

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | April 03, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 14

Executive Digest

Mar 26 2015

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall's reversal of revised striping laws is welcome news to police chiefs in the province, including Saskatoon's Clive Weighill.

Page 3

Mar 27 2015

TORONTO - Members of the Toronto Police Association are being asked to ratify a new contract that includes an 8.35 per cent salary increase over four years, the Star has learned.

Page 4

Mar 31 2015

The RCMP is preparing to release another report on Canada's murdered and missing aboriginal women – a surprise to the indigenous groups that have been lobbying the federal government to hold a public inquiry to discern the causes of the tragedy.

Page 8

Apr 01 2015

Although crime rates are dropping across Quebec, cybercrime has skyrocketed in recent years, a provincial report suggests.

Page 10

Apr 02 2015

OTTAWA - A judicial review sought by Ottawa police in continued efforts to fire an incompetent officer has ruled that a civilian police commission's order to reinstate the officer was "perverse."

Page 11

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Quebec to establish provincial gun registry

ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THIS PAGE

APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE UNDER THE FIREARMS ACT (POL)

PART A: PERSONAL INFORMATION * See instructions on left page.

1a) Last name	1b) First name	1c) Middle name	2. Language <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French
3a) Have you ever changed your name (including marriage)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, indicate previous names (last, first and middle) and 3b) (Attach a separate page, if necessary)			3b) Previous last name
4. Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	5. Eye colour	7. Telephone number and time when you may be contacted <input type="checkbox"/> day <input type="checkbox"/> evening	
8a) Residence address - Street / Land Location			8b) Apt. / Unit
8c) City			8f) Postal / Zip code
9a) Mailing address (if different from the residence) Street / Rural route / PO Box number			9b) Apt. / Unit
9c) City			9e) Country
10a) Date of birth (Y-M-D)			10b) Province / State / Country
11. If you were born in another country, were you admitted to Canada?			12b) Province of issue
12a) Have you ever held a valid Certificate (FAC) or a firearms licence? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, indicate your number (if known)			13c) Identification number
13a) Type of identification			13b) Province / State / Country of issue

PART B: CLASSES OF FIREARMS CURRENTLY OWNED

* 14. Indicate the classes of firearms you currently own. (See instructions for definitions.)

Mar 27 2015

QUEBEC CITY - Less than two hours after the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the federal government has the right to destroy long-gun registry data collected in Quebec between 1995 and 2012, the province announced it would be moving ahead with its own registry — with or without Ottawa's help.

Provincial Public Safety minister Lise Thériault was unequivocal during a press conference held Friday morning in Quebec

City, promising that the legislative base for a provincial registry would be in place by the end of this parliamentary session. That legislation will, in turn, set up a timeline for the establishment of the new registry.

Based on a unanimous motion passed last fall in the National Assembly, the bill is expected to be supported by all opposition parties. Both Québec solidaire and the Coalition avenir Québec reaffirmed their support on Friday morning.

"We remain convinced that the daily use

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of a tool like this one is necessary to facilitate police investigations and interventions,” said Thériault, adding that the most recent statistics suggest that the federal long-gun registry data — which was still available to Quebec’s police forces until Friday — was consulted an average of 900 times a day.

“Our first objective is the registration of firearms with the goal of better protecting citizens and police officers,” the minister said.

She was careful to add that a provincial registry is not designed to limit hunting activities in Quebec or to crack down on lawful gun owners.

Based on “conservative” estimates, a provincial registry will cost at least \$30 million to set up, but Thériault acknowledged that the number could fluctuate.

“You have to take the time to draw up the legislation, table the legislation, adopt the legislation, all of that. You have to understand that it can’t be done overnight.”

Quebec fought for the right to keep the federal long-gun registry data linked to 1.6 million rifles and shotguns in the province for three full years. But on Friday morning, the Supreme Court of Canada sided with Ottawa in a 5-4 decision and brought an end to the legal wrangling.

The three Quebec judges on the court were among the dissenters.

The federal records, dating back to 1995, are expected to be destroyed almost immediately, as mandated by federal law. According to Thériault, the decision was an unexpected setback for the province, which had genuinely hoped to win the case before the country’s highest court.

“You argue before the courts to win, you don’t argue to lose,” she said. “We fought. We lost. Fine. We roll up our sleeves and we move forward.”

(Montreal Gazette)



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WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2015

Mar 25 2015

Ford Motor Company announced Wednesday it is recalling more than 200,000 Ford Explorer SUVs from the 2011 to 2013 model years to fix a problem that could cause the doors to fly open in side impacts, increasing the risk of injury. The announcement was part of three recall campaigns that include police vehicles, ambulances, hearses and limousines.

“No accidents or injuries are attributed to these conditions,” the company said in a statement.

The recall largely encompasses 213,911 Explorers, including SUVs sold to customers and ones modified for use by police departments. A spring that controls the interior door handles can unseat, which increases the chance of injury to drivers or passengers because the doors could fly open during side impact collisions. Ford said more than 18,000 of the vehicles are in Canada and Mexico.

Earlier this year Ford recalled nearly 195,000 Ford Taurus sedans (model years 2010 to 2013) and Lincoln MKS luxury cars (model years 2011 to 2013) for the same problem. Automakers often add more vehicles to recalls after a specific problem is identified when they discover the same components were used in different models.

(IBT)

THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2015

Mar 26 2015

REGINA - With less than a week before the original contract was to run out, the provincial government has created a new entity to take over animal protection services in Saskatchewan.

Earlier in the year, Saskatchewan’s provincial SPCA announced it wouldn’t renew its contract for animal protection services after March 31.

The government said the SPCA wanted to focus on education and prevention of animal cruelty.

On Thursday, the province announced it would establish the Animal Protection Service of Saskatchewan, a non-profit corporation to provide animal protection services starting April 1.

(CJME)

Mar 26 2015

Charges have been stayed for a trucker who was involved in a 2012 collision that killed a Surrey RCMP officer.

On Nov. 13, 2012 around 5 a.m., Harjit Singh Lotay collided with a cruiser drive by Const. Adrian Johann. Oliver, 28, was killed. Lotay was charged in connection to the crash.

In late 2014, the federal government also filed a lawsuit, seeking general damages, costs, interest and further relief, as well as special damages for the loss of the cruiser.

According to a statement issued Thursday by Lotay’s lawyer Brij Mohan, the charges were recently stayed by Crown counsel.

“Mr. Lotay was charged in relation to the collision ... and to further compound Mr. Lotay’s difficulties, he is being currently sued by Canada for the loss of Const. Oliver’s police car, and for the cost of equipping a new police vehicle,” read the statement.

“All charges Mr. Lotay was facing as a result of this collision have been recently stayed by the Crown prosecution, however the federal lawsuit and Mr. Lotay’s struggles continue.”

Oliver had been with the Surrey RCMP for three and a half years. He was survived by his mother, father, and two brothers, one of which is his twin Ben Oliver, who also works as an RCMP officer.

(The Province)

Mar 26 2015

A Sûreté du Québec officer has been suspended for 40 days without pay and fined \$5,000 for a series of violations of the police code of ethics.

Guy Bélanger, who has been the subject of disciplinary actions in the past, was accused of driving his patrol car in a reckless manner “in the absence of an emergency” during a cycling race in Prévost in the summer of 2012.

According to the person who filed the disciplinary complaint against him, identified as retired police officer Pierre Ratelle, Bélanger forced his car between Ratelle’s vehicle and a group of cyclists who were travelling on the edge of the roadway. Bélanger was travelling at an estimated speed of 110 kilometres per hour at the time of the incident.

According to a disciplinary decision rendered this week, Ratelle contacted Bélanger’s supervisor to complain, but was unaware that Bélanger overheard the conversation. A short time later, Bélanger showed up at Ratelle’s home and issued him two tickets – one for talking on a cellphone while driving and another for failing to drive in the right-hand lane.

Those offences had, according to the disciplinary committee, “no foundation.” Bélanger acted purely for revenge, the committee found, and subsequently falsified an official police report.

Bélanger has previously been punished by the disciplinary committee for firing his gun at a citizen’s dog, for failing to show proper respect for a citizen and for driving his patrol car recklessly. An additional disciplinary complaint against him is expected to come before the committee in June. Bélanger has been a police officer for 22 years, but the disciplinary complaints date back only to 2012.

(Montreal Gazette)

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall's reversal of revised stripping laws is welcome news to police chiefs in the province, including Saskatoon's Clive Weighill.

"It doesn't come as a surprise, the premier consulted several chiefs across the province and I know he was concerned with exploitation and organized crime being involved in the trade," Weighill said Thursday.

"We've seen in jurisdictions right across Canada where organized crime begins to infiltrate these clubs and women are exploited."

This week the premier echoed the police chief's comments stating that if there's any chance of an increased risk of organized crime or exploitation because of strip clubs that sell booze, re-writing the law isn't worth it.

Not having to patrol strip clubs for criminal activity means it's one less thing police have to worry about, Weighill said.

Weighill said criminal activity would have managed to slip through at strip clubs even with police oversight and municipal by-laws to license performers and venues.

"Certainly we can regulate it and mitigate much of the risk but there's always that percentage of people who may be addicted to drugs or have substance abuse issues who will not co-operate with police or admit that they are being exploited," he said.

After repealing the revised stripping laws, Saskatchewan is the only province or territory in Canada where people cannot watch a strip-tease and drink alcohol.

(CKOM)

FRIDAY MARCH 27, 2015

Mar 27 2015

MONTREAL - Francis Boucher is facing three new charges after surrendering to authorities following several days on the lam.



The son of former Hells Angels boss Maurice (Mom) Boucher was charged this afternoon with identity theft, escaping lawful custody and being unlawfully at large.

He walked out of Montreal's Bordeaux jail on Monday while serving a four-month sentence for uttering death threats against police officers.

His lawyer said today he believes his client left the institution after his name was called out instead of that of another inmate named Boucher.

The 39-year-old Boucher will remain in detention pending a bail hearing on Monday.

He was previously sentenced to 10 years behind bars for gangsterism, conspiracy to commit murder and drug-trafficking.

Mar 27 2015

OTTAWA - The federal government will amend its anti-terrorism bill to make it clear that new information-sharing provisions would not target protesters who act outside the letter of the law.

Sources familiar with the planned changes say the government will also ensure the new information sharing stops short of exchanges "with any person, for any purpose."

Another change would limit the public safety minister's powers to order an air carrier to prevent someone from committing a terrorist act.

In addition, a new clause would make it clear that Canadian Security Intelligence Service officers do not have arrest powers.

The sources revealed the changes on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss them publicly.

Mar 27 2015

VANCOUVER - The B.C. government is hoping to reduce the number of child-protection cases going to court by opening a new legal centre for parents.

The Parents Legal Centre is a pilot project that will be located in the Vancouver law courts and will be staffed by a lawyer, an intake worker and an advocate.

Parents or guardians involved with the Ministry of Children and Family Development



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or an aboriginal agency will be able to access information, advice, referrals and some legal representation at the centre.

The Legal Services Society will operate the \$300,000 centre, as one of several pilot projects funded by the Ministry of Justice's previously announced injection of \$6 million over three years.

Attorney General Suzanne Anton says the overall goal is early intervention to resolve disputes in child protection cases, so that the courts become a "valuable last resort."

Mar 27 2015

HALIFAX - Victims of sexual assault in Nova Scotia are now able to launch civil lawsuits against their abusers regardless of when the offence took place.



Justice Minister Lena Metlege Diab introduced amendments today to the Limitation of Actions Act that would allow for retroactive lawsuits.

The amendments were quickly passed.

Mar 27 2015

TORONTO - Members of the Toronto Police Association are being asked to ratify a new contract that includes an 8.35 per cent salary increase over four years, the Star has learned.

The proposed wage hike will increase salaries by 2.75 per cent this year, followed by 1.95 next year and 1.9 and 1.75 per cent in the final two years of the new deal.

The tentative deal — reached last week between the union and the Toronto Police Services Board — also eliminates a longstanding perk for new recruits that has allowed police employees to bank up to 18 sick days a year.

The service pays out about \$12 million annually in unused sick leave to employees who quit or retire.

"That has been in dispute for a long time, and will result in big savings in the long run," said a police source.

The deal, if ratified, will also increase the amount of time it takes to reach the status of first-class constable, whose base pay is \$90,000.

Members will vote on the tentative contract using mail-in balloting over the next few weeks.

(Toronto Star)

Mar 27 2015

SURREY, B.C. - Charges have been stayed against a transport truck driver who was involved in a crash that killed a Mountie in Surrey, B.C.

Const. Adrian Oliver died in November 2012 when his police cruiser slammed into the truck driven by Harjit Lotay.

Lotay's lawyer, Brij Mohan, says the Crown has now stayed all charges but his client is still facing a federal lawsuit seeking special damages and expenses.

A news release issued by Mohan says Lotay has struggled since the accident and has not been able to work since.

RCMP said after the accident that the 28-year-old officer was attempting to locate a stolen pickup just before the early-morning crash and did not have his emergency lights on.

Allegations in a civil suit filed by Canada's attorney general include that Lotay failed to yield the right of way to the police vehicle and was driving while in some way impaired, but no claims have been proven in court.

Mar 27 2015

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog says it is investigating an injury sustained by a 21-year-old woman who was hit by gunfire during an incident in Mississauga that also left a man dead and two police officers injured.

The Special Investigations Unit says it is continuing to probe the death of a 22-year-old man who was fatally shot on March 20 during an interaction with police in the city just west of Toronto.

The watchdog agency says it has also been investigating the injury sustained by Suzanne Zreik as part of the entire investigation, adding Zreik was interviewed by SIU investigators about her injuries on March 23.

The agency says the man was shot multiple times after Peel Regional Police were called to a building and that he was pronounced dead at the scene.

It says Zreik, who was in her home at the time of the incident, sustained a gunshot wound and was taken to hospital for treatment.

Peel Regional Police have said one of the officers was shot and the other was stabbed, and described their injuries as serious.

Mar 27 2015

REGINA - Saskatchewan RCMP say a former Mountie is charged in the sexual assault of three boys under the age of 18 while he was an officer in Yorkton.

Police say Alan John Davidson lived in Yorkton from 1986 to 1993 and had contact with children as a member of the RCMP and as a hockey coach.

Insp. Jennifer Ebert says the alleged cases were reported after Davidson was charged in British Columbia with eight counts of sexual assault.

Davidson, who is 59, was arrested in B.C., on Thursday and is to appear in Yorkton court next week.

Ebert says Davidson moved across the Prairies between 1981 and 2014.

Davidson was an officer from 1982 to 1996, and was posted in Regina, Coronach, Lloydminster, Yorkton and North Battleford.

SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2015

Mar 29 2015

BURNABY, B.C. - A man is dead after being shot by police investigating a stabbing in Burnaby.

RCMP said they responded to reports of a double stabbing in a residence Sunday morning.

The Mounties said they found three men, one of whom was already dead.

Police took one suspect into custody and sent another to hospital after he was shot during the arrest.

The province's police watchdog said the man has since died of his injuries.

The Independent Investigations Office of BC is on the scene looking into the shooting.

No police or other members of the public were injured in the altercation.

Mar 29 2015

Vancouver - Police have long been concerned about guns illegally making their way across the Canada-U.S. border, but a recent rise in gun crimes in B.C. is shedding light on a different weapons source: legal gun owners in Canada.

Police suggest some licensed owners have been legally buying guns and then illegally selling them on the black market, with some of these weapons ending up in the hands of drug dealers, gang members or other criminals.

Police call the practice "straw-purchasing," and Sgt. Lindsey Houghton says "there's a lot of money in it."

Legal gun owners can buy firearms for hundreds of dollars, Houghton told CTV News. Then "they'll then sell them for thousands of dollars."

Last year, police charged a B.C. man with 24 criminal counts -- including four counts of possession for the purposes of weapons trafficking and four counts of weapons trafficking -- after police seized almost 200 firearms from him.

Gerald Kirby, a 65-year-old living in Tatla Lake, B.C., was licensed to own guns and purchased most of the weapons legally.

Kirby is not the only person to have legally bought guns with the intention of illegally selling them, Houghton said. In other parts of British Columbia and other places in Canada, including Ontario, straw-purchasing is a serious concern.

On the other end of the transaction, one former drug dealer says it's easy for criminals to find and purchase illegal guns.

"It's just like ordering a pizza, if you know the right people," the former dealer, who asked not to be named, said. "If you know the right person, just pick up the phone and have the money."

(CTV Vancouver)

MONDAY
MARCH 30, 2015

Mar 30 2015

SARNIA, Ont. - Scissors, lawn mower blades and cans of beer.

Police in Sarnia, Ont., say those are some of the items people have tried to bring into the Lambton County Court House over the past year.

Also among the hundreds of items seized were X-acto knives, syringes, cap guns, and lighters that resemble small calibre handguns.

Police say items that could possibly be used as weapons - such as razors, nail files, Swiss Army knives, and screwdrivers - are prohibited in the court building.

Members of the public entering the courthouse are screened through a metal detector and by a court security officer, and anything deemed to be a security risk will be confiscated.

Mar 30 2015

VICTORIA - A British Columbia municipality violated privacy rights by secretly installing surveillance software on computers used by the mayor, councillors and other city hall employees, says the province's privacy commissioner.



Elizabeth Denham said in a report released Monday that the District of Saanich displayed almost complete lack of awareness about privacy provisions enacted in B.C. more than two decades ago.

Mayor Richard Atwell, who raised concerns late last year about his and others' computers being bugged, said he felt vindicated by Denham's report and recommendations.

"I'm very concerned how we got to this point, where essentially, I was right and seemingly everyone else was wrong. And it took Elizabeth Denham to come out with her own independent investigation to validate what I was saying in the first place," Atwell told a news conference.

"What is this doing on my machine?" he said of the spyware that was installed on computers. "What purpose does it serve? Certainly it's a concern for democracy."

The computer spying allegations surfaced last December during a news conference that unfolded like a plot from a TV soap opera.

Atwell admitted to an extramarital affair after the Victoria Times Colonist reported on its front page that police responded to a domestic dispute call where he was present with

a woman and her husband.

Atwell countered with concerns about a computer spy network at city hall and said police had stopped him four times on groundless suspicions of impaired driving.

Denham's report said the municipality failed to tell employees and elected officials about the amount of personal information it was collecting.

"One of the most disappointing findings in my investigation of the District of Saanich's use of employee monitoring software is the near complete lack of awareness and understanding of the privacy provisions of B.C.'s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act," she said in the report.

Saanich installed monitoring software, enabling automated screen shots, keystroke

logging and other monitoring tools "without considering how these actions would measure up to their privacy obligations under the law."

Denham made five recommendations including destroying all data connected to a surveillance software called Spector 360 and disabling the software, which Saanich has already done. She also recommended the municipality appoint a privacy officer.

Saanich issued a statement saying it will implement the report's recommendations.

Mar 30 2015

SASKATOON - After years of decline, Saskatoon's police chief is worried that crime rates in the city are going to start to go up.

Chief Clive Weighill says there's some



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serious gang activity and a turf war over drugs.

He says it's resulted in a marked increase in gun violence in the last while.

He says the criminal activity is stretching the police service to its limits.

Earlier this year Weighill announced a re-deployment of officers to put more on the street.

But he says to put more officers downtown means pulling them out of schools or the gang unit or the drug unit.

(Global Saskatoon)

Mar 30 2015

PETERBOROUGH -- A more personable approach to policing appears to have helped Peterborough Police close a deal with Cavan Monaghan Township.

During a meeting on Monday afternoon (March 30), Township councillors voted to pass on an offer from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and have the City take over police services instead. Considering cost projections over the next six years, Township staff say choosing the OPP is slightly cheaper and would eventually cost about \$70,000 less than signing on with Peterborough's police service. Still, she says the cost of policing is hard to predict and the numbers could change.

For the next couple years, Peterborough is charging the municipality significantly less. It's offering up its services for \$1.25 million per year.

Township councillors are concerned about finding savings for the municipality, but say they feel comfortable choosing the Peterborough Community Police Service and feel they'll be able to develop a better relationship with the service.

Councillor Jordan Landry says the police service seemed willing to work with the municipality to come up with programming that's specific to the Township's needs.

With a new subdivision proposed, she says the Township will grow and those community-based services would be an asset.

Currently Cavan Monaghan is policed by the OPP, although that contract will expire in June.

The Township had the option of signing on with the OPP on a month-to-month basis, but voted it down.

(Peterborough This Week)

Mar 30 2015

A Wood Buffalo RCMP officer allegedly accepted money in exchange for providing information from a police database to an unauthorized source, the Mounties say.

Const. Kyle Gordon Harrison, a seven-year veteran of the force, faces two criminal charges — bribery and breach of trust. He was arrested in Fort McMurray last Wednesday and released on the condition he will appear in court May 20, the Mounties said.

RCMP Insp. Gibson Glavin said the alleged incident took place between Nov. 1, 2014, and Jan. 1, 2015. Glavin said an officer provided data in exchange for money on more than one occasion.

The database, which includes information

collected during RCMP investigations, is strictly secured and protected by the federal privacy act, Glavin said.

"The information cannot be released in that form unless it is to another law enforcement agency who intends to use it for the same purpose; that is, to conduct an investigation," Glavin said. "In the allegation here, that is clearly not the case."

Glavin said the information released did not put the public or officers at risk.

Harrison has been suspended with pay, Glavin said.

(Edmonton Journal)

Mar 30 2015

B.C.'s independent police oversight agency has 30 open investigations underway, including a police shooting in Burnaby on the weekend.

Not only is this one of the highest case-loads handled by the Independent Investigations Office since it opened in September 2012, but the files include many police shootings, which are complicated to probe.

"It is the complexity of these cases that make it a little bit more challenging," said Kellie Kilpatrick, the IIO's executive director of public accountability.

A Vancouver Sun investigation found there have been an average of four fatal police shootings a year since 2004. But 2014 was an active year with six, and so far in 2015 there have been two deaths following police shootings.

The IIO is responsible for investigating police incidents resulting in death or serious harm. The number of open cases juggled by staff has typically fluctuated between 24 and 32.

The high number of arduous cases is hitting the IIO at a time when it is trying to fill six investigator positions, still vacant after 15 employees quit during the agency's first two years. The high turnover was in part due to the leadership style of director Richard Rosenthal, who ran similar oversight bodies in Portland and Denver.

Right now, the IIO has 27 investigators, 11 of them former police officers. The original intent was for the IIO to be staffed by civilians, not former police officers. But Kilpatrick said the agency needs to fill the six empty positions, and priority will be given to the best candidates whether they have a police background or not.

In addition to the internal management problems involving Rosenthal, the IIO got off to a rocky start because its first report — into the police shooting death of former soldier Gregory Matters in Prince George — resulted in no recommendations that the police officer face criminal charges and inaccurately stated where the deceased was shot.

But, more recently, advocates have complimented the IIO for its work and for recommending charges to Crown counsel in 36 of the 94 cases it has completed. In six of those cases, prosecutors approved charges.



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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

A government committee struck to review the IIO made seven recommendations to the province in February, including the hiring of more civilians; addressing human resources concerns; and implementing body cameras worn by police to provide more evidence. (Vancouver Sun)

Mar 30 2015

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department is hardly alone when it comes to the challenges of keeping the force fully staffed — according to Stats Canada's numbers released Monday, the comparative strength of police to population has fallen in almost every single province and territory over the past four years.

While some populations simply grew faster than police were hired, that is not the case in B.C., where a growing population coupled with fewer officers on the job.

According to the numbers, there were 108 more officers in B.C. in 2010 compared to last year, when there were 8,754 officers across the province.

Statistics Canada says retirements were the most common reason for the shift. In Vancouver, the local police department described how difficult it can be to match the number of new recruits to the number of retirees.

Sgt. Randy Fincham said it can take a minimum of nine months before an officer in training is ready for duty — from the academy to the street.

As a result, the department is always trying to predict how many recruits it'll need the next year based on how many officers are eligible to retire — regardless of whether they end up leaving the force or not.

"Realistically, it wouldn't be unheard of for you to be in the application process for a year or more before you get hired into the VPD," he said.

Part of the issue in Vancouver was a hiring freeze implemented shortly after the Olympics following a staffing analysis. According to the VPD's recruiting unit annual reports, one of the issues was how potential applicants weren't aware the freeze was lifted after 2012.

The application process also isn't easy. For example, of 437 police constable applications processed in 2014, only 56 officers were hired at the end of the process.

Fincham said there has also been a push to streamline some of the application process — currently, potential officer candidates are often discovered at job fairs or community events.

It's expected that the application process would be taken online later this year to "replace the current application system and recruit tracking system," according to the latest recruiting unit report.

(24 Hours Vancouver)

TUESDAY
MARCH 31, 2015

Mar 31 2015

CAMPBELLTON, N.B. - Police in New Brunswick have charged a man with criminal negligence causing death after two young brothers were asphyxiated by a python.

The RCMP said in a release today that the charge against 38-year-old Jean Claude Savoie was laid in provincial court Monday in Campbellton, N.B.

Four-year-old Noah Barthe and his

six-year-old brother Connor were found dead on Aug. 5, 2013, after an African rock python escaped its enclosure inside Savoie's apartment in Campbellton, where they were staying for a sleepover.

The RCMP said at the time that the 45-kilogram snake escaped a glass tank through a vent and slithered through a ventilation pipe, but its weight caused the pipe to collapse and it fell into the living room where the boys were sleeping.

Police say autopsies determined the boys died from asphyxiation. Savoie is due in Campbellton provincial court on April 27 to face the charge.

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Mar 31 2015

An RCMP cruiser was involved in what police themselves call a “very risky” chase over the weekend, a pursuit that for a time saw both vehicles headed north in the southbound lanes of the QEII highway.



Mounties are now investigating why the officers chased the stolen truck up the wrong side of the road, RCMP Insp. Gibson Glavin said Monday.

The chase started around 1 p.m. Saturday, when police spotted a stolen truck, which took off at what Glavin described as “a fairly high rate of speed.”

At some point, both the cruiser and the stolen truck drove north towards oncoming traffic in the southbound lanes of the normally busy highway.

“What we know of this particular pursuit causes us great concern,” said Glavin. “Any time our vehicles are pursuing another vehicle in the wrong lane, or in any way that could possibly be of concern to the safety of the public, that’s a very risky thing to do.”

“We wouldn’t normally engage in any type pursuit of a stolen vehicle that had risk to the public,” he said. “That is an overriding concern of ours.”

The RCMP will conduct “a full internal review” of the chase, he said, “to make sure we know exactly what happened. Why the pursuit occurred, and what was going on in the minds of our members, what they felt they were dealing with. We’re very pleased that nobody was hurt in this event. But we have very significant concerns about it.”

The stolen truck escaped police, who abandoned the chase for safety reasons in south Edmonton. The whole thing took only a matter of minutes, Glavin said.

The RCMP helicopter is stationed at the Edmonton International Airport, but it was not involved in Saturday’s chase.

Police are still looking for the stolen truck. (CBC News)

Mar 31 2015

TORONTO - A police officer who gained notoriety for telling a G-20 protester that “this ain’t Canada right now” committed battery by manhandling him.

Ontario’s top court has also decided police violated the rights of Paul Figueiras by stopping him and demanding he submit to a search.

The incident occurred on the second day of the infamous weekend summit in downtown Toronto in June 2010.

A lower court found no violation and that

York Regional police Sergeant Mark Charlebois had only touched Figueiras.

The Appeal Court disagreed, saying officers had no authority to demand a search and Charlebois had no grounds to grab and push Figueiras.

The court declared his rights violated and awarded Figueiras \$10,000 in legal costs.

Mar 31 2015

VANCOUVER - Former Olympics CEO John Furlong says he feels vindicated that he’s been cleared of sexual assault allegations after suffering an unimaginable nightmare for nearly two years.

Speaking a day after a B.C. Supreme Court judge dismissed a third and final sexual assault lawsuit against him, Furlong says he felt paralyzing pain but is now ready to move on with his life.

A man who failed to show up for the start of a trial on Monday claimed Furlong sexually abused him 45 years ago at a Roman Catholic school in northern B.C.

Since December, suits against Furlong by two women have been withdrawn or dismissed that made similar allegations, which he says have caused him incalculable financial loss.

Furlong says he has fought against being angry with the three plaintiffs and hopes they find inner peace, though noting they will have to live with what they have done.

Furlong on Tuesday also dropped a defamation lawsuit against a reporter whose story in a Vancouver weekly newspaper in 2012 sparked the three cases against him, but he says he will still defend himself against a counter defamation filed by Laura Robinson.

Mar 31 2015

Quebec’s police ethics commissioner has ordered an investigation into the tear-gas shooting of a protester that left her with facial injuries.

Naomie Tremblay-Trudeau was taking part in an anti-austerity demonstration outside the legislature in Quebec City last week when she was shot at point-blank range.

The investigator has 180 days to file a report.

A spokesman for the Quebec City police has said Tremblay-Trudeau was actually struck by a cardboard cap used to retain the gas and not the canister itself.

Francois Moisan said police fired off the gas to keep protesters at bay.

Demonstrations aimed at getting the Couillard government to roll back austerity measures have become nearly daily events throughout the province.

Mar 31 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police vehicles face many perils on city roads, from chasing after suspects to driving through red lights. But the number one reason for collisions on the force is something much more mundane.

According to data obtained by the Toronto Star, “improper reversing” is the most common cause of police vehicle crashes in

Toronto, accounting for 518 since 2009.

That’s out of roughly 3,500 collisions racked up in six years, for reasons ranging from speeding to bad U-turns to unsafe lane changes.

“Improper reversing usually happens in a parking lot-type situation, where they hit a pole or some other inanimate object,” explained police spokesperson Meaghan Gray.

Officers were deemed “at fault” in 323 of the reversing crashes.

The 3,568 total accidents run the gamut from forgetting to put the car in park (there were 45 of these) to the kind of collisions that stem from dangerous car chases.

For example, 79 crashes in the past six years resulted from “intentional contact,” a category that covers cruisers using aggressive ramming or boxing-in tactics. Police were deemed at fault in 50 of those cases.

The collisions span the period from 2009 to Jan. 6, 2015. Police were found to be at fault in 1,798 crashes, or slightly more than half of the total.

In 2012, the last year for which figures are available, Toronto police cars and motorcycles travelled 36,770,875 kilometres. With 611 collisions that year, the force had about half as many crashes per kilometre as the TTC.

Toronto police collisions have been in steady decline since 2009, when cops racked up 650. In 2014, the number was down to 493. Gray attributed the slide to better training.

(Toronto Star)

Mar 31 2015

HALIFAX - An RCMP service pistol and ammunition were stolen in downtown Halifax Friday night from the vehicle of an off-duty New Brunswick Mountie.

Halifax Regional Police say the officer parked her personal vehicle around 8 p.m. in the lot at 1549 Lower Water St. When the officer returned about two hours later, a thief had broken in and stolen the gun and three ammunition magazines.

RCMP say the officer had the gun because she was about to travel to Gagetown, N.B., for training following a visit with friends in Halifax. Const. Julie Rogers-Marsh says there are policies surrounding travelling with guns.

“The pistol must be unloaded and locked in the approved RCMP storage firearms container when travelling,” she said. “And the pistol must also be inoperable with a secure locking device.”

Halifax police say the gun was locked in a strong box in the vehicle, while the magazines each hold 15 bullets.

The gun is a nine millimetre Smith & Wesson model 5909. There is an RCMP logo on it and a silhouette of a mounted police officer. GRC is also inscribed in the right side of the slide.

(CBC News)

Mar 31 2015

The RCMP is preparing to release another report on Canada’s murdered and missing aboriginal women – a

surprise to the indigenous groups that have been lobbying the federal government to hold a public inquiry to discern the causes of the tragedy.

The new report, which the RCMP says will be released in May, is expected to be an update of a shocking report last year that said at least 1,181 indigenous women were murdered or disappeared between 1980 and 2012. The numbers proved what aboriginal leaders had been saying for years: that indigenous women were meeting violent ends far more often than other Canadian women. It led to renewed calls for a national inquiry.

News of the May update comes amid a controversy over the ethnicity of perpetrators of violence against aboriginal women. In March, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt cited previously unknown statistics that he attributed to the RCMP when he was trying to make a case that the problem of the missing and murdered women largely involves indigenous men.

According to a transcript obtained by The Globe and Mail of a private meeting Mr. Valcourt had with several chiefs at a Calgary hotel on March 20, Mr. Valcourt said: "I will tell you 'cause there is no media in the room that the RCMP report states that up to 70 per cent of the murdered and missing indigenous women issue stems from their own communities."

Last week, before there was any indication a new version of the report was coming, the RCMP was adamant that it would not disclose the ethnicity of perpetrators. But this week, after a government MP said the numbers would be released, RCMP officials were less certain.

The first RCMP report did not indicate perpetrators' ethnic background. It said 72 per cent of the indigenous female victims the force counted were killed by a spouse, a family member, or another intimate acquaintance. But it also said indigenous women who died violently were less likely than other Canadian women to have been killed by their romantic partners.

When the Aboriginal People's Television Network reported on the meeting, Mr. Valcourt rebuffed opposition demands in the House of Commons to explain where he obtained his statistics.

APTN then asked Conservative MP Rob Clarke, who appeared on March 26 on the show Nation to Nation, about the numbers. Mr. Clarke replied: "The information gathered [by the RCMP] is raw data. It hasn't been released yet and it will be released once the data is put into report form."

At first, the RCMP denied that to be the case. Sgt. Harold Pfeleiderer, an RCMP spokesman, said last week: "In the spirit of our bias-free policing, the RCMP will not be disclosing statistics on the ethnicity of the perpetrators..."

But, on Tuesday, Sgt. Pfeleiderer said he had no idea if the new report would contain statistics about the ethnicity of those who had committed the crimes.

(Globe and Mail)

Mar 31 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver's chief of police has come to the defence of an officer involved in a window-smashing dust-up with a man who posted a YouTube video of the testy exchange, sparking an online storm.



In a strongly worded statement, Chief Const. Jim Chu took specific exception to a National Post commentary that ran under the headline "Cops run amok," written by the Canadian Constitution Foundation's Marni Soupcoff.

Chu said he wanted to clarify "some facts that may have been lost in the way the story was reported."

"This was not a traffic stop," he said in a release Tuesday, "it was a drug arrest. Impaired driving alerted the officer to the danger the driver posed to public safety and marijuana smoke billowing from the car made the cause of that impairment obvious."

"In order to make the arrest, force became necessary when the person refused to exit the vehicle, which is understandable since he allegedly knew what would be found in his car if he did."



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Day 1: April 28th, 9am – 4pm
Crisis Negotiation

Presenter: Tom Hart, President CCII
 Cost: \$100

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Day 1: April 28th, 9am – 12pm
Suicide Bomber Awareness & Identification

Presenter: Nir Maman
 Cost: \$100

Day 1: April 28th, 1pm – 5pm
Active Shooter Intervention

Presenter: Nir Maman
 Cost: \$100

Day 2: April 29th, 9am – 4pm
Counter-Ambush Response for Patrol Officers

Presenter: Phil Devine
 Cost: \$200

INTERVIEWING & DECEPTION

Day 1: April 28th, 9am – 4pm
The Non-Accusatory Interview

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

Day 2: April 29th, 9am – 4pm
Dealing with Deception

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



Day 2: April 29th, 9am – 4pm
The Engaged & Healthy Workforce

Presenter: Commissioner Chris Lewis (ret)
 Cost: \$150

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Soupcoff claimed in her opinion piece that “the driver asks repeatedly and politely why he’s been pulled over” and characterizes the window-smashing as “extremely disturbing.”

“What makes the video alarming is the police mindset it conveys: The sergeant’s words and actions all seem to betray a casual conviction that the person he has stopped should be expected to do exactly what the sergeant wants exactly when he wants it, legal rights and even basic considerations of civility be damned.”

Chu countered that the cop is being “criticized for doing his job.”

He said the officer “acted proactively when he saw a car weaving that could at any minute strike another car or pedestrian causing injury or worse.”

“The video shows that the driver was evasive and lying about not having drugs in the car.”

Chu noted that charges are pending in the case for possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking. He also noted that no one was injured and no police complaint was filed.

“Patrol officers know that every arrest they make and practically every move they make will be scrutinized, analyzed and occasionally criticized,” Chu said. “Through it all they routinely prove that preserving life and public safety trumps whatever slings and arrows they may endure.”

(The Province)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 01, 2015

Apr 01 2015

TORONTO - Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne says a review of the new federal prostitution law by the attorney general’s office has found it is constitutional.



Wynne issued a statement the day after the law came into effect in December, saying she had a “grave concern” that it would not make sex workers safer.

She asked Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur to review the law and advise her on the constitutional validity.

Wynne says today that the review found “there’s no clear unconstitutionality” so Ontario will be upholding the law.

The sweeping new changes to the way prostitution is regulated in Canada follow a Supreme Court decision that found the old laws violated the rights of prostitutes.

Apr 01 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police began an investigation Wednesday into a violent

confrontation between the city’s transit enforcement officers and two men after a troubling video of the incident surfaced online.

The police intervention comes after Toronto Transit Commission CEO Andy Byford asked Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair to have his force review the matter.

“I am concerned by the fact that there was a full on fight going on there. I am so concerned that I have called the police to review this independently,” said Byford. “There needs to be a holistic review of exactly what happened. What happened from start to finish in order that the context is understood.”

The incident took place Jan. 29 at Union Station, a major downtown transit hub, after a Toronto Maple Leafs hockey game.

A transit enforcement officer on duty was “assaulted” by two members of the public and consequently had to “defend” himself, Byford said. Another transit enforcement officer arrived to assist, and called for police intervention on his way to the scene, he added.

A video capturing at least part of the incident was posted on YouTube and shows one transit officer holding a man against a wall and punching him repeatedly. Another officer is seen wrestling with an older man on the floor.

Police are eventually seen arriving and handcuffing the men. The two men were later charged with assaulting the transit enforcement officers and their cases remain before the courts, Byford said.

Both transit enforcement officers filed reports on the incident and an internal review of the matter raised no red flags, Byford said. No public complaints were made against the officers either, he added.

The two officers remain with the TTC but have been placed on administrative duties “purely as a precaution” while the investigation into the altercation is carried out, Byford said.

The police’s Professional Standards Unit will lead the investigation.

Apr 01 2015

Although crime rates are dropping across Quebec, cybercrime has skyrocketed in recent years, a provincial report suggests.

In 2013, police investigated 1,939 cases that originated behind a computer screen. That number was up from 1,276 in 2012, marking a 52 per cent increase.

The report is based on the number of crimes reported to all of the province’s municipal police forces as well as the Sûreté du Québec and several indigenous police forces.

The term cybercrime encompasses a variety of different offenses. A total of 51 per cent of all cybercrimes included in the report involved some type of online fraud.

Quebec police say awareness and communication with authorities are the best way to avoid the hassles caused by digital fraudsters.

“What we’re seeing is that people are becoming more aware of cybercrimes,” said Lt. Guy Lapointe of the Sûreté du Québec.

“People would not file complaints for many of these crimes in the past, but they are now.”

While fraud accounts for the largest portion of cybercrimes in Quebec, the term includes other crimes that are connected with the digital world.

Child pornography, online harassment and online sex crimes were also included as cybercrime in the Public Security Ministry’s report.

Based on the Ministry’s analysis, noteworthy increases in reports of specific types of cybercrimes include fraud (39 per cent), child pornography (93 per cent) and harassment (50 per cent).

(CBC News)

Apr 01 2015

EDMONTON - A second Edmonton police officer admitted Wednesday he purchased steroids from another officer and made a false statement about it to a police oversight agency during its steroid investigation within the Edmonton Police Service.

Const. Kevin Yaremchuk pleaded guilty to two charges under the Police Act, discreditable conduct and deceit, at a police disciplinary hearing.

According to his charge sheet, Yaremchuk purchased the anabolic steroid stanozolol from Det. Greg Lewis between July and December 2012, leading to the charge of discreditable conduct.

During an interview with the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team on May 20, 2014 about steroid use and trafficking within the police service, Yaremchuk wilfully made a false statement, according to the charge sheet. Yaremchuk said he was unaware of Lewis’s alleged steroid use and steroid trafficking in 2012.

Yaremchuk’s case was adjourned until May 8 when an agreed statement of facts will be submitted and a decision will be made about any penalty.

Last Friday, Sgt. Adam Toma pleaded guilty to the same charges for also using steroids and failing to disclose information about Lewis’s alleged steroid activity to ASIRT. He was demoted for two years to constable, a monetary penalty equivalent to more than \$20,700.

On March 6, Lewis was criminally charged with three counts of trafficking in a controlled substance and Const. Darren French was charged under the criminal code with one count of trafficking in a controlled substance. Both officers have been suspended without pay.

Six other officers were also identified as having allegedly bought and used steroids, a violation of the department’s code of conduct.

(Edmonton Journal)

Apr 01 2015

SASKATOON - Warrants have been issued for the arrest of two men accused of throwing a hissy fit - and then a snake - in a Saskatoon Tim Hortons.

Christopher Cook, 21, was scheduled to appear in court this week for mediation, but was a no-show, while co-accused Luke Apooch failed to appear in court last month.

Both men are charged with mischief.

Police say it all started when two young men ordered sandwiches and then began arguing with an employee because they wanted their onions diced.

The argument got worse, and one of the men is alleged to have pulled a snake from his friend's pocket and thrown it behind the counter.

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

(Global Saskatoon)

Apr 01 2015

HALIFAX - Halifax police are hoping new encrypted radio channels will better protect residents' privacy, and mean fewer wild goose chases.

On Tuesday, Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District RCMP said they are moving to a new trunked radio system (TMR2), which has more channels and improved coverage.

Supt. Sean Auld of the Halifax Regional Police said it's important to encrypt the channels between officers by mid-April to protect citizen's privacy, investigations, and the safety of the force.

"[If] we're about to do a drug search or execute a high-risk warrant, we don't really want the criminal element having access to know when and where we're going to do that," Auld said.

Formerly, media outlets and the public could listen in on police conversations using a scanner or app.

In one case, Auld said officers and a K-9 unit tracked two men through the woods for more than two hours.

When the suspects were arrested, Auld said one was carrying a portable scanner that allowed him to "circumvent" the search effort.

Mutual-aid channels where police talk with fire and paramedics will remain open, Auld said, so media and the public could still hear right away if a major fire or other emergency is happening, like the Air Canada crash on Saturday.

(Metro Halifax)

THURSDAY
APRIL 02, 2015

Apr 02 2015

MONTREAL - Police say as many as 500 Asian women were allegedly smuggled into the country after the RCMP claimed it busted up a Canada-wide prostitution ring.

The Mounties say they have arrested six people in the greater Montreal and Toronto areas.

Authorities say the accused are allegedly part of an Asian-based organized crime ring that operated bawdy houses in eight Canadian cities.

The accused face charges including procuring, procuring minors, advertising sexual services and gaining a material benefit from sexual services.

Police say the alleged victims, mainly from Korea and China, were controlled and exploited by the prostitution ring and put to

work across the country.

Two suspects remain on the lam and two clients arrested during the operations will face charges of being found in a bawdy house.

Apr 02 2015

OTTAWA - A judicial review sought by Ottawa police in continued efforts to fire an incompetent officer has ruled that a civilian police commission's order to reinstate the officer was "perverse."



Const. Emmanuel Diafwila was ordered in March 2013 to resign in seven days or be fired in a rare case of "unsatisfactory work performance" under the Police Services Act, which governs officers in the province.

In March of last year, the Ontario Civilian Police Commission ordered that Diafwila be reinstated as a second-class constable after finding that the force didn't comply with its own policies before attempting to fire the officer. The commission found that the original hearing officer erred in both fact and law.

Chief Charles Bordeleau said the force agreed with and accepted the original hearing officer's decision. The Ottawa Police Association, the union that represents officers, appealed that decision to the OCPC, which overturned the conviction.

Under the chief's direction, the service appealed the commission's ruling through a judicial review, which was heard at the end of January. Bordeleau said his position on sentencing remains the same.

"I am seeking dismissal," he said.

The police commission initially ruled that the service breached its own established procedure on performance evaluation, that the hearing officer didn't address Diafwila's evidence or the evidence of his three witnesses in his final decision and that the hearing officer ignored important evidence.

In a 2-1 decision released in early March of this year, a panel of three judges ruled that the commission was over-enforcing a regulation that set out what needed to be done by the police force before an officer could be fired for their on-the-job performance.

"The Commission's reversal of the hearing officer was the product of its unreasonable construction of the regulation, which resulted in its failure to give due deference to the hearing officer's findings of fact," the ruling says.

"The Commission's decision was intelligible and transparent but it was not justifiable. It imposed a number of confusing and impossibly demanding preconditions that the law simply did not require. The result was perverse."

The ruling also found that the hearing officer didn't ignore the evidence, he simply didn't mention portions of it in his decision because it wasn't relevant to whether Diafwila could independently properly perform his job.

Diafwila was hired in 2006 and, in total, received about 1,100 hours of training over several years — more than double the amount given to new recruits.

A coach officer specifically assigned to get Diafwila up to speed testified at his hearing that, in theory, Diafwila seemed to have knowledge of police protocol but was unable to execute it. He used leading questions when taking statements from witnesses, interrupted witnesses instead of listening to their stories and failed to get enough background information, once even overlooking important witnesses and having to return to interview them.

There were other issues, too. Diafwila stood too close to an agitated man, placed a woman resisting arrest on her face in the back seat of the cruiser, stayed in his car to write a report instead of backing up another officer who pulled over a vehicle at 3 a.m., couldn't properly work handcuffs and didn't stop at stop signs when responding to calls.

The Ottawa Police Association is seeking leave to appeal the judicial review. The union's position is that the issues involved in Diafwila's case are systemic and it would like the service to have procedures that it must follow before being able to levy a similar charge against another officer.

Diafwila had been suspended with pay from December 2011 to March 2014, when he was reinstated as an officer. He has since once again been suspended with pay from active duty.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Apr 02 2015

OTTAWA - An independent report into the Oct. 22 storming of Parliament Hill concludes security forces were justified in using lethal force against gunman Michael Zehaf Bibeau.

has learned the report contains a very detailed account of how Zehaf Bibeau was killed during the response by parliamentary security forces and RCMP members.

On Oct. 22, the Mounties asked the Ontario Provincial Police to conduct an independent, external investigation into the events which took place on Parliament Hill that resulted in Zehaf Bibeau's death.

A week later, House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer asked the OPP to expand the investigation to include the actions of the House security personnel.

Scheer's office said Tuesday it had received the report but, until internal analyses are complete, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

The OPP was also asked to conduct a separate review of the events that took place from Wellington Street, the thoroughfare in front of Parliament Hill, up to the doors of the Centre Block.