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New law will send foreign criminals home



May 12 2015

TORONTO - The federal government will introduce new legislation to speed up the process of removing foreign nationals who have committed serious crimes in Canada.

Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Steven Blaney said the Removal of Serious Foreign Criminals Act was tabled in the House of Commons Tuesday.

"What we are saying is if you are committing a crime in Canada and you are a foreign criminal, you are ineligible to stay in this country and you should go back home," Blaney said at a news conference in Toronto.

The proposed legislation would allow the mandatory transfer of foreign criminals back to their original countries without their consent - the only consent needed being from the home country, Blaney said.

He said the pardon process will also be

'We will ensure that all foreign nationals and certain permanent residents who have been convicted of serious crimes will no longer be able to avoid removal by seeking record suspensions - previously referred to as pardons," Blaney said.

He said there have been cases where foreign nationals who have committed serious



crimes have received pardons and allowed to remain the country.

"We can never allow that to happen again," Blaney said.

And, Blaney added, refugees who are deemed a danger to the Canadian public would have their protected person status revoked when they are removed from the country.

"This will ensure that they cannot attempt to re-enter Canada with that status and cannot access the rights and benefits accorded that status," Blaney said.

Blaney said part of the proposed legislation will be to give more power to government officials to "issue removal orders to permanent residents who are inadmissible due to criminal activity."

"In this way we can eliminate the requirement for a formal hearing and ensure that removal orders are issued faster because, for example, a criminal judge has already ruled on the culpability of the individual."

THURSDAY MAY 7, 2015

May 07 2015

Posting that alleged crime you recorded may do more harm than good, York Regional Police are warning.

While you have a right to do that, police say it can hinder an investigation.

"We certainly wouldn't want someone who's completely innocent portrayed as someone that could potentially be a criminal," Const. Andy Pattenden told CBC News.

He said owners of the videos should speak with police first if a crime has been committed.
(CBC News)

NEWS VEEK

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TORONTO - Surfing the web as an undercover cop hunting pedophiles and child pornography collectors is a daunting job.



But Toronto Police Det. Paul Krawczyk says he gets through the tough days of viewing disturbing images of sexually abused kids by thinking of the victims he and his fellow officers saye.

"Our unit rescues children and changes their lives," Krawczyk told the Toronto Sun Thursday. "There's no more rewarding job.

"But without that reward, I don't know how anyone could do it," he added.

Krawczyk has spent more than a decade with the Child Exploitation Section of the Sex Crimes Unit, which was involved in some of the 17 Canadian arrests made recently during the York Regional Police-led Project Hydra.

And he has seen how technology and child predators' tactics have evolved hand-in-hand.

"We're also much better at keeping up with them today then when I first started," Krawczyk said of hunting those who hunt kids

In the early days of online luring, he remembers police routinely warned parents to keep their computer in a common room where they could monitor their kids' Internet

But with the proliferation of laptops, tablets and smartphones, "that's not a realistic message anymore," Krawczyk said.

Project Hydra's 41 arrests in 17 countries make it clear those devices provide a window for creeps to prey on kids from anywhere in the world.

And with "astronomical" amounts of data to sift through these days and a seemingly endless stream of predators, many of whom now store their collections of child sex abuse images in the cloud rather than on their computer, Krawczyk admitted there is just no way currently for cops to catch every creep lurking in cyberspace.

"You could triple the size of our unit and it still wouldn't be enough," he said.

Krawczyk and his colleagues around the globe surf the web every day looking for predators but also identifying victims.

Hydra investigators identified 19 such victims ranging in age from nine to 15.

"Sometimes it's an undercover operation that breaks things open, sometimes it's through a group we infiltrate, sometimes the victim just gets older and starts talking about their abuse," Krawczyk said.

But sadly, some victims may never be identified.

"We've literally watched some children grow up online," Krawczyk said. "It can be frustrating not knowing who or where they are."

(Sun Media)

May 07 2015

The RCMP's disciplinary directorate has withdrawn allegations of historical sexual misconduct against a Nunavut officer.

Sgt. Gregory Sutherland, with Nunavut RCMP in Iqaluit, was facing two allegations of disgraceful conduct involving a fellow member of the RCMP.

His disciplinary hearing was supposed to be held in Federal Court in Calgary last month but it was postponed.

On Thursday, the discipline directorate said after careful consideration of additional information it received, the allegations were withdrawn because they "could not be established on a balance of probabilities."

Sutherland, who had been under suspension with pay, will soon return to work in Nunavut.
(CBC News)

May 07 2015

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department will not appeal a B.C. Human Rights Tribunal decision ordering the police board to pay a transgender woman \$15,000 for injury to dignity, feelings and self-respect while the woman was in jail.

The woman, Angela Dawson, had undergone gender reassignment surgery shortly before her incarceration and was not able to go to the hospital while in jail to get necessary and sensitive followup treatment.

Human Rights Tribunal member Catherine McCreary ruled that preventing Dawson from doing so amounted to discrimination on the basis of sex. Police also discriminated against Dawson by referring to her using male pronouns, McCreary ruled.

In response to the decision, Deputy Chief Warren Lemcke made four recommendations to the police board:

- Increase outreach to and partnership with transgender people;
- update transgender awareness training for all uniformed personnel;
- develop a policy on identification of transgender people for the purposes of both police interactions and recording on official documents;
- update the department's jail manual to clarify procedures for when a detainee expresses a medical concern.

(Vancouver Sun)

EDMONTON - After 13 years in prison, former Guantanamo Bay prisoner Omar Khadr is getting his first taste of freedom.

Khadr is out on bail after an Alberta judge rejected a last-ditch attempt by the federal government to block his release.

Appeal Court Justice Myra Bielby ruled the government had failed to prove his release would cause serious harm to Canadian interests or pose a risk to the public.

May 07 2015

MONTREAL - Ottawa says it is introducing passport measures to prevent people they call would-be terrorists and sex offenders from travelling abroad.

The changes would allow authorities to cancel, revoke or refuse passports for national security or terrorism purposes.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney and Citizenship Minister Chris Alexander made the announcement this afternoon at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport.

The measures were included in the Conservatives' budget bill, which was introduced today.

Blaney and Alexander also said people who have their passports revoked or cancelled will have to wait 10 years before applying for another.

The ministers added that the changes would allow Federal Court justices who preside over passport proceedings to protect information from being disclosed but to be able to use that information in reaching their decisions.

Alexander said the government is sending a "very strong message."

"We won't allow the Canadian passport to be used as a tool by terrorists to carry out unspeakable acts of violence, criminal acts, and Canada will not tolerate this type of behaviour," he told a news conference at the airport.

May 07 2015

MONTREAL - Montreal police Chief Marc Parent announced Thursday he will step down at the end of his mandate in September for personal reasons.

Mayor Denis Coderre dismissed rumours Parent, who was appointed in 2010, is quitting because of a dispute between the chief and the city administration.

Coderre insisted he was ready to extend Parent's contract and that he had the goahead to do so from the province's public security minister.

Parent did "extraordinary" work given difficuilt circumstances, the mayor said.

Parent's reign was marked by two cases in which officers were accused separately of selling information to members of organized crime networks.

He also had to cope with the often-violent student protests in 2012 as well as a 2014 protest at city hall where police stood by while municipal workers vandalized parts of the building.

MONTREAL - Six years after a massive police operation aimed at destroying the Hells Angels in Quebec, 14 accused pleaded guilty Thursday to conspiracy to commit murder, while a 15th person had his charges dropped.



All but two of the 15 were originally charged not only with conspiracy, but also with premeditated murder in connection with the slaying of rival gang members.

Quebec Superior Court Justice Andre Vincent sentenced four of the 14 on Thursday.

Three were given prison terms of 12 years and seven months. With time already served, they face between another nine and 35 months in detention.

The fourth person was sentenced to 11 years and four months but will have only one other day in prison because of time already served.

The 10 others who pleaded guilty Thursday will be sentenced in the coming months.

Out of 156 people originally arrested in Operation SharQc, only 12 have opted to stand trial on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Jury selection for 10 of the 12 begins Monday. The final two have a trial date in January.

Since the police operation, 101 people have now pleaded guilty, while 31 others were released in 2011 after a judge ruled there were unreasonable delays in their case.

Three people have died since being charged, while eight others are still at large.

May 07 2015

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Alta. - A veteran Mountie says more enforcement of off-highway vehicles is needed in Alberta's backcountry.

Cpl. Wayne Howse says police who patrol public lands along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains are dealing with more cases of people driving through stream beds causing environmental damage.

Howse says people are carrying loaded weapons on ATVs, some are driving impaired and others leave mounds of garbage in the wilderness.

There are also cases of illegal poaching and people randomly shooting firearms.

Howse says the RCMP is considering a proposal to form a unit that would focus more on such illegal activity.

He says some Mounties are already taking ATV driver training as police brace for the coming season.

MEDICINE HAT, Alta. - A 55-year-old man is in custody after a police officer was hit by a fleeing truck in southeastern Alberta.

Police say they tried to stop a Ford F-350 in Medicine Hat early Thursday.

They say the truck drove off, but later stopped and reversed, hitting a police officer.
The truck then sped off towards Highway 3.

Both Medicine Hat police and Redcliff RCMP pursued the truck toward Seven Persons, where two vehicles were damaged before a spike belt was deployed.

The injured officer was in hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

Any witnesses have been asked to contact police. (cJcv)

May 07 2015

EDMONTON - On a Sunday evening one year ago, 24-year-old David Charles Sandaker was shot dead in a busy residential neighbourhood by a member of the Edmonton police tactical team.

The gunfire erupted from both police and Sandaker as officers were attempting to place him under arrest. One member was hit in the leg, receiving non-life-threatening wounds. Despite the critical incident debriefing that typically follows a case such as this, a fatal shooting can be hard on the mental health of the officer who pulled the trigger.

That's where Sgt. Glen Klose and Const. Colleen Mooney enter the picture.

In 2009, an officer-involved shooting prompted city police to recognize a formal program was needed to help members involved in critical incidents return to their job. Working with the Workers Compensation Board (WCB), the reintegration team has now worked with more than 40 members involved in critical incidents such as shootings, Taser deployments or bad collisions. The team also continues to work with seven long-term members either diagnosed with PTSD or struggling with other psychological issues.

Those who come to Mooney and Klose are experiencing a range of emotions and conditions, such as isolation, stress, survivor's guilt, sleeplessness, loss of appetite or emotional outbursts of grief. The pair normalize an abnormal event, assuring the officer that whatever they are feeling is on par with what others have gone through in lethal encounters.

"They feel very much under the microscope. They'll walk into a coffee shop in civilian clothes and feel like everybody is looking at them, that they're the police officer involved in the shooting," said Klose, who spoke at the Alberta Federation of Police Associations annual general meeting on Thursday.

"At times it's a very pervasive feeling for our members that suddenly all the focus is on them."

After the initial meeting with a team member at a coffee shop, the affected officer

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is taken to the gun range where Mooney is already firing off rounds. It's the first time the member has likely been exposed to a gun since the shooting. They are often mesmerized, taking in the movement, sound and smell of the pistol -- a piece of the program Klose said often has the most impact.

Sometimes it takes multiple sessions to get an officer comfortable behind a gun again and re-introduced into normal training. Typically, it takes at least six months for an officer to return to work in a non-operational role. It could take another six months before the member is back responding to calls. Some members never return.

"My hope is...that if they want to come back, we can help them with that and that it will make them more willing to actually try," said Mooney, adding its exciting to watch members who had once lost all hope return to their uniform.

"Our members want to come back to work. They want to get back to normal.... We're just here to listen and help facilitate their healing process."

Klose believes Edmonton is the only police service in Canada that has a formal reintegration program for members suffering from PTSD. Following the death of a paramedic on the job in January, the team assisted Alberta Health Services with the implementation of their reintegration program and is headed to Baltimore next week to present at the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation World Conference.

FRIDAY MAY 8, 2015

May 08 2015

(Edmonton Sun)

VICTORIA - Victoria has become the latest British Columbia city to draft new bylaws for medical marijuana dispensaries, as Vancouver considers a plan to regulate illegal pot shops.

Council in the capital city has voted to ask staff to draft business licensing and zoning regulations, which could impose fees and new rules on security, record keeping and selling to minors.

Mayor Lisa Helps says she is especially concerned about the unregulated sale of marijuana to youth, who she says can suffer from early-onset schizophrenia and psychosis.

Helps says she is frustrated that municipalities are being forced to make drug policies after the federal government's restrictive medical marijuana laws created a "grey area" for police and cities.

Coun. Ben Isitt says staff are expected to take several months to draft the regulations before the public will have an opportunity to weigh in during a town hall.

Isitt says he expects the regulations to be similar to those proposed in Vancouver, where city council is considering a \$30,000 licensing fee and strict rules about where stores can be located.

May 08 2015

VANCOUVER - A lawyer representing a Mountie who was convicted of perjury for lying under oath says his client shouldn't be imprisoned.



RCMP Constable Kwesi Millington was among four officers who responded to reports of Robert Dziekanski throwing furniture at Vancouver's airport in October 2007.

Millington was convicted earlier this year for lying under oath during a public inquiry.

His lawyer Ravi Hira is seeking a oneyear conditional sentence in the community but Crown prosecutor Scott Fenton says Millington should spend up to three years in prison.

Dziekanski's mother, Zofia Cisowski, says a conditional sentence is not right and she hopes Millington spends time behind bars.

A sentencing hearing for Millington has been scheduled for June 22nd.

May 08 2015

PETERBOROUGH - Sergeant Nancy Loucks has had some odd requests in her 11-year career as a City police negotiator.

One person wanted time to whip up a baker's dozen of cookies for a neighbour before surrendering to authorities. Others have pleaded for food from McDonalds, drugs, cigarettes or a chance to speak to a loved one.

But it's an ending to one standoff that reminds her to as why she became a negotiator. The barricaded man came out on the grounds that he could meet her because at the time he felt like she was the only one that cared about him.

"I really truly cared that he came out of that place and he got some help," says Sgt. Loucks.

"I was really connected to this person, a complete stranger, and I have never seen him again." Sgt. Loucks.

She says wouldn't be a negotiator if she didn't care.

"It doesn't matter who I am talking to and who is on the other line of phone. I care about that person and I want to see them through it." she adds.

One of Sgt. Loucks' main assets is her ability to speak to people from all walks of life.

"It is extremely important," she says. "It is all about getting them to talk to you and starting that rapport building."

She say sometimes all a person needs is someone that will listen and often it doesn't take long to tell a full life story.

"They are in the dumps," she explains.

They could be in crisis because they just lost a job, a husband or wife has left or a loved one has died.

"In the moment, you just think there is no light at the end of the tunnel and it is our job to guide them to the light and help them get there," Sgt. Loucks says.

Every standoff is different, and she adds the most important negotiating tool is knowing as much about the person as possible and what makes them happy.

"There is something that everyone has that they love and we try to help them focus on that," says Sgt. Loucks

But not everyone wants to talk.

"It's hard to keep throwing things out in hopes that something will snag them to have them start communicating with you," she says.

"If you feel like they are completely not interested in talking to you, you feel like you are pulling your hair out and it is very difficult."

She compares some situations to game of chess and that you're constantly on your toes thinking.

"At some point, intellectual exhaustion and emotional exhaustion sinks in," she says.

Sgt. Loucks says she has to know her limits and when to hand the negotiating off to the secondary negotiator.

"It is hard sometimes because we are type-A personalities and we want to see it through to the end," she explains.

When a standoff ends, good or bad, Sgt. Loucks says it can feel like she has been up for weeks

"I sleep for two days after sometimes," she explains, noting she can't just go home and tuck her emotions away like it never happened.

"It plays on your mind. We are human beings and we feel the way everyone else feels so it is difficult."

Police are being trained to negotiate through text messaging and social media. Sgt. Loucks say many people in crisis now go on Facebook and Twitter to communicate but won't pick up the phone.

She says negotiators are being trained to keep sending messages because they believe the person in reading them and at some point will respond.

She says text messages are can be beneficial because you take out the emotional voice elevation which can be hard at times for both parties.

(Peterborough This Week)

May 08 2015

CALGARY - The union representing correctional workers says the Alberta government is putting the closures of a young offender centre on hold, pending a review.

Erez Raz, vice-president of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, says they received a letter Friday saying the Calgary Young Offender Centre and Calgary Maintenance Enforcement Program will stay open until an internal review is done.

Raz says the letter from Human Resources Department says the review is to be completed by May 31.

In March, then Justice Minister Jonathan Denis announced plans to move all young offenders housed at Calgary centre to Edmonton, saying both centres were "underused or significantly under capacity."

The department also said it was closing the Calgary enforcement program office, which the union says would reduce the number of investigators tracking down delinquent ex-spouses and non-custodial parents across the province by one-third.

May 08 2015

WINNIPEG - The man who beheaded a fellow passenger on a Greyhound bus in Manitoba has been approved to move from a mental hospital to a group home in Winnipeg.



Vince Li killed Tim McLean during the bus trip on the TransCanada Highway near Portage La Prairie in July 2008.

He was later found to be not criminally responsible for the murder due to mental illness.

Li has resided ever since at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre but has been given increasing freedoms, including unsupervised outings in Selkirk and Winnipeg. (Global Winnipeg)

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2015

May 09 2015

A Chilliwack man's disturbing Facebook confession to the murder of his wife, daughter and sister is part of a trend in which people are turning to social media to reveal their crimes.

"We're going to see this happen more and more - people sharing their crimes or information before ... or in real time as they're doing it," said Janni Aragon, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Victoria who specializes in social media issues.

"Unfortunately, there are people out there who commit crimes who are looking for attention... someone with narcissistic leanings."

In some cases, it could also be a "cry for

intervention," she added.

There have been several reports in recent years of murder confessions posted on social media, in North America and around the world.

Social media sites are also fair game for police searching for evidence of criminal behaviour, including photos posted on fast-growing Instagram. Social media played a major role during the successful Vancouver police investigation into the 2011 Stanley Cup riots.

While social media can be used to announce forthcoming crimes, it is also used to document crimes such as sexual assaults. Photos posted on Facebook in 2010 figured in a sexual assault investigation stemming from a rave at a Pitt Meadows farm on Harris Road.

"This is the seedy underbelly of the way in which some use social media," Aragon said. "This is another place for people to share what they're doing and, unfortunately, what they're doing is committing a crime."

Social media sites can also be used to sell illegal goods and have even been used by criminals to taunt police.

A 2013 survey by the International Association of Chiefs of Police of about 500 law enforcement agencies found that 80 per cent used social media in criminal investigations.

A U.S. report by the law office Gibson Dunn in 2014 concluded: "The number of cases involving social media evidence continues to skyrocket.

For example, social media evidence played a key role in approximately 88 published cases in the month of September 2013 alone. This is a sharp increase from the first half of 2012, when evidence from social networking sites played a significant role in an average of 53 published cases per month."

May 9 2015

VANCOUVER - More than two dozen of the longshoremen unloading container ships on the docks of Metro Vancouver are Hells Angels, their associates, other gangsters or people with serious criminal records, a Vancouver Sun investigation has found.

The infiltration of gangsters and criminals

into the port workforce is perpetuated by a longtime employment practice that allows existing union members to nominate friends, relatives and associates when new jobs become available.

Police say organized crime maintains this foothold on the waterfront for strategic purposes - so drugs and other contraband can be smuggled in some of the more than 1.5 million containers that pass through the four container terminals at Port Metro Vancouver every year.

Just over three per cent of containers arriving here are checked by the Canada Border Services Agency.

"It is a concern to us. We feel that a lot of the illegal drugs that come into this country come in through our ports," said Det.-Staff. Sgt. Len Isnor, the country's top law enforcement expert on the Hells Angels.

Isnor said the Hells Angels have maintained a foothold in Canada's three largest ports - Vancouver, Montreal and Halifax - for the past 30 years.

"So as far as the ports are concerned, it's the whole success of the Hells Angels."

While airports have tightened security in the post-9/11 world, Metro Vancouver docks remain relatively porous, allowing people linked to organized crime, and even some convicted of international drug smuggling, to work on the waterfront.

The Sun has identified at least six fullpatch Hells Angels who are active members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Bikers aren't the only people with links to crime working on the waterfront.

Others who police have publicly identified as gangsters are also longshoremen, as are some of their associates.

The Sun has documented 27 active longshoremen with gang or criminal links from various sources of information, including public records and union membership lists.

That number doesn't include the "inactive" members of the union who are also Hells Angels.

Police admit there's a serious problem when criminals and gangsters have the ability to move drugs and other contraband through Port Metro Vancouver.

(Vancouver Sun)



SUNDAY MAY 10, 2015

May 10 2015

HAMILTON - The Special Investigations Unit has been called in to probe the case of a man who was Tasered and suffered a broken jaw during an "interaction" with police in Hamilton.

The SIU says Hamilton police were called Saturday in regards to a 19-year-old man with a knife causing damage inside a residence.

The agency says two officers discharged Tasers and the male was arrested, then taken to hospital to be treated for a broken jaw.

Four investigators and two forensic investigators have been assigned to investigate the incident.

May 10 2015

HATTIESBURG, Miss. - Two Mississippi police officers were shot to death during an evening traffic stop turned violent, a state law enforcement spokesman said Sunday. Three suspects were in custody, including two who are charged with capital murder.





The deaths of the officers are the first to hit the southern Mississippi city of Hattiesburg in three decades.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant released a statement saying he was "mourning" the loss of the officers.

"This should remind us to thank all law enforcement for their unwavering service to protect and serve. May God keep them all in the hollow of his hand," Bryant said.

Warren Strain, a spokesman for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, told The Associated Press that 29-year-old Marvin Banks and 22-year-old Joanie Calloway were each charged with two counts of capital murder

Banks was also charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and with grand theft for fleeing in the police cruiser after the shooting, Strain said.

"He absconded with a Hattiesburg police cruiser. He didn't get very far, three or four blocks and then he ditched that vehicle," Strain said.

Banks' 26-year-old brother, Curtis Banks, was charged with two counts of accessory after the fact of capital murder.

May 10 2015

OTTAWA - New legislation that changes the gun licensing system has cleared a House of Commons committee and is on track to become law before the summer recess - and a likely autumn election.

Bill C-42, dubbed the Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act, removes some of the more onerous paperwork and penalties for gun licensing and transportation, provides a six-month grace period for lapsed licences, gives cabinet decision-making power over how guns are classified, toughens up gun prohibitions for violent offenders and domestic assaults and makes it mandatory to pass a firearms course to be licensed.

May 10 2015

VANCOUVER - A spokeswoman for British Columbia's Coroners Service says it's too early to say whether a public inquest will be held into the death of a father who appears to have confessed on Facebook to killing his daughter, wife and sister.

Barb McClintock says the investigation into reports of multiple killings in two homes east of Vancouver is still in its preliminary stage.

Randy Janzen is suspected of taking his own life after killing his family, including his 19-year-old daughter Emily.

Emily's friends say the talented singer had aspirations to become an opera star but was held back by excruciating migraines that plagued her since elementary school.

May 10 2015

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog has more than doubled the number of investigations it has launched into officer conduct in the last decade, following a huge increase in complaints about police use of force and a spike in sexual assault allegations against officers.



Statistics released by the Special Investigations Unit this week show the watchdog's workload has grown dramatically, rising from 137 cases in 2004 to more than 300 during the SIU's most recent reporting year (April 2013 to March 2014).

The civilian agency, which probes incidents of death, serious injury or sexual assault involving police, has seen the biggest increase in complaints involving injuries sustained during police interactions. The number of so-called "custody injury" investigations has nearly quadrupled, from 58 in 2004 to 200 last year.

Criminal charges laid against officers have also risen: four officers were charged in the 2004/2005 reporting year, while 11 officers faced criminal charges in 2013/2014, four of those recent cases related to custody injuries and one stemming from a sexual assault case.

Monica Hudon, SIU spokesperson, said the increase in investigations may be attributed to more people knowing about the watchdog and what it does.

"It may be that there is a greater understanding of the SIU's role by both the police and the public," she said in an email.

As director of the SIU from 2008 to 2013, Ian Scott said he "without a doubt" noticed a major increase in complaints about custody injuries. In part, that was because he began cracking down on police services who were not reporting all injuries involving their officers, he explained.

"It's an area of some controversy. A lot of times, the police will not call the SIU because they don't think the injuries are serious enough, even if the person was hospitalized," said Scott.

The second significant surge in SIU investigations involves sexual assault allegations against police. In 2004, the watchdog probed 11 allegations of sexual assault; last year, it investigated 34 cases, one of which resulted in criminal charges. Within the last decade, the SIU has charged 22 officers with sexual assault-related offences.

The surge - in 2011/2012 there were 55 cases - may be partly attributed to a number of historical complaints brought forward within the last few years.

May 10 2015

CALGARY - His segment on Canada's Worst Driver ended with him kicked off the show and Calgary police tipped off to his many, many examples of bad behaviour behind the wheel.

Saturday night in the city's northeast, local traffic cops made Scott Willem Schurink's acquaintance again.

It was happenstance, Staff Sgt. Paul Stacey said, one of his guys had the radar gun up when Schurink drove by, allegedly doing 176 km/h in a 100 zone.

Calgary police have known about him since 2010 when he was a contestant on the Canada's Worst Driver TV show.

On the show, which was televised across the country, Schurink said he'd driven drunk, driven well over 200 km/h, left the scene of a collision and driven under a false name.

They booted him from the show in the season's second week.

At the speed he's alleged to have been driving Saturday night, several years later, Schurink, now 30, faces an automatic court date.

He was also allegedly driving while suspended, so he's lost his car for 30 days too.

"I'm not sure what makes him feel invincible, but it seems that he hasn't learned a thing," Stacey said.

"This isn't a mistake. This is just a blatant disregard for everyone's safety on the road, including his own," he said.

(Calgary Sun)

MONDAY MAY 11, 2015

May 11 2015

TORONTO - Undercover police officers who pose as journalists for investigative purposes are violating the Constitution by having a chilling effect on freedom of the press, an Ontario court heard Monday.

In their application to Superior Court, three media organizations argue the deceptive practice could put working journalists at risk, especially in high-stress environments, by raising suspicion about who they are.

The practice can also make it harder to win the trust of important sources and therefore get key information that is in the public interest, they say.

"This is very destructive of everything our clients do," media lawyer Philip Tunley told the court. "This chill is a real and substantial one."

The media organizations - the CBC, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, and RTDNA Canada - want the court to declare impersonation of journalists by Ontario Provincial Police a charter violation that can't be justified.

Such a declaration, they say, would "begin to thaw the chilling effect" the practice has had on the public, sources of important news and information, and on journalists.

"A strong commitment to free expression requires nothing less," they argue in their court filings.

For their part, provincial police say such impersonation happens rarely.

In addition, they amended an internal policy after a complaint from RTDNA, a group that speaks for many Canadian broadcasters, to require senior officers to provide authorization before investigators pose as working media.

May 11 2015

CALGARY - Police in Calgary are revealing that five notebooks were also stolen from an off-duty police officer's car in Calgary last month along with a patrol rifle.

The rifle and its case have been recovered, but the service-issue notebooks are still missing.

They are used by officers to record details of on-duty interactions with the public.

Police say they are notifying between 350 and 400 people about a possible breach of their personal information such as birth dates, home addresses and driver's licence numbers.

The privacy commissioner's office also been contacted.

The officer involved is on paid leave while the investigation continues.

May 11 2015

OTTAWA - Justice Minister Peter Mac-Kay says Canada is part of a working group with its Five Eyes international intelligence allies that is trying to combat cyberbullying. MacKay says Canada hosted a meeting of the Five Eyes community - which includes the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand - in the last two weeks.

The minister says a working group has been created, and it will produce a report on how to combat threats posed by international online predators that threaten young people.

Canada's new cyberbully law went on the books late last year, giving police more online surveillance powers.

MacKay says more needs to be done to deal with the fact that online predators can strike at young people from foreign countries.

May 11 2015

WINNIPEG - The Manitoba Schizophrenia Society says a rally on the weekend to protest the move of Vince Li to a group home may have caused more harm than good.

Spokesman Chris Summerville says the rally served only to present a caricature "of a supposed monster" who Summerville says is one of the nicest people he's ever met.

A few dozen people turned out to protest the move out of the Selkirk Mental Health Centre by Li, who was found not criminally responsible for beheading Tim McLean on a Greyhound bus in 2008.

McLean's mother, Carol de Delley, said at the rally that she's concerned about walking downtown with Li being free, adding "there are many, many, many more out there."

Summerville says a lot of people have horrible misconceptions about people with mental illness.

He says the society will try to debunk the myths with a forum planned for next week.

May 11 2015

VANCOUVER - A two-year, multi-agency investigation has resulted in the disruption of an international heroin trafficking operation, 28 arrests, and the seizure of 37 kilograms of heroin.

"I know that I speak for all our agencies when I say that our contributions and joint



efforts have undoubtedly prevented a large quantity of heroin from reaching the streets of Vancouver, other (cities) in the province of B.C. and across Canada," Federal Serious and Organized Crime spokesman Insp. Cal Chrustie told reporters at a news conference on Monday afternoon.

The investigation began in June 2013 when members of the RCMP unit identified a group of individuals based in the Vancouver

area who were involved in importing large quantities of heroin.

Shipments were originating in Afghanistan and travelled primarily by air - either on people's bodies or in their luggage - through Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam, then Brussels and onward to Canada. The shipments were then distributed to Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver.

The drugs that came into Vancouver were sold in the city and throughout B.C.

Chrustie was unable to say how much heroin was moving through the network at any given time.

To target and dismantle the network, the RCMP Federal Serious and Organized Crime unit enlisted the help of Vancouver police, Canada Border Services Agency and police organizations in other countries.

Chrustie said this investigation was more "progressive and aggressive" than others in that officers travelled outside of the country to stop drug shipments before they arrived in Canada. Much of the 37 kilograms of heroin seized was intercepted in other countries.

"The RCMP considers this a success and expects this to be a trend in federal policing efforts of the future," he told reporters.

Chrustie said drug trafficking is a global problem and geographic boundaries do not exist. He said the network is linked to "transnational organized crime" but did not provide names of specific groups involved. He said the focus was on local groups as well as ones outside of Canada.

One Canadian man, 52-year-old Jimmy Nico of Vancouver, was among those charged. He was convicted of trafficking and has already been sentenced in South Africa to 15 years in prison.

He is the only Canadian charged. Chrustie said no charges have been laid in Canada against any of the suspects.

In terms of the impact of the drug network disruption, Chrustie said it can be difficult to define at times because of the complexity of transnational organizations.

"The feedback we've received recently is we haven't seen a number of shipments coming into Canada of Afghan heroin recently," he said

(Vancouver Sun

May 11 2015

US law enforcement morale is at an alltime low as uniformed officers endure increased pushback from the communities and politicians they're risking their lives to protect, and a new report released Monday shows on-duty law enforcement deaths in 2014 occurring at nearly twice the previous year's rate.

"One of the things that we've seen just lately, that we've never seen before, is police officers are telling their own families, and their own children, 'Don't go into this line of duty, this line of work, because it's not worth it any more," said Bill Johnson, executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations.

The number of law enforcement officers who were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2014 increased 89 percent as compared to the year prior - with most dying after being shot by gun-carrying criminals, according to a preliminary report issued by the FBI on Monday.

In raw numbers, 51 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in 2014, versus 27 such deaths in 2013.

The FBI report Monday was preliminary; the complete annual report will be released in the fall.

And the number killed in deliberate ambush attacks has tripled in a year, according to data collected by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. In 2014 there were 15 officers killed in fatal ambushes compared to five in 2013, the group said.

Police unions are "very much concerned" over the increased number of attacks on officers, which seem to be planned ambushes and unprovoked attacks, Mr. Johnson said.

The recent fatal attacks on New York police officer Brian Moore, 25, as well as Hattiesburg, Mississippi, police officers Benjamin Deen, 34, and Liquori Tate, 25, have resonated with law enforcement officers nationwide, said Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association President Jon Adler.

The three men were killed less than a week apart - all while conducting traffic stops.

Police advocates blamed that attack, and possibly others, on the resulting national debate over the use of deadly force, in which the police are routinely depicted as racists out to harass and oppress blacks and other minorities.

"While some honorable law enforcement officers are able to screen out the crowd noise and stay focused on the mission, the tragic loss of blue lives and biased anti-cop slander have certainly impacted overall morale," said Mr. Adler. "The sustained anti-cop rhetoric has taken its toll on officer morale, but the indomitable blue spirit will ultimately stay the course and prevail."

Now police are mourning the death of their comrades while continuing to endure the demoralizing rhetoric of citizens and lawmakers who spread "bombastic anti-cop gibberish," Mr. Adler said.

That biased, anti-cop commentary can be disheartening for some officers, he said.
(Washington Times)

TUESDAY MAY 12, 2015

May 12 2015

EDMONTON - A man convicted for his role in the shooting deaths of four Mounties in rural Alberta has been granted full parole effective immediately.

The Parole Board of Canada says Shawn Hennessey has been functioning well in public since he was allowed to live in a halfway house last fall.

Hennessey, who is 35, is not to contact any members of the victims' families.

He and his brother-in-law, Dennis Cheeseman, pleaded guilty to manslaughter for giving James Roszko a gun and a ride to Roszko's farm near Mayerthorpe in 2005.

May 12 2015

PETERBOROUGH - City council is going to have to either dip into its reserves or borrow money next year for a payout to the chief of police and the deputy chief, should an arbitrator decide the two deserve compensation.



The chief and deputy chief of the Peterborough Police service went before an arbitrator in a private hearing last week.

The arbitrator is expected to decide whether Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson should be compensated for having lost their old jobs in January when the local police force de-amalgamated - even though they were rehired immediately.

In January, Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police dissolved and was replaced one minute later by Peterborough Police, a city-only force (with the village of Lakefield excluded as part-owner).

Coun. Andrew Beamer said he wanted to know how the city would cover it if the arbitrator thought they should pay.

"There's the potential for a significant expense," he said.

Coun. Keith Riel said he couldn't stand the idea of increasing taxes next year to give Rodd and Farquharson money.

"I have no appetite for going back to the taxpayers," he said. "I have absolutely no intention of doing that."

City corporate services director Sandra Clancy said there wouldn't need to be a tax increase. Although she didn't tell councillors how much money is being sought, she said it could be potentially be paid from city reserves. Otherwise, she said the city would have to borrow money to pay.

At City Hall on Monday, Clancy didn't reveal any details from the hearing.

"It's a private contract matter," she told councillors.

But she did say that a decision about how much money the city will have to shell out - if any - can be expected no earlier than June.

On Monday night, councillors also ap-

proved the police's request for \$23,208,909 to operate the Peterborough Police force in 2015.

The police are going to need about \$175,000 to start patrolling Cavan Monaghan Township - money to buy two new cruisers, as well as equipment for the six new officers they're hiring to cover that township. (Councillors also approved this contract Monday night, with no debate.)

Councillors also voted to let Havelock-Belmonth-Methuen Township know they'll offer a cost estimate on using city police services instead of the OPP - it just won't happen immediately.

City council is already in talks with Douro-Dummer Township about the possibility of having city police patrol there, and council wants those negotiations to be complete before they consider how they might also be able to serve Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

(Peterborough Examiner)

May 12 2015

MADISON, Wis. - A white Wisconsin police officer won't be charged for fatally shooting an unarmed 19-year-old biracial man, a prosecutor announced Tuesday.

Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne said he wouldn't file charges against Madison Officer Matt Kenny in the March 6 death of Tony Robinson, saying the officer used lawful deadly force after he was staggered by a punch to the head and feared for his life.

Ozanne, mopping his brow repeatedly but speaking forcefully for some 25 minutes, took pains to outline his own biracial heritage before announcing his decision.

"I am the son of a black woman who still worries about my safety," Ozanne said. "I am a man who understands the pain of unjustified profiling, and I am the first district attorney of colour, not only in Dane County, but in the state of Wisconsin."

Then, Ozanne walked through evidence from the scene, 911 callers, Robinson's friends, police affidavits, crime lab reports and more to paint a picture of a young man out of control from a mix of hallucinogenic mushrooms, marijuana and Xanax. Kenny rushed to the apartment building and immediately became concerned that Robinson was attacking someone upstairs. He fired his weapon only after he was punched in the head and feared he might be disarmed and killed, Ozanne said.

Kenny wasn't wearing a body camera. Dashcam video released Tuesday shows the outside of the home, and the shots fired can be heard

"I conclude that (Robinson's) tragic and unfortunate death was the result of a lawful use of deadly police force and that no charges should be brought against Officer Kenny in the death of Tony Robinson Jr.," Ozanne said. He quickly wrapped up and left to meet Robinson family members.

(Associated Press)

TORONTO - A Toronto cop doled out illegal "street justice" to a black man who'd done nothing wrong, a judge has found.

Superior Court Justice Frederick L. Myers censured the officer who stopped, carded, punched, searched and detained the innocent man.

Myers, in a decision released Thursday, said the officer violated the man's rights and shattered his faith in the rule of law.

Myers awarded Mutaz Elmardy \$27,000 in damages based on the 2011 incident. Elmardy was walking alone with his hands in his pockets when Const. Andrew Pak and his partner, identified in court documents only as Const. Poole, stopped and carded him, Myers found.

When Elmardy refused to co-operate, the officer punched him, handcuffed him, searched him and, literally, "put him on ice," leaving him on the cold ground for 20 minutes.

"One who is not being investigated for criminality is allowed to walk down the street on a cold night with his or her hands in the pockets and to tell inquisitive police officers to get lost without being detained, searched, exposed to sub-zero temperatures or assaulted," wrote Myers.

"It appears that none of Constable Pak, Constable Poole, or the other four officers who dropped by the scene knew this."

The judge found Pak and Poole had no reason to suspect Elmardy of committing a crime and had no reason to arrest him. The judge found he was hostile and may have sworn at the officers, but, Myers wrote, that is not a crime.

"When one swears at a policeman, it is probably logical to expect a punch in the face. Many would say that it is deserved. But it is not," he wrote.

"The police deal with all manner of members of the public. Each brings his or her own life and troubles, experiences and joys with him or her to each encounter. Not all are polite. No law says they have to be."

But, the judge found: "Constable Pak took the law into his own hands and administered some street justice."

Myers expressed "the court's disapproval and shock" of the officers' conduct in 2011, and their testimony during a trial earlier this year. He condemned the entire Toronto Police Service for the "contumelious disregard" of Elmardy's rights.

The judge said he would make no findings about "the constitutionality or wisdom" regarding the process of "carding."

"Whether carding is a useful policing policy or just serves to increase the risk of hostile interactions between police and innocent members of the public, as appears to have occurred in this case, is beyond my ken." he wrote.

The judge said there was no evidence to prove that Elmardy had been racially profiled but did find the reason the officer gave for stopping Elmardy – the officer had a "hunch"

that he was violating bail conditions, which was untrue – was "arbitrary at best."

Toronto Police Service director of corporate communications Mark Pugash said Elmardy made an official complaint in this case, which was handled by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director, the oversight agency responsible for complaints made about police in Ontario. The OIPRD investigated and found the was "unsubstantiated," he said.

As for Myers' judgement in the civil case, lawyers for the police are considering whether or not to appeal, Pugash said.

May 12 2015

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Commission has decided on a recruitment firm that will help the Calgary Police Service locate a new law-enforcement lead.



According to a release, the Calgary Police Commission has chosen Boyden Global Executive Search to help them find a replacement for former CPS Chief Rick Hanson.

"After a careful review, we determined that Boyden was best suited to assist the Commission in recruiting the best possible Chief to meet Calgary's needs," said Rodney Fong, chair of the commission in the release.

"As part of the recruitment process we anticipate engaging with the public and consulting with key stakeholders to ensure we find a candidate with the skills and traits that reflect the preferences and priorities of the community."

Paul Cook, who was introduced as interim chief in Mid-March, has been serving as the CPS's head since Hanson's retirement.

Hanson left abruptly in February to pursue a career in provincial, having been appointed by the PC party as a candidate in Calgary-Cross. Hanson was defeated by the relatively obscure Ricardo Miranda in the NDP sweep across the province in the May 5 election.

The release explained the CPC's search committee would work closely with Boyden to draft a position profile, which will include information collected through the stakeholder meetings.

The CPC hope to have a new chief of police in place by fall 2015 and say total costs associated with the search will be calculated once the process is complete.

May 12 2015

MONTREAL - It could take a decade for the culture of corruption in Quebec to change, and in the meantime the province has done little to create a deterrent and go after the money that was stolen by colluding companies and dirty public officials, says the man who helped instigate the Charbonneau Commission.



Jacques Duchesneau, the former chief of the Montreal Police who headed the province's anti-collusion unit that in 2011 uncloaked systems of corruption in contract awarding inside the Quebec Transportation Department, offered the assessment following a speech in Montreal on Tuesday.

"There's no political will to go after the guys who stole our money," Duchesneau told reporters following his speech, titled Ethical or Cosmetic? Between Want and Can to the Montreal chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

"I've been saying that for four years. And we're still waiting to get a dime back."

The Liberal government tabled a bill in December to set up a voluntary repayment program to arbitrate between companies accused of corruption and public bodies that were victims of fraud.

However, Duchesneau said he believes the hitch to recover stolen taxpayer money wasn't legal but rather political.

"Because the companies wanted to pay us back. Find a way to spread the payment over five, 10 years. But at least do something. Otherwise, they're getting off quite easily."

Duchesneau, 66, was Montreal police chief until 1998, when he retired from the force and ran for mayor of Montreal. He lost to incumbent Pierre Bourque.

The experience on the hustings soured him on, he said at the time, and in large part because candidates are at the mercy of fickle

After a 30-year career with the police force, Duchesneau worked in the private sector briefly and then headed the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority from 2002 to 2008. He was appointed in 2010 to head up the anti-collusion unit within Transport Quebec

The unit's 2011 report, which Duchesneau said in his speech on Tuesday was his decision to write because his unit was never asked to produce one, presented examples of corruption and price gouging in Transport Quebec contracts. Witnesses were forthcoming, he has said, because the unit wasn't seeking to lay charges and witnesses didn't have to testify in court. That prompted Duchesneau

to publicly urge the provincial government to set up a commission of inquiry to hold hearings into corruption and collusion in the construction industry.

The government of then-premier Jean Charest answered by creating the Charbonneau Commission. It called Duchesneau as one of its first witnesses in 2012. The commission's report is due in November.

The culture of corruption that became entrenched in Quebec over 40 years may take another 10 years to change, and only by setting examples now, Duchesneau said.

The message, he said, has to be: avoid corruption because you might get caught and the consequences will be unpleasant.

"It's an unfinished symphony," Duchesneau said of corruption.

"You need to have people who are (targeted) by corrupters to say: 'It's not worth the risk because there'll be a price to pay.' "
(Montreal Gazette)

May 12 2015

NORTH BAY - After 33 years of dedicated service with the North Bay Police, and the last 11 as chief, Paul Cook says he is retiring. Members of the North Bay Police Services Board accepted Chief Cook's notice of retirement at the open session of their monthly meeting this morning.



"Chief Cook's commitment to serving the people of North Bay and Callander over the years has been exemplary. We also applaud his dedication to policing at the provincial level, not only for his service as president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police from 2013 to 2014, but for his continued interest in having members of our Service foster and maintain professional relationships with other police services," said chair Dennis O'Connor.

"We look forward to continuing our working relationship with him over the next seven months before he begins his well-earned retirement. The board will be meeting in the coming weeks to determine the candidate selection process it will undertake in its search for a suitable replacement."

Cook thanked the board and police service members for "their confidence in me and my abilities and for granting me the privilege of leading (them)." He will remain as chief until Jan. 22, 2016.

"I couldn't be prouder of our members, our positive relationships with the people of North Bay and Callander and our collective accomplishments specific to community safety." (North Bay Nugget)

WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2015

May 13 2015

B.C.'s police watchdog has been called to investigate a police-involved shooting that happened in Burnaby Wednesday morning.

The Burnaby RCMP said members were called to reports of an unwanted guest at a home just before 2:00 a.m.

When officers arrived it led to a confrontation with a man they believed was carrying a knife.

"They were confronted by a male who was non-compliant with police directions. Police engaged the alleged suspect resulting in a gun shot injury to the suspect," said Acting Insp. Keith Bramhill, a Regional Duty Officer with the Lower Mainland District.

"No RCMP officers or other members of the public were injured during the course of this incident."

The B.C. Ambulance Service said the injured man was taken to hospital in critical condition, but in a news release police said they believed the injuries to be non-life threatening.

The Independent Investigations Office has now assumed conduct of the investigation.

May 13 2015

OTTAWA - The federal justice minister is applauding the actions of a Toronto reporter who confronted a group of hecklers over a sexually explicit taunt.

Peter MacKay says while criminal charges could be used to discourage people from shouting profanities during live broadcasts, showcasing the problem also acts as a deterrent.

Over the weekend, City News reporter Shauna Hunt kept her camera rolling at a Toronto FC game when she confronted the hecklers after being subjected to the slur.

The footage set off widespread criticism of the men involved; one has already lost his six-figure job at Ontario utility Hydro One.

Hunt has said the confrontation came after almost a year of nearly constant on-thejob harassment from members of the public.

May 13 2015

TORONTO - A judge has agreed to order a mental health assessment for one of two men found guilty of terrorism charges in a case involving a plot to derail a passenger train.



A lawyer appointed by the court to assist the self-represented Chiheb Esseghaier had asked for the assessment, saying the Tunisian national's mental health is "a real issue" in the case.

Justice Michael Code says he's ordering the assessment because while he doesn't think strong religious beliefs are equated with mental disorder, he doesn't know if there's anything about Esseghaier's personality that might make him more susceptible to religious fervour.

Esseghaier, who refused to participate in his trial because he wanted to be judged under the rules of the Qur'an, told the court he doesn't mind talking to doctors because he's always eager to share his religious values.

He says that doesn't mean he's acknowledging he has any mental problems.

Crown prosecutors argued that Esseghaier has extreme religious beliefs but said a mental health assessment wasn't necessary for the sentencing phase of the trial.

Esseghaier and his co-accused, Raed Jaser, were found guilty in March of a terror-related conspiracy to commit murder, which carries a sentence of up to life in prison. The jury also found the men guilty of six other terror-related charges between them.

May 13 2015

The greatest fear of people critical of Ontario Provincial Police for relocating a Sudbury search-and-rescue helicopter to Orillia almost came to fruition Sunday.

The OPP announced two weeks ago that a helicopter stationed in Sudbury for more than 20 years was being redeployed to Orillia where the service's other chopper is kept. Both helicopters will now be dispatched out of Orillia.

Sunday, the Sudbury-based chopper, which hasn't been relocated yet, and its crew flew to Smooth Rock Falls to conduct a missing person search. That person was found, two sources told The Sudbury Star.

While the Smooth Rock Falls search was under way, two hikers were reported missing near Wavy Lake in Sudbury late Sunday afternoon.

The Orillia helicopter and crew were called to respond, but couldn't fly out of there because of poor weather, two sources told The Sudbury Star.

Fortunately, the sources said, the crew that had been in Smooth Rock Falls made it back to Sudbury before dark and was able to locate the lost hikers.

Greater Sudbury Police Service confirmed it was called to assist OPP in the search for two hikers near Wavy Lake about 7:15 p.m. Sunday.

An OPP spokesman confirmed the OPP did locate the hikers, but didn't know the series of events that occurred before the missing hikers were found.

Nickel Belt New Democrat MPP France Gelinas, Sudbury Liberal MPP Glenn Thibeault and Dan Melanson, a former mayoral candidate and helicopter maintenance engineer, all say moving the helicopter from Sudbury to Orillia is a bad move. That's because Orillia is located near Georgian Bay and suffers inclement weather because of its proximity to the large body of water.

Melanson told The Star he has heard of at least one instance in which the Sudburybased helicopter had to be sent to Toronto to assist in a search and rescue because the Orillia 'copter couldn't fly out due to bad weather.

All three critics have said they fear lives will be lost in the North if the OPP aircraft is moved out of Sudbury.

OPP commissioner Vince Hawkes responded to criticism last week about the relocation of the Sudbury helicopter, saying the OPP is obligated to use all of its resources effectively to serve all Ontarians.

OPP helicopters are "not assigned to a single region or purpose," said Hawkes. The OPP has carefully studied helicopter use and determined Ontarians will be best-served if helicopter maintenance is centralized in Orillia.

A spokesman at OPP headquarters in Orillia said he wasn't aware of the events that occurred Sunday or how helicopters were dispatched, nor did he know the date the Sudbury chopper is to be relocated.

An OPP spokesman in Sudbury referred questions from The Sudbury Star about the two helicopter searches Sunday to OPP's central headquarters. (Sudbury Star)

May 13 2015

WATERLOO REGION - Sgt. Peter Viol is waking up in the middle of the night these days with a lot on his mind. What about the grizzly bears, poisonous snakes and mountain lions?



Viol, a 17-year veteran of the Waterloo Regional Police Service, is going on the ride of his life - the Tour Divide, a 4,500-kilometre cycling mountain trek from Banff, Alta., to Antelope Wells, N.M..

The trail is a vigorous ride with long stretches of dirt road crossing the length of the Rocky Mountains. It crosses two Canadian provinces and five American states, travelling through mountainous terrain, deserts and southern climates.

The ride begins June 12 and goes along the Continental Divide, the area that separates the watersheds that drain into the Pacific Ocean and waters that flow to the Atlantic.

By the end of the month-long ride, cyclists will have climbed nearly 60,000 metres (200,000 feet), equivalent to climbing Mount Everest seven times.

"I'm not in it to win. I'm in it to finish," said Viol, although there are winners who finish the race in three weeks. About 140 riders

participate.

"It's something I can do and I'm reasonably good at it. I get to ride and see some really nice scenery," said Viol, who is using his vacation time for the ride. "It's completely removing yourself from your comfort zone."

Viol plans to ride 160 kilometres a day and be at the finish line in 28 days.

"There is no entry fee, no prizes and no support, so you're on your own," said the 61-year-old Guelph resident who's been cycling competitively since 2001. For the past five years, he's organized the annual 600-kilometre ride for cancer from Waterloo Region to Ottawa, which culminates on the day before the annual service at the Canadian Police and Peace Officers' Memorial, held on the last Sunday of September.

Viol said he's motivated by the reason he chose to participate in the Tour Divide in the first place. He's raising money for the Grand River Regional Cancer Centre.

Both his mother and father died of lung cancer and two high school friends also died of the disease. The money he's raising will assist those who need financial support, such as cab or bus fare to get to treatments.

Viol has a group of five committed volunteers who are helping with the fundraising goal of \$10,000 because he's busy getting prepared.

To make a donation, go to worldtravellermark.wix.com/great-divide-ride.

May 13 2015

UK police forces are taking action to improve officers' cyber crime-fighting skills, a freedom of information request has revealed.



According to figures obtained by web security firm Veracode, more than 3,800 police officers have enrolled in training designed to make them better at investigating cyber crimes.

The news comes after the head of MI6 recently warned that law enforcement and government intelligence agencies are engaged in a "technological arms race" with cyber criminals and terrorists whose methods are "unconstrained by consideration of ethics and law".

Veracode said its findings suggest the training will enable local police forces to better investigate cyber crime both inside and outside their jurisdiction, and better support National Cyber Crime Unit investigations into the most serious cases of cyber crime.

(Waterloo Record)

May 13 2015

MONTREAL - Help Wanted: Montreal police seeking a new chief.



Qualified candidates are asked to send their curriculum vitae to 275 Notre-Dame St. E., care of Denis Coderre.

The mayor is calling on members of the Montreal Police Department's command who are interested in applying for departing police chief Marc Parent's position to write to him expressing their interest.

Coderre made the announcement at the end of the public portion of the weekly executive committee meeting at city hall on Wednesday.

Parent announced on May 7 that after five years in the position, he will not renew his mandate as chief.

Coderre, who saluted Parent's work, said his departure will be effective in September.

In the meantime, the city will waste no time initiating the selection process for his successor, he said.

"There will be a process," Coderre said. "In the meantime, I would ask the members of the command of the Montreal Police Department who can apply for chief of police to send me a letter ... I think it's important to see who's interested in this nomination. So first of all, send me this letter. There'll be a process after anyway."

Coderre specified that aspirants should state in their letter "why you're interested, and we can look at it."

Parent was appointed in 2010 following a process that involved vetting by a selection committee named by the mayor and composed of elected representatives of the city of Montreal and the island suburbs. The Montreal Police cover the territory of the island. The committee received applications, narrowed their number to a few candidates who were then evaluated by a recruiting firm.

While the choice of the Montreal police chief is inherently political, involving a vote of the Montreal executive committee, Montreal city council and the agglomeration council, Coderre's call for applicants to address him directly drew criticism from the official opposition at city hall.

"The process should be more serious than that," said Projet Montréal councillor François Limoges, vice-chairman of council's public-safety committee. He added that Coderre is "politicizing" the process.

"The law is clear. It's the Quebec gov-

ernment that names the chief of the Montreal Police on the recommendation of city council and the public-safety committee," Limoges said. "So it's not a prerogative of the mayor. ... Second, it's a process that should be more open, more serious, more rigorous than that." (Montreal Gazette)

May 13 2015

MONCTON, N.B. - The cost of additional policing in the aftermath of last June's murder of three RCMP officers has been estimated at \$9 million.

Coun. Charles Leger, a member of the Codiac Regional Policing Authority, said in



an interview that the numbers were released at the authority's meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

The city councillor said the regional policing authority will absorb \$3.5 million in costs, with \$1.5 million of that coming from a special contribution from the City of Moncton, and the towns of Riverview and Dieppe.

The costs included the investigation of five different crime sites, the salaries of additional police officers, the cost of overtime for backfilling while officers were on leave, as well as meal and accommodation costs during the emergency.

Leger said Ottawa is providing \$1 million under policing agreements with the province, while police services that sent in officers have absorbed \$1.5 million in costs, and the province is absorbing other costs.

The councillor said the expenses didn't include the costs related to the regimental funeral, which were covered by the federal government.

"There was a lot of co-operation in everything that happened," said Leger.

"When the shooting occurred, resources poured in and there were no questions asked and when it came time to tally up the financial costs those same parties were there again."

May 13 2015

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - Police say murder charges are pending against a 21-year-old man in a triple homicide last month in Lethbridge in southern Alberta.

The man was arrested Wednesday without incident.

On April 28, police found the bodies of Kyle Devine, 27, Clarissa English, 24, and Dakota English 18, in a townhouse in the west end of Lethbridge.

Police had responded to the residence after a concerned neighbour requested officers check on the welfare of the occupants.

The three died from multiple stab wounds.

THURSDAY MAY 14, 2015

May 14 2015

OTTAWA - The RCMP is looking for 30 officers to join a new unit that is set to take control of security on Parliament Hill, CBC News has learned.



CBC News obtained an internal RCMP memo sent to all of its members, in which the force puts out a call for regular members to become a part of the newly created Parliamentary Protective Service.

CBC News has also learned that new division will assume control of the parliamentary precinct in June.

The memo said all non-commissioned ranks will be considered for the new unit and anyone interested must commit to a minimum of three to five years in the position.

Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the safety of members of Parliament, Senators and the general public.
- Patrolling the parliamentary grounds.
- Assisting with visits by foreign heads of state.
- Providing assistance to the House of Commons and Senate security staff when needed.

The memo goes on to say the Parliamentary Protective Service "will report to [RCMP] National Division within its protective operations mandate, with accountability to the Speakers of the House of Commons and the Senate."

There is still no decision on who will head the team. The director of the new service will be a member of the RCMP and will lead the integrated security operations, but will take policy direction from the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons.

The new service was created in the wake of the Oct. 22 shooting on Parliament Hill, when gunman Michael Zehaf-Bibeau ran onto the grounds of parliament hill, hijacked a ministerial car and stormed centre block with a hunting rifle and knife.

Before Zehaf-Bibeau was killed, he shot one guard in the foot and came dangerously close to the room where Prime Minister Stephen Harper was meeting with his Conservative caucus and another room where NDP MPs were holding their weekly meeting.

Following the attack, there was criticism about confusion and lack of security coordination on that day. The RCMP was responsible for the security on the grounds of Parliament Hill, while the House of Commons and Senate had separate protec-

tive services inside the building.

One month later, a Joint Advisory Working Group on Security recommended the integration of security services under a single senior executive who would report to both the House and Senate speakers. A motion to make that happen passed in February.

The April federal budget committed \$36 million over two years to improve security on Parliament Hill.

May 14 2015

OTTAWA - The federal information commissioner says the Conservative government is setting a "perilous precedent" by retroactively rewriting the law to absolve the RCMP of wrongdoing.



Suzanne Legault tabled a special report in Parliament on Thursday revealing that she recommended almost two months ago that charges be laid against the RCMP for its role in withholding and destroying gun registry data

But instead of Justice Minister Peter MacKay moving on the recommendation to lay charges, the Harper government rewrote the law, backdated the changes and buried the amendment in an omnibus budget bill last week.

Legault says the omnibus budget bill "sets a perilous precedent against Canadians' quasi-constitutional right to know."

And she's going to Federal Court in an effort to preserve the rights of the complainant in the case, who had been seeking copies of the now-defunct, long-gun registry.

In a letter to the Speakers of both the House of Commons and the Senate, Legault said she was submitting her special report "in the hopes that parliamentarians will carefully consider the implications of Bill C-59," the omnibus budget implementation bill.

The RCMP responded to the report by stating it felt it had fully complied with provisions of the Access to Information Act.

"The RCMP would vigorously defend against any accusation of unlawful conduct in respect of the handling of this Access to Information request," spokesman Sgt. Harold Pfleiderer said in an email.

Under the provisions in Bill C-59, the Mounties won't have to defend anything.

The omnibus budget bill exempts any "request, complaint, investigation, application, judicial review, appeal or other

proceeding under the Access to Information Act or the Privacy Act," related to those old records.

No charges have ever been laid under the Access to Information Act, let alone convictions, despite past findings of blatant and illegal political interference in the workings of the system designed to inform Canadians about the activities of their government.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the Mounties were just obeying the will of his Conservative majority government.

"The government, the Parliament of Canada, has already decided to abolish the long-gun registry," Harper said at an event in Windsor, Ont. "The RCMP have acted fully within Parliament's intention in destroying the data in the long gun registry."

Harper asserted that the dispute is over contradictions between the Access to Information Act and his government's legislation to end the long gun registry. That is not the case.

In fact, the dispute revolves around the RCMP refusing to disclose gun registry data while the Conservative bill was still being debated and not yet law.

The complainant in the case had been seeking a complete list of the long-gun registry data - with names and other personal identifiers redacted under the Privacy Act.

Legault found that when the RCMP eventually delivered the more than eight million files, it had deleted some categories of information that should have been provided under the Access to Information Act.

May 14 2015

QUEBEC - The Quebec government wasted little time in acting on a report saying only police officers should be allowed to conduct strip searches of students.



Education Minister Francois Blais says school officials will soon be banned from carrying out these searches.

The report was ordered after a 15-yearold girl suspected of selling drugs was stripsearched in February at a Quebec City school.

No drugs were found and the girl later said she felt violated by the search.

The school board said it was only following government policy drafted in 2010 but family lawyer Francois-David Bernier maintained the high school misinterpreted those guidelines.

Fabienne Bouchard, a former prosecutor and retired lawyer hired to conduct the probe, wrote that a school that has serious grounds to believe a student is involved in drug trafficking should call police.

May 14 2015

TORONTO - The Toronto Police Service's marine unit came to the rescue of a tiny gosling they say was struggling to swim Wednesday.

Officers told CTV News they feared the baby bird would drown after they found it swimming in circles. They decided to scoop the bird up and nurse it back to health.

Officers later released the gosling back into Toronto Harbour. Photos gosling

"I put it back in the water and as our boat was starting to back away, this poor little guy is swimming back towards his lifeline, which was us and that was probably the hardest part for me," Const. Jeff Clarke told CTV Toronto Wednesday.

Police say the bird was taken in by a group of Geese.
(CP24)

May 14 2015

MOOSE JAW, Sask. - A Saskatchewan judge has ruled that simply looking at a cellphone while behind the wheel does not violate the province's distracted driving law.



The recently released online decision from provincial court Judge Margaret Gordon involves a man who was ticketed for using an electronic communication device in Moose Jaw last May.

The police officer who issued the ticket testified at trial that he saw the driver holding and looking at a cellphone while he was operating his vehicle.

The accused told court he had just received a text message from his daughter and had briefly looked at his cellphone to see who it was from, but didn't read the message or respond to it.

He told the court the text was on a locked screen and he did not touch or use the phone at all.

The Crown argued that the purpose of the law is to deal with distracted drivers, including those who take their eyes off the road to answer or look at their cellphone.

In ruling that the man did not break the rules, the judge said the law only applies to people who actually use an electronic device.

"In my view, the definition of use in the legislation is not so encompassing so as to prohibit looking at your electronic communication device," said Gordon.

May 14 2015

CAA Manitoba and RCMP say they spotted more than 300 drivers not moving over for roadside tow trucks and emergency vehicles yesterday alone, despite legislation requiring motorists to slow down.

The two agencies observed 316 vehicles driving by a CAA tow truck that was on the side of the Trans-Canada Highway near St. Francois Xavier, Man., to help a stalled vehicle on Wednesday.

Almost 99 per cent of the drivers failed to slow down and move to another lane as they drove past the staged scene, CAA Manitoba said Thursday.

No tickets were handed out during Wednesday's CAA and RCMP assessment.

The agencies also found that on Wednesday:

*Almost 11 per cent of drivers didn't move over at all. Those drivers were going at an average speed of 98 km/h. *Almost four out of five drivers did move over to the next lane, but most of them didn't slow down; they went at an average speed of 101 km/h. *One motorcycle passed by the scene at a speed of 123 km/h. *One semi-trailer passed by the scene at 107 km/h.

"It's so important that drivers slow down and move over for all emergency workers, like law enforcement, fire paramedics and tow trucks," Insp. Joanne Keeping, who heads up the Manitoba RCMP's traffic services unit, said in a news release.

"It only takes a few moments to do so, but can be the difference between life and death for these workers and the citizens they are assisting."

CAA Manitoba president Mike Mager said tow truck drivers, like other emergency workers, deserve to be safe on the job.

"We've lobbied for this legislation for six years, but it means nothing if drivers aren't following the letter of the law," he said.

The two agencies are reminding motorists to slow down and move over for emergency vehicles, especially with many people expected to go camping or to their cottages on the May long weekend.

