

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

Dec 05 2014

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg Police Board has passed a motion instructing the chief and his officers to try harder to solve cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Page 3

Dec 05 2014

Somewhere in rural Norfolk county, a volunteer is standing at a village intersection with a speed gun so a police officer doesn't have to.

Page 4

Dec 07 2014

Britain's law enforcement agencies are ill-equipped to confront a fast-expanding and multi-billion-pound cyber-crime phenomenon, according to a survey of police intelligence analysts.

Page 5

Dec 08 2014

The new commanding officer of Nunavut's RCMP says he's happy to be back in Iqaluit.

Page 6

Dec 11 2014

CALGARY - A judge has ruled that a man who killed an Alberta peace officer who was investigating a dog complaint is not criminally responsible for the death.

Page 9

Dec 11 2014

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - New legislation in Newfoundland and Labrador would allow police to apply to a judge for access to personal records in a missing persons case without having evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

Page 9

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Supreme Court says police have limited right to search cellphones



Dec 11 2014

OTTAWA - A divided Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that police can conduct a limited search of suspect's cellphone without getting a search warrant, but they must follow strict rules.

By a 4-3 margin, the court said in a precedent-setting ruling that the search must be directly related to the circumstances of a person's arrest and the police must keep detailed records of the search.

It is the first Supreme Court ruling on cellphone privacy, an issue that has spawned a series of divergent lower court rulings.

The high court dismissed the appeal of the 2009 armed robbery conviction of Kevin Fearon, who argued unsuccessfully that police

violated his charter rights when they searched his cellphone without a warrant after he'd robbed a Toronto jewelry kiosk.

The court agreed that the police had in fact breached Fearon's rights, but the evidence against him on his cellphone should not be excluded.

"The police simply did something that they believed on reasonable grounds to be lawful and were proven wrong, after the fact, by developments in the jurisprudence," Justice Thomas Cromwell wrote for the majority.

"That is an honest mistake, reasonably made, not state misconduct that requires exclusion of evidence."

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Cromwell said the court was trying to strike a balance between the demands of effective law enforcement and the public's right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures under Section 8 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"In my view, we can achieve that balance with a rule that permits searches of cellphones incident to arrest, provided that the search - both what is searched and how it is searched - is strictly incidental to the arrest and that the police keep detailed notes of what has been searched and why."

The ruling laid out detailed criteria to guide police.

The arrest must be lawful, and the search must be "truly incidental to the arrest" and "based on a valid law enforcement purpose," it said.

The ruling defined valid law enforcement as: protecting the police, accused or the public.

That includes preserving evidence and discovering new evidence, "including locating additional suspects, in situations in which the investigation will be stymied or significantly hampered absent the ability to promptly search the cellphone incident to arrest."

Moreover, the ruling said a phone can be subjected to a warrantless search if the "nature and the extent of the search are tailored to the purpose of the search" if police "take detailed notes of what they examined on the device and how it was searched."

That lack of proper note-taking was the one flaw the high court identified in Fearon's arrest, but it said that wasn't enough to exclude the evidence that was gathered from his phone.

After police arrested Fearon, they found a relevant draft text message that referred to "jewelry" and photographs, including the handgun used the robbery.

"We did it," the text message read in part.

Police later obtained a search warrant but

found nothing more useful on the phone.

The court said the evidence the officers presented in court about the initial search was unsatisfactory. One officer testified that he "had a look through the cellphone" and another said he did "some quick checks" for about two minutes.

Beyond that, the court concluded, the police "were not able to provide many specifics."

Still, the high court allowed that evidence to stand - upholding Fearon's conviction - and agreed with the original trial judge's finding that excluding it would "would undermine the truth-seeking function of the justice system."

Writing for the three dissenters, Justice Andromache Karakatsanis said police should need a warrant in all cases to search a cellphone.

"The intensely personal and uniquely pervasive sphere of privacy in our personal computers requires protection that is clear, practical and effective," she wrote.

She added the court's majority ruling had proposed an "overly complicated template" for police to follow.

"Fundamentally, my colleague's approach puts the balancing decision in the hands of the police," Karakatsanis wrote.

"I doubt not that police officers faced with this decision would act in good faith, but I do not think that they are in the best position to determine 'with great circumspection' whether the law enforcement objectives clearly outweigh the potentially significant intrusion on privacy in the search of a personal cellphone or computer" she added.

"If they are wrong, the subsequent exclusion of the evidence will not remedy the initial privacy violation."

THURSDAY DECEMBER 04, 2014

Dec 04 2014

VICTORIA - Attorney General Suzanne Anton says British Columbia is a safer place for women compared to when serial killer Robert Pickton was prowling Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.



She pointed to a report Thursday that states the Liberal government has taken action on 75 per cent of the recommendations made two years ago after a public inquiry into Pickton's murders.

"I do believe B.C. is a safer place now than it was 15 years ago when these tragedies were unfolding," Anton said. "We do have supports for vulnerable women. There's been

very dramatic steps forward."

Pickton was convicted in 2007 of killing six women and sentenced to life in prison, although he admitted to killing 49 women and the DNA or remains of 33 women were found on his pig farm in Port Coquitlam. Twenty murder charges against Pickton were stayed following his conviction.

Former Liberal cabinet minister Wally Oppal, who headed a public inquiry into the Pickton case, made 63 recommendations in December 2012, including funding a 24-hour centre in the Downtown Eastside for sex workers and starting a transportation service along the so-called Highway of Tears from Prince George to Prince Rupert, where women have gone missing.

Anton said the actions taken by the government since Oppal's report are protecting vulnerable women. They include legislation that police help find missing people sooner.

She said communication and safety improvements along the Highway of Tears continue to be addressed.

At least 17 women, many of them aboriginal, have vanished or been murdered in the area along Highway 16 and the adjacent Highways 97 and 5 since the 1970s. Most of the cases remain unsolved, though investigators don't believe a single killer is responsible.

Dec 04 2014

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - Four charges, including attempted murder, have been laid against a 36-year-old man accused of shooting a Mountie during a traffic stop in Kamloops, B.C.

The province's Criminal Justice Branch announced Thursday that Kenneth Knutson faces charges of attempted murder using a firearm, aggravated assault of a peace officer, possession of a firearm while prohibited, and discharging a firearm with intent to wound.

Knutson has a history with police and the courts, including a conviction in 2009 after being caught by police wearing body armour and with a loaded-and-cocked restricted weapon in his possession.

Provincial court Judge James Jardine convicted him on three criminal charges connected to the case.

In March 2002, he was charged with second-degree murder and a report in The Province newspaper later said the charge was reduced and Knutson pleaded guilty to criminal negligence causing death.

The latest allegations against Knutson stem from the Wednesday morning shooting of Cpl. Jean Michaud who stopped a vehicle in a Kamloops neighbourhood. An officer in a backup vehicle exchanged gunfire with the suspect, injuring his arm, police said.

Knutson was arrested about 12 hours by an emergency response team after an intense manhunt by police.

RCMP Cpl. Cheryl Bush said three females were also arrested during the investigation, one of whom was taken into custody on unrelated outstanding warrants.

Bush couldn't say what charges the females might face or how they were connected

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to the investigation.

"Cpl. Michaud remains in critical but stable condition in intensive care and is expected to undergo further surgery," she said. "The incredible amount of support being offered to Kamloops RCMP and Cpl. Michaud's family is both overwhelming and heartwarming."

Police have said the 40-year-old Michaud was shot by someone who sped off in a vehicle.

Investigators have seized the vehicle that was allegedly involved in the traffic stop from a residence associated with the suspect and it will now undergo forensic examination, Bush told reporters.

B.C.'s police watchdog said it was contacted after the arrest because of the injury to the suspect's arm, but later said it would not investigate the injury.

Dec 04 2014

MONTREAL - Montreal police had poor information on what kind of protest was afoot at city hall on Aug. 18, leading to bad planning and too few police officers on the scene.

There was no backup plan in case things turned ugly.

There was a lack of communication between central command and the officers inside city hall who were urgently calling for backup.

Police on the ground failed to organize a new game plan in a rapidly deteriorating situation. Police at central control failed to take the issue seriously. By the time the backup arrived, the firefighters had mostly left the building.

All of these factors contributed to the sacking of Montreal's city hall on Aug. 18 as roughly 300 irate municipal workers, mostly firefighters protesting changes to their pension plans, stormed the doors and ran rampant. Montreal would receive worldwide negative media publicity, six firefighters would be fired, 57 municipal employees suspended without pay, another 44 arrested on criminal charges, and relations between the city and many of its employees would sour significantly.

Montreal police presented their report to the city's public security committee Wednesday on what happened that day, detailing how their inaction contributed to the crisis, and presenting recommendations on how it could have been avoided.

Four police managers were sanctioned for improper handling of the situation, as well as four police officers.

"There were problems with the management of operations during the start of the city council meeting because it happened very quickly," Montreal police chief Marc Parent told journalists. "It was 30 minutes from their entry into city hall to the ransacking inside. Essentially, there were issues with the taking of decisions and how our chain of command worked."

The police force is using it as a learning experience, Parent said, and has formulated nine recommendations to stem a recurrence. There was no collusion between police and

firefighters, as many have suggested, since they are fighting the same pension battles, the report found.

The report notes police information about the coming protest was incomplete, in part because many union groups involved were not sharing their information, leading police to expect a peaceful demonstration. They only posted two officers indoors to support the 18 city hall security guards, and police forces outside were not guarding the one entrance. They did not know firefighters (who were characterized in the report as "difficult to control") would be at the protest until 15 minutes before it started.

By 6:15 p.m., a crowd of close to 1,000 gathered, some blowing horns and lighting smoke bombs. By 6:39, roughly 150 people were allowed in to city hall for question period, as expected. At 6:40, security guards closed the doors. At 6:41, 30 protesters forced their way in, "including two masked men and one Superman without a mask. Papers were thrown."

At 6:43, the two police officers inside city hall tried to help the security guards close the doors, and succeeded.

Until 6:44, when protesters forced the doors, shoving security guards, slightly injuring two, and proceeded to run through city hall, with 300 people heading to council chambers "with festive trumpets, tambourines, whistles, etc." Protesters climbed onto a terrace and tried to break into Mayor Denis Coderre's room, tearing out an air conditioner and breaking a window. One set off a fire alarm. By 7:04, they left.

During the rapid devolution, police stationed outside failed to move to block the doors, as they had been told to do. Police inside asked at 6:33 for central command to send backup, but the controllers there downplayed the situation thinking it was still a calm protest. By the time they realized the gravity of the situation, it was 6:51 and too late. When backup did arrive, central command told them not to go inside for fear of provoking protesters.

"The situation was poorly evaluated and the risks of an outbreak were not anticipated," the report reads. "Then from the moment the protesters forced their way in to city hall, everything fell apart."

(Montreal Gazette)

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 05, 2014**

Dec 05 2014

EDMONTON - An Edmonton police constable who has both a criminal and disciplinary record has been promoted to sergeant.

Mike Wasylyshen pleaded guilty to two assault charges and was fined \$500 for a drunken, off-duty assault of a man on crutches and a swing at a security guard in 2005.

Wasylyshen was also found guilty in 2012 of excessive force and suspended for

120 hours without pay for using a Taser electronic stun gun eight times in about one minute on a 16-year-old boy.

The teen was passed out in the back of a suspected stolen car.

Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht says the promotion was not an easy decision to make and required lengthy deliberations and discussions.

While not condoning the officer's past behaviour, Knecht says Wasylyshen is now leading a stable life and appears to be at the top of his game when it comes to policing.

"The man doesn't drink anymore. He has a family now. He's stable and hasn't had any problems for 10 years. I think, as we look at anybody else in society, do we punish somebody forever? I don't think you can punish somebody forever."

The Edmonton Police Service released a statement Thursday regarding the promotion.

"All EPS officers are held accountable for their conduct, and the matters involving this member have been dealt with previously under the Police Act and are on record as being resolved. These matters were also considered as part of the promotion process."

The EPS promotion process involves an in-depth assessment, and includes a written exam, behavioural interview, as well as a review by the management team-promotion board and EPS Professional Standards. This member, as well as numerous others, went through a fair and balanced process, demonstrated their competencies, and proved themselves ready for promotion."

Wasylyshen is the son of former Edmonton police chief Bob Wasylyshen.
(CHED)

Dec 05 2014

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg Police Board has passed a motion instructing the chief and his officers to try harder to solve cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women.



The motion requires progress reports from Chief Devon Clunis and sensitivity and cultural awareness training for officers.

Police board chairman Scott Gillingham says the motion isn't meant to be critical of the police service.

He says everyone needs to be involved in the stepped-up effort.

The board, for one, plans to set up an indigenous advisory council on policing and crime prevention.

Manitoba is one of the provinces with the highest number of missing and murdered

aboriginal women in Canada.

"The motion does recognize that the police service has significant initiatives already in place," Gillingham said after meeting with Clunis on Friday.

"But this has to be a collaborated effort. The service will do its part, the board will do our part. Community agencies - and individuals - need to do their part as well."

"This is a resolution that we've come to with an overwhelming desire to do a better job, collectively, all of us," Gillingham said. "And it's a call for all of us to do a better job in addressing this critical issue of indigenous women and girls who need to be protected."

(CJOB, The Canadian Press)

Dec 05 2014

VANCOUVER - A sexual-assault conviction that prosecutors in British Columbia have acknowledged was a "miscarriage of justice" has been overturned by the province's highest court.

Curdev Singh Dhillon was imprisoned in 2005 for four years and deported back to India for the sexual assault and assault on a woman in a basement suite in the Metro Vancouver city of Surrey.

After his deportation, forensic reports were discovered, including two that were not given to the defence before the trial, showing DNA profiles that did not match Dhillon.

Crown prosecutors called it a miscarriage of justice, the RCMP apologized and the case ended up in the Supreme Court of Canada, which sent it back to the B.C. Court of Appeal.

There, Justice Anne MacKenzie has considered the new evidence, overturned the conviction, and stayed the proceedings against Dhillon, saying another trial would "perpetuate an injustice and undermine the integrity of our judicial system."

Two other men are awaiting trial accused of the same sexual assault.

Dec 05 2014

Somewhere in rural Norfolk county, a volunteer is standing at a village intersection with a speed gun so a police officer doesn't have to.

In other parts of England and Wales, unpaid civilians are unlocking stations in the morning, gardening outside divisions, exercising police dogs, even handling basic forensic work at crime scenes.

In October, 2010, the recession-ravaged British government dropped a bomb on law enforcement in England and Wales. (Northern Ireland and Scotland are different jurisdictions.) All 43 services were ordered to cut 20 per cent from their budgets within four years, and they had to do it without reducing the number of uniformed officers. Depending on who you ask, the results are either reckless or genius.

Toronto police board chair Alok Mukherjee falls in the latter camp.

"If we are to bring the cost of policing under control, as we need to do, we have to be as innovative as we can and ask fundamental questions about the traditional model

of policing," Mr. Mukherjee said.

"There are some lessons to learn in how they do budgeting, how they have used technology, how they have maximized their resources."

Mr. Mukherjee's views have caused his once-friendly relationship with the Toronto Police Association to deteriorate. That showdown has captured the Canadian police community's attention.

"I can tell you with absolute certainty that every police service board in Ontario - and I would think not a stretch to imagine every police board in Canada - is fixated on what's happening in Toronto," said Cal Corley, a former assistant commissioner with the RCMP who now runs a private consulting firm.

Mr. Corley counts himself among the group that believes that the costly Canadian police system is unsustainable. A September, 2014, report from the Fraser Institute found that between 1986 and 2012, per capita police costs in Canada climbed by about 45 per cent. Over the same period, crime per officer dropped by 37 per cent. In Toronto alone, the police budget has ballooned by \$240-million, or 34 per cent, in 10 years.

That said, Canadian police services are lean compared with Britain, which spends significantly more on policing per capita, even though officers - at least in urban areas - are paid less. (A Toronto police constable tops out around \$90,000, while the average officer in London makes about \$80,000 (Canadian) despite that city's high cost of living. This is due to the fact that police officers can't unionize in Britain.) When the 20-per-cent deadline is up next year, the British government has signalled they will be asking for another 25 per cent.

Over the past four years, British forces already found nearly \$4.5-billion (Canadian) in savings.

The early days of austerity went as expected: Civilians were downsized or offered voluntary severance, buildings were sold off and expensive management ranks were gutted. But it still wasn't enough. Chiefs were forced to get creative to make the numbers work.

Today, in many areas of England, police officers no longer go to crime scenes for minor occurrences such as bicycle theft. Instead, reports are taken over the phone, sometimes by civilians.

Some of the most significant savings came from contracting out administrative services. For example, the Cleveland police force in northeast England hired a European company called Steria to run its finance, human resources, procurement, fleet and facilities departments. Other forces choose to partner with neighbours, which was the case in Norfolk and Suffolk counties. The two police services combined all of their back-office administrative functions, as well as traffic, homicide and forensic teams. It's also commonplace to share divisions and other resources, such as vehicles.

Volunteers have always played a role in British policing model, but they've now become essential. Chiefs say they have no

problem recruiting unpaid civilians to drive police cars from one division to another, clean the fleet and take fingerprints at crime scenes. All of this frees up front-line officers to do work that only a police officer can do.

And that specific work - arrests, investigations, crime prevention - is being evaluated in unprecedented detail. Simon Bailey, the chief in Norfolk, talks about his service as if he is the CEO of a multimillion dollar company.

"I know exactly what the flow of my business looks like. I know what my emerging threats are and I'm able to adopt strategies and policies based on the best evidence there is to tackle those challenges."

For example, Norfolk had a problem with sick days, which meant paying for expensive overtime staff. An investigation determined a small group of "frequent flyers" were calling in around the holidays. So Chief Bailey sent them a letter, he says: "In recent years we've noticed that you've taken time off every Christmas. Is there anything we can do to help you this year to make sure you don't?" Sickness-related absences fell below 3 per cent.

In another case, Norfolk was clocking high vehicle-repair bills. Staff identified the problem drivers and sent them on a course.

"If people know their driving is being monitored, you start seeing reduction [in accidents]," Chief Bailey said. "I don't think there's a great secret to this."

At London's Metropolitan Police Service, commonly referred to as "The Met," officers no longer randomly patrol the city.

"We do something called 'predicative policing,'" Deputy Commissioner Craig Mackey said. The Met recently began using a computer program that models the algorithm used to predict earthquakes to analyze crime data and pinpoint areas and times when crime is likely to occur.

But one of the most controversial post-austerity developments was purely symbolic.

In 2012, the British home secretary Theresa May named Thomas Winsor as Britain's Chief Inspector of Constabulary - the country's law enforcement watchdog. Mr. Winsor, a commercial lawyer by trade who spent five years as Britain's rail regulator, is the first ever non-police officer to hold the office. The government received 20,000 letters of protest.

It was Mr. Winsor who, between 2010-2012, completed an extensive review of police compensation and career structures, which resulted in pay cuts, an increased pension age, mandatory annual fitness tests and changes around promotions. Effective this past fall, police officers can be hired directly into a management rank of inspector, rather than starting out as a constable and working their way up. (This is not allowed in Ontario.)

Last week, Mr. Winsor's office published a 251-page report card on the state of policing in England and Wales. As part of the review, Mr. Winsor's office evaluated all 43 services and graded them on efficiency and effectiveness. In a recent interview with The Globe at his London office, Mr. Winsor doesn't try to soften his contempt for certain aspects of police culture.

"There is a great deal of inefficiency in the police, bred principally by poor supervision and leadership," he said.

According to Mr. Winsor, the key to lasting savings is threefold: High performers need to be rewarded, inefficient officers need to be retrained and everyone needs to have the right technology. Filing out paper forms is inefficient. Going back to the station to re-search is inefficient.

"Most of the time, what matters is not 'How many cops have you got?' but 'what do they do?' . A police officer, well motivated, being eager and energetic, creative, imaginative and so on, can perhaps achieve in one shift much more than two or three police officers who frankly just clock on and don't do much."

Critics of the British model are quick to point that out there are key differences Britain and Canada.

For one thing, the funding model is different. The central government funds the police in England and Wales. Local communities kick in a very small percentage of the total budget. In Canada, police funding comes from the associated level of government. Toronto city council sets the city's police budget, which means forces can find themselves taken hostage by local political infighting.

Secondly, it is illegal for police officers to unionize. The pay scale is set by the government. (All officers across the country are paid the same, although there are cost of living top ups depending on the service.) In Canada, if the union and police board can't agree, it goes to arbitration. In that scenario, the police are almost always awarded an increase. As such, when the British government wanted to cut the rate for a new constable, reduce bonus pay and extend pension age, it was able to make those controversial changes without real opposition. That would never fly in Canada.

"It's hard to compare apples to apples," said OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes, who was part of a delegation of Canadian police officials who travelled to Britain in 2012 to see some of the reforms. "Their number of police officers for population ratio is very high to begin with. Back in the '90s and early 2000s, we went through that whole exercise of reducing numbers."

Commissioner Hawkes said there absolutely are ways to improve the current system. The OPP, for example, is overhauling how it measures officer performance. They've also already introduced citizen self-reporting for minor crimes. "You can imagine the distances we'd have to send officers to deal with a stolen chain saw . that's only being filed for insurance purposes," the commissioner said.

But simply picking up the British model and dropping it here wouldn't work.

Toronto's outgoing chief agrees. Chief Blair noted that next year he'll be travelling to London to speak at conference on the future of policing. The government is keen to learn how he manages to police a city of nearly three million with a little more than 5,000 officers.

"I think there are very innovative policing models in the United States, in many places of the U.K., in many European services and many

Asian services. That's part of an ongoing dialogue among police officials around the world, looking for ways to be efficient and effective in what we do," Chief Blair said. "I think everyone worldwide is facing certain challenges in terms of economic sustainability."

Toronto's chief says he's certainly interested in adopting what the Brits have done with technology, but he notes that the funding differences would make amalgamation between forces challenging.

"It might make more sense to partner with [Toronto city hall]" in terms of administrative departments, "which we already do in some areas."

The president of Toronto's police union, Mr. McCormack, has a harsher view.

"It's not working," he said, citing a survey conducted by the Police Federation of England and Wales that showed officers feel overworked and that they believe communities are not being well served.

If the board tries to bring in a chief who will go this route, Mr. McCormack said they won't sit idly by.

"We're about safe communities and we will be doing anything that we need to do to ensure that the safety of our communities aren't jeopardized for somebody a) politically grandstanding or b) the sake of numbers - someone who wants to say they cut the police budget." (Globe and Mail)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 06, 2014

Dec 06 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police are describing an alleged baby kidnapping attempt by two young people as "alarming" and "unique."

Authorities allege a 12-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy tried to abduct an infant from her 29-year-old mother.

Inspector Art Little says a psychiatric evaluation of the two suspects has been ordered, their mothers have been contacted and children's aid is involved.

The youngsters allegedly grabbed the woman from behind as she was walking with her infant late Thursday and demanded she hand over her daughter, her money and her cellphone.

Little says the woman, who suffered minor injuries, was assaulted, punched, kicked and knocked to the ground.

The baby wasn't hurt.

The young duo are also suspects in a purse-snatching that took place earlier Thursday night.

Dec 06 2014 A Manitoba police officer has been charged with child-pornography offences.

The 33-year-old member of the Altona Police Service was arrested Thursday and is charged with voyeurism, making child pornography and possessing child pornography.

He was released from custody and is scheduled to appear in Altona provincial court Jan. 26, Manitoba RCMP said in a news release.

The officer has been suspended with pay from the Altona Police Service. RCMP did not release his name or rank or say how long he has been a police officer. RCMP said they are not releasing his name in order to protect the identity of the victims, who are under the age of 17.

The Winnipeg RCMP's major crime unit and the RCMP's Internet Child Exploitation Unit assisted Altona police in their investigation.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 07, 2014

Dec 07 2014

Britain's law enforcement agencies are ill-equipped to confront a fast-expanding and multi-billion-pound cyber-crime phenomenon, according to a survey of police intelligence analysts.

The study found that less than a third of key staff had the skills or technology to address a threat expected to expand over the next three years.

Researchers uncovered a pattern of "tribal" behaviour, with police and agencies protecting their own sources and techniques in a fractured response to an area of crime that has been identified as a key national security threat.

Despite apparent flaws in police investigations, the report said it was a "timely opportunity" to press for greater powers for police and security services to track suspects' email and internet use.

The Government has focused its £650m, four-year cyber security strategy on protecting infrastructure and defending the country's national interests from attacks by states and hostile groups.

More money should be diverted to policing, according to the study, which is based on responses from analysts in 48 different police bodies. They include the National Crime Agency, home to the national cyber crime centre.

"The police are becoming more aware of the cyber threat, but remain behind in terms of their own technology, knowledge and intelligence," said an anonymous analyst who responded to the study. "You only find something when you look for it - and we have only just started looking."

The author of the report, security expert Nick Newman, said it was troubling that police were "nowhere near equipped" to deal with the threat, despite a cyber-crime programme that is will train 2,000 detectives in new techniques by April next year.

He added that analysts were forecasting a trebling of cyber crime over the next three years but that "only one third" of police had the skills needed to combat it.

The report calls for a fundamental rethink about police recruitment to tackle cyber crime. Police and the intelligence agencies are all struggling to recruit enough high-calibre technology experts, many of whom are able to command higher salaries in the private sector.

(The Independent)

Dec 08 2014

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's Justice Department is reviewing the premature release of another inmate from the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility.

At around 6 a.m. today, an offender serving an intermittent sentence at the Halifax jail was released from custody 12 hours early.

The offender was located and taken into custody about four hours later.

His sentence, which is for a breach of recognizance for failing to attend court, requires that he report to the jail on Saturdays at 8 p.m. with a scheduled release on Mondays at 6 p.m.

The Justice Department has launched an internal review to find out what happened.

This latest mistaken release comes a month after the jail mistakenly released a man facing charges including attempted murder.

Dec 08 2014

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer who was found guilty of assaulting a protester during the G20 summit four years ago is appealing his conviction.

Const. Babak Andalib-Goortani was convicted last September of assault with a weapon for using excessive force during the arrest of protester Adam Nobody on June 26, 2010, on the lawn of the Ontario legislature.

He was sentenced to 45 days behind bars, though he was almost immediately granted bail.

His lawyer, Alan D Gold, says the officer was in a fluid and dynamic situation where he didn't have the opportunity for calm reflection.

Gold says the trial judge didn't adequately consider the mental state of his client during the incident, which lasted about a minute.

The trial judge found Andalib-Goortani hit Nobody several times with his baton while he was already on the ground, surrounded by other officers in the process of arresting him.

The trial judge had also said the officer had shown no remorse and noted his name tag and badge weren't visible during the arrest.

Dec 08 2014

SASKATOON - Two men are facing mischief charges after a sandwich order sent them into a hissy fit at a Tim Hortons restaurant in Saskatoon.

Police say the 20-year-olds began arguing with an employee because they wanted their onions diced.

The argument got worse, and one of the men pulled a snake from his friend's pocket and threw it behind the counter.

Officers called to the scene were able to quickly locate the snake and determined it was non-poisonous.

The two men were arrested nearby.

Police have found a temporary home for the snake until it can be released into the wild next spring.

Dec 08 2014

WHITBY, Ont. - Police say there have been six suspected drug-overdose deaths in Durham Region in the past three weeks and are warning users of street-level narcotics to be careful.

Investigators say they're working with the coroner's office to determine the exact cause of the deaths, which are undergoing toxicology analyses.

But police say evidence suggests illegal narcotics were involved.

Durham police say it's too early to determine whether the deaths are linked to a bad batch of heroin in Toronto late last month that caused a number of overdoses and one death.

Investigators are reminding users that street-level drugs mixed with dangerous additives can be deadly.

Dec 08 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - Newly released court documents reveal that Justin Bourque was suffering from sleep deprivation and felt depressed about his life in the days before he shot three Mounties dead and wounded two others in Moncton, New Brunswick.

A court-ordered psychiatric report and a pre-sentence report are among a number of exhibits that were made public after the Court of Queen's Bench ordered them released on Friday.

The documents shed light into Bourque's family history, social interests and the moment he reached his - quote - breaking point before the June 4th shooting rampage.

Bourque's assessment, prepared in July, concluded he was fit to stand trial.

But it shows signs of strain between Bourque and his family, particularly his mother, who home-schooled him and disliked his passion for video games.

Both that document and Bourque's pre-sentence report say his life unravelled in the two weeks before the shootings.

They say he was sleep-deprived, working 15-hour days and couldn't afford marijuana - something Bourque said helped him cope with his negative thoughts.

Bourque is serving a life sentence with no chance of parole for 75 years.

Dec 08 2014

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - The RCMP says a 40-year-old officer who was shot during a traffic stop in B.C.'s Interior is now conscious and speaking to his family.

Cpl. Cheryl Bush says Cpl. Jean Michaud remains in hospital in intensive care following the early morning incident last Wednesday in Kamloops, B.C.

The shooting led to a 12-hour manhunt and the arrest of 36-year-old Kenneth Knutson, who has a long rap sheet and is now facing four charges, including attempted murder.

Michaud suffered critical injuries in the incident and has since survived two surgeries.

Bush says Michaud's medical progress is uplifting news to his colleagues and supporters in the public.

She says police continue to work on the case in preparation for upcoming court dates, but Knutson remains the only person charged in relation to the shooting.

Dec 08 2014

KELOWNA, B.C. - The union representing B.C. nurses says a doctor was severely beaten and left for dead during an attack inside a hospital psychiatric unit.

The Interior Health authority confirms there was a "serious incident" involving a patient and a doctor Friday night at Penticton Regional Hospital, ending in the arrest of a patient, though the agency isn't providing details.

The B.C. Nurses' Union says a patient walked out of a closed-door session with a physician and announced that the doctor might be dead.

The union says the doctor was found severely beaten and unconscious but is expected to survive.

Union president Gayle Duteil says the incident shows there is a dangerous lack of security in the province's psychiatric facilities and is demanding an investigation and changes to improve safety.

The health authority says the safety of staff members is a priority, and it is investigating the incident with the RCMP and WorkSafeBC.

Dec 08 2014

The new commanding officer of Nunavut's RCMP says he's happy to be back in Iqaluit.



Chief Superintendent Mike Jeffrey worked as the detachment commander in Iqaluit just over a decade ago. He also served in the Northwest Territories and Clyde River.

Three weeks ago, he returned as the top cop in 'V' division.

Jeffrey is a 28-year veteran of the force. He says he plans to consult with communities and government before setting the goals for his term.

"At the end of the day, what it's about is changing behaviours," he says. "If you can change a person's behaviour by getting them to do some kind of restorative justice program or something else instead of going before the courts or sending them to jail, that's great."

Jeffrey says he believes education and prevention are the key to policing, as well as support from the community.

"The police can't work in isolation. We can't be everywhere and know everything. It's so important that communities support the police and tell us what the priorities are."

(CBC News)

Dec 08 2014

WINNIPEG - Handwritten traffic tickets are becoming a thing of the past in Manitoba as RCMP have begun issuing e-tickets.

When motorists are pulled over, the traffic officer scans the person's driver's licence into a computer inside the officer's vehicle, and prints off the ticket.

RCMP said it will reduce the amount of time it takes to issue a ticket and make the job safer for officers.

The system has already been implemented in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.

Currently, there are 40 police vehicles equipped with the e-ticket system in Manitoba.

The RCMP said when the roll out of the program is complete, there will be 100 vehicles ready to issue the e-tickets.

Winnipeg police said they're examining the technology.

(CTV Winnipeg)

Dec 08 2014

TORONTO - Like so many parents, Toronto dad Cliff Ford just wanted to keep his children safe online.



He had no idea that his efforts would eventually help U.S. authorities bust an online child exploitation ring based in Ohio.

It all started in January, when Ford's daughter received an email from a stranger with the subject line, "Hey sexy."

He saw it immediately, as her emails are forwarded to his cellphone - Ford requires his children to provide him with access to all of their email and social media accounts.

"If I need to, I can spot check and make sure they are safe," he told CBC News.

Ford's daughter had been innocently messaging with a stranger in an online chat room in the days before she received the unsettling email.

She told him about the conversations, and instead of cutting off the contact, Ford decided to pose as his daughter and see if he could get more information.

Ford carried on the charade over three days, and managed to find out the mysterious messenger's name and address - even what model car he drives.

Ford discovered that the emails were coming from 30-year-old Nicholas Bowers, who lives just outside Akron, Ohio.

Over their back-and-forth conversation, Bowers's messages became increasingly sexual in nature.

Bowers wrote things like, "I want to hold you and kiss you," and, "It turns me on a lot now knowing you are 12."

One morning, Bowers sent an email with an attachment. It was a video, intended for Ford's daughter, which showed Bowers masturbating.

"When he sent the attachment and I realized what it was, I had to shut it off because I could feel my blood boiling inside me knowing what this guy's intentions were," Ford said.

Ford decided to take the material he had gathered to police in Toronto, who carried on the ruse and continued communicating with Bowers.

Eventually Toronto police contacted local authorities and the FBI in Akron, and a joint investigation began on both sides of the border.

The FBI arrested Bowers on Jan. 14, finding USB keys, computers and CDs that contained child pornography. The investigation soon revealed that Bowers was a primary player in a local child pornography ring that traded pictures and videos of minors online.

"I was just trying to protect my daughter," Ford said. "I had no idea there would be other victims."

Bowers was charged with a host of child pornography-related charges, including receiving, distributing and possessing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, transferring obscene material to a juvenile and enticement.

Ford travelled to Ohio to testify against the man who tried to lure his daughter online.

Bowers later pleaded guilty, and last week was sentenced by a U.S. federal judge to more than 20 years in prison.

"Attentive parents and swift law enforcement action has ensured that Mr. Bowers will not be trolling for minors on the internet," said FBI special agent Stephen Anthony, who helped investigate the case.

"This international collaborative law enforcement effort demonstrates that preying on our most precious commodity, our children, will not be tolerated."

(CBC News)

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 09, 2014

Dec 09 2014

BEAUMONT, Alta. - An Alberta man was taken down by a police dog after brazenly trying to mark his territory on an officer's cruiser.

The 22-year-old man and several others were drinking outside a bar in Beaumont, Alta., just south of Edmonton, when they were approached by police after a tip from an Alberta liquor inspector.

Police say one of the men urinated on the driver's door of the squad car and then ran away from the scene.

The K-9 unit was called and with the assistance of a local taxi, officers and the dog located a suspect.

Dany LaFrance of Edmonton faces charges of mischief, assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest.

LaFrance is scheduled to appear in provincial court on Dec. 11.

(CHED)

Dec 09 2014

CALGARY - An Alberta man who admits he caused the death of a bylaw officer told police he thought the 62-year-old former Mountie was trying to steal his dogs.

Trevor Kloschinsky said he eked out a living selling the blue heelers he bred just outside of Calgary and Rod Lazenby had jeopardized that.

Lazenby, who enforced bylaws in the Municipal District of Foothills, died after going to Kloschinsky's property to investigate a dog complaint in August, 2012.

Court heard an autopsy found Lazenby was strangled and had 56 abrasions, contusions and numerous lacerations in addition to internal injuries.

Kloschinsky, who is 49, told officers he felt Lazenby had a "vendetta" against him.

Kloschinsky was living in a recreational vehicle on the property and had 34 dogs when the attack on Lazenby took place.

In an agreed statement of facts, Kloschinsky admitted causing the death of Lazenby but has pleaded not guilty to a charge of first-degree murder.

He has also acknowledged dropping the officer off - handcuffed and unconscious - at a police station in southeast Calgary.

Lazenby was an RCMP officer for 35 years and often worked undercover in Vancouver before retiring in 2006.

Dec 09 2014

VANCOUVER - A crowdfunding campaign launched by two Vancouver police officers to help a young family rebuild their lives after a fire destroyed their family home has nearly doubled its goal.

The Edwards-Cyrus family - which includes dad Jason, mom Fay, six-year-old Zahiem, and four-year-old Isaiah - lost everything when a Dec. 1 fire ravaged their Renfrew Street home.

The fire was started after Isaiah accidentally knocked over a candle. Fay and Isaiah were the only ones in the home at the time, but the two were able to escape, and suffered only minor smoke inhalation.

Two Vancouver police officers who assisted the family in the aftermath of the fire were so touched by the family's situation that they spearheaded a GoFundMe crowdfunding campaign to help raise funds to get the family back on its feet.

The Edwards-Cyruses moved to Vancouver from Montreal just over a year ago. Fay works at a fast-food chain, and Jason works as a full-time mover.

Their rental suite was not insured, and even the clothing Fay and Isaiah wore during the escape had to be destroyed due to contamination.

"Isaiah left the hospital wearing a paper bunny suit as all of his clothes were lost," read an initial update from Vancouver police.

But just one week later, the campaign has already reached nearly \$18,500, far surpassing its initial goal of \$10,000.

"We just want to say 'thank you all from the bottom of our hearts,'" read a message from Fay posted to the campaign site.

"My family and I really appreciate all the donations to help us rebuild our lives and our home. Thanks to all who donate to give our kids a merry, merry Christmas.

"Words can't express how much it means to my family and I."

The VPD also posted an update to Facebook on Tuesday, thanking the public for their support and help.

(The Province)

Dec 09 2014

PRINCE GEORGE - Police in Prince George say a Mountie has been stabbed, as well as the man he was trying to arrest Monday.

RCMP say two officers stopped three people on foot at about 11 p.m. Monday, and found one man had several outstanding warrants for his arrest.

Police say one of the Mounties was then stabbed while the officers were taking the man into custody.

During the altercation, the RCMP say the man being arrested also sustained what appear to be self-inflicted injuries to his neck.

The Mounties say both the injured officer and the man were taken to hospital, and the knife was seized as evidence.

(Vancouver Sun)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2014

Dec 10 2014

COQUITLAM, B.C. - Mounties have charged a 17-year-old British Columbia boy with extortion and public mischief over allegations his fake emergencies set off an intense response by police in Florida.

The teen is in custody and accused by the Polk County sheriff's office in central Florida's Fort Meade of "swatting," or calling in a fake emergency to police and watching the large response.

The county sheriff's department says it suspects the same person called a high school to say he'd shoot everyone there and then sent an email saying he'd blow everyone up.

In a third incident, a caller told a police dispatcher he was in a Florida home, had just killed his parents, and would shoot any officer who arrived.

RCMP say the same teen, whose identity is protected, has pleaded guilty to criminal harassment in 2012 involving two incidents where he harassed young women he met online.

A Polk County news release says police in Canada seized a computer from the teen's home in Coquitlam and that he's a suspect in other cases in Canada and the United States.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11, 2014

Dec 11 2014

TORONTO - The premier's office confirms a search warrant was served at an Ontario government cyber security branch in Toronto last month related to the \$1.1 billion gas plants scandal.

The OPP are investigating the deletion of emails in the office of former premier Dalton McGuinty on the Liberals' decision to cancel gas plants in Oakville and Mississauga.

The search warrant seeks the entire electronic mailbox and its backup tapes for McGuinty's former chief of staff, David Livingston, between May 1, 2012 and Feb. 11, 2013 - the day Kathleen Wynne was officially sworn in as premier.

It also seeks the email box and backup tapes of former McGuinty deputy chief of staff Laura Miller for the same dates.

In a previous court document, police alleged that Miller gave her computer tech boyfriend, Peter Faist, access to files in the premier's office that were wiped clean.

The Liberal government ordered a legislative committee to write its report without agreeing to opposition demands to have Miller and Faist appear to face questions about the deleted email accounts.

Dec 11 2014

TORONTO - Toronto Mayor John Tory's first meeting next week as a member of the Toronto Police Services Board is likely to become a showdown as the board's chair is embroiled in controversy over Facebook posts.



Tensions began Friday, when the Toronto Police Association called for his resignation over a post compared American deaths at the hands of police to deaths by Ebola and ISIS. More criticism, including from Tory, came Wednesday, after the National Post reported that Mukherjee had posted a joke alluding to marital violence in April 2013.

The meme said: "Marriage is like a deck of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond. By the end, you wish you had a club and a spade."

"Violence against women is never a laughing matter," Tory said in a statement via email. "This is unacceptable - especially from someone who holds public office."

Mukherjee released a statement that said he didn't recall the post from "almost two years ago."

"This is nothing more than another desperate attempt to drive me from my position on the Board and distract from the serious work we have to do. It's time for us to focus on moving forward and stop this campaign of harassment," says the emailed statement.

"People in senior positions of public service have to be very careful and have to set a higher standard when it comes to their Facebook postings and so on," Tory said.

Asked about Mukherjee's contention that the complaints are all about harassment, Tory said: "Well, there's certainly no harassment coming from me ... if there no more Facebook postings, I won't have any more comments."

Police union president Mike McCormack not only called for Mukherjee's resignation but also sent letters of complaint to the mayor, premier and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, which has the power to remove board members if an investigation and hearing determine there was misconduct or they are unable to perform their duties.

McCormack claimed Mukherjee's police-related post showed "bad judgment."

"All we are looking for is objective, unbiased discussions and treatment of police around very important issues on policing in the city, and our membership feels they can no longer trust Mukherjee," McCormack said.

(Toronto Star)

Dec 11 2014

MONTREAL - A sergeant-detective with the Montreal police has been arrested for allegedly making death threats against the minister of municipal affairs.

"We can confirm an employee has been arrested," was the official response by the SPVM at 8 a.m.

The police officer was arrested for alleged threats against Pierre Moreau, TVA reported. Moreau is the man in charge of implementing Bill 3, the contentious pension reform bill affecting such municipal employees as firefighters, police officers, bus drivers and blue- and white-collar workers.

The man is expected to hear his charges on Friday in the St-Jerome courthouse.

(Montreal Gazette)

Dec 11 2014

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - New legislation in Newfoundland and Labrador would allow police to apply to a judge for access to personal records in a missing persons case without having evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

Premier Paul Davis says the Missing Persons Act is intended to help police move more quickly on investigations where it is known that a person is missing.

Currently, police must have evidence of criminal wrongdoing before being granted access to medical, financial, telephone or other personal information.

The legislation would allow police to apply to a judge for a search order or a record access order where a person has been reported missing.

Applications would be made in cases

where a person may be in danger but police cannot obtain an order under the Criminal Code because there is insufficient evidence to believe a criminal wrongdoing has occurred.

Davis says the information would only be gathered when a missing persons investigation is underway and only be divulged for the purpose of furthering the investigation.

The provincial government says similar legislation has been introduced in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Nova Scotia.

Dec 11 2014

CALGARY - A judge has ruled that a man who killed an Alberta peace officer who was investigating a dog complaint is not criminally responsible for the death.

Trevor Kloschinsky was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Rod Lazenby.

But Judge Beth Hughes ruled that Kloschinsky, 49, did not realize that what he was doing was wrong.

"Wrong means morally wrong judged by the everyday standard of the ordinary person. It does not mean legally wrong," she read Thursday from her decision.

"I find the evidence establishes that it was more likely than not that Mr. Kloschinsky's mental disorder made him incapable at the time he caused the death of Mr. Lazenby of knowing the act was wrong."

Doctors testified at Kloschinsky's trial that they found him "actively psychotic."

Lazenby, 62, died in August 2012 after going to Kloschinsky's rural property south of Calgary to investigate an animal complaint.

Lazenby was a retired RCMP officer who was responsible for enforcing bylaws in the Municipal District of Foothills near Calgary.

An autopsy found Lazenby was strangled and had 56 abrasions, contusions and lacerations to the face, head, neck, body and back. He also suffered numerous internal injuries.

Kloschinsky admitted he caused Lazenby's death. He acknowledged dropping the officer off, handcuffed and unconscious, at a southeast Calgary police station, where he told officers he had apprehended a "dog thief."

Kloschinsky eked out a living selling blue heeler dogs he raised on his property. Court heard how he thought Lazenby was corrupt and trying to steal his animals.

Lazenby was an RCMP officer for 35 years and often worked undercover in Vancouver. He once bunked with child killer Clifford Olson and went after dangerous drug dealers on Vancouver's skid row. Lazenby joined the drug squad after he served as a military policeman.

He had retired in 2006 and moved to High River, Alta., to be closer to his daughter and her children. His daughter said Wednesday that the years following his death have been difficult and that he "did not deserve to be taken from us so cruelly."



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