

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY November 21, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 47

Executive Digest

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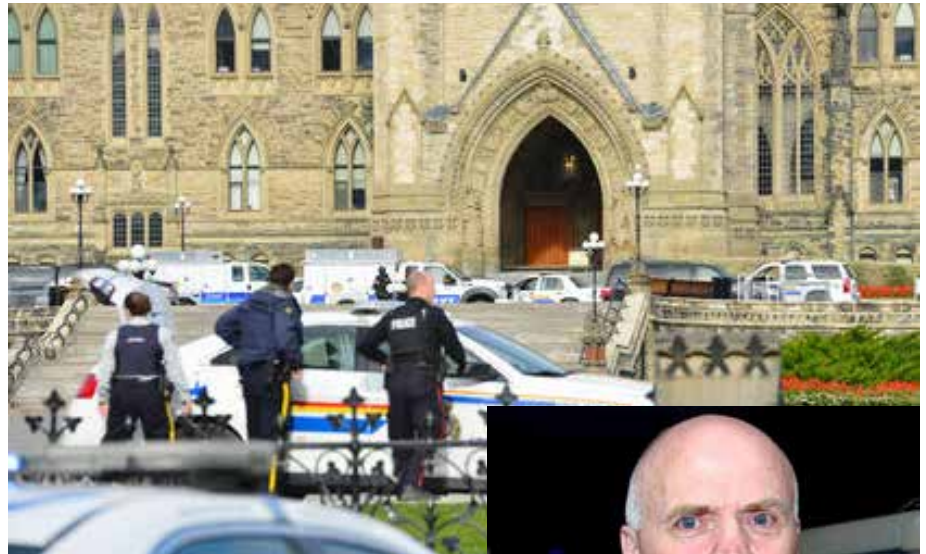
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Standards needed for information sharing



Nov 17 2014

OTTAWA - Canada will have trouble fighting homegrown terrorism until law enforcement agencies do a better job sharing information, Conservative Sen. Vernon White, Ottawa's former police chief, said Monday.

White told a senate committee police need some standards for sharing information on those with extremist tendencies.

"I am not certain that our future is bright," Vernon said. "We need to be able to combat this."

Several officials from the RCMP and



Public Safety Canada briefed senators Monday on ways they are combating the kind of extremist activity that appears to have inspired Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, who killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo last month at Canada's National War Memorial before being shot dead inside Canada's Parliament Buildings.

THE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Police Leadership Award recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies "Leadership as an Activity Not a Position," and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organizational and community perspective.

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Gary Robertson, a top official with Public Safety Canada, said 30 instructors are now in place working with local authorities to train police on how to recognize extremist behaviour, Robertson said

“It’s important to educate all Canadians, including police, to keep an eye out when someone close to you has changed,” Robertson said. “We are also asking school counselors, nurses and doctors to keep an eye out for a radical change in behaviour.”

Robertson told the senators it would be difficult to prevent Canadians from seeing material online that glorifies terrorism or extremist behaviours. While Internet service providers in Canada that host such material could be targeted, it would be hard to eliminate material stored on Internet servers outside the country.

Senators also heard that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) is trying not to foster anti-Muslim stereotypes. CSIS assistant director Tom Venner said the agency was targeting individuals and not mosques.

He said it is critical to identify extremist behaviours everywhere in Canada from universities to the workplace

(Edmonton Examiner)

In Canada, all UAV operators had been required to file requests for a special flight operations certificates (SFOCs). The requests had to be submitted 20 working days before the flight and detail the operator’s security and specific flight plans, including details of the altitudes, routes and boundaries of the operation.

The process had begun to overwhelm Transport Canada’s agents. On 30 October, the Canadian aircraft owners and pilots association (COPA) issued a press release noting that requests for UAV-based SFOCs had grown from only 66 in 2010 to 914 already in 2014.

As a result, Transport Canada has issued two exemptions applying to UAVs weighing less than 2kg and 25kg.

In the smallest weight category, operators are only required to notify Transport Canada of a planned operation and stay below 300ft above ground level, within line of site of the pilot and at least 5nm from an airport unless that airport approves the flight.

Between 2kg and 25kg, UAV operators must comply with an expanded set of 30 conditions or file a request for an SFOC.

UAV flights of aircraft weighing more than 25kg will continue to require specific approval by Transport Canada. (Flightglobal)

equipped to deal with these types of violent encounters.

“When it comes to equipping the front-line members with the most up to date equipment and having them properly trained on it and being proactive on that aspect is not comparable to any budget,” he said.

The RCMP is working on an internal inquiry of the shootings. But McKee says it won’t be enough to improve working conditions within the force.

“Let the public be aware and have the government take action with that and make sure that we are properly equipped,” he said.

McKee’s call is gaining support. The Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada says a public inquiry would shed light on challenges officers are facing in the field.

A professor who made recommendations to the RCMP following the deadly police shootings in Mayerthorpe, Alberta nearly 10 years ago is also calling for a public inquiry.

Darryl Davies says his recommendations to better equip the RCMP weren’t followed. But he says a public inquiry could force the RCMP to finally act.

“The RCMP are still one of the major police forces inadequately equipped to deal with these types of situations on the streets of Canada,” he said. (Global News)

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Nov 12 2014

OTTAWA - Transport Canada has lifted most airspace restrictions on unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) weighing less than 2kg (4.41lb) and under many certain circumstances for UAVs weighing up to 25kg.

The bold decision opens Canada’s airspace to commercial UAV operations at a time when the US Federal Aviation Administration continues to ban most commercial uses of UAVs.

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2014

Nov 13 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - A retired Moncton RCMP officer says a public inquiry into the city’s police shootings is the best way to improve conditions within the force.



Terry McKee served on the police force for 36 years and says officers are dealing with a lack of personnel and equipment and their needs must be addressed.

He says a public inquiry would be the best way to rally support.

“I think it’ll put people in a position where they will want to support changes to make sure that their police officers have nothing but the best out there,” he said.

McKee knew two of the three officers who were shot and killed. Two other officers were also injured in the attack.

McKee says officers need to be better

Nov 13 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police Chief Bill Blair is defending the officers of 31 Division, telling reporters Thursday that a study criticizing their conduct is potentially flawed.

A study was recently commissioned by the Toronto Police Services Board, which surveyed more than 400 residents of 31 Division, in northwest Toronto.

Among its findings were that officers were not following new guidelines for carding — the term used to describe the controversial practice of stopping people on the street and collecting information about them.

The report was delivered to the police board, which met on Thursday.

Blair said he sees problems with the way the survey was conducted and that he believes it fails to give credit to the good work the officers are doing.

“I’m not suggesting that every contact between police and young people always goes perfectly,” Blair said, following the police board meeting.

“We are working very hard with our people to provide them with the training and the tools, the direction and the supervision that will enable them to manage those community engagements appropriately.”

Hours earlier, when Deputy Chief Peter Sloly spoke to CBC Radio’s Metro Morning, he expressed a similar message about the progress being made in 31 Division.

“The crime situation has significantly turned around ... as has the relationship with local police,” Sloly said Thursday morning. “Have we addressed all the crime problems in

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that area? No. Have we addressed all the trust and legitimacy issues in that area? No, but we have made progress.”

(CBC News)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Nov 14 2014

MONTREAL - The Quebec corruption probe that shed light on the province's construction industry and its ties to organized crime and political parties has come to an end.

Justice France Charbonneau gave her closing statement this morning and is expected to table her final report by April 2015.

The Charbonneau Commission was created in late 2011 by then-premier Jean Charest amid heavy public and political pressure.

Charbonneau's opening remarks in May 2012 were followed by startling testimony from bureaucrats, engineering executives and construction bosses about widespread collusion aimed at hiking the price of contracts.

Various witnesses revealed that companies, the Mafia, political parties and crooked bureaucrats all benefited from the proceeds.

Allegations at the commission would also claim the careers of many engineers and city employees and one major municipal figure - Montreal's mayor Gerald Tremblay.

Nov 14 2014

ORANGEVILLE - Orangeville has a new police chief.

The Orangeville Police Service Board has announced that Wayne Kalinski, who held the deputy chief position, will take the helm of the local police service.

"I am humbled and proud to serve the citizens of Orangeville and to provide guidance to the talented members of the Orangeville Police Service," Kalinski said. "I am open and receptive to change and look forward to hearing from the community we so proudly serve."

Kalinski will replace Joe Tomei, who announced his retirement this fall.

Kalinski joined the Orangeville Police Service in June of 2011. Prior to joining, he served with the York Regional Police Service for 32 years. His policing experience includes uniform patrol, criminal investigations, crime analysis, homicide, major crimes, intelligence, surveillance, training and education, as well as the duty inspector's office.

(Orangeville Banner)

Nov 14 2014

CHATEAUGUAY, Que. - There's a new sheriff in town in Montreal-area Chateaugay. In fact, there are several dozen of them.

Police officers in the community south of Montreal have taken to dressing up as lawmakers with a different look, replete with cowboy-style boots and hats.

The garb is in protest against provincial

pension legislation aimed at establishing a 50-50 split between municipalities and unionized workers on contributions and future deficits.

Municipal employees like police officers, firefighters, public transit and other blue- and white-collar workers have been dressing down across the province for months.

Montreal police, for example, have donned bright red ball caps and shed their work-issue slacks for camouflage, fluorescent and multi-coloured pants to show their anger.

Meanwhile, city vehicles, public transit buses, police and fire trucks have been plastered with slogan stickers in dozens of towns.

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

The bill proposes freezing the automatic indexation of pensions for about 20,000 workers already retired and sets out a timeline for negotiating a settlement, including possible arbitration.

Premier Philippe Couillard's government says it wants Bill 3 adopted by year's end.

Nov 14 2014

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) concluded a contract in 2009 with SNC-Lavalin for the management of RCMP detachments and other buildings across the country.

"The level of client satisfaction with the service provider appears to be satisfactory," a document by the RCMP states, adding the "RCMP position is that the relationship with PWGSC/SNC-Lavalin is maturing."

That agreement was in place until 2013, but could be extended until 2015.

Information about the property management agreement between the RCMP and SNC-Lavalin — and a possible extension until next year — appears in a document obtained through an access to information request filed by Ottawa researcher Ken Rubin.

That access request reveals the RCMP spent \$1.27 million of taxpayer funds investigating Quebec engineering firm SNC-Lavalin in the last fiscal year.

(Montreal Gazette)

Nov 14 2014

LONDON - An RCMP officer is in stable condition after sustaining an accidental, self-inflicted gunshot wound at a shooting range at London Police Service headquarters.

The officer was struck in the leg and taken to hospital. London police and the RCMP are investigating.

London police spokeswoman Melissa Duncan said the RCMP is one of a few outside agencies that use the gun range for training purposes. Duncan directed all other questions about the shooting to the RCMP.

RCMP spokesman Richard Rowlings said it's not yet clear how or why the gun fired. He said the department will try to determine

if the incident was preventable or whether it was caused by a malfunctioning firearm.

Rowlings said police will not be releasing the name, age or gender of the injured officer.

(CBC News)

Nov 14 2014

NEWTON - Canada's largest RCMP detachment unveiled a new monument in Surrey Friday morning to honour local Mounties who have lost their lives while on duty.

The monument, at the entrance of the Surrey RCMP detachment building in Newton, contains the names of five constables.

Const. Archie Lepine, originally from Saskatchewan, was posted to the Pattullo Bridge detachment in July 1960. He died July 19, 1962, after his motorcycle collided with a delivery truck on what was then called King George Highway.

Const. Roger Pierlet hailed from Montreal. He was posted to the Cloverdale detachment. On March 29, 1974, while working what was supposed to be his last shift before he was to get married, he was shot dead after stopping a car in Cloverdale.

The two killers were originally sentenced to death, but these were commuted to life sentences after capital punishment was abolished in Canada in 1976. An overpass in Cloverdale is named after Pierlet, in his honor.

Const. John Terry Draginda was born in the Northwest Territories. On Sept. 29, 1974, Draginda was responding to serious motorcycle crash at 152nd Street and 96th Avenue when his patrol car collided with another vehicle, and as a result he and two people in the other car lost their lives. He is buried in Edmonton.

Const. John Baldwinson, born in Gimli, Manitoba, was an outstanding athlete. He died on Oct. 28, 1975, when his patrol car collided with a horse that had wandered onto the roadway late that night.

Most recently, Const. Adrian Oliver was killed on Nov. 13, 2012, when his patrol car collided with a truck at the intersection of 64th Avenue and 148th Street.

(Surrey Now)

Nov 14 2014

EDMONTON - Edmonton police are conducting an internal investigation after a man with a rare genetic disorder died in a police van after being arrested.

The incident took place Wednesday afternoon when city police got a call from a medical clinic saying a man was acting aggressively toward staff. When they arrived, staff identified Trevor Proudman as the man in question.

"When we arrived, we spoke to that gentleman, placed him in handcuffs for our safety and for his, and placed him into what is commonly referred to as a paddy wagon," said city police Insp. Regan James on Friday.

James said the man did not resist and went willingly into the police van. Officers then spent the next 10 to 15 minutes interviewing staff at the site.

"We returned back to our vehicle and found the gentleman in medical distress. Luckily, our members very quickly acted, contacted EMS and initiated the CPR process," James said.

Medical staff arrived and took the man to hospital. The next morning, Proudman was pronounced dead.

As no physical altercation took place, the director of law enforcement has ruled that the city police service had the choice whether to investigate further. James said they will review the incident in order to determine best practices - but the officers involved are not facing any disciplinary action.

(Sun Media)

Nov 14 2014

MONTREAL - Discord between Montreal police brass and its police brotherhood is ramping up, as four more officers face disciplinary hearings over their alleged negligence in allowing chaos to reign at a pension protest at city hall on August 18.

"It's related to the way they behaved and to the supervisor involved for the lack of decision," said Montreal Police Chief Marc Parent.

Top cop Parent said that the four officers were negligent due to their, "lack of efficiency in the transmission of intelligence needed to take a good decision."

The union claims that the officers did nothing wrong, as they were not given the green light to act.

"Our officers wanted to intervene there faster than what was done but were refused by the ones who were in charge," said Police Brotherhood Chief Yves Francoeur.

The famous protest saw city workers - mostly firefighters - create a ruckus at a city council meeting, leading dozens of criminal charges to later be laid.

Four police managers have already been suspended after pleading guilty to their accusations.

In a separate dispute, the brotherhood has expressed dissatisfaction over the quality of their guns and lack of shooting practice, as several ranges have been closed due to the poor condition of the buildings.

Parent said that other temporarily shooting range facilities have been arranged and all 4,700 guns will be replaced by the end of March.

(CTV Montreal)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2014

Nov 15 2014

OTTAWA - A new federal study says two-thirds of female sexual-assault victims who responded to a detailed survey said they lacked confidence in the criminal justice system - pointing to a need for better support services.

Many of these women cited their shaky faith in the justice system as a reason for not

reporting a sexual attack to police.

The newly released study provides insight into the experiences and needs of victims amid heightened concern about whether enough is being done to encourage them to come forward.

The study, completed this year by Melissa Lindsay, was obtained from the Justice Department's research and statistics division under the Access to Information Act.

It involved 114 interviews in 2009 with survivors of child or adult sexual violence in three unnamed cities in different provinces.

Nov 15 2014

OTTAWA - Ottawa police say they have laid charges after an investigation into allegations that a man impersonated a soldier at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa.

Police started investigating after questions were raised about the man after he was interviewed during CBC's live coverage of events near the National War Memorial.

In a release, police say 32-year-old Franck Gervais of Cantley, Que., has been charged with two offences of personating a public officer, unlawful use of a military uniform and unlawful use of military decorations.

Police say Gervais was charged on Saturday and released on a recognizance.

He has a court appearance scheduled for Dec. 9.

Police say their investigation is continuing.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Nov 17 2014

FREDERICTON - The Crown in New Brunswick says the release of some exhibits entered as evidence at Justin Bourque's sentencing would traumatize the families of the RCMP officers he shot and the city of Moncton.

News media organizations including The Canadian Press have asked for access to exhibits used at the sentencing hearing for Bourque, who pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

Crown lawyer Cameron Gunn says he's opposed to the release of evidence including radio transmissions of some of the last messages from the officers who were killed.

Gunn says he's also against the release of a videotaped interview Bourque gave to police after his arrest, saying it would give him "a voice in perpetuity."

During that interview, which was played in court at his sentencing hearing, Bourque said he shot three RCMP officers dead and wounded two others because he was trying to start a rebellion against an oppressive government.

David Coles, the lawyer representing the media, says the public has a right to see the evidence because it conveys information of interest throughout Canada.

Nov 17 2014

OTTAWA - A senior federal official says the government is looking for ways to better use secret intelligence in court proceedings as a means of countering homegrown terrorism.

John Davies, a director general with Public Safety Canada, says the goal is to introduce intelligence in criminal trials while protecting the sensitivity of the information.

Davies says the government is also looking at improved information sharing among agencies and whether the threshold for detaining a terrorism suspect is too high.

Davies was among several public servants quizzed today by members of the Senate national security and defence committee.

The government has indicated it will bring in new legislation following last month's fatal daylight attacks on soldiers in Ottawa and St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que.

It recently introduced a bill that would ensure the ability of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service to track suspects overseas and provide blanket protection to the spy agency's informants.

Nov 17 2014

ST. CATHARINES - Michelle Tucker keeps a goose feather close to her heart. It's a reminder of how blessed she is to have her husband Pete by her side.



The veteran OPP officer from the Niagara detachment was injured in a freak crash on Hwy. 400 north of Barrie June 25.

He was hit in the head by a goose in flight, causing him to crash his motorcycle while travelling at about 130 km/h. Tucker, who is from St. Catharines, was part of an OPP escort with at least 14 other motorcycles involved in a training exercise.

He stopped breathing and lost his left leg at the scene. In hospital over the next couple of weeks, he was in a coma and his kidneys failed. He endured six surgeries in a 10-day period.

Michelle Tucker keeps that goose feather in a locket inscribed with the word Blessed.

"Pete was on a breathing tube and ventilator and when they were scoping it, they pulled goose feathers out of his lungs," she said. "It happened more than once. They told me about it, and I asked if I could have one. They looked at me like I was nuts, but, a day or two later, they brought me one.

"It's just a reminder. It's not about the

goose at all. It represents his strength and that he has been able to overcome this.”

Pete Tucker acknowledges all of this — and in the next breath counts those blessings.

“I don’t want to be dramatic or have anyone thinking I am a special guy,” he said. “A lot of my strength and determination comes from my wife, Michelle. We have been together 22 years now and married for 18 of them. She is the greatest, strongest person I know, and I couldn’t do it without her.

“I’m just a guy who survived an accident. I’m quite sure I could have died that day, but I made it because of faith and luck.”

Tucker’s luck started when he landed in the only area of the median that had grass. The ground was soft. It rained the night before.

He was surrounded by members of the OPP’s elite motorcycle unit, the Golden Helmets, who knew exactly what needed to be done to save his life. One of the officers just happened to have a tourniquet in his kit.

The hospital in Barrie was only about 10 kilometres away. A Toronto-based doctor from Sunnybrook hospital, which has the largest trauma unit in Canada, was visiting a doctor friend in Barrie and assisted in Tucker’s emergency care. The doctor contacted Sunnybrook and let staff know what they would be facing once Tucker arrived by air ambulance.

“People really stepped up and it’s been so wonderful in so many different ways,” Michelle Tucker said.

“As horrible as this incident has been, I think it has brought out so many positive things in our lives that we had no idea about. We knew we were loved, but it is amazing to see the support from our church and our neighbours at home.

“People in our neighbourhood put together a meal train and take turns bringing food to the home. You expect that in the first week or so, but we still have people bringing us meals at night. It’s been wonderful because I’m still working and he’s in therapy, but I said to the woman who is running it, I’m actually embarrassed this is still going on.”

Tucker is mobile again with the aid of a walker and prosthetic leg. He has lost almost 50 pounds but was at City Hall Monday morning. He received a plaque from Mayor Brian McMullan recognizing Tucker’s service to the community and his courage and determination in recovering from his crash.

Tucker said he isn’t done with police work.

“I’m not depressed, but sometimes I get a little sad and there are some shadows, but I’m going to be OK,” he said. “I really hope something good can come out of it.

“I want to work. The OPP has been very positive about me coming back to work, but I don’t want to go back and put in my time. I know I’ll never be on the road again, but there are many things I can put my mind to.”

He is undergoing almost daily physiotherapy. His right knee is still a mess. He has three torn ligaments that have to be repaired at some point.

“He’s a determined fellow,” Staff Sgt. Jan



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Idzenga of the Niagara OPP said. "He doesn't want this to define who he is. He wants to be back at work, which is truly inspirational with what he has been through.

"I know he is really eager to get back and pushing himself to get there. There is no doubt he can contribute to the organization. He is a heck of an officer.

"There are lots of positions we will be able to fit him into when he's ready. I have no doubt he will find some meaningful work. He's that type of guy."

(St. Catharines Standard)

Nov 17 2014

VANCOUVER - A newly released report raises questions about how an independent agency investigated what happened when the RCMP shot and killed a man during a standoff in northern B.C.

Lawyer Mark Jette was appointed to investigate how the Independent Investigations Office handled the death of Greg Matters, a former soldier who was killed in September 2012.

Jette's report says two supervisors within the agency were not legally authorized to be investigators, because one had recently been an RCMP officer in B.C. and the other was still receiving paycheques after leaving a job with the RCMP in Alberta.

The report says this undermined the agency's ability to independently investigate and could damage its credibility with the public.

However, Jette says he did not find any evidence of pro- or anti-police bias that undermined the integrity of the investigation.

The agency investigated and later cleared the officers involved in Matters' death of criminal wrongdoing, but Jette was appointed earlier this year after a former investigator filed a complaint.

Nov 17 2014

NEW YORK CITY - The city experienced the lowest crime rate in August, September and October since at least 1994, new statistics show.

Total crime, which focuses on the so-called seven majors — murder, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, grand larceny and grand larceny auto — is down 7.9% for the last three months as compared to the same period last year, data reveal.

The three-month total crime rate is the lowest since the NYPD began tracking it through the CompStat system.

The city is also on a record-low pace for murders and burglaries.

(New York Daily News)

Nov 17 2014

An OPP officer faces a dangerous driving causing bodily harm charge in connection with a May collision with a motorcycle in Oro-Medonte Township.

Charged is Const. Daniel Lesperance of Southern Georgian Bay OPP, who has a January court date in Barrie.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) determined that on the afternoon of Wednesday,

May 28, 2014, Lesperance pursued a motorcycle travelling southbound in the area of Line 2 in Oro-Medonte Township.

At the intersection of Line 2 and Mount St. Louis Road West, there was a collision between the officer's cruiser and the motorcycle, the SIU said.

The motorcyclist, 27-year-old Bradley Jones, suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital for treatment.

(Orillia Packet)

Nov 17 2014

THUNDER BAY – Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee says that he is impressed with the Durham Regional Police in regards to the dig at a farm north of Toronto in Anishinabek Nation territory.

"Detective Sgt. Mitch Martin, Major Crime Unit – Homicide and his team at the Durham Regional Police handled this site dig in a very respectful way," says Madahbee. "The positive and respectful way that the Durham Regional Police worked with us and other First Nation leadership is a good example of how First Nations and police services can work collaboratively with each other."

Forensic investigators were digging through the concrete floor of a barn northeast of Toronto, where it was believed the bodies of three murdered First Nations boys were buried in the 1950s. Police have found nothing after digging up the barn.

Madahbee noted that leadership and community protocols and perspectives were sought and respected during this investigation and that ceremonies were conducted by communities closest to the farm in October.

"The investigations into Glenna Mae's claims were very thorough – they dug wider and deeper than originally suggested," says Madahbee. "I thank all of those involved in this investigation."

(Net News Ledger)

Nov 18 2014

CALGARY - Agencies and businesses that require background checks for employment and volunteer purposes will now have an easier time doing with the Calgary Police Service's on-line information check system.

Organizations can use the ePIC system to create accounts for all applicants and review results online, tracking application dates and manage results.

Amanda Welfare, manager with the CPS Administration Section, says the new system can cut down on time and costs over the old program. "This is the first system in Canada where the entire Police Information Check can be completed online, requiring no visit to a police station."

Officials say that so far, 108 agencies have registered with ePIC and it has been met with a positive response.

Caroline Ellis, the assistant registrar at Columbia College, says setting up their account with ePIC was fast and easy. "We think that students will feel more in control of their

Police Information Checks as they are the key drivers of their online application."

The ePIC system will become available to the public in January 2015.

(CTV Calgary)

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

Nov 19 2014

HALIFAX - Halifax police say they have improved how they use social media in investigations following the release of a report into the 2010 death of a blind woman found lying underneath a bridge.

The police department has issued a response to a review released in July by Quebec city police that found shortcomings with the way Halifax investigators handled the case of Holly Bartlett's death.

The report cited a number of problems, including the fact that Halifax police did not analyze Bartlett's Facebook account and computer until this year, something the review said should've been done during the first hours of the case.

Supt. Jim Perrin of Halifax's criminal investigation division says the department's capacity to analyze social media accounts and computers was limited at the time of the investigation but it is much stronger now.

He also says police may have provided information to Bartlett's relatives in the course of their investigation that wasn't confirmed and it will exhaust all investigative efforts before speaking with a victim's family in the future.

Halifax police Chief Jean-Michel Blais says he agrees with Perrin's conclusions.

Blais ordered the review after Bartlett's family approached him with concerns over the adequacy of his department's investigation.

The 31-year-old woman was discovered unconscious under the MacKay Bridge on March 27, 2010, and died in hospital the next day.

At the time, Halifax police concluded that she became disoriented after leaving a taxi in the early morning hours and fell 10 metres off a concrete abutment.

The review says she was drinking before she fell but her blood-alcohol level was redacted in the report.

The report says it is impossible to know all of Bartlett's actions before her fall but there was no reason for Halifax investigators to believe Bartlett's death was the result of a criminal act.

Nov 19 2014

TORONTO - A senior police officer who ordered the arrests of hundreds during Toronto's G20 summit four years ago had no regard for their conduct or intentions when he issued his sweeping commands, a prosecution lawyer

told the officer's disciplinary hearing on Wednesday.

Supt. Dave (Mark) Fenton has pleaded not guilty to a total of five charges of unlawful arrest and discreditable conduct stemming from two "kettling" incidents that occurred over the summit weekend.

The first took place on Saturday, June 26, 2010, hours after a small group of vandals smashed windows and set police cruisers alight.

Fenton ordered officers to box in protesters in front of a downtown hotel. More than 260 people were arrested and taken to a makeshift prisoner processing centre, which came under severe criticism for its deplorable conditions.

The second incident occurred the next day when, six minutes after coming on shift, Fenton ordered police to keep scores of people standing for hours at a downtown intersection despite a severe thunderstorm that left them drenched.

"The order made in each case was, the evidence will show, indiscriminate," prosecution lawyer Brendan van Niejenhuis told the hearing taking place at Toronto Police headquarters.

"The composition of the crowd was mixed... some were passers by, others were curious onlookers who stopped to see what was going on and some undoubtedly were protesters."

At the heart of the hearing, Van Niejenhuis argued, is one "ultimate question" that must be addressed by retired Ontario Superior court judge Peter Grossi, who is presiding over the case.

"Were the arrests lawful and necessary, and did they constitute conduct that would lower the esteem of the Toronto Police Service in the eyes of the public," he said.

Fenton's defence lawyer, however, cautioned that the disciplinary hearing was not a public inquiry.

The hearing is only dealing with the two issues, Peter Brauti said - whether Fenton had grounds to issue the arrest orders, and whether he failed to monitor the processing and detention of those who had been arrested.

Brauti also noted that it was also important to remember that Fenton was only working with the information he had.

"Accurate, inaccurate, what was the information that he had, what was his decision based on?" he asked. "That goes to the core of this case."

In a statement to civilian oversight investigators, Fenton has said he had no option to the mass arrests to make the city safe.

Nov 19 2014

REGINA - The RCMP has charged a man with a hit and run incident that injured one its own members and another person.

Blake Wahl, 30, of the Rural Municipality of Pense was arrested Tuesday and charged with failing to stop at the scene of an accident.

Meanwhile, the injured RCMP officer, 42-year-old Const. Keith Bennett, continues

to recover in hospital.

"While he has come a long way in the month since the incident, he has a long road to a full recovery," reads a statement provided by Bennett's family on Wednesday.

"His spirits are high and he looks forward to the time when he can return home to his family and return to the job he loves."

The RCMP wouldn't provide any further updates on Bennett's condition.

In the early hours of Oct. 19, three White Butte detachment RCMP officers were placing a 56-year-old man under arrest near an event centre about nine kilometres west of Regina. An SUV driving along the road hit Bennett and the man being detained.

RCMP tried to stop the vehicle, shooting at it. The SUV slowed, then drove away.

Bennett suffered serious injuries, including broken bones and damage to his internal organs. The arrested man's injuries were described at the time as non-life-threatening. A second RCMP officer sustained minor injuries.

Later that day, RCMP seized the vehicle believed to be involved in the incident from Wahl's property. The investigation that followed involved upwards of 50 interviews, said RCMP spokeswoman Mandy Maier.

The man being arrested at the time of the hit and run has not been charged and is out of hospital, said Maier.

An internal RCMP investigation is being conducted into the use firearms in the incident.

Wahl was released and is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 21. Maier said consultation with the Crown might identify further Criminal Code violations.

(Regina Leader-Post)

Nov 19 2014

NEWMARKET - A harassment civil suit launched by RCMP Sgt. Pete Merrifield against his superior officers could draw Commissioner Bob Paulson to testify in a Newmarket, Ont., courtroom next week.

Paulson became involved in the file in the summer of 2013 because he repeated unproven accusations against Merrifield in Senate hearings on the topic of harassment in the national police force.

The lawsuit, which dates back to 2005 before Paulson was commissioner, finally started this week despite several attempts by the Department of Justice to quash it.

Judge Mary Vallee will rule later this week on whether Commissioner Paulson must attend the hearing.

In Newmarket this week, Merrifield, 48, testified that he was considered an exemplary constable until the spring of 2005 when a superior officer took exception to his candidacy and his campaign literature in a Conservative nomination meeting in Barrie.

That led, he said, to him being isolated, maligned and in fear of losing his job. He said his senior officers retaliated with investigations into his public speaking, accusations of kiting and fraud in his use of his corporate

credit card, accusations of leaking of his own personnel records and disclosure of protective information, all of which were deemed unfounded.

Regardless, Merrifield said, he was pulled from high-profile assignments to national security details, including a threat against a cabinet minister, the arrest of key figures he was responsible for in the Toronto 17, a royal visit, and an emergency response team where he was to be one of three RCMP officers manning a round-the-clock criminal intelligence database for a terrorist threat against Toronto.

On the way to the Special Operations Centre, a superior officer called to tell him he wasn't needed.

Merrifield told the court he had already run as a candidate, and lost, in the 2004 election, but he dealt with no criticism while he was in the air marshal's unit. At the time of the May 2005 nomination hearing in Barrie, he was part of the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team.

None of Merrifield's accusations have been proven in court. Department of Justice lawyers, who have already lost an attempt to dismiss his suit, and subsequent cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court, will cross-examine Merrifield tomorrow.

In its statement of defence, the RCMP says Merrifield should have taken leave without pay for that one-day nomination hearing (on a day off), and that he spoke publicly on national security without prior approval of his superiors. The RCMP says his political activities left him in conflicts of interest, which led to his transfers out of the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team.

Merrifield's lawyers have asked Paulson to testify on how he was prepared for his appearance at the Senate hearing on harassment.

Paulson has vowed to rid the RCMP of harassment, but Merrifield feels the commissioner's testimony at the Senate committee on national security and defence was a continuation of the bullying that exists in the force.

(CBC News)

Nov 19 2014

MONTREAL - The union that represents Montreal's police officers is calling for an end to ticket quotas.

The Montreal Police Brotherhood said the quota system in place requires many police officers to issue upwards of 18 tickets a day, and the obligation to meet quotas can mean fewer police services to the public.

"It's only to get more money, to bring more money to City Hall," said Yves Francoeur, the president of the Police Brotherhood.

It's no secret that Montreal police officers on traffic patrol have ticket quotas, but Francoeur said the quotas are interfering with public safety.

"For the Montreal police bikers, it's 18 tickets a day," said Francoeur. "For the traffic squad it's 16 and depending on the staffing of a police station, it's between 450 and 1500 for a month."

Francoeur said that this is a problem for

several reasons, one of which is that if a station is not going to hit its quota, commanders will frequently take officers on patrol and order them to do nothing but hand out tickets.

The union chief said this means that for several days each month, officers are told not to respond to any emergency calls unless someone's life is in danger, so calls regarding events such as thefts will be ignored. On those days, victims of car theft or burglary could wait hours for a police officer to respond, said Francoeur.

Francoeur said in addition to the negligence of public safety caused by ticket quotas, they are also used to evaluate police officers hoping for a promotion.

"We are not opposed to giving tickets, but for promotion or evaluation we need a regulation because the officers should not be evaluated only on how many tickets they give," said Francoeur.

The union wants Quebec to adopt the same policy in place in 22 American states and eliminate quotas.

The police brotherhood has a history of bringing up quotas prior to and during contract negotiations.

Currently municipal unions across Quebec are outraged over provincial legislation that would require workers to contribute half of the cost of their pension plan.

(CTV News Montreal)

Nov 19 2014

OTTAWA - A newly declassified evaluation says sketchy expectations, lack of training and poor communication with head office hampered the Canadian liaison teams embedded in the electronic spy agencies of Ottawa's Five Eyes partners.

The internal evaluation says the Ottawa-based Communications Security Establishment's foreign relations program is key to helping the spy service do its work, given the importance of relations with counterparts in the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

But the study found advance operational training was scarce for liaison staff sent overseas, and communication between the staff and CSE headquarters needed improvement.

The Ottawa-based CSE monitors foreign communications of intelligence interest to Canada, and exchanges a large amount of information on terrorism, espionage and international crime and with its four main allies.

The Canadian Press obtained a heavily censored copy of the evaluation - originally classified "Secret/Canadian Eyes Only" - under the Access to Information Act.

CSE spokesman Ryan Foreman says most of the evaluation's recommendations have been implemented, with the rest expected to be complete later this year.

Nov 19 2014

LONGUEUIL, Que. - Crown prosecutors in Quebec will not file charges against a police officer who was reportedly speeding when his cruiser

crashed into another vehicle, killing a five-year-old boy.

They intend to give their reasons after speaking to the child's family.

The provincial police officer was driving in Montreal-area Longueuil last February when his vehicle rammed into the one in which the child was travelling. He died a few days later.

Montreal La Presse has reported the officer was travelling at 120 km-h in a 50 km-h zone. He was on duty but was not answering an emergency call.

Until now only Montreal police have met with family members.

The issue surfaced in the national assembly today where Justice Minister Stephanie Vallee said the Crown will speak to the family. (The Canadian Press)

Nov 19 2014

VICTORIA - British Columbia's criminal justice branch has opted not to charge two RCMP officers who were involved in a high-speed chase between Fernie and Sparwood in south-eastern B.C. earlier this year.

The SUV the officers were chasing in the early morning hours of Jan. 16 slammed into another vehicle, injuring the passengers inside.

When the chase and subsequent arrest were investigated by the Independent Investigations Office a report was submitted for charge assessment that indicated the officers may have committed an offence.

A statement from the Criminal Justice Branch released Wednesday says there's no substantial likelihood of conviction for any driving offences against the officers either under the Criminal Code or under the provincial Motor Vehicle Act.

The branch says it has also concluded that the available evidence doesn't prove that the force used by the officers in the course of arresting the driver was excessive in all circumstances.

The driver of the SUV pleaded guilty in March to two counts of impaired driving causing bodily harm, flight from a peace officer and dangerous driving and received an 18-month jail term.

Oct 19 2014

ORANGEVILLE - Orangeville's new police chief wants the Orangeville Police Service (OPS) run on a slimmer budget.

"We're going to be leaner," said Deputy Police Chief Wayne Kalinski, who is set to assume the role as police chief in January. "It is for the community to judge and for me to ensure I deliver."

Kalinski has served as Orangeville's deputy chief for the last three years and 32 years with York Regional Police (YRP) before that.

At about \$8.2 million, a 3.7 per cent hike compared to the year prior, OPS accounted for about 16 per cent of the town's \$50 million budget in 2014.

Kalinski is well aware that town council is investigating what it might cost to have the

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) take over policing in town. He intends to find ways to either trim policing costs or run OPS in a more financially effective manner.

"We're going to try and do more with less," Kalinski said, viewing the OPP costing on the horizon as an opportunity for the force to build on public trust.

"At the end of the day, it makes us ensure we're doing things as efficiently as possible," he added. "Actions speak louder than words. You are going to have to let me prove myself."

The wallet at OPS has been plagued by a number of ongoing Police Services Act (PSA) hearings involving many of its officers in recent years.

The onus will be on both officers and management to keep any legal costs associated with disciplining officers under the PSA in check, Kalinski said.

"It's my hope and desire that we can deal with some matters informally," he explained. "But my goal and hope is that officers ensure that they do the right thing."

From a crime standpoint, Kalinski takes solace in the fact Orangeville is already recognized as a safe community.

The new chief pointed to Statistics Canada's 2013 Crime Severity Index (CSI) — Orangeville's crime rate ranked as the 33rd lowest of 304 Canadian communities listed — as proof.

"I want to ensure that continues," Kalinski said. "We pride ourselves in recognizing we're very safe."

Kalinski said his first task will be to complete an OPS business plan, which is reviewed every three years.

(Orangeville Banner)



Nov 20 2014

VANCOUVER - A BC Supreme Court judge says she won't throw out two gangsters' murder convictions, despite allegations of bad police behaviour and mistreatment in jail.

Cody Haevischer and Matthew Johnston were each convicted last month of conspiracy and six counts of first-degree murder in the so-called Surrey Six slayings.

The slayings, in October of 2007, left six people dead, including two innocent bystanders.

Their lawyers alleged the behaviour of several RCMP officers involved in the case - including having sex with protected witnesses - amounted to an abuse of process.

The lawyers also alleged their clients received inhumane treatment in jail.

Justice Catherine Wedge says the allegations, if true, would represent serious misconduct on the part of the police officers, while the mistreatment in jail would likely violate international treaties that dictate how prisoners should be treated.

She says because of the number of

victims and the motivation underlying the murders, society has a profound interest in seeing justice done.

Wedges says the alleged abuses do not warrant throwing out the convictions.

Nov 20 2014

EDMONTON - Edmonton police could share an RCMP hangar - and staff to service and maintain identical helicopters - at the Edmonton International Airport, Chief Rod Knecht says.

Police have asked city council for \$7.2 million to buy a twin-engined helicopter to replace one of two single-engined helicopters currently operated by police. The second would theoretically be replaced in 2019.

But on Wednesday, Knecht said Edmonton police have been discussing a "compromise" with the city. If given the green light instead for a new \$3 million helicopter, Edmonton police could look at sharing mechanics, pilots and training with the RCMP, based at the airport.

Police have also talked about taking the "integrated model" to the province and RCMP.

"We can save a lot of money for the taxpayer," Knecht said. "The public don't care, at the end of the day, if they call 911, they don't care what the colour the stripe is down your pants, they just want a police officer there."

Police have said they've needed a faster, more reliable twin-engined helicopter ever since the City Centre Airport closed last year. Single-engine helicopters require take-off space, forcing police to move to a hangar at the Villeneuve airport. That extra distance eats into fuel and response times.

A twin-engined craft would only require a heli-pad, Knecht said, allowing the city to move the helicopters back into the city. The newer craft would cost roughly the same to operate, he added. To pay for the new helicopter, police had planned to sell one of their single-engined helicopters purchased in 2009. They would retire their less valuable 2002 craft by 2019.

Police use the helicopters to pursue stolen vehicles and fleeing suspects, monitor suspicious activity and help with fires, searches and suicide calls. On Wednesday, police screened a highlight reel of night vision footage from two weeks of night shifts this month, when Edmonton helicopters flew more than 50 hours and attended 85 calls. The calls included 16 stolen vehicles and criminal flight, 10 impaired drivers, as well as six mental health complaints and three missing people.

"Probably 90 per cent of those cases, we wouldn't have caught the bad guy," Knecht said.

A new helicopter is more valuable than adding 40 more officers, Knecht said, which would put 1.5 to 1.9 officers per division on the street at any time. The helicopter is a "force multiplier," enhancing safety and reducing liability for damages during pursuits.

The new single-engined helicopter would still be an upgrade, and would provide a patrol presence on the growing south side of Edmonton.

Being stationed at the Edmonton International Airport would also make sense, given city plans for annexing land from Leduc County, which would put the airport into Edmonton police jurisdiction. While the helicopters wouldn't be a shared resource, RCMP and Edmonton police could work together.

"We could work with them. We integrate a lot with them anyway," said Knecht, who came to EPS from the RCMP. "That could be an example for airports across Canada, where you have that shared integration, so you have a red stripe and yellow stripe working together." (Edmonton Journal)

Nov 19 2014

VANCOUVER - A police check for a cycling infraction turned into a potentially dangerous situation for two arresting officers.

Vancouver Police Const. Brian Montague said the officers pulled over a cyclist for a relatively minor offence - riding on a sidewalk near the corner of Broadway and Oak Street.

The cyclist's demeanour concerned the cops, who got an unsuspected surprise when they searched him - a 60-cm-long machete concealed in his pants.

"This is another example that shows how police never know who they may be dealing with, and what dangers may be waiting for them," said Montague. "If someone can conceal a machete, you can imagine just how easily someone can hide a variety of weapons."

Police discovered the 31-year-old suspect was on probation for assault, with the requirement that he not possess weapons.

Charges of possession of a dangerous weapon and breach of a probation order have been recommended by police.

(Vancouver Province)



The Police Leadership Award recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies "Leadership as an Activity Not a Position," and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organizational and community perspective.

This award is open to active Canadian police officers below the rank of senior officer who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to service through deeds resulting in a measurable benefit to their peers, service and community.

The 2015 award recipient will be recognized in the April 2015 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at the Blue Line Awards Gala held in conjunction with the Blue Line EXPO, April 28, 2015.



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