

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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“Swatting” call draws large police turnout



May 26 2015

TORONTO - A threatening phone call that triggered a “huge” police response and caused five schools northwest of Toronto to activate emergency plans appears to have been a hoax - and police want the public to know they aren’t pleased.

Hundreds of students, along with staff, had to be held in a secure area in Brampton, Ont., for hours on Tuesday while numerous Peel Region police officers searched inside and around the schools before determining the threat was likely a case of “swatting,” where someone makes a false call to police in order to spark a significant response.

“This is not a joke,” Const Lily Fitzpatrick told. “This is a huge amount of resources that are deployed to an area because public safety is our number one concern. Somebody who does this, they’re not a hero, they’re not funny, they’ve got nothing to be proud of.”

Swatting is not a new phenomenon and there have been a number of recent incidents in Ontario.

Police in Richmond Hill, Ont., north

of Toronto, are currently investigating a call over the weekend in which a man said his father had shot a family member, but police arriving at a residence found two adults and two children surprised to see officers breaking down their door.

Meanwhile, police in Niagara Region are looking into a call that made threats of violence towards a mall on Tuesday morning, resulting in its evacuation. Police in that incident said a man later called back to advise the incident had been a hoax.

Peel Region officers have also previously dealt with swatting, but usually on a smaller scale, where they’ve responded to hoax reports typically involving single homes.

Tuesday’s call, because it affected five schools, was far more serious, Fitzpatrick said.

Police got a call around 8:15 a.m. from someone who said they had “armed themselves with weapons” and were going to go to a school where their intention was to “harm people,” Fitzpatrick said.

Officers arrived at Gordon Graydon

Senior Public School within three minutes of the call and the building was placed under lockdown. Four other schools in the area went into hold-and-secure mode.

Because the school day hadn't begun yet, only some staff and a few students were in the school at the centre of the alleged threat and were brought to a secure area.

Hundreds of students and staff were then re-routed to an area of a local mall parking lot which was secured by police, where they waited on school buses and city transit buses as the situation was investigated.

"We had officers from uniformed patrol, the neighbourhood policing unit, our bike unit officers, tactical, canine and officers from the 22 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau," said Fitzpatrick. "There was lots of officers from six different units."

Each of the five schools and their perimeters were scoured by officers until, around 11:10 a.m., police determined that the threat appeared to be unfounded, said Fitzpatrick.

"We can't 100 per cent rule out the fact that somebody may have tried to make a legitimate threat and police response was too quick and scared them off, however, everything that investigators have seen so far leads them to think that it is quite possibly a swatting situation," she said.

Investigators are now working to identify the caller and are looking to lay charges, Fitzpatrick said.

"There's so many people that are profoundly affected by something like this," she said. "Every student, every parent of every student, every staff member and every family member of those staff members have been victimized by this. And that's in addition to the huge waste of resources that should be there to legitimately protect the public."

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Celebrating 20 Years

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THURSDAY MAY 21, 2015

May 21 2015

EDMONTON - An Edmonton police plan to hire 310 extra staff over the next three years to run new programs can't continue forever, Mayor Don Iveson says.

"We're looking at a 3.5- (to) four-per-cent increase in head count at the police service," he said Wednesday following presentation of the police 2016-18 business plan.

"That's 1-1/2 to two times the growth of population we're forecasting. That is unsustainable."

Police want the new officers and civilian workers in addition to 98 people required to keep up with Edmonton growth and run the northwest campus set to open in 2018.

One reason for the growth in staff is the city's plan to annex part of Leduc County, including the Edmonton International Airport.

Part of the airport policing cost will be covered by the federal government, which now pays for RCMP officers at the facility, Chief Rod Knecht said.

He agreed his department can't continue to increase at the current rate, but said they're just catching up to where they should be to meet public expectations.

"We're just looking at ways to be efficient as a police service so we don't have these huge growth asks," he said.

"I think the mayor is absolutely right ... I don't think police can continue to ask for resources year after year after year. We have to find better ways to do business."

That includes more prevention to keep people away from crime, as well as working with other groups on addiction and mental health programs, Knecht said.

For example, the heavy users of service project brings together 16 agencies to devise care plans for 50 high-needs residents for up to two years, he said.

"If these people are dealt with, it has a huge impact on the system," Knecht said.

"We're talking about two or three of them that have 300 hospital visits a year." (Edmonton Journal)

May 21 2015

SASKATOON - Saskatoon's police chief says a new survey commissioned by his department shows gang activity is one of the top concerns in the city, and he says it's with good reason.

Chief Clive Weighill says the public's perception of gang activity matches the reality of what's happening.

He says gang-related violence has been steadily rising since 2013.

In the survey, 26 per cent of the 513 people polled listed gangs as their top policing priority, second only to traffic violations at 41 per cent.

Weighill says back in 2003, a similar

survey showed only five per cent of those polled thought gangs were a problem. (CKOM)

May 21 2015

OTTAWA - Most Canadian police forces still do not collect the right kind of in-depth data on when they resort to pulling their weapons or using force, nor do they receive sufficient mental health training to de-escalate confrontations that may turn deadly, a new report says.



The Toronto Star obtained a copy of the research report commissioned by the federal public safety department after the Toronto police shooting of Sammy Yatim in 2013. It takes a comprehensive look at how police forces in Canada and the U.S. track their officers' use of force in encounters between police and members of the public.

Its main conclusion is that, despite years of high-profile and critical inquiries into police actions in, for example, the Yatim shooting, the Vancouver police shooting of Paul Boyd, or the RCMP tasing of Robert Dziekanski, a consistent national approach is needed towards documenting when and why cops use force against citizens.

It also urges more substantial mental health training for frontline officers who confront troubled individuals, too, saying the research clearly shows officers who receive extensive training successfully de-escalate tensions and are less likely to use deadly force.

The report concludes it's not merely a matter of public safety, but officer safety as well, because police officers often suffer injuries when situations turn violent.

Federal public safety officials and police forces across the country have the report in hand, but it has not been publicly posted.

Ontario government officials are now reviewing its findings, along with a draft report of a systemic investigation by the provincial ombudsman's office into what direction the province provides to police on use of force and de-escalation techniques, expected to be released within weeks.

Ian McPhail, chair of the RCMP's civilian watchdog body, said in an interview that a consistent national approach would absolutely be beneficial, but may be seen as too costly to implement. Yet he said it may lead to a reduction in use of force, pointing to how Taser use by Mounties dropped over the commission's three-year review of RCMP poli-

cies and practices after Dziekanski's death in 2007.

The latest report, authored by independent consultants John Kiedrowski, Ronald-Frans Melchers, Michael Petrunik, and Christopher Maxwell, explores what it says are two of the best approaches to documenting use of force.

The goal of both is to provide a 360-degree look at a subject's behaviour as well as the officer's response, and to use consistent definitions of what constitutes "force" to collect narrative data as well as statistics that could be analyzed for trends.

In Canada, such analysis could reveal whether use-of-force injury suffered by an officer or a suspect is related to demographic factors like race or ethnicity, or tied to a police officer's work shift, stress levels, or other indicators such as sleep deprivation, it says.

When used to study actions by officers in six U.S. police forces, the analysis showed officers responding to a priority call, or with lights and sirens blazing, are consistently likely to use more force; younger police officers, and officers who previously received medical attention for injuries received on the job, are more likely to use physical force.

And a citizen was more likely to use force against police when alcohol-impaired, when there is a greater number of police officers than normal, when bystanders are present, and when violent offences or gang-related activities are involved. Police also tend to use less physical force if they perceive the subject to be a member of a gang or associated in some way with a gang.

(Toronto Star)

May 21 2015

BALTIMORE - A grand jury indicted all six officers charged in the case of Freddie Gray, who died of injuries he suffered in police custody, allowing the state's attorney to press ahead with the most serious charges despite criticism that she was part of an "overzealous prosecution."

The indictments announced Thursday were similar to the charges Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby announced nearly three weeks ago. The most serious charge for each officer, ranging from second-degree "depraved heart" murder to assault, stood, though some of the lesser alleged offences had changed.

Gray suffered a critical spinal injury April 12 after police handcuffed, shackled and placed him head-first into a van, Mosby has said.

Mosby said prosecutors presented evidence to the grand jury for the past two weeks. Some of the charges were changed based on new information, but she didn't say what that was.

Attorneys for the officers have said in court documents they are the victims of an "overzealous prosecution" riddled with personal and political conflicts of interest. They said at a minimum, Mosby should be

replaced with an independent prosecutor because she had a personal interest in calming unrest in the city that followed Gray's death and because her husband is a city councilman who represents the areas most impacted by upheaval.

May 21 2015

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says there is "no legitimate reason of any kind" for Canadians to become involved in jihadist or terrorist movements.



Harper was in Montreal on Thursday to announce funds for the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency in the fight against terrorism.

The RCMP will receive \$150.4 million over five years, beginning in 2015-16, and \$46.8 million a year after, with the money going to help the Mounties conduct terrorism-related criminal investigations.

The border-services agency will get \$5.4 million over five years and \$1.1 million annually in subsequent years, with some of the funds earmarked for identifying high-risk travellers.

While the Prime Minister's Office described the money as "new" and "additional," it was not clear whether it was part of the anti-terrorism allocation announced in the recent federal budget.

Harper was speaking at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, where 10 youths were arrested last weekend after being suspected of wanting to leave Canada to join jihadist groups.

"Obviously we have great sympathy for the families affected but let us be clear: we have a great country here, we have a country that is unparalleled in terms of its freedom, its democracy, its openness and its tolerance," the prime minister told reporters after making his announcement.

"And there is no legitimate reason of any kind in this country for someone to become a violent jihadist or a terrorist or to join any kind of group that is involved or advocates that kind of activity.

"It is totally unacceptable to Canada and Canadians and unacceptable to this government."

Violent jihadism is not a future trend but a current reality in Canada and around the world, Harper said, adding that the funds will be important in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

May 21 2015

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service has officially implemented its counter-terrorism strategy but it will not include the formation of an official anti-terror unit.

"We were working on this late 2014 into early 2015, and for the last month or so it's been in action," said EPS Insp. Chad Tawfik, adding the strategy wasn't implemented based on any particular incident.

"As far as establishing a formal unit, the RCMP has the mandate for national security investigations and so we will be supporting those endeavours."

On Thursday evening, EPS members, including city police Chief Rod Knecht, gathered to discuss the counter-terrorism strategy at a public Edmonton Police Commission meeting at city hall.

With a focus on prevention, intervention, and suppression of crime and disorder within Edmonton, the strategy identifies the ways terrorism can take shape, including domestic and homegrown extremism, high-risk travellers, and domestic criminal incidents.

Domestic and homegrown extremists are categorized as citizens or long-term residents of Canada that identify themselves with extremist beliefs. It says extremists may contribute to the problem of extremism by participating in the dissemination of propaganda or demonstrations, providing capital or instrumental resources, assisting to recruit others or through criminal activism.

(Edmonton Sun)

**FRIDAY
MAY 22, 2015**

May 22 2015

Members of the Edmonton Police Service will be in P.E.I. this weekend seeking recruits who are willing to move out west.

It's the third time in the last few years the force has come to P.E.I. Although there was a lot of interest, the force has yet to recruit anyone from the Island.

Const. Dallas Koenig says he thinks many people didn't want to leave the Maritimes.

But this time, he's hoping to convince potential recruits that the pay, even for training, will make the move worthwhile.

"When you look at the starting wage here of coming in to go to school, it's \$61,000 a year, I mean it's not a bad start," said Koenig.

"You can make more money going into the pipelines but that's a whole different thing. Here, you're in Edmonton, you're home every night. I mean, let's talk about the wage. The average constable by their fourth year is well over \$100,000."

The force is looking for 400 recruits.

(CBC News)

May 22 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief says more police officers have come forward to admit to steroid use since two officers were charged with selling the drugs in March.



Chief Rod Knecht made the remarks during an informal chat with reporters at police headquarters on Friday morning.

"Our members have been very forthcoming," he said.

"There have been situations where we didn't even know about certain individuals, and they've come forward and said, look I used steroids."

Knecht didn't have specific numbers on how many officers have come forward, saying he couldn't comment specifically as the internal investigation is still underway.

Knecht called the openness shown by some members in disclosing their steroid use "remarkable."

"I think it speaks to their integrity and fortitude, and I think it demonstrates that EPS is a place where these people can come forward, and they're willing to come forward. I don't think that's always been the case."

Knecht has been firm in his zero tolerance towards steroid use on the force, saying that "using steroids is cheating."

The image of the brawny police officer is one that Knecht wants to see debunked.

In March, two police officers found themselves on the other side of the law after being charged with illegally selling steroids to other officers.

The investigation, which took almost two years, was conducted by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team. Sgt. Greg Lewis and Const. Darren French have been charged with trafficking stanozolol, an anabolic steroid -- the same drug Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson tested positive for during the 1988 Olympics.

Since the charges were laid, another Edmonton police officer, Const. Adam Toma, admitted to using steroids during a police disciplinary hearing - a decision that led to his demotion from sergeant to constable, and a \$20,000 pay cut.

Knecht said he expects the internal investigation to wrap up within the next three weeks. So far, the department has conducted 30 interviews within EPS related to steroid use and trafficking.

(Edmonton Sun)

May 22 2015

COLD LAKE, Alta. - An agency that investigates serious incidents involving police says an officer will face no charges in the deadly shooting of a man on an Alberta First Nation.

Alberta Serious Incident Response Team has released the results of its investigation into the fatal shooting on the Cold Lake First Nation in August 2013 and also said the shooting was justified.

ASIRT says Cold Lake RCMP had tried to arrest a 52-year-old man who had a significant criminal history in 2012 in Cold Lake, but he fled.

Local RCMP officers say they were told by several residents of the First Nation, including the man's family members, that he would not go back to prison and would kill himself or start a situation that would get him killed.

RCMP members encouraged the man's family to turn himself in.

When police went to the home in 2013, ASIRT says the man pointed a large knife at one officer, who told him to drop it, and when he didn't, the officer shot him twice.

"The affected person dropped the knife and turned to go towards the front entrance, making it a few steps, at which time he collapsed. The entire confrontation took seconds," ASIRT said in a release Friday.

"At the time of the execution of the warrant, the officer was lawfully placed and the force used was reasonable in light of the circumstances presented, notwithstanding the tragic consequences of the loss of a life."

May 22 2015

ESQUIMALT, B.C. - Justice Minister Peter MacKay says interest is immense from groups across Canada wanting to participate in the government's \$20-million sex worker exit strategy.

He says the government is about to deliver funds to groups and organizations in the near future, but he did not provide the exact date.

MacKay says more groups than available money have applied to participate in the program that would help people get out of the sex trade.

He acknowledged previous concerns

from sex workers, law enforcement and aboriginals leaders that the funding isn't enough to address the issue, but says it's the first time a federal government has attempted to fund this type of program.

May 22 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has ordered a new trial in the case of two Edmonton men who made child pornography after videotaping two 14-year-old girls performing sex acts.



Donny Barabash and Shane Rollison were acquitted at their 2012 trial of making child pornography because the judge accepted that the so-called private-use exception was available to them as a defence.

The Alberta Court of Appeal overturned the acquittal and convicted the men, but it was not a unanimous decision, with one appeal court justice saying the private-use exception was available because the videos were consensual and for private use.

But the Supreme Court was unanimous in its ruling that the private-use defence cannot be used if it is determined that the girls were sexually exploited.

The high court ruled that the trial judge focused too much on the question of consent, and not the broader issue of whether the girls were exploited.

The two 14-year-old girls ran away from home, fell into prostitution, and abused crack cocaine and marijuana.

May 22 2015

Toronto police have arrested and charged a man for recording an intimate conversation he had online and then posting it to a pornographic website.

It is the first time the Toronto police have laid the charge, called Make Available Intimate Image Without Consent.

Steven Ly, 30, of Toronto was arrested



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on May 5.

Police believe there may be other victims and ask anyone with information to contact authorities.
(CBC News)

May 22 2015

CTV News has learned of serious mistakes by RCMP officers when shots rang out on Parliament Hill last October.



The new details shine light on what happened in those terrifying hours after Cpl. Nathan Cirillo was fatally shot at the National War Memorial, and Parliament Hill was stormed just moments later.

In one case, a Mountie fled Parliament Hill, running the opposite way as gunman Michael Zehaf-Bibeau stormed the Centre Block, according to sources.

Before that, an officer was texting on his phone and didn't notice as Bibeau drove by in a vehicle he had commandeered.

And even after gunman Michael Zehaf-Bibeau was killed by then-Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers, a Mountie unloaded his firearm into Bibeau's body.

That wasn't the only questionable incident that took place after the threat was eradicated. Another officer accidentally discharged his weapon, the bullet grazing his leg. The sound of the gunshot caused temporary panic that a second shooter was on the loose.

That wasn't the case, but it took police eight agonizing hours to confirm the threat was over.

The details come after the Ottawa Police Service, which is responsible for security off Parliament Hill, owned up to its own mistakes on that day.

More than 300 Ottawa Police officers deployed all around the city as word of the shooting spread, but many of them decided on their own to join the effort.

That caused its own set of problems as some showed up in street clothes and others donned balaclava-style masks -- causing concerned members of the public to report sightings of armed, masked men around the city. Those reports led to unnecessary investigations which further confused and taxed authorities.

There were also moments of heroism. Greg Peters, a former senior RCMP officer in charge of Senate security, actually injured himself helping a fellow employee get to safety.

"In an effort to get a fellow employee to safety, he sustained injuries to his lower legs

jumping from the building to the pavement 20 feet below," said a statement from the Senate of Canada, praising Peters' efforts.
(CTV Ottawa)

May 22 2015

NEWMARKET, Ont. - Two years ago, in May 2013, Sgt. Peter Merrifield, then a 15-veteran of the RCMP, appeared before the standing Senate committee on national security and defence and made an astonishing charge.



Merrifield was already then a controversial figure in the force. He had long claimed to be the victim of harassment. He went all the way to the Supreme Court to win the right to sue his employers and was helping lead the charge to unionize the RCMP.

But what Merrifield said that day had little to do with him, at least not directly. Instead, he told the committee, he had evidence of wrongdoing among his superiors, wrongdoing of the most titillating and newsworthy kind. "In one memorable circumstance," he said, "I received information that my senior line officer was observed attempting to procure a prostitute from his car window."

It was, without doubt, a damning claim, if true. And the Mounties wasted no time trying to discredit it. Bob Paulson, the Commissioner of the RCMP, appeared before the same committee that June. In a blistering address, he dismissed Merrifield and other outspoken Mounties as having "ambitions [that] exceed their abilities." He called their claims "outlandish" and listed a litany of Merrifield's own supposed transgressions.

What Paulson didn't say that day, and what only emerged in court this week, is that by that time, the RCMP knew there was at least some evidence to support Merrifield's charge. What's more, the senior Ontario Mountie who briefed Paulson on Merrifield had by that time seen a document from the London, Ont., police suggesting Merrifield's prostitution claim, at least, was true.

The testimony from that officer, at Merrifield's civil trial this week, appears to call into question, if not the truth, then at least the logic of Paulson's own testimony late last year.

Assistant Commissioner Stephen White, the top Mountie in Ontario, told a court in Newmarket that he asked a subordinate to look into the prostitution allegations when Merrifield first raised them in January 2012.

That officer found a "narrative street check" from the London police. It indicated that a senior RCMP officer had been caught talking to an undercover London policewoman posing as a prostitute during a "john sting."

White told the court he did nothing with that information. The officer in question had since retired.

But a year later, when Merrifield aired the same accusation publicly, Paulson asked White for a briefing. Asked about that conversation Tuesday, White appeared to contradict himself, saying he both did and did not tell Paulson about the document.

"Did you advise Commissioner Paulson at that point about the London city police document?" Merrifield's lawyer, John Phillips, asked.

"We would have talked about it briefly, yes," White replied.

Phillips: "So he was aware of that?"

White: "Of the document?"

Phillips: "Yes."

White: "I don't know if I mentioned the document."

Phillips: "Was he aware of the fact that inquiries had been made to the London city police?"

White: "I think he was, yes."

Phillips: "Was he aware that the statements made by officer Merrifield had been substantiated to some measure?"

White: "I don't think we got into that ... level of discussion."

Paulson himself testified last December that he had never seen the London police document before being presented with it on the stand and that no one had ever discussed it with him. He also said no one, including White, had ever suggested to him Merrifield's prostitution allegation might be true.

Therein lies the weirdness. A Mountie goes before a Senate committee and accuses a superior of soliciting a prostitute. The RCMP's top officer in Ontario knows at that point that the accusation has been to some degree substantiated. And yet, when the Commissioner of the RCMP phones and asks for a briefing, White only half-informs him of that fact.

If both men are to be believed, a truly in-curios conversation must have taken place.

The Commissioner of the RCMP, presented with a very public and embarrassing accusation, asked a top deputy what the force knew about the charge. The deputy told him that an investigation had taken place, but neglected to reveal the findings. And the commissioner did not bother to follow up before going before the Senate and publicly slugging the accuser.

Asked about this apparent contradiction Friday, the RCMP declined to comment, saying it would be inappropriate to do so while the case remains before the courts.

Merrifield has accused his superiors of derailing his career in retaliation for his having unsuccessfully sought a Conservative party nomination in the 2005 federal election. His Ontario Superior Court trial is set to go into June.

(National Post)

SATURDAY MAY 23, 2015

May 23 2015

VANCOUVER - A man is in custody after throwing a smoke grenade at Vancouver Police headquarters.

Vancouver police say the 28-year-old man tossed the device into the station's lobby just after 11:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

Police say the man is known to police and was quickly taken into custody as he left the building.

Const. Brian Montague says the smoke grenade caused minor damage but no injuries.

He says the building was evacuated and the area was cleared by a hazardous materials team before it reopened.

Police will recommend charges including mischief, assaulting a police officer and administering a noxious substance.

May 23 2015 A man is dead after being shot by RCMP at a remote rural Morinville property on Friday.

Morinville Mounties were called out to investigate reports of a "person in distress" at 8:40 p.m. on Friday.

RCMP say the adult male "suspect" was fatally shot and the scene was contained.

No one else was injured and police do not believe there is a threat to the public.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is now investigating.
(Edmonton Sun)

SUNDAY MAY 24, 2015

May 24 2015

EDMONTON - Back in the 1960s, when Harry Surcon was a rookie police officer in Edmonton, he didn't have a cellphone or radio. He didn't have a cruiser, bicycle or Segway. Just his two feet.



He walked his beat alone, wearing his 11-kilogram buffalo fur coat. While not ideal for chasing criminals, it kept officers warm, though they occasionally had to beat the coats with batons to remove snow and ice.

"You'd be cautious when you were romping around through a back lane, especially in a buffalo coat. Although it was warm, it

wasn't highly manoeuvrable. It was restrictive," Surcon, 75, said.

With no way other to contact his colleagues, Surcon's safety depended on scheduled phone-ins at "call boxes" located about a half-hour walk from one another along his beat. All the neighbourhood thieves had to do was learn when you'd be tied up on the phone, he said.

All this history was captured in a black-and-white photograph taken one cold, quiet Saturday in November or December of 1963.

Surcon was walking his beat when a photography student snapped his picture. Surcon posed at the call box across the street from the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Barbara. Two days later, a black-and-white print was waiting for him at police headquarters.

The photograph is believed to be the only shot of a beat officer on duty from that time. The buffalo coat and call box have both been hung up, but they were once crucial to a police officer's job. The photograph was used on the cover of an Edmonton phone book in 1992 and appeared on the front of the magazine for retired members for several years.

Surcon worked as a police officer for 34 years, finally retiring in 1996 after a six-year stint as a sergeant in the major crimes section, investigating sexual assaults and homicides.

(Edmonton Journal)

May 24 2015

OTTAWA - The RCMP will make public a summary of reviews into police actions during the Oct. 22 attack on Parliament Hill, Assistant Commissioner Gilles Michaud says.



The report will cover separate reviews by the Ontario Provincial Police of the RCMP and Hill security response inside and outside Parliament, as well as a broader, inter-agency review prepared by the several security services involved after ISIL sympathizer Michael Zehaf-Bibeau killed a soldier at the National War Memorial and stormed Centre Block, where security forces shot him dead.

Michaud said in an interview that the report will not disclose information that could reveal possible security vulnerabilities or actions being taken to remedy them.

However, "We're hoping that we'll be able to provide as much detail as possible because we do want to inform the public as much as we can as to what transpired," he said.

The force hopes to have the summary

ready for release by June 6, he said.

The OPP reports were delivered to the Speakers of the House of Commons and Senate and the RCMP in early April, and are known to conclude that RCMP and Hill security officers were justified in using lethal force to stop Zehaf-Bibeau in an attack that brought him within steps of meeting rooms holding Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Opposition leader Tom Mulcair and other parliamentarians.

Michaud described the third report as "basically an after-action review of how the RCMP with its partners responded to the event." Among the other agencies that contributed is the Ottawa Police Service, which last week provided some details from its own internal review, including a call for better internal and external communications in a major emergency.

The assistant commissioner said some of the findings of the reviews before the RCMP "are in line" with what the Ottawa police learned about the confusion of a surprise attack.

Michaud would not comment on a CTV News report that suggested the RCMP made "serious mistakes" on Oct. 22.

In a message to employees of the RCMP National Division, however, Michaud referred to "false media reports" that he said contained "erroneous facts which stray far from the truth." He said the summary of reviews into police actions will shed light on what happened and on "the courageous and dedicated actions of our members."

(Ottawa Citizen)

MONDAY MAY 25, 2015

May 25 2015

OTTAWA - Facebook Canada will start sending Amber Alerts about missing children to users who are in the immediate vicinity of the disappearance.



The alerts will provide all available details of the missing child and can be easily shared, to help spread the word.

The social media network says it will work with police in major centres across the country to get the alerts out.

Facebook started a similar system in the United States in January.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney made the announcement today at Ottawa police headquarters.

Blaney says the project will mobilize the online community in the event of an abduction.

May 25 2015

COURTENAY, B.C. - RCMP say they have evidence to suggest that illegal drug production caused a house to explode in the Vancouver Island community of Courtenay.

Police say equipment used in the production of hash oil was among the items seized on Saturday.

Mounties say one of the three men seriously injured in Friday's blast and fire confirmed their suspicions.

The men in their 20s remain in hospital, and police say no other information will be revealed about their condition to protect their privacy.

RCMP say the house will need to be assessed to determine if it's structurally safe.

May 25 2015

TORONTO - Customs officials say they've seized more than 12 kilograms of cocaine at Toronto's Pearson airport.

The Canada Border Services Agency says border guards inspected luggage originating from the Dominican Republic after noticing a tag that appeared to be recycled.

The agency says its officers found 10 brick-shaped bundles wrapped in clothing inside the black suitcase.

The CBSA says it has made 180 cocaine seizures in the Toronto area in 2014.

May 25 2015

VANCOUVER - Retiring Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu is being honoured by the provincial government for his decades of service as the department prepares to bring in a new leader.



Chu has become the first municipal police officer in British Columbia to be issued a provincial commission, the same day his successor is set to be sworn in.

The honour recognizes senior members of police departments for their rank, professionalism and dedication to policing, and takes after the military tradition of officer commissions.

Chu joined the Vancouver Police Department in 1979, and has led the force since 2007.

During his tenure as chief, Chu oversaw inquiries into how the force handled the Robert Pickton serial murder investigation, admitted the city was embroiled in a bloody gang war, and acted as his department's public face during the Stanley Cup riot.

Adam Palmer will become Vancouver's new chief constable today following 28 years with the department, including five as deputy chief.

May 25 2015

TORONTO - Ontario's top court has tossed a defamation action by a lawyer over a book in which he is cited as saying he identified with the Mexican bandit from the movie "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly."



In a written ruling Monday, the Court of Appeal sided with a lower court judge, who rejected the action from David Midanik against Betsy Powell in October last year, and ordered him to pay more than \$100,000 in legal costs.

"In our view, this defamation action was ill-conceived," the Appeal Court said.

Midanik's complaint against the Toronto Star writer and publisher John Wiley & Sons turned on a paragraph in Powell's book about a Toronto street gang, the Galloway Boys.

In one paragraph, the author wrote that the lawyer - he was acting for one of the gang members accused of murder - identified with Tuco Ramirez in the 1966 Italian spaghetti western classic, and paraphrased a quotation from the character, saying, "I like big men because they fall hard."

Midanik said the offending paragraph, taken in the context of the book, suggested by way of "defamatory innuendo" that he was a hardened criminal, a murderer, rapist, a poor lawyer, dishonest and sleazy - among other things.

Superior Court Justice James Spence threw out the action, saying there was no need to delve into how Tuco had been portrayed in the movie because a "reasonable and fair reader" of the impugned words would not take them to mean what Midanik said they would.

May 25 2015

BARRIE, Ont. - A threat is a threat - even if the threat is to turn into a werewolf to seek revenge.

Police in Barrie, Ont., said they took a man into custody Monday after he was found roaming a neighbourhood at 2 a.m., telling people to beware the next full moon when he'll return as a werewolf to "take care of business."

Police say the man was on probation orders to not consume drugs or carry weapons, and he was violating both.

The man, whose name and age were not released, was charged with breaching his probation.

(Postmedia)

May 25 2015

EDMONTON - Investigators say a man who was shot dead by RCMP on the weekend was in possession of two rifles.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says officers went to a rural property north of Edmonton on Saturday to respond to a trespassing complaint.

ASIRT says a 47-year-old man was found in a field nearby and went down after he was shot during a confrontation.

An armed standoff followed and attempts to communicate with the man were unsuccessful.

Emergency response officers approached and found him dead.

ASIRT investigators found a loaded .22-calibre rifle at his side and a .30-.30 lever-action rifle in the field.

The carbine rifle fired by police was also seized.

The investigation continues.

May 25 2015

OTTAWA - On the day of the Parliament Hill shooting, the federal Government Operations Centre did not have computer technicians on site, food was limited and senior emergency officials weren't in the building.

Those are some of the details revealed in newly released documents on the government's emergency response. Officials at Public Safety Canada convened meetings soon after the Oct. 22 attack by gunman Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, to see what they could learn.

The operations centre helps co-ordinate the emergency response for the entire federal government.

Senior executives who were part of the emergency response plan weren't in the centre the day of the shooting, which "created inefficient and ineffective communication with the decision-makers," a preliminary observation report said.

No names were listed, but the deputy minister of Public Safety is the co-ordinating officer for the emergency response plan.

Meanwhile, some of those responsible for business continuity and emergency plans in the larger Public Safety Canada building wound up in the operations centre, leaving a leadership vacuum behind.

The heavily redacted documents were obtained by under the Access to Information Act.

Another key finding was that technical help wasn't available in the centre.

"The support was not available to the GOC. ... it was apparent that on-site support would have been useful to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the response."

Some employees who were in the locked-down building which houses the centre also apparently found themselves without food.

"Comments received indicated the food supply to sustain the GOC operational needs should be addressed," the report said.

May 25 2015

VANCOUVER - Former Vancouver police chief Jim Chu leaves behind a lax attitude on marijuana enforcement, along with a term marred by a gang war, a hockey riot and the fall out from a serial killer, and his successor says he'll gladly follow those footprints.

Following Chu will be a big job, admitted incoming chief Adam Palmer, but the legacy will provide guidance, too.

"Jim Chu set a really good footprint for the Vancouver Police Department and I'm happy to keep following that right now," Palmer told reporters after being sworn in on Monday.

Palmer, a 28-year veteran of the force, replaces Chu as Vancouver's top cop after he announced his retirement in January.

Palmer wants to continue making Vancouver's police department the envy of other jurisdictions by finding "made-in-Vancouver solutions" that allow officers to police the city fairly, and with compassion and respect for all.

"That's my promise to the community," he told the crowd.

Palmer said his two immediate priorities are building and maintaining connections with the community and meeting with front line officers.

There will be challenges too, he recognized, including addressing social issues such as mental illness.

May 25 2015

A Mountie has been cleared in the 2013 fatal shooting of an Alberta First Nation man who told his family he'd rather be killed by cops than go back to jail.

"The officer was lawfully placed and the force used was reasonable in light of the circumstances presented, notwithstanding the tragic consequences of the loss of a life," concluded the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT), which investigates cases of serious injury or death involving police in the province.

Cops entered a Cold Lake First Nation home on Aug. 15, 2013, to attempt to arrest a suspect wanted for sexual assault, according to ASIRT. In the kitchen, the suspect allegedly pulled out a large knife and didn't drop it when commanded. One officer fired two shots that hit the suspect in the chest. The suspect was treated on the scene before being transported to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The suspect was known to police and had a lengthy criminal record, including outstanding arrest warrants for "serious personal injury offences" in British Columbia in 2011 and in Cold Lake from 2012 and 2013, ASIRT said in a news release.

He had allegedly told family members and other Cold Lake First Nations members that "he would not allow himself to be arrested, that he would not and could not go back to prison, and that he would either kill himself or provoke a situation that would result in his being killed," ASIRT said.

(Postmedia)

May 25 2015

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson says the OPP's much-anticipated report into the RCMP's response to the Parliament Hill shootings will be released this week or next.



Paulson told the Senate's national security committee Monday his force they are on the verge of releasing the report.

The report was commissioned by House Speaker Andrew Scheer after he asked for an independent police investigation following the Parliament Hill shootings.

The OPP led the investigation and submitted the report to the House of Commons in early April. When it was delivered, there were initial concerns whether the report would be made public or not.

Paulson told senators the report examines the RCMP's response to the Oct. 22, 2014 shooting, both outside Parliament Hill and inside Centre Block. That's where shooter Michael Zehaf-Bibeau was finally shot and killed.

Paulson also told senators the Mounties will release the remaining 18 seconds of the Zehaf-Bibeau cellphone video in the coming weeks. Zehaf-Bibeau recorded the video immediately before the fatal shooting.

The RCMP already released 55 seconds of the video at a Commons public safety committee meeting in March.

"This is in retaliation for Afghanistan and because [Prime Minister Stephen Harper] wants to send his troops to Iraq," Zehaf-Bibeau, says in the video.

"Canada's officially become one of our enemies by fighting and bombing us and creating a lot of terror in our countries and killing us and killing our innocents. So, just aiming to hit some soldiers just to show that you're not even safe in your own land, and you gotta be careful." <"

In March, Paulson told reporters the remaining 18 seconds was edited for "sound operational" reasons. Thirteen seconds were cut from the beginning of the video and five seconds were edited from the end.

(CBC News)

May 25 2015

A man shot and killed by RCMP Friday was armed with two rifles and was prohibited from being on the rural property.

Officers were called to the home on a trespassing complaint around 8 p.m., said a news release from the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team which is investigating the shooting.

Two officers found an armed 47-year-old man in a field adjacent to the property.

After a short confrontation, police shot the man.

The victim collapsed, but the officers could still see movement and initiated a standoff.

However, efforts to communicate with the man were unsuccessful and when the Emergency Response Team moved in, they found the man dead.

A loaded .22-calibre rifle and a 30/30 lever-action rifle were recovered in the field.

The shooting is the eighth involving a police officer in Alberta since December 24, 2014, four of which resulted in deaths.

ASIRT's mandate is to investigate incidents involving Alberta's police resulting in serious injury or death.

(CBC News)

**TUESDAY
MAY 26, 2015**

May 26 2015

Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team says there is "no evidence available" against three Cape Breton Regional Police officers that faced a 19-month obstruction of justice investigation.

The independent investigation unit, however, is releasing few details about the case, which began when the Cape Breton force provided information to SIRT in September 2013.

According to a brief report posted in the SIRT website, the allegations against one officer involved obstruction of justice "that may impact an ongoing prosecution."

SIRT director Ron MacDonald says his team didn't announce the investigation at the time "as doing so would have compromised the investigative integrity of the matter."

MacDonald says he's not aware of any internal discipline against the officers that were under investigation.

The probe began with allegations against one officer, but eventually included two others. MacDonald said initially the officers involved didn't know they were being investigated.

"The potential offences under consideration also broadened to include possible breach of trust and acting as a party to other criminal offences," says the report.

Sixteen civilian witnesses were interviewed, but the police officers were not. The report says under the Police Act they were not required to give a statement, and did not in this case.

The report concludes there is no evidence "available" to support charges against the officers, but is staying tight-lipped about what exactly was alleged.

"Further details of the matter cannot be released due to issues related to the safety and legal rights of individuals involved," says a news release.

(CBC News)

A Surete du Quebec police officer will be charged with dangerous driving causing death in connection with death of 5-year-old Nicholas Thorne-Belance.



The boy died after a car crash in February 2014. His father, Mike Belance, was making a left-hand turn from Gaetan Boucher Blvd. onto Davis Blvd. in St Hubert.

A provincial police squad car rammed the family's vehicle. The impact knocked the family's car across the street and into a stop sign. The boy, his father and a 14-year-old girl were brought to hospital, where Nicholas eventually died.

SQ officer Patrick Ouellet was not initially charged with a crime. Prosecutors took into account that the father had turned on a solid green, instead of waiting for a flashing green light.

Quebec's justice minister ordered a new investigation into crash in November.

A group of independent prosecutors, which will include a retired judge, reviewed the evidence and the Crown prosecutor's office announced Tuesday that following a review of the investigation's findings, Ouellet will be charged with dangerous driving causing death.

The report mentions the decision was not influenced by political, police or media pressure, but solely on the facts as they were presented by the group that did the review.

(CTV Montreal)

May 26 2015

WHITBY - A new information-sharing protocol will help police better identify and assist vulnerable people in the event they wander and become lost.

The protocol, a partnership involving Durham police, MedicAlert and the Alzheimer Society, was unveiled at a media conference in Whitby Wednesday, May 20. Police Chief Paul Martin said the "unique" partnership will assist officers in their efforts to identify wandering and missing persons, and quickly reunite them with caregivers and family members.

Police are dealing more frequently with people affected by dementia and other disabilities, the chief said. Durham police deal with about 100 missing or wandering seniors a year, he said.

"Every year we respond to hundreds of missing person calls," said Chief Martin. "A growing number are seniors and our vulnerable community. The need has never been greater."

When an elderly or vulnerable person

goes missing, "time is of the essence," said the chief.

"There is no question in my mind this partnership will save lives in Durham Region."

The protocol will help officers both to identify persons found wandering, and to effectively search for those reported missing. By linking with MedicAlert's database, cops will be able to access non-medical information about a person's support system and quickly contact caregivers. When a search for a missing person is launched the database can provide up-to-date information on physical descriptions and information about past wandering episodes, identifying a person's tendencies.

The partnership was seen as a logical information-sharing exercise aimed at assisting people in need, said Robert Ridge, president and CEO of MedicAlert Foundation of Canada.

"It really came about because staff in both organizations saw an opportunity to

help vulnerable people," he said.

The partnership with Durham -- the first of its kind -- is a "precedent" that could be adopted by police across the country, Mr. Ridge said.

(Durhamregion.com)

May 26 2015

There you are, minding your own business in your car, stopped at a stop sign, no cellphone in hand, safely buckled in, when a police officer approaches your window.

You have done nothing wrong, and yet the police officer hands you a ticket.

But this ticket is not for any moving violation or infraction, but rather an initiative by the city to reward good drivers, cyclists and pedestrians for obeying the rules.

On May 20, Mayor Morris Trudeau launched the Be safe - stay alive! campaign that will reward all those who use Pointe-Claire roads in a safe and respectful manner, stopping at red lights and stop signs, obeying



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signals, waiting for the crossing lights at busy intersections and neither texting nor talking on a cellphone while driving.

"This is a first, a positive summer campaign, to encourage motorists, pedestrians and cyclists to follow the rules of civic responsibility," said Trudeau.

He explained that police and Pointe-Claire public security personnel will be stationed at strategic points where all three groups of road users interact.

The tickets have a cheery thumbs up logo but no monetary or prize value.

"Road safety is a key aspect of a patroler's work, and our goal is to change people's behaviour," said Station 5 commander Mohamed Bouhdid.

"Be safe - stay alive! is a new tool to focus on people whose behaviour on the road is exemplary."

(Montreal Gazette)

May 26 2015

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says it has completed an internal review into a privacy breach that spanned several years and impacted 12 people whose private information was accessed by a civilian employee of the force on the northeast Avalon.



Documents obtained by CBC News through access to information revealed several privacy breaches involving one staffer that began in March 2010 and was halted when a member of the public complained to the police on Dec. 9, 2014.

RNC Chief Bill Janes said the employee inappropriately accessed the Integrated Constabulary Automated Network (ICAN), which the staff member had access to for work, on 33 different occasions.

The Department of Justice and Public Safety as well as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Office were notified after the breaches were discovered, Janes said.

The 12 people whose information had been accessed were sent letters from the RNC notifying them of the breach, Janes said.

There were three separate instances where the employee passed along information to a "third party" in 2012-2013.

Further details as to why the breaches happened are unknown, but Janes said it did not impact any criminal investigations.

"It's very unfortunate that it happened," Janes told CBC News Tuesday. "We dealt with it the best we could in

terms of an investigation and an internal disciplinary investigation."

The outcome of the internal disciplinary review is not being released.

Janes said privacy breaches are very rare within the force, adding every employee with the RNC takes an oath of confidentiality and there are policies and procedures regarding access to information.

The employee's access to ICAN was disabled, according to the documents obtained by CBC News.

(CBC News)

May 26 2015

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Service is set to review how it monitors and punishes potentially dangerous drivers within the service.



The review, which officials said is part of an ongoing process, also comes following an investigation by CTV Calgary, which found CPS members rarely - if ever - have to pay speeding or red light tickets.

At Tuesday's Calgary Police Commission meeting, Supt. Kevan Stuart said the review would examine all aspects of the CPS fleet safety program to help identify and address gaps that exist within the service.

"As we do with many of our practices with the Calgary Police Service, we're continually reviewing how we do business and what's the best practice for the Calgary Police Service," he said.

Although the CPS has documented a drop of 68 per cent when it comes to officers speeding or running a red light from 2010 to 2014, Stuart said more can be done to improve officer and public safety.

"The review is continuing and we're going to say we're well into it, but there still is a lot of work to do" he said. "We hold our officers accountable for their driving."

While it is uncommon for an officer to get a ticket, a string of traffic offences may result in internal discipline ranging from a loss of a police licence, to being passed up for a promotion.

"Our concern mainly is with public safety and officer safety," said Rodney Fong, chair of the Calgary Police Commission. "The payment of speeding tickets and photo radar is a small part of the larger review."

The review is expected to be finalized by the fall.

(Metro)

WEDNESDAY
MAY 27, 2015

May 27 2015

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog has laid charges against a Toronto police officer.

The province's Special Investigations Unit says the charges stem from an incident last December involving a 57-year-old man.

The SIU alleges police officers arrested Baoshi Yang in downtown Toronto and released him a short while later.

They say Yang was then taken to hospital to be treated for a broken orbital bone.

Const. Paul Walker has been charged with assault causing bodily harm and is scheduled to appear in court on July 8.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

May 27 2015

MONCTON, N.B. - The RCMP Musical Ride will pay tribute to the three Mounties killed and two others injured by a gunman last June in Moncton, N.B.



As part of its 2015 national tour, the Musical Ride will perform at the Magnetic Hill concert site in Moncton on June 4, at 7 p.m.

The performance is being done in partnership with the City of Moncton as a way to thank residents for their support during the past year.

Justin Bourque murdered constables Doug Larche, Fabrice Gevaudan and Dave Ross, and wounded constables Eric Dubois and Darlene Goguen when he set out on a rampage that targeted police.

Bourque, 25, was sentenced to life in prison with no eligibility for parole for 75 years in October after pleading guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

May 27 2015

TORONTO - Until this week, when community organizations asked Toronto police to check into the background of a potential hire, the results could go far beyond convictions. Suicide attempts and other mental-health crises witnessed by police would all show up if the employer asked for mental-health information.

As of Monday, that practice is over. Toronto police are joining the ranks of an increasing number of Canadian police services

that, in the past year, have stopped disclosing psychological information on potential employees or volunteers who will work with children or vulnerable people.

The change was announced in a May 20 memo to a number of organizations.

Mental-health crises can lead to police calls, but records of them should be considered private health information irrelevant to criminal risk, said Joe Couto, a spokesman for the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. Holding back the information would not endanger those who would be in contact with the employees, including people living in shelters and children in schools and day-cares, he said.

"There's really no downside, necessarily," he said.

Police record checks are "just one tool" to ensure public safety, Mr. Couto said. "Really, our focus has to be on having the very best mental-health system in Canada so those folks don't get dragged into the justice system."

A set of guidelines that the police chiefs association published last June helped spark a national wave of change. About 80 per cent of Ontario's police forces had adopted the guidelines about six months after they were released, Mr. Couto said.

"I had calls from all over Canada when we issued those guidelines saying, 'Hey, can you share that with us?'" he said.

In Toronto, police had issued mental-health information only when specifically asked for it by employers providing social services in the "vulnerable sector," according to the force's website. When officers apprehend people under the Mental Health Act and take them to the hospital for assessment, that is noted in a police database, the website said. (Globe and Mail)

May 27 2015

OTTAWA - Treasury Board President Tony Clement says concerns over a Conservative move to retroactively rewrite the law in order to stop an investigation of alleged RCMP wrongdoing are akin to angels dancing on the head of a pin.

The latest omnibus budget bill from the Harper government quietly inserted amendments, backdated to October 2011, that wipe clean any complaints about the handling of long-gun registry data before Parliament passed a bill to end the registry the following year.

Clement says that since Parliament did eventually pass a law to end the registry, complaints about when that law took effect are simply arcane legal nitpicking.

Federal information commissioner Suzanne Legault issued a special report last week calling the move a "perilous precedent" that could be used to retroactively clear government officials of wrongdoing on everything from election fraud to spending scandals.

She recommended to the attorney general of Canada in March that an investigation be

launched into the RCMP's wilful destruction of registry data that was covered by the Access to Information Act - an investigation that has now been taken on by the Ontario Provincial Police.

The Harper government responded by retroactively rewriting the law, backdating the amendments to the day the bill to end the long-gun registry was first introduced in Parliament, and then burying the changes this month in a 167-page budget bill that will be rammed through Parliament before the summer recess.

May 27 2015

CALGARY - Bait bikes won't be coming to Calgary any time soon, according to city police, who now say there has been no progress on such a program since last summer when they were dealing with a spike in bicycle thefts.

It was nine months ago that Sgt. Katrina O'Reilly told Metro several departments within the police service were working on an in-house version of a program similar to those in other jurisdictions, which see GPS tracking devices hidden inside bicycles placed in public areas as "bait" for would-be thieves.

A made-in-Calgary version was "on the horizon," O'Reilly said last August. But a police spokesperson said this week the service has since opted to go a different route.

While police haven't ruled out a bait-bike initiative, the spokesperson said there are no immediate plans for one. (Metro)

May 27 2015

The RCMP dispatcher on duty the night Justin Bourque murdered three Mounties and wounded two others is calling for more support for first responders coping with post-traumatic stress disorder.



Lisa Rouse dispatched several of the RCMP members the night Bourque went on a murderous rampage in Moncton, N.B.

"It's been up and down for sure. There's weeks you feel OK. There's other weeks you feel stuck and you worry, Am I going to feel like this forever? It's really scary," she says.

Rouse suffers with PTSD and survivor guilt. She sometimes blames herself for sending the Mounties into the killing zone, but says help from friends and a therapist have been greatly beneficial.

"Sometime the feelings you have in your mind are all jumbled, and it makes no sense. You feel horrible. It's very negative."

Rouse is in Halifax attending a PTSD conference put on by the Tema Center Memorial Trust, a charity that supports correctional, emergency and military personnel. The organization was founded by the paramedic who responded when a 25-year-old Halifax woman, Tema Center, was murdered in Toronto in 1988.

The organization's executive director, Vince Savoia, says that so far this year 17 first responders and five military members have died from suicide in Canada, something he calls "heavily disheartening."

Rouse says she's open about her PTSD to try to assure others that it's normal to go through difficult days. But she says people have difficulty arranging to see a therapist and often hide their feelings in the workplace.

"They ask a lot of you. They wouldn't ask the person with a broken leg to go run a mile. But I feel like that's what they do to us," she says.

She and other attendees say many don't get help and others, especially first responders, are worried that if they tell someone about their problem they will lose the job or the chance of advancement.

Jeff Morly, a retired RCMP officer and psychologist, says the stigma is fading, but it's still difficult for people to admit they're struggling.

"It still is at a very practical level a challenge if people do come forward and maybe have PTSD, depression, anxiety. Maybe they want to join a specialty team, the ETR or undercover operator," he says. "I hope organizations more and more are recognizing that people can be quite high functioning with their symptoms. But I think to this day there is a challenge that sometimes it could be career limiting."

Rouse says that reticence is true in Moncton among police, firefighters and paramedics.

"Because of the stigma there's a lot of work to be done. There's still a lot of people fighting it. They are hiding it. I know for first responders, for operators, it's hard for us to ask for help, because people ask us for help." (CBC News)

May 27 2015

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg city council is determined to discover if there was any criminal acts behind the construction of the new police headquarters and any of other its real estate dealings.

Council approved a motion waiving solicitor-client privilege between outside legal counsel involved in any of the projects.

"What you're seeing here is unprecedented openness and transparency at city hall," Mayor Brian Bowman told reporters during council's noon-hour break. "The RCMP are conducting a very important investigation and we want to do everything in our power to provide them with the information they need to do their important work."

The RCMP has launched a full criminal investigation into the police headquarters

project and the previous council has asked Manitoba Justice to also consider other real estate deals that were subjects of independent audits in 2013 and 2014.

The RCMP raided the offices of general contractor Caspian Construction, which was given the contract for the police headquarters project, last year. Sources said the RCMP have also reviewed the files held by some city officials.

Council had waived solicitor-client privilege with its in-house legal staff at last month's meeting but unintentionally did not include outside lawyers who assisted on those deals.

"We've been asked (by the RCMP) for information that may be subject to solicitor-client privilege and we want to be as forthcoming as possible," Bowman said.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

May 27 2015

Ontario Provincial Police charged a 16-year-old Wednesday in connection with multiple "swatting" incidents, where seemingly high risk calls prompted large emergency responses.

Police said the teen is from New Tecumseth, Ont., and the incidents in question date back to February. OPP officials couldn't say if the teen is connected to this week's swatting incidents in Richmond Hill and Brampton, but said they are working with York and Peel region police to explore that possibility.

Police executed a search warrant at the teen's home and confiscated some electronics as part of their investigation.

The teen, who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, faces four charges in total, including public mischief and sending false messages.

The teen was scheduled to attend a bail hearing today in Barrie, Ont.

THURSDAY
MAY 28, 2015

May 28 2015

OTTAWA - Police in Ottawa plan to charge 52 people with drug trafficking and other related offences after a four-month undercover investigation in the city.

"Project Shadow" began with the goal to address public disorder issues in an area of Ottawa's downtown after a number of public tips and police reports about drug activity.

As a result of the investigation, police say they will charge 45 men and seven women with a total of 188 offences related to the trafficking of crack cocaine, prescription pills and marijuana.

They say 34 of those people have been arrested and 18 are still being sought.

May 28 2015

SAULT STE MARIE, Ont. - An Ontario Provincial Police officer is facing nine charges in the alleged sexual assaults of four people in the 1980s.

The charges against Const. David Scott were laid after an investigation by Ontario's police watchdog.

The Special Investigations Unit says it was contacted in February by the Sault Ste. Marie police service, where Scott used to work, about allegations against one of its former employees.

The investigation determined the alleged incidences against four males took place between 1981 and 1987.

As a result of the probe, Scott faces four counts of gross indecency, three counts of sexual assault and two counts of indecent assault.

May 28 2015

MONTREAL - It was announced on May 7 that Montreal's Chief of Police Marc Parent would not be seeking a new mandate come September.

Now, Deputy Director Bruno Pasquini has announced he will be leaving his post with the SPVM to take on the position of Director within the Richelieu regional police force at the end of June.

That means Montreal police will need to fill its two top jobs within the organization.

Pasquini has served on the force since 1981.

The city if Montreal is now seeking candidates to fill both positions.

(Global News)

Mar 28 2015

CALGARY - Premier Rachel Notley says her NDP cabinet has cancelled cuts the previous government made to education and the planned closure of the Calgary Young Offender Centre.

Notley made the announcements following cabinet meetings in Calgary.

The premier says the education funding amounts to \$103 million and will provide Alberta school boards with money they will need for the next school year.

She says it will ensure the boards will be able to handle about 12,000 additional students expected in schools this fall.

Notley says keeping the Calgary Young Offender Centre open will ensure that offenders in southern Alberta can remain closer to their families.

She says moving these offenders to a facility in Edmonton would not have helped their rehabilitation.

May 28 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police will begin tracking down the promoters of unsanctioned events such as raves and festivals to recover policing costs.

The announcement Thursday follows the death last weekend of a 23-year-old man, who fell off a cliff in Stanley Park after attending what police call an unlicensed rave in the park. It also comes a day before a bike

rave planned for late Friday night.

VPD spokesman Sgt. Randy Fincham says if police know about an event in advance, they can staff it with the appropriate number of officers. But if a 911 call comes in about a rave at 2 a.m., for example, they will over deploy resources, and send dozens of officers because they don't the extent of potential safety risk.

That can add up to tens of thousands of dollars in policing costs for one unsanctioned event, he noted. Police recently faced this problem with the 4/20 marijuana demonstration that drew an estimated 20,000 people into the city's downtown core last month, and the May Day protest on Commercial Drive.

Although billed as a protest, the 4/20 event included dozens of vendors setting up business near the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson has said the city can't force the 4/20 organizers to get permits because they're hosting a demonstration and not an event or festival. However, the city and police will seek ways to address the situation ahead of next year's rally, saying it was "highly disruptive."

At the May Day festival, which attracted more than 5,000 revellers, police had to call in extra resources after a peaceful protest in the Commercial Drive area turned violent. During the melee, one person was stabbed, and three people were arrested.

Policing costs for this year's 4/20 event have been tallied at around \$50,000, while the May Day event on Commercial ran up a \$90,000 bill, said Fincham. Police suspect the bike rave on Friday night could cost around \$10,000.

Although the VPD has never tried to recoup losses from promoters before, he said police will begin to track them down and they will be billed for costs. Organizers of the 4/20 and May Day events won't likely be on the hook for policing costs, as the VPD won't be retroactively seeking damages.

Warm summer weather means police see a number of large, unsanctioned gatherings take place in the city and in parks, such as bike raves and outdoor music events, which in recent years have grown significantly, swelling from small demonstrations to rowdy crowds of thousands.

"Social media is a killer, you can invite so many people to these events anonymously," he said.

For instance, the VPD is aware through social media that a bike rave has been planned for Friday night in Vancouver, and police are concerned that residents will start calling 911 at in the early hours with noise complaints.

"We support free speech, but people need to realize that it impacts the community, and takes police resources away from other calls," said Fincham.

The bike rave organizer has been contacted by the VPD over concerns that he was advertising the event, and he was warned that he could be billed for policing costs. Fincham said the advertising has since been taken down online.

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