

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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NEW YORK CITY - The New York Police Department will begin equipping all of its officers with smart-phones and outfitting many police cars with tablet computers in an effort to modernize, the Manhattan district attorney's office announced on Thursday.

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VANCOUVER - A Crown prosecutor says a former RCMP officer who was involved in Robert Dziekan-ski's death colluded with his colleagues to lie about what happened to both investigators and at the subsequent public inquiry.

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OTTAWA - Long-awaited anti-terror legislation introduced today by the Conservatives would strengthen protection of intelligence sources, but it stops short of shielding an identity crucial to proving someone's innocence.

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MONCTON, N.B. - Justin Bourque apologized Tuesday for the shootings in Moncton, N.B., that killed three RCMP officers and injured two others, saying the rationale that he gave to police for the rampage was the talk of "some arrogant pissant."

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OTTAWA - The privacy watchdog is calling on federal authorities to keep better track of informal requests to telecommunications companies for subscriber data after finding shoddy record-keeping at the RCMP.

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Keeping tabs on extremists draining police budgets



Oct 24 2014

OTTAWA - The nation's top police officer says the job of keeping tabs on Canadian extremists is draining police budgets, violence has become almost impossible to foresee and police need tools to react "decisively, quickly, preventatively."

One day after violence shook the core of Canada's capital, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson revealed dramatic footage from the shootings in which a gunman fatally shot a soldier and rampaged through Parliament Hill, before being gunned down himself. It was the second deadly attack on a soldier by a suspected extremist in Canada this week.

"We need to look at all options in terms

of trying to deal with this sort of difficult and hard-to-understand threat," the police chief told reporters, laying out a detailed account of the case.

Commissioner Paulson, who has headed the Mounties since 2011, is the latest security official to say emerging threats are forcing a reconsideration of counterterrorism measures.

In coming days, Parliament – recently polarized by its vote to join a bombing campaign against Islamic State extremists in Iraq – will begin to consider Conservative legislation that aims to enhance the spying powers of federal agents.

Commissioner Paulson revealed what police know about the slain shooter, described as a 32-year-old drifter with "extremist belief"



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who was seeking to travel to Syria. Federal foot-dragging on supplying a new passport to Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, the police chief said, could have been a motivation behind the rampage.

"I think the passport figured prominently in his motives," Commissioner Paulson said, before adding "I'm not inside his head."

Mr. Zehaf-Bibeau, who had been recently living in Western Canada, is described by police, friends and public records as a man who became an Islamist extremist after a life of drug addiction and petty crime. Some acquaintances speculate he may have been mentally ill.

He is said to have checked into an Ottawa shelter on Oct. 2 and to have acquired a .30-calibre hunting rifle.

He had been banned from having a gun because of a long criminal history and yet fatally shot Canadian Armed Forces Corporal Nathan Cirillo at the National War Memorial. Mr. Zehaf-Bibeau was shot dead after running into the Parliament's Centre Block.

Showing how quickly the rampage occurred on video, Commissioner Paulson said police had no opportunity to prevent the shooting of the soldier.

The police boss would not confirm speculation Mr. Zehaf-Bibeau was inspired by Islamic State. But "according to some accounts, he was an individual who may have held extremist belief," he said.

There remains a possibility that Mr. Zehaf-Bibeau was a copycat killer.

On Monday, Martin Couture-Rouleau – an Islamic convert who had been flagged by federal officials as a man too dangerous to be allowed to fly – was shot dead after killing a soldier with his car near Montreal.

Such suspects belong to a much bigger pool of extremists. Commissioner Paulson said the RCMP assigns about 180 detectives to national-security enforcement teams – yet he said the force has had to supplement this

group by pulling an additional 250 officers off financial and organized crime probes. "It is a drain on resources," Commissioner Paulson said.

Recently an RCMP-led federal task force was formed to figure out ways to keep designated "high-risk travellers" from going to the Middle East, but the statistics about the travel bans and specific blocking mechanisms are not being revealed.

"There are 93 (high-risk travellers) at this time," Commissioner Paulson said. He said federal agents are taking a closer look at them in the wake of the shootings but "we haven't made any arrests thus far."

Mr. Zehaf-Bibeau had not been designated as such a suspect, but he was facing federal scrutiny as he filed for a new passport. It's unclear when his passport application was filed, or why he may have felt it was unduly delayed.

Police said they had some intelligence about him that was – and remains – hard to interpret. "This individual's e-mail was found in the hard drive of someone whom we've charged with a terrorist-related offence," Commissioner Paulson said.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 23, 2014

Oct 23 2014

OTTAWA - Members of the Canadian military in the Ottawa area have been told stop wearing their uniforms in public, with the exception of going back and forth to work.

While it has not been made a general order, a guidance directive was issued today after a reservist guarding the National War Memorial was shot and killed by a rifle-toting gunman who later stormed Parliament Hill and died in a gunfight inside the Centre Block.

The directive also follows Monday's tragedy in Quebec, where one soldier was killed and another was injured when they were struck by a car being driven by an extremist who had been looking to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The directive, a copy of which was obtained by The Canadian Press, prohibits military members from stopping at grocery stores, taking public transit and even having lunch or coffee in public places while in uniform.

Such activities are still permitted when soldiers are wearing civilian attire.

The directive was issued today around the time Defence Minister Rob Nicholson and the country's top military commander, Gen. Tom Lawson, laid a wreath near the spot where Cpl. Nathan Cirillo was gunned down.

Oct 23 2014

HALIFAX - It would take longer for drivers in Nova Scotia to become fully licensed and those drivers would not be allowed to have any alcohol in their system for two years under legislation

introduced by the provincial government Tuesday.

Amendments to the province's Motor Vehicle Act would see the minimum time to complete the beginner phase of the graduated licensing program from six months to one year and drivers would have to maintain zero blood alcohol content for two years after they complete the program.

Supervisory drivers would have to be fully licensed for at least two years after they complete the program instead of being immediately eligible to supervise a beginning driver as they are now.

Drivers who have permanently lost their licences following a fourth conviction for impaired driving would also be allowed to apply for reinstatement. The change would not apply to more serious offences such as manslaughter.

Oct 23 2014

OTTAWA - House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer has ordered a full review of Parliament Hill security after Wednesday's deadly shootout in the halls of the Centre Block.

Parliamentary systems and procedures will be examined to identify any needed improvements, Scheer said Thursday.

Michael Zehaf Bibeau was fatally shot in the Parliament Buildings on Wednesday after killing a soldier at the nearby National War Memorial – an incident that shook Ottawa and resulted in a lockdown of the downtown core for much of the day.

"Members will ask – indeed Canadians will ask – how this came to occur and what specifically will be done to prevent future occurrences," Scheer said. "These are legitimate questions and they require comprehensive answers."

Scheer said he would work with all members of Parliament "to ensure that the House obtains answers to these vital and important questions."

Parliament was closed to visitors Thursday, and tours were cancelled, he noted.

"However, I have stressed that these must be temporary measures," Scheer said to applause from his fellow MPs. "Parliament must remain an institution that is both open and secure."

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson also said Thursday that the Mounties would now provide round-the-clock personal security for the prime minister in the wake of the siege, which saw Stephen Harper spend several minutes holed up inside the Conservative caucus room, unguarded.

Surveillance video of Zehaf Bibeau's quick entry to the Hill on foot and subsequent carjacking of a vehicle that he drove to the Centre Block will help the RCMP determine "the measures that we need to take now to make the parliamentary precinct more secure," Paulson told a news conference.

"The security picture on Parliament Hill needs to be evaluated."

**BLUE LINE
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VANCOUVER - Through the Vancouver Police Foundation, Peter Brown has helped support policing in Vancouver in many ways.

But one of the newest contributions is a favourite of Chief Constable Jim Chu.

The Vancouver Police Cadet Program began in September with 61 young people selected from hundreds of applicants.

They will undergo a yearlong training program that includes physical activity, educational workshops and team and life-skill-building exercises.

"We're very excited about the cadet program," said Chu. "The first objective is to help young people develop into good citizens for our community."

Brown was enthused about the idea because of what Chu told him: "Jimmy said, 'I'd rather they join my gang than some other gang.'"

Applicants were chosen with the help of school administrators and counsellors. Chu said they were selected because they "could benefit from a program that gave them more structure in their lives."

Some of the cadets are interested in a career in law enforcement. Some don't have other extracurricular activities.

Although they get a uniform and training, the cadets aren't paid. But they will be expected to participate in events like a graffiti 'paint-out' Saturday in Mount Pleasant and to help hand out crime prevention pamphlets alongside Vancouver police officers.

All this can pay off, according to Chu.

"Investing in young people is one of the best forms of crime prevention," he said.

"It [the cadet program] could only have happened if the foundation got behind it."

In fact, the cadet program is just the latest youth initiative from the foundation, which already supports the Boys and Girls Club, KidSafe, the Police Athletic League and the Boys' Club.

(The Province)

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 24, 2014

Oct 24 2014

OTTAWA - All Cadet and Junior Canadian Ranger activities across the country have been put on hold after two deadly attacks against members of the military.

The move comes at the direction of the chief of reserves and cadets after the attacks in Ottawa and Quebec.

National Defence spokesman Daniel Blouin says while there is no indication that cadets or rangers are at risk, the precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of the youth entrusted to their care.

He says the activities are on hold through the weekend and the situation will be re-evaluated next week.

Military bases across the country are under tighter security.

(Globe and Mail)

Oct 24 2014

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, Ont. - The leaders of Quebec and Ontario say helping identify radicalized young people and reintegrating them back into the community cannot be left only to police and security services.

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard says he called the leaders of Quebec's Muslim community to thank them for their quick condemnation of this week's deadly attacks against soldiers in Ottawa and Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu, Que.

Couillard says authorities have to engage the communities so young people that become disillusioned with life don't find a solution in violence or radicalization.

He says the way to do this is through social workers and through mosques, for example, but not through the police.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne says she agrees that community organizations need to be directly involved in helping deal with the problem of radicalized youth.

Wynne says it's an issue for the broader community - not just a single ethnic group - and she promises the province will work with social agencies as well as security services to help deal with young people who may pose a threat.

"There isn't one solution to this," she said. "This is all of us figuring out how young people are falling through the cracks or are getting onto a path that makes them dangerous to everyone else."

Couillard began a speech to the Ontario Economic Summit in Niagara-on-the-Lake Friday by praising Canada's security forces.

"I want to say again our gratitude towards our security forces, our men and women in the armed forces," he said. "I think we should honour their memory and recognize what they are doing, facing this threat that Canada and the rest of the world is facing now."

Oct 24 2014

TORONTO - The Canada Border Services Agency says 28 kilograms of cocaine was found in a suitcase at Pearson International Airport.

The agency says officers spotted a shrink-wrapped suitcase in baggage that was being removed from a flight that arrived from Cancun, Mexico on Oct. 19.

Officers found 25 bricks containing a substance the agency says tested positive for cocaine.

The packages were turned over to Peel Regional Police, who continue to investigate.

Oct 24 2014

OTTAWA - This week's traumatic shootout on Parliament Hill has prompted the Harper government to put off debate on a controversial gun bill.

Debate on Bill C-42 had been scheduled to take place in the House of Commons on Thursday - just one day after Parliament's Centre Block was sprayed with bullets as security officials confronted a gunman who had

just killed an honour guard at the National War Memorial.

The government quietly dropped the bill from Thursday's lineup; it is not clear when the debate will be rescheduled.

Dubbed the "Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act," the bill was introduced earlier this month with the aim of simplifying the gun licensing process.

Among other things, it would reclassify some firearms - including the Swiss Arms Classic Green rifle - which the RCMP had banned for fear that they can be easily converted into fully automatic weapons.

The government last winter reversed the RCMP ban, complaining that the decision was made "by bureaucrats and not by politicians."

Oct 24 2014

OTTAWA - The gunman who charged into Parliament after shooting a Canadian Forces reservist was struck by nearly a dozen bullets from security officers and finally was brought down by Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers.

Several sources, who have requested anonymity, have confirmed to The Canadian Press that Michael Zehaf Bibeau was fatally wounded by Vickers near the door of the Parliamentary library.

Police have said that Vickers was involved in Wednesday's gunfight with Zehaf Bibeau.

Security video released by the RCMP on Thursday showed Zehaf Bibeau's deadly race from the National War Memorial after he shot Cpl. Nathan Cirillo and hijacked a ministerial car before bursting into the Parliament buildings.

He ran in to Parliament's Centre Block through the main entrance with RCMP officers in hot pursuit.

The RCMP is charged with assuring the security of the exterior of the Parliament buildings.

A security service source says the gunman was intercepted by a House of Commons security guard who unsuccessfully tried to wrestle his gun away from him.

The guard yelled "Gun!" to warn his colleagues and tried to yank the barrel of the weapon down but Zehaf Bibeau managed to fire, wounding the man.

The gunman then bolted several metres down the Hall of Honour with police and guards chasing him. Shots were fired.

Zehaf Bibeau, his body riddled with bullets, huddled behind a column by the Parliamentary library. It was there that Vickers fired the fatal shots.

Oct 24 2014

WATSONVILLE, CALIF.—A Silicon Valley startup has developed technology to let dispatchers know when a police officer's weapon has been fired.

The latest product by Yardarm Technologies would notify dispatchers in real time when an officer's gun is taken out of

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its holster and when it's fired. It can also track where the gun is located and in what direction it was fired.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff Phil Wowak, whose agency is among two testing the technology, said it will allow the sheriff's office to see whether deputies are in trouble and unable to ask for assistance.

"That's the worst nightmare for any police officer in the field," he said.

The system will not include a remote disabling mechanism. Yardarm was pursuing that technology and demonstrated it at a conference in Las Vegas last year, but it has since abandoned that effort, according to the Capitola, Calif.-based company's marketing vice-president, Jim Schaff.

Yardarm's system would have triggered an alarm on an owner's cellphone if a gun had been moved and the owner would then have been able to hit a button to activate the safety and disable the weapon.

Schaff would not say exactly why the company gave up on remotely disabling guns.

The developers insist their latest technology is not creating a smart gun, but rather is "police gunfire tracking technology."

The technology that tracks an officer's gun relies on the Internet and requires a small device that can fit in the handle of most police handguns. It connects to the officer's smart phone using Bluetooth.

"The officer simply inserts it into the back of the firearm and now it's installed. They don't even know it's there anymore," Schaff said during a recent demonstration.

Yardarm is paying for the test in the hopes they can develop the technology nationwide and charge departments for it next year.

Schaff said the company hasn't yet determined a price.

(Toronto Star)

Oct 24 2014

COBOURG - After an extensive search, Cobourg's Police Services Board has appointment Paul VandeGraaf as the new deputy chief of the Cobourg Police Service.

According to board chairman Bryan Baxter, its five members unanimously selected VandeGraaf from a long list of applicants from across Canada.

"As a proven police leader with 24 years of operational and management experiences with the Belleville Police Service, the board was particularly impressed with Paul's enthusiasm towards his policing career," said Mr. Baxter. "We look forward to his contribution to our police service and our community."

The new Cobourg cop has served as deputy chief of the Belleville Police Service since January 2010 and will replace Deputy Chief Terry Demill, who is retiring at the end of November after 33 years of service.

(Northumberland News)

Oct 24 2014

NEW YORK CITY - The New York Police Department will begin equipping all of its officers with smartphones

and outfitting many police cars with tablet computers in an effort to modernize, the Manhattan district attorney's office announced on Thursday.

The program, the N.Y.P.D. Mobility Initiative, will distribute 41,000 devices across the department; each of its 35,000 officers will receive a hand-held device and 6,000 "ruggedized" tablets will be installed in police cars, a statement from the district attorney's office said.

The initiative will cost \$160 million over the next three years.

Each device will hold several applications, such as a mobile version of the Domain Awareness System, a computer surveillance system that joins video feeds from thousands of closed-circuit cameras to law enforcement databases, allowing them to track and gather information about criminals and possible terrorists.

The devices will also ensure access to relevant 911 data, including notes by call-takers and information about the location of the call, the statement from the district attorney's office said. The office is looking into adding GPS features to the devices, it said, which could help in coordinating backup.

The program also anticipates adding the capability to scan fingerprints in the field, sometime next year.

Though New York has the nation's largest police force, other forces in major metropolitan areas have already taken steps to update the patrol beat for the digital age.

Los Angeles has also begun to roll out a program, the one upon which the New York initiative was modeled, to outfit officers with body cameras.

All officers will receive them over the next year and a half.

(New York Times)



Oct 25 2014

HALIFAX - Police say a young man is facing numerous charges after he allegedly nearly ran over a Mountie with his car in a Halifax neighbourhood.

RCMP say officers were called to Cole Harbour on Friday after reports of a large fight and a Honda Civic was spotted fleeing the scene.

Police say a Mountie attempted to approach the car on foot at an intersection, but the driver accelerated towards her and she was nearly hit.

The car was followed by several police vehicles before it crashed at another intersection.

The driver, a 20-year-old man, was not hurt in the crash.

He's facing numerous charges including flight from police, assaulting a police officer with a weapon and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

Oct 25 2014

ESSEX, Ont. - Police are investigating a crash in Essex, Ont., that sent a driver and an Ontario Provincial Police officer to hospital.

The officer was responding to a collision call when the crash occurred on Friday night.

Both the officer and the driver were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The force's traffic unit is investigating the collision.



Oct 26 2014

VANCOUVER - If this car could talk, it would have stories to tell that would make your hair stand on end. It's carried suspected murderers, kidnappers and robbers of all types and witnesses to their crimes.

The coal-black 1947 Dodge sedan did a decade of service as a Vancouver police detective car, and the giveaway for this car's original use is the lack of window cranks and inside door-opener handles in the rear passenger compartment. Most of the passengers who would ride back there were going straight to the old police station at 312 Main St. They weren't getting out along the way.

There are holes in the dashboard where a now-antique two-way radio and microphone had been secured. No markings on this black car because police detectives back then, as now, often use stealth to track down suspects and witnesses.

Remarkably, this well preserved antique police car has remained stashed outside and forgotten for the better part of four decades.

The old Dodge, with more than 160,000 kilometres on the odometer, was taken out of service and auctioned off by the Vancouver Police Department in the late '50s, and in the '70s it was donated to the Vancouver Police Museum.

With no place to put it, the Dodge was dumped in a corner of the police compound alongside the Cambie street bridge, where it remains today.

But this car may have a new-found life, beginning with its display at the upcoming Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre for the Kids, Cars and Cops Gala on Tuesday.

This is a fundraiser for an innovative police-led youth program that could result in the complete restoration of the only authentic vintage VPD car that has survived. NASKARZ, an acronym for Never Again Steal Karz, is a program originated by Vancouver police Sgt. Tim Houchen, who has used his enthusiasm for old cars to impact the youth problems he saw firsthand on Vancouver's hardscrabble Downtown Eastside.

Stolen cars kept turning up in the parking lot at the Ray-Cam Community Centre, prompting Houchen and community youth

worker Alex Vasiljevic to realize kids in the area loved cars but had no means to ever own one or work on them. So they stole cars.

The imaginative program to get high-risk youth involved in mechanics and car restoration got funding from patrons and government crime-prevention grants. It then found a home with the Vancouver Community College auto collision program.

The program, run by VCC instructors, is held two nights a week through the school year and five days a week in the summer.

Nearly 300 boys and girls have been involved in the program over the past decade. During that time, auto crime has taken a dramatic drop as more and more young people interested in cars took advantage of the opportunity.

"Ninety-eight per cent of the kids in the program have no further involvement with police," Houchen says. "The success rate is phenomenal.

We give them something they never had in their lives before ... "Some lost their lives or were injured. Others ended up in court."

(Driving.ca)

MONDAY OCTOBER 27, 2014

Oct 27 2014

VIEW ROYAL, B.C. - A 20-year-old man is expected to appear in B.C. provincial court today after ramming his vehicle into a police cruiser in an attempt to elude arrest.

Westshore RCMP say police were doing a road check on Saturday night in the Greater Victoria area when they saw a male driver turn around in order to avoid the road block.

An officer in a police car followed the driver into a condominium complex, and when the driver realized there was no way out, he tried to escape by ramming his car into the police cruiser.

Police say the man then drove over a lawn, struck a tree, left the vehicle and jumped into a nearby waterway before being arrested.

The 20-year-old Colwood man is facing charges including dangerous driving causing bodily harm, assaulting a peace officer and possession for the purpose of trafficking a controlled substance.

Police say the officer whose car was struck by the suspect suffered non-life threatening injuries and has been released from the hospital.

Oct 27 2014

OTTAWA - Ottawa police say a man is facing four charges after an officer was allegedly assaulted during a traffic stop and a gun was fired by an OPP officer who intervened.

No one was injured by the gunshot in the weekend incident but police say a conducted energy weapon was deployed before

the suspect could be arrested.

Police say it began around 3:30 p.m. Saturday when it's alleged a man pulled over by officers became combative and assaulted one of them as they tried to subdue him.

A provincial police officer who was in the area saw the altercation and went to help the other officers and police say that officer discharged a firearm once.

Luqman Abdunnur, 39, is charged with assaulting police, obstructing a peace officer, resisting a peace officer and driving while under suspension.

The matter remains under investigation by Ottawa police.

Oct 27 2014

VANCOUVER - A Crown prosecutor says a former RCMP officer who was involved in Robert Dziekanski's death colluded with his colleagues to lie about what happened to both investigators and at the subsequent public inquiry.

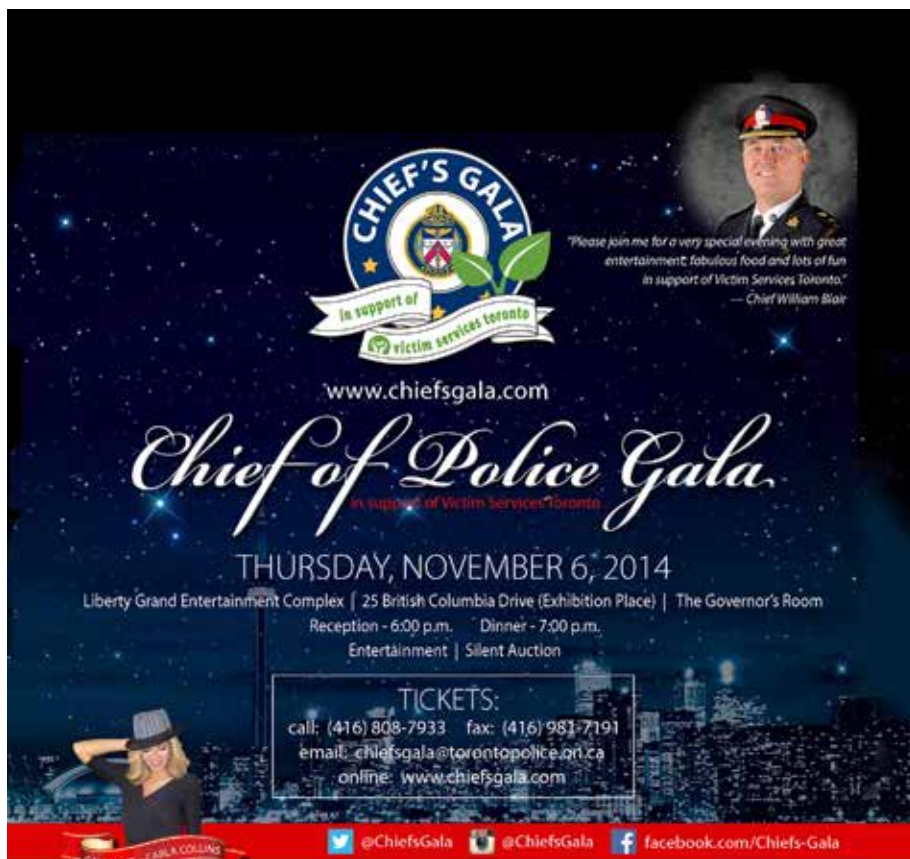
Former corporal Benjamin (Monty) Robinson was among four officers who went to Vancouver's airport the night Dziekanski was stunned with a Taser and died in October 2007.

All four officers were charged with perjury for their testimony at a public inquiry that was held in 2009.

Crown counsel Scott Fenton says all four officers made similar errors when recounting what happened to homicide investigators, and he says the only explanation is that they worked on a story together.

Fenton says a witness will also testify that the officers met at her house in February 2009, and he says the only conclusion that can be drawn is that they discussed their upcoming testimony.

One of the officers, Const. Bill Bentley, was acquitted of the perjury charge after a trial last year, though the Crown is appealing that verdict.



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OTTAWA - Long-awaited anti-terror legislation introduced today by the Conservatives would strengthen protection of intelligence sources, but it stops short of shielding an identity crucial to proving someone's innocence.

As expected, the government bill also gives the Canadian Security Intelligence Service more latitude to obtain a court-ordered warrant authorizing security investigations abroad.

In addition, the legislation tweaks the CSIS Act to prohibit the naming of individuals who might be involved in covert operations in the future.

Finally, the bill contains technical amendments that would speed up implementation of provisions passed in June to permit the government to revoke Canadian citizenship from dual citizens convicted of terrorism.

The government says the measures will help CSIS conduct investigations into potential terrorists when they travel overseas.

Canada and other western nations fear that citizens who go abroad to take part in the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's guerrilla-style battles could come home with intent to do harm.

Oct 27 2014

OTTAWA - The man who killed an honour guard at the National War Memorial before storming Parliament Hill was "lucid" and "purposeful" in spelling out his motives, which were rooted in his religious beliefs and opinion of Canada's foreign policy, the head of the RCMP says.

And RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson wants Canadians to see the evidence for themselves.

Michael Zehaf Bibeau's rationale for staging last week's deadly rampage in Ottawa was contained in a self-made video that investigators recovered in the wake of the shooting, Paulson told a Senate committee hearing Monday.

"He was quite deliberate, he was quite lucid and he was quite purposeful in articulating the basis for his actions," Paulson said after the hearing when asked to describe the video.

"They were in respect, broadly, to Canada's foreign policy and in respect of his religious beliefs."

While the video is still being analyzed by police in order to ensure they can extract all of its evidentiary value, Paulson said it's his hope the footage will eventually be released to the public.

"We're interested in getting that before the public, but we're interested in making sure that we have secured - and are confident in - its intelligence and evidence value," he testified.

"It will certainly someday be released... I really am inclined to overcome those challenges and get it released as soon as possible."

In the video, Zehaf Bibeau says he will act in the name of Allah in response to

Canada's foreign policy, a source close to the investigation told The Canadian Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Paulson said the video was made by Zehaf Bibeau himself and was recovered from a device belonging to the gunman, but he did not elaborate. Paulson also said investigators don't yet know if the gunman shared his intentions to launch a violent attack.

"Our belief is that it has not gone anywhere else, but it may have gone elsewhere," he said of the video.

"We want to be able to satisfy ourselves whether or not there were individuals who were contributing to this person's radicalization and his jihadist views."

Oct 27 2014

WINNIPEG - Dozens of uniformed Winnipeg police officers crammed into a tiny courtroom, expecting to see a man sentenced for assaulting one of their colleagues in an off-duty attack.

But judge and defence lawyer expressed concern about judicial fairness and postponed the sentencing.

Greg Brodsky, who represents Kyle Peters, said it was inappropriate for the gallery to be comprised of police officers in uniform with guns.

Provincial court Judge Rob Finlayson agreed, noting the Crown has expressed similar concerns in the past when "large numbers of gang members have shown up with their colours."

Peters had previously pleaded guilty to aggravated assault of the police officer outside a 7-11.

The sentencing hearing is expected to be rescheduled for later this fall.

Brodsky said he counted 22 officers who were allowed to stand inside the courtroom and noted regular members of the public are not able to have that many people there. Typically, only those who can find a seat may remain inside the courtroom.

As well, Brodsky said there may have been 20 other officers seated in the gallery. It's not clear how many officers were actually on duty at the time, or whether they donned their uniform to show up in court on their personal time.

"It's as if their presence will somehow affect the determination of the court," Brodsky continued. "Justice has to be seen to be done. It's inappropriate. I'm not saying they shouldn't come. But they shouldn't come in uniform with guns. I don't know why we need this show of force."

Brodsky also called upon the Crown to make a formal motion if the officers want to bring their guns into court, saying typically they must be checked with security at the front entrance unless special permission is granted.

Crown attorney Daniel Chaput said he didn't believe the large police turnout was meant to usurp justice. Instead, he said the officers appeared to have a genuine interest in supporting their colleague.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 28, 2014

Oct 28 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - Justin Bourque apologized Tuesday for the shootings in Moncton, N.B., that killed three RCMP officers and injured two others, saying the rationale that he gave to police for the rampage was the talk of "some arrogant pissant."

Bourque stood in the prisoner's box to address the court just before his sentencing hearing was adjourned until Friday for a decision.

He spoke of the pain that the families of the victims must have felt after watching a statement he gave to police when he was arrested. In it he said the main reason he shot the Mounties on June 4 was because he was attempting to start a rebellion against an oppressive, corrupt government that he believed was squelching the freedom of most Canadians.

"It's the talk of some arrogant pissant, as if it was nothing to me," Bourque told the Court of Queen's Bench, his voice wavering.

"I want the families to know ... it does mean something to me," he added.

"Saying sorry or any apology is almost useless. But I am sorry."

Bourque, 24, faces a mandatory life sentence with no parole eligibility for 25 years after pleading guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

The Crown wants Bourque's parole ineligibility for each murder conviction to be served consecutively, meaning it would be set at 75 years. If granted, that would be the harshest sentence in Canada since the last executions in 1962.

The defence has asked for 50 years before Bourque could apply for parole.

Crown lawyer Cameron Gunn called on the judge to issue a sentence that denounces Bourque's crimes in the strongest terms possible.

"His notion that he was involved in some kind of rebellion, I would suggest, is twisted," Gunn said.

"This is one of the most heinous crimes in Canadian history, I would propose to you."

Defence lawyer David Lutz said Bourque admits to the facts as stated by the Crown except for where he is alleged to have told a co-worker he was going to "pop" police officers prior to the shootings.

"I am left with very little to say given the content of Mr. Bourque's statement," Lutz said.

But Lutz said to attribute hatred to authority as Bourque's motive behind the shootings would be wrong because he did not understand what he was talking about.

"He identifies with these little cartoon characters like Super Mario and Megaman," Lutz said, referring to the video games Bourque played.

"His thought process is extremely defective."

Oct 28 2014

LETHBRIDGE - An award-winning police chief from northern Ontario will lead police services in Lethbridge.

Robert Davis, currently in command of the force in Dryden, was the unanimous choice of the nine-member Lethbridge Regional Police Commission. His appointment was ratified Monday by city council.

Commission chair Alex McKay said Davis, a police officer since 1990, has been honoured by the International Police Association for his work in combatting organized crime and aboriginal gangs. He has also received a prestigious award from the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police.

"He is passionate about public service and that came through loud and clear during the interview process," McKay said. The commission wanted a chief "who is a creative thinker, who is a strong leader and who has a proven track record in policing."

Davis, appointed effective Jan. 5, will serve a four-year term with a two-year renewal option. He'll succeed Chief Tom McKenzie, who will retire Oct. 31 after 38 years with the Lethbridge police force.

"We are confident he will be an excellent fit for our organization who will work well with the current executive leadership" at police headquarters, McKay said.

Deputy Chief Colin Catonio will be named interim chief until Jan. 5.

Davis holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from McMaster University.

He began his law enforcement career as an auxiliary constable with the Haldimand-Norfolk Regional Police in southern Ontario. In 1994 he joined the neighbouring Six Nations Police Service and rose to the rank of inspector and then acting deputy chief.

He also served two secondments with the RCMP during that time, one in Ottawa and the other with the Nishnawbe Aski Police in Ontario's far north. He's led the force in Dryden, on the Trans-Canada Highway midway between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg, since 2011.

(Lethbridge Herald)

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2014

Oct 29 2014

WINDSOR, Ont. - Zombie police officers will be descending on a southwestern Ontario school just before Halloween - but it's all meant to be in good fun.

Members of the Windsor, Ont., police service will dress as zombies to play a volleyball game on Thursday against staff and students at a local French immersion public school.

Funds raised at the game (at the Giles Campus French Immersion Public School) will go towards supporting an annual police camp for pre-teens.

Officers will also be handing out Halloween safety pamphlets.

Oct 29 2014

OTTAWA - The RCMP denies it rejected 90% of the public allegations it received against its officers since 2010.

The force responded to QMI Agency's report on Monday about the percentage of allegations that were deemed "unsupported."

Criminologists said the RCMP's allegation acceptance rate is lower than the average rates for other police forces across North America.

Cpl. David Falls, spokesman for the force, told QMI Agency in an e-mail that the RCMP accepts allegations from the public, not "complaints," because "one complaint may have several allegations."

Falls said when the RCMP formally investigates an allegation and decides that it's "unsupported," the RCMP means "the allegations either did not have merit or that there was insufficient evidence, or no evidence to support the allegation."

He disputed the wording in QMI's report that the force "rejected" citizen allegations.

Falls said the RCMP conducts its own internal investigations into allegations against its officers, but "care is taken to ensure investigations are unbiased."

Citizens can appeal the RCMP's decisions to the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC), which is an independent body that reports to Parliament.

Falls said the CPC's new powers to force witnesses to testify and produce evidence haven't yet come into force.

He said the RCMP "strives to assist the CPC in their reviews by providing all available relevant material upon request."

(QMI Agency)

Oct 29 2014

REGINA - After nearly 34 years with the Regina Police Service, Bob Morin has called it a career.

Morin, 56, retired Monday as deputy police chief.

Morin joined the RPS on Jan. 4, 1981.

Morin said he will miss the people he worked with over the years, but not necessarily the work.

"Certainly in my early years when I was on the street and in (forensic) identification, I saw a lot of tragic stuff ... People are victimized (and) traumatized. I'm not going to miss any of that," he said.

"I loved the work. I would not hesitate to do it again, but I just would kind of like to get my life back."

He remembers the first call he responded to a domestic violence incident. Morin and his partner had trouble arresting a large man who didn't want to be taken into custody.

"So, being fresh out of police college I applied some sort of a wrist lock on him, applied some pressure. He looked over at me and said 'bend my arm you little bugger.' He lifted both his arms up and my partner had one handcuff on and I had the other ... We were both dangling from the ground," Morin recalled laughing.

"It was the worst fight I had in my entire career. I was ready to throw my gun and

badge on the ground and say 'I don't want to do this every day for the rest of my life.' But, I couldn't do that because my partner needed some help."

Supt. Brent Schmidt will replace Morin as deputy chief until the position is permanently filled.

(Regina Leader Post)

Oct 29 2014

CALGARY - A Calgary judge is allowing a police therapy dog to sit with two child witnesses in an upcoming sex abuse trial.

Crown prosecutor Rosalind Greenwood says it may be the first time in Alberta - even in Canada - that a dog is to replace a court support worker.

The black Labrador retriever, named Hawk, joined Calgary police last year.

Greenwood says the dog has already met with the two child witnesses.

The case involves a man charged with sexually assaulting his seven-year-old daughter.

The girl and her brother are to testify when the trial begins in December.

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 30, 2014

Oct 30 2014

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team is investigating a collision between a car and a garbage truck that left a 19-year-old man seriously injured.

The team says the crash occurred Wednesday on Highway 4 after RCMP attempted to stop the man's car near Bible Hill.

It's alleged the car sped away and collided with a garbage truck several kilometres away, landing in a ditch.

The young man was taken to hospital in Halifax with what the team describes as very serious injuries.

The driver of the garbage truck was not hurt.

Oct 30 2014

OTTAWA - The privacy watchdog is calling on federal authorities to keep better track of informal requests to telecommunications companies for subscriber data after finding shoddy record-keeping at the RCMP.

In his annual report tabled today, privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien says shortcomings in the RCMP's information management systems meant he was unable to tell whether proper controls were in place.

Therrien says it was impossible to determine how often the Mounties collected subscriber data without a warrant.

As a result, his office could not assess whether such requests were justified.

The Mounties have agreed to bring in a system to monitor and report on warrantless requests for information.

Therrien wants other federal agencies

that ask telecommunications firms for customer data to do the same.

Oct 29 2014

The police ethics committee has sided with a Lachute doctor who would not release confidential patient information to police in March 2012.

Sgt. Michel El-Khoury of the Sûreté du Québec will face a disciplinary hearing in relation to the incident following an internal investigation.

Quebec's provincial police began its investigation into an arrest in the Lachute hospital's emergency room after a doctor was briefly detained on March 1, 2012.

Dr. Jeffrey Sirzyk refused to give police information about an injured baby without a warrant.

Police suspected the child had been abused and asked Sirzyk for information relating to the child's injuries. Officers were told to open a file with Quebec's youth protection (known by its French acronym, the DPJ), but didn't.

Instead, El-Khoury "became angry and aggressive," according to the ethics committee's findings.

Sirzyk was handcuffed and pinned against the wall. The next day, he resigned from his job, citing stress after the ordeal.

The ethics committee found the police officer showed an "unacceptable ignorance" of the rules on the confidentiality of medical information, demonstrated poor judgment, and acted hastily in arresting the doctor.

It said El-Khoury's use of force was unwarranted.

The date of the disciplinary hearing has not yet been set.
(CBC News)

Oct 30 2014

OTTAWA - The privacy watchdog is calling on federal authorities to keep better track of informal requests to telecommunications companies for subscriber data after finding shoddy record-keeping at the RCMP.

In his annual report tabled Thursday, privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien said shortcomings in the RCMP's information management systems meant he was unable to tell whether proper controls were in place.

It was impossible to determine how often the Mounties collected subscriber data without a warrant, Therrien said. As a result, his office could not assess whether such requests were justified.

Privacy and civil liberties advocates have raised concerns about the ability of police and intelligence agencies to gain access to details of the public's online activities - particularly given revelations about widespread surveillance by government agencies to help fight terrorism.

People understand that law-enforcement and national security agencies have legitimate need to collect personal details, Therrien said Thursday.

"Transparency is critical to accountability and will help to increase trust," he said in a statement. "Canadians want and deserve to have a clearer picture of how, when and why

federal institutions are collecting personal information."

The Mounties have agreed to bring in a system to monitor and report on warrantless requests for information.

Therrien wants other federal agencies that ask telecommunications firms for customer data to do the same.

In addition, he underscored the need for federal departments to ensure all requests for subscriber data respect a recent landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision.

Therrien says the high court clearly stated that government agencies must have a judge's approval to obtain subscriber data linked to anonymous online activities - unless there are emergency circumstances or legislation permitting access.

Other findings in the report:

- Metadata, the digital trail documenting when and how a message or call occurred, can be highly revealing, meaning organizations must be careful about collecting and disclosing such information.
- The commissioner has concerns about federal plans to share data it will collect from Canadians when they leave the country.
- For the third consecutive year, the number of data breaches voluntarily reported to the commissioner by federal institutions reached a record high.

Oct 30 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - Justin Bourque's killing of three Mounties has been described in court as one of the worst crimes in Canadian history, prompting recommendations from Crown and defence lawyers for the harshest sentence in more than 50 years.

Judge David Smith, chief justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in New Brunswick, is scheduled to sentence the 24-year-old Friday, four months after Bourque used a semi-automatic rifle to fatally shoot three officers and wound two others in Moncton's north end.

Bourque pleaded guilty in August to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

The Crown is seeking the maximum sentence - 75 years without eligibility to apply

for parole - under a section of the Criminal Code that was amended in 2011.

Prior to that, Bourque would have been handed an automatic life sentence with no chance at parole for 25 years, the mandatory penalty for one or more convictions of first-degree murder.

However, the amended legislation gives the judge the option of extending Bourque's parole ineligibility because he is a multiple murderer. The legislation is called the Protecting Canadians by Ending Sentence Discounts for Multiple Murders Act.

Smith could decide that the 25-year ineligibility period for each of the three murder convictions should be imposed consecutively for a total of 75 years, which means Bourque wouldn't be allowed to apply for parole until he was 99 years old.

Earlier this week, defence lawyer David Lutz said his client, having admitted to the crimes in a detailed, three-hour statement to police, has argued that a 50-year parole ineligibility period would be fair. Lutz had little else to say on his client's behalf, except that Bourque has a defective thought process and inadequate social skills.

If Smith accepts either the Crown or defence recommendations, the sentence would be the harshest since Canada's last executions in 1962.

Oct 30 2014

CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. - A police department in suburban Philadelphia has created a "safe zone" for people to complete transactions they arranged online.

The Conshohocken Police Department said individuals making purchases from other people through Craigslist and other online sites are free to complete the deals in the police department's lobby or parking lot.

The idea for the safe zone came after an officer said his wife told him she was going to another person's house to complete an online purchase. He didn't like the idea.

Police say the decision was not undertaken in response to any crimes associated with online purchases in the borough.

A similar program was started in May by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Florida.



The banner features the International Police Association (IPA) logo on the left, which includes a globe and the text "POLICE" and "SERVIR POUR AMBLES". To the right of the logo is the text "International Police Association" in large white letters, followed by "Canadian Section" in smaller white letters, flanked by two Canadian flags. Below this is a photograph of a globe showing North America. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text "Service through Friendship" in yellow, "Membership is \$30 annually" in white, "To learn more visit the website" in white, and "www.IPA.ca" in white.