

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | February 20, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 8

Executive Digest

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TORONTO - Facing a dramatic surge in requests, Toronto police compliance with response time requirements under Freedom of Information legislation hit a 10-year low in 2014 — and the dragging response rate points to a need for additional resources, says Ontario's privacy commissioner.

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ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - Seventeen police officers from a small city in British Columbia are being investigated for alleged misconduct amid concerns that criminal cases may have been compromised.

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Use of body cams has serious privacy implications



Feb 18 2015

OTTAWA - The country's federal and provincial privacy watchdogs are urging police departments to ponder the risks to privacy before they start equipping officers with body-worn cameras.

The federal privacy commissioner and privacy and personal information protection officials across the country have produced a guidance document on the subject.

The document says police should consider whether the expected benefits from the use of such cameras outweigh the impact on privacy and personal information.

"One of the questions we start with is whether or not it's even necessary and effective

in the first place," said Patricia Kosseim, director general of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

"We are not saying to do it, we're certainly not saying not to do it, we're saying hit the pause button and please consider carefully the various benefits but also the risks."

The document suggests that police assess the overall risks to privacy and consider using pilot projects before embracing the widespread use of such cameras.

Police should also make sure that people are informed when a camera program is introduced.

The guidelines also say people should be told when police are recording encounters.

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There are a number of other concerns addressed by the privacy watchdogs. For instance, they say recordings should be safeguarded with measures such as encryption, restricted access and strict retention periods.

There should be policies and procedures to address issues such as accountability, employee training and the handling of requests by individuals for access to recordings.

And the rules for using cameras should minimize the recording of innocent bystanders and innocuous interactions between police and public.

"We believe that addressing privacy considerations from the outset can allow an appropriate balance to be achieved between the needs of law enforcement and the privacy rights of individuals," the documents say.

Privacy officials say it's an important debate. "There are clearly benefits to the use of body-worn cameras; however, there are also significant privacy implications," said Daniel Therrien, the federal privacy commissioner.

"Given this, and as more and more policing organizations consider adopting this technology, we are encouraging them to address those privacy issues upfront to ensure they strike the right balance between law enforcement needs and the privacy rights of Canadians."

Brian Beamish, Ontario's acting information and privacy commissioner, said the guidance provided will give police a better understanding of the privacy considerations surrounding the issue.

"Law enforcement agencies have a responsibility to implement body-worn cameras in a manner that respects privacy and complies with the law," he said.

Body cameras are seen as an important tool for gathering evidence, but there are also suggestions that their use might reduce the number of public complaints about police behaviour and reduce the use of force by officers.

Proponents say the cameras boost police accountability and capture vital information to help prosecute crime. The preminent study, examining the police force in Rialto, Calif., found the cameras produced significant declines in the use of force and in public complaints against officers.

But the privacy commissioners' guidelines point to many concerns, including whether recordings will be made in private homes, if citizens will be informed they are being captured on video, and whether police forces will adequately protect private information caught on camera.

Tom Stamatakis, President of the Canadian Police Association, said the guidelines may help temper what he views as a "rush to adopt the technology," despite there still being questions among many officers about its efficacy.

From members participating in pilot projects, he has heard feedback ranging from officers' own privacy concerns, to complaints the cameras adversely affect interactions with community members.

In certain circumstances, some officers may be pressured to divert members of the public from entering the criminal justice system, and they use their discretion not to lay a charge in spite of having incriminating evidence. Stamatakis says some officers worry they will later be criticized for such decisions.

(Canadian Press, Toronto Star)

with the context of the call, which was professional in nature, so she contacted police.

She says RCMP officers do not regularly contact her in her role as minister.

The Mounties said Tuesday that they are conducting an internal investigation after Bernard alleged that an officer made an inappropriate comment to her and a member of her staff.

A spokesman wouldn't reveal details about the comment or the officer allegedly involved.

Feb 12 2015

VICTORIAVILLE, Que. - Prime Minister Stephen Harper says the government will introduce legislation aimed at preventing repeat offenders from being released after serving two-thirds of their sentence.

The proposed change was announced by Harper today during a visit to Victoriaville, Que.

It follows through on a commitment by the Conservatives made in the 2013 throne speech.

Under the current law, offenders serving a federal sentence can serve the last one-third of their sentence in the community under supervision and subject to conditions.

Harper says it's unacceptable that Canadians fall prey to violent offenders, who have benefited from early release after repeatedly committing violent crimes.

He says his government is committed to protecting Canadian families and keeping streets and communities safe while ensuring that the rights of victims are placed over those of criminals.

Feb 12 2015

EDMONTON - Alberta's top RCMP officer is acknowledging the Mounties made mistakes when they seized guns during the 2013 floods in High River, but there are no apologies yet.

Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan was commenting on a report by the RCMP watchdog that says Mounties improperly took guns from flood-stricken homes.

The report blames the mistakes on poor leadership, lack of guidance and failure to communicate with the public.

Ryan says public concern about the gun seizures is legitimate, and the RCMP has made changes since the flood to improve procedures.

But she adds the Mounties were risking their lives at the time and were doing their best to respond to the disaster.

Ryan says the RCMP may apologize to some people once it completes a review of the report.

Feb 12 2015

REGINA - There will be no charges against an RCMP officer who shot and killed a man in a community near Regina during an arrest.

The Crown has determined that the Mountie was acting reasonably during his at-

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

Feb 12 2015

OTTAWA - Three Ottawa men facing charges in an alleged terrorist conspiracy have had their case remanded until mid-March.

Twin brothers Ashton and Carlos Larmond and Suliman Mohamed appeared separately by video link before an Ottawa judge on Thursday.

A March 9 date was set for a judicial pre-trial in which prosecutors and lawyers for the accused will meet with a judge behind closed doors.

However, the three men aren't scheduled to appear in court again until March 16.

It's not clear when a bail hearing will be held.

Prosecutor Rod Sonley says he has yet to receive a bail application for any of the alleged co-conspirators.

Feb 12 2015

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's community services minister says a phone call that led to her complaint against an RCMP officer wasn't based on any personal comments.

Joanne Bernard says the call to her constituency office on Monday had nothing to do with her or any member of her family, but she declined to say what it was about.

Bernard says she wasn't comfortable

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK Celebrating 20 Years

ISSN 1704-3913
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tempt to take the man into custody for criminal harassment.

The decision is based on an investigation by the Regina Police Service into the shooting at a home in Holdfast in September 2013.

The RCMP had asked Regina police to review the shooting.

Police said at the time that the officer and a 42-year-old man had been fighting at a house when the man was shot.

An independent observer was appointed by the Justice Ministry to oversee the investigation.

Feb 12 2015

EDMONTON - Police say an officer who was in a collision while responding to a high-priority call in Edmonton last fall has been charged.

Const. Ashlee Shepansky, a six-year veteran, is charged with dangerous driving.

She has been assigned to administrative duties.

Feb 12 2015

MONTREAL - A Quebec provincial police officer is facing a manslaughter charge in connection with the death of a teenager last year.

Eric Deslauriers faces the single count according to charges filed in court.

Montreal police said the police officer was arrested Thursday afternoon by its homicide squad.

Jean-Pascal Boucher, a spokesman for the Crown, says Deslauriers was released on a promise to appear.

Provincial police were responding to a call about a stolen vehicle on Jan. 22, 2014 in Ste-Adele, in the Laurentians region north of Montreal.

A car chase ensued and ended near a high school where a young man, 17, was shot and later died.

Boucher says that Deslauriers, 43, will appear in court in St-Jerome, Que., on Mar. 10.

Feb 12 2015

LONDON - London police officers have a new boss. Officials announced Thursday morning that current Deputy Chief John Pare will become the new chief.



Pare has been a police officer for more than 26 years, the last three as deputy chief of the London Police Service.

He has worked in a number of areas at headquarters, including the Criminal Investigation Division.

Pare began his policing career with the LaSalle Police Service in 1987 and joined the London police in 1989 as a cadet recruit.

In a statement, the London Police Services Board says, "Throughout his service, he has demonstrated strong leadership and strategy skills in relation to a number of significant and innovative organizational initiatives."

Pare lives in London with his wife Lee Ann and has two adult children and a grandchild living in British Columbia.

He will be the city's 19th police chief and will replace Chief Brad Duncan when he retires on May 2.

(CTV London)

**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 13, 2015**

Feb 13 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has declared sections of the federal government's anti-terrorism and money laundering financing law to be unconstitutional because they violate solicitor-client privilege.

The 7-0 ruling carves out an exemption for lawyers from the federal government's 2000 law that targets money laundering and terrorist financing, but it remains in effect for other professions such as financial institutions and accountants.

The high court upheld lower court victories by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada that had suspended the implementation of these provisions on lawyers pending the outcome of this case.

The government had wanted lawyers to be subject to provisions of the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, or Fintrac.

The regulations would have compelled lawyers to keep track of their clients' financial transactions and subject lawyers' offices to searches without warrants.

The Supreme Court says that violates lawyers' charter rights to be protected from unlawful search and seizure and the undue deprivation of their liberty.

Feb 13 2015

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Canada Border Services Agency says officers have seized more than six kilograms of suspected cocaine at Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

The agency calls the seizure "significant" and says the drugs were found in a large duffel bag that arrived on a flight from Argentina.

The agency says the bag contained six bricks of a substance that field tested positive for suspected cocaine.

CBSA says Peel regional police are investigating.

Police haven't said if any arrests have been made.

The agency says it made 180 cocaine seizures in the Greater Toronto Area last year totalling more than 954 kilograms.

Feb 13 2015

REGINA - A Saskatchewan MLA has announced he is resigning to return to work as a police officer.



Darryl Hickie, who represents the riding of Prince Albert Carlton, says it was an honour to serve for the last seven years.

Hickie is returning to active police duty with the Prince Albert police, where he was a constable before being elected on 2007.

Hickie announced last April that he wouldn't run again in the next provincial election, expected in 2016, and planned to return to the force.

He had come under scrutiny last spring because he trained to requalify as a police officer while still an MLA.

"It has been an honour to serve the people of Prince Albert Carlton as their MLA for the past seven years," Hickie said in a news release. "I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Prince Albert, just in a different capacity as a police officer."

Hickie's resignation is effective March 9. The Saskatchewan Party says because the resignation is so close to the next election expected this fall or next spring, the premier is not required to call a byelection, but can if he wants.

Hickie was minister for corrections, public safety and policing from 2007 to 2009 and most recently was appointed to lead an all-party committee on improving traffic safety.

Feb 13 2015

VANCOUVER - The coroners service has identified a man who died in Chilliwack, B.C., after Mounties used a conducted energy weapon.

The service says 42-year-old Kevin Mukuyama became unresponsive after the RCMP deployed the weapon at a home, at about 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Mukuyama was transported to hospital but died shortly after his arrival.

Insp. Ed Boettcher says the suspect allegedly struggled with police before officers used a weapon.

The Independent Investigations Office is investigating whether any criminal offences were committed by the officers involved.

The coroners service says it may hold an inquest into the fatal outcome and make recommendations to prevent future deaths in similar circumstances.

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2015

Feb 14 2015

HALIFAX - Two people have been charged with conspiracy to commit murder in connection with an alleged plot to attack a public place in Halifax on Valentine's Day that police claim could have resulted in mass killings.

A third person, a 17-year-old boy from the Halifax area, has been released without being charged but police said he remains under investigation.

Police said Saturday that charges have been laid against 23-year-old Lindsay Kantha Souvannarath of Geneva, Ill., and 20-year-old Randall Steven Shepherd of Halifax. The two suspects are scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court on Tuesday to face the allegations.

A fourth suspect, a 19-year-old man, was found dead by police early Friday morning in the Halifax suburb of Timberlea.

Police arrested three people after getting an anonymous Crime Stoppers tip on Thursday morning from a Canadian source.

Halifax Police Chief Jean-Michel Blais said the Halifax Shopping Centre was to be the target of the alleged plot.

"This is a reminder that this type of incident can happen anywhere," he said in a statement. "Recognizing our citizens may be anxious in the wake of this news, we have additional high visibility patrols in and around the city. We encourage people to go about their daily lives."

RCMP Asst. Commissioner Brian Brennan said three long-barrelled rifles have been seized from the home in Timberlea where the man was found dead, but he would not elaborate on the types of guns.

Earlier Saturday, Justice Minister Peter MacKay said the alleged plot was not linked to terrorism.

"What I can tell you is that this appeared to be a group of murderous misfits that were coming here or were living here and prepared to wreak havoc and mayhem on our community," he told a news conference.

"Make no mistake about it, there could have been a real tragedy and it would have marked our city and our province forever."

Brennan says the man who was found dead intended to go to a public place with a woman and open fire on citizens before killing themselves on Valentine's Day.

Neither Brennan or Blais would comment on a possible motive.

"This group of individuals we would not define as a terrorist group," said Brennan. "They were four individuals that had a friendship. Their friendship is not based on culture or ideology. They were four individuals who formed a friendship and decided to plan and commit a heinous crime."

Brennan has refused to elaborate on the circumstances surrounding the man found dead in Timberlea, saying the issue has been referred to the province's Serious Incident Response Team, which reviews all serious incidents involving police in the province. A statement from the Serious Incident Response Team, known as SIRT, said police found the man dead when they entered the residence.

A police official, who spoke anonymous-

ly because the official was not authorized to speak publicly, told The Associated Press the 19-year-old male shot himself to death after police surrounded his parent's home at around one a.m. Friday. The official said after police were tipped off about the plot they surrounded his home.

Police saw his parents leave the house and called the man. As the man told police that he didn't have any guns and he was on his way out of the house he shot himself, the official said.

Brennan said the 20-year-old man and 23-year-old woman were arrested around 2 a.m. at the Halifax airport. He said the woman was arriving on a plane and the man was there to meet her.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Feb 15 2015

HALIFAX - The head of Crime Stoppers in Canada says the tip regarding the alleged mall shooting plot in Halifax was likely the most significant ever received in this country for preventing crime.



Ralph Page, president of the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association, said it is an indication of the organization's role in crime prevention.

Police in Halifax have charged two people with conspiracy to commit murder in connection with an alleged plan to carry out an attack at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Valentine's Day.

Police had no advanced warning of the plans other than an anonymous tip, said RCMP Asst. Commissioner Brian Brennan.

"This investigation started immediately after that single Crime Stoppers tip came in," he told reporters.

Police have said the tip came from within Canada, but have not said anything more specific due to the anonymous nature of the Crime Stoppers system.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2015

Feb 16 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada will hear arguments starting today in a series of cases that question the depth and breadth of Canada's human smuggling laws.

Four of the five cases the court will consider involve people connected to the arrival

of ships filled with Sri Lankan migrants off the coast of B.C.

One of the cases involves four defendants who were charged with human smuggling on board the MV Ocean Lady, which was carrying 76 Sri Lankan Tamils when it was intercepted in 2009.

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association is an intervener in one of the cases that considers the constitutionality of section 117 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

The provision criminalizes any person who knowingly helps an undocumented individual enter Canada.

At trial, the accused argued section was overly broad, as it could criminalize humanitarian workers or family members of refugees.

Feb 16 2015

MONTREAL - A federal prosecutor says she'll seek an adult sentence for a Quebec teenager facing two terrorism-related charges.

The motion to have the boy sentenced as an adult could mean he'll face a harsher sentence if found guilty compared to the maximum sentence applicable under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The teen is accused of committing a robbery for the benefit of an unspecified terrorism organization.

Authorities also say the adolescent is charged with planning to leave Canada to participate in the activities of a terrorist group abroad.

The 15-year-old's lawyer appeared today in youth court for what was supposed to be a meeting to set a date for his trial.

Instead, the case was postponed until March 9.

Feb 16 2015

VANCOUVER - A former British Columbia man who was acquitted of sexual assault in what the Crown has called a "miscarriage of justice" has filed a civil lawsuit.

Gurdev Singh Dhillon was convicted of sexual assault in 2005, imprisoned and deported to India in 2008.

But a special prosecutor found Crown counsel didn't disclose DNA evidence that pointed to three other men - something the B.C. Appeal Court cited when it threw out the conviction last year.

The lawsuit names Dhillon's former defence lawyer, the provincial and federal governments, the lead investigator and prosecutor and an unknown civilian employee of the RCMP.

The allegations have yet to be proven in court, but Dhillon's new defence lawyer alleges the defendants were negligent during the investigation and leadup to the trial.

Jason Gratl says his client lost his freedom, his marriage, his child, his job and his country and now has few economic prospects as a farmer in rural India.

Feb 16 2015

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The province's police watchdog is investigating the death of man in London, Ont., over the weekend.

The Special Investigations Unit says police arrested a 26-year-old man after responding to a disturbance call at a bar early Saturday.

The SIU says the man appeared to have a medical problem and was taken to a hospital by ambulance.

He died in hospital Sunday evening.

The SIU wants to hear from anyone with information.

**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

Feb 17 2015

OTTAWA - The Canadian Security Intelligence Service wants to create a national burial site for its employees at Ottawa's Beechwood Cemetery.

The intelligence service and a society representing many former spies have approached Beechwood about reserving part of the venerable resting place for CSIS members and their families.

The cemetery, a short drive east of Parliament Hill, already has dedicated sections for the RCMP, National Defence and Ottawa police.

These areas are "an impressive and touching tribute to the service and sacrifices of Canada's men and women in uniform," CSIS director Michel Coulombe said in a letter to James Patterson, Beechwood's director of family services.

A CSIS-specific section would be a "welcome and appropriate addition" to the cemetery, Coulombe said in the July letter, obtained under the Access to Information Act.

"A preliminary survey indicated a significant amount of interest among employees in purchasing a plot," Coulombe wrote following a May meeting between Patterson and backers of the plan.

"The success of the endeavour will rely on careful and detailed planning of the site and monument."

The project is "still at the initial stages," said CSIS spokeswoman Tahera Mufti.

Established in 1873, Beechwood is the burial place of luminaries including prime minister Robert Borden, physicist Gerhard Herzberg, NDP leader Tommy Douglas and poet Archibald Lampman.

Six years ago, Parliament declared it the National Cemetery of Canada.

Feb 17 2015

The RCMP has labelled the "anti-petroleum" movement as a growing and violent threat to Canada's security, raising fears among environmentalists that they face increased surveillance, and possibly worse, under the Harper government's new terrorism legislation.

In highly charged language, an RCMP intelligence assessment warns that foreign-funded groups are bent on blocking oil sands expansion and pipeline construction, and that the extremists in the movement are willing to resort to violence.

"There is a growing, highly organized and well-financed anti-Canada petroleum movement that consists of peaceful activists, militants and violent extremists who are opposed to society's reliance on fossil fuels," concludes the report which is stamped "protected/Canadian eyes only" and is dated Jan. 24, 2014. The report was obtained by Greenpeace.

"If violent environmental extremists engage in unlawful activity, it jeopardizes the health and safety of its participants, the

general public and the natural environment."

The government has tabled Bill C-51, which provides greater power to the security agencies to collect information on and disrupt the activities of suspected terrorist groups. While Prime Minister Stephen Harper has identified the threat as violent extremists motivated by radical Islamic views, the legislation would also expand the ability of government agencies to infiltrate environmental groups on the suspicion that they are promoting civil disobedience or other criminal acts to oppose resource projects.

The legislation identifies "activity that undermines the security of Canada" as anything that interferes with the economic or financial stability of Canada or with the



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country's critical infrastructure, though it excludes lawful protest or dissent. And it allows the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service to take measures to reduce what it perceives to be threats to the security of Canada.

(Globe and Mail)

Feb 17 2015

OTTAWA - Ottawa police say they've reopened their stations to the public but are still investigating a threat made against one of their buildings.

Police initially closed off the stations after receiving the threatening call around 2 p.m.

Const. Marc Soucy wouldn't comment on the nature of the threat, saying the investigation is still underway.

Feb 17 2015

The Mounties need a big raise to catch up with rival police forces and attract quality recruits, an internal report has found.

The RCMP Pay Council has compiled a "business case" that calls for a 10-per-cent raise, stating RCMP members have fallen far behind other police bodies.

"In order to recruit, retain and motivate the best work force for the job, the RCMP must be able to offer a competitive and relevant compensation package to its members," said the report, entitled Fair Compensation for the RCMP.

"Given various conditions that have led to fiscal restraint measures, both the total compensation and the first class constable rankings of the RCMP are becoming less competitive with those of other departments in the police universe."

The finding will put pressure on the federal government to increase salary and benefits in the RCMP, even as the force is trying to persuade Ottawa to approve the hiring of new officers to deal with the increased focus on the fight against terrorism.

The members of the RCMP have recently won a court battle in the Supreme Court to form a union or a police association, which they hope will increase their leverage in salary negotiations with the government.

"This climate creates the potential for a crisis within Canada's national police force, especially in light of the Supreme Court of Canada decision ... which will significantly change the labour relations landscape within the RCMP," the report said.

To attract and keep quality officers, the RCMP has determined that it must offer wages and benefits that are higher than the average compensation in police forces in six big cities (Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg) and the two main provincial forces (Ontario and Quebec).

The RCMP wants its average compensation to be within the top three of the eight comparable police forces. Currently, the RCMP is in fifth place, "with its total compensation value falling 9.61 per cent behind that of the average top three services."

The Mounties started to fall behind other

police officers in 2007, as the federal government entered a period of spending cuts, and have steadily lost ground since.

"In terms of salary alone, the RCMP first class constable salary ranks 57th out of the 82 Canadian police services with 50 members or more," the report said. "These trends have contributed to members no longer recommending the RCMP as an employer of choice, which could hamper any recruitment strategies that the force is implementing."

One of the bigger challenges facing the RCMP is attracting recruits to serve in isolated parts of the country, even as their counterparts in other police bodies receive large incentives to serve in faraway detachments.

"As the pool of possible new members is shrinking, the competition between police services for qualified applicants is rising. Successful organizations must offer rates of pay comparable to their competitors in the labour market," the report said.

The five-member Pay Council now has to make a formal recommendation on a compensation package to RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson. The file will then head to the departments of Public Safety and the Treasury Board Secretariat for a final decision.

(Globe and Mail)

Feb 17 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police used a hearse Tuesday morning to draw attention to the serious consequences of distracted driving as they launched a week-long campaign to curb the dangerous practice.



The initiative will highlight all dangerous activities associated with drivers who talk, text, type, dial or email using hand-held communication and entertainment devices. Tickets for distracted driving can reach \$280.

Kathryn Field applauded police for using the hearse, even if only a small percentage of people stop texting as a result of the stunt.

Her 17-year-old son, Josh, was killed five years ago outside of London, Ontario when he tried to reach for his cellphone and lost control of the car he was driving.

"He didn't realize that the car was veering across into the other lane," she said. "He looked up, saw it was, and sharply turned the wheel overcorrecting it, across the central median. And flipped the car several times landing in a ditch [on] the other side."

Now Field is trying to educate people about the dangers of distracted driving. She goes to driver's education classes, and high schools to try and teach young people about the dangers of distracted driving. The Josh Field Support Network has produced a video

about Josh's life, which has racked up 45,000 views on YouTube.

Officers will be using both marked and unmarked cruisers to catch distracted drivers.

Toronto police have laid over 82,000 charges for distracted driving offences since 2011.

(Global News)

Feb 17 2015

MONTREAL - Montreal police have launched a hiring drive for members of ethnic minorities in an attempt to redress the problem of minority under representation.

Currently only between four and eight percent of the 5,000 strong force are members of visible minorities.

"To be credible or have respect for the population I think we need to represent them and represent them in their full diversity," said Montreal police representative Laurent Gingras.

The present ratio in the police force does not reflect Montreal's ethnic makeup, said Fo Niemi, the executive director of the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations.

Niemi explained that the mandatory swim test to become a police officer is a problem for communities that do not have access to pools.

"Some groups fail swim tests more than others," said Niemi, "so I think it's something we have to look at in terms of removing obstacles to fair employment opportunities."

(CTV Montreal)

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2015

Feb 18 2015

MONTREAL - Luka Rocco Magnotta has formally withdrawn his appeal of a conviction in the first-degree murder of Jun Lin.

Magnotta's lawyer dropped the appeal today during a hearing at the Quebec Court of Appeal.

Magnotta was found guilty of first-degree murder and four other charges last December in the 2012 slaying and dismemberment of Lin, a Chinese engineering student.

The jury deliberated for eight days before returning five guilty verdicts.

Magnotta admitted to killing and dismembering Lin but was seeking to be found not criminally responsible by way of mental disorder.

His lawyer had announced the appeal in January, citing judicial errors and asking the court to grant Magnotta a new trial.

Feb 18 2015

Ten months after he was suspended with pay, an SQ officer is being charged with falsifying evidence.

Constable Sebastien Grenier was suspended in April 2014 when police began their investigation.

The Surete du Quebec says it now has enough evidence to recommend charges of

falsifying evidence and bearing false witness.

The SQ alleges Grenier was using a radar gun without proper training to give out speeding tickets in the Eastern Townships and was faking evidence to use as proof.

The disciplinary committee for the provincial police has handed all its findings over to crown prosecutors.

Grenier is expected to appear in court on March 27.

The police force will also re-evaluate his status in the days to come.

(CTV Montreal)

Feb 18 2015

BRAMPTON, Ont. - A violent struggle between a female police officer and two teenaged girls outside a Toronto-area school, which was caught on video, has led to charges against two teens.



A video posted to social media shows a female officer on her knees being repeatedly struck by a girl, then attacked from behind by another as the first girl tries to get away.

Peel police Const. Fiona Thivierge confirmed the video, saying the incident happened around 12:30 p.m. Tuesday as officers were investigating two female suspects for allegedly trespassing at a Brampton, Ont., high school.

She says a struggle broke out as one of the suspects was being arrested and that the officer received minor injuries.

A 15-year-old girl is charged with trespassing, obstructing police, assaulting police and assisting in an escape from lawful custody.

A 16-year-old girl is charged with trespassing, assaulting police and escaping lawful custody.

The teens cannot be identified under provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Thivierge says the girls, both from Brampton, are scheduled to appear in court on March 17.

Feb 18 2015

TORONTO - Facing a dramatic surge in requests, Toronto police compliance with response time requirements under Freedom of Information legislation hit a 10-year low in 2014 — and the dragging response rate points to a need for additional resources, says Ontario's privacy commissioner.

According to data submitted to the Toronto Police Services Board in a recent report by Chief Bill Blair, Toronto police met the mandated FOI response deadline of 30 days in 52 per cent of requests last year.

That's nearly a 30 per cent drop from 2005 — when 80 per cent of FOI requests

were completed within the 30-day timeframe — and down almost 15 per cent from 2013, which saw a compliance rate of 65 per cent.

The lagging response rate comes amid a staggering 125 per cent increase in FOI requests filed to Toronto police in the last decade, ballooning from just over 2,500 in 2005 to 5,600 in 2014.

Brian Beamish, the acting Information & Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, said Toronto police have received more requests in recent years than any other municipal institution in Ontario.

Citing staffing challenges Blair highlights in his report — including a static number of analysts who cannot keep up with the demand — Beamish called on the Toronto Police Services Board to consider providing additional resources to better serve the public and meet legislative obligations.

But Alok Mukherjee, chair of the police board, said “throwing more resources” at perceived deficiencies is not the answer — “especially in areas that are not the core function of the organization.”

“We will need to see if there is an issue and if there is, whether the system in place needs to be reviewed,” he said.

In Blair's report — submitted to the police board in advance of its Thursday meeting — he cites the increase in requests and staffing difficulties for delays in responding to requests, which can range from citizen demands for personal data to media inquiries to applications from lawyers and more.

The unit responsible for responding to FOI requests employs nine analysts and one permanent clerk, who attends to administrative duties.

Two temporary clerk positions were created to help ease the growing workload, but there is high turnover because these employees continue to seek permanent positions, Blair wrote.

Last year, six people cycled through the two positions, and none are there today.

“(The unit) continues to lose staff just at the point where they are trained and are actively assisting in streamlining the FOI process,” Blair writes, adding that when these temporary clerks are not available, administrative work is absorbed by analysts.

Of the total 5,671 requests submitted to Toronto police in 2014, 4,626 were ultimately completed.

Though noting no formal study has been done, Blair writes that the increasing number of FOI requests Toronto police have been receiving could be a result of “growing public awareness of the act, its processes and its inherent ease of access (\$5 processing fee).”

“In 2014 particularly, the media gave much attention to all levels of government with respect to transparency, filing (FOI) requests and lack of access,” Blair notes in the letter.

The surge appears to be partly due to citizens requesting information about themselves: in 2014, the number of personal requests increased 12 per cent over 2013.

(Toronto Star)

Feb 18 2015

CALGARY - Police have charged a Montreal man with defrauding Albertans of tens of thousands of dollars in the so-called grandparent scam.

A joint, year-long investigation by Calgary, Edmonton and Montreal police, RCMP, Western Union and MoneyGram International resulted in the charges.

Yann Giasson, who is 28, was arrested in Montreal last week and charged with 10 counts of fraud under \$5,000, and 10 counts of theft under \$5,000.

Investigators allege Giasson fraudulently obtained more than \$30,000 from 10 victims living throughout Alberta. So far, Calgary police have received 139 complaints from victims, alleging more than \$210,000 in losses by elderly victims.

Police say there are other victims throughout Alberta and B.C.

Feb 18 2015

TORONTO - Parents and civil-rights activists alike reacted with outrage Wednesday at word that Quebec school officials had strip-searched a teenaged girl suspected of having marijuana - with the blessing of provincial government policy.

In a day and age where educators can lose their jobs for laying a hand on a student, the province's Education Minister Yves Bolduc defended the searches as a reasonable safety measure in which teachers need not consult parents but aren't allowed to touch the students.

A 15-year-old girl told the Journal de Quebec last week she felt violated after being strip-searched at Neufchatel High School.

On Tuesday, Bolduc told the province's legislature that strip searches are fine, as long as they are done “respectfully” and subject to restrictions.

The Quebec search policy, in place since 2010, mandates the presence of two teachers - preferably of the same sex during the search. The student, from behind a curtain, is expected to strip and hand the discarded clothing - including underwear - to the teachers for examination, officials said.

The policy cites the legal authority of the Supreme Court of Canada, which ruled in 1998 that school officials have the right to search students' lockers or bags.

Faced with a backlash, Bolduc said on Wednesday he was pondering tighter rules and had ordered an investigation into two recent incidents.

“We will judge on the facts of what needs to be done in the future,” Bolduc told the legislature.

Feb 18 2015

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer who was found guilty of assaulting a protester during the city's G20 summit four years ago is back at work.

Const. Andalib Goortani had been suspended without pay as his case worked its way through the courts, but his employment status was reviewed after an Ontario judge

ruled on an appeal of his conviction last month.

In a decision delivered at the end of January, Superior Court Justice Brian O'Marra upheld Andalib-Goortani's conviction, but ruled he would not have to serve time in jail, sentencing him instead to one year of probation and 75 hours of community service.

A Toronto police spokeswoman says Andalib-Goortani has been returned to "administrative duties" at the force.

An internal police disciplinary hearing is also currently underway for Andalib-Goortani, who faces one count of discreditable conduct, two counts of insubordination and one count of unlawful or unnecessary exercise of authority.

Feb 18 2015

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - Seventeen police officers from a small city in British Columbia are being investigated for alleged misconduct amid concerns that criminal cases may have been compromised.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner says 148 allegations of corruption, deceit and neglect of duty against officers in Abbotsford relate to statements they provided before search warrants were issued.

An officer in Vancouver is also being investigated on separate but related concerns, Rollie Woods, deputy police complaint commissioner, said Wednesday.

Woods said the office is concerned that people may have been falsely prosecuted if officers gave misleading or inaccurate information to obtain search warrants.

"These are very serious allegations," he said. "It could affect the ability of a police officer to testify in court or to apply for a search warrant."

Woods said Chief Const. Bob Rich of the Abbotsford Police Department received information about Const. Christopher Nicholson's alleged criminal activity in 2012 and 2013 and that Vancouver police was asked to do a criminal investigation.

Nicholson was arrested on May 6, 2013, and Woods said that about one-third of the 148 allegations apply to him.

He has been charged with breach of trust, obstruction of justice and conspiracy to traffic a controlled substance.

Nicholson was suspended without pay. Pre-trial proceedings in his case are to begin March 19 and a jury trial has been scheduled for May 2016.

Woods said police complaint commissioner Stan Lowe ordered the New Westminster Police Department in August 2013 to conduct a separate investigation into Nicholson's alleged professional misconduct.

A new order for an expanded investigation was issued last March when allegations against more officers surfaced, he said.

"Normally we don't comment on Police Act investigations, but this one is so serious and so large that the commissioner felt it was in the public interest to release this information now."

B.C. Attorney General Suzanne Anton said she's aware of the investigation and that the original complaint came from the Abbotsford police chief.

"It is concerning when you hear allegations like that, but it's in the hands of the police complaint commissioner, which is the right place for it to be."

Anton, pointing out the matter is now before the courts, said she did not wish to comment about concerns that some criminal prosecutions may have been compromised.

A statement from New Westminster police said the RCMP and the Delta Police Department are also participating in the investigation.

Woods said that investigation, under the Police Act, has been delayed while the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner waits for a large volume of documents from police.

"The investigation is very complex and undergoing constant review and re-examination of available materials by the investigators to ensure that all matters are fully canvassed," New Westminster police said.

Sgt. Chad Johnston said Chief Const. Dave Jones has been designated as an external discipline authority involving the Police Act investigation.

Jones will be tasked with reviewing the evidence and deciding whether Nicholson will undergo a discipline hearing.

Feb 18 2015

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police have stored the genetic material of their star police dog, who died last month, in the hopes of breeding more like him down the road.

The 11-year-old Belgian Malinois named Judge died of kidney failure nine months after retiring.

The police force says Judge was the top tracker in their history with more than 500 arrests under his collar during his 10 years of service.

Judge already has a lot of offspring making their mark - 23 of his puppies and nine grand-puppies are working as police dogs across North America.

Canine unit Sgt. Dave Bessason says it's hoped his genetic material will be used to produce pups for the next decade.

Bessason says training is the foundation of a good service dog, but genetics plays a really important part.

"That drive - that tracking drive, you can see it in the dogs," agrees canine unit Const. Shawn Lowry. "I can see it in them, I know that it's there, and it's really nice to see it's continuing on."

Officers from the unit gathered Wednesday night for a memorial for Judge, who worked with Sgt. Scott Taylor.

"We're a tight group of people and our patriarch was put down," said Bessason. "It was really, really tough."

He said Judge and Taylor, who took the dog home to his family after he left the service, were an amazing team.

"He'd work a track two and a half, three

hours old; they just hated to lose," said Bessason. "They're a team I don't think we'll ever replace."

(CTV Winnipeg)

Feb 18 2015

SURREY - Mounties want a pilot project run by the City of Surrey to help increase community safety scrapped.

The RCMP think the program is expensive and inefficient.

However, some people living in Newton, where crime has been an issue for the past year, aren't happy with that statement. Doug Elford with the Newton Community Association says it makes people feel safe.

"This is the type of model that we've been asking for a long time. It's a better presence in the community — it's some sort of a secure force that communicates with us," he explains. "My guess is the budget for this comes out of the RCMP that are looking at a \$500,000 investment which they figure they can use elsewhere."

Surrey City Councillor Bruce Hayne says the members who are part of this safety patrol are not armed, and that's a major concern, given, for example, what happened in Ottawa last year.

"We're increasing our police budget in an unprecedented manner this year. We've got 30 new officers coming in the next six weeks. And from a boots on the ground community safety perspective, having full members on patrol is far more effective," he describes.

"The final decision on the future of the Community Safety Patrol project will be made by the City of Surrey. If the pilot project is discontinued the City of Surrey and the Surrey RCMP will work closely together on a transition plan to ensure that residents and business owners feel safe in their community," RCMP Corporal Bert Paquet said in a statement.

Last December, council approved the hiring of 100 new Mounties but they won't hit the streets until later this year, likely in the spring.

(NEWS 1130)

Feb 18 2015

CALGARY - An Alberta company hopes a new smartphone app will help so-called nomophobia sufferers who can't put their devices down while behind the wheel.

Nomophobia is the term coined for a fear of being out of mobile phone contact. OneTap is a free app that uses GPS to detect when a person is in a car and manages calls, texts and alerts that could be a distraction while driving.

"Four out of five people will not leave their house without their phone. They will literally stop where they are, go back into their house to go and get their phone and bring it back into their sphere of influence," said Ted Hellard, founder of AppColony, a Calgary-based technology company.

"That's called addiction, call it obsession, call it whatever you want, but bottom line is it is necessary for us."

OneTap has an auto-reply function that

replies to calls and texts immediately to let senders know an individual is driving and when the trip is expected to end.

The app kicks in when the GPS detects the phone is moving in a car, but has an option that allows passengers to still send and receive. If a caller texts that a matter is urgent, the app alerts the driver to pull over to accept a phone call.

The app is only available for Android phones, but is to be offered on others later this year.

Hellard said his company was planning to sell the app, but decided to offer it for free. It is supported by the Co-operators insurance company.

Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson, an outspoken critic of distracted driving, said he endorses the app.

"The carnage that's caused by distracted driving now has, in a number of studies particularly in the U.S., shown to be greater than that caused by impaired driving," Hanson said. "People are dying, people are being hurt needlessly for something that is so preventable."

Hellard acknowledges that some smartphone users are so hard core they likely won't be interested in curtailing their activities. But he is hopeful that many will.

"We're the vast majority. The real, real freakazoids — they're not taking an app down — they don't put their seatbelt on either," Hellard said.

"We want to reach that 80 per cent who actually care, but just don't know how to stop."

Feb 18 2015

HANOVER - Hanover chief of police Tracy David, who became the department's first female officer in 1985, is retiring after more than three decades on the job.



"I'm really going to miss policing and the people," David said from inside her cruiser on Feb. 4. "I have a passion for this community and a passion for the service... See, I'm getting choked up now."

With 32 years of policing under her belt, David's last day will be Feb. 28.

"I think my biggest accomplishment has been securing the position as Hanover's first female police officer, and then retiring as the chief of police," David said. "But what I've enjoyed over the years and what's been very important to me is knowing that I've helped or made a difference in lives. There's nothing more rewarding than that."

David began working as a civilian dispatcher with the Hanover police force. In February of 1985, David was hired as the town's first female police officer and

was sworn in as a cadet.

David wore her uniform for the first time at basic training with the Ontario Police College in Aylmer.

"I had to go to Peel Regional Police to get shirts because Hanover didn't have any female shirts," she said.

In her first day of drill training, David was yelled at because she didn't have her leather polished.

"I didn't know any of that — that was all new ground for me," David said. "And when it came to marching, I was all over the place. My hands and legs weren't lining up — but again, that was new to me. So they made me hold the side of my pants when I marched so my arms weren't flying all over the place, and I thought, 'You know what, I'm going to show them.'"

By graduation, David was a drill team member.

After 11 years on the Hanover police force, David was promoted to patrol sergeant in 1996. Despite being offered the position of chief in 2003, she declined because her husband was ill and her children were young.

In 2005, at a time when there were only two other female police chiefs in Canada, David was again offered the position and this time accepted.

To this date, Hanover's is the smallest municipal police service to have a female chief.

One thing the 52-year-old said she's particularly proud of is the fact that she's never taken a sick day throughout her entire "rewarding and challenging" career.

"I was sent home because I was injured, but I have never called in sick," she said.

Inspector Chris Knoll will serve as acting police chief until the police services board fills the permanent role.

(The Post)

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Feb 19 2015

TORONTO - The province's police watchdog has been called in after a man died following an altercation with Toronto police.

The Special Investigations Unit says police received a call about a man with a knife on Wednesday night.

The SIU says a man was shot during an "interaction" with police and was pronounced dead at hospital a short time later.

Paramedics say another man was taken to hospital in serious condition with knife wounds.

No police officers were injured.

(Newstalk1010, 680News)

Feb 19 2015

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - The chief constable of a police department in British Columbia's Fraser Valley is defending 16 of 17 officers who have come under investigation.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner says 148 allegations of corruption, deceit and neglect of duty against officers in Abbotsford relate to statements they provided before search warrants were

issued for drug investigations.

Chief Constable Bob Rich of the Abbotsford Police Department says only Constable Christopher Nicholson has been charged.

Rich says 16 officers have been taken off drug investigations, and practices about how informants were handled came under the spotlight as part of an audit he requested.

He says there was confusion over how much information needed to be said about an informant in a search warrant.

Rich says the criminal records of informants needed to be put into a search warrant, there were possible deceptions and he could have provided better training.

Nicholson has been suspended without pay, and his pre-trial proceedings are to begin March 19th.

Feb 19 2015

HALIFAX - Halifax police have created a new website for tips in their investigation into a foiled shooting plot.

They have also set up an email address for people to provide information about the alleged attack at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Valentine's Day.

Twenty-three-year-old Lindsay Kanitha Souvannarath of Geneva, Illinois, and 20-year-old Randall Steven Shepherd of Halifax are charged with several offences, including conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit arson and illegal possession of weapons.

Police say they have received several tips about them and their online activity.

They say they're also getting information about a 19-year-old man from Timberlea who was linked to the alleged plot, but who was found dead in his home.

Police say the website and email should make it easier for people to send them photos, videos or tips.

They say officers may contact people who submit information.

Feb 19 2015

WINNIPEG - A report from Winnipeg police says the city's crime rate last year was comparable to 2013 and nearly 24-per-cent lower than the five-year average.

The figures -- released yesterday -- show violent crime was down 2.5 per cent year over year.

There were 25 homicides in both 2013 and 2014, compared to the five-year annual average of just over 30.

Winnipeg has been labelled the "murder capital of Canada" for no less than five of the last 10 years.

There was a decline in robberies and property crimes, but the report also says the number of sexual assaults and aggravated sexual assaults increased.

Police note that an increase in online reporting of incidents last year may have affected individual and overall crime rate records.

The report will be reviewed by the Winnipeg Police Board at a meeting on Saturday. (CBC, Online Out)

Feb 19 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police say three officers have been charged with sexual assault and gang sexual assault.

The three, who were off duty at the time, have been arrested.

The charges apparently relate to an incident that occurred last month and the alleged victim was a parking-enforcement officer at an after-work party.

Police did not immediately disclose the ranks of the officers, who had four to six years service.

The trio were suspended when the investigation began.

Charged are Joshua Cabero, 28, Leslie Nyznik, 38, and Sameer Kara, 31.

Feb 19 2015

TORONTO - Three Toronto police officers charged in an alleged gang sexual assault on a colleague have been released on \$15,000 bail.

The three constables, who were off duty at the time of the alleged incident, appeared briefly in court Thursday.

The charges apparently relate to an incident that occurred last month and the alleged victim was a female parking enforcement officer at an after-work party.

The officers, men with four to six years of service each, were suspended when the investigation began.

Charged are constables Joshua Cabero, 28, Leslie Nyznik, 38, and Sameer Kara, 31.

They are to return to court March 20. (680 News)

Feb 18 2015

VANCOUVER - The city of Vancouver's overall rate of violent crime and sexual offences dropped last year, but the number of murders and property crimes — especially business break-ins — were up.

Those are some of the main findings of the Vancouver Police Department's year-end 2014 Key Performance Indicator, to be presented to the police board today.

"If you go back 10 or 12 years, you'll see that although the (property crime) numbers are increasing in the last couple of years, they're still way, way down from a decade ago," said Vancouver police spokesman Const. Brian Montague.

"Stats tend to roller-coaster a bit. But we don't like the upswings and it's a concern for us."

He said police initiatives including the department's focus on fighting gang violence may have contributed to the drop in the overall violent crime rate.

However, he said the 50-per-cent rise in murders — from six in 2013 to nine in 2014 — still reflects a low number.

"Nine is still a really low number when you compare it to other cities of similar size across the country or in other parts of the

world. Six homicides (in 2013) was a record low for Vancouver. So when you're dealing with such small numbers, going from six to nine is an increase of 50 per cent, but it's an increase of three (people). But, we'd like to see zero."

Montague said the department is happy that the rate of sexual offences dropped by 12 per cent last year.

Montague said police campaigns including the department's Watch Your Drink campaign and educational programs aimed at helping local bars identify sexual predators might have played a part.

Another area police will be focusing on this year, said Montague, is section 28 (Mental Health Act) apprehensions.

"Year after year for the last five years,

we've seen another increase, which is unfortunate," he said.

(Vancouver Sun)

Feb 19 2015

CORNER BROOK, N.L. - A police officer with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has been convicted of making indecent phone calls and mischief.

Const. Sean Kelly was charged after police received a complaint in October 2012.

Kelly was suspended without pay pending the outcome of court proceedings.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says the provincial court has found Kelly guilty of the charges and he will remain suspended without pay until a decision is made by its professional standards division.



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Presenter: Nir Maman
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Presenters: A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret) and S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret)
Cost: \$100



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