

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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Public safety minister, RCMP clash over banned rifle



Jun 30 2015

OTTAWA - The federal public safety minister's office has asked the Mounties to review their decision to classify a rifle as prohibited after it roused the ire of gun enthusiasts.

This is not the first time the government has taken issue with the way the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has classified a gun and the latest spat reflects its push to obtain greater control over such decisions.

The conflict started when the RCMP classified a Mossberg-brand rifle, the Blaze, as non-restricted, but ruled the Blaze-47 was prohibited.

Gun enthusiasts were perplexed. They say both .22-calibre rifles are virtually identical, except the Blaze is fitted with a black-plastic stock, whereas the Blaze-47 has a wood-coloured stock.

Tony Bernardo, executive director of the Canadian Shooting Sports Association, said he suspects the Mounties classified the Blaze-47 as prohibited because of its resemblance to an AK-47 assault rifle.

But Bernardo, who called the public safety minister's office last week to complain about the gun's prohibited status, said the



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Blaze-47 is no different from thousands of “fun guns” used for informal target practice and shooting tin cans.

“They’re not remotely the same” as an AK-47, he said. “Racing stripes on a Mustang doesn’t make an Indy 500 car.”

The RCMP declined to comment Monday, but a spokesman for Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney confirmed a review is under way.

“The minister’s office has asked the RCMP to review the prohibited classification of the Mossberg Blaze-47 22 LR rifle to determine whether it was made in error,” Jean-Christophe de Le Rue said in an email.

The federal cabinet recently acquired expanded powers that allow it to override RCMP gun-classification decisions after Bill C-42, The Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act, received royal assent.

Under the new law, the cabinet now has the authority to remove restrictions on guns after getting “independent expert advice.” De Le Rue would not say who would provide that advice.

Bernardo said his association has recommended to the government the idea of creating a panel of experts, consisting of the RCMP and industry representatives, to make gun-classification decisions.



“Certainly you want more than one opinion,” he said. “We need to apply the law equally and uniformly.”

However, government opposition critics have said gun-classification decisions should remain in the hands of law enforcement.

Kathryn Harrison, a political science professor at the University of British Columbia, believes there is nothing inherently wrong in the government having the final say on classifying guns.

Such decisions turn on both the facts and on “value judgments,” she said.

If Ottawa ever were to override an RCMP decision, however, it would have to be transparent and explain to the public who was consulted and how the decision was arrived at, she said.

With a fall election looming, Harrison said the Conservatives have clearly identified gun owners as forming part of their traditional support base and are doing what they can to keep them happy.

That relationship was tested last year after the RCMP changed the status of Swiss Arms-brand rifles and some Czech-made CZ-858 rifles from restricted or non-restricted to prohibited. The guns had been legal in Canada for years.

In an effort to quell the backlash, Blaney admonished the “unelected bureaucrats” who ordered the reclassifications and swiftly introduced a two-year amnesty that would shield owners of those rifles from criminal prosecution for possessing them.

(National Post)

if all else fails,” said the cyclist. “Biking is free and a ton more fun, especially with your buddies along for the ride. Also, parking is usually everywhere for bikes.”

According to the Calgary police web page, biking while impaired by alcohol isn’t actually illegal, per se. Those behind the handlebars can’t be charged under the criminal code, because a bicycle isn’t considered a “motor vehicle,” but could be hit with a public intoxication fine.

Staff Sgt. Paul Stacey of the CPS Traffic Unit said, from their point of view, if you’re impaired and finding your way home, police are just happy you aren’t behind the wheel of a motor vehicle – as long as you aren’t endangering yourself or others in other ways.

“We try to find alternatives to charging people, because frankly we would rather see you find some alternate way of getting home if that’s the case, than driving,” Stacey said. “We get that, that you’re trying to be responsible, you’re not driving a vehicle and that’s good.”

He added that police don’t keep statistics on impaired cyclists because it’s not a crime in and of itself, and they don’t tend to hand out many public intoxication tickets.

(Metro Calgary)

Jun 25 2015

OTTAWA - An Ottawa police sergeant has been ordered to resign within seven days or he’ll be fired after he was found guilty of insubordination, corrupt practices and deceit.

During the internal disciplinary hearing, Sgt. Rohan Beebakhee admitted to using two police databases — one federal and one local — to access private information 437 times with no lawful reasons for doing so in 2011 and 2012.

In all, those database searches violated the privacy of 83 people, said hearing officer Terence Kelly, a retired York region deputy police chief, on Thursday as he read his sentencing decision. Beebakhee also used his position to get phone subscriber information from the Ottawa police intelligence bureau 17 times without any lawful investigative reasons for doing so.

“The numerous deliberate acts over a period of time, on and off duty involving several police services, colleagues and friends, showed a complete disregard for privacy rights,” Kelly said. Beebakhee also maintained contact with an escort service called Pink Kitty and multiple escorts after being ordered not to by the Ottawa police professional standards section in February 2011.

He also gained access to Ottawa police reports that were made private by lead investigators, one of which involved an escort he was in a relationship with, and misled investigators who were looking into his unauthorized database use.”

The extent of [his] conduct was to such a degree that the suitability of him remaining an officer in this police service has been nullified. He denied his oath of office and neither this police service, nor the community it

THURSDAY
JUNE 25, 2015

Jun 25 2015

CALGARY - Excluded from the city’s salary disclosure revealed Wednesday, the Calgary Police Service has issued its own compensation list.

The Calgary Police Service has 2,122 sworn members and 746 civilian employees. Constables earn between \$62,816 and \$93,766 while Level 1 detectives make between \$109,242 and \$112,528 and inspectors make between \$140,317 and \$161,366. The Chief is the highest paid position, with a salary range of \$275,000 to \$325,000.

Seasonal, on-call, student and contract employees were excluded from the list.

(Calgary Sun)

Jun 25 2015

CALGARY - As a kickoff to summer, many Calgarians are leaving their cars parked and enjoying patio weather, festivals, and other alcohol-laden activities throughout the city’s core by bike.

One cyclist told Metro drunk cycling is prevalent among his friend group.

“I generally always use my bike unless it’s (bad) weather. Then it’s generally a cab

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serves can or will condone or tolerate a law enforcement officer acting in the manner prescribed here.”

The sergeant has been suspended from duty with pay since the Police Services Act charges were laid against him three years ago. He initially pleaded not guilty to all six charges, but during the trial he admitted to two counts of insubordination. Beebakhee was found guilty on all remaining charges in September 2014.

(CBC News)

Jun 25 2015

EDMONTON - After Edmonton police officer Ezio Faraone was killed in 1990, it took members of the Edmonton Police Service two years to complete the construction of a park in his honour.



They raised money — some even scrubbed cars in their uniforms — negotiated with the city for a suitable chunk of land, and commissioned a sculptor to create a bronze statue in Faraone’s likeness. The sculptor, Danek Mozdzenski, spent a year analyzing photographs of Faraone and studying the similarly shaped hands of his brother.

Everyone had high hopes for the park and the statue meant to honour all Edmonton police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Above all, they hoped they would never have to add another officer’s name. Since 1992, the park has served as a place for contemplation.

The statue is near the north end of the High Level Bridge. Police recruits have a tradition of running up the stairs to the park, congregating at the statue, and learning about Faraone’s life.

“It’s important for them to know the person behind the medal,” said retired sergeant Ray Hogan, who was Faraone’s roommate and close friend. Faraone, Hogan said, had no shortage of friends.

“He literally had dozens of what I would call best friends,” he said. Those friends, along with members of Faraone’s family, politicians and police officers, filled a large tent in the park Thursday for a remembrance ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of his death.

Mayor Don Iveson called Faraone “a hero for our community,” and thanked Faraone’s family “for sharing Ezio with us.” Iveson also spoke of the outpouring of community efforts to honour Const. Daniel Woodall’s

memory and support his family.

The city has received so many crafts from schoolchildren, for example, that they’ve run out of places in City Hall to put them. Woodall was killed serving a warrant on June 8. Widow Claire Woodall attended the ceremony with her two sons, Callen and Gabe, who wore matching black polos adorned with EPS crests.

Though the ceremony was originally intended to honour Faraone, several speakers from the Edmonton Police Service made a point of saying there would be future events for Woodall. They repeatedly welcomed Claire Woodall, and her sons, into “the EPS family.” Joanne Quarto, Faraone’s sister, said the ceremony was comforting.

“He’ll always be with us,” she said, standing near the bronze statue. “We’re very honoured and comforted and grateful.”

(Edmonton Journal)

Jun 25 2015

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Board will formally consider a complaint alleging its police department is failing to enforce the law against medical marijuana dispensaries.

The board sent a letter to Pamela McColl, the executive director of Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada, confirming it will hear her complaint at a Sept. 17 meeting.

McColl claims Vancouver police have failed to uphold Canada’s drug laws and allowed the illegal pot shops to flourish, profit from crime and threaten public safety.

The news comes a day after Vancouver city council voted to regulate the booming marijuana retail industry, imposing a \$30,000 licence fee and strict location requirements.

Const. Brian Montague says police have the power to conduct investigations and make arrests, but can’t simply shut down illegal businesses without due process.

He says officers have executed nine search warrants at dispensaries in the past year and a half, but in all cases the stores re-opened within a day or two.

Jun 25 2015

PRINCE RUPERT - Longboarders in Prince Rupert, B.C., may soon be getting a brain freeze next time they are stopped by the RCMP.

Police in the West Coast city say they want to reward safe behaviour with a so-called positive ticketing campaign. So they plan to give away coupons for 7-11 Slurpees or pool and gym passes to longboarders, skateboarders and bikers wearing helmets or exhibiting other safe behaviour this summer.

The aim is to bridge gaps between law enforcement and young people, according to RCMP Cst. Matt Ericson. The local detachment already sponsors a longboard race with a local shop and gave away 120 helmets last year.

Local skate shop owner Marc Page is convinced the positive tickets will change the behaviour of those who don’t wear helmets.

“Something is better than nothing. But at the same time slurpees are only a couple bucks. And a couple of bucks to a kid these days is nothing,” said Page.

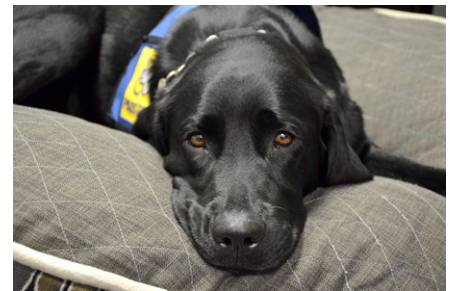
But RCMP say they also have a plan for those who don’t wear a lid.

“While we are excited about issuing positive tickets, we will also be increasing enforcement action for those who choose not to comply,” said Ericson.

(CBC News)

Jun 25 2015

REGINA - After just three weeks on the job, Saskatchewan’s first three certified intervention dogs are already helping victims of crime.



Merlot is stationed in Regina, Kane in Moose Jaw and Beaumont in Estevan and Weyburn.

They are all labradors who were chosen for their gift at helping people in need.

The dogs are trained to help people whose lives have been emotionally shattered as the victims of horrific crimes such as child sexual assault.

Beaumont’s partner is Tara Busch, the coordinator of Southeast Regional Victim Services.

She says the two-year-old black lab proved his worth on his second day on the job when he joined her on a call to support a young girl who had been assaulted.

(CJME)

Jun 25 2015

WETASKIWIN, Alta. - A Mountie in central Alberta has been acquitted on a charge of assault causing bodily harm.

A judge in Wetaskiwin made the ruling following a trial earlier this year for Const. Ron Lavallee.

The 37-year-old was accused of using excessive force during an arrest in Maskwacis on Jan. 1, 2012.

The officer is also appealing an earlier conviction for assault causing bodily harm for a confrontation on Dec. 14, 2011.

Lavallee was sentenced last year to two months in jail.

The RCMP says Lavallee is currently assigned to administrative duties.

FRIDAY JUNE 26, 2015

Jun 26 2015

EDMONTON - Police are calling their latest seizure of a drug known as GHB as the largest amount ever taken in Alberta.



Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams says the drug is also known as the date-rape drug, but adds it's usually abused as a party drug.

The team seized 8.5 litres of GHB, along with methamphetamine, Percocet, Valium, six firearms, ammunition and \$16,100 in cash, from a home in northeast Edmonton on June 18.

Police say GHB is colourless and odourless and was being sold in water bottles.

They warn even a small drink from an unsuspecting person or child could lead to fatal results.

Mark Boivin, 31; Chantel Garnier, 31; Kevin Jurach, 58; and Aaron Watt, 19, are facing 44 charges.

Jun 26 2015

LONGUEUIL, Que. - A Quebec provincial police officer has formally been charged with dangerous driving causing the death of a child near Montreal.

Patrick Ouellet was not in attendance today and was represented by his lawyer who accepted evidence during a brief initial court hearing in Longueuil.

The Crown announced one month ago that Ouellet faced the single charge in the death of five-year-old Nicholas Thorne-Belance, a passenger in his father's car when they were struck by Ouellet's unmarked police cruiser in February 2014.

The police vehicle was going at 120 kilometres an hour in a 50-kilometre zone.

Thorne-Belance died a few days later.

Ouellet has been suspended pending the outcome of the legal proceedings.

Jun 26 2015

TORONTO - A Toronto lawyer is suing the police service that arrested her in a public courtroom and accused her of smuggling drugs to one of her clients.

Laura Liscio has filed a lawsuit against Peel Regional Police alleging her public arrest and the force's "false" statements about it have done lasting damage to her professional reputation.

She is suing for libel and seeking \$1.5 million in punitive and special damages.

Peel police arrested Liscio in a Brampton, Ont., courthouse in February, alleging she had smuggled drugs into the courthouse and charging her with possession, trafficking, obstructing justice and breach of trust.

All criminal charges were dropped on Thursday.

Liscio's lawyer says Peel police have not yet filed a statement of defence to Liscio's lawsuit and Peel police have not yet responded to a request for comment on the lawsuit.

Jun 26 2015

DAUPHIN, Man. - A Manitoba Mountie is facing several criminal charges, including theft of guns from a detachment.

RCMP allege Cpl. Jason Prettie of Dauphin was working in Minnedosa when two weapons were stolen in 2009.

A spokeswoman says the rifle and shotgun were not police-issue and had been in RCMP custody.

The guns were found this year in a private residence connected to Prettie.

The officer has been suspended with pay pending the outcome of his court case.

Prettie is also charged with obstructing justice and possession of a weapon obtained by crime.

Jun 26 2015

CALGARY - The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says it is investigating the circumstances surrounding the deployment of Calgary police resources during the May provincial election.

The province's police watchdog says in a release that it has been directed to determine whether those circumstances provide reasonable grounds to believe an offence has been committed.

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ASIRT calls the allegations “extremely sensitive” but does not name any parties involved.

CTV News says it has obtained documents through a Freedom of Information request that indicate former Calgary police chief Rick Hanson committed 22 new officers to District 5 in northeast Calgary his last day on the job.

The next day, Hanson announced he would be a candidate for the Conservative party in the provincial election, and the riding he ran in, Calgary-Cross, includes District 5.

CTV says the documents show that Hanson sent a memo to staff explaining that the 22 positions were being sent to District 5 “to address boundary changes and projected workload.”

Supt. Kevan Stuart of the Calgary police force said earlier this week that no one questioned Hanson’s decisions because of his excellent reputation.

“Hanson has served this community for 40 years, and he has served it very admirably with ethics and integrity and I’m not going to question that,” said Stuart.

Hanson, who could not be reached for comment, lost the election to NDP candidate Ricardo Miranda by just 100 votes.

Ganley issued a statement on Friday calling the allegations “concerning” and saying the government takes them seriously. (CTV Calgary)

Jun 26 2015

HAMILTON - A criminal charge has been dropped against a Hamilton police officer charged with sending a threatening email while off duty.

Const. Paul Manning has been suspended with pay since February after he was arrested regarding the alleged threat. While arresting Manning, Hamilton Police also found a long arm firearm not stored safely, resulting in an additional charge against the 41-year-old officer.

Manning agreed to a six-month peace bond on Thursday, said his lawyer, Jeff Manishen. He also agreed to be bound by a five-year firearm prohibition order.

“This was a resolution for him that he agreed as appropriate,” he said. Manning’s case marks the fifth time in two years that charges against a Hamilton police officer have been dropped. Clint Twolan, president of the Hamilton Police Association, says police seem to use the “bare minimum of grounds” to lay charges against their own officers in the interest of transparency.

“In many cases, police officers are being charged more as a precautionary step, as in ‘let’s illustrate to the public that we’re transparent and not hiding anything,’” Twolan said. “All we can at the outset is try to encourage the public to understand it’s nothing more than allegations. As time goes on, we keep pointing back to the clear fact that in the vast majority of these allegations, the charges being made are being withdrawn.” (CBC News)

SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2015

Jun 27 2015

KELOWNA - An investigation is ongoing after a member of the Kelowna RCMP took a shot from his own gun.

The officer was responding to a break and enter in progress on Friday night at about 6:10 p.m. During that time, the officer’s gun discharged and caused him minor injuries.

“A thorough and complete investigation is being conducted to determine what occurred,” said Sgt Mona Kaufeld. “Until we can determine what happened, no further information will be released. (Kelowna Now)

Jun 26 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police have seen a steady decline in the use of Tasers. According to department statistics, officers fired them 47 times at suspects between 2010 and 2014, for an average of nine times per year.

That’s a significant decrease when compared to the 93 times police fired the weapon in all of 2006.

“It is tough to say that there is a specific reason [for the decline] but the use of Tasers is relatively new still, when you consider the use-of-force options that have been and are available to police officers,” said Const. Brian Montague,

“The Taser’s limitations and the officers understanding and knowledge of those limitations are likely a big factor, along with other training in mental health, crisis intervention and de-escalation, and use-of-force options,” he said.

Freedom of Information documents posted on the VPD’s website indicate the department was equipped with 150 conductive energy weapons in 2014. A total of 128 officers are certified to use the weapons, according to the department’s annual report. (Vancouver Courier)

SUNDAY JUNE 28, 2015

Jun 28 2015

OTTAWA - A federally funded study of young people who embraced radical jihadism found they had little else in common, suggesting efforts to discourage extremism must be flexible and tailored to individual cases.

“Terrorist Chatter: Understanding What Terrorists Talk About” examined the online activities of seven men who were born or raised in the United States and active in the jihadist scene.

All seven were either convicted of terrorism-related offences or, in two cases, killed in extremist-related incidents.

The study by U.S. firm Flashpoint was

funded through the federal government’s Kanishka program, a terrorism research effort led by Public Safety Canada that flowed from the recommendations of the inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing.

Flashpoint compiled 1,871 online posts written by the seven men in various open forums over several years.

MONDAY JUNE 29, 2015

Jun 29 2015

OTTAWA - A convicted killer whose crimes made headlines around the world has joined a matchmaking website for inmates.



Luka Rocco Magnotta’s profile was posted Sunday on Canadian Inmates Connect Inc., a website that tries to hook up lonesome convicts - some behind bars for violent offences like first-degree murder - with potential companions on the outside.

“Seeking single white male, 28 - 38 years of age, white and in shape,” reads a blurb the website’s founder says was written by Magnotta himself.

“One who is loyal, preferably educated, financially and emotionally stable for a long term committed relationship. If you think you could be my prince charming, send me a detailed letter with at least 2 photos.”

The profile features two photos of the former stripper and prostitute, who was convicted in December of first-degree murder for the 2012 Montreal killing and dismemberment of university student Jun Lin.

Magnotta, who’s serving a life sentence, lists his expected release date as 2037. He describes himself as a “single white male, 33, 5’11” and 175 lbs with dark hair and blue eyes.”

“Only those I deem compatible will receive a response,” he writes on the profile, which also includes his current postal address north of Montreal: Archambault Institution, in Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, Que.

“Serious inquiries only please. All unsolicited mail will be discarded.”

Melissa Fazzina, who created the site about four and half years ago, said Magnotta sent the information to her through a contact.

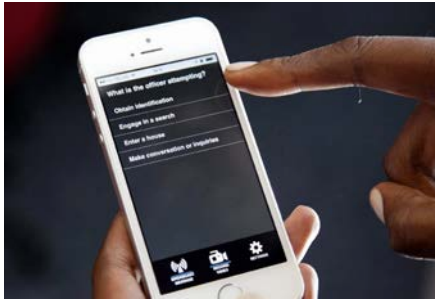
The application and \$35 fee arrived via regular mail - convicts don’t have Internet access - about 10 days ago.

“I was taken aback,” Fazzina said of seeing Magnotta’s name on the application.

Fazzina, whose site has made her a public advocate for prisoners looking for a second chance, is bracing for a backlash against her decision to accept Magnotta's application.

Jun 29 2015

TORONTO - A new smartphone app aims to offer bite-sized legal advice as well as other protections to people randomly stopped and questioned by police.



Called Legalswipe, the free app comes amid emotional debate over "carding" and similar practices in which officers ask for information unrelated to a criminal investigation. Critics argue young black men and other visible minorities are disproportionately singled out for the stops.

Law school grad Christien Levien, who said he has had his own unpleasant police encounter, said he saw a genuine need for his app.

"The community at large is concerned about their legal rights," Levien said Monday. "Especially marginalized communities perceive that the police have been violating their legal rights."

Applicable to both Canada and the United States, the advice comes by way of a series of brief questions and answers.

The initial question: "What is the officer attempting?" allows users to choose options such as: "Obtain identification" or "Engage in a search."

It then suggests questions to ask: "Why are you requesting my ID?" or "Am I under arrest?" and offers talking points and advice on what information you must provide.

"If you are not being arrested or detained, then you are not required to show ID," the app states.

Other functions allow users to video an encounter and send the recording to a remote server, and to send geo-tagged email messages.

Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash said officers are under unprecedented scrutiny due to changing technology. The app is part of that change, he said.

"I don't see it as provocative," Pugash said. "As long as the public doesn't interfere in a police officer trying to do his or her job, if they're recording it, they're entitled to do that."

Levien is trying to raise \$140,000 via crowdfunding to further develop the program - adding other languages is a priority.

Jun 29 2015

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department's new Chief Const. Adam Palmer agrees with federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose that the city's flourishing marijuana dispensaries are breaking the law - but he isn't planning a crackdown.

"They are illegal, so the minister is correct - there's no issue there," said Palmer.

Last week, after Vancouver city council passed a groundbreaking bylaw to regulate and license the city's roughly 100 pot dispensaries, Ambrose issued a strongly worded statement that she was "deeply disappointed."

"We expect the police to enforce the law," she wrote.

Palmer agrees that's his job, but told CBC's Stephen Quinn on The Early Edition that he has to consider all the crime in the city - from petty theft to serial sex offenders - and decide what to prioritize.

Marijuana dispensaries, in most cases, are low on the list.

Violent crime has been coming down in Vancouver, and that's where our focus is," he said.

"I'm always going to focus on the things that have to do with violence, before the things that are non-violent. And right now we're not seeing a lot of violence related to marijuana, but we are seeing violence related to harder drugs" such as cocaine, heroin and fentanyl overdoses.

Police are aware that a portion of the marijuana sold at dispensaries comes from organized crime operations, and is sold for recreational, not medical use, said Palmer.

"Is it not cut-and-dried drug trafficking?" Quinn asked Palmer.

"Yes it is," said the chief.

Palmer said Vancouver police have executed nine search warrants on marijuana dispensaries, most recently in April, based on information about a shop trafficking marijuana to youth.

But in many cases, the shops reopen quickly after the police raid, so the new Vancouver regulations will help address problems, he said.

There will be more search warrants on marijuana dispensaries at some point, said Palmer, but "it is still not going to be the No. 1 priority for the Vancouver Police Department."

(CBC News)

Jun 29 2015

SYDNEY, N.S. - The federal government is giving a new youth crime prevention program in Cape Breton nearly \$4 million.

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality says Ottawa's \$3.9 million over five years will fund 24 full- and part-time workers and youth workers at the Sydney-based program.

The municipality is also giving the pro-

gram \$120,000 per year for the next five years, bringing the total funding to \$4.5 million.

Run by the Cape Breton Regional Police Service, the program will help about 70 at-risk teenagers each year.

Police Chief Peter McIsaac says the initiative will help curb criminal behaviour and substance abuse by forming relationships and building trust.

The program will focus on teenagers' skills and help direct them towards educational, extracurricular and employment opportunities.

Jun 29 2015

EDMONTON - City councillors gave Edmonton police the go-ahead Monday to ask for money to build a new headquarters in four years.



Police say their 33-year-old downtown facility is overcrowded, and they need extra space for financial, legal, research and other administration staff.

The recommendation that officials seek construction of a new police administration building in the 2019-22 capital budget was passed without discussion.

A report indicates 650 administrative staff need to be relocated, with the current five-storey building where they work used for the downtown division and specialized units.

Police have been talking about expanding or replacing their headquarters on 103A Avenue since 1995.

They'll request money during this fall's budget debate to rent offices outside the downtown core for at least 10 years until a new building is completed.

There isn't room in the city's leased arena-district tower, and might not be land for the administration building at the northwest police campus opening in 2018.

Coun. Dave Loken, a former police commission member, said he's not sure how much life is left in the headquarters building.

While he accepts the structure is crowded, a major construction project will need council approval, he said.

"They're saying they're going to need more space. They're going to have to justify that to us."

(Edmonton Journal)

Jun 30 2015

TROIS-RIVIERES, Que. - The former Hells Angels stronghold in a town halfway between Montreal and Quebec City is being demolished.



A Crown spokesman says the bunker in Trois-Rivieres was formally seized by the Quebec government as proceeds of crime and will be razed.

Jean-Pascal Boucher says it was always the government's intention to demolish the notorious red-roofed landmark.

The building, worth \$357,000 according to the city, had been seized by authorities in 2009 during a police sweep against the criminal biker gang.

Quebec Superior Court ordered the bunker confiscated in May when 14 members from the chapter pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit murder.

Boucher says the \$34,000 it will cost to tear it down will be funded by selling wares seized in raids on organized crime, while levelling the building will take up to two weeks.

Jun 30 2015 Provincial police officers remained posted to Pikangikum First Nation Monday, two days after a hair-raising protest by about 200 disgruntled locals caused provincial and First Nation officers to hunker down in the top floor of the reserve's police station.

OPP spokesman Sgt. Peter Leon said that although the station was "significantly damaged" during the Saturday night protest, there are no plans by the force to leave the remote community, as it did a few years ago following a different dispute.

"There's nothing to suggest that," said Leon, who is based at OPP's Orillia headquarters. "We remain committed to ensuring the community's safety."

Policing at Pikangikum, about 100 kilometres north of Red Lake, is provided jointly by the OPP and the reserve's own police force of about five officers.

Leon said OPP officers and their Pikangikum counterparts took cover early Saturday night after a "peaceful" demonstration regarding policing that began earlier in the day turned ugly.

According to Leon, some locals were angered when a local man was Tasered by a Pikangikum First Nation officer during an arrest that occurred earlier Saturday.

The man was not injured, said Leon, but

the use of the Taser sparked a demonstration in front of the community's two-storey police station.

According to police, the man was Tasered after he got involved in the arrest of another reserve man.

When the demonstration got out of hand, said Leon, some protesters entered the lower part of the police building and started damaging equipment. Vehicles outside the building were also vandalized, he said.

For their own safety, said Leon, officers took cover in the top of the building and requested backup from the OPP's Red Lake detachment.

No injuries occurred, he said.

With the help of Pikangikum's band council, said Leon, the protest broke up shortly after midnight.

On Monday, band council said it wouldn't comment on the protest and its aftermath. A man who answered the phone at the band office said some residents have recently expressed concerns about how policing is being administered.

"We have our own police officers, but it's the OPP that's in the driver's seat," said the man, who didn't want to be named.

Leon said the OPP assigns provincial officers to Pikangikum on a rotational basis as part of its aboriginal policing program.

Police are operating out of another reserve building while the damage to the police station is being assessed, Leon said.

An OPP crime unit is investigating the vandalism that occurred during the protest. (Chronicle Journal)

Jun 30 2015

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - A man pulled from an Ottawa river Saturday was wanted by police in the shooting death of a man who tried to get his cellphone back in London, Ont., the province's police watchdog said Tuesday.



The Special Investigations Unit identified the body as 23-year-old Muhab Sultan from Calgary, who allegedly ran from police into the Rideau River last week, where he fell under and never surfaced.

Police said Sultan tried to run down two officers on bicycles with a car last Wednesday, which led to a chase that ended near the river when two suspects jumped from the vehicle. One was arrested, but Sultan allegedly escaped into the water and tried to swim across the river.

Police divers searched throughout Thursday and Friday, but Sultan's body wasn't recovered until a passerby spotted him floating near a bridge on Saturday morning.

Sultan was facing a warrant for his arrest on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of 18-year-old Jeremy Cook, who was killed June 14 after tracking his cellphone to a car with three men inside, parked in the north end of London. Police said Cook tried to retrieve his phone, and was shot multiple times when he grabbed the car as it began to drive away.

Police are still trying to identify two other suspects, who investigators say fled the scene after the car drove away and collided into a fence and a telephone pole.

London police called the case "extreme," and said the incident was likely the city's first case of serious violence stemming from tracking down a missing phone.

Jun 30 2015

ALBANY, N.Y. - The superintendent at the prison where two killers broke out has been placed on leave along with his security chief and 10 other staff members amid an internal investigation into how the inmates pulled off the daring escape, a state official said Tuesday.



Meanwhile, the surviving convict, David Sweat, claimed from his hospital bed that he used no power tools in the escape, contrary to what authorities have been saying all along.

Sweat was wounded and captured Sunday near the Canadian border after three weeks on the run. His accomplice, Richard Matt, was shot to death last week.

A state official who was briefed on the matter said superintendent Steven Racette was removed along with Stephen Brown, deputy superintendent in charge of security. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The 12-member group is in addition to the guard and the prison tailor shop instructor who have been arrested on charges they helped the escapees.

The Corrections Department said only that three executives and nine other staff members were placed on leave as part of a review of the June 6 escape. It did not identify them. The department said it is bringing in new leadership.

Sweat's condition was upgraded from serious to fair at the Albany hospital where he was taken after being shot twice by a state trooper.

Matt and Sweat cut holes in their cells and a steam pipe and made their way under the walls of the maximum-security prison to

a manhole outside in a breakout that embarrassed the Corrections Department, exposed a host of possible security lapses and set off a manhunt involving more than 1,000 law enforcement officers.

District Attorney Andrew Wylie said Sweat told investigators that he started cutting through steel cellblock walls in January with only a hacksaw blade and used no power tools.

Jun 30 2015

FOX CREEK, Alta. - Two people are dead following an early morning stabbing at a work camp in northern Alberta.

RCMP say Mounties shot and wounded a suspect near Fox Creek, 260 kilometres northwest of Edmonton.

Officers found two men dead at the scene and the wounded suspect was taken into custody.

"At this time, investigators believe the man acted alone and are not looking for any other suspects," RCMP Cpl. Carol McKinley said Tuesday in a release.

The stabbings occurred at an oil industry work camp known as Berland Open Lodge operated by Canada North Group Inc.

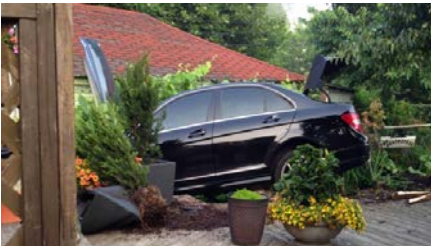
RCMP have not released the identities of the victims or the suspect.

Autopsies are scheduled for next week.

WEDNESDAY JULY 1, 2015

Jul 01 2015

TORONTO - A man has died after a car crashed through a backyard fence in midtown Toronto early Wednesday morning.



Toronto police said the car crashed through the fence of a home shortly before 2 a.m. The car then became wedged in the back deck of the home.

Police said the driver abandoned the vehicle. Officers found a man believed to be connected to the incident a short time later, according to Ontario's police watchdog.

The Special Investigations Unit said there was an interaction between the man and police, and that the man was handcuffed. He then suffered "medical distress" and was rushed to hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries, according to an SIU statement.

Five SIU investigators and three forensic investigators are looking into the circumstances of the man's death.

(CTV News)

Jul 01 2015

MONTREAL - The two Montreal police constables who were cited for filing

a fake report and detaining a man illegally will receive formal disciplinary sanctions in coming weeks.

The provincial police ethics committee wrapped up its final hearing on Tuesday into the treatment of Nicolas Lavoie by officers Luc Gauthier and Alain Poirier.

In a formal report released in May, the committee found both constables guilty of illegally detaining Lavoie and falsifying a police report in July 2012. Gauthier was also cited for assault-for striking Lavoie's face.

The lawyer for the commissioner, Christiane Mathieu, said that both Gauthier and Poirier should each receive 15 days of suspension without pay. She said Gauthier and Poirier's actions were "revolting."

In his closing arguments, Mario Coderre, a lawyer for the Police Brotherhood, suggested a softer sanction. He lobbied for a five-day suspension for both Gauthier and Poirier, who have been on the force for 26 and 18 years respectively.

The Commissaire à la déontologie policière will render a decision within the next month.

Late one night in July 2012, Gauthier and Poirier picked up Lavoie, who was smoking a cigarette on Ste-Catherine St. outside of Fofounes Électriques. Lavoie had made his way to the nightclub after having several drinks at a Jean Leloup concert earlier that evening. During his testimony, Lavoie admitted to mouthing off to the police officers and spitting on them before being handcuffed and put into a police car.

Gauthier and Poirier said that Lavoie was dropped off around 2 a.m. at the intersection of Berri and Viger Sts. The police officers also said they had issued Lavoie with a ticket for disturbing the peace.

However, Lavoie was found walking on the Jacques-Cartier Bridge a mere 17 minutes later by a citizen who had called police. Lavoie told the committee that Gauthier and Poirier dumped him in Longueuil. In their testimony, both constables denied this claim.

During his walk over the Jacques-Cartier Bridge, Sûreté du Québec officers Émilie Gervais and Pier-Anne Paré stopped Lavoie. Paré told the committee that Lavoie refused the officers' offer to call an ambulance and he walked on the sidewalk instead. Lavoie said that they refused to give him a lift to Montreal.

The SQ officers were cleared of any wrongdoing. In the formal report issued by the committee, it was written that Gauthier and Poirier were unhappy with Lavoie's actions and they decided to "teach him a lesson."

(Montreal Gazette)

Happy Canada Day!





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