

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY |

May 22, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 21

Executive Digest

May 15 2015

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - A coroner's inquest into a deadly mill explosion in northern British Columbia has suggested that the RCMP develop a policy for investigating criminal negligence in the workplace as one of 33 recommendations aimed at preventing similar disasters.

Page 3

May 15 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police launched a pilot project to test body-worn cameras for its officers on Friday, joining a growing number of forces trying out the technology, which has been greeted with a mix of optimism and caution.

Page 4

May 19 2015

KEMNAY, Man. - A man accused of wounding an RCMP officer in a shooting prior to a standoff in western Manitoba has been charged with two counts of attempted murder.

Page 7

May 21 2015

REGINA - After two months of unsuccessfully trying to meet with a group of concerned citizens, Regina's police chief felt the need to write an open letter.

Page 9

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK
52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100⁰⁰

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

Critics call for 'Rent a cop' program changes



May 17 2015

But no one seems to know just when the practice first started, or where - not even those who reap millions of dollars every year from so-called "paid duty," a program that allows companies and individuals to hire off-duty officers for various events.

"When we tried to pin down where these requirements came from, nobody could tell us," says Alok Mukherjee, chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, which oversees the force.

From a thick binder labelled "Paid Duty," he pulls a copy of a document from 1957 - minutes from a police board meeting that references setting the rate for paid duty.

As far back as the 1920s, Toronto's then-police chief criticized paid duty, saying it would likely be rescinded.

But today, the practice has become a funding source for cash-strapped police forces, and a lightning rod for criticism.

In cities that include Montreal, Waterloo, Ont., and Calgary, critics are raising concerns that the system grants better protection to those with the means to pay for it, and questioning whether officers can remain impartial towards those who offer lucrative contracts.

In Toronto, where the program has been a political hot potato for decades, city officials are

eager to cut back the funds doled out each year for paid duty supervision of municipal projects.

Mukherjee also worries about what he calls the "reputational" cost.

"When people talk about police officers these days, it is interesting how frequently they talk about the police officer who is standing guard over a sewage drain doing nothing, slouching, holding a cup of coffee," he said.

Base salaries of police constables in Toronto range from \$63,436 to \$90,623, the force's website shows. Meanwhile, paid-duty earnings amount to an average of \$8,909 per officer, according to Ontario's so-called sunshine list.

Mukherjee wants to overhaul the program, including eliminating what he calls "rent-a-cops," where officers are hired for events that aren't required by law to have a police presence, such as Maple Leafs and Blue Jays games.

He also wants the city and the province to change rules that mandate when an officer must be on scene, usually to guide traffic, on larger roads that are under construction.

"I'd rather see a combination of special constables, paid duty and private security," he said.

In 2014, Toronto police officers made more than \$27 million for performing paid duties, with the service raking in another \$4 million from a 15-per-cent "administration fee" and another \$1 million for equipment.

More than 80 per cent of that cost is paid for by private individuals or organizations, which is why the head of the police union said the debate is not about finances since it doesn't affect the police budget.

"There's no economic basis to attack paid duties, so they've shifted to the reputational impact, which, to me, holds no water at all," Mike McCormack said.

"When we have officers who are downtown or in the city to improve traffic flow, it actually increases our reputation."

Mukherjee doesn't think so. The police board has the power to set guidelines on paid duty, he said, but change will have to come from the incoming police chief, Mark Saunders.

A recent report by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario recommended that some of the specific functions of paid-duty officers should be transferred to civilians or other security providers.

"This could include court security and prisoner transportation, data entry, accident reporting, burglary investigations (provided the burglary is no longer in progress), and forensics, among other functions," the report states.

In Montreal, the paid-duty system - established in the mid-1990s - is seen by some as a way to bolster municipal coffers. At one point, there was a push to use the program to help transform the force into a self-financing entity.

A report issued last year by Montreal's public safety commission urged the force to look at ways to expand its paid-duty services in order to generate more revenue.

The current police chief, Marc Parent, made it clear when he took over five years ago that he planned to scale back the program after the city's then-mayor raised concerns

about the appearance of two-tier policing.

Guy Ryan, a former Montreal police inspector, said he always had reservations about the system, particularly with paid-duty assignments he considered too close to security work.

"I'd say: 'Come on, there's an ethical issue there for us as a public service,' but there were some who went around that because they said it was additional revenue," he said.

The man overseeing Montreal's paid duty program - called "commercialization" - said strict guidelines have been put in place in recent years to ensure the force's integrity isn't compromised.

Officers aren't allowed to take on work that amounts to acting as a security guard, or that could give the impression of a conflict of interest, said Didier Deramond, the force's deputy chief. That includes watching over bars or other businesses, he said.

Paid duty brought in roughly \$4.4 million last year, Deramond said. While it does count as revenue in the police budget, he said it isn't a cash cow for the force. "We charge them what it costs us - we're not making any gains with this," he said.

A few years ago, ethical concerns prompted Waterloo's then-police chief to step in after business owners in the city's bar area started hiring paid-duty police officers to patrol on weekend nights.

Matt Torigian, now deputy minister of Ontario's Community Safety and Correctional Services, told the Waterloo Record at the time he believed policing should be shared equally instead of allowing one area to pay for "a higher level" of service.

In Calgary, police stopped offering paid-duty services to bars eight years ago after community groups said they were worried the officers would act in favour of their paying clients rather than remain impartial in the event of disputes.

There's a different model in Vancouver. Off-duty officers can still pick up paid shifts to guard Vancouver Canucks hockey games or other large events, but cops do not handle traffic at construction sites. Instead, civilians known as special constables are used to help guide traffic.

The cost is significantly cheaper.

"It would be very rare to have a police officer at a construction site - we have a traffic authority if we need someone other than the flag person," said Vancouver police spokesman Const. Brian Montague.

"Basically, this is an on-call position, on a part-time basis. These are teachers, veterinarians, people who want to help out, but this is not a full-time job."

In 2011, Toronto's auditor general recommended the Vancouver model.

A year later, Toronto's former chief, Bill Blair, reported back to the board, saying if the Vancouver model were to be implemented, the force stood to lose \$16 million in revenue. Blair also suggested the move could have a negative impact on the morale of the force.

THURSDAY
MAY 14, 2015

May 14 2015

MONTREAL - A woman who posted a photo of graffiti depicting a senior Montreal police officer with a bullet in his head has received a suspended sentence.

Jennifer Pawluck was found guilty in April of criminal harassment for snapping a photo of the street art and uploading it to Instagram in 2013.

The judge agreed with a joint suggestion that the 22-year-old Pawluck be given a suspended sentence, 18 months probation and 100 hours community service.

She is forbidden from using Instagram, Facebook or Twitter for one year except to send private messages.

Pawluck is also prohibited from posting anything about police or anyone associated with the judicial system.

Montreal police Cmdr. Ian Lafreniere, a high-profile spokesman, told the court that knowledge the graffiti was being shared shook him, scared his children and forced his wife to take a leave from work.

Pawluck had countered she posted the image without knowing who Lafreniere was, but the judge hearing the case cast doubt on her version.

She was charged under a summary offence, meaning the maximum sentence was six months in jail or a \$5,000 fine.

May 14 2015

OTTAWA - A new, publicly accessible database looks at more than 50 years of terrorist and extremist incidents with a Canadian connection.

The Canadian Incident Database is the product of the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society, or TSAS.

The project began in December 2013, with money from Public Safety Canada and Defence Research and Development Canada.

It lists 1,815 such acts between 1960 and 2014, with 410 of the incidents occurring abroad.

It uses the Criminal Code definition of terrorism to differentiate between terrorist and extremist incidents.

The 1,170 terrorist acts in Canada over the 64-year period caused 450 deaths.

May 14 2015

CALGARY - Calgary police have charged a man with hurling vulgarities at a female journalist covering the bad behaviour of hockey fans.

The man, who has not been named, faces a charge of stunting under the Traffic Safety Act.

The non-criminal offence carries a \$402 fine.

CBC reporter Meghan Grant says she was reporting three weeks ago along the Red Mile, a strip of bars and restaurants popular

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK Celebrating 20 Years
ISSN 1704-3913
Copyright 2015
Blue Line Magazine Inc. & The Canadian Press
Permission to reprint may be obtained in advance from
Access Copyright
Phone 1-800-893-5777 info@accesscopyright.ca
Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.
Most information supplied in this publication is from newswire services. As such Blue Line Magazine does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of articles as supplied.
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic database or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers. One Year Subscriptions are \$105⁹⁹ (GST Included). Paid subscribers may make up to four (4) copies of this publication for distribution within their organization.
GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048
12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca

with Calgary Flames fans, when a man shouted out from a passing truck.

Her camera recorded the truck's licence plate and officers tracked down the alleged heckler.

Grant says the man shouted out the same sexually explicit phrase that has become a trend targeting female reporters.

A man who recently shouted obscenities at a reporter covering a Toronto soccer game was fired by his employer for violating its code of conduct.

May 14 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton police have discovered what they call a "grow-op on wheels" in which marijuana plants were being grown inside a converted semi-trailer. The trailer was found last month inside a west-end warehouse that was outfitted with electrical lighting, a carbon dioxide generator and a self-watering system.



Members of the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams, which includes officers from both the Edmonton Police Service and RCMP, dismantled the operation on April 28.

A total of 559 marijuana plants, worth an estimated \$670,000, were removed from the warehouse, including about 150 from the trailer. Each plant was capable of producing four to 10 ounces of marijuana within a fourth-month cycle, police said.

Similar operations have been reported in British Columbia.
(Edmonton Journal)

May 14 2015

REGINA - Regina police are using data analysis to determine where officers should patrol in order to prevent crimes from happening in an initiative called Proactive Policing.

Instead of reacting to a crime, after it happens, the initiative will use analytical tools to anticipate where crimes are most likely to happen.

Supt. Corey Zaharuk said officers will also have a more visible presence in certain areas of the city.

"Recently, our officers have also been out at places like community rinks, leisure centres and shopping centres, where high rates of theft from autos were occurring, to deter thieves," Zaharuk said. "[Also] to remind people to remove valuables from vehicles and not leave them in plain sight."

Zaharuk said police will use information gleaned from their database to determine where to go.

(CBC News)

**FRIDAY
MAY 15, 2015**

May 15 2015

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - A coroner's inquest into a deadly mill explosion in northern British Columbia has suggested that the RCMP develop a policy for investigating criminal negligence in the workplace as one of 33 recommendations aimed at preventing similar disasters.

A five-person jury made the recommendations after eight hours of deliberations on Thursday but ultimately concluded that the fatal 2012 blast at Lakeland Mills in Prince George, B.C., was accidental.

Accidental means the deaths were the result of unintended or unexpected events.

Workers Alan Little and Glenn Roche died from severe burns suffered during the Apr. 23 explosion, while more than 20 others were injured, many seriously.

That blast also killed two people and injured more than 20 others.

May 15 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Police in Newfoundland and Labrador say the contents of 11 suspicious packages delivered to courts across the province were not dangerous, toxic or explosive.

The packages were delivered last week. All have been collected by police, with the exception of two in Labrador.

Police say two of the packages have been opened.

They say both contain documents addressed to the courts in a foreign language.

Other provinces have received similar packages.

Police say it remains unclear why the packages were delivered to courtrooms across the country.

(VOCM)

May 15 2015

RICHMOND, B.C. - A Mountie is suing an RCMP detachment in British Columbia, alleging injuries she sustained on the job required face-altering surgery and left her unable to work.

Richmond RCMP Const. Silina Sargis has filed a notice of civil claim in B.C. Supreme Court that says the incident happened while she was driving an all-terrain vehicle around Sea Island in search of a body.

She alleges she was trying to drive over a piece of driftwood when she was thrust forward and smashed her head and face into the vehicle's front metal rack.

Sargis claims she had to undergo surgery on her face that changed her appearance, and that she hasn't been able to work since the accident in June 2013.

She alleges it was her first time on an

SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES

Commissionaires supports police forces by taking on non-core duties, so you can return to the policing job you signed up to do.

commissionaires.ca/noncorepolicing
888 322 6777

COMMISSIONAIRES
TRUSTED · EVERYDAY · EVERYWHERE

ATV since training, and claims she was only given an open-faced helmet when she should have been provided with a full face mask and a protective chin bar.

None of the allegations has been tested in court.
(CKNW)

May 15 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police launched a pilot project to test body-worn cameras for its officers on Friday, joining a growing number of forces trying out the technology, which has been greeted with a mix of optimism and caution.



The year-long project in Canada's most populous city will see 100 officers wear the cameras as three different models are tested. A report on the exercise will be completed by June 2016.

"I think that this project has the potential to strengthen the policing profession, and I think it has the potential to strengthen our relationship with the community and enhance public trust," Staff. Supt. Tom Russell said as the project was launched.

"We believe that body-worn cameras are a valuable piece of technology that will provide an unbiased, accurate account of our interaction with the public."

The cameras will be activated whenever there is a call for service or someone is being investigated. Informal or casual conversations with citizens and interactions without an investigative element will not require the activation of the cameras.

Officers have been trained on privacy and human rights issues, Russell noted, and will have to tell people when the cameras are rolling in most situations.

In private spaces, such as homes and businesses, an officer needs consent in most situations before activating a camera. But officers executing a search warrant, or those in "exigent" circumstances will be allowed to record in private spaces without consent.

The project - which currently has a budget of \$500,000 - will store encrypted video from body-worn cameras on a police server for a year, unless it is needed for a longer period of time.

In launching the project, Toronto falls in line with similar testing efforts carried out in Vancouver, Edmonton and Hamilton, among others. The Calgary police service has already equipped hundreds of its officers with body-worn cameras.

May 15 2015

EDMONTON - A judge has ruled that an Edmonton police officer was driving dangerously when he raced his unmarked car through an intersection, killing an 84-year-old woman.

But Justice John Little said the officer's driving wasn't illegal.

He said he had reasonable doubt in the case against Const. Chris Luimes and so acquitted him on a charge of dangerous driving causing death.

"While the collision was a tragic event and took the life of one driver and left Const. Luimes permanently disabled, his driving was not a criminal act," the judge said Friday.

Luimes, 37, refused to talk to reporters as he walked out of the courthouse with about a dozen fellow officers.

Court heard that he was part of a surveillance team assigned to follow a suspected gold thief on the morning of March 8, 2012. He was in plain clothes and driving an unmarked car with its lights and siren off.

Another officer was driving behind the suspect and Luimes was trying to keep up with them as he sped through a southside intersection at 117 km/h, nearly double the posted speed limit.

His car then struck an oncoming vehicle that was making a left-hand turn.

Anne Walden was pronounced dead at the scene.

Luimes testified during his trial that he has no memory of the crash or the moment leading up to it. Court heard he broke a leg and two vertebrae and will never be able to run again. He now works as a police dispatcher.

The judge said expert evidence showed that Luimes did hit his brakes and tried to avoid the collision. But if he been driving the speed limit, or just slightly over, the crash would have been a fender-bender and no one would have been hurt.

May 15 2015

The Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada says the RCMP should plead guilty to the Canada Labour Code charges against it in connection with the shooting deaths of three Mounties and wounding of two others in Moncton, N.B., last June.

Spokesman Rob Creasser is also calling for the resignation of RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson.

"All of this has taken place on his watch," Creasser told CBC News on Friday.

"He has publicly told the media in many interviews that he felt RCMP members, especially in Moncton, had adequate training and weaponry. That was not the case, and continues not to be the case across the country."

The RCMP will appear in Moncton provincial court on July 9 to face four charges under the Labour Code related to equipment, training and supervision.

The charges stem from an investigation by Employment and Social Development

Canada of the fatal shootings.

Creasser, who previously called for an independent inquiry when debate arose about the RCMP's readiness to deal with the gunman, said he applauds the charges.

"Members continue to be vulnerable to the political choices made by management," said Creasser, a retired officer who served 28 years with the RCMP and now speaks for the association, which represents about 2,000 of the estimated 18,000 Mounties across Canada.

"The RCMP moved quickly to paint [the Moncton shootings] as an unfortunate event, but members had doubts. We had been through the Mayerthorpe tragedy, we knew what we should be doing as an organization to protect and prepare members, but it wasn't getting done," he said in a statement.

One of the key recommendations of an inquiry into the 2005 deaths of four RCMP officers near Mayerthorpe, Alta., was to equip general duty members with high-powered, mid-sized rifles - namely the Colt C8 patrol carbine, a gun used by many other law enforcement agencies, due to its precision, higher magazine capacity and effectiveness at great distances, said Creasser.

Paulson, who was assistant commissioner at the time of the report, "inexplicably rejected [it] and stalled in implementing the rollout," the statement said.

"Members have speculated that the RCMP was not keen to prioritize arming members when the RCMP was facing negative publicity on other use of force issues - a political trade-off that may have contributed to the Moncton tragedy."

Terry McKee, a retired RCMP corporal who had supervised two of the Moncton officers who were killed in the shootings, agrees Paulson should be held accountable and says he hopes the charges are just the beginning.

"I'm glad due diligence is being done with health and safety and we're proceeding," he said.

"I'm happy, but it's not a joyous occasion, because all of this took place with the loss and injury of members - not only physically, but mentally."

Three members of the Codiac Regional RCMP were killed and two others were wounded by gunman Justin Bourque as he wandered through a Moncton neighbourhood on June 4, 2014.

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada recommended the RCMP be prosecuted for contravening occupational health and safety provisions of the Labour Code.

There are four counts under Section 148(1) of the Canada Labour Code. That section of the code states that "every person who contravenes a provision of this part is guilty of an offence and liable" to a maximum \$1-million fine and/or a prison sentence of up to two years.

It's not clear if individual RCMP members will face charges.

(CBC News)

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Athletic League (PAL) and its community partners held the annual PAL soccer tournament on Thursday.

PAL is a youth crime prevention initiative that uses athletic, recreational and educational programs as a tool to foster positive rapport and mutual trust between police officers and youth.

With the partnership of the Vancouver School Board, BC Place, The Vancouver Police Foundation and the support of many local businesses and community members, approximately 15 elementary schools near the DTES and from East Vancouver were able to take part.

VPD Acting Deputy Chief Daryl Wiebe kicked off the event at BC Place Stadium where an estimated 1,000 elementary school kids participated in this fun and exciting tournament to support youth in the city.

Kids Play said that they teamed up with the VPD had over 80 volunteers who helped out and made this event a success. This program started off with a team of few individuals and now has grown to become a larger and stronger team to make a bigger and more positive difference in the community.

They said: "The sole purpose of Kids Play is to bring about an affirmative change in the community by keeping our youth on the right track through involvement in sports and extra-curricular activities. These young students participated in competitive soccer and learnt the opportunities to become leaders and athletes within their communities, along with staying away from the lifestyle of drugs and gangs."

(Indo-Canadian Voice)

SATURDAY
MAY 16, 2015

May 16 2015

EDMONTON - Whether it was pulling teeth, immunizing against rabies, or delivering a baby, Mounties serving in Canada's North were prepared to meet any emergency.

To equip members of the RCMP for the extra duties required in the North, a special school was held yearly in Edmonton at the Charles Camsell Hospital. The RCMP members would spend three years in the North before they would be rotated to another post.

Thirty constables representing every province were enrolled in a two-week course during which they received instructions from doctors, the Journal reported. In addition, veteran members of the force who had served in the North would lecture and pass on the knowledge they had gained through their experiences.

"For northern duty, where keeping law and order is just part of their job, the men must learn to cope with a variety of circumstances, mostly medical, because doctors

are far between," the Journal reported. The training they received at the Camsell was advanced first aid and sanitation. The officers spent mornings at lectures, watching films and exams.

"As much practical medicine as possible is shown the men, they often watch vaccinations, dental work and treatment of burns or various kinds of wounds," the Journal wrote.

"Every afternoon is spent in the maternity wing of a hospital where small groups are permitted to watch child delivery. This phase of the training is one of the most important as policemen in the North often are called to assist at child birth."

Officers were trained in how to handle cases of hydatid disease, which passes easily from dogs to people. Pulling teeth was another major part of the course, as well as learning how to administer anesthetics, how to vaccinate and how to treat frostbite.

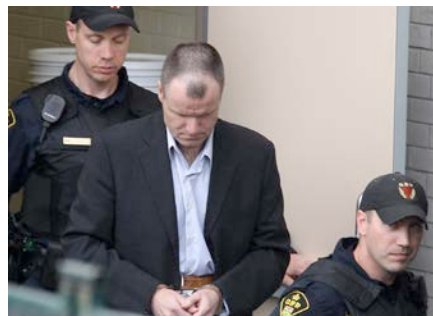
They were taught how to examine eyes, ears and throats for evidence of disease, and how to handle serious emergencies until a doctor arrived or until a patient could be moved to a hospital.

On completion of the course and written exam, the officers were sent immediately to their northern detachments.

(Edmonton Journal)

May 16 2015

In mid-September 2009, air force colonel Russell Williams broke into a neighbour's home in the village of Tweed. He beat, blindfolded and sexually assaulted a young woman as her 8-week-old daughter slept in another room.



When police arrived, a DNA sample was lifted from behind the woman's neck. It took less than two weeks for the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto to identify a DNA profile and upload it to the RCMP's National DNA Data Bank.

Days before that upload, Williams unleashed the same violence on another neighbour, Laurie Massicotte, though no useful DNA sample was found. Massicotte lived on Williams's dead-end street called Cosy Cove Lane.

On Nov. 24, he took his crime spree to Brighton, 60 kilometres south of Tweed, and escalated to murder. He broke into the home of Marie-France Comeau, a 38-year-old corporal under his command at Canadian Forces Base Trenton. He rained blows on her head with a flashlight and sexually assaulted her for hours, capturing much of it on video,

before suffocating her.

This time, a Star investigation has revealed, DNA results from that murder - which would have helped investigators by linking the crimes - took 10 weeks to process and upload from the day crime scene items began arriving at Toronto's forensic lab.

During those 10 weeks, Williams killed again. He stalked, tortured and raped 27-year-old Jessica Lloyd before strangling her on Jan. 29, 2010. He dumped her body in a field five days later.

The 10-week wait was more than twice as long as a 30-day target suggested nearly 20 years ago by Justice Archie Campbell, who delivered a scathing review of the bungled investigation and handling of DNA in the case of Paul Bernardo, the province's most notorious serial killer until Williams.

What's clear is that DNA wasn't processed fast enough to link the crime scenes before Lloyd's murder.

"What took so long?" asks the RCMP's former director of behavioural sciences, Glenn Woods.

"Anytime something could have been done to maybe have sped up the investigation in terms of identifying a suspect, you would expect that that would be done."

Through a freedom of information request, the Star obtained the dates when material for analysis was received by the forensic lab and uploaded to the national DNA database. The Ministry of Community and Correctional Services fought releasing the dates for more than three years.

The information and privacy commissioner - agreeing with the Star that the dates were a matter of public interest - eventually ordered their release.

The time it took to process some items from Comeau's crime scene was slightly above the average turnaround time - 62 days - for processing scientific evidence, including DNA, in an Ontario murder in 2009-10.

That is a combined average for Ontario's two forensic labs, in Toronto and Sault Ste. Marie. The ministry refused to say what the turnaround time is for each lab.

The ministry says in 2013-14, the average turnaround time for processing scientific evidence in a murder case was 52 days - a combined average for both Ontario labs.

The ministry, which oversees the OPP and the forensic lab, refused to respond to most written questions from the Star, including what, if anything, has been done to cut DNA processing times since the Bernardo report.

It also rejected requests for an interview with safety minister Yasir Naqvi, the OPP and the Toronto Centre of Forensic Sciences. It cited ongoing litigation for the silence, but refused to name the outstanding civil suits.

Lynne Bell, president of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science, says crime labs across Canada are struggling to keep up with demand from police forces.

"The labs are overwhelmed at the moment," says Bell, also a criminology professor at Simon Fraser University in B.C. "In the end it very much boils down to a

will (by governments) to invest.”

All provinces, except Ontario and Quebec, are served by RCMP labs. In Ontario, the Toronto centre has a staff of 217, including 75 in the biology section that handles DNA. Sault Ste. Marie's staff of 23 includes nine in biology. More serious crimes - and those where police have identified a suspect - have faster processing targets.

A 2007 report by the Auditor General criticized Ontario's two forensic labs for slow processing times. It noted that the number of forensic reports issued by the labs increased from 7,486 in 2001 to 12,693 in 2007. Reports involving DNA increased by 224 per cent during that period.

In the U.S., a 2010 study found DNA turnaround times from crime scenes of three weeks to nine months, depending on the state. In the U.K., it takes five to 14 days.

The RCMP's National Forensic Laboratory Services processes DNA from sexual assault investigations in 51 days, on average. When such crimes are a priority - when public safety is at risk, for example - the average turnaround time is 18 days.

For homicides, the RCMP's labs process DNA in 65 days, on average. When those cases are a priority, the average turnaround time is 19 days.

The relatively quick two-week processing time for Williams's first sexual assault could have been the result of police trying to confirm suspicions that the same person was responsible for the second assault nearby a few days later. But the Toronto lab was unable to identify a DNA profile from materials submitted in the second assault.

When Comeau was murdered in Brighton, police did not suspect a link to the sexual assaults 60 kilometres north in Tweed, says Van Allen, the former OPP criminal profiler. (Toronto Star)

SUNDAY
MAY 17, 2015

May 17 2015

EDMONTON - The head of Edmonton's police union says cops need an image makeover.



The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) is having trouble recruiting new members, according to a business plan that will go before city council Wednesday, and Maurice Brodeur is not surprised.

When he was in uniform, Brodeur would often hear people refer to himself and his partner on the street as “the (bleeping) cops.”

“When I was on Whyte Avenue and I'd hear that, I'd go up to guys and I'd say, ‘Hey man, my name's Maurice. I've got brothers, sisters, mom and dad, I'm just like you.’ That's the branding and marketing we need to do,” Brodeur said. “Because if we don't, we'll always be the (bleeping) cops. And then some people can't handle the pressure of being the (bleeping) cops and they don't join the police.”

Brodeur says it hasn't always been that way.

The 25-year veteran of the Edmonton and Winnipeg forces said both times he applied for jobs, “a couple thousand” hopefuls applied for classes of 25-30 officers.

“We're certainly not seeing those numbers now.”

Brodeur said police are scrutinized more than ever before, and few people want to deal with being constantly subjected to stares and iPhone videos when walking around in uniform.

Qualifications to become a police officer have also gotten more stringent, while the job has become more complicated.

While the pay is good, working graveyard shifts and weekends turns people off as well, and most young men and women in Alberta find private sector jobs more appealing.

“The oil patch is easy money, and with less stress,” Brodeur said.

The EPS 2016-18 business plan identifies a high likelihood of a failure to recruit “suitable sworn members,” citing “perceptions and attitudes about policing as a profession; significant disinterest in policing as a career and the highly competitive market for the same potential candidates.”

Brodeur said the backlash against police in the U.S, where citizens are killed by officers far more frequently, has crept north of the border and translated into more violence against police.

Brodeur said he prides himself on being held to a high standard and believes in police transparency, but said police management and especially politicians need to present more stories about the positive work officers do on a daily basis.

“There's a lot of reasons why this job is not as attractive as it used to be, and it's a shame. Because serving your fellow man, there's no higher calling. Giving mobile service to protect and help people, I get emo-

tional about it. I'm just so damn proud of what I do,” Brodeur said.

“The term ‘Edmonton's Finest’ used to resonate. It needs to resonate again.” (Edmonton Sun)

MONDAY
MAY 18, 2015

May 18 2015

WASHINGTON - US President Barack Obama is banning local police departments from receiving a range of military-style equipment from the federal government -- from grenade launchers to bayonets to certain armored vehicles -- as he implements the recommendations of a panel that examined the controversial gear giveaways in the wake of the Ferguson riots.

The White House announced Monday that Washington would no longer provide some military-style gear while putting stricter controls on other weapons and equipment distributed to law enforcement.

Obama said the use of militarized gear by police can give the public the feeling that law enforcement is like “an occupying force.”

In previewing the president's trip, the White House said that effective immediately, the federal government will no longer fund or provide armored vehicles that run on a tracked system instead of wheels, weaponized aircraft or vehicles, firearms or ammunition of .50-caliber or higher, grenade launchers, bayonets or camouflage uniforms. The federal government also is exploring ways to recall prohibited equipment already distributed.

In addition to the new equipment-transfer bans, a longer list of equipment the federal government provides will come under tighter control, including wheeled armored vehicles like Humvees, manned aircraft, drones, specialized firearms, explosives, battering rams and riot batons, helmets and shields. Starting in October, police will have to get approval from their city council, mayor or some other local governing body to obtain it, provide a persuasive explanation of why it is needed and have more training and data collection on the use of the equipment. (Fox News)



MISSING CHILDREN
SOCIETY OF CANADA

Reuniting families since 1986

www.mcsc.ca



If you have any information about a missing child, call toll-free

1.800.661.6160

or email us at

tips@mcsc.ca

May 19 2015

EDMONTON - An Edmonton police officer is in hospital and a civilian is dead after both were shot during a Monday night traffic stop.

Police said at about 9:30 p.m., a citizen called them about a possible impaired driver.

They said two officers pulled over a vehicle on the city's east side and shots were fired during a "confrontation with the members."

Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht told reporters early Tuesday morning that the wounded officer, who has been on the city force for eight years, has a non-life-threatening injury to his lower body.

"I visited with our member at hospital. He is heavily sedated but is in good spirits and appears to be doing well."

The civilian died at the scene, but investigators have not released the person's name. No other officers were hurt.

Knecht said stopping vehicles is one of the most dangerous aspects of an officer's job.

"When we stop a car, such as in this type of situation, you don't know who's in the vehicle and what they have been doing, or what they're planning on doing. This is just another example of a simple traffic stop that turns into something."

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team has taken over the investigation. (CHED)

May 19 2015

KEMNAY, Man. - A man accused of wounding an RCMP officer in a shooting prior to a standoff in western Manitoba has been charged with two counts of attempted murder.

The male officer suffered a non-life-threatening injury Friday evening while checking on a call about an alleged assault at a home in the small community of Kemnay, near Brandon.

Police say that when the officers arrived at the scene, they were threatened by a suspect before a gun was fired at them.

The Mountie who was hit has since been released from hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

Clayton Ewert, a 48-year-old Kemnay resident, is also charged with assault, uttering threats to kill and two firearms-related counts.

Ewert was remanded in custody prior to an appearance in Brandon provincial court today.

May 19 2015

A high-ranking Sûreté du Québec officer whose body was found in a lake near Sorel last year took his own life and had been suffering from the pressures of his job for several months, according to a provincial coroner who investigated his death.

Capt. Éric Martin, 49, was the number two officer in Operation Hammer, the first police squad assembled to investigate corruption and collusion in the construction industry before it was fused into UPAC.

According to a report prepared by Quebec coroner Pierre Belisle, the pressure Martin experienced on the job caused him to take a sabbatical leave early in 2013. He took a job in the private sector while on leave.

"Through the testimony of the people close to him, we learned that Mr. Martin occupied a high-level position with the Sûreté du Québec. The pressure and the responsibilities that accompanied the mandates assumed by Mr. Martin had a serious affect on his health, principally his mental health," Belisle wrote in his report.

The coroner has determined Martin took his own life and died by drowning.

(Montreal Gazette)

May 19 2015

A crowd of close to 50 people stood quietly in Hatzic Cemetery on Friday morning, remembering a fallen friend, comrade and troop mate.



A half century after RCMP Cst. Kenneth Kornelson died, his fellow police officers finally had the chance to say goodbye.

Kornelson, a recruit from Mission, was accidentally electrocuted while swimming in the pool at the RCMP Academy "Depot" in Regina on May 17, 1965.

The ceremony, which recognized the 50th anniversary of the tragedy, was organized by Staff Sergeant Major John A. Buis who said he was motivated to do something after hearing the story of Kornelson's death and reading the written account. He said that after Kornelson's death at the depot in Regina, his body was quickly taken back to Mission for a proper funeral. However his troop mates could not attend.

"All they had were the memories of him and a very short service in the chapel without Ken's remains being there," said Buis.

"This (Friday's ceremony) was a way for them to properly say goodbye and it was quite emotional, for many of us."

Buis said that many of the troop mates had wanted this for a long time. Ten of them showed up for the service.

One of Kornelson's troop mates, Jim Simpson, brought his two sons to the ceremony, both are in the RCMP as well.

Also attending the event was Mission Mayor Randy Hawes, Coun. Jim Hinds and representative from the Mission RCMP, in-

cluding Insp. Ted De Jager who told those in attendance that the memorial service will become an annual event.

"He is a member of the (RCMP) family, so that was a commitment that I made at the memorial that we will remember him," said De Jager. "Although it was a short service, his service, it was every bit as meaningful as anyone else's."

"It's important to have that understanding of the sacrifices that our members throughout the years have made."

De Jager was impressed with the ceremony, especially the fact that members of Kornelson's troop were in attendance.

"They've been long since retired so having them come out was amazing."

One issue that both De Jager and Buis would like to see resolved is, despite the fact Kornelson was officially on duty, training in the pool, when he passed away his name has still not been added to the RCMP's Honour Roll.

Ten years ago one of his troop mates, John Mitchell submitted documents to the RCMP to get the oversight corrected. Those documents were forwarded to the Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial, which is separate from the RCMP.

"It was accepted and his name went up on the cenotaph just outside parliament," said Buis.

However, Kornelson's name is still not on the RCMP memorial and that's the next step that Buis wants to see happen. He plans to file new papers to get Kornelson's sacrifice officially recognized.

The RCMP Honour Roll is located in Regina.

(Mission City Record)

May 19 2015

SURREY, B.C. - The federal government has pledged 100 new Mounties to the Metro Vancouver city in the middle of a spasm of gun violence and added \$3.5 million to extract gang members from the drug-fuelled turf war.

National Revenue Minister Kerry-Lynne Findlay unveiled the double-barreled strategy aimed at restoring safety to Surrey, B.C., after months of targeted shootings that have injured many and killed one man.

The response comes as Surrey's leaders and British Columbia's provincial government wave white flags for help from the federal government.

Regional police have made only minor headway stopping the ongoing gunfire that has targeted adversaries in cars, residences and streets.

"I think you'll start to see results right away," Findlay told reporters Tuesday at the announcement at the Surrey School District head office.

She couldn't say when the new officers will be in place, noting that process is still being worked out. The commitment directly answers a formal request for more officers made by the city and B.C.'s attorney general.

Police believe a group of South Asians is battling a group of Somali descent to control the area's low-level drug trade.

Five people have been arrested so far in about 30 shootings since early March, half which police have tied to the dispute. About 40 cars have fled from crime scenes. Numerous witnesses have refused to co-operate.

WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2015

May 20 2015

MONTREAL - Ten young people suspected of wanting to join jihadist groups overseas were arrested last weekend at Montreal's Trudeau International Airport, the RCMP said late Tuesday.

No charges have been laid, the investigation is ongoing and the 10 young Montrealers have had their passports confiscated.

The RCMP said in a statement that it is unable to release any names or information on what led to the arrests.

Investigators have, however, met with the families and friends of the suspects and said "the decision to leave the country was not that of the family, but of a single family member."

"These are very difficult times for the relatives and loved ones of the persons arrested," the RCMP said. "As a result, family members often find themselves at a complete loss and unable to understand the decision made by the youth."

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said in a release that he cannot comment on the arrests directly, but he commended the RCMP and the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team for their "continued vigilance in keeping our streets and communities safe from the ongoing global terror threat."

The weekend arrests follow reports earlier this year that six young people from the Montreal area had left the country in mid-January and may have joined jihadist groups in the Middle East.

A well-placed source confirmed the six people between 18 and 20 years old all went to Turkey, which is a well-known gateway to jihadist groups based in Syria and Iraq. Montreal police would only confirm that they were investigating several cases of missing adults.

May 20 2015

GUELPH, Ont. - A man has been fatally shot by police in the emergency room at a hospital in Guelph, Ont.

The Special Investigations Unit says Guelph police officers were involved in an "interaction" with a man on Wednesday afternoon at Guelph General Hospital.

The police watchdog agency says two officers discharged their firearms and the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Guelph police say they are co-operating with the SIU investigation.

May 20 2015

TORONTO - Toronto's new police chief wasted no time confronting the criticisms levelled at his profession as he was sworn in Wednesday, but promised "bold steps" under his term to better the force in Canada's most populous city.



Mark Saunders, the first black man to lead the force, was met with a standing ovation after outlining his vision during a packed swearing-in ceremony at police headquarters.

"The challenges are higher than ever before, the stakes are higher than ever before, but so are the opportunities to take bold steps," he said. "We have no excuses. We know what we have to do. I feel a great sense of optimism."

Saunders, 52, was selected as Toronto's top cop after an extensive international search to replace his predecessor, Bill Blair.

He has spent 32 years with the Toronto police and comes to his new job from the special operations command, where he managed 1,200 officers and 164 civilians in a department that included the homicide squad, sex-crimes unit, and guns and gangs task force.

As he took on his new post, Saunders acknowledged the challenges facing the force of about 5,500 uniformed officers and 2,500 civilians.

"Policing is at a crossroads. It is under scrutiny as never before. The legitimacy and sustainability of policing are under challenge from those who believe it is both seriously flawed and too expensive," he said.

"The challenges have never been greater, but so too, opportunities to examine everything we do, how we do, why we do, should we continue to do it, can we do it more effectively and efficiently."

Saunders promised that under his command, Toronto police would work to improve their interactions with the public.

"Every member of this service has a personal responsibility to make sure their interactions with members of the community are marked by courtesy and respect," he said.

"We have to ensure that our community engagements become smarter, surgical, that they are conformed and guided by the latest and most accurate intelligence. That they are guided by the law."

Saunders highlighted a new pilot project launched last week to test body-worn cameras, and noted that he was open to

other technological innovations that would improve policing.

He also promised to examine all duties carried out by police officers to see if some of them could be done by properly-trained civilians.

May 20 2015

WINNIPEG - CTV Winnipeg says the Manitoba government is set to change the way that police officers will be investigated.

The TV station says it has learned the province will be rolling out a new independent investigation unit comprised of current or retired officers, and says the Winnipeg police board has been briefed on it.

The unit will oversee all police forces in Manitoba and will investigate officer-involved shootings and anything criminal in nature involving police officers.

The creation of the unit stems from an inquiry report into the death of Crystal Taman, who died after her car was rear-ended by an off-duty police officer who had been out all night partying with colleagues.

The 2008 inquiry led to the disbanding of the East St. Paul police force and charges against the police chief of deliberately botching the investigation in order to protect the officer.

The police chief was acquitted and impaired driving charges were dropped against the off-duty officer, Derek Harvey-Zenk, who was given a two-year conditional sentence for dangerous driving causing death.

(CTV Winnipeg)

May 20 2015

SYDNEY, N.S. - The Nova Scotia government is placing a team of specialized nurses in Sydney to help victims of sexual assault.

The nurses will have training to provide emotional support for victims and collect forensic evidence.

Health Minister Leo Glavine says the government is aware of gaps in services for victims of sexual assault.

The government plans to add one more team of specialized nurses in southwestern Nova Scotia, in addition to Sydney and the two existing teams in Halifax and Antigonish.

The Department of Health and Wellness, the Nova Scotia Health Authority and IWK Health Centre will determine whether the service in Sydney will be based in a hospital or co-ordinated by a community organization.

In either case, the team will travel to health facilities in the area to provide services where they are needed.

The government says both new teams will be in place by late 2015.

May 20 2015

OTTAWA - Ontario Provincial Police are investigating allegations of RCMP wrongdoing related to the illegal destruction of long gun registry records.

May 21 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that the manslaughter conviction of an Ontario aboriginal man should not be overturned because of a lack of aboriginal jurors.

By a 5-2 margin, the high court found that a northern Ontario community made reasonable efforts to ensure the jury in a manslaughter case had adequate aboriginal representation.

The ruling overturns the 2011 Ontario Court of Appeal ruling that found the absence of aboriginals on the jury violated Clifford Kokopenace's constitutional rights, and threw out his 2008 conviction.

Kokopenace was convicted in 2008 of stabbing a friend to death on the Grassy Narrows reserve in northwestern Ontario.

Kokopenace's Kenora district jury was selected from a panel of 175 potential jurors, only eight of whom were on-reserve residents, but none of those made it on to the jury.

The high court's ruling restores Kokopenace's original conviction.

May 21 2015

REGINA - After two months of unsuccessfully trying to meet with a group of concerned citizens, Regina's police chief felt the need to write an open letter.

The Regina Police Service published the letter by Police Chief Troy Hagen on its website on Wednesday. In the message, Hagen responded to a list of eight concerns the group delivered to police during a rally on March 15, the International Day Against Police Brutality.

Hagen said the list, which included concerns about racial profiling, treatment toward those with disabilities and transparency, was also posted to social media.

In his letter, Hagen wrote that the RPS does not engage in racial or youth profiling and highlighted continuing to build relationships with aboriginal communities. As for public accountability, Hagen wrote that 78 per cent of allegations against the service have been unfounded in the past eight years.

"Since the concerns were raised in a very public manner," Hagen wrote, "we cannot leave the public with an impression that the Regina Police Service is indifferent to your group's concerns."

The currently unnamed group had its first meeting after Brooke Watson and her mother made allegations against two Regina police officers.

Watson, whose claims were deemed unfounded by a Public Complaints Commission investigation, alleged that two officers took her into custody and drove her outside the city in January. She also alleged that the officers were verbally abusive to her and that they took her coat, shoes, keys and cellphone from her and did not return them.

(Regina Leader Post)

Canadian killers, Michael (Taz) Sandham of Winnipeg, rode down to Texas to meet with the top level of the Bandidos weeks before the Shedden killing.

Sandham and Kellestine met with Peter (Mongo) Price, the national sergeant at arms at Peace Arch Park, which straddles B.C. and Washington State, weeks before the murders.

Cook dismissed the suggestion that Price was more than a messenger.

"He's not a significant enough player to be anything more than a delivery man," Cook said.

Several of the men convicted in the Shedden killings were connected to the former Winnipeg probationary chapter of the Bandidos.

Cook also said that the Winnipeg chapter had been relatively unassuming before the meetings with the top American Bandidos.

"They were always relatively quiet," Cook said.

The Bandidos have roughly 2,400 members worldwide, with their headquarters, or "Mother Chapter," in Texas.

(Toronto Star)

May 20 2015

It was bound to happen someday. Police in Australia are warning concert-goers to be on the lookout for Nickelback, the oft-maligned yet internationally successful Canadian rock band.



"Police are on the lookout for these men who are believed to be impersonating musicians," the Queensland Police Service said in a Facebook post on Wednesday. The post includes a rough drawing of the suspects, but no photograph to look at.

The post says Nickelback is "wanted for crimes against music."

Queensland police say the musicians are expected to appear in the Brisbane suburb of Boondall on Wednesday night.

"Avoid the area," the post says. "It may be hazardous to your hearing and street cred."

The post includes two hashtags, #NoFixedAddress and #LookAtThisGraph. "No Fixed Address" is the name of Nickelback's latest album, while "Look at This Graph" is the name of a Nickelback viral meme.

(CTV News)

Last week, information commissioner Suzanne Legault issued a special report that showed she had recommended charges be laid against the Mounties for the destruction of the records that were part of an active investigation.

But the federal government retroactively rewrote the law, backdated the changes and buried the amendment in the omnibus budget bill introduced earlier this month.

Legault responded by calling the government move a "perilous precedent" that could be used by governments to retroactively rewrite laws on everything from spending scandals to electoral fraud.

Sergeant Peter Leon of the OPP confirms an investigation will take place.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay's spokeswoman Clarissa Lamb said in an email that, "The Attorney General of Canada is not responsible for laying charges."

May 20 2015

Faced with the choice between a potential death penalty and freedom, some Texas members of the Bandidos biker club charged in last weekend's deadly shootout can be expected to start talking with investigators, police say.

And that could shed fresh light on the role top American bikers may have played in the slaughter of eight Toronto-area bikers in 2006.

"A lot of these guys are going to roll (co-operate with police)," said Steve Cook, a Kansas City, Mo.-area police detective with the Midwest Outlaw Motorcycle Investigators Assn., who has worked undercover against a gang affiliated to the Bandidos.

The Texas Bandidos were involved in a shootout with the rival Cossacks club shortly after noon on Sunday in a suburban mall in Waco, Texas that left nine men dead, 18 injured and 170 arrested.

The arrested bikers are being held on \$1-million bond.

Somewhere in that group of jailed bikers are men who know more about the role top American Bandidos played in the systematic murders of the eight Toronto-area Bandidos in 2006 in a southwestern Ontario barn owned by Bandido Wayne (Weiner) Kellestine, Cook said.

"I would think if they have any knowledge of Ontario, that would be the trump card to play," Cook said. "I'd be playing that trump card immediately."

Cook said he has long believed that some Americans Bandidos officers should have been charged for the 2006 murders.

Six Canadians connected to the Bandidos were convicted of first degree murder for the systematic executions.

"I can't imagine Kellestine and those guys just making a decision on how they're going to wipe out an entire chapter on their own, and not worry about the repercussions from America," Cook said.

"I don't think Kellestine is that sort of free and independent thinker that he'd come up with that idea all by himself."

Cook noted that one of the convicted