

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community |

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Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Mark Saunders named Toronto's top cop



Apr 20 2015

TORONTO - A married father of four was named the city's chief of police Monday – the first black officer to lead the \$1-billion force – after an international search that led right back to headquarters.

At a news conference, the head of the Toronto Police Services Board named deputy chief Mark Saunders, a 32-year veteran of the force, as chief designate to take over from Bill Blair, whose second five-year contract was not renewed.

Saunders, 52, made it clear he didn't consider himself a token appointment, stressing

that he is eminently qualified for the job.

"Being black is fantastic, it doesn't give me super powers," he joked.

"If you're expecting that all of a sudden that the earth will open up and miracles will happen, that's not going to happen."

What will happen, Saunders promised, is much more open dialogue than has happened in the past.

Saunders takes over at a time of tension over "carding." Visible minorities, especially black youth, have long complained they are disproportionately targeted for the stops – a complaint statistics have borne out.



Deputy Chief Constable Central Saanich Police Service

The central Saanich Police Service Board invites applications for the position of Deputy Chief Constable in beautiful Saanichton, BC. The Central Saanich Police Service serves an inclusive community of approximately 16,000 residents and has a compliment of 23 sworn police personnel and 4 non-sworn positions.

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Forward applications, by **April 30, 2015** to: Elizabeth Trudeau, Central Saanich Police Service
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He promised no immediate changes, but said community trust determines whether police succeed or fail.

It's important, he said, to ensure public safety but also to "minimize the collateral damage" while working toward bias-free policing that treats everyone with respect and dignity.

"You have my promise that I'll do everything in my power to provide that," he said.

Saunders will feel pressure to rein in a budget of more than \$1 billion for a force that comprises about 5,500 uniformed officers and another 2,500 civilians.

Blair retires this week after the police services board refused a contract extension. Mayor John Tory said Saunders was the board's unanimous choice to succeed Blair.

"The candidates from outside of the city underlined the excellence of the people that were from our own police service as candidates," Tory said.

Alok Mukherjee, the head of the police services board, called Saunders a credible and inspiring leader who is expected to bring "real change."

Saunders, whose children range in age from 10 to 26, was born in the U.K. to Jamaican parents and immigrated to Canada as a child.

He currently heads the special operations command with its 1,200 officers and 164 civilians, which includes the homicide squad, sex-crimes unit, and guns and gangs task force.

Saunders said the implications of his appointment as the first black to lead the force only sank in during a chat with his 10-year-old son.

"He said to me, 'You know, Dad, that's history and that's something they can never take away from you'," Saunders said.

THURSDAY APRIL 16, 2015

Apr 16 2015

TORONTO - A man who gunned down two people in a crowded downtown Toronto food court will have to serve at least 30 years behind bars.



The judge set the parole ineligibility for Christopher Husbands in sentencing him to life in prison today.

Husbands, 26, was convicted of two counts of second-degree murder for the shooting at the landmark Eaton Centre in June 2012.

The convictions carry an automatic life sentence with no parole for at least 10 years.

However, the judge decided he would have to serve 15 years without parole on each count.

He rejected a challenge that making the periods of parole ineligibility consecutive would be unconstitutional.

Husbands was also convicted of five counts of aggravated assault, one count of criminal negligence causing bodily harm and one count of recklessly discharging a firearm.

Apr 16 2015

VANCOUVER - A B.C. police officer whose gun went off and injured a man has been charged with careless use of a firearm.

The Criminal Justice Branch says the charge against Delta police Const. Vicken Movsessian emerges from an incident in November 2013.

The branch says the officer was on duty when police had contact with the occupants of a vehicle in Surrey.

The branch says it is alleged that Movsessian's firearm discharged, hurting a male inside the vehicle.

Because the injury involved police, the Independent Investigations Office looked into the allegations and determined the officer may have committed an offence.

Movsessian's first court appearance has been set for April 27 in Surrey provincial court.

Apr 16 2015

SASKATOON - Saskatoon police say the service is forming a special unit to deal with gangs and guns.

Police chief Clive Weighill says the decision comes as crime has spiked in the city, especially the drug trade.

He says while Saskatoon is a safe city to live in, it is important for police to be proactive about gun violence.

Weighill wouldn't say how many officers would be a part of the gangs and guns unit.

Earlier this month the police announced the service plans to redeploy 16 officers to front-line patrol units by July 1.

None of those officers will be part of the newly formed unit.

"I never, ever thought in my career as a police officer in Saskatchewan that we would ever be forming such a unit," Weighill said Thursday.

He said people from other cities such as Vancouver and Toronto are coming to Saskatoon and bringing weapons with them.

There has been some gang activity, including drive-by shootings, that haven't happened in the city before, he said.

Weighill's remarks follow a report he presented to the Saskatoon police commission that says the city needs 10 more police officers.

The report states that the police service is having difficulty keeping pace with increases in gang activity and negative perceptions of safety.

Saskatoon has the second-highest crime rate in Canada among cities with a population over 100,000.

(CKOM)

Apr 16 2015

CALGARY - City police say they're relieved by the recovery of a service rifle stolen from an off-duty officer's car.

The Colt C8 semi-automatic rifle was pulled from a northeast home by the guns and gang unit Wednesday evening following a flurry of tips from the public, said Staff Sgt. Jason Walker - who admitted the force still has a black eye from the episode.

"We're relieved we got this thing back - we lost more than a rifle when it was taken," he said.

"It would make Calgarians proud of the kind of work that's been done (to recover it).

"From the chief on down, no one's been sleeping well."

The weapon was stolen from an officer's car outside the Crowfoot Schanks bar late on April 4 while the three-year veteran was inside the business.

Two magazines containing a total of 56 rounds were also recovered.

Walker said they haven't identified any actual suspects in the case but added "we do have people of interest, absolutely."


While the rifle posed a hazard to the public, Calgarians weren't in any greater danger given where it was recovered, said Walker.

On Sunday, that officer's paid suspension was extended for another 30 days and the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team and Crown prosecutors are still determining whether charges will be laid against him, said police spokesman Kevin Brookwell.

Police wouldn't say if he aided significantly in its recovery, pointing out the incident remains under investigation.

And they're still seeking the return of the hard case that contained the rifle when it was stolen.

(Sun Media)



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Ramara Township has been putting out feelers for a new police service.

Mayor Basil Clarke would like to find a less expensive law-and-order solution, noting an increased cost for OPP services this year represents a major expense for not only the municipality, but also ratepayers.

For the current budget year, Ramara saw its OPP costs rise \$214,579, or 24.2%, over 2014, when the bill was projected at about \$886,000.

Clarke said he is open to exploring any option that might lower the cost to the township.

"We contacted Durham (Regional Police) before to see if they wanted to cover us," he said, adding Rama First Nation also has an excellent police force, but it is federal, so it might not be a possibility.

There's also the possibility of creating a countywide force, according to Clarke.

Oro-Medonte Mayor Harry Hughes said his municipality is also struggling with higher costs from last year's \$2,037,000 figure, jumping from \$258.64 in 2014 to \$294.90 per household this year.

He said the idea of creating a countywide force has been floating around for a while.

Both Clarke and Hughes said the rise is directly related to a new formula used by the province to calculate policing costs.

At the beginning of the year, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services opted to change the OPP costing formula, leading to larger bills for smaller municipalities like Ramara and Oro-Medonte.

"You could be living in a house assessed at \$100,000 or \$1 million and you would be paying the same amount," Hughes said, referring to the new provincial policing formula.

Clarke added: "It's the same cost whether you're living in a city or a rural area. It's the same, but we have lower crime rates."

In the past, the townships' budgets included an Ontario Municipal Partnership (OMP) grant, which helped offset the cost of stretching services throughout their catchment areas.

"It's a double whammy" Hughes said, noting the \$322,400 OMP grant loss is significant. "That's 3% of our budget."

Hughes said municipalities with standalone forces, such as Bradford West Gwillimbury and Midland, have also discussed whether to enlist OPP but have elected to stay with the status quo, while Penetanguishene studied possibly employing Midland's force before deciding to stay with OPP.

"We would want to address it in a very cautious way," he said, referring to any potential future change. "It would be interesting at looking at what it might look like."

(Orillia Packet)

FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2015

Apr 17 2105

EDMONTON - Edmonton police say they're having a hard time responding quickly to emergencies, as the department struggles to keep up with an increased number of 911 calls.



The department presented a report Thursday night to the Edmonton Police Commission that gives details about what's being called an alarming trend that has worsened.

The department categorizes calls using a number system. Priority one calls, when a person is in danger, are the most urgent. The goal for those is to have the department met its goal for priority one calls 80 per cent of the time back in 2010.

That percentage has declined since then, and was down to 71 per cent in 2014, and 69 per cent for the first quarter of this year.

Priority one - the urgent calls - make up only three per cent of total. The number of such calls is down dramatically this year, 24 per cent fewer than 2014.

"Obviously, if those particular calls were not where they are right now, we'd be very concerned," deputy chief Tony Harder said in an interview after the commission meeting.

"The calls for service are not dropping," Harder said. "They've gone up significantly for us, 10 per cent year-to-date actually."

Five years ago, the department reached its target for P1 to P5 calls just over 80 per cent of the time. That number peaked in 2011, at 85 per cent.

Since then, the percentage has dropped steadily. In the first quarter of this year, the response-time goal was met on just over 70 per cent of all calls.

Earlier this week, city council approved \$6.4 million to allow the department to hire 40 new officers assigned specifically to patrol downtown.

(CBC News)

Apr 17 2015

OAKVILLE, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog says a Halton region police officer had reason to believe his life was in danger when he fatally shot a 41-year-old man in a hotel lobby in Oakville last fall.

The Special Investigations Unit says the officer had no way of knowing the man - who kept his right hand in his jacket and repeatedly yelled at police to shoot him - was in fact unarmed.

SIU director Tony Loparco says the officer didn't have the luxury of checking whether the man had weapons "given the tension that prevailed at the time and the rapid and dynamic series of events that immediately preceded the shooting."

The SIU investigation found police responded to a call around 5:30 a.m. from a man who said he was in a hotel armed with a knife and gun and planned to kill himself.

The agency says the officer went into the lobby, saw the man there and asked him to show his hands.

It says the man first refused, then moved quickly toward the officer with his hands above his head, prompting the officer to shoot five times.

Apr 17 2015

WETASKIWIN, Alta. - An RCMP officer was trying to arrest a man in the living room of an Alberta farm house when the Mountie saw the muzzle of a gun pointing out of a doorway.

Const. Sheldon Shah jumped between the gun and his partner, who was a new father, and took numerous bullets along his left side.

Shah told a trial Friday that he still has aching wounds three years later.

"I just live with pain everyday, pretty much," said Shah, who listed several surgeries he has had and 11 scars that mark his body from his neck to his knee. He also testified that he lost a testicle.

Shah and Const. Sidney Gaudette were shot and wounded while trying to execute a search warrant at the farm near Killam, south-

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

east of Edmonton, on Feb. 7, 2012.

Sawyer Robison, 30, has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, assault causing bodily harm and several weapons-related charges.

Court previously heard that Robison was a photographer and had been hired earlier to take portraits of Gaudette's family.

Robison's name had come up during a recent domestic assault investigation, Shah said. A suspect had turned himself in and told police that a friend, Robison, had lent him an unlicensed handgun.

Shah was a rookie officer who had joined the force after serving in the military. His very first search warrant was the one for the home Robison shared with an uncle.

Shah said the assault suspect had also told him there were many guns in Robison's home, so Shah went there with three other officers. Two stayed outside while Shah and Gaudette went in.

They found Robison in the living room. He refused an order to get on the ground and backed into a door frame, said Shah.

The Mountie told court he grabbed Robison's wrist but he got loose.

"As he's breaking free, there were legs running past and then I heard the racking of a gun."

Shah said Robison had disappeared by the time Shah saw the gun barrel and was hit. As the officer fired back, he noticed the person holding the gun was a naked older man with grey hair.

Shah felt hot, excruciating pain, but made his way out of the house and was rushed to hospital. As he was bleeding in the back seat of a cruiser, he told the officer driving to hurry.

"I don't think I'm going to make it."

Gaudette, who had been shot once in the torso, also got out of the home and was taken to hospital for surgery.

Following a standoff, Bradford Clarke, 53, was found dead in the kitchen. Evidence photos show he had a head wound and two handguns were next to his body. Police believe he may have been having a bath before the shooting.

RCMP alleged at the time that Robison had fled the home in a pickup truck following the shooting. He was arrested three days later after his parents pleaded for him to turn himself in.

Robison was charged with second-degree murder in the death of his uncle, but that charge was discontinued during a preliminary hearing.

Court has heard the home was stocked with guns, including a loaded sniper rifle, ammunition, body armour and a binder labelled "Special Forces Sniper Training."

Apr 17 2015

TORONTO - A coroner's inquest is planned in the death of a 50-year-old Toronto man who died as a result of a police shooting two years ago.

The coroner's office says an inquest into the April 2013 death of Donald Thompson is mandatory under the Coroner's Act.

It says the inquest will examine the

events surrounding Thompson's death and may lead to recommendations aimed at preventing similar deaths.

The inquest is scheduled to begin Monday and last two weeks, with roughly 20 witnesses to be heard.

Apr 17 2015

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - The Abbotsford Police Department has apologized for distributing photos of a bank customer mistakenly accused of identity theft.

Const. Ian MacDonald says the woman's embarrassed family called police after the picture was released Thursday to say she could not have requested a replacement debit card using someone else's name and ID.

MacDonald says the family was adamant that an error had been made and that their relative is a regular customer at the bank where the apparent fraud took place on March 13.

He says TD Canada Trust has now acknowledged that a teller made a "keying error" by cancelling a valid card belonging to one customer and issuing it to the woman who was then accused of fraud.

MacDonald says several people called police to identify the woman, indicating such behaviour seemed out of character but that perhaps her life had taken a turn.

Jeff Meerman, a spokesman for TD-Bank Group, says they regret the mistake and have every intention of apologizing to the customer.

**SATURDAY
APRIL 18, 2015**

Apr 18 2015

NEWMARKET, Ont. - A shroud of secrecy thrown over part of an extraordinary case involving allegations of harassment within the RCMP should be lifted as much as possible, an Ontario justice heard Friday.



The court-imposed secrecy, which ostensibly involves the identity of a confidential informant but may also be linked to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's family life, is so extreme that even the reasons for the order are unknown.

"This is an extraordinary situation," media lawyer Brian MacLeod Rogers told Superior Court Justice Mary Vallee. "I'm in the dark about what's been going on."

Rogers, who represents several media outlets, said reporters have been unable to raise concerns since last December, when they were abruptly excluded from the courtroom in a civil case involving RCMP Sgt. Peter Merrifield.

The officer alleges senior officers ruined his career after he launched an unsuccessful bid to run for the federal Conservatives in 2005.

Merrifield had called "Witness X" to testify in early December but the proceedings went in-camera. Vallee ordered material related to the hearing sealed, including a copy of her sealing order itself.

On Friday, the National Post, citing sources, reported the material at issue includes four letters sent by private investigator Derrick Snowdy to assistant RCMP commissioner Stephen White.

The Post said the letters are believed to contain allegations the RCMP leaked private information about Harper's family.

The federal government maintains that Section 37 of the Canada Evidence Act allows for confidentiality where openness would encroach upon the public interest.

Rogers - who represents Postmedia News, CBC, Maclean's and the Toronto Star - said he saw no issue with measures to protect the identity of a confidential informant.

However, he argued, it's not good enough for the government to make general claims about the risk to the public interest by releasing information in a case involving allegations of wrongdoing by the country's national police force.

"I don't see a specified public interest," he said.

**SUNDAY
APRIL 19, 2015**

Apr 19 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton Oilers alumni took to the ice to face off against the RCMP this weekend.

A charity game was held in St. Albert in support of the families of Const. David Wynn and Aux. Const. Derek Bond.

The RCMP officers were shot while checking out a call at a casino in January. Wynn later died of his injuries.

Former Oiler and St. Albert resident Fernando Pisani helped organize the game.

"It was something that hit really close to home and I wanted to do something," he said.

"Hockey is what I know and what I do best and I wanted to do something special for the family and get everyone together to honour a member of our community."

Just four months ago, the atmosphere in Servus Place was very different, as community members gathered to remember Const. David Wynn.

On Saturday night, the arena was filled with excitement as alumni like Ryan Smyth and Jason Strudwick took the ice, but the

tragedy still wasn't far from the mind of former officer Larry Moore.

"I am a retired police officer and RCMP officer and I work in the detachment in St. Albert, so I came to support the community," he said.

Wynn's sons suited up with the players, with Matthew Wynn taking net for the Oilers.

The RCMP held their own against the Oilers - a couple of trades were made to even things up - and the game ended with an even score of 10-10.

The families chose not to speak at the game but issued a statement saying they're grateful for all the support they've received from the community.

(CBC News)

MONDAY APRIL 20, 2015

Apr 20 2015

TORONTO - Ontario's highest court has dismissed an appeal from five former Toronto police officers convicted of attempting to obstruct justice.

The ruling from the Court of Appeal said police officers owe a "special duty" to be faithful to the justice system.

The officers, who were members of the Toronto police drug squad, had been sentenced to a 45-day conditional sentence in the case which stemmed from an incident in 1998.

The key issue at the officers' trial had been the timing of a search of a suspect's apartment.

The Crown alleged that the officers falsified their notes and some gave false testimony to conceal the fact that they searched the apartment before a search warrant physically arrived at the location.

The officers maintained they did not search the residence until after the warrant arrived.

When the officers appealed their convictions, the Crown cross-appealed their sentences as unfit, saying a three-year sentence was appropriate.

The Court of Appeal agreed with the Crown, saying the original 45-day conditional sentences "do not reflect society's condemnation of the conduct."

The appeal court ordered a three-year sentence instead, however, given the passage of time since the original sentences were imposed in January 2013, it ruled the new sentences should be stayed.

pr 20 2015

MONTREAL - Police suspensions without pay handled internally at the Service de Police de la Ville de Montreal (SPVM) have declined 42 per cent since 2010, according to documents obtained by the Chronicle via an access to information request.

There were 16 suspensions in 2014, as opposed to 28 in 2010. Days without pay, too,

declined from 102 in 2010, to 61 in 2014.

In last five years, 104 suspensions - of which 48 were spread across 23 neighbourhood police stations - have been registered department-wide for a total of 455 days without pay, documents indicate.

All suspensions, said Ian Lafreniere of the SPVM, were decided by the police force, internally.

The figure is also subject to change as 58 cases - dating back to 2011 - remain unsettled as of today.

"I'm happy we have fewer cases and fewer days, but this isn't a victory because it can change dramatically with the unsettled cases," said Lafreniere.

Over a quarter of the suspensions were a result of what the SPVM deemed negligence or recklessness.

Nearly 24 per cent of the suspensions were behaviour-related. The SPVM, however, failed to specify, exactly, what "behaviour"-related offenses were committed.

The Montreal Police Brotherhood refused to comment.

(The Chronicle)

Apr 20 2015

LÉVIS - Back in 2010, the then police chief for the city of Lévis, Jean François Roy, was caught driving under the influence of alcohol while driving on highway 73 in Quebec City. He failed three different breathalyzer tests and was found to have an alcohol level of 0.17 at the time he was pulled over by the Quebec City police officers.

Since then M. Roy has been battling with the courts to at least try to save his job and to have the accusations against him thrown out. His defence claims there were mistakes made during the alcohol tests and that the results were not conclusive without a reasonable doubt. M. Roy was suspended from his job immediately and relieved of his duties as police chief a year later.

The accused has taken it upon himself to sue the City of Quebec, since they were the ones who arrested him, and the Crown attorney of Quebec for having treated him unfairly and for causing his reputation to be ruined, for losing his job and to compensate for the loss of his pension. M. Roy had planned on retiring in 2020.

The breakdown of his lawsuit includes a loss of salary since 2011 of \$1,243,715, lost pension money up to \$402,295, the loss of a personal use vehicle of \$62,400, moral damages of \$125,000 and the cost of his out of court expenses at \$75,517 making a total of \$1,793,465.

M. Roy has had to sell all his belongings, including his house, his second residence, and a plot of land he had to pay for his defence lawyers. He has not been able to be re-employed ever since his arrest.

(Life in Quebec)

Apr 20 2015

SURREY, B.C. - The mayor of the British Columbia city at the centre of a gang war implored those shooting at each another to stop before more people are killed.



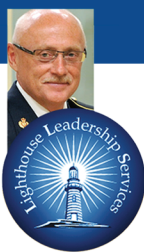
Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner's comments come after police named 22-year-old Arun Bains as the victim in a shooting over the weekend.

Mounties say Bains was known to be connected to the street-level drug trade and became the first person to lose his life after almost two dozen shootings in six weeks.

RCMP Assistant Commissioner Dan Mallow says police are united in taking action against a gang war that has erupted on Surrey streets.

Mallow says every officer in the region has been given information on the people who are known to be involved and that a tip line has been launched seeking help from the public.

Police have determined that 14 of the 22 shootings in Surrey and neighbouring Delta since March 9 are linked to a dispute between gangs of South Asian and Somalian descent.



BLUE LINE expo 2015 TRAINING

THE ENGAGED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE

Former OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis will be presenting a one-day seminar in conjunction with Blue Line EXPO Training. This session will be of particular interest to those involved in the management levels of police, security and governmental law enforcement.

Information and Registration at blueline.ca/expo

Apr 20 2015

TORONTO - The civilian body that reviews police behaviour in Ontario has significantly expanded its review of police use-of-force when dealing with people who live with mental health issues.



The Office of the Independent Police Review Director had been investigating Toronto police but says it will expand its review to include all police forces in the province.

Gerry McNeilly, the office's director, says it will examine past recommendations on policing those with mental health problems and training by police forces and colleges when dealing with those in distress.

McNeilly says the office will look at policies and procedures and how they are followed by police forces across Ontario.

The changes come more than a year after the OIPRD announced it would review Toronto police's use-of-force actions with those in distress and about 18 months after Sammy Yatim was shot and killed by police on a Toronto streetcar.

McNeilly says his office has already done a systemic review of the jury's recommendations from the coroner's inquest into the deaths of three mentally ill Toronto residents in 2013.

Apr 20 2015

OTTAWA - Shifting hundreds of RCMP officers to counter-terrorism duty has hurt the national police force's efforts to fight organized crime and espionage, a senior Mountie says.

The resource challenge is "negatively impacting" the force's ability to do everything it's expected to do, says Mike Cabana, deputy RCMP commissioner for federal policing.

"As a result, the RCMP recognizes that it needs to find a longer-term solution to be able to respond to the breadth of its federal policing mandate," Cabana told the Senate national security committee Monday.

"I can't tell you what our solution is because we don't have a solution right now. So we are looking at options."

Concerns about the threat of home-grown extremism have prompted the RCMP to move more than 600 officers to the terrorism file from organized crime cases and other areas.

Apr 20 2015

CHARLOTTETOWN - Court documents say the Mounties began collecting the household garbage of a Prince Edward Island man in December 2013 because they allege he had the castor beans necessary to produce a "substantial quantity" of the deadly toxin ricin.

A search warrant application filed with provincial court also says police acted on two complaints about Amir Raisolsadat in the summer of 2013 that were received by RCMP headquarters in Ottawa regarding alleged national security threats towards western countries.

The document was provided to by the court. None of the allegations in the document have been proven in court.

Raisolsadat's lawyer could not immediately be reached for comment after obtained the document.

Raisolsadat was arrested last month after the RCMP applied for a peace bond under Section 810.01 of the Criminal Code.

Information sworn in court indicates that the RCMP "fears on reasonable grounds" that he will commit a terrorism offence.

The 20-year-old man from Stratford, PEI, was released on conditions, including that he remain in the province.

His next court date is May 22nd.

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KAMLOOPS - Plans to fly the Kamloops-based RCMP Air 4 police helicopter permanently north to Prince George appear to be in a holding pattern.



Following a meeting with Mayor Peter Milobar last month, RCMP brass agreed to re-visit the decision to have Air 4 based out of Prince George.

"I haven't had any updates since it was put on hold," Milobar told KTW.

In February, the RCMP announced plans to move Air 4 to Prince George, noting the entire northern region of B.C. is without a police chopper. Under that plan, an RCMP helicopter would remain based in Kelowna to service the Southeast District, which includes Kamloops. But, Milobar noted, a previous RCMP internal review said Kamloops was the best southern Interior location for a police helicopter.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Rob Vermeulen said the locations of helicopters is being discussed with government officials, policing partners and others.

"B.C.'s air-services fleet are strategically placed throughout B.C. in order to support our policing services and unique geography," he said.

"Our assessment of air services in B.C. recommends the re-aligning of these resources more effectively by moving one of two helicopters currently in the Southeast District to our North District that currently does not have a helicopter, and moving one of our fixed-wing aircraft from North District to Southeast District that currently does not have a fixed-wing aircraft."

Vermeulen said the RCMP's North District makes up more than 70 per cent of B.C.'s geographic area. Milobar said he wants to see the remaining Southeast District helicopter based in Kamloops.

"Over the last while, especially, we've seen it used and deployed for the local RCMP," he said.

"It makes their operations safer. It's a service we've become accustomed to in the city and I think we need it."

(Kamloops This Week)

Mayors from the Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC say their towns are being overcharged for the services of the Sûreté du Québec.

According to Quebec's Public Security Ministry, the collective bill of the 23 towns within Vaudreuil-Soulanges, which stretches from L'Île-Perrot to Rigaud, is just under

\$24.9 million for 2015, or the equivalent of 110 per cent of their cost for the SQ service.

In contrast, the small Deux-Montagnes MRC pays about 38 per cent of its SQ service cost and the nearby Beauharnois-Salaberry MRC covers 55 per cent. Meanwhile, the rural Témiscamingue MRC pays about 17 per cent of its SQ service costs.

Across the province, the municipalities/counties patrolled by the SQ will pay 53 per cent, or \$309 million, for these policing services in 2015.

Vaudreuil-Dorion, at about \$6.7 million, and St-Lazare, at \$3.7 million, pay the most within Vaudreuil-Soulanges for the cost of the SQ which replaced the MRC's municipal police forces just over a decade ago.

Each town's share is calculated using general property valuations within their municipality and is not based on population, though these figures are noted on a ministry table for SQ payments.

Vaudreuil-Soulanges has about 147,400 residents, so the MRC's SQ share breaks down to about \$169 per person for this year. In comparison, the average per person in the province is about \$121 for the SQ service.

Vaudreuil-Dorion Mayor Guy Pilon describes their MRC's generous SQ share as nothing short of fiscal highway robbery imposed by the province.

"In the last five years, we've paid about \$24 million too much," he said. "As a mayor, I know they rob us. That's a fact. At the beginning when they asked us to leave our municipal police and go with the SQ, we were supposed to pay about 52 per cent of the bill, and then it went up over 80 per cent. Now, we're paying 110 per cent. For me, it's a robbery."

It's unfair to force a few MRCs with higher valuations to subsidize SQ costs in more remote regions, Pilon said, adding that these funds should come directly from the coffers of the provincial government.

"We are paying for police in other regions of the province of Quebec, we don't have to do that," he said. "We are a town, a MRC. Why are we paying for others? It's like if a town from here had to pay for fire protection in a town in the Gaspé or something like that."

(Montreal Gazette)



Apr 21 2015

TORONTO - Investigators say a gas leak caused a massive explosion that levelled a house in northeast Toronto killing one man inside, but they don't know what kind of flammable fuel was involved or where it came from.

At least 40 more homes in the area were damaged in Monday's blast and paramedics say a person from an adjacent house was treated for minor hand injuries.

Wayne Romaine, an investigator with the Ontario Fire Marshal's office, says crews are

asking nearby residents whether they smelled gas before the explosion.

He says the cause of the blast could be "migrant gases" that went through the soil and into the house's basement.

Crews are combing through the rubble for evidence and have brought in a cadaver dog to search for any other people who may have been hurt.

Investigators are expected to be at the site until Friday.

Police have identified a man who was pulled from the wreckage Monday and pronounced dead at the scene as Paul Zigomanis. Romaine says he was found at the back of the house.

Toronto fire Capt. Adrian Ratushniak says several homes in the immediate area were evacuated and the area was closed to traffic.

Photographs by Toronto fire show nothing but rubble left from the house that stood two-stories tall. Debris was scattered over hundreds of metres, some of it hanging from trees and on neighbouring houses.

Romaine says there is little fire damage to the debris, which suggests the fuel was spent after the explosion.

Having failed to gain public and political support in their fight against pension reform, Quebec's police departments are heading to court.



A federation of police forces across the province (FPMQ) is launching a court challenge to a pension reform law which will see most police officers and other municipal civil servants contribute more to their city-administered pension plans.

The provincial argument passed a law reforming pension plans last year, arguing that municipal pension plans were facing a multi-billion dollar shortfall caused by years of poor stock performance and under-contributions from municipalities.

In the lead-up to the passage of Bill 3 there were numerous protests from police forces, fire departments, and other civil servants across Quebec. Many municipal workers continue to report to work without their proper uniforms and have plastered their vehicles with stickers.

Now police officers are planning a court challenge, saying the modified law violates their constitutional right to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

FPMQ vice-president Paulin Aubé said some officers could lose \$200,000 in benefits because of the changes implemented by Bill 3.

The organization also argued that 25 out of 30 police force pension plans have enough funds to cover pensions for their members.

The FPMQ is anticipating a lengthy court case that will go to the Supreme Court of Canada and take six years to be resolved.

Meanwhile the federation of police officers is also calling for an end to municipal-administered pension plans.

The group says it would like to take control of the pension plans and create a province-wide fund for the use of police officers, no matter which municipality they work for.

The FPMQ represents 4,500 police officers across Quebec.
(CTV Montreal)

Apr 21 2015

HALIFAX - The RCMP says it has laid multiple charges against people in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia after a two-year drug trafficking investigation with ties to Colombian and Mexican drug cartels.

The Mounties say they began their investigation in the spring of 2013 and uncovered eight conspiracies to import cocaine into Canada from a number of countries including Antigua, Brazil, Colombia, Guyana and the United States.

During its investigation the RCMP says it seized vehicles, firearms, drug paraphernalia, cash and more than 200 kilograms of cocaine.

Fifteen people ranging in age from 28 to 69 are facing 45 charges including conspiracy to import cocaine and trafficking cocaine.

The RCMP says among those charged are 33-year-old Ryan James Wedding, a former Olympic snowboarder who lives in Montreal.

RCMP Cpl. Angela Corscadden says an employee of National Defence and another with the coast guard are also facing charges, but she wouldn't say whether their professions had any bearing on the alleged conspiracy.

All of the accused are from Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, Greenwood, N.S., and the Ontario communities of Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Maple.

Apr 21 2015

A Sûreté du Québec officer in Sept-Îles faces charges of breach of trust and interfering with the work of a peace officer for having allegedly sold inside information.

The charges follow a two-year investigation, which determined that Simon Carrier sold police information for cash, fraudulently received computer services and tricked colleagues into investigating an offence that never took place.

Carrier, 32, will appear in court in Port-Cartier on June 15. He is currently on paid leave from the force, the SQ said in a news release.
(Montreal Gazette)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2015

Apr 22 2015

TORONTO - Nine people have been charged and another is sought in a national human trafficking ring that Toronto police allege saw gang members romance teen girls and women to lure them into prostitution.

Police say the victims are between 15 and 33 years old and come from Ontario, Nova Scotia and Alberta.

Toronto police Insp. Joanna Beaven-Desjardins says they were recruited from

dance clubs, group homes and schools as well as online.

She says members of the Complex Grip Gangsters would romance the victims by showering them with attention and gifts and then slowly manipulate the victims into thinking prostitution was glamorous and lucrative."

The inspector says the victims would have between 10 and 15 clients per day and were beaten if they didn't bring in enough money.

The nine accused - six men and three women between the ages of 18 and 32 - face 61 human trafficking and drug-related charges between them.

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



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

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Apr 22 2015

FREDERICTON - The federal budget allocates up to \$1 million for a memorial for the three RCMP officers killed in Moncton, N.B., last year.



The budget says the federal government will continue to work with the New Brunswick government and the City of Moncton to fund a memorial that recognize the sacrifices of constables David Ross, Fabrice Gevaudan and Doug Larche.

Two other officers were wounded in the June 4 shootings.

New Brunswick Finance Minister Roger Melanson says the three levels of government have been discussing plans but he only learned of the federal funding when the budget was released and so far the province has not received a funding request.

Isabelle LeBlanc, the director of communications for the City of Moncton, says the public will soon be asked for input on the design of the memorial and the final concept will be unveiled in June.

Justin Bourque was sentenced to life in prison with no parole eligibility for 75 years after pleading guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

Apr 22 2015

VICTORIA - The British Columbia government has used civil forfeiture profits to return \$70,000 to a 91-year-old California woman who was tricked into giving away her life savings to a lottery scam.

The Justice Ministry and the Vancouver Police Department seized a commercial building they say was the headquarters of an alleged ring of international fraudsters.

Vancouver police say California police contacted them in April 2012 about how the woman was led to believe she'd won \$7.5 million and needed to wire money to a Vancouver bank to collect her prize.

Police say the woman transferred her money to a fake organization called the Australian Government Lottery but then couldn't reach the swindlers.

The B.C. Civil Forfeiture Office has faced criticism in the province and is currently the subject of a lawsuit filed by a West Vancouver woman.

She says the office tried to seize her home before she was acquitted of human trafficking in 2013.

Apr 22 2015

CALGARY - Calgary police are directing extra officers to combat a recent spike in property crime across the city and say they're already seeing results.

More than 60 officers are now "temporarily dedicated" to property crimes specifically, the Calgary Police Service said Wednesday, and the past week and a half of enhanced enforcement has resulted in 15 arrests and 109 criminal charges.

Four firearms were also seized during that time, police noted.

"While the operation targeting property crime is ongoing, police cannot address the growing number of thefts on their own," a release stated. "The public's help is needed and Calgarians can help prevent these crimes by making sure vehicles and property are secure."

The focus on property crime began last week after police observed a 76-per-cent increase in vehicle thefts, a 60-per-cent spike in car prowlings, and a 31-per-cent jump in residential break-ins, compared to the previous five-year average.

(Metro)

Apr 22 2015

BRAMPTON, Ont. - Peel police say an officer fired a shot, but missed, in an altercation with a "emotionally disturbed" man in Brampton, Ont.

They originally said an officer fired and wounded a man in his 20s and that an officer was injured.

Peel police spokeswoman Lilly Fitzpatrick now says the man has a "superficial cut to his hand" and no officers were injured.

"We originally thought it was a horror show when it was first called in, but we have clarified what happened," Fitzpatrick said.

Police were called to a home at 1:27 p.m. Wednesday from a mother who was concerned about her "emotionally disturbed" son.

The man was armed with a knife when officers arrived and an "altercation" occurred, Fitzpatrick said.

Police say they have notified the Special Investigations Unit, but it's unclear if the provincial police watchdog will investigate because the injuries are minor.

Apr 22 2015

TISDALE, Sask. - Mounties say they believe a man went to a mobile home in rural Saskatchewan and killed a woman and her three children.

They say he spared a six-month-old baby in the trailer, then drove with the infant from the town of Tisdale to Prince Albert.

The man killed himself in a house there and the infant was found unharmed.

RCMP say the child is now in the care of family members. Police have not revealed how the victims died, but say the children were all under the age of nine.

Investigators say the suspect was known to the victims, but are not releasing more details on their relationship or a possible motive.

The manager of the mobile home parks says he was called when police made the discovery. He says the woman's husband was also there and seemed very distraught.

Tisdale, a town of about 3,200 people, is 210 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon.

Apr 22 2015

TORONTO - Children's aid societies have been told to immediately stop using a controversial hair analysis program for drug and alcohol use as the province continues its review of the test that has been used in multiple child protection and criminal cases.

The province also says the review of the Motherisk hair analysis program at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto will be expanded to include all tests done at the laboratory over the past five years.

Last year, Ontario's highest court set aside a criminal conviction on the basis of differing expert opinions about a particular hair-testing method previously used by Motherisk.

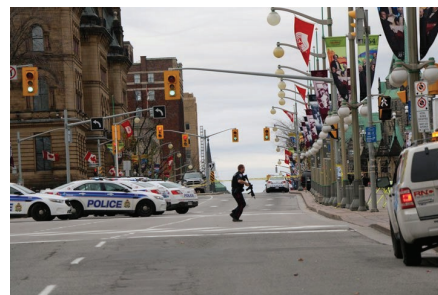
The current review by retired judge Susan Lang was originally much smaller in scope and the final report that was due by June 30 is now due Dec. 15.

Lang will also examine how closely Motherisk adhered to "internationally recognized forensic standards" going back 10 years.

The office of the attorney general says the rationale to stop the test by children's aid societies was made out of an "abundance of caution."

Apr 22 2015

OTTAWA - Hundreds of millions of dollars of promised new security spending in the federal budget will not be an instant solution to national law-enforcement challenges, academic analysts say.



The pre-election budget doles out almost \$293 million over five years to police and intelligence agencies for additional resources to fight extremism.

"This government will stand up to keep Canadians safe," Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said Wednesday in the House of Commons.

A spokesman for the minister stressed that security commentators have praised the planned expenditures as a step in the right direction. However, University of Ottawa intelligence expert Wesley Wark notes just

\$18 million of the money is earmarked for 2015-16, despite apparently pressing needs, particularly at the RCMP.

Almost a third of the five-year funding outlay - \$92 million - is delayed until 2019-2020, Wark noted. "This is not a serious response to current needs."

Concerns about homegrown extremism have prompted the Mounties to move more than 600 officers to counter-terrorism duties from investigating organized crime, espionage and other serious offences.

That has prompted criticism the RCMP is being asked to do too much with too little.

The Mounties recognize they need to find "a longer-term solution" to respond to the breadth of their federal policing mandate, Mike Cabana, the RCMP's deputy commissioner for federal policing, told the Senate national security committee earlier this week.

The RCMP doesn't have the money to dramatically increase the number of new recruits, he added.

In any event, it will take time to develop new officers to cover the personnel shortfall, said Jez Littlewood, an assistant professor of international affairs at Carleton University.

Littlewood expects some of the new federal money will go toward enlisting Mounties. But "we'll probably have to live with this internal reallocation of resources by the likes of the RCMP and deal with the risks that entails" for many months, he added.

"It takes time to recruit people, train people, reallocate people," Littlewood said.

"And if we look at the post-9-11 change across western democracies, it was two or three years before you saw the real increases in personnel and training and activity following the budget spikes in late 2001, early 2002." Federal security efforts have come under close scrutiny in the six months since two Canadian soldiers were killed by jihadi-inspired "lone-wolf" attackers just days apart.

Anti-terrorism legislation introduced in response to the attacks would make it easier for the RCMP to obtain a peace bond to restrict the movements of suspects and extend the amount of time they can be kept in preventative detention.

The legislation would also give the Canadian Security Intelligence Service more power to thwart a suspect's travel plans, disrupt bank transactions and covertly interfere with radical websites.

It is hard to read the strategic thinking behind the government's longer-term budget projections, "but it may reflect a sense that CSIS will need more resources over time as it rolls out disruption operations, especially overseas," Wark said.

The budget also allocates \$12.5 million in new money for the Security Intelligence Review Committee, the watchdog that keeps an eye on CSIS - almost doubling its resources.

But both Wark and Littlewood noted there was no new funding for the watchdog that monitors the Communications Security

Establishment, Canada's electronic spy agency, which works closely with CSIS in tracking suspected terrorists.

(CTV News)

Apr 22 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver is about to become the first city in Canada to regulate medical-marijuana dispensaries, setting up strict conditions that will include obtaining a special business licence, paying a \$30,000 permit fee and not operating close to a school or community centre.



The changes will likely further entrench Vancouver's famously relaxed approach to marijuana, legitimizing dispensaries that have flourished in all corners of the city despite the federal government's insistence that they are illegal.

The number of dispensaries has skyrocketed in the city in the past couple of years from less than a dozen to 80.

"We've got more shops than Tim Hortons," said Kerry Jang, the Vision Vancouver councillor and psychiatry professor who has taken the lead on the contentious issue. "We can't regulate a product. But we can regulate a business."

Vancouver is now home to about half of the dispensaries in Canada, say marijuana activists, with the rest scattered across various towns and cities, including half a dozen in Toronto.

For the past year, amid rising public complaints, Dr. Jang had said repeatedly there was little the city could do about the shops because only the federal government could regulate the sale of drugs and the city couldn't create a business category just for marijuana.

But Wednesday, Dr. Jang said the city, after staff looked for a solution, will now be "creating something called the marijuana-uses business licence."

He said that stores starting to set up near schools propelled council to take action.

After looking at the way the states of Washington and Colorado, which both legalized marijuana outright, regulated their retail outlets, Vancouver city staff proposed the hefty fee and rules that prohibit dispensaries within 300 metres of schools and community centres, as well as within that distance of another dispensary.

Dr. Jang said he estimated that about two-thirds of the stores would have to close or move. But, he said, the number remaining would be enough to serve the market in the city.

(Globe and Mail)

THURSDAY
APRIL 23, 2015

Apr 23 2015

PETERBOROUGH - Mayor Daryl Bennett will appeal the verdict of the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, which found him guilty last year of violating the rules as a member of the Peterborough Police Services Board.

The OCPC has announced its penalty, removing Bennett from the board. Bennett was suspended from the board in 2013.

"The mayor's conduct was so extreme and so far off any range of acceptable member conduct that we find he has exhausted the possibility of ever being an effective member of the board," the decision states.

Bennett had been accused of violating board policies and speaking out against the investigation into his conduct. During the hearings, he testified that he was acting in the best interests of the public, while the OCPC contended that when he joined the police board his responsibilities to it superseded his role as mayor.

"Mayor Bennett does not seem to agree to or feel the need to abide by his responsibilities and obligations as a board member," the decision states. "Mayor Bennett testified and demonstrated a belief that he should be able to say whatever he wants, whenever he wants and to whomever he wants."

Bennett said he had no comment Thursday morning.

In a letter to media, his lawyer, Richard Taylor, states that Bennett will now appeal to divisional court.

"The OCPC decision represents an attempt to censure Mayor Bennett," Taylor wrote. "Whether this represents a proper censorship pursuant to Charter rights will also be the subject of judicial review. Mayor Bennett will not be silenced."

Bennett's appeal will be based on three factors, Taylor states. First, that the OCPC did not consider some crucial evidence during the hearing process, which stretched over several months last year. Second, that the OCPC did not follow due process, and third, that the tribunal made errors in law.

"The case has cast light on aspects of police services board governance," Taylor wrote. "Furthermore, it has cast new light and attention to proper civilian oversight of police services. All of those matters are worthy of public engagement and full and open public debate."

(Peterborough Examiner)

Apr 23 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Newfoundland and Labrador's premier is backtracking after telling the legislature he directed the RCMP in its probe of a deadly shooting involving an officer on his security team.

Paul Davis now says he misspoke Wednesday when he said during question period that he asked the Mounties to "do a full,

fair and frank investigation.”

Liberal Opposition Leader Dwight Ball is pressing Davis to explain why he would get personally involved with the RCMP's work.

Davis, a former constable with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, says he has had no direct involvement and does not know if his office is under investigation.

Don Dunphy was shot dead Easter Sunday by an unnamed Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer investigating perceived threats on Twitter.

Lawyer Erin Breen, representing Dunphy's family members, says they want an outside police force to investigate for greater objectivity.

Davis has fended off that request, along with calls for a public inquiry, saying the RCMP should complete a probe that will be assessed by a retired judge.

Apr 23 2015

A 42-year-old man has died following a police intervention in St-Anicet, in the Montérégie region.

Sûreté du Québec police officers were called to a house in the town around 1:30 a.m. Thursday, where a man was suicidal and armed.

According to the Montreal Police, now in charge of the investigation for transparency reasons, there were “possibly” shots fired between the SQ officers and the man.

The SQ's tactical squad was called in as reinforcements, and found the man dead after he'd been “hit by at least one gun shot,” said Montreal Police spokesperson Abdullah Emran.

Emran said it's too early in the investigation to know if the man was shot by police officers or if he shot himself.

SPVM investigators were headed to the town Thursday morning to try to establish what happened.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 23 2015

MONTREAL - The provincial police ethics committee has determined five Montreal police officers did not act inappropriately in how they handled Maria Altagracia Dorval's complaint against her abusive husband before she was killed.

In a decision made public on Wednesday, the Comité de déontologie policière ruled that the five - Constables Danny Chicoine, Éric Sabourin, Estelle Motta, Det-Sgt. Geneviève Leclerc and Lt-Det. Marcel Thifault - did not violate the Quebec Police Ethics Code.

The five were called before the committee last year in a case where they were cited, collectively, 22 times for how they handled Dorval's complaint that her estranged husband, Edens Kenol, had threatened to kill her.

Dorval was murdered on Oct. 17, 2010, six days after she reported to police that Kenol had threatened to kill her and their three children two months earlier. She reported that more recently he had been following her, banging on her apartment door and harassing her by phone.

No police detective had responded to Dorval's complaint by the time of her murder on Oct. 17, 2010, in her apartment in Montreal North. Kenol was convicted of first degree murder in the spring of 2013, and is serving a life sentence with no chance of parole until 2038.

Quebec's police ethics commissioner determines which complaints are brought before the committee and the administrative tribunal hears evidence before deciding whether a police officer has done anything wrong. In this case, the commissioner's citations alleged the Montreal police mishandled Dorval's complaint from the moment it was taken by Constables Chicoine and Sabourin and then passed on to investigators who considered it a priority, but not urgent.

According to the 56-page decision released Wednesday, Chicoine and Sabourin told the committee that Dorval appeared calm to them when they took her complaint, on Oct. 11, 2010, outside her cousin's home where she had fled to in order to avoid Kenol. They said the only time Dorval expressed fear was in reference to a threat Kenol made the previous August. She said Kenol threatened to kill her and their three children with a knife. Dorval told the constables she did not know where Kenol was living or worked and they were not able to reach him through a cellphone number she provided to them.

The constables told the committee they recommended to Dorval that she move herself and her three children to an address Kenol did not know about, but that she told them she would return to her cousin's home.

The constables then followed procedure by placing Kenol's name, and a description of vehicles he used, in a Canada-wide police database, forwarded a copy of Dorval's complaint to a CLSC and to the Montreal police investigations centre. They told her an investigator would contact her. The constables faced six citations in the case, but the ethics committee found no fault in how they handled the complaint.

Motta was in charge of patrol officers for Station 42 the evening Chicoine and Sabourin took the complaint. She was informed, by the constables, that Dorval was in a safe place with relatives and did not want to relocate. Motta told the committee that after going over the complaint with both constables, that same night, she was concerned Kenol had previously threatened to kill Dorval with a knife and determined it was a case that should be handled by an investigator right away.

Motta was called before the committee on five citations and the ethics committee found nothing wrong with how she handled the complaint. The ethics commissioner also cited Leclerc for not having immediately followed up on Dorval's complaint “given the seriousness of the threat contained in the case.”

Two days after the complaint was filed, Leclerc reviewed it and a series of other events Dorval had reported to police in the previous three months. Based on the review, Leclerc considered it “a priority case and

that she should call (Dorval) in the following days.” But Leclerc was also of the opinion that “it was not an urgent case that had to be treated immediately. There was nothing to lead her to believe that Dorval's life was in danger and that four days later her partner (would end up killing her).”

At the same time, Leclerc was investigating a different conjugal violence case where the suspect had violated a court order to keep away from the victim and was making harassing phone calls.

The committee was left to weigh how Leclerc handled the fact Kenol had threatened to kill Dorval with a knife the previous August. Such a complaint should be handled immediately, the committee noted in its decision, but it also noted Dorval only reported the death threat nearly two months later.

In a follow-up report on what transpired, a Montreal police commander determined Leclerc should have called Dorval herself immediately to determine whether she felt safe. But he later clarified that, after having read all of the reports on Leclerc's investigation, there was nothing that indicated Dorval feared for her life (on Oct. 11). Two other superior officers in the Montreal police supported what the commander said - that the degree of seriousness in Dorval's complaint was affected by her delay in reporting it.

The committee agreed that Leclerc had to factor in the nearly two-month delay. The tribunal also noted that Dorval waited 24 hours from the time she first tried to file her complaint, on Oct. 10, 2010, at Station 39 which was closed, to when she called 911 and was met by Chicoine and Sabourin.

Both Leclerc and Thifault (an investigator who reviewed Dorval's case before Leclerc and also determined she wasn't in immediate danger) were cited five times by the commissioner, but the ethics committee found nothing wrong with how they handled the complaint.

(Montreal Gazette)



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