

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Warrantless disclosure halt not hindering RCMP



Jul 12 2015

OTTAWA - Putting a stop to the police practice of asking telecoms to simply turn over customers' data without a warrant has not significantly hindered the RCMP's work, internal documents show.

An internal RCMP survey conducted months after the Supreme Court limited the police's ability to access personal information without a warrant says the ruling has had no "significant negative effects" on operations.

According to the documents, there is a general sentiment within the force that the court's decision, known as Spencer, would cause investigative delays. But only 18 per cent of Mounties responding to the survey said they had any difficulty obtaining a production order for sensitive information they previously got informally.

"It appears that the biggest shift is that law enforcement is no longer able to rely on voluntary enforcement requests, and that the process of drafting and obtaining



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a production order or other judicial authorization is more time-consuming and rigorous," reads the internal report, obtained by the Star under access to information law.

"The respondents mostly indicate that this decision has resulted in investigative delays, but not necessarily derailing investigations or changing ultimate outcomes."

In 2011, nine companies were asked by law enforcement and government agencies to voluntarily hand over their customers' personal information a total of 1.2 million times.

Privacy advocates called those numbers "jaw-dropping," far surpassing long-standing suspicions about police access to private citizens' personal information.

A joint investigation by the Toronto Star and the Halifax Chronicle Herald revealed that police and government had made a similar number of warrantless requests for years.

In June 2014, the Supreme Court ruled the practice must be limited to emergency situations, and most of the so-called voluntary disclosures actually require judicial authorization.

Proponents of "lawful access" policies argue that requiring police to get judicial authorization for "phone book data" - things like names, addresses, telephone numbers and Internet protocol (IP) addresses - would bury cops in paperwork.

According to the November 2014 RCMP report, that didn't happen.

The report also notes that while the number of warrantless requests has dropped sharply, there has been only a slight increase in production orders.

The RCMP survey was conducted two months after the Spencer decision, and the report warns that the full impact will be known only in the coming years.

(Toronto Star)

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Celebrating 20 Years

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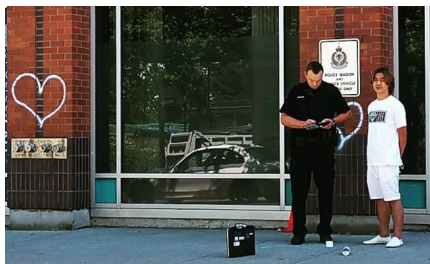
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THURSDAY JULY 9, 2015

Jul 09 2015

VANCOUVER - A man in Vancouver certainly got his wish of wanting to go to jail. In broad daylight last week, he spray-painted Vancouver Police headquarters on Cambie Street.



Constable Brian Montague explains what the 26-year-old did when he was told he can't be arrested without reason.

"He proceeded to go to Home Depot down the street, [and] buy some spray-paint and a hammer. He returned to the police station and started spraying hearts on the exterior walls of the police station. One of our uniformed officers was walking outside and observed him doing this and promptly arrested him."

The man did go to jail, albeit briefly.

"He was cooperative and didn't make any attempt to run and he got his wish. He wanted to go to jail and that's exactly what happened," adds Montague.

The man doesn't have a criminal record.

"The damage has been cleaned and unless you took a really close look at where the hearts were painted, you'd probably never notice," notes Montague.

The man has been charged with mischief and threatening to cause damage to property. He has been released and will make a court appearance later this month.

(News 1130)

Jul 09 2015

PORT COQUITLAM, B.C. - A British Columbia teenager has been sentenced to 16 months in jail for online pranks and threats that caused mayhem in communities as far away as Ontario, California and Florida.

The 17-year-old boy has pleaded guilty to 23 charges, including criminal harassment, extortion and public mischief.

A provincial court judge in Port Coquitlam, B.C., also sentenced him to eight months' supervision but when time served is tallied, the boy could be out of jail by early next year.

The teen, who can't be named because of his age, has also been banned from using the Internet.

The youth was charged after several so-called swatting incidents, a type of cyber crime where a hacker seizes computer addresses to fake an emergency, sending a SWAT team or police to unsuspecting victims.

Court heard the targets were mainly

women playing video games online but that in one case the teen's hoax prompted a bomb squad to respond in California.

Jul 09 2015

WINDSOR - Windsor sees substantially more arrests per capita for drug importing and exporting-related offences than anywhere else in the country, according to a report from Statistics Canada.

The statistics agency released a report Thursday looking at drug-related offences in Canada.

Statistics Canada reported that Windsor had a very low rate of general drug offences, as compared to other cities across the country.

But when it came to drug import and export offences, Windsor's census metropolitan area had a rate of 78 incidents per 100,000 population. The next highest in the country was in Toronto, where 10 such incidents were reported per 100,000 people living in that city's metropolitan area.

Statistics Canada found that this leading rate was "partially related" to the existence of the Ambassador Bridge.

(CBC News)

FRIDAY JULY 10, 2015

Jul 10 2015

HALIFAX - A new report says there are no grounds to charge a Halifax police officer after a man complained of a broken arm following his arrest.

The Serious Incident Response Team looked into the arrest of a 38-year-old man, who was suspected of breaking into and stealing from a sporting goods store.

The independent police watchdog says the suspect complained of an arm injury after the arrest on Oct. 11, 2014, and was later found to have a broken bone in his left arm.

It says the man complained that a police officer caused the break by grabbing his arm too forcefully while handcuffing him.

But investigators says a doctor who examined him indicated the break was inconsistent with the injury being caused that way.

The report says the man acknowledged that he crashed his van into the store and that he was under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time.

Jul 10 2015

A Hamilton police officer arrested last month during Toronto police raids of a violent drug gang is facing new criminal charges of bribery and obstruction of justice.

Const. Craig Ruthowsky's newest charges were revealed as he appeared in a Superior Court Thursday appealing an earlier decision denying him bail.

Ruthowsky has been in custody since the pre-dawn raids of June 4.

The former gang and weapons unit officer is accused of being part of a Hamilton

criminal group that did business with the Toronto street gang Monstarz - the subject of Toronto police's Project Pharoah, which saw 45 people charged with 379 offences.

The 41-year-old veteran officer was originally charged with breach of trust, conspiracy to traffic cocaine, participating in a criminal organization and commission of an indictable offence for a criminal organization.

On Thursday, Toronto Police media relations officer Meaghan Gray confirmed the bribery and obstruction of justice charges.

Details of that hearing cannot be made public because of a publication ban.

Neither can details of a bail review hearing that began in Toronto Superior Court Thursday and will continue Friday morning. (Hamilton Spectator)

Jul 10 2015

VANCOUVER - A man from northern British Columbia has been charged with three terrorism-related counts, accused of posting Islamic State propaganda online.

The RCMP say Othman Ayed Hamdan of Fort St. John was arrested on Friday.

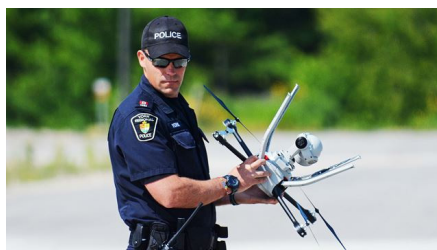
He's charged with counselling to commit murder for the benefit of a terrorist group, counselling to assault causing bodily harm for the benefit of a terrorist group and counselling to commit aggravated assault for the benefit of a terrorist group.

An RCMP news release alleges the propaganda included inducement and instructions to commit murder in the name of Jihad.

Police say a search warrant was executed at Hamdan's residence and a number of items were seized as part of the investigation.

Jul 10 2015

The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle will cut road closure durations in half when investigating serious or fatal collisions, York Regional Police says.



YRP is the second municipal police force in the province to add a drone - a flying apparatus with cameras attached - to its toolbox. Currently, Halton Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are using drone technology.

YRP will primarily use the drone when investigating serious or fatal vehicle collisions, searching for missing persons, security sweeps of outdoor venues and to assess a train derailment or hazardous waste incident before sending responders in, according to YRP spokesperson Andy Pattenden.

"Investigating one fatal collision can close a road for eight to 10 hours," he said, explaining it takes a long time to manually

map out an accident scene.

"This will cut that time in half."

At a demonstration just off Don Hillock Drive in Aurora, the drone, which is slightly larger than a basketball, launched, took pictures and landed with ease and made no more noise than a slight buzzing.

Two licensed officers, one observing the drone and the other using a tablet and stylus pen to control the flight path, operated the apparatus that's worth \$125,000, including the cameras.

It weighs 2.4 kilograms, is capable of vertical take offs and landings and can capture high-resolution images during the day or night.

"The UAV is a welcome addition to our investigative toolbox," police Chief Eric Joliffe said.

(Aurora Banner)

Jul 10 2015

Mitch Owens has kept himself busy during the first 94 years of his life.

He's been a business owner, a civic politician, serving as the interim mayor of Gloucester for a spell, before eventually retiring in 1991 at the young age of 70. His efforts in the community have had such an impact that one of the routes to get to his current residence at the Orchard View Living Centre in Greely is Mitch Owens Road.

But through all the years, one of the deepest and most cherished roles he has cast himself in has been as a member of the RCMP, and his long-standing association with the RCMP Veterans' Association.

It explains why an event to honour Owens's association with the national police force attracted former RCMP commissioner Bill Elliott, numerous past RCMP colleagues and generations of family members, including great-grandchildren, to the Orchard View Living Centre July 6 to pay tribute to the man who is still proud to wear the red colours of the RCMP.

As friends and colleagues came up to shake his hand, Owens - dressed in his red RCMP alumni blazer - was the star attraction at a ceremony that honoured his 50-year association with the RCMP Veterans' Association.

When added to his 20-plus years as an active member of the RCMP, it makes his connection to the national police force span more than seven decades.

"I don't think it is lost on anybody that to get here you take Mitch Owens Road," said Suzanne Sarault, director of communications for the RCMP Veterans' Association Ottawa Division.

"Mitch is held in very high regard and esteem and I'm humbled to be here to share this moment with you," said Bill Elliott, who was the first civilian commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, serving as commissioner from 2007 to 2011.

Graham Muir, president of the RCMP Veterans' Association Ottawa Division, said Owens work with the association over the years has been invaluable and that everyone in veterans' association knows who Owens is.

"As you can see, you have a lot of friends," Muir told Owens during the ceremony.

emony. "When you were up in the North, the men then were tough, and those who know you, know you are certainly tough."

Owens joined the RCMP in 1942 and spent much of his time in the North.

He served on the St. Roch during part of that ship's historic voyage through the Northwest Passage, and after spending time in the Arctic region he eventually ended up moving to the Ottawa area in 1953, before retiring from the RCMP in 1963. Since then, along with his other business and civic activities, he's been an active member of the veterans' association.

While the dignitaries and former colleagues attending the ceremony praised and honoured Owens's association with the RCMP that dates back to the 1940s, perhaps the greatest tribute he received at the July 6 ceremony was the large contingent of family members who attended.

Owens's son John Owens said his dad has always been proud to be associated with the RCMP and that the association has always been front and centre within the family.

"To him it was never just a job, it was 'the' job," John said.

(Manotick News)

SATURDAY JULY 11, 2015

Jul 11 2015

HALIFAX - The Nova Scotia Serious Incident Response Team is investigating after a woman sustained injuries while being arrested.

Halifax Regional Police say the 25-year-old woman was found by two officers Friday in an apartment in Fairview they were visiting for another reason.

The officers knew the woman was wanted for arrest, but she entered another apartment as they tried to apprehend her.

Police say the woman was next seen on the ground outside the apartment, apparently having jumped from a window.

She was taken to hospital with fractures in her back, pelvis and wrist.

SUNDAY JULY 12, 2015

Jul 12 2015

BARRIE, Ont. - A 22-year-old Barrie man is faces nine charges after allegedly ramming three police cruisers and injuring a police officer during a chase.

Barrie police say witnesses reported seeing a man and woman get into an argument (on Maplehurst Crescent), before the woman got on the hood of his car as it sped away and then came an abrupt stop - throwing her to the ground. She apparently left with unknown injuries.

Police searched the area and located the man and attempted to pull him over. The

suspect allegedly sped away from police and then returned to the scene where he rammed a police cruiser, drove across several front lawns and rammed two more cruisers before speeding off.

One police officer sustained injuries to his back and neck in a collision and was treated at hospital and released.

Police later located the suspect's abandoned vehicle and he was arrested without incident after a brief search.

The unidentified man faces nine charges including dangerous driving, flight from police and possession of a controlled substance. Police say he has been remanded into custody until Monday.

Sgt. Pat Brouillard says the man was found in possession of marijuana and psilocybin mushrooms and that investigators have requested the suspect undergo a mental assessment.

MONDAY JULY 13, 2015

Jul 13 2015

Morale for police in England and Wales is at a low as one in six officers plan to leave the force over the next two years, according to the Police Federation of England and Wales.

The staff association, which represents around 124,000 members, conducted a major survey of 32,598 officers.

The study found that almost 16% of police are planning to quit their jobs because of the impact of the occupation on their health and family life.

The report found that nearly all (95%) of the respondents who planned on leaving cited "how the police as a whole are treated" as having an impact on their decision.

The survey also revealed that more than three quarters (79.4%) of those planning to leave said the draw of better job opportunities outside the force had an effect on their decision.

Jim Battle, deputy police and crime commissioner for Greater Manchester, told IBTimes UK: "We recognise that police officers and staff are under a great deal of pressure as numbers fall and demand increases, particularly as they are having to face increasingly difficult issues such as child abuse and domestic violence.

The survey comes after a separate report from the National Audit Office (NAO) on 4 June warned that forces across England and Wales do not have a "clear understanding of the demands placed upon them".

But the watchdog said forces have "successfully" reduced costs since 2011, with an estimated fall of up to 23% between 2010-11 and 2015-16.

"Although police forces have successfully reduced costs, without a thorough understanding of demand or the factors that bear on their costs it is difficult for them to transform services intelligently," said Amyas Morse, head of the NAO.

(International Business Times)

Jul 13 2015

EDMONTON - A former Edmonton Police Service officer was given a conditional discharge in court Monday following an off-duty incident at a nightclub where the officer fought with bouncers then tried to use his police badge to get out of trouble.

Eric Richard Vezina, 29, resigned from Edmonton Police Service Monday morning and pleaded guilty Monday afternoon to assault and causing a disturbance.

According to an agreed statement of facts, Vezina was in recruit training when he and other classmates went to a bar on Nov. 12, 2014.

Vezina, who had consumed a substantial amount of alcohol, was asked to leave because it was closing time. Later, in the parking lot, security staff from the bar intervened after Vezina and another bar patron started an argument.

Vezina challenged the bouncers to fight with him and a physical altercation ensued. Vezina produced his Edmonton Police Service badge and told security they were under arrest. On-duty Edmonton Police Service members later arrived.

Provincial court Judge John Henderson called the incident "troublesome," noting Vezina physically fought with bar staff then used his police badge to try to deal with the matter.

Henderson accepted a joint submission for a conditional discharge, which means Vezina will not have a criminal record if he obeys conditions and completes six months of probation.

(Edmonton Journal)

Jul 13 2015

With attention focusing on Italian spyware giant Hacking Team and their efforts to strike deals with investigators worldwide, a little-noticed change to Canadian law is becoming increasingly relevant.

A large-scale leak of secret documents from spyware firm Hacking Team reveals the extent to which private industry is able to infect and hack cellphones and computers, and their willingness to hawk their products from the UK to Australia and America.

But Canada might be the most susceptible to such malware, thanks to a barely-publicized legislative change - that was supposed to be about combatting cyberbullying - that came into effect last year.

The leaked records, released on WikiLeaks, confirm that a collection of Canadian investigators were looking to get their hands on the Italian company's advanced offensive surveillance software.

While in the end, the RCMP did not sign a deal in 2011 and it's unclear if the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) went forward, the examples underscore the interest by Canadian investigators in getting their hands on the powerful tools.

Internal emails from Hacking Team, released on WikiLeaks, contain debriefs of

meetings with the RCMP and CSIS.

"They really liked the demo, they gave us compliments, etc.," reads an Italian-language email between a company sales manager and a senior security engineer.

Hacking Team was asking for between \$200,000 and \$250,000, for the whole system, which included tools that could allow both agencies to remotely infect cellphones and computers - "the main interest was toward Android and BB [Blackberry] for mobile, Windows for PC," the emails read - and would give the Canadian police and spies access to Hacking Team's database of security deficiencies and exploits.

Those security holes in commercial software or hardware, often referred to as 'zero-day vulnerabilities,' are identified by firms like Hacking Team or independent hackers, then sold off to law enforcement or government agencies as a means to find backdoors in commercial software or hardware.

Emails exchanged between the Edmonton Police Service and Hacking Team in April of 2015 reveal exactly how the company was selling this software to Canadian law enforcement.

"Thank you very much for your interest in Hacking Team and [remote control service] Galileo Solution," a Hacking Team sales manager wrote to an IT investigative specialist in the Edmonton police service who had asked to join the Hacking Team email list.

The email goes on that Galileo "is able to create agents that collect different type of evidences from criminal's devices (PC, mobile phones, tablets), such as recording of Skype and voice, chat and messages from social networks, mails, files, screenshots, visited web sites, passwords from browsers, position, photos, contacts, calendar, etc. The evidences are transmitted safely and securely to the end-user in order to build intelligence on targets, all his accounts, his most contacted people, his latest position, and create correlation between targets."

The Vancouver Police Department, too, looked into buying the gear.

"We recently ran into a problem that we thought your product could help us. We need to collect iMessages from an iPhone," wrote David Ainsworth, an investigator with the city's police service.

The Hacking Team staff visited the Vancouver police in July 2013, and ran a demonstration of the software for the chief. They assured the police service that their program would be able to collect iMessages, and more.

"We proceed with the demo, infecting the target via TNI YouTube," reads a debrief of the meeting sent between Hacking Team staff.

TNI probably refers to Tactical Network Injector, which means that Hacking Team was likely referring to a process whereby they can infect any mobile phone that tries to visit a specific URL - in this case, YouTube.

"Over all the demo was a success and I believe they are serious about acquiring the system," wrote an account manager to his Hacking Team colleagues.

They priced the software between “low 300K [to] upper 200K,” the Hacking Team account manager writes.

According to the officer, Vancouver police were looking to crack: “Windows, IOS, Android and BB.”

Blackberry is an interesting quirk for the hackers. In one 2012 email regarding upcoming demonstrations, they write “just hoping that the customer will provide (e.g. iOS jailbroken, BlackBerry NOT v.10, etc.)” referring to, at that time, the latest Blackberry software, which has long been boasted by creator Research In Motion as one of the most secure phones on the market.

Most of the Hacking Team executives sent emails on Blackberry devices.

While it would appear that Vancouver purchased the software, the police service wouldn’t confirm.

A spokesperson for the RCMP was more equivocal. “The RCMP tested the Hacking Team technology in 2011. The RCMP did not purchase and does not use the Hacking Team technology,” a spokesperson said of the federal police service, who did not respond to follow-up questions.

(Vice News)

Jul 13 2015

Ontario Provincial Police’s Sudbury search-and-rescue helicopter and team will return after the Pan Am Games, but what will become of them after that hasn’t been determined.

Sudbury Liberal MPP Glenn Thibeault has received assurances from his government that the Sudbury OPP helicopter and the base it operates will stay where it is until a review



is completed by the OPP.

It has been redeployed to Toronto for two weeks for the major sporting event, a move that had some northerners fearing it might never come back.

Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Yasir Naqvi told Thibeault the review is under way, “which is a good thing,” said the MPP, because the chopper won’t be moved while that process is going on.

Government holds “no sway” over the OPP, which operates independently, said Thibeault, but he is confident the review will ensure northerners remain safe.

His understanding was that the northern helicopter was to move out of Sudbury to OPP headquarters in Orillia this week or last week, but that isn’t going to happen yet.

The OPP has two search-and-rescue helicopters, one in Sudbury and one in Orillia. It announced in late April it was relocating the Sudbury one to its Orillia headquarters to save money and provide better service to all Ontarians.

The OPP conducted a review of the number of calls its helicopter teams were making and said the majority was in southern Ontario. The decision to move the helicopter was based on that review.

Thibeault said the current review is

different because it doesn’t only look at where helicopters are dispatched. It is also examining if other search-and-rescue resources in the North, such as Ministry of Natural Resources and Forest helicopters and those operated by the private sector, can support the OPP teams if both flew out of Orillia.

Critics of the decision to move the Sudbury chopper say it would put northern lives at risk because it would take 90 minutes to fly to Sudbury from Orillia, an area where visibility can be hampered in winter by lake-effect snow from Georgian Bay.

(Sudbury Star)

TUESDAY
JULY 14, 2015

Jul 14 2015

NEW YORK - The family of a black man who died after being placed in a white police officer’s chokehold reached a \$5.9 million settlement with the city on Monday, days before the anniversary of his death.

Eric Garner’s family in October filed a notice of claim, the first step in filing a lawsuit against the city, asking for \$75 million.

Garner, who was 43, was stopped last July 17 outside a Staten Island convenience store because police officers believed he was selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. A video shot by an onlooker shows Garner telling the officers to leave him alone and refusing to be handcuffed.

Officer Daniel Pantaleo placed his arm around Garner’s neck to take him down.

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Garner, who had asthma, is heard gasping “I can’t breathe!” 11 times before losing consciousness. He was pronounced dead later at a hospital.

The city medical examiner found the police chokehold contributed to Garner’s death. But a grand jury declined to indict the officer in the death. A federal probe is ongoing.

Chokeholds are banned by New York Police Department policy. Pantaleo says he used a legal takedown manoeuvre known as a seatbelt, not a chokehold.

Garner’s death sparked demonstrations and became a flashpoint in a national debate about relations between police and minority communities.

The city did not admit any liability.

Jul 14 2015

LEXINGTON, S.C. - Both the FBI and a county agency are promising to review a series of mistakes that allowed South Carolina church shooting suspect Dylann Roof to get a gun he never should have been allowed to buy.

Lexington County Sheriff Jay Koon told The Associated Press a clerk at his jail entered in the incorrect location for Roof’s drug arrest in February. That meant an FBI examiner using records from a state database couldn’t find the details about the arrest when Roof wanted to buy a gun.

The background check found nothing after three days and Roof was eventually allowed to buy the .45-calibre handgun authorities say was used in the June 17 shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston that killed nine people.

Jul 14 2015

WINNIPEG - A new system in Manitoba that’s designed to kick speeding ticket appeals into high gear, reduce court backlogs and cut police overtime is raising concerns about the civil rights of the accused.

Under changes to the Provincial Offences Act, police officers will be allowed to file written statements instead of having to appear in court to testify when a driver launches an appeal.

But Len Eastoe, a former police officer who helps people fight tickets, says no longer having the officer responsible automatically show up in court limits the ability of the accused to cross-examine.

While drivers will be able to ask the judge to have the officer on hand, it will be up to the driver to convince the court the officer should also be there.

Heather Leonoff, head of Manitoba’s constitutional law branch, says certificate evidence is better than taking officers off the street.

The changes were passed in 2013 and replace the 50-year-old Summary Convictions Act, but a date for them to take effect has not been set.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Jul 14 2015

VICTORIA - A second-degree-murder charge has been dropped against a police officer involved in a lengthy armed standoff outside a Vancouver-area casino.

The province’s Criminal Justice Branch has applied for a stay of proceedings against Const. Jordan MacWilliams of the Delta Police Department, saying a comprehensive review of the incident means the case will not continue to a trial set for October.

“(The branch) has determined that the available evidence, considered in its entirety, no longer supports a viable prosecution of Const. MacWilliams for second-degree murder, or any other offence,” the Justice Minister said in a statement Tuesday.

MacWilliams was one of more than two dozen officers involved in a standoff outside a casino in New Westminster on Nov. 8, 2012, but it ended with the death of 48-year-old Mehrdad Bayrami following what police described as a domestic dispute.

Police alleged they responded to a report from a Starlight Casino employee who told them he saw a man threatening a woman with a handgun through live security footage in the facility’s parking lot.

Police said they were able to escort the woman to safety but that a three-and-a-half-hour standoff ensued, with MacWilliams fatally shooting Bayrami in the abdomen.

Based on video evidence that appeared to contradict police interviews, the Crown initially approved a second-degree-murder charge against MacWilliams in October 2014.

However, additional investigation led prosecutors to drop the charge.

“Of particular significance to the analysis was the nature and degree of danger that Mr. Bayrami actually posed to the officers on scene, and their reasonable perception of that danger,” the branch said.

That reassessment included Bayrami’s change in behaviour when he moved towards officers after sitting or kneeling on the ground for more than three hours. The branch noted the situation also escalated when police used rubber bullets.

The review involved interviewing 35 witnesses, including many of the officers at the standoff, and additional information from the province’s police watchdog.

Delta Police Chief Neil Dubord expressed “overwhelming relief” at the decision, saying the charge had the potential to deeply affect police departments across Canada, both operationally and psychologically.

“As police officers, we are called upon to make instantaneous, life-or-death decisions,” Dubord said in a statement.

“We sometimes encounter violent situations that force us to react in a manner to protect the public and ourselves. Police officers across Canada continue to sign on to this job knowing that we will face risk and the resulting scrutiny.

MacWilliams also faces a civil lawsuit from Bayrami’s daughter.

Jul 14 2015

EDMONTON - A research project between the University of Alberta’s department of psychiatry and Edmonton Police Service has evolved into a mental health training system available for purchase by police agencies around the world.

The three part program, called ProTraining, launches Wednesday and comes as police interactions with people experiencing mental illness continue to end violently.

“We truly believe (ProTraining) will become the standard not just for police services in Alberta, but also nationwide and internationally,” said Dr. Peter Silverstone, a University of Alberta psychiatrist who has worked on the training since 2011. “There is nothing like this anywhere.”

ProTraining stems from a program Silverstone and U of A researchers designed, in which more than 650 Edmonton police officers took a one-day training course with actors in various scenarios.

Actors portraying people with psychiatric disorders interacted with police officers then gave feedback, to improve officers’ empathy, communication skills and ability to de-escalate situations.

Subsequent studies showed decreases in police use of physical force and use of force by weapons, and increases in mental health awareness and self-reported officer confidence when dealing with mental health calls.

In March, Edmonton Police Service Insp. David Christoffel credited a drop in use of force by Edmonton police to an increased focus on mental health training.

Renewed interest in the course came in 2014, Silverstone said, following a report into the police shooting death of teenager Sammy Yatim on a Toronto streetcar. The comprehensive investigation included recommendations on mental health training for officers.

The same year, the course was recognized in a report from the Mental Health Commission of Canada outlining recommendations for police education and training.

Encouraged by such interest, Silverstone and his former PhD student Yasmeen Krameddine looked into commercializing their training. They gathered input from police officers and educators around the world, and partnered with Edmonton-based software company Yardstick to create ProTraining, available at www.protraining.com.

Chris LaBossiere, CEO of ProTraining and Yardstick, said the training will change how police interact with people who are mentally ill.

“It’s going to save lives,” he said.

While other police training on mental illness exists, few programs have been “properly evaluated to determine that they lead to meaningful behavioural changes,” Krameddine and Silverstone noted in a 2015 review published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.

The researchers hope the evidence based ProTraining will fill that gap. The training consists of three stages: a 90-minute online

course, a four-hour in-class training session involving actors, and a comprehensive 40-hour advanced unit for specialized officers.

Silverstone recently presented the product at police conferences in Ottawa and Vancouver, with positive results.

"There is tremendous enthusiasm for this, because the need for it is recognized," he said. "We have a leading program coming out of Edmonton that will make a difference to people around the world."

(Edmonton Journal)

WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2015

Jul 15 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police say no charges will be laid in the shooting deaths of two men at a fast-food restaurant in February.

The shooting happened in the early morning hours of February 28 in an east-end McDonald's where police say an armed security guard fired his weapon after a fight with two men.

Donny Ouimette, 25, and Ryan Hind, 39, both of Toronto, were found with gunshot wounds and pronounced dead at the scene.

The security guard, who police said was employed nearby, was treated at hospital for a firearm-related injury.

Police say the homicide unit investigated the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the two men.

After consulting with senior Crown attorneys, police say it was determined there would be no reasonable prospect of conviction, and no criminal charges will be laid.

Jul 15 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A member of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has been charged with sexual assault.

Police say an investigation was launched by the Ontario Provincial Police after a complaint was received from a member of the public.

They say Const. Douglas Snelgrove, a 10-year veteran of the force in St. John's, has been arrested and charged with sexual assault.

Investigators say Snelgrove was on duty at the time of the alleged incident.

Snelgrove is currently suspended from the force without pay.

Jul 15 2015

RED DEER, Alta. - An Alberta Mountie is now facing two separate sets of assault charges from two alleged incidents from three years ago.

RCMP say Const. Eric Pomerleau was charged this week with common assault related to allegations stemming from August 2012.

They have not released details of the allegations.

Charges of assault with a weapon, assaulting causing bodily harm and common

assault were laid last month after a civilian alleged he was pepper sprayed while in police custody in December 2012.

Pomerleau is scheduled to appear in Red Deer provincial court next month.

He's on administrative duties at another Alberta RCMP detachment.

(CHED)

THURSDAY JULY 16, 2015

Jul 16 2015

The RCMP has quietly stopped releasing the names of people who die in car crashes and other tragic accidents across Canada.



The police force says it is following the Privacy Act. However, RCMP headquarters will not disclose why it has started enforcing the policy now.

In a written statement, RCMP spokeswoman Julie Gagnon says there are exemptions under which personal information may be disclosed, including when:

- The information is already publicly available (Section 69(2)).
- Disclosure is necessary to further an investigation (Section 8(2)).
- In the opinion of the head of the institution, public interest in disclosure clearly outweighs any invasion of privacy that could result from the disclosure, or disclosure would clearly benefit the individual to whom the information relates (Section 8(2)(m)).

For example, RCMP may decide to release a name in a homicide when it needs information from the public.

"However, even when an exemption may apply, it is discretionary and the RCMP will balance the interests in disclosing the information against the privacy interests involved," Gagnon wrote.

In small communities where tragedies tend to have the most impact, people are trying to figure out what's at stake.

Community newspapers arguably have the most to lose.

"While I do understand that privacy laws have to be followed, I'm not sure it's that helpful because if the names of victims aren't made public then it's really neighbourhood gossip and social media that might fill in some erroneous information and I don't think that's really what the public needs at a time like this," said Dave Stephens, news director at Lighthouse Now.

"They need to know who has been

involved, what family members might need their support and it's unfortunate that information isn't made available in a timely manner."

(CBC News)

Jul 16 2015

VANCOUVER - The City of Vancouver confirms a veteran employee is the man fatally shot in a targeted attack in Burnaby, B.C.

The shooting occurred at around noon Wednesday when a suspect approached a Burnaby home, a shouting match with the homeowner ensued and shots were fired.

RCMP in Burnaby say the victim, who has not been officially identified, died a short time later in hospital and the case has been turned over to the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team.

The City of Vancouver locked down one of its public works yards in the wake of the attack and increased security at other yards and engineering department offices, but security levels have since been scaled back and operations are returning to normal.

A statement issued by the City of Vancouver says counselling and support is being offered to staff and the man's co-workers, and the flag at City Hall has been lowered to half-mast in honour of the victim.

No arrests have been made but homicide investigators have said further details could be released today.

(News1130, CKNW, Global)

Jul 16 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada will not hear the case of a woman and her two sons who were suing Quebec City and two of its police officers for alleged racial profiling.

Marie-Anne Pierre-Louis, Pierre-Alexandre Laquerre and Pierre-Claude Laquerre were seeking \$250,000 in damages.

The three were in a van in April 2003 when the two officers stopped the vehicle.

They were suspended without pay for five days after a police ethics committee ruled they intercepted the van and conducted an identity check on the occupants because they were black.

Two courts in Quebec ruled against the family, prompting them to head to the Supreme Court.



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