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A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community |

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Executive Digest

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Reigning in policing costs through privatization



Apr 28 2015

TORONTO - To arrest soaring costs, a new report is calling for sweeping changes to the policing model in Ontario, including transferring many functions performed by front-line officers to civilians or other "private sector security providers."

"The purpose of this paper is not to outline the economic problem, but to consider how the future might look," says the just released 45-page report prepared by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Ontarians pay the highest policing costs in Canada, including both provincial and municipal expenditures, the report states. "Over many years and many economic swings, police budgets have not seen some

of the more aggressive cuts experienced by other public services," the report says. "But a wall has been hit."

The report contains 31 far-reaching recommendations aimed at modernizing the delivery of police services while reining in costs. Many would require the provincial government to change the Police Services Act, which governs policing matters across Ontario. It and accompanying regulations have not been reviewed in any substantive manner since they were enacted in the late '90s, the report says.

Key proposals are changes to collective bargaining and the arbitration system, which has led to "leapfrogging" wages.

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police salaries increased by 40 per cent between 2000 and 2011, while Canadians in non-policing occupations averaged pay raises of only 11 per cent, the report says.

The report also recommends strengthening civilian oversight and changing legislation to permit "greater transfer of specific functions to civilians or other security providers where appropriate."

In particular, this applies to court security, prisoner transportation services and many "paid duty" functions, especially in larger cities.

"We see that as an opportunity and a better use, I might add, of policing resources if they're concentrating on front-line policing," says Kapuskasing Mayor Al Spacek, who chaired AMO's 13-member policing modernization task force.

"Let civilians and others do the paperwork, or the data entry or some non-critical investigative aspects of their work."

The report coincides with the arrival of Toronto's new police chief, Mark Saunders, who was selected after promising to bring forward "innovative ideas on cost savings" that "challenge the status quo."

Toronto Police Services Board chair Alok Mukherjee and Dorothy McDonald, who oversees the Halton Regional Police Services Board, sat on the AMO task force that interviewed experts, reviewed academic research and held thorough and lengthy discussions on the future of policing.

"We are hopeful that the (provincial) government will consider some of our recommendations, and we are certainly willing to continue the discussion with them, as we are a major partner in delivery of the service and certainly the major funder," Spacek said Tuesday.

Through AMO, Ontario's 444 municipalities work together to achieve shared goals and coordinate advocacy, the Toronto-based organization says on its website. (Toronto Star)

THURSDAY APRIL 23, 2015

Apr 23 2015

PORT HAWKESBURY, N.S. - A head sheriff in Nova Scotia has been acquitted of sexual assault.

RCMP arrested and charged 60-year-old James William Snow of Cape Jack in November 2008.

The complainant testified that Snow called her three times the day before the alleged incident took place in Troy.

But during cross examination, the defence used phone records to call into question the times and lengths of those calls.

The Crown determined there was no realistic chance of conviction Thursday, leading chief Justice Joseph Kennedy to order an acquittal.

Snow had been a sheriff for more than 30 years in various parts of the province before being placed on a leave. (CIGO)

Apr 23 2015

VANCOUVER - The federal government is telling the City of Vancouver it does not have the authority to legitimize pot with its proposal to regulate "illegal" medical marijuana dispensaries.

Health Minister Rona Ambrose sent a letter to Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson on Thursday saying she was "deeply concerned" by the city's plans to discuss regulation at an upcoming council meeting.

"Marijuana is not an approved drug or medicine, and Health Canada does not endorse its use," reads the letter obtained by .

"Legitimizing and normalizing the use and sale of marijuana can have only one effect: increasing marijuana use and addiction."

City staff will present a report to council on Tuesday recommending regulating the booming medical pot industry. The rules would include a \$30,000 licensing fee and require the shops to be at least 300 metres from schools, community centres and other dispensaries.

In the letter, the health minister says there are serious health risks associated with smoking marijuana. She argues "normalizing" pot could mean more than tripling its use by youth.

Ambrose writes that although Canadian courts have required the government to allow access to marijuana when authorized by a doctor, the law says this must be done in a controlled way.

"These regulations are clear and do not provide municipalities with the authority to legitimize the commercial sale of marijuana, which remains an illegal substance," she says.

She says the government implemented the Marijuana for Medical Purposes (MMPR) regulations in June 2013 with the aim of treating marijuana like other narcotics used for medical purposes.

"Storefronts and dispensaries do not operate within a 'grey zone,' and the law is clear: they are illegal."

City manager Penny Ballem told reporters on Wednesday that the federal approach had created "greyness and confusion," forcing the city to intervene.

Apr 23 2015

MONTREAL - A woman who posted an image online of a senior Montreal police officer with a bullet in his head was convicted Thursday of criminal harassment.

Jennifer Pawluck was charged in 2013 after snapping a photo of graffiti, which she didn't draw, and uploading it to Instagram, a photo-sharing social media site.

Quebec court Judge Marie-Josée Di Lallo said she had no doubt the criteria necessary to find Pawluck guilty of harassment had been met.

The judge also made it clear that online behaviour can have repercussions.

"We must be conscious that a simple click from a smartphone or computer, that takes just a fraction of a second, can have serious consequences," Di Lallo said. "At a time when social media is taking more and more place in our lives, we must be even more vigilant."

Cmdr. Ian Lafreniere, one of the city's most visible police officers and the man whose face was on the graffiti, told Pawluck's trial the image shook him up, scared his children and caused his wife to stop working for several months.

Pawluck, now 22, testified in late February she posted the snap without even knowing who Lafreniere was. She conceded the image was not "peaceful" in nature but that she'd sent it as a statement against police in general - not one officer in particular.

The judge expressed skepticism about Pawluck's claim on the identity issue, given her involvement as an activist during student demonstrations in 2012.

Lafreniere is the main voice of the police force during major events and was very visible on TV during the highly charged student protests, which featured numerous clashes between authorities and demonstrators.


His name was scrawled on the graffiti and his name spelled two different ways was among the hashtags added by Pawluck, including an anti-police tag #acab - which stands for all cops are bastards.

The judge said she felt the evidence presented was sufficient.

"Seeing your face drawn, with a bullet in the head, one cannot help but feel threatened," Di Lallo said. "And this, even if you're a police officer."

A smirking Pawluck left the courthouse repeating "no comment" as a friend shielded her from cameras. Her lawyer, Valerie De Guise, also declined to speak.

Pawluck was charged under a summary offence, meaning the maximum sentence is six months in jail or a \$5,000 fine. Sentencing arguments will take place May 14.



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CALGARY - A Calgary judge has ruled that a recorded confession to an undercover police officer by the couple accused of killing a six-year-old girl will be admitted into evidence.

Meika Jordan died in hospital from blunt force trauma in November 2011.

Meika's father, Spencer Jordan, and his spouse, Marie Magoon were charged with first-degree murder in July 2013. Meika was staying with Jordan and Magoon in the days before her death.

The couple said Meika's injuries were from falling down stairs and both have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

During the trial, the Crown alleged that the couple tortured Meika for several days and that her injuries were not consistent with a fall down stairs.

On Thursday, Justice Rosemary Nation ruled that confessions made by Jordan and Magoon to police during a Mr. Big sting operation would be allowed.

The couple admitted to an undercover officer, posing as a crime boss, to abusing Meika in the days before her death.

The prosecution wrapped up its case on Thursday afternoon and the defence says neither accused will be taking the stand.

Lawyers for Jordan and Magoon also say they will not be calling evidence in the case.

Final argument are expected to get underway on Monday.

(CTV Calgary)

Be careful what you write about police officers online - if you live in Granby, Que., you could get slapped with a hefty fine.

The municipality about an hour outside of Montreal is seeking the right to issue fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 to people caught insulting police officers or municipal employees on the internet.

"We've given statements of infractions to people who have insulted police officers on the net or through social media," Bouchard said.

"We already apply it that way, our bylaw. We just modified it to make sure that there was no ambiguity."

The proposed modifications to the bylaw would prohibit anyone from making defamatory statements or slurs against city employees online.

"Are we insulting a police officer in the discharge of his duties? That's the offence that we are rewriting, if I may, in a very clear manner that regards social media and internet," Bouchard said.

She said she wasn't aware of any constitutional challenges to the previous bylaw, which has existed for more than a decade. She said other Quebec municipalities have similar bylaws.

"If you put something out on the internet, I don't know what the expectation of privacy is," Bouchard said.

"Let's say I write something about you that's derogatory or that's insulting ... do

I have the freedom to write anything about you?"

"Your freedom of speech does not give you the right to say anything about anybody you want in an insulting manner. I can't destroy your reputation and who you are because I have freedom of speech."

The new bylaw rules will be considered at a city council meeting on May 4.

(CBC News)

ST. CATHARINES - A decision to fast-forward a pilot project to mount body cameras on Niagara Regional Police officers was put on pause Tuesday.

The police services board voted to shuffle the issue to their technology committee rather than forge ahead.

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire recommended the board wait for the results of a study already underway with the Toronto Police Service, the Attorney General and the OPP.

Board chairman Bob Gale sided with the chief. "Toronto is already spending the money," he said. "Why waste our money? Let them waste their money."

Board member Ken Gansel said he didn't want the board to rush into pilot project even with the money already set aside.

"We are going to eventually make a decision, and I think the right one will be to deploy body cameras," he said. "I really feel having the research data from Toronto ... is vital."



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McGuire said the NRP executive was already looking into body cameras.

"There are procedural issues that have to be developed," McGuire said. "When the camera is on? When the camera is off? There are issues the Privacy Commissioner has recently addressed. It is not simply a matter of hanging a camera on an officer. There is also the data storage piece, which is financially terrifying to many police services."

"How long do we store data for? What do we do about redaction when it has to go to court? All of those things involve extra full-time employees. I know the OPP, to implement their system, is looking at millions upon millions of dollars for data storage."

(St. Catharines Standard)

FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2015

Apr 24 2015

MARKHAM, Ont. - Seven people have been arrested in what police are calling an elaborate ketamine production and trafficking ring in the Toronto area.



Police say they raided 10 homes in Toronto and Markham on Thursday and seized more than 60 kilograms of ketamine as well as more than \$300,000 in cash.

They say two of the homes have been quarantined as suspected drug labs and are scheduled to be dismantled over the next two days.

Six of the suspects - a woman and five men - are charged with conspiracy to produce ketamine, production of ketamine, drug possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of property obtained by crime.

Another woman is charged with drug possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of property obtained by crime.

Police say the investigation is still in its early stages.

Apr 24 2015

OWEN SOUND - A city police officer will not face dozens of Police Services Act charges because he has resigned, an Owen Sound Police Service news release said Friday.

Const. Brian Follis faced 48 charges, including 28 counts of insubordination, two counts of breach of confidence and one count each of discreditable conduct, neglect of duty and deceit.

Most related to allegations Follis "ac-

cessed police records for purposes not related to his duties," an earlier police news release said.

(Sun Times)

Apr 24 2015

OTTAWA - A U.S. border officer who commits an on-duty crime in Canada would generally face justice in an American court under a new binational agreement.



But if the crime is murder, terrorism or sexual assault, a trial could take place in Canada, according to the agreement made public this week.

The fine print of the deal, tabled in Parliament, sets out a complex regime for determining officer accountability on both sides of the border under the Canada-U.S. preclearance scheme.

The arrangement will expand the American customs presence on Canadian soil and is expected to see Canada establish similar operations in the United States.

Currently, passengers flying to American cities through eight major Canadian airports can be precleared there by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers. The new arrangement expands the concept to land crossings and rail and marine services, with the aim of making travel between the two countries more speedy and secure.

In the rail mode, for example, this could mean preclearing passengers and their luggage in Canada before travellers leave the train station, thereby avoiding a stop at the Canada-U.S. border, the federal government says.

Mutual respect of both countries' sovereignty and laws is "a fundamental principle" of the agreement, Public Safety Canada said in response to questions about the accountability provisions.

In general, the U.S. would have primary jurisdiction over its preclearance officers for offences committed while performing official duties in Canada. Canada, meanwhile, would have primary criminal jurisdiction over acts committed by U.S. preclearance officers outside of work, including when they are commuting to and from the job.

However, Canada would have jurisdiction over "serious cases of on-duty conduct, notably cases of murder, aggravated sexual assault and terrorism," in cases where U.S. officials agree such charges are warranted under U.S. law and Canada has asked Washington to waive its jurisdiction.

In other serious cases of on-duty conduct, the U.S. would have jurisdiction but Canada

could ask the Americans to waive it.

The arrangement is reciprocal, so the same principles would apply for any Canada Border Services Agency officers performing preclearance duties on U.S. soil.

A binational council of senior Canadian and U.S. officials will meet regularly to monitor implementation of the criminal liability framework, Public Safety says.

Apr 24 2015

The head of the Yukon RCMP says police are too often called on to deal with the homeless in Whitehorse. Chief Supt. Peter Clark says police are "the wrong tool, the last tool of support" for vulnerable citizens.

Clark spoke as part of a panel discussion on Friday, at a forum on vulnerable people. The event was organized by the city and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

"I'm kept awake at night by the fact that last year, in 2014, we arrested over 3,000 citizens here in Whitehorse," Clark said. "Many of them are the vulnerable people we are talking about today, they are not criminals."

Clark said one woman in Whitehorse has spent 118 nights in custody, for her safety, and "118 times she has left our care." The woman has no criminal record, Clark said.

Clark told the forum that police are often frontline workers, trying to help people who are living with mental illness, food insecurity, homelessness and addictions, "things that police are not the best tool or the best response for."

Clark said the city's different organizations need to work together. He says one of the challenges faced by frontline support workers is that they can't share information about individuals who may be at risk.

Clark says a true collaborative approach requires "legislation, or policies, or practices that allow us to talk to each other about these clients."

The forum's goal on Friday was to develop some concrete ideas to help vulnerable people. Organizers say they'll develop an action plan based on what they've heard.

(CBC News)

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2015

Apr 25 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Police in Newfoundland are responding to criticism over their search for a missing man who was later found dead by friends.

Sheldon Quinton of St. John's was found dead in his pickup truck off a highway outside the city on Thursday morning.

Friends of Quinton say they grew impatient with the police response and began their own search for the 42-year-old, who was reported missing after he failed to show up for work on Monday.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says police are rarely the ones to locate a missing person, and that tips from the public

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are usually responsible for the outcome of a search.

Const. Steve Curnew says a missing persons case can be like looking for a needle in a haystack without help from the public.

Police say officers looked into several leads and asked the RCMP to keep checking along the highway.
(VOCM)

Apr 25 2015

CALGARY - Alberta's justice minister has stepped down in the middle of the provincial election campaign.

An Alberta government news release quotes Premier Jim Prentice saying that he learned on Saturday morning that "legal proceedings have commenced between Jonathan Denis and his estranged wife."

Prentice says in the release that given the involvement of the courts, he asked for and received Denis' resignation as justice minister and solicitor general.

Agriculture Minister Verlyn Olson will take on the job "for the time being."

Apr 25 2015

SURREY, B.C. - Surrey RCMP's top cop is sticking to his guns over his decision to release to the public the names and photos of gunfire victims related to a series of shootings in Surrey and North Delta since the beginning of March.



Concern was raised Friday that the Surrey RCMP might be vulnerable to a lawsuit for doing so.

At a Surrey Board of Trade luncheon Friday, where Fordy was guest speaker, the police chief was roundly applauded for his stand.

"I am the person completely responsible for the release of that information," he told his audience. "I assume all criticism that might go with that release. I made that decision based on my desire to advance the investigation."

Fordy said he knew his decision came with some risk.

"I expected criticism," he said. "I anticipated more criticism."

"I believe it was the right decision. I would do it again," he said to much hand clapping.

The names and photos were released during two RCMP press conferences in recent weeks where Mounties expressed concerns the individuals were not co-operating with investigators.

To date there has been 23 shootings in

Surrey and North Delta and police believe many of those are related to a drug turf battle between groups of Somali and South Asian descent.

There has been one fatality.
(Surrey Now)



Apr 26 2015

VANCOUVER - A prosecutor's rare tactics to block a British Columbia man who murdered his three children from gaining some freedom is laying the groundwork for a possible test of the Conservative government's tough-on-crime agenda.

The Crown will be gathering an update on the mental state of Allan Schoenborn at the same time as she opposes his limited release being sought by doctors when his annual review resumes on Wednesday.

Schoenborn's horrific crime was pushed back into the national spotlight when Prime Minister Stephen Harper used the case in 2013 to bolster amendments to the Criminal Code.

Harper promised his legislation would ensure that people too dangerous to be released would no longer be a threat to their victims. The bill passed last year.

Those watching the case believe prosecutors are manoeuvring to seek the bill's new high-risk designation for Schoenborn, which would be a first for the province and the most high-profile use of the new laws to date.

Schoenborn was declared not criminally responsible on account of a mental disorder, or NCRMD, for stabbing his daughter and smothering his two sons in their Merritt, B.C., home in April 2008. A B.C. Supreme Court judge found he was likely suffering from a psychotic state.

He has been held in custody at a psychiatric hospital in suburban Vancouver ever since.

The B.C. Review Board is now considering whether supervised outings would aid his rehabilitation.

The hearings began in February and are scheduled for up to three more days this week. Most hearings take about half a day.

In an unusual step, an expert critical of international guidelines used to assess the degree of Schoenborn's threat is expected to testify.



Apr 27 2015

Police forces in the Maritimes are watching closely as other cities experiment with police body cameras.

Halifax deputy chief Bill Moore says it's not quite that easy and leaves officers with many questions.

"When do you turn them on? When do you turn them off? If I go into your home

and you don't want me to have that, are you then allowed to ask the police officer to turn it off?" he asks.

"Those are the questions that we need to work through."
(CBC News)

Apr 27 2015

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Stephen Harper's national security adviser says planned new powers for Canada's spy agency seem more frightening than they really are.



Dick Fadden says giving the Canadian Security Intelligence Service the ability to disrupt extremist plots will help squelch such activity at a very early stage.

Fadden, a former CSIS director, tells a Senate committee the government's anti-terrorism bill will allow security agencies to take a more surgical approach to dealing with jihadi-inspired radicals.

The bill would give the spy service explicit power to alert the family and friends of a suspected extremist.

It would also allow the spy service to thwart a suspect's travel plans, disrupt bank transactions and covertly interfere with radical websites.

The legislation would also 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.

Apr 27 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver's finest have hatched a plan to help 10 jail birds fly the coop from police headquarters, and everything turned out ducky in the end.

Sgt. Randy Fincham says a concerned citizen reported a mother duck and nine ducklings marooned on the third-floor patio ledge at the police department on Sunday.

Officers responded, and after a brief investigation determined the mother likely laid her eggs near the building's outdoor vegetable garden, where they were born.

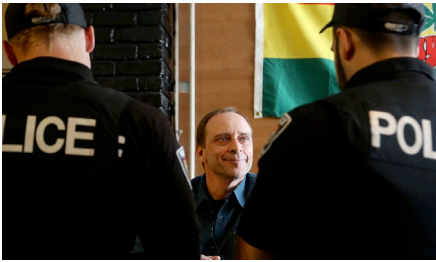
Fincham says three officers and a wildlife volunteer corralled the ducklings into a box and took them to street level, where they were soon joined by their mother, who swooped down from the building.

Fincham says the police and volunteer worked together to stop traffic, cyclists and the occasional dog as they walked the box of ducklings towards False Creek while the mother waddled behind.

He says the birds were safely released into the water, and the group learned that policing isn't always quite what it's quacked up to be.

Apr 27 2015

OTTAWA - Ottawa's first cannabis lounge had a soft launch this week - with a couple of tough customers.



The Buzz On lounge officially opens on May 1, but Ottawa police paid a visit to the Montreal Road business on Monday to ask the owner some questions.

Wayne Robillard, 51, has been accepting customers since April 20 - also known as 4/20, a day celebrated by marijuana advocates - while he was setting up tables, games and televisions.

He said he doesn't need a business licence from the city because he's not selling anything - just \$7-a-day "memberships" that allow people to come inside to socialize and consume cannabis, either with a vapour machine or by smoking it. Visitors can also rent a variety of cannabis paraphernalia for a small fee.

Robillard says he's filling a void in the market and following in the footsteps of similar operations in Toronto, which has had at least five vapour rooms open for the past few years.

He acknowledges smoking and possessing marijuana is illegal, but it's not illegal to allow customers to come in and use it - at their own risk, he said.

He said he has so far been welcoming an average of 25 customers a day.

The city directed all comments to the police.

Police Chief Charles Bordeleau confirmed to reporters prior to Monday evening's police services board meeting that the force is monitoring the shop.

(Ottawa Citizen)

TUESDAY
APRIL 28, 2015

Apr 28 2015

BURNS LAKE, B.C. - RCMP are investigating the murders of three people whose bodies were found in a home in Burns Lake, B.C.

Police say officers entered the residence on Monday after receiving a report about potential foul play. They discovered two men and a woman dead inside but are not releasing their names at this time.

A 54-year-old man has been arrested in the village that is in the north-central part of British Columbia.

Police believe the incident is isolated and that the public is not at risk.

RCMP officers from four different units are helping Burns Lake Mounties in the investigation.

Apr 28 2015

A North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP officer remains off duty with injuries after his police cruiser was hit from behind at a red light on Sunday afternoon.

The officer was stopped about 2:30 p.m. when his cruiser was struck by a 2009 Pontiac Vibe operated by a 57-year-old Saanich man, said RCMP spokeswoman Cpl. Krista Hobday.

The Saanich driver and the passenger in his vehicle remained at the scene and co-operated with the investigation.

The officer was taken to hospital and treated for back injuries. It's unclear when he'll be able to return to duty, Hobday said.

(Victoria Times Colonist)

Apr 28 2015

METRO VANCOUVER - A former New Westminster police officer is facing criminal charges following an internal theft investigation.

New Westminster police said Tuesday that Crown counsel has approved charges against Const. Adam Spindor, who had eight years of service and was terminated in March as a result of the investigation.

Spindor, who will appear in New Westminster provincial court Wednesday, is charged with theft of money, the property of the New Westminster Police Department, Street Crime Unit; breach of trust by committing theft; and theft of money and other items, the property of the City

of New Westminster, Police Department.

A police spokesman said that because the matter is before the courts, they will not provide further details at this time.

(Vancouver Sun)

Apr 28 2015

SURREY, B.C. - British Columbia Premier Christy Clark has announced more funding for an overburdened anti-gang initiative in Surrey, the city at the centre of a gang war.



Police say a gang war is responsible for many of the almost two dozen shootings in the last six weeks in Surrey and nearby Delta, resulting in one death and several injuries.

Clark told a crowd at Surrey City Hall that her government will contribute \$270 thousand to Wraparound, a school-based program that tries to prevent children from going into gangs.

The premier challenged the federal government to match the funds, saying that perhaps that added money could eliminate the current wait list of 40 children.

Clark says there are only two options for young people who join gangs: a jail cell or a grave.



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Metro Vancouver Transit Police chief will take over as Delta's police chief, it was announced Tuesday.



"We welcome him to our community, and we are confident he will be an excellent fit for our organization and will continue to make Delta one of the safest communities in the Lower Mainland," said Delta Mayor Lois Jackson, who is also chair of the Delta Police Board, in a statement.

Dubord, who Jackson said was chosen after an intensive search, replaces Chief Constable Jim Cessford, who retired earlier this year after 22 years of service.

Dubord has been a police officer for 28 years, including the last three as chief of Transit Police.

He also spent 25 years with the Edmonton Police Service, serving as deputy chief of Edmonton's community policing bureau and leading many initiatives.

According to a release, Dubord has won numerous local and national awards and citations, and studied at various institutions including Royal Roads University, the Canadian Police College in Ottawa, the University of Virginia in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation at Quantico, Virginia.

A transitional plan is being finalized, the release stated.

Dubord oversaw 167 officers with Transit Police. He will oversee 173 officers in Delta. (Vancouver Sun)

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 29, 2015

Apr 29 2015

OTTAWA - Federal prisons are not the hotbeds of radical extremism some make them out to be, according to research by the Correctional Service of Canada.

And compared to other inmates, radicalized offenders are more likely to have moderate-to-high potential for rejoining society.

The preliminary findings emerge from an ongoing, multi-year collaboration between the prison service and Defence Research and Development Canada aimed at developing a solid basis to assess and manage jailed extremists.

The Canadian Press used the Access to Information Act to obtain a 2014 summary

of a series of academic studies undertaken by the Correctional Service's research branch. Internal notes suggest the presentation, Radicalized Offenders, was prepared for the deputy ministers' committee on national security.

"Though concern over the spread of violent ideologies has been expressed, this concern is supported by limited qualitative, anecdotal evidence," says the presentation.

"Researchers have concluded that many of those who adopt extremist Islamist ideologies during incarceration often disregard these beliefs upon release."

However, the presentation adds, there is a need for a greater understanding of just how susceptible inmates are to being radicalized behind bars.

One of the gunmen in the bloody attack on Paris-based satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo last January had come under the sway of a convicted terrorist while in prison - the sort of incident that has fuelled concern about the spread of radical ideas in jail.

As of this month, there were 19 offenders in Canadian federal prisons who had at least one affiliation with an extremist or terrorist organization, including racial extremists, the Correctional Service says. Of these, nine had been convicted of at least one terrorism-related offence.

Researchers found that compared to other inmates, radicalized offenders are less likely to be Canadian citizens and more likely to belong to a visible minority group.

They are also younger, better educated, more likely to have a history of stable employment and less likely to have had previous tangles with the criminal justice system. Radicalized offenders also have fewer mental health issues and problems with substance abuse.

Overall, they are more likely "to be assessed as having moderate-high reintegration potential," the presentation says.

A review of the research literature identified several factors that might make someone vulnerable to being radicalized, including poor support at home, a history of family violence, negative attitudes towards conventional society and a tendency to lodge grievances.

Apr 29 2015

A spike in property crimes in Kamloops is being blamed in part on the shooting of a Mountie in Batchelor Heights last winter.

Kamloops RCMP Supt. Brad Mueller said the absence of Cpl. Jean Rene Michaud, who was shot during a traffic stop in the early hours of Dec. 3, 2014, has been tough on the crime-reduction department, which he heads up.

Mueller said the force is feeling stretched for personnel beyond Michaud's absence.

While the detachment has asked for 10 new Mounties, it's unlikely to see more than a few new staff added in the next few years.

Mueller said the department has had to shift some of its specialized officers back to general duties to cover staffing gaps.

"Some of the shortages we've been dealing with prevented us from being as proactive

as we'd like to with our crime-reduction unit and some of our other units," Mueller said.

Property crime was up 27 per cent from 2015, with about 319 additional offences reported to police compared to this time in 2014.

Mueller said RCMP saw increases in vehicle theft, theft from vehicles and break and enters in particular, with crimes of this type rising by 53 per cent - or 163 files.

(Kamloops This Week)

Apr 29 2015

VANCOUVER - As politicians Tuesday debated proposed regulations for illegal marijuana dispensaries, Vancouver's outgoing police chief defended his agency's hands-off approach to the burgeoning industry.



"It's not that we support the dispensaries, it's that we have other priorities," Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu told The Sun.

"I can give you a long list of investigations with potential outcomes that could harm the public, ranging from gun violence to other organized criminal behaviours. So I'm reluctant to pull investigators off of those criminal cases and say, 'OK, go work on this dispensary.'"

With Chu as its president, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police urged the federal government to allow ticketing for possession of small amounts of pot instead of laying criminal charges.

"An occasional colleague has looked at me and said, 'You are from the Left Coast.' I don't think there was unanimity among the police chiefs about the ticketing for marijuana possession," Chu said with a chuckle. "That was a good debate among my fellow police chiefs."

Chu is in his final few weeks on the job - after 36 years with Vancouver police, eight of them as chief. His successor, Deputy Chief Adam Palmer, will be sworn in May 25.

There is speculation Chu is retiring before his contract expires in 2017 so he can run in this year's federal election. It has been a popular move lately. Rick Hanson stepped down as Calgary's police chief in March to run for a provincial Conservative seat. Bill Blair announced on the weekend he would run for the federal Liberals, right after retiring as Toronto's police chief.

Chu said it is "unlikely" his name will be on the ballot this fall, but confirmed he has been courted by more than one party and didn't rule out pursuing politics in his future.

"There is no immediate plans for doing anything. So the likelihood of me running federally is - I don't think it's there," he said.

(Vancouver Sun)

Apr 29 2015

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - Police in southern Alberta have identified three people killed in what investigators have called a targeted attack.

The bodies of Kyle Devine, who was 27, 24-year-old Clarissa English and her 18-year-old brother, Dakota English, were found Tuesday in their Lethbridge townhouse.

A concerned neighbour had called police to check on the residents.

Facebook profiles under their names suggest Devine and the woman were in a romantic relationship.

Officers have described the crime scene as violent, but have not released how the three died.

Police say it was not a random crime and there is no risk to the public.

Apr 29 2015

WHITBY - Durham Regional Police Supt. Greg Mills is a true original - the last of the initial six recruits who joined the newly-formed service in 1974.



But after 43 years of policing, he'll hang up his holster Thursday.

And while walking away from the job won't be easy, Mills admitted "it's time."

"I'm going to miss the people," Mills, 63, said Wednesday. "I've worked with some great people over the years."

Sitting in a 1974 Chevrolet Biscayne parked out front police headquarters, a cruiser he likely drove as a rookie, Durham's most senior officer couldn't help but be reminded of the many fond memories he'll carry into retirement.

Mills joined the Metro Toronto Service first - in 1972 - when he was 20.

Then in January 1974, the seven police services in Durham Region at the time amalgamated to form a single force and a decision was made to add some fresh young faces to the existing 224 officers.

Mills, who grew up in Oshawa, jumped at the chance to move back to his home turf and became one of six recruits hired later that month.

The region, much of which was rural at the time, has grown considerably since he first patrolled the streets of Pickering.

The people have also changed, as have the crimes police officers now deal with, Mills said.

Mills is the first Durham cop to serve

more than four decades.

"I've been involved in lots of projects over the years," Mills said, looking back on his career. "But the thing I'm probably most proud of and that I'll take with me are the situations where I've made a difference in the quality of life for our citizens," he said.

(Toronto Sun)

Apr 29 2015

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog has laid charges against a London officer.

The Special Investigations Unit says they have a reason to believe a criminal offence was committed in relation to the injuries suffered by Michel Gibeault last summer.

The SIU says London police arrested Gibeault early Sunday morning on Aug. 10, 2014 for various offences.

They say after he was taken to the police station, there was an "interaction" between Gibeault and the officer.

After being released, the SIU says, Gibeault was diagnosed with two fractured ribs and the incident was reported to them by London police four months later on Dec. 12, 2014.

Sgt. Trevor Pool has been charged with assault causing bodily harm and is scheduled in court on June 9.

Apr 29 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police have raided a marijuana store and arrested several staff members, just one day after city council voted to hold public consultations on regulating pot shops.

A statement from the police department says an investigation into Weeds Glass and Gifts on the city's west side began in March after public-safety concerns were raised.

Police say the concerns included an alleged incident where a 15-year-old was hospitalized after buying edible products.

Officers obtained a search warrant and on Wednesday entered the illegal business, arrested staff and seized evidence.

The raid comes as the city considers a proposal to license and regulate the illegal medical marijuana dispensaries that have multiplied in the past few years across Vancouver.

THURSDAY
APRIL 30, 2015

Apr 30 2015

CAMBRIDGE, Ont. - A Waterloo Region police officer is in hospital with stab wounds along with a man who was shot by police following a domestic violence incident in Cambridge, Ont.

Police say they were called to a home in a townhouse complex just after midnight and become involved in an altercation with a man.

The wounded officer was taken to a Cambridge hospital with non-life threatening stab wounds while the man shot by police was taken to a hospital in Hamilton.

Police also say a woman who was seriously injured prior to the arrival of police is also in a Hamilton hospital.

No names have yet been released.

Apr 30 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada will hear an appeal from an Alberta man who was convicted of sexual assault after police had him swab his penis for DNA from the victim.



Ali Hassan Saeed was arrested and charged with sexual assault and sexual interference in 2011 after a complaint from a 15-year-old.

While he was in custody, police had him swab his penis for DNA and matched it to the victim.

The trial judge ruled this was an illegal search, but said the results were admissible because the police did not act in bad faith and society has a high interest in seeing justice in cases of sexual assault.

Saeed was convicted and the Alberta Court of Appeal upheld the ruling, citing several precedents.

Apr 30 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear another case involving a mandatory minimum sentence, a hallmark of the Harper government's anti-crime agenda.



Joseph Ryan Lloyd of British Columbia was convicted last year of possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking and was subject to a mandatory one-year sentence because of an earlier, similar conviction.

The provincial trial judge ruled the law was unconstitutional, although Lloyd was sentenced to a year.

The British Columbia Court of Appeal said the provincial court judge overstepped by declaring the law unconstitutional.

The appeal judges imposed an 18-month sentence. The Supreme Court gave no reasons for hearing the case, but the justices struck down a mandatory minimum sentence for gun offences earlier this month.

Apr 30 2015

A man, a woman and a police officer are in hospital this morning after police responded to an early-morning domestic violence call at a home in Cambridge, Ont.



One of the Waterloo Regional Police officers who responded to a call at a townhouse shortly after midnight Wednesday became involved in an altercation with a man.

The man was shot by police and the officer was stabbed.

"This incident revolves around a relationship between a 30-year-old male and a 30-year-old female who were in a common-law relationship until recently," said John Ansell, the lead investigator with the province's Special Investigations Unit.

"Yesterday morning, Wednesday, the female reported a domestic assault to the Waterloo Regional police, who filed a report," he said.

Ansell said the man returned to the home around midnight, broke in and assaulted the woman.

CBC cameraman Tony Smyth, who was on the scene early Thursday morning, said the woman was stabbed multiple times.

Ansell said police arrived on the scene shortly after the man assaulted the woman.

"When the police arrived, they encountered the male in front of the home behind me, and during the encounter, the police officer was stabbed," said Ansell. "The officer responded with a firearm, and the male was shot."

A later release from the SIU says the police encountered the man inside the house.

The man and woman were taken to a Hamilton hospital with serious injuries, and were undergoing surgery, according to Ansell.

The man's injuries are potentially life-threatening, according to Ansell, while the woman in the assault is expected to survive.

The officer was taken to a local hospital with non-life-threatening stab wounds. Ansell says she is in stable condition and is likely to be released later Thursday morning.

Ansell says they aren't yet releasing the names of the man and the woman who had been in a relationship because they haven't been able to locate their next of kin.

The Waterloo Regional Police Service's homicide detectives and its domestic violence unit are investigating. The SIU will also investigate. Six SIU investigators and two forensic investigators are working on the case.

According to Ansell, the SIU has designated five officers as witnesses and one

subject officer in the case, and are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident to come forward.

(CBC News)

Apr 30 2015

Baltimore police have completed their investigation into the death of Freddie Gray and turned over their findings to prosecutors - one day earlier than the department's self-imposed deadline.



Commissioner Anthony Batts did not give details of the report or take questions but did say the department dedicated more than 30 detectives to working on the case and report.

The state's attorney's office will now review the information, consider charges and decide how to move forward in the death of Gray, who was stopped by police April 12th, suffered spinal injuries while in custody and died a week later.

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Davis reviewed the timeline of Gray's time in custody and his death and says Gray was ar-

rested after he made eye contact with officers and ran.

After a chase, officers pinned him down and handcuffed him, loaded him into a van and put leg cuffs on him when officers said he became "irate."

Davis says police discovered a new stop the van made with Gray in it through footage from a privately owned camera, but did not say what happened.

Somewhere along the way, Gray suffered a fatal spinal injury, and was eventually taken to a hospital. The six officers involved have been suspended with pay.

Apr 30 2015

A 26-year-old man died after the car he was driving collided with a police cruiser in Blainville.



The crash happened on Curé-Labelle Boulevard at 4:30 a.m. ET this morning. The car struck the police vehicle then careened into a concrete block, police say.

Two Blainville police officers suffered minor injuries.

Quebec provincial police have taken over the investigation.

(CBC News)



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