

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community |

April 17, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 16

## Executive Digest

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**CALGARY** - The Calgary Police Commission will study the possibility of using police cadets or bylaw officers to do traffic enforcement in residential neighbourhoods, with a report coming back in September.

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**EDMONTON** - Faced with an ever-increasing number of terrorism-related investigations, Edmonton police plan to set up a full-time unit to deal with such "high-risk" files, says police chief Rod Knecht.

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**RCMP in Surrey, B.C.**, have taken the unusual step of releasing the names and photographs of men it alleges are contributing to a gang war that has resulted in at least 17 shootings in the city, and three in Delta since March 9.

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## Commissioner reports First Nations homicide stats



Apr 10 2015

**OTTAWA** - Seventy per cent of the perpetrators in Canada's cases of murdered and missing aboriginal women are indigenous, the RCMP commissioner has confirmed.

The suggestion was first made last month by Bernard Valcourt, the aboriginal affairs minister, in a private meeting with First Nations chiefs in Alberta. Aboriginal leaders questioned the veracity of the number because a report last year from the RCMP about those cases did not specify perpetrators' ethnicity.

But in a letter made public Thursday, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson said data obtained

from 300 police agencies "has confirmed that 70 per cent of the offenders were of aboriginal origin."

However, the letter, addressed to Bernice Martial, grand chief of the Treaty No. 6 First Nations, stressed that it is not the ethnicity of offenders that is relevant to investigators, "but rather the relationship between victim and offender that guides our focus with respect to prevention."

Paulson said that the force previously chose not to disclose this data "in the spirit of bias-free policing" and because such disclosure had the potential to "stigmatize and

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marginalize vulnerable populations.”

The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network first reported last month that Valcourt had shared the unpublished information during a March 20 private meeting in Calgary with First Nations chiefs.

“I will tell you, because 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,” Valcourt reportedly said, according to a news release issued later by the Treaty No. 6 First Nations.

Aboriginal leaders accused the minister of being disrespectful and called on the RCMP and Valcourt to share what more information they had.

A report released last May by the RCMP stated that 1,181 aboriginal women and girls were murdered or went missing between 1980 and 2012. The report said that 62 per cent of homicide victims were killed by a spouse, family member or someone they were intimate with. However, it did not delve into the ethnicity of offenders.

“We had never intended to publicly discuss the ethnicity of the offenders. Rather our focus has been on the relationship between the victim and offender, which has pointed our prevention efforts to familial and spousal violence,” Deputy Commissioner Janice Armstrong said in an email to the National Post earlier this month.

The RCMP is scheduled to release a follow-up report at the end of May, which will include updated statistics and a review of actions taken since the first report, Armstrong said.

Following the release of the first report, all RCMP divisions were asked to look at outstanding cases to ensure all investigative avenues had been explored. The RCMP said it would also use the data to identify communities most at risk of violence against women and develop prevention strategies.

(National Post)

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## THURSDAY APRIL 09, 2015

Apr 09 2015

### INNISFAIL, Alta. - Thirteen puppies in training to be police dogs now have names.



There were more than 21,000 entries from across Canada to this year's RCMP Name the Puppy contest.

Because of the unprecedented response, Inspector Andre Lemyre, who is in charge of police dog services, chose 13 winners representing every province and territory in Canada, not just 10 as originally planned.

All names had to start with the letter H and for multiple entries of the same name, winners were selected at random.

The 13 winners will each receive a certificate, a laminated photo of the puppy they named, a plush German Shepherd toy dog named Justice and an RCMP cap.

The winning names are Haley, Hammer, Hannah, Haven, Hawk, Herc, Hero, Hector, Hitch, Hooper, Hope, Hulk and Hunter.

Apr 09 2015

### QUEBEC - The co-owner of a Quebec seniors' residence where 32 elderly occupants died is rejecting responsibility for the fatal blaze.

Roch Bernier told a news conference today that coroner Cyrille Delage unjustly targeted the managers and staff at Residence du Havre, in particular the night watchman, Bruno Belanger.

Delage published a report in mid-February citing a lack of training and emergency plan as some of the reasons so many people died in January 2014 in L'Isle-Verte.

Bernier pointed the finger at “stakeholders” in fire prevention he says didn't explicitly tell him what to do in the event of an emergency.

Bernier says evacuation procedures would have been different had he and his co-owner been better informed.

He also says staff, including Belanger, did everything they could to save people that night.

## FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2015

Apr 10 2015

### A service outage on the RCMP website this weekend is exposing a grey area around gun sales and who is responsible for checking that they are legal.

A national online database that lists the names of all Canadians who have firearms

licences is down for two weekends in a row so that the RCMP can purge Quebec data from the now-scrapped long-gun registry after the Supreme Court ruled the province cannot have the information.

The list is available to gun shops so they can double-check the purple photo ID cards that show customers' Possession and Acquisition Licences are valid.

The service outage means sellers cannot do the extra check. To some, this means closing until Monday. For others, it is business as usual, because they believe they are not obligated to check online. It is unclear who is right.

“Whether or not they're actually calling the registry, I have no idea,” said Chantal Trahan, who oversees licensing at Ontario's Chief Firearms Office.

New gun laws in 2012 mention double-checking buyers' eligibility, but do not require sellers to do it in any specific way.

Sellers must have “no reason to believe” a customer is not authorized to buy or possess a gun, according to the law. They also “may request” authorities to tell them if the buyer holds and is still eligible to hold the licence, in which case authorities “shall” comply.

Ms. Trahan said sellers do not have a legal obligation to check the database. However, they do need to “satisfy themselves” that the buyer is legally in compliance, which in effect means they do, she said. “How is it that you get that guarantee, right?”

One gun seller told The Globe and Mail he always does the check and, when he called the RCMP on Friday morning about the outage, was told to suspend sales.

On Friday afternoon, the police force could not provide immediate clarification on the rules or what advice they are giving gun vendors. A spokesman promised more information over the weekend.

Other gun vendors said they did not notice the site was down. Some said they do not need to run the check, since they believe police have a legal obligation to seize revoked gun licences.

“It's like if you lose your driver's license for a DUI, they take your licence away at court, right?” Ken Brown, the owner of Guns'n Games in Stettler, Alta. “Supposedly, that's how it's supposed to work.”

Police have been instructed on that issue in tepid language as well.

About a year after the gun law changes, Mounties were informed in a special bulletin that they “should make every attempt” to seize invalid licences. That measure had not previously been crucial, since all firearm sales were processed and approved by the RCMP, the bulletin said.

“If the buyer's licence had been revoked, the transaction would fail and not be approved,” it said. “Since April 2012, long gun sales and transfers no longer require [RCMP] approval, so a person who has had their licence revoked may be able to deceive a seller by presenting an invalid licence card. It is therefore important that the licence card be seized when it has been revoked.”

(Globe and Mail)



Apr 10 2015

**VANCOUVER - A knife-wielding man who stabbed three people on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside was shot and killed by police when less-lethal weapons proved ineffective, says a spokesman for the department.**

Sergeant Randy Fincham of the Vancouver Police Department said Thursday night that officers responded to reports at about 5 p.m. of a man stabbing people outside First United Church.

When police arrived, they encountered a knife-wielding man who they tried to arrest unsuccessfully, and ended up shooting with bean-bag rounds, he said.

"The suspect then turned his attention onto a woman who was in the area, he began to stab her, and that's when police officers who were at the scene shot the man," said Fincham. "He was attended to by paramedics at the scene on Gore Street, but unfortunately he died at the scene."

He said two men were treated by paramedics for non-life-threatening wounds, and one who suffered more serious injuries may have been treated in hospital.

The woman was also injured seriously and is in critical condition in hospital, he said.

He said the province's police watchdog, the Independent Investigations Office of BC, was called and was on scene with members of the department's serious crimes unit.

Apr 10 2015

**HALIFAX - Nova Scotia is repealing 16 laws including one that allows for the appointment of guardians for "habitual drunkards" declared by the courts to be incapable of managing their business affairs.**

The provincial government says legislation such as the Inebriates' Guardianship Act is outdated and no longer reflects today's society.

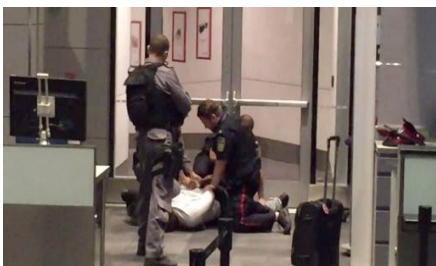
The Narcotic Drugs Addicts Act, which allows the health minister to order people into treatment, would also be rescinded.

Another law to be removed is one that requires the branding of livestock.

Business Minister Mark Furey says his department plans to review more laws on the books.

Apr 10 2015

**TORONTO - Police say a man who was Tasered and arrested at Toronto's Pearson International Airport is not currently facing charges.**



Peel Regional Police Sgt. Matt Small says the man was detained on Thursday evening under the mental health act after trying

to force his way onto an airplane.

Small did not provide details on the man's identity or which aircraft he was trying to board, but says the man wasn't injured in the incident.

Small says the man was carrying a briefcase that he refused to put down, prompting officers to use a Taser.

A bystander captured some footage of the incident on a video that was later posted to YouTube.

The footage shows the man was standing still while the video was being shot, but Small says he was showing more signs of agitation before the camera started rolling.

Apr 10 2015

**SUDBURY - Tasers will soon be on Sudbury's streets, with dash-cams to follow at some point this year.**

At Thursday's monthly meeting of the police board, Greater Sudbury Police Chief Paul Pedersen confirmed that Taser-training should be complete by April 20, with a full roll-out for all frontline officers shortly thereafter.

"All frontline uniformed officers and supervisors (will carry Tasers)," he said after the meeting.

The board also approved in 2014 the purchase of four dashboard cameras for cruisers, which should be installed by the end of this year for a 12-month pilot project.

"That was approved last year for a trial basis," Pedersen said. "We're going to assess then all of the procedures that need to be in place, all of the disclosure issues that come with that and then the cost associated with them as we move forward."

Initially, they will be placed in cruisers in certain high-traffic zones, but eventually, Pedersen speculated every car in the fleet will be outfitted with a camera.

(Sudbury Star)

Apr 10 2015

**PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - A Prince Albert police officer who was on paid leave since 2011 has finally been let go.**

Const. Patrick Robin was dismissed from the force in March 2010 for prosecuting a case without the Crown's approval.

Robin appealed to the Saskatchewan Police Commission and was reinstated.

But the police force appealed that ruling to commission, which now says his termination was justified.

Robin was earning more than \$84,000 per year while on leave.

Police Chief Troy Cooper, who has said the case has put a strain on police resources, says the matter is now closed.

(CKBI)

Apr 10 2015

**OSHAWA, Ont. - An OPP officer has been acquitted of sex-related charges arising from complaints by two women.**

A trial for Const. James Orser ended Wednesday in Oshawa and Justice Ted Minden delivered his verdict on Friday.

Orser was charged with two counts of sexual assault and one count of sexual interference by the province's police watchdog,

the Special Investigations Unit, in June, 2012.

Two women made allegations of sexual assaults at Orser's home in Campbellford, Ont., in July of 2010, when one of them was 14 and the other was 18.

The OPP professional standards bureau has been conducting a Police Service Act investigation, and an update on the status of that is expected on May 13.

(CJOJ)

Apr 10 2015

**MONTREAL - A second Quebec man authorities fear will commit a terrorism offence has signed off on a peace bond that will severely restrict his movements and have him under tight surveillance for the next year.**

Daniel Minta Darko, 26, will have to wear a GPS tracker, hand in his passport and is not allowed to use or own a cellphone.

He is also forbidden from using social media to communicate with anyone in Syria, Turkey and Malaysia or anyone with links to a terrorist group.

Darko is also prohibited from contacting Merouane Ghalmi, who signed a similar peace bond two weeks ago.

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada said last month the federal government has used peace bonds in terrorism-related matters fewer than 10 times.

Ghalmi's bond was the first terrorism-related bond signed in Quebec but at the time was the second such case to reach a Canadian court in one week.

Two days before, the RCMP announced it had arrested Amir Raisolsadat, a 20-year-old man from Prince Edward Island, and was seeking a peace bond amid allegations police feared he would commit a terrorism offence.

Raisolsadat, a student from the island town of Stratford, was freed on conditions and must return to provincial court April 20.

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 11, 2015**

Apr 11 2015

**VANCOUVER - A new Vancouver police chief could be named within days as a national search has been expedited and focused on two internal candidates, according to a memo Chief Jim Chu sent to his officers Thursday night.**

When Chu announced his retirement in late January, amid speculation he might become a federal political candidate, he said it was his preference that one of his deputy chiefs step into his role.

Chu indicated to reporters he would recommend to the Vancouver Police Board's search committee that an internal successor was the best option, and he expected the decision to be made in May.

A national search open to internal and external candidates has been expedited and

could be completed “much earlier” than previously suggested, Chu’s memo said.

“The process has been expedited and the (Police) Board is now down to two finalist internal candidates — both of whom are Deputy Chiefs,” Chu’s email sent to all VPD staff on Thursday said. “The next stage involves interviews that are scheduled with the whole Police Board on April 16. I believe the Board will reach a decision on your new chief much earlier than the original early May time frame.”

Vancouver’s three deputy chiefs are Doug LePard, Warren Lemcke and Adam Palmer. It’s not known which of the three executives are scheduled to interview for the job next week; but Kash Heed, who lost to Chu in the previous competition for the chief’s job, has said he hears LePard and Palmer are the finalists. The VPD and Chu have not immediately responded to questions for this story.

Several weeks ago Heed told Postmedia News that Palmer, head of the investigation division, seemed to have the edge over LePard, head of the operations division.

“In talking to several people in the police department and the police community they are focusing on Adam Palmer to become the chief,” Heed said.

The Province previously reported that in separate interviews a couple of close watchers of the VPD, Simon Fraser University criminologists Neil Boyd and Robert Gordon, both said the candidate who seems closest to Chu and best positioned to take over is LePard.

“Chu and LePard are both progressive police leaders,” Gordon said earlier.

Meanwhile, Chu hasn’t dropped any clues about his future since making his surprise retirement announcement.

(The Province)

Apr 11 2015

**The family of a Newfoundland man fatally shot by police is upset after an email reportedly sent by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer involved in the case was leaked to the media, the family’s lawyer says.**

Media outlets in Newfoundland have published an email they say was written by the officer who shot Don Dunphy, 59, in his home last Sunday while investigating perceived threats made against provincial politicians on Twitter.

The email, which appears on the CBC and VPCM websites without the officer’s name, was reportedly sent to all employees of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary on Friday. The police force could not be immediately reached to comment on the email and its authenticity could not be confirmed.

The email describes Dunphy’s death as a tragedy but the writer says he cannot regret his actions.

Erin Breen, lawyer for the Dunphy family, says it is frustrating for the family to see the email reported by local media when they have such little information about the incident themselves.

“The day that this email was leaked was

the same day as Mr. Dunphy’s funeral. So I can tell you that for his daughter (it was) probably one of the most difficult days of her life and then to have to read the leaked email in the media was really upsetting for her,” said Breen.

The RCMP is leading a probe into the incident along with the oversight of retired provincial Supreme Court judge David Riche.

Apr 11 2015

**OTTAWA - The Canadian Armed Forces say one of their ships helped seize more than 600 kilograms of cocaine off El Salvador.**



The Forces say HMCS Whitehorse helped the U.S. Coast Guard intercept a vessel, where they found 15 bales of cocaine floating in the water nearby.

They say this is the second big drug bust for HMCS Whitehorse this year.

In early March, the military says the ship helped the U.S. Coast Guard seize more than 5,000 kilograms off Costa Rica.

Apr 11 2015

**A man accused in 2013 of inciting people to murder a prominent Montréal police officer was charged with arms trafficking Friday, along with a second suspect.**

Anatoliy Vdovin, 45, and Vitaly Pohrebniak, 47, face charges of arms trafficking, illegally manufacturing a firearm and unauthorized possession of a firearm.

The Sûreté du Québec arrested Vdovin with an AK-47-type rifle.

In 2013, Vdovin, a single father, was arrested in Westmount on suspicion of posting a photograph of Commander Ian Lafrenière, the head of media relations for Montréal police, on a blog, with the caption: “Wanted dead or alive.” That case is still pending.

Friday’s arrests were carried out by the Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives Trafficking Investigation Unit and Montréal police Regional Mixed Squad, working in cooperation with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Birmingham, Ala.

Police also raided two homes and a warehouse.

In 2000, Vdovin received a suspended sentence and agreed to do 240 hours of community service after being convicted of assault causing bodily harm.

(Montréal Gazette)

**SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 12, 2015**

Apr 12 2015

**MONTREAL - The Montreal police website is back online after being unavailable since Friday night due to an apparent hacking incident.**

The Quebec branch of the hacking collective Anonymous claimed responsibility for the incident in a series of posts on Twitter.

The group says it also infiltrated the website of the police brotherhood union. That site was back online Saturday morning.

In a series of tweets Anonymous denounced the actions of police during a recent series of anti-austerity demonstrations against the government of Premier Philippe Couillard. The heated demonstrations have led to clashes between protesters and police.

The group is calling for the dismissal of a police officer photographed while using pepper spray against the protesters.

Anonymous hinted at further action on Saturday in a tweet that claimed they could control most of the city’s networks.

A police spokesman confirmed Saturday the site was breached. He said no personal information was at risk.

The site went back online shortly after 1 p.m. Sunday.

**MONDAY**  
**APRIL 13, 2015**

Apr 13 2015

**HAMILTON - Police in Hamilton, Ont., have implemented a new approach to dealing with people with mental health issues, after a successful 15-month pilot program saw apprehensions under the Mental Health Act fall nearly 50 per cent.**

Hamilton police officially launched the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team on Sunday. The program involves taking a mental health worker along in the police cruiser whenever officers receive a call that may involve someone with a mental health issue. The program runs seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.

The goal of the program is to decrease the number of people suffering from a mental health crisis from being taken to hospital emergency rooms.

Having a mental health worker on the scene means there is a skilled professional serving as a first responder to help assess and possibly de-escalate the situation.

In the past, officers were dispatched to the scene first, often taking the person to a hospital or local police station. A mental health worker would later be brought in to assess the person.

“We’ve now put the mental health professional in the police car with the police officer,” Hamilton Police Chief Glenn De



Caire told CTV's Canada AM. "(It's) the first of its kind in Canada as we now have that car responding as a first response 911 option."

Officers in the program receive 40 hours of specialized mental health training, including crisis intervention, suicide intervention and assistance training, De Caire said.

About half of Hamilton police officers have been trained, and officials want to eventually train all 800 officers.

"Any member of our organization, in concert with our mental health workers, can run across a person in crisis," he said. "We need to have those skills to de-escalate those situations."

(CTV News)

Apr 13 2015

**Police departments across the United States have been made easy targets for hackers who infect their computers, encrypt their documents and give them a deadline to make a payment.**

Over the weekend, some Maine police agencies reported having to pay ransom to hackers in order to keep their files. In Tewksbury, Massachusetts the police chief said he paid a \$500 bounty to get back the department's data.

The scheme has become more sophisticated over the past decade and has found a niche targeting law enforcement, according to Robert Siciliano, an online safety expert to Intel Security.

"It's a multi-million dollar business," he said. "They're getting paid and they're getting paid well."

Ransomware can infect a computer if the recipient clicks a dangerous link or downloads material masquerading as a benign attachment. Users with out of date browsers or no anti-virus protection are especially at risk, Siciliano said.

"When they are attacked they usually see a countdown screen, a clock counting down the time they have until the offer expires and their data is deleted," Siciliano said.

Paying overseas hackers to return data is made surprisingly simple with an online payment processing system that allows victims to seamlessly pay off the perpetrators.

The outcome is likely the only choice for police snared by the scam.

"If you stand to lose more than the ransom might cost, then certainly it's a consideration," Siciliano said. "But the thing is, if you're proactive and backing up your data in multiple locations then you have less to worry about."

(ABC News)

Apr 13 2015

**CALGARY - The Calgary Police Commission will study the possibility of using police cadets or bylaw officers to do traffic enforcement in residential neighbourhoods, with a report coming back in September.**

"The No. 1 complaint that any councillor gets is traffic, speeding and the congestion at schools in the morning and afternoon, and not

having the ability to have an officer there on a regular basis," said Coun. Shane Keating, who presented the motion.

"That doesn't mean every day, but on a regular basis because there are other issues in the city that have to be looked at.

"If there's an accident, (police) have to leave (enforcement) ... if we have a dedicated force, they would be staying and doing speeding on the boulevards and commuter roads in residential areas."

City council voted to have the Police Commission study the legal and financial implications of the idea until the fall.

In addition, Mayor Naheed Nenshi will study possible legal implications through the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

(Calgary Sun)

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 14, 2015**

Apr 14 2015

**By the thousands, volunteers across the United States sign up to assist their local law enforcement agencies as reserve police officers and sheriff's deputies. Most perform routine duties in unpaid anonymity. A few become known as heroes or rogues.**

Among that vast contingent of reservists was Robert Bates, a 73-year-old insurance executive, who was charged Monday with manslaughter in the death of a man shot as

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he lay on the ground in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A police investigator said Bates, who is white, thought he drew a stun gun, not his handgun, when he fired at Eric Harris, who was black, in the April 2 incident.

A video shot by deputies and released Friday at the request of the victim's family shows a deputy chase and tackle Harris, whom they said tried to sell an illegal gun to an undercover officer.

The incident rekindled discussion about the widespread use of reserve officers, including many authorized to carry firearms even though they generally undergo far less training than regular officers. While there's no current official tally, an article in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin in 2006 estimated the national total of reserve officers at 400,000.

In Oklahoma, every reserve deputy is required to complete a minimum of 240 hours of training on legal basics, investigative procedures and use of firearms. Reserve deputies in Tulsa County get even more training - 320 hours - but that is still only half the requirement for a regular full-time officer.

There is no age limit in Oklahoma, but all reserve officers must annually recertify with a minimum score on a firearms-training course. Bates, who was briefly a full-time officer with the Tulsa Police Department from 1964 to 1965, updates his certification every year and has completed more than the state-required hours, said Tulsa County sheriff's spokesman Shannon Clark.

Tulsa County's acceptance of older reservists is not unusual. In Washington D.C., for example, a breakdown provided in 2011 showed that 42 per cent of the city's police reserve officers were 50 or older.

Nationally, a major rationale for the reserve programs is to provide extra manpower for budget-strapped departments, so that regular officers - sometimes in short supply - are freed up to concentrate on high-priority duties. While some reserve officers receive modest compensation, most work without pay, and many are expected to provide their own uniforms and equipment.

In Michigan's Wayne County, for example, applicants seeking to become a reserve sheriff's deputy are required to bring their own department-approved handgun to the training program and are cautioned that the total cost of equipment and uniforms will likely total between \$800 and \$1,500.

Even within a single department, training requirements can vary widely.

The Los Angeles Police Department, which has more than 400 active reserve officers, requires about 170 hours of classroom and self-defence training for its lowest-level reservists, who perform such functions as front-desk duty and community relations. Its top-level reservists, who carry weapons and perform the same tasks as full-time officers, undergo close to 400 hours of instruction.

New York City has a large auxiliary police contingent - volunteers who are not armed and are assigned to what the police department describes as "non-enforcement and non-hazardous duties" such as crowd

control at parades and festivals.

The budget savings can be sizeable. The Harris County Sheriff's Office, based in Houston, has about 200 reserve deputies and said the work they do saves the county millions of dollars each year.

(AP)

Apr 14 2015

### **PORT HOPE -- Port Hope's new police chief, Bryant Wood, officially assumed his new role this week.**



As deputy chief, he was appointed acting chief last September while former police chief Kevin McAlpine remained in his role to see the development of the new police facility on Fox Road move forward. The new station is slated to open this summer.

With family, police and officials in attendance, Justice Robert Graydon swore-in Chief Wood at a change of command ceremony at Town Hall on April 13. Port Hope Police's former Chief McAlpine, who took over in 2010, relinquished the command of the Port Hope Police Service during the ceremony.

"I am very proud to turn over command of the Port Hope Police Service to you," said the former chief.

Chief Wood credited the former chief, fellow police officers, supervisors and family for helping him get to his current position during his 22-year career in policing.

(Northumberland News)

Apr 14 2015

### **OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that the federal law requiring mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes is unconstitutional.**

By a 6-3 margin, the high court has upheld the 2013 Ontario Court of Appeal ruling that labelled the law cruel and unusual and struck it down.

The ruling is a setback for the government's tough-on-crime agenda.

The ruling said the mandatory minimum sentence could ensnare people with "little or no moral fault" and who pose "little or no danger to the public." It cited as, an example, a person who inherits a firearm and does not immediately get a license for the weapon.

"As the Court of Appeal concluded, there exists a 'cavernous disconnect' between the severity of the licensing-type offence and the mandatory minimum three-year term of imprisonment," Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin wrote for the majority.

The court was deciding two appeals involving mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes brought by provincial and federal attorneys general.

The appeal court struck down both the three-year mandatory minimum for a first offence of possessing a loaded prohibited gun, as well as the five-year minimum for a second offence.

The Ontario and federal governments wanted the Supreme Court to reverse the decision, arguing that the minimums do not breach the charter protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

The new sentencing rules were enacted in 2008 as part of a sweeping omnibus bill introduced by the federal Conservatives.

The two governments argued the move was an effort to combat a serious danger posed by the proliferation of handgun possession cases.

The high court said the five-year minimum goes far beyond what is required to protect the public, express moral condemnation and deter other gun crime.

Apr 14 2015

### **EDMONTON - Faced with an ever-increasing number of terrorism-related investigations, Edmonton police plan to set up a full-time unit to deal with such "high-risk" files, says police chief Rod Knecht.**



The department plans to establish the unit this year and ask city council for more money in the next budget to help combat the growing problem.

"We've seen it ramp up over the past 24 months," Knecht said of the terrorism-related cases. "We're getting more intelligence, more files to investigate."

"These are high-risk files, and we as a police service have to respond to those files."

Terror-related investigations have "zero tolerance for risk," the chief said, meaning there is no room for even a single mistake.

Such investigations are often led by Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams, or INSETs, made up of members of the RCMP, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the Canada Border Services Agency, and local police.

The teams investigate and gather intelligence about groups or individuals suspected of posing threats to national security. There are INSET teams in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

Knecht said the INSET team in Edmonton is busier than ever.

"The INSET unit is, I would say, close to capacity at particular this time," he said.

Investigations related to terrorist threats, looking for people who may pose risks here or may become radicalized and

travel overseas, are complex and time-consuming.

They can take weeks or months and often require the use of surveillance teams.

The department currently has two full-time officers seconded to the local INSET unit, and another two on temporary assignment there. Those temporary postings may become permanent, Knecht said.

INSET units across the country deal with what Knecht called "high-priority" cases that involve "urgent targets," while numerous other cases fall to local police forces.

"Right now, we've have a number of resources," he said. "We have intelligence personnel, we've got a couple of investigators and we've got some outreach people. But they're not specifically for counterterrorism."

For that reason, the department wants a full-time unit to investigate only terrorism-related cases.

That single, amalgamated unit, with more officers and resources, would complement the work done by INSET, Knecht said.

The risk of terrorism attacks or radicalization exists across the county, in every town and city, he said.

(CBC News)

Apr 14 2015

### CHATHAM - The Chatham-Kent Police Services Board didn't need to look too far in its search for a new top cop.



However, board members believe they hired a solid administrator and people person to lead the organization in the years to come.

Gary Conn, currently serving as deputy chief, was announced as the successful candidate during Tuesday's board meeting.

Conn will be appointed acting chief April 25 and is scheduled to be sworn in May 22.

Police board chair Diane Daly, who made the announcement, said the board's decision was unanimous.

Conn was born in London and is a Western University graduate. He enrolled in the Canadian Army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps.

In 1995, Conn joined the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services as a correctional officer at the Genest Detention Centre for Youth in London.

He was hired by the London Police Service several months later and joined the CKPS as a general patrol officer in 1998.

Poole, who was promoted to chief in 2009, said Conn brings many strengths to the table.

"Gary is an excellent communicator," he said. "He has a very engaging personality and that will serve him well in that role and certainly already has in his career thus far."

In his retirement, Poole plans to perform consulting work for police services and take some time to brush up on his golf game.

(Chatham Daily News)

Apr 14 2015

### Email fails are common, but for companies, they can be expensive and dangerous mistakes.

The single biggest cause of data breaches in 2014 was "miscellaneous errors," like a staffer emailing sensitive information to the wrong email address, according to Verizon's annual Data Breach Investigations Report released Tuesday.

Those "errors" accounted for 29.4 percent of data breaches in 2014, up from 25 percent in 2013, Verizon said. Some of those errors are caused by problems like a computer malfunction or a misconfigured system -- but 60 percent of the time, it's a relatively simple user mistake.

The Verizon researchers (who frequently take an irreverent tone in writing the report, with this year's entry including phrases like "FTW" and an "All About That Bass" joke) divided these common mistakes into three categories.

- "D'oh!": sensitive information sent to incorrect recipients made up 30 percent of the errors that led to a data breach

- "My bad!": publishing non-public data to public web servers totaled 17 percent of error incidents

- "Oops!": insecure disposal of personal and medical data comprised 12 percent of errors

"At this point, take your index finger, place it on your chest, and repeat 'I am the problem,' as long as it takes to believe it. Good ó the first step to recovery is admitting the problem," the Verizon researchers wrote.

Beyond mistakes that come from the users themselves, internal staffers can also unwittingly assist in a cyberattack by clicking on malicious links and downloading

malware contained in emails from senders that look legitimate.

Unfortunately, last year about 23 percent of recipients opened these "phishing" emails -- which usually try to deliver malware onto a computer or convince a user to give up passwords -- and 11 percent clicked on attachments, Verizon said.

It doesn't take attackers long to "get that foot in the door," Verizon said. Two of the company's partners sent 150,000 phishing-style emails as part of a test, and the median time-to-first-click clocked in at an average of just 82 seconds.

"With users taking the bait this quickly, the hard reality is that you don't have time on your side when it comes to detecting and reacting to phishing events," Verizon wrote. Companies need to educate their employees, as it seems even wider awareness of data breaches hasn't curtailed poor email practices.

Verizon noted that 2014 marked the entrance of the term "data breach" into "the broader public vernacular," with attacks on Home Depot, Sony, eBay and other major brands dominating headlines. Security flaws like Heartbleed even received their own catchy names and logos, Verizon noted, and high-profile companies finally began to realize they may be vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Earlier on Tuesday, security firm Symantec released its own annual report that showed nearly one million new pieces of malicious software were created every day in 2014.

(NBC News)

Apr 14 2015

### CHICAGO - Victims of police torture under former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge would share \$5.5 million, receive an apology and see their story taught in school under a reparations package proposed Tuesday that city leaders hope will help close one of the most shameful chapters in Chicago's history.

More than 100 people who have accused Burge and officers under his command of shocking them with cattle prods, beating them with phone books and suffocating them with bags until they gave false confessions over nearly two decades ending in 1991.



# TRAINING



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While some have already settled for thousands or millions of dollars, the dozens left can each receive up to \$100,000 under the proposed ordinance.

The proposal is scheduled to be introduced Wednesday and is widely expected to pass when it returns to the council next month for a vote.

The \$5.5 million adds yet more money to more than \$100 million that has been paid in court-ordered judgments, settlements of lawsuits and legal fees - most of it spent by the financially strapped city of Chicago and some by Cook County - over the years.

Besides a provision that calls for teaching about the Burge torture cases to 8th graders and 10th graders in public school history classes, the ordinance would include a formal apology from the City Council, psychological counselling and other benefits such as free tuition at city community colleges. And in recognition that the torture, and in many cases wrongful convictions and lengthy prison sentences, affected both the victims and their families, the ordinance would extend some benefits to victims' children or grandchildren.

Burge, 67, was fired from the Chicago Police Department in 1993. He was never criminally charged with torture, but was convicted in 2010 of lying about torture in a civil case and served 4 1/2 years in federal custody. Still drawing his pension, he was released from a Florida halfway house in February. (AP)

Apr 14 2015

**RCMP in Surrey, B.C., have taken the unusual step of releasing the names and photographs of men it alleges are contributing to a gang war that has resulted in at least 17 shootings in the city, and three in Delta since March 9.**

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Fordy said this lack of co-operation is compromising their ability to make arrests.

"We are disappointed with the lack of co-operation from the victims and we know the community is frustrated as well," he said.

"Today, I again appeal to the family, friends and those of you who know any of the people pictured here. We need information on their whereabouts, their connections and their activities."

RCMP have released a list of 13 individuals. The first eight are new names not previously released by police. The other five are names police first released on March 12.

(CBC News)

Apr 14 2015

**As downtown Edmonton continues to boom, so will the number of police patrolling the streets.**

City council approved \$6.4 million to hire 40 new officers who will be assigned specifically to police downtown specifically.

Police Chief Rod Knecht said the addition of the new arena, the Alberta Museum, the new LRT line, as well as the growing number of shops and restaurants will make downtown a hotspot for crime.

"That's 30,000 people downtown," Knecht said. "We have to police those people and keep them safe."

Knecht said violent crimes downtown rose 22 per cent last year and officers are already stretched thin.

He said the force will start recruiting right away to alleviate the pressure as soon as possible.

Councillors turned down Knecht's original



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request for more officers during budget deliberations last year, but changed their minds after the province bumped up speeding fines, making photo radar more lucrative for the city.

"Finding a way to do this without going back to taxpayers was important for council," said Mayor Don Iveson.

"Certainly, we've heard a lot of support from people who've said, 'If you're going to have photo radar fines use it for things like policing,' so this is a no brainer for us."

In December, council decided that photo radar revenue would be used only for traffic safety initiatives, policing, and community projects.

Knecht told council the new positions were such a high priority, the force would need to pull resources from traffic safety if they weren't able to hire new officers.

That swayed Iveson to support Knecht's request.

"This allows them to maintain their deployment for traffic safety, which is also a good way of catching bad guys," Iveson said.

Council also approved \$712,000 to hire nine officers to police LRT stations and trains.

Knecht said he hopes to continue the success of last years' pilot project, which involved pairing transit peace officers with police which boosted arrests by 47 per cent.

(CBC News)

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2015

Apr 15 2015

**ORILLIA, Ont. - Ontario residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired will now be able to communicate with provincial police via text message when they dial 911 in an emergency.**

The Ontario Provincial Police's new Text with 911 feature allows those with hearing and speech disabilities to register their cellphones for the service with their wireless carrier.

In an emergency, those who have the service will dial 911 as if making a voice call and will be able to communicate with a 911 operator via text message.

The service is not intended for use by the general public.

Chief Supt. Rick Barnum, commander of the OPP's communications and technology services bureau, says offering the service was complex and involved months of collaboration with various stakeholders.

He says the service is an "important and innovative" one.

Apr 15 2015

**The commanding officer of Nunavut's RCMP says the police force is understaffed in the territory.**

Chief Supt. Michael Jeffrey says Nunavut needs more officers and administrative workers to ease the workloads of other members.

He says officers in the territory's smaller communities are often overworked.

The police force has 25 detachments scattered throughout Nunavut. Many are in small communities, and staffed by just two officers. Those officers are always on call, even when they're officially off-duty.

Jeffrey says that leaves little time for officers to rest or relax.

"They have to go out, answer a call, come back with the individual, do the paperwork, and they're sort of stuck in the office," Jeffrey says.

He says ideally, officers would have more leisure time, and time "to be out in the public doing proactive things, prevention, education," Jeffrey says. "You know, going to the school, talking to the young folks."

Jeffrey admits the police force has trouble finding new recruits, especially Inuit. The RCMP says hiring more Nunavummiut officers is an ongoing priority.

Const. David Aglukark, an Inuk, says it's essential for Nunavummiut to feel understood by the force.

"They need that comfort level where they can speak their own language, where they can get their point across to the RCMP members," Aglukark says.

The RCMP's website describes two programs aimed at increasing the number of First Nations, Metis and Inuit officers on the police force — an Aboriginal Cadet Development program, and an Aboriginal Pre-cadet Training program, aimed at young adults. Neither program is currently accepting applicants, the website says.

Jeffrey says Nunavut is working with the Canadian Police College in Ottawa to develop a new recruitment program, but they're still looking for other partners to help get it off the ground.

(CBC News)

Apr 15 2015

**WESTASKIWIN, Alta. - The trial for a man charged with attempted murder in the shooting of two Mounties in rural Alberta has begun with him pleading not guilty.**



Sawyer Robison has also told a judge he is not guilty of assault causing bodily harm and four weapons-related charges.

Robison, who is 30, was arrested following a standoff on his family's farm near Killam, southeast of Edmonton, in 2012.

An RCMP forensics officer was the first to testify about numerous guns and fired bullets discovered in a home on the property.

Cpl. Christine Bramhoff said seven guns, including a sniper rifle, and a United States army sniper training book were found in a bedroom with mail belonging to Robison.

Two handguns were also lying on the kitchen floor beside the naked body of a dead man.

## THURSDAY APRIL 16, 2015

Apr 16 2015

**TORONTO - The first-degree murder convictions handed down to five members of a notorious biker gang in what was one of Ontario's worst mass killings must stand, the province's top court ruled Thursday.**



In its ruling, the Court of Appeal said it was satisfied the trial judge had properly instructed the jury after a "difficult and lengthy" hearing.

"His charge was well structured, and equipped the jury to grapple with the evidentiary and legal issues presented," the Appeal Court ruled.

The case arose in April 2006, when eight members of the Toronto Bandidos motorcycle gang were shot execution style on a farm property, the result of an internal gang dispute involving the Winnipeg and American branches. Their bodies were found stuffed in trunks of vehicles on a property near London, Ont.

The jury convicted six men of first-degree murder but only five appealed on various grounds, among them the trial judge's instructions.

At the appeal heard in September, several of the men argued they were forced to take part on the killings. One of them, Marcelo Aravena, said he feared he would "end up in a pile of dead bodies" if he didn't.

However, the trial judge ruled the defence of duress was legally unavailable.

"It is entirely irrelevant to this case," Superior Court Justice Thomas Heeney said in convicting them in October 2009. "In a nutshell, it is not open to anyone to say to an innocent victim: 'You will die so that I can live'."

The Appeal Court found that Heeney was mistaken in that conclusion. Nevertheless, it found the error caused no substantial wrong or miscarriage of justice to the men who argued they had killed under duress.

"On the evidence, there was no air of reality to that defence on any of the charges," the Appeal Court ruled.

Wayne Kellestine, on whose farm the killings occurred, argued that branding him a psychopath at trial and other character evidence was "massively prejudicial" to his case.

The other men, Brett Gardiner, Frank Mather and Dwight Mushey, were portrayed at trial as power-hungry schemers



or wannabes gunning for status in the outlaw motorcycle club.

The Appeal Court, however, ruled against them all.

"This court has had the benefit of careful and thorough arguments presented on behalf of the appellants and the Crown," the court said. "We are satisfied that the appeal must be dismissed."

Apr 16 2015

**VANCOUVER - Months of speculation ended Thursday with the announcement that Deputy Chief Adam Palmer, a 28-year veteran of the Vancouver Police Department, will be the city's new top cop.**



The other finalist for the job, Deputy Chief Doug LePard, decided to withdraw and support Palmer just before the final interviews were conducted, according to a statement from Vancouver's mayor and police board chair Gregor Robertson.

"Following the final interview completed today, the police board decided unanimously that Adam was the right person to lead the VPD," the mayor added.

Palmer will replace retiring Chief Const. Jim Chu.

"I am very pleased that we were able to choose a new chief internally and grateful to the eight members of the police board for their careful deliberations," said Chu. "I will work with the new chief with the goal of making the transition as smooth and soon as possible."

Chu also thanked LePard for "making a difficult personal decision to withdraw."

"I know he was putting the interests of the VPD first," he said.

A date for a formal change-of-command ceremony will be announced shortly, according to a news release. Palmer was not available for an interview Thursday, but a press conference is planned for Friday morning.

Last week, The Province reported that the police board was close to making a decision between two internal candidates. In a memo to his officers sent a week ago, Chu said the national search had been expedited and focused on two internal candidates.

When Chu announced his retirement in late January, amid speculation he might

become a federal political candidate, he said it was his preference that one of his deputy chiefs step into his role.

Palmer was born and raised in the Vancouver area. Prior to joining the VPD, he studied business administration at Simon Fraser University and worked as a correctional officer.

He began his career with the VPD in 1987 and spent the first 13 years working as a patrol officer in east Vancouver.

While a sergeant, he was extensively involved in the development of the VPD's strategic plan and managed a long-term review of policing operations at the department.

As an inspector, he was the officer in charge of Patrol District 2 which includes the Downtown Eastside, Chinatown, Gastown, Strathcona, Grandview-Woodlands and Hastings-Sunrise neighbourhoods. He was also responsible for port and marine policing.

During the 2010 Winter Olympics, Palmer was seconded to the Integrated Security Unit as the venue commander for the Pacific Coliseum, where he oversaw security for the figure skating and short track speedskating events.

In 2010, the longtime police officer was promoted to deputy chief. He is currently assigned to the Investigation Division, where he is responsible for all investigative areas of the VPD including major crime, special investigations, organized crime, general investigations, forensic services, tactical support and youth services.

Robertson said the police board was "confident" Palmer would continue the work done by Chu, "striving to make Vancouver the safest major city in Canada and further enhancing the reputation of the VPD as an excellent police service."

(The Province)



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