schools were unreliable and issued tickets even when school was not in session. Traffic speeds are reduced dramatically during school hours.

"I don't have a high confidence level that the cameras were operating at statutory levels," Mangano told Newsday Friday. "So we are declaring amnesty with all tickets issued this summer." Further Reading Feds: Red light camera firm paid for Chicago official's car, condo

Former Redflex CEO, contractor, Chicago transport official indicted for fraud.

People who have already paid the \$80 ticket fine will receive a refund and all 30,000-plus tickets will be dismissed, Mangano said.

The development highlights that automated traffic ticketing isn't always up to speed.

Last month, Ars reported that at least 13,000 Chicago motorists had been cited with undeserved tickets thanks to malfunctioning red-light cameras. A Chicago Tribune report found that the \$100 fines were a result of "faulty equipment, human tinkering or both."

(ars technica)

MONDAY AUGUST 25, 2014

Aug 25 2014

LONDON, Ont. - A man missing for almost 40 years and declared dead by the courts has been confirmed alive by Ontario Provincial Police.

Police say Ronald Stan, who was reported missing after a 1977 fire in a rural area near London, Ont., has been found alive and residing under an "assumed identity" in the United States.

Officers with the Middlesex County detachment and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office conducted an investigation after an early-morning barn fire on Sept. 29, 1977, in the former Township of East Williams.

In 1986, almost nine years after his disappearance, the missing man was declared deceased by the courts.

The investigation was reopened in July during a routine audit of the case and police say it was discovered the man, who was 32 at the time of his disappearance, was alive and living in the U.S. as Jeff Walton, 69.

Const. Laurie Houghton says the affected families and American authorities have been notified of the results of the investigation, adding the case is now closed and no charges are being laid.

Aug 25 2014

EDMONTON - A man convicted for his role in the shooting deaths of four Alberta Mounties is getting more unescorted, temporary absences from prison.

The Parole Board of Canada says Shawn Hennessey will be allowed to visit his family for up to 78 hours, once every month, for six months.

He was first granted visits in March and is set to apply for day parole in September.

Hennessey and his brother-in-law, Dennis Cheeseman, pleaded guilty to manslaughter for giving James Roszko a rifle and a ride to Roszko's farm near Mayerthorpe in 2005.

Roszko ambushed and killed the four officers before he was shot and wounded, then killed himself.

Hennessey was sentenced in 2009 to 10 years and four months.

He applied for early parole in 2012, but was denied.

Aug 25 2014

EDMONTON - Edmonton cops may be checking their closets after a drunk was found wearing a mostly complete police uniform in a west end park.

Officers responded to a complaint of a drunken policeman in Callingwood Park near 177th Street and 69th Avenue Sunday afternoon. They arrived to find a man about forty was passed out and he appeared to be wearing a current issue patrol uniform minus the gun belt. The suspect was hauled to a real police station where he was charged with personating a police officer (yes, that's the charge) and possession of stolen property.

Police think the uniform might have been taken during a burglary and they've asked Edmonton corporate security to try to find an officer who is short a few items.

(CHED)

Aug 25 2014

OTTAWA - Decreasing call volumes and a plummeting crime rate shouldn't play a significant role in making budget decisions for the Ottawa Police Service, the chairman of the police services board says.

"I have to be careful not just to go by the numbers," Coun. Eli El-Chantry said. "It can go the other way very quickly."

Statistics released by the city last week indicate calls to Ottawa police in the first quarter of 2014 hit the lowest tally in 13 consecutive quarters - more than three years. There were 78,765 calls between January and March.

It's also the fewest calls for a first quarter between 2011 and 2014.

There has also been a slow decrease in the number of criminal charges handled per officer. The first quarter 2014 rate was 5.2 charges per officer, another 13-quarter low.

Then there's the matter of the city's crime rate, which dropped 12% in 2013. The "severity" of crime decreased 10%.

It's a pivotal time for the police service, which says it hasn't grown its workforce since the 2010 budget. The current plan has the force adding 23 new staff in each of 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Statistics compiled by Ottawa police ahead of the 2014 budget showed the force was in the middle of the pack of major cities when it comes to population per police member.

The police force has already drafted a course of action for the first three years of the next term of council, with annual 2.5% increases to the police tax.

(Ottawa Sun)

TUESDAY AUGUST 26, 2014

Aug 26 2014

VICTORIA - The head of Canada's police chiefs says there have been talks over the past year with a number of members of government about letting police hand out tickets to people caught with small amounts of marijuana.

Last year members of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police passed a resolution in favour of the option.

Association president, Vancouver Chief Const. Jim Chu, says there have been ongoing discussions for the past year but the decision is in the hands of government.

At the same time, asked about Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau's support for decriminalizing marijuana, Chu says police still want the option of criminal charges.

Aug 26 2014

TORONTO - Penalties for texting behind the wheel could soon skyrocket in Ontario.

The province's transportation minister

says he plans to reintroduce a bill this fall that would increase the maximum fine for distracted driving to \$1,000 and three demerit points.

The previous bill died when the June 12 election was called, but Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne vowed it would be reintroduced.

Her party won a majority in the election and Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca says he expects the bill will pass after he revives it during the fall session.

Earlier this year, the Ontario provincial police said distracted driving was becoming the No. 1 killer on the roads.

Fines for distracted driving in Ontario were raised in March to \$280, including surcharges, from \$155.

Aug 26 2014

OTTAWA - Ottawa police say a man who entered Justin Trudeau's home earlier this month will not be charged.

Police say they're satisfied that the intoxicated 19-year-old wandered into the wrong house by mistake, believing he was at a friend's residence, and played down the fact that he left a note near a collection of knives.

Trudeau was out of town when the incident happened, but his wife and children were asleep upstairs.

The police say an individual came forward after they released video footage of a suspect.

They say the man has been cautioned and the case is closed.

Nothing was taken in the incident, although a note was left - alongside a collection of knives - saying doors should be locked at night.

Aug 26 2014

VICTORIA - The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police are not endorsing a public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women, saying such an exercise would only delay action.

Instead, the nation's top cops called on all levels of government Tuesday to take immediate action to address the underlying issues that lead aboriginal women to be vulnerable to crime and violence.

"Yes, a national inquiry may shed some light on this, but as Canadian chiefs, we don't want to delay action," Saskatoon Police Chief Clive Weighill, the newly elected president of the organization, said at the group's annual meeting in Victoria.

"We know what the problems are. The aboriginal population in Canada knows and I think most Canadians know what the issues are. Let's get on with it."

Aboriginal groups have repeatedly called for a public inquiry for at least a couple of years.

But the death of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine, whose body was found Aug. 17 wrapped in a bag and dumped in the Red River in Winnipeg, has become a rallying point.

The teen had run away from foster care,

and Weighill said aboriginal girls make up a majority of the females in foster care and group homes.

He said there have already been many studies pointing to the underlying issues of poverty, poor-housing, racism, social challenges and marginalization.

Weighill said the statistics are startling. Studies in his city show aboriginal women are five to six times more likely to be victimized than non-aboriginal women, and aboriginal people account for more than 80 per cent of the population of Canada's prisons.

"The drivers for this are not a police issue," he said. "A lot of times it's a health issue, it's a housing issue, it's a poverty issue. They're issues affecting people that are disadvantaged - that's what's driving some of the vulnerability for some of our First Nations women."

Earlier this year, RCMP released a report that found 1,181 cases of murdered or missing aboriginal women between 1980 and 2012.

The report said women make up 4.3 per cent of the Canadian population, but account for 16 per cent of female homicides and 11.3 per cent of missing women.

And it's not just aboriginal women, Weighill pointed out. Eighty per cent of Canada's prison populations are First Nations, Inuit and Metis, he said.

"Those within the law enforcement community cannot help but recognize the marginalized conditions that too often face First Nations people," he said.

"Poverty, poor housing, racism, etc. are pre-conditions to heightened criminal activity and more victimization. We need to work with the federal government on strategies to improve living conditions and prevent recruiting by gangs and enticement towards prostitution and drug abuse."

The federal government has firmly rejected an inquiry.

Last week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said crimes against aboriginal women should not be viewed as "sociological phenomenon."

On Tuesday, a spokeswoman for Justice Minister Peter MacKay issued a statement saying there is no need for another study "on top of the some 40 studies that have already been done."

"We need police to catch her killer and ensure the perpetrator or perpetrators are punished and face the full force of the law," the statement said.

Weighill said it's not just a policing issue. "It's a community issue," he said.

He said the police chiefs' association wants an action plan that brings together health, social and education services, as well as police.

Aug 26 2014

SASKATOON - A dispute that saw a family flee into the street amid gunfire from their home Friday night has a Saskatoon man facing attempted murder charges.

Kevin Levandoski, 37, appeared in

Saskatoon court Tuesday to face charges including three counts of attempted murder, two counts of assault with a weapon, and one count of assaulting a police officer. His next court appearance was set for Wednesday.

Police say a family dispute led to shots being fired as a woman fled a house in the River Heights neighbourhood last Friday. Others inside the house, including several children, also escaped and hid behind a parked car.

Shots were fired at police when officers arrived on the scene, and the police service's armoured vehicle was brought in to help rescue family members hiding behind the parked car and to keep officers safe.

"Those people could have been injured or killed," police spokesperson Alyson Edwards said Monday. "Passersby could have been injured or killed, our officers were fired at, our vehicles were damaged.

The armoured vehicle was damaged by bullets and police say the incident emphasizes the value of officer preparedness.

"This is really is an example of how important our training, how important our equipment, how important our vehicles and our specialized units really are," Edwards said. "When bullets are flying through the air out of a home and into the public realm it is a huge public safety issue - that goes without being said - and it's such a critical officer safety issue as well."

Police say they did not fire any shots at the house during the incident and the subsequent standoff with a man inside the home. The man surrendered to police after about three hours.

(CTV Saskatoon)

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 27, 2014

Aug 27 2014

QUEBEC - There will be a public inquiry held into the fire that killed 32 people at a Quebec seniors' residence in L'Isle Verte last January.

Public Security Minister Lise Thériault says the government has assigned coroner Cyrille Delage to oversee the public inquiry.

Thériault says the coroner's inquiry will determine the cause of death of each of the 32 victims along with the origin and likely causes of the fire.

The coroner's office has not decided when or where the hearings will be held and Thériault gave no timeline for Delage's report to be submitted.

The co-owner of the (Residence du Havre) seniors' home called for a public inquiry two weeks ago.

A 3.8-million-dollar civil lawsuit against the town of L'Isle-Verte alleges the community failed to implement emergency plans which might have lowered the death toll.

Investigations into the tragedy are already being carried out by Quebec provincial police and the fire commissioner.

Aug 27 2014

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - He's been smoking a lot of marijuana - between five and 13 grams per day for 13 years.

Now, a Saskatchewan man who says he lights up a lot to help ease chronic back pain has beaten a drug charge after arguing that nearly half a kilogram of grass police found in his vehicle was for his personal use only.

Devon Douglas Lavallee was charged with drug possession after the Mounties stopped him for erratic driving on Highway 3 while heading to his home in Weldon, southeast of Prince Albert, last August.

An RCMP officer with experience in drug trafficking cases testified at his trial that the \$1,600 cache was simply too much for a recreational user.

But Lavellee argued he's not a trafficker and is not a typical user because he goes through about 113 grams of marijuana in roughly two weeks.

Provincial court Judge Felicia Daunt noted in a decision released Monday that many items commonly discovered in a drug trafficker's home were not found in a search of Lavallee's place.

Daunt also says that while Lavallee is prone to exaggeration, it's still possible for someone to go through so much marijuana.

(CBC, CP, Online Out)

Aug 27 2014

MONTREAL - A Quebec judge has approved eight class-action lawsuits against the City of Montreal connected with police kettling practices.

The lawsuits allege protesters were mistreated and that their rights were violated during eight separate incidents of police kettling.

The incidents identified in the lawsuit happened at six protests between 2012 and 2014.

Sibel Atagul, the lawyer handling the class action lawsuit on behalf of the protesters, said many people were issued tickets similar to traffic tickets in kettling incidents. She said protesters believe police actions were heavy-handed.

"In some cases, they allege they were held for hours, and they were not allowed to go to the bathroom, and they were filmed and held, so it's a very particular situation," said Atagul.

She said proving the allegations will be a lengthy and uphill battle.

The City of Montreal objected to the class-action lawsuits, arguing the allegations were not serious enough to warrant legal action but, in the end, a Superior Court judge gave the green light for the suit to go ahead.

Some 1,600 protesters are expected to join the class-action suits, claiming damages totalling more than \$21 million.

(CBC News)

Aug 27 2014

INNISFAIL, Alta. - A police dog who tugged at heartstrings across the country when he rose on his hind legs at his slain partner's funeral to sniff his Stetson is going back to work.

Danny the German shepherd has been

spending time at the RCMP Police Dog Service Training centre in the central Alberta community of Innisfail.

Danny's handler, Const. David Ross, was one of three officers shot and killed in Moncton, N.B., on June 4 by a man who has since pleaded guilty.

An RCMP spokesman says Danny has been at the training centre on and off this summer retraining and bonding with a new handler.

The two are expected to return to policing "in the near future."

Insp. Andre Lemyre, officer in charge of RCMP police dog services, held a media event at the training centre Wednesday to update Danny's status.

"There has been a public swell of interest in Danny and his future," Lemyre said.

"I want to thank all Canadians for the support and compassion they've shared since the passing of our fallen members, and for Danny and his future."

The RCMP would not reveal Danny's new posting or any information pertaining to his new handler.

Danny had been a working dog for less than 10 months when Ross was killed by Justin Bourque while RCMP responded to a call of a man in camouflage carrying a gun.

Constables Douglas Larche and Fabrice Gevaudan were also killed and two other officers were injured.

The widow of Ross said in the days following the funeral that it was important to allow her husband's police dog to keep working.

Rachael Ross said Danny loved his job as much as her husband did.

Aug 27 2014

OMAHA, Neb. - Police officers who opened fire while disrupting a robbery at a fast-food restaurant in Omaha killed a crew member with the TV show "Cops" as well as the suspect, who was armed with a pellet gun that they thought was a real handgun, authorities said Wednesday.

The suspect fired from the pellet gun before officers returned fire, Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said at a news conference. He said witnesses and officers thought the robbery suspect's Airsoft handgun looked and sounded real, but discovered later that it fires only plastic pellets.

The suspect, whom police identified as identified as 32-year-old Cortez Washington, was struck by the officers' gunfire, but fled outside of the restaurant before collapsing. Officers continued firing on the suspect as he exited the restaurant, and that was when the "Cops" crew member, 38-year-old Bryce Dion, was also struck, said Schmaderer.

Dion was wearing body armor but a single bullet that hit his arm "slipped into a gap in the vest" and went into his chest, Schmaderer said.

"My concern with my officers is that they are taking this very hard," Schmaderer said. "Bryce was their friend."

Schmaderer said video captured by the

cameraman who was with Dion shows the chaotic situation in the restaurant. Police released still shots from the video showing a hooded and masked person pointing what looks like a gun at police. Schmaderer said police would not release the full video, but that it will be part of the grand jury investigation into the shooting.

Schmaderer said the incident began when one of the officers, on his way to another reported robbery, called to request backup for the robbery at the Wendy's. The "Cops" crew members were with two officers who responded to that request.

When police entered the restaurant and confronted the suspect, Dion, who was the sound operator, got separated from the cameraman, Schmaderer said.

Executives with Langley Productions said this was the first time one of their crew members has been fatally shot while filming.

In 2010, a TV crew for the A&E reality show "The First 48" recorded a Detroit police raid in which a 7-year-old girl was accidentally killed by an officer. That incident highlighted concerns about whether TV cameras influence police behaviour, perhaps encouraging showboating.

Schmaderer on Wednesday bristled at a reporter's question about whether his officers overreacted knowing that cameras were recording them, calling the suggestion "absolutely ridiculous." He said the video of Tuesday's shooting shows the officers reacted properly.

Schmaderer said he accepted the invitation from "Cops" to film in Omaha in the name of transparency. But he also expressed regret at the outcome.

"Personally, I will live with this forever," Schmaderer said. "If I'd have known that this would happen, of course, I wouldn't have done it."

Aug 27 2014

VANCOUVER - A team of Vancouver Police dogs helped to catch a person who had stolen the same car multiple times over the past few months.

Yesterday, police arrested three young people - two from Vancouver and one from Surrey - for attempting to steal a car. The day before, a woman who first had her car stolen in May phoned police to tell them she thought someone had been taking the car overnight and returning it in the morning.

Officers were watching the area last night when they saw a young man trying to steal the car. They were able to arrest him, but two other people fled. A dog team tracked them, and they were eventually found hiding on the deck of another person's home.

The person police originally arrested had also been arrested in charged in May for stealing the exact same car.

Police have recommended charges of theft of auto over \$5000, breach of probation and trespassing at night.

(Shaw Media)

Aug 28 2014

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's Justice Department says it has paid out its first cash reward under a program created eight years ago in a bid to solve cold cases.

The department says the recipient of the \$150,000 reward provided a tip that led to the arrest and conviction of two brothers in the disappearance of Melissa Dawn Peacock, who vanished in November 2011.

Dustan Joseph Preeper and Joshua Michael Preeper received life sentences after pleading guilty last month to first-degree murder and second-degree murder, respectively.

Peacock's case was added to the Rewards for Major Unsolved Crime Program in 2012, joining dozens of other unsolved homicides and missing persons cases.

The department says a tip was left on the program's telephone line that same month and also included information about the July 2010 homicide of Ben Hare, which was not part of the program.

Dustan Preeper also pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in Hare's homicide.

The department says \$150,000 is the maximum reward available under the program.

Aug 28 2014

CALGARY - A psychiatric assessment for a man accused of stabbing five young people to death at a house party in Calgary has been done but the final report is not yet complete.

Matthew de Grood has already been found fit to stand trial, but the Crown wanted a mental review to determine if he could be found criminally responsible if convicted.

Court heard this morning that the report will be ready by de Grood's next court appearance set for Sept. 26.

De Grood, who appeared via closed-circuit TV from Edmonton, said nothing.

He was charged in April with first-degree murder in the stabbings at a party near the University of Calgary to mark the end of the school year.

A preliminary hearing has already been scheduled to begin March 2.

Aug 28 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police say a number of people have been arrested after multiple police raids this morning in Toronto, York Region and Niagara Region.

Police say more than 30 search

warrants were executed as part of an investigation dubbed Project Yellowbird, focusing on break-ins at high-end homes.

It's alleged those involved in the break-ins stole jewelry, electronics and luxury goods as well as high-value vehicles.

Heavily armed tactical officers were involved in the early-morning raids and police say "extremely significant amounts of property" were seized.

There's no immediate word on charges but Chief William Blair was to give an update on the investigation at Toronto police headquarters this afternoon.

(The Canadian Press, 680News)

Aug 28 2014

VANCOUVER - Four Vancouver police officers are being credited for saving the lives of four people and their dogs after they rushed into a burning building.

The officers witnessed smoke coming

from a second floor apartment building on Wednesday along Kingsway near Knight Street and raced inside after hearing cries for help from those who were unable to find their way out.

They tried to fight the blaze with fire extinguishers, crawled along the floor with flashlights and made voice contact with those trapped inside, directing them to safety.

All four people who were stuck inside, plus their two dogs, were able to successfully make it out of the building.

During the rescue, one of the officers was struck in the head when parts of the ceiling started to collapse.


All four of them received minor injuries and were transported to hospital for smoke inhalation. They have since been released and are recovering at home.

(Kelowna Now)



International Police Association


Canadian Section



The IPA strives to enhance the image of police in its member countries and to facilitate international cooperation through friendly contacts between police officers of all continents.

- Travel
- Professional Study/Scholarships
- Professional Exchange
- International Friendship Weeks
- Sports Events
- Hobbies

* CBSA, Auxiliary and Military Police Officers are also eligible for membership



Service through Friendship

Membership is \$30 annually
To learn more visit the website
www.IPA.ca