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Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Mayor chooses Philippe Pichet as Montreal's new chief



Jul 24 2015

MONTREAL- Montreal's next police chief is a 24-year veteran of the force with two management degrees, and he's been the point man for his department on some of its most hot-button files in the last few years.

Mayor Denis Coderre announced late Friday he'll nominate Philippe Pichet, currently an assistant director of the Montreal police, to succeed Marc Parent as chief.

The nomination, which is the culmination of a two-month selection process, now

goes to city council and the island-wide agglomeration council that includes the island suburbs for ratification the week of Aug. 17. Quebec's public-safety department will then have to sign off on the choice.

"He's the type of person who, in my opinion, demonstrates good versatility, good experience. ... He is the type of person who will grow within his new functions," Coderre said of Pichet. "When you look at all the contenders, I think that Mr. Pichet was the one for the job."



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A selection committee had recommended two candidates to the mayor. Coderre met with all five of them himself, after which he selected Pichet.

The four other candidates were Patrick Lalonde, Fady Dagher, Mario Guérin and Bernard Lamothe.

Pichet was widely considered one of the front-runners for the position after Parent announced in May he would not seek a second term after his five years are up in September.

But city hall was reserved when it came to detail on Pichet's background and qualifications on Friday, refusing to provide a biography to the media or to allow interviews with its pick.

Some of what is known about Pichet is that he was born in Montreal and has a management certificate from the École des hautes études commerciales de Montréal and a master's degree from the École nationale d'administration publique. He joined the police force in 1991, and acceded to its management ranks in 2005. Pichet obtained his master's degree from ÉNAP around 2010 while working for the police force, following in the footsteps of another previous Montreal police chief, Jacques Duchesneau.

Among his initial postings as a manager, Pichet was commander of police station 45 in Rivière-des-Prairies-Pointe-aux-Trembles borough.

In 2010, he testified on behalf of the Montreal Police Department before a special Senate committee on anti-terrorism in Ottawa to explain Montreal police procedure and training. At that point, Pichet was a commander of the operational planning division of the police department's counter-terrorism and emergency measures section.

But it was the 2012 student protests against government-planned tuition fee hikes that gave Pichet something of a public profile. He was the point man for the department when charges of police brutality were levelled by protesters. In one incident, a CEGEP student

was photographed with a bloody, swollen eye after riot police allegedly fired a stun grenade over a crowd of protesters.

Pichet was also the spokesperson trotted out by his department in 2013 when images of a drinking marathon by a gang of youth, who drank beer, urinated, vomited, vandalized and exposed themselves over several hours at 18 stations in the métro system without police intervention went viral on social media.

The Montreal Police Brotherhood, which is locked in battle with Coderre and his administration over a new provincial law that will roll back public pensions and is in negotiations for a new collective agreement, said in a statement the new police chief has a challenge ahead of him.

"Enormous challenges await the next chief," Brotherhood president Yves Francoeur said in the statement. "The first is clearly improvement of labour relations. Having the necessary resources to fulfill the Montreal Police Department's mission is also crucial." (Montreal Gazette)

WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2015

Jul 22 2015

CALGARY - Calgary police say escalating shootings in the city are being fuelled by firearms stolen in break-and-enters and resold on the black market.



A day after police expressed extreme concerns about the increase, officers said they've seen a "dramatic" increase in guns obtained through break-ins.

"The large source of these guns are from break-and-enters," said Staff Sgt. Quinn Jacques of the Calgary Police Service's guns and gangs unit on Wednesday.

Instead of taking electronics or jewelry, thieves are breaking into homes and going straight for gun cabinets that contain lawfully obtained, properly stored guns, said Jacques.

Often, criminals use stolen tools and "brute force and persistence" to access the firearms, before defacing serial numbers and selling the stolen weapons on the black market for a hefty profit - guns that retail for \$300 to \$750 can go for around \$2,500 to \$3,000 on the street, according to police.

"These thieves are brazen. They'll go into a house and they'll see a gun safe, and they'll attack it because they know guns are in there," Jacques said.

"Gone are the days of stealing TVs and DVD players, they'll go right for the guns."

THURSDAY JULY 23, 2015

Jul 23 2015

A long-time Ontario Provincial Police officer could be facing disciplinary action by his employer for publicly criticizing its decision to relocate Sudbury's OPP search-and-rescue helicopter to Orillia.

An internal complaint against Orillia-based OPP helicopter pilot, Sgt. Dan Mulligan, was investigated by the service's Professional Standards Bureau after Mulligan wrote a letter to The Sudbury Star, The Star has learned.

Allegations of discreditable conduct and breach of confidence, as outlined in the Police Services Act of Ontario, are being levelled against Mulligan, The Star has learned.

When contacted, Mulligan confirmed he is facing disciplinary action, but would not comment further on the matter.

In his letter to the editor, published in the May 7, 2015, edition of The Sudbury Star, Mulligan, who is from Sudbury, said northern lives would be lost if the helicopter search and rescue team was transferred to Orillia, an hour's flight away.

A sergeant with the OPP's Aviation Services Section, Mulligan said his letter was his personal opinion and not "in any way designed to be representative of my employer."

Nickel Belt New Democrat MPP France Gelinias, who was the first politician to slam the OPP decision to relocate the Sudbury helicopter, was angry to hear Mulligan could be facing disciplinary action.

"Every workplace should have whistleblower protection and the OPP doesn't. They are not allowed to talk," said Gelinias.

She is questioning the validity of a review being conducted by the OPP on whether the helicopter search-and-rescue team should remain in Sudbury. That may be a moot point.

The Sudbury chopper has been redeployed to Orillia during the Pan Am Games, and Sudbury Liberal MPP Glenn Thibeault said he was told by Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Yasir Naqvi that it would stay in Sudbury until that OPP review is completed.

Thibeault said the OPP review will examine if other search-and-rescue resources in the North, such as Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry helicopters and those operated by the private sector, can support OPP teams if both police helicopters flew out of Orillia.

Gelinias said she has contacted Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry workers and they say they aren't trained for search and rescue missions, and that their aircraft fly higher and faster than OPP helicopters.

Gelinias has tried to get a date from the OPP when the Sudbury helicopter was being relocated, got tired of being "stonewalled" by the OPP and spoke to the three employees working at the Sudbury OPP helicopter base at Greater Sudbury Airport.

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The engineer was laid off May 13, told to “clean out his tools” and has been sitting at home collecting full pay, according to the terms of his collective agreement. He will retire in a few months, she said.

One OPP pilot, the first officer, has left the OPP and gone to work for Orgne air ambulance, two hangars away from where the OPP chopper was stationed. The second pilot is working out of Orillia and is being “encouraged to move” there, said Gelinias. (Sudbury Star)

Jul 23 2015

MEDICINE HAT, Alta. - A Mountie has been cleared of any wrong doing in a shooting outside the Medicine Hat RCMP detachment.

Alberta government investigators say a man went to the detachment last October around 3 a.m. and used an outside phone to call police, claiming he was being followed.

An RCMP officer went to the door but noticed the man had a pistol.

The Mountie shot the man after he refused to drop the weapon and pointed it at the officer.

Paramedics took the man, who was not identified, to hospital for emergency surgery and he survived.

Investigators say the pistol the man pointed at the Mountie was a replica Smith and Wesson BB gun. (CHQR)

Jul 23 2015

Charges have been dropped against Josh Skookum, the Yukon man who was punched by an RCMP officer during his arrest in April with the incident being caught on video.

Skookum had been facing several charges related to breaches of conditions, resisting arrest and assaulting a peace officer.

In the video of the arrest, Skookum asks “Why are you hitting me?” before the officer appears to punch him in the head. The officer then forces Skookum onto his stomach and handcuffs him.

Marc Lecorre with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada says the charges were withdrawn because “essentially there was no reasonable prospect of conviction.”

He declined to comment further on the Skookum case and wouldn't comment on the presence or the impact of the video.

The video was shared widely when it was posted online last April, and prompted a demonstration outside RCMP headquarters in Whitehorse.

The arresting officer was reassigned to administrative functions and the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team was called in to conduct a criminal investigation.

Fairclough said a member of the First Nation is part of that investigation, and it was expected to take about four months.

“We should have the results pretty soon,” he said. (CBC News)

Jul 23 2015

HAMILTON - Black people are stopped, questioned and documented in police street checks at a disproportionate rate compared to the population in Hamilton, police statistics presented Thursday show.

And the information recorded in all such stops is kept indefinitely in a police database.

In Hamilton, 11 to 14 per cent of the police street checks were done on black people over the last five years. But only three per cent of the population of Hamilton is black, according to the 2011 Census.

In the police statistics, 75 to 80 percent of the street checks every year were done on white people - a finding that Chief Glenn De Caire and board chair Lloyd Ferguson cited as proof the service has no problem with racial bias.

But when compared with the percentage of Hamilton's population that is visible minorities, the numbers showed a disproportionate impact.

The findings came as part of a report to the police's oversight board, responding to concerns raised that the practice is racially skewed and an infringement on privacy rights.

Deputy Chief Eric Girt presented information to the board about its street checks, commonly called carding in Toronto.

Girt defined “street checks” as “police engaging with the community members for investigative purposes” and said they work: Information gathered in street checks is helping to solve a current homicide investigation, he said.

It was a significant meeting in a long fight for clarity over the practice that involves stopping people who have not necessarily done anything wrong to question them, record their ID and whereabouts, and later enter that information in the police database.

Also Thursday, despite months of semantic confusion, Hamilton's “street check” practice was described similarly to Toronto's “carding.”

Hamilton officers even have a street check “card” they use to fill out a person's name, date of birth, age, names of their “associates” and physical and race identifiers.

Girt said the street check form is a piece of paper a little smaller than a recipe card. But Girt would not say that Hamilton's street checks are the same thing as “carding.”

“You're getting into terminology,” he said. “We don't call it carding.”

Hamilton police also revealed they have been keeping racial data of people questioned during street stops in the city for five years, but do not analyze it for evidence of bias in their carding practices.

The board asked the police to bring back a study on doing this kind of racial analysis on an ongoing basis. It also asked for a report on the best practices other police services boards are adopting as they oversee police forces around the province grappling with similar issues.

Girt said the stops are a key policing tool

and that police are not happy about the chilling effect of recent public debate about the practice.

Where 2010-2013 saw thousands of street checks being filed, the total street checks plummeted to 188 in 2014.

“Are we getting to a stage where our officers are inhibited from doing their core functions because of the repercussions they feel may flow from it? That's the fundamental tension,” Girt said.

Girt showed statistics that indicate between 20 and 25 per cent of the street checks are done on visible minorities. Hamilton's visible minority population is roughly 15 per cent.

But Girt noted that most street checks are done in the downtown area, where the visible minority population is closer to 35 per cent. (CBC News)

Jul 23 2015

Alberta peace officers donate bullet-proof vests to U.S. cops.



Jamie Erickson dons body armour every day before he leaves the house for work. It's practically a “second skin” for the peace officer in Kneehill County, who has been on the job for 14 years. But it's a luxury not all law enforcement officers can afford, even just south of the border in the U.S.

Due to small budgets and small departments in certain municipalities, many officers are forced to pick up the tab for their own protective equipment - a vest can cost nearly \$1,000 - or they don't wear one at all, according to Capt. Clint Reck, a 27-year veteran of the Muscle Shoals Police Department in Alabama.

That fact inspired Reck to launch the Armor of God Project in 2009, a non-profit ministry that distributes used and donated vests to officers in need. He'd previously spearheaded efforts to send vests to police officers in the Philippines. At least one of them has saved an officer's life in that country.

“At the time, I didn't realize there were officers in the United States who didn't have vests because our department supplies new vests every five years,” said Reck, a former SWAT team leader and K9 officer.

“It was kind of mind blowing that people in the United States were working without vests.”

Reck started gathering donated vests from departments across the country, including the New York and Virginia state police departments.

After hearing about the project, the Alberta Association of Community Police Officers reached out to its members and collected dozens of used vests to donate to the project.

"After this many years of wearing a vest, every day, all day, it feels absolutely odd to not have one on at work," said Erickson, the association's president. "I couldn't imagine leaving home (for work) without wearing one and without that peace of mind."

Most ballistic vests have a five-year warranty from manufacturers before they "expire" for liability reasons. After that, officers are issued new vests and the old ones are often left in storage or shredded, explained Reck.

Though they may not have a warranty or be brand new, a gently used vest is "better than nothing," he said.

"I would rather take it and wear it than not have anything," Reck continued. "A polyester shirt's not going to stop a bullet, so this out-of-date vest is better than nothing. We're averaging about 25 to 30 vests every week, so there's a lot of requests and we're trying to fill them."

The demand for the equipment is high, he added. Since 2009, Armor of God has distributed more than 6,700 vests.

Back in Alberta, Erickson said the peace officers' association plans to stay involved with the project.

"We're happy that we have the benefits of municipalities' support to not have to purchase these on our own," Erickson said. "We're more than happy to assist the police officers down in the States."

FRIDAY JULY 24, 2015

Jul 24 2015

BRAMPTON - The union representing Peel Regional Police officers this afternoon fired back at findings made by the province's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) that one of its members tampered with evidence when he removed a knife from the scene of a fatal police shooting in Brampton.

In an interview with The Guardian this afternoon, Peel Regional Police Association president Paul Black said the officer did the right thing.

Black chastised the SIU, who looked into the fatal shooting of 33-year-old Jermaine Carby, for what he described as SIU president Tony Loparco's "inflammatory" language regarding the police officer who removed a knife from the scene.

Loparco lashed out in his report at an unnamed officer who said he removed a knife from Carby's body after he had been shot, placed it in a brown paper bag and gave it to his sergeant, who delivered it to an SIU investigator "several hours" after the shooting.

Although the SIU didn't charge any of the officers involved in the shooting, Loparco said the officer's decision to remove the knife Carby was reportedly wielding from the scene was "ill-advised conduct (that) has cast a pall over the integrity of the SIU's investigation."

Black said the SIU's public statement implies police tampered with evidence or

contaminated the scene and he said, nothing could be further from the truth.

"He secured the knife and in fact improved the integrity of the case," Black said. "What happened here was common sense and human nature. This is a concerned officer saying 'I need to secure this knife.' For a young officer, he did a superb job."

Black, a former forensics officer, said scenes such as the Carby shooting can easily become contaminated with paramedics and other emergency personnel trying to save someone's life. He said the knife could've easily been run over, stepped on or even lost in all the commotion.

Further, Black said, Loparco's comment about the knife delivered "several hours" after the fact was "misleading."

Black said officers on scene told the first SIU investigators who responded that they had the knife and were willing to turn it over, but those investigators wanted "to leave it for the forensics guys."

The SIU said it couldn't comment on Black's statements.
(Brampton Guardian)

Jul 24 2015

OTTAWA - Some members of the U.S. Congress are concerned Canada is taking too long to force all oxycodone producers to make tamper-resistant forms of the drug.

In a July 22 note to Health Minister Rona Ambrose, 10 congressional members say her department's intention "to require tamper-resistant properties ... is laudable."

But the group, including Brian Higgins and Kevin Cramer - co-chairs of the North-

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ern Border Caucus - says Canada's three-year timeline to deliver on the promise is a "source of concern."

"The urgency of this request comes because there is evidence that generic versions of oxycodone products continue to be transported or diverted into the United States from Canada, further exacerbating this public health crisis on both sides of the border," the letter states.

"We respectfully request that Health Canada examine the feasibility of accelerating the timeline and shortening the phase-in period for abuse-deterrent formulations in order to allow for an orderly transition for your regulations to come into force."

The letter comes after Health Canada issued a consultation notice in the Canada Gazette last month.

It called for feedback on a proposal to require all controlled-release oxycodone products to have tamper-resistant properties before they can be sold in Canada.

In the notice, the department said the three-year phase-in period will "provide sufficient time for product reformulation and the necessary supply chain adjustments."

Ambrose's office said it has yet to receive the letter from members of Congress, but the minister's spokesman, Michael Bolkenius, said Canada is "pursuing strategies on prescribing practices, examining tamper-resistant properties and are already taking action to tighten licensing rules to prevent illegal distribution."

Jul 24 2015

EDMONTON - A new federal law that institutes a maximum jail sentence of five years for anyone convicted of intentionally killing a police dog or service animal is now in effect.

On Thursday, Tim Uppal, the federal minister of state for multiculturalism, met with Edmonton police officers to mark the enactment of Quanto's Law.

The law was named for Edmonton police dog Quanto, who was killed in the line of duty nearly two years ago.

Quanto was stabbed in the RCMP headquarters parking lot while he was helping to apprehend a fleeing suspect.

The man who killed Quanto was sentenced to 26 months in prison for a string of criminal offences, including animal cruelty, and was banned from owning a pet for 25 years.

Acting Staff Sgt. Adam Segin says the help that police dogs and service animals in general provide is remarkable and it's nice to see a formal recognition of their value.

"This sends a strong message to anyone that ... to injure or kill a service animal in the line of duty will be met with very serious consequences," said Uppal. "They're there to protect us and we should be protecting them."

While the law was sparked by the death of Quanto, the legislation applies to all service animals used in law enforcement, the military and for individuals with disabilities or specific medical needs.

(CTV Edmonton)

Jul 24 2015

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's independent police watchdog has released the findings of two separate investigations involving Halifax police officers.

Both investigations were launched after Halifax Regional Police contacted the Serious Incident Response Team about allegations against officers, first in April and then in June.

The SIRT reports contain no details about the findings, but state how many witnesses were interviewed and when the investigations concluded.

As a result of the first investigation, Const. Jason Murray of Lower Sackville was charged with two counts of assault on May 1.

The second investigation report states that Const. Tyler Anstey of Dartmouth will be charged with assault and forcible entry today.

Jul 24 2015

HAY RIVER, N.W.T. - RCMP are investigating after a large amount of crack cocaine was found at a training facility used by the Hay River Fire Department in the Northwest Territories.

Police say about 1.5 kilograms of crack was discovered hidden in a wall at the facility by a crew performing building maintenance.

The drugs were behind a piece of sheet metal.

There was no immediate word on any suspects.

Jul 24 2015

HALIFAX - The federal government has announced \$54 million in funding to support the implementation of the new Canadian Victims Bill of Rights.

Federal justice minister Peter MacKay made the announcement in Halifax today.

The bill of rights creates statutory rights for victims of crime in Canada including the right to the protection of their identity, the right to participate in the criminal justice process and the right to seek restitution.

It was developed through stakeholder consultations held by the government online and in person in every province and territory.

MacKay said the funding is intended to support the implementation of the bill of rights through existing resources as well as the allocation of new federal resources.

The bill of rights and related amendments to the Criminal Code, Canada Evidence Act and Employment Insurance Act came into force on Thursday.

Jul 24 2015

VANCOUVER - The lies a former Mountie told a public inquiry damaged the reputation of the RCMP and undermined confidence in the once-trusted institution, a B.C. Supreme Court judge said Friday.

Justice Nathan Smith sentenced former corporal Benjamin "Monty" Robinson to two years less a day, one year of probation and 240 hours of community service for ly-

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ing to the inquiry into the death of Robert Dziekanski.

Robinson was the senior officer in charge on Oct. 14, 2007, when Dziekanski was jolted with a Taser and died at Vancouver's airport.

Smith found him guilty last March, ruling he colluded with four fellow officers to make up testimony that they gave at the inquiry.

"The impact of this offence on the community has been primarily to the reputation and credibility of the police force in which Mr. Robinson served," Smith told the court. "Confidence and trust in the police is crucial to the proper functioning of the justice system and society in general."

Smith illustrated what has happened to that confidence by reading part of the victim-impact statement of Dziekanski's mother.

Zofia Cisowski said that when she came to this country she saw the RCMP as the main symbol of Canada and what it stood for, a democracy where people could always trust the police.

Cisowski said that she doesn't feel the same way anymore because of the untruths told by police connected to her son's case.

"Perjury is a serious offence because it strikes at the heart of the justice system and undermines the administration of justice," said Smith.

The officers were called to Vancouver's airport after reports that Dziekanski, a Polish immigrant who spoke no English, started throwing furniture.

Within seconds of their arrival, Dziekanski was jolted several times with a Taser and died on the floor of the arrivals terminal.

The Crown claimed during the trial that the officers concocted a story to give to homicide investigators and then lied to the public inquiry to explain why their first statements didn't match with the amateur video that was later released.

When he found Robinson guilty in March, Smith noted that all the officers made similar mistakes, including their incorrect claim that Dziekanski was wrestled to the ground. The judge said the only explanation was that the Mounties worked together on their stories.

"I simply do not believe that a police officer of his experience could make such a crucial mistake in these circumstances," Smith ruled.

Robinson, dressed in a dark suit and tie, walked to the back of the courtroom with a sheriff and was then placed in handcuffs. His lawyers didn't speak to the media after the sentencing or indicate if there would be an appeal.

Each of the four officers involved were tried separately for perjury. Robinson and Const. Kwesi Millington were found guilty, while the two other officers were acquitted.

Millington, was given a 30-month prison sentence, but has been granted bail while he appeals the conviction.

Robinson was also convicted of obstruction of justice in a separate trial after the vehicle he was driving hit and killed a young motorcyclist in October 2008.

The man's troubles led the RCMP to single him out as a bad apple within its ranks. He left the force in 2012.

Jul 24 2015

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police say there will be no disciplinary action taken against two officers in a helicopter whose explicit conversation, including swearing and references to oral sex, was broadcast by loudspeaker to people below.



Some citizens were shocked by the language the officers used and others were bemused, taking to social media to make jokes about the incident using the hashtags #whoops and #speakerphone.

On Friday, police said they had concluded after an investigation that the incident was an accident and said changes had been made to the chopper's wiring system to prevent it happening again.

The police force again apologized to anyone who may have been offended by the overheard conversation.

Three officers had been on a routine patrol when they inadvertently turned on the chopper's public address system.

They didn't know many in the city could hear their workplace chatter which witnesses said ranged from swearing to talking about money and sex.

(CTV Winnipeg)

**SATURDAY
JULY 25, 2015**

Jul 25 2015

TORONTO - The Ontario Special Investigations Unit is probing a fatal shooting involving police in downtown Toronto early Saturday.

The SIU says in a release that a 21-year-old man was shot during an "interaction" with police after officers approached a vehicle about 2 a.m., the police watchdog later identified the man as Kwasi Skene-Peters.

Several local media outlets say Skene-Peters was wanted on first degree murder charges in the slaying of two men in Toronto last month.

The SIU did not immediately verify the information but a Toronto police release from June said an arrest warrant was issued for a suspect of the same name and age.

Skene-Peters was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The SIU says it has assigned five investigators and four forensic investigators to probe the incident. Two subject officers have been designated.

**SUNDAY
JULY 26, 2015**

Jul 26 2015

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog is reviewing how the OPP handled the death of a man in the community of Grand Bend this weekend.

The Special Investigations Unit says officers drove a 52-year-old man home from a bar and restaurant early Sunday morning.

The SIU says the man went into medical distress and was pronounced dead.

An autopsy will be done on Monday.

Jul 26 2015

EDMONTON - There was no moment of silence for Const. Daniel Woodall Sunday afternoon.



Instead, hundreds of the constable's friends, supporters and fellow officers stood up for a "moment of applause," throwing blue streamers and cheering in Woodall's memory to begin a soccer match in his honour.

"Today, as we've said, is a day for celebration," Claire Woodall, the constable's wife, told the crowd.

"Dan was, and is, my everything. And he is gone, but not forgotten."

Const. Woodall, who worked as an officer in Great Britain before moving to Edmonton, was shot and killed last month while trying to serve a warrant in a hate crimes investigation.

The 35-year-old's death prompted an outpouring of support from the city, with the officer's regimental funeral drawing thousands of mourners.

But aside from being a police officer, friends spoke of a man who was a devoted father and a passionate Arsenal fan. With so much focus on how the officer died, today's soccer match - dubbed the Woodall Cup - was meant to celebrate who he was when he was alive.

Organizers pulled together two teams: one made up of Woodall's fellow Edmonton police officers, the other a soccer team from his native country.

FC Edmonton donated the use of the field and handled ticketing for the game. The teams' jerseys, which all had Woodall's name on the back, were donated by his beloved Arsenal.

"It's been quite poignant," said Claire Woodall. "You know, it's a little bit more emotional - but it's going to be a real, proper England U.K. match."

The game ended in a 2-2 tie, allowing the British and police teams to share the trophy.

In all, around 1,000 tickets to the game were sold: many to people from outside of the city who wished to show their support. The event raised around \$15,000 for Woodall's family.

"I didn't realize how many lives he's touched but obviously there is a lot ... and it's good for my boys to see that," Claire Woodall said.

The organizers plan to turn the Woodall Cup into an annual event.
(CBC News)

MONDAY JULY 27, 2015

Jul 27 2015

TORONTO - Ontario Provincial Police say they've laid 763 charges under the province's so-called "move over" law so far this year and are urging drivers to be mindful of the rule.

The law was established in 2003 and requires drivers to slow down and proceed with caution when approaching an emergency vehicle parked on the side of the highway with its lights on.

If the highway has more than one lane, the law requires the driver to move over and leave one lane between their vehicle and the parked emergency vehicle when that can be done safely.

Failure to follow the law can result in fines from \$400 to \$2,000 and three demerit points for a first offence.

The law was brought in after the deaths of officers responding to vehicles they had pulled over on the side of the road.

Police say they'll be conducting an education and enforcement campaign on the law over the upcoming long weekend.

They say increased traffic volumes over the weekend will result in more emergency vehicles on the road, making it particularly important for drivers to comply with the law.

Jul 27 2015

MONTREAL - Quebec provincial police are limiting their use of semi-unmarked vehicles pending a review following a fatal collision.

The probe was launched after an officer driving such a car smashed into another vehicle and killed three elderly people on July 18 in Dolbeau-Mistassini, about 300 kilometres north of Quebec City.

Semi-unmarked police cars have white-on-white or black-on-black labelling, making it difficult for motorists to identify them.

Lt. Guy Lapointe said today the force will use the vehicles less frequently to respond to emergencies while it conducts its review.

The interim rules dictate that officers driving semi-unmarked cars will only be able to respond to emergencies if they are the only officer around or are closest and the emergency is life-threatening.

The review is scheduled to be completed in the fall.

Jun 27 2015

A former guard at the Meadow Lake RCMP detachment is no longer facing a sexual assault charge.

Dennis Bienvenue, 72, was fired from his job in March and RCMP said they laid the charge following a review of video images of the detachment's cell block area.

The charge was withdrawn one month ago.
(CBC News)

Jul 27 2015

Quebec's police ethics commission has ruled a Montreal police officer used intimidation and showed disrespect when he threatened to tie a homeless man to a pole outside a metro station.

The incident happened in January 2014 on a day when temperatures hovered around -35 C.

Cellphone video posted to YouTube by a passerby shows officer Pierre-Luc Gauthier reprimanding a disheveled man who had been asking people for change. The man was dressed only in shorts and a T-shirt.

The officer tells the man he has to calm down and find a place to warm up. Then he tells the man he will tie him to a pole for an hour if he gets another complaint about his panhandling.

In its decision released Monday, the tribunal ruled Gauthier's threat was "excessive" and an "abuse of authority," regardless of his motivation.

Gauthier's partner, Vincent Marcotte, was also reprimanded for not stepping in to intervene.
(CBC News)

TUESDAY JULY 28, 2015

Jul 28 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has a new member -- Alberta Court of Appeal Justice Russell Brown.



He is a former barrister and law professor and replaces Justice Marshall Rothstein, who retires at the end of August.

Prime Minister Harper says Brown brings wide experience as a law professor and legal scholar to the court and that he made the decision after broad consultations with prominent members of the legal community.

Brown will be the second member of the high court from western Canada, the other

being Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.

He is a member of the bars in both British Columbia and Alberta and currently sits in Edmonton, where he also serves as an appeal judge for both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Jul 28 2015

Brock University psychology researchers Associate Prof. Angela Book and graduate student Michael Logue have discovered a way to increase the ability to detect deception in interviews of suspects to 86 per cent.

Existing techniques are only up to around 57 per cent accurate, according to research.

"Knowing how important honesty is in testimony, we have to do better," said Logue, who came up with the research idea. "My thought was simple: If we want to know if people are telling us the truth, we have to actually listen to what they're saying."

The research involved combining an interview technique called the "cognitive interview" with an existing coding system called the Reality Monitoring Scale. Law enforcement officials currently use the cognitive interview when talking to witnesses and victims. It is a less intense, longer interview process that focuses on gathering as much information as possible, not just obtaining a confession.

The Reality Monitoring Scale is an objective coding system that focuses on the details and descriptions in a witness statement to determine how likely it is to be true or false.

"By improving the quality of the statement, we could improve the accuracy by letting the scale do its job," said Logue. "They work together because the cognitive interview orients people to tell all details, like sights, sounds, spatial arrangements et cetera, which is exactly what the Reality Monitoring Scale uses to determine the truth."

More than 150 undergraduate students participated in the two-part study. Students were randomly assigned to the truthful or deceptive category.

During phase one, students in the truthful category chatted and played a game with a member of the research team, while those in the deceptive category were asked to create a story about experiencing the same event.

During phase two, researchers who were unaware of the student's category applied the cognitive interview technique. Researchers used the Reality Monitoring Scale to decode all of the interviews conducted in phase two and categorized the students into their respective categories, with an 86 percent success rate.

The findings were published in the April 2015 journal Law and Human Behaviour in a paper called "Using Reality Monitoring to Improve Deception Detection in the Context of the Cognitive for Suspects."

Book said the goal is to help law enforcement better their practices.

"It is a longer interview, so it does cre-

ate more work for law enforcement, and the coding would have to be done following the interview," she said. "But with proper training it could be done relatively quickly."

Book said a field study is the next step in the research, with the objective of enabling law enforcement officials to better detect deception while interviewing suspects.

Jul 28 2015

TACOMA, Wash. - A fugitive has been arrested after federal agents saw his photo in a Washington state newspaper that ran a story about a low-budget horror movie.



The News Tribune reports that 44-year-old Jason Stange, a convicted bank robber, plays a leading role in the movie "Marla Mae." The Olympian newspaper ran a feature story on the film Friday with photos that showed Stange on the film set in Olympia.

Federal agents tracked down Stange and arrested him Friday at a restaurant near the set.

Stange pleaded guilty to an armed bank robbery in 2006 and was given a prison sentence of more than nine years. A federal probation violation warrant was issued last year after Stange left a halfway house.

The film's producer says Stange will remain in the film, scheduled for release next year.

Jul 28 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police have made a string of arrests and laid a total of 140 charges in a series of armed robberies that took place across the city earlier this year.

They say there were 12 armed robberies at various transit stations, retail establishments and a financial institution between March 3 and May 28.

Through an investigation - called "Project Castle" - which involved the work of multiple divisions, as well as the investigative services of the Toronto Transit Commission, police say they arrested 10 people.

Staff Inspector Mike Earl says the suspects wore masks and were armed with guns during the robberies.

Earl says he believes at least some of the people arrested could be linked to other robberies that have taken place in the city earlier this year.

Jul 28 2015

WINDSOR, Ont. - A Windsor, Ont., police officer facing 12 charges under the Police Services Act has resigned from the force.

The Windsor Police Association says Const. David Bshouty's resignation means proceedings against him have come to a halt.

The charges had stemmed from four separate investigations.

Four counts of discreditable conduct were related to Bshouty's arrest at the border last year for allegedly smuggling cocaine - an incident that also saw him criminally charged in the U.S., but that charge was eventually dismissed.

He was also charged with insubordination for allegedly failing to report to police after his release from custody in the U.S.

Bshouty was further charged with one count of discreditable conduct, three of neglect of duty and one of corrupt practice in connection with substances allegedly found in his locker.

And he was also facing two charges - deceit and discreditable conduct - for allegedly failing to disclose information to Windsor police before his employment.

He still faces criminal charges in Windsor of trafficking a controlled substance.

(Blackburnnews.com)

Jul 28 2015

GRAND FORKS, N.D. - U.S. officials say an alleged international synthetic drug ring involved a Colombian man who trafficked drugs while serving time in a Quebec prison.

Daniel Vivas Ceron, 34, has been charged with five counts, including conspiracy to distribute controlled substances resulting in serious bodily injury and death.

Investigators began looking into the trafficking of powdered fentanyl and other synthetic drugs following the overdose death in January of Bailey Henke, 18, of Grand Forks, N.D., and say at least two other people have died.

Court documents show Vivas Ceron had been imprisoned at the Drummond Institution in Drummondville and was arrested in Panama City, Panama, after being deported from Canada earlier this month.

The U.S. Justice Department says he appeared in a Panamanian court on July 20 and is awaiting extradition to the United States.

The indictment alleges Vivas Ceron operated a criminal enterprise while imprisoned in Canada that moved fentanyl and other similar substances from Canada and China to Florida, North Dakota and Oregon.

Jul 28 2015 An incident involving a Cote First Nation resident and the Yorkton RCMP has been settled out of court.

A statement of claim was filed in Yorkton on Feb. 5, 2014 by Ethel Pelly alleging mistreatment by the Yorkton RCMP on Feb. 8, 2012. It stems from an incident that occurred shortly before 11 p.m. that day, when the vehicle Pelly was driving was stopped by police.

She was taken into custody and her vehicle was seized and searched.

In the statement of claim, Pelly alleged her wrist was injured when the handcuffs were put on her too tightly.

She claims that once she was at the Yorkton detachment, the mistreatment continued that included her bra being taken away while she was wearing a "seethrough" T-shirt.

Pelly, who was also menstruating at the time of the incident, said she was placed in

cell where the water was turned off and she did not have access to sanitary napkins. She was kept overnight and was released about 16 hours after her arrest.

In the claim, she alleges the incident left her traumatized and she was seeking compensation.

The Attorney General of Canada filed a six-page statement of defence on April 20 - 14 months after the statement of claim was filed.

All claims made by Pelly were disputed.

Pelly's lawyer Thomas Campbell said the matter was resolved through mediation on June 26.

(Regina Leader Post)

Jul 28 2015

EDMONTON - Mounties in Alberta say they may be dealing with a serial killer after identifying the remains of a woman south of Edmonton.



RCMP Insp. Stacey Talbot says the remains found on a rural property near Leduc in April have been identified as belonging to Corrie Ottenbreit.

Ottenbreit, a sex trade worker, was last seen in Edmonton more than a decade ago, in May 2004.

Including Ottenbreit, police have found the remains of four women within an eight-kilometre radius in Leduc County.

Talbot says given the proximity of the victims, police have not ruled out the possibility of a serial killer.

WEDNESDAY
JULY 29, 2015

Jul 29 2015

SYDNEY - Renovations will begin in August to make the headquarters of the Cape Breton Regional Police work better for patrol officers and the public.

The headquarters are housed in the former County of Cape Breton municipal building in Sydney. The police took it over as their central division HQ at the time of amalgamation in 1995, when six police forces were merged into one.

The county building was purpose-built, with a council chambers and municipal offices.

Now, says police superintendent Walter Rutherford, it just doesn't work for them anymore.

"This older building was never designed for a police service," he said. "The officers are working in inadequate facilities right now. They're doing the best job they can with what they have to work with."

Rutherford said the renovation plan is comprehensive.

"We're tearing out the whole main floor, we're relocating patrols in a number of sections to Central, relocating our records section to the lower level."

In addition, the locker rooms for male and female officers will be altered to provide bigger and more improved facilities, and the main entrance will be changed to improve service to the public.

The alterations are in lieu of a brand-new headquarters. A previous regional council rejected that plan when it was advanced by then-police chief Myles Burke.

The renovations have been approved by council, at a cost of \$1.2m.

(CBC News)

Jul 29 2015

PETERBOROUGH, ONT. - Peterborough's top police officers Wednesday defended the controversial award that led to them receiving lavish severance payments despite keeping their jobs.



Police Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson met reporters to discuss their recent successful arbitration.

Neither would say how much they received, but earlier reports indicated the termination payments to the two officers could total as much as \$400,000.

Rodd told reporters their contracts made it clear that compensation was due them, and every party involved was aware that a payout would be part of the process of de-amalgamation.

He added the situation was meant to be private and should never have been revealed to the public.

The two officers attended a private arbitration session, with the results made public in July.

Community reaction has been strong.

Mayor Daryl Bennett and some councillors have said the payout, which could be as much as a year's salary apiece, would not come from city coffers.

They say residents are "disgusted" at the police chiefs' greed.

At the Holiday Inn Wednesday, Rodd and Farquharson said the issue had been misrepresented.

They are simply abiding by a long-standing clause in their contracts that provides them with severance if they lose their jobs as the result of a change in the structure of the police service.

That happened Dec. 31, when the old Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police

Service was de-amalgamated and a new city-only force came into existence. Both men were immediately re-hired to their previous positions.

During the press conference, Rodd said he and Farquharson were "headhunted" by other police services, but chose to stay in Peterborough.

Rodd said anyone who understands contracts would accept the outcome, but acknowledged there are some people in the community who will just not accept it.

He also acknowledged that their reputations have suffered as a result of the situation.

The two provided media with a thick package containing a redacted version of their contracts along with media coverage and other documentation.

Asked for a comment Wednesday, Mayor Bennett said, "If I had the opportunity, I would be asking for the chief and deputy chief's resignation."

"The clause in the contract was clearly designed for a force being taken over by another force, via the Ontario Provincial Police. It is a sad day for the city of Peterborough.

He has also argued it was never intended to be used in this fashion.

"It's a travesty," said Bennett, who has feuded with Rodd for several years.

"There was never any fear, nor was there any distribution to their paycheque. Therefore to ask for the (severance) clause to be invoked in itself is problematic."

(Peterborough Examiner)

Jul 29 2015

SURREY - The independent agency that deals with complaints against the RCMP is closing its B.C. intake office in Surrey in order to cut costs and centralize staff in Ottawa.

The move by the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP has sparked criticism that police oversight could falter.

"B.C. was not consulted on this decision," B.C. Justice Minister Suzanne Anton said in a statement. "We'll be watching to ensure there is no reduction in service, as we are the largest RCMP jurisdiction and we expect the commission and the federal government to be accountable to British Columbians."

The RCMP's E Division has 7,100 officers policing B.C. That's 37 per cent of all RCMP officers across Canada and more than are deployed in any other province.

About 3,600 inquiries or formal complaints are lodged against the RCMP nationwide each year.

The office in Surrey will close by the end of the year and money saved will fund more investigations, officials say.

"We're trying to redirect some of our resources to make sure they're properly used to address the concerns Canadians have," commission spokesperson Kate McDerby said.

The new agency took over from the former Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP in late 2014, with an expanded mandate.

Besides responding to complaints involving officers it also monitors wider trends and developments in RCMP policy and practice.

Former commission chair Shirley Heafey said the office was first set up in recognition that the high proportion of officers in B.C. made a presence in the province "extremely important."

She said she's not confident the agency will be as responsive after it's gone.

"I find it very, very sad," said Heafey, who was with the commission for eight years until 2007. "I don't know exactly who made the decision, but it's a bad one."

Heafey said the Surrey office staff were highly effective at organizing face-to-face mediation to resolve complaints quickly and at less cost than an investigation that can last two years.

"Usually when they sit down and talk to each other things can be resolved," Heafey said, estimating 800 complaints a year were resolved that way.

"Otherwise these complaints hang over the police officer's head for a long time and the complainant is waiting and waiting."

McDerby said the Surrey office took in complaints from across the country - not just B.C. - but does not conduct any investigations itself and has not been involved in any mediation in recent years.

Incoming complaints are initially sent to the RCMP for investigation and commission staff only looks into them further if the complainant is dissatisfied with the

International Police Association
Canadian Section

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outcome, she said.

Many complaints are now filed online rather than by phone, McDerby added.

Closing the Surrey office won't change how complaints against officers in B.C. are made or processed, she added.

McDerby was unable to say how much money will be saved by closing the Surrey office. Eight full-time staff there are mostly retiring or leaving voluntarily.

The commission's goal is to increase public confidence in the RCMP by increasing transparency and accountability. Its annual budget is \$11.4 million.

(Surrey Leader)

Jul 29 2015

MONTREAL - Montreal is funding a private firm to provide extra parking enforcement agents to four of Montreal's boroughs: Île-Bizard, Outremont, Pierrefonds, and Verdun.

These agents will be in charge of issuing parking tickets in the boroughs, a job previously done by borough security officers and Montreal police. The three-month contract, which will cost up to \$99,000, was awarded to Montréal Élite Sécurité.

This contract goes into effect Thursday for all but Outremont. It is part of the city's financial reform plan that was adopted in November 2014. Under the reform, the SPVM took over responsibility as of January for activities related to parking regulation in 10 boroughs: Anjou, Lachine, LaSalle, Montreal North, St-Laurent, St-Léonard, Île-Bizard-Ste-Geneviève, Outremont, Pierrefonds-Roxboro and Verdun.

The last four boroughs do not employ enough security staff "to guarantee the implementation of this new regulation," and needed private agents to fill the gap. Île-Bizard-Ste-Geneviève Mayor Normand Marinacci says the four boroughs are the only ones to provide public security services, on top of regular SPVM services.

Revenues from parking tickets issued by the private agents will go to the city coffers instead of the boroughs - although for some, like Outremont, this was already the case.

Boroughs have slashed their security budgets in response to the financial reform.

Outremont is facing an overall 20 per cent budget cut spread over 10 years, mayor Marie Cinq-Mars said, and as costs are increasing, this has been difficult to deal with.

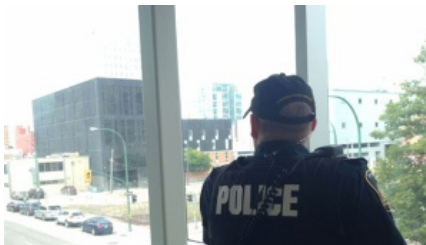
Public security reduced staff from two patrollers to one during day and evening shifts, said Sylvain Leclerc, media relations officer for the Outremont borough.

In Île-Bizard-Ste-Geneviève, a new agency was hired but at fewer hours, said Marinacci, with patrols starting at 6 p.m. rather than noon. The change has reduced security costs by half - from about \$150,000 to \$75,000, he said.

(Montreal Gazette)

Jul 29 2015

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police are getting creative about cracking down on distracted drivers.



The service says its officers are using bikes that can easily weave in and out of traffic to spot drivers on their phones.

They are also driving unmarked SUVs that give a higher vantage point and allow officers to see more clearly into cars.

There has also been an officer watching traffic from a downtown skywalk who will radio a partner on the ground to pull over distracted drivers.

On July 1, Manitobans faced new distracted driving penalties.

A person caught using a cellphone or handheld device faces a \$200 fine and loses five points from their licence.

Const. Jason English says the new rules are already making a difference in the number of tickets he hands out.

"I will definitely say that there's a decrease with the increase of the merit penalty that people are paying," says English.

He says there are some common excuses that drivers give when pulled over.

"The most common one is holding the device, talking hands free, believing that to be a hands-free use of the device," says English.

He also says many drivers claim they did not know that it was illegal to use a cellphone at a stop sign or light.

According to Manitoba Public Insurance, an average of 28 people are killed per year in collisions linked to distracted driving.

(CTV Winnipeg)

Jul 29 2015

A third of employees would sell information on company patents, financial records and customer credit card details if the price was right.

A poll of 4,000 employees in the UK, Germany, USA and Australia found that for £5,000, a quarter would flog off sensitive data, potentially risking both their job and criminal convictions in the process. The number of employees open to bribes increased to 35 per cent when the offer was increased to £50,000.

But a small minority of workers (three per cent) would sell private information for as little as £100, according to a poll sponsored by net security firm Clearswift. The exercise was designed to highlight the well-understood problem of insider threats posed by potentially corrupt or disillusioned employees.

The opportunity to sell valuable information is increased by the ready access most employees have to sensitive data. Most of

the respondents (61 per cent) said they had access to private customer data, 51 per cent to financial data such as company accounts or shareholder information, and 49 per cent to sensitive product information such as planned launches and patents.

A related Clearswift survey of 504 information security professionals, also conducted by technology research firm Loudhouse, found 62 per cent reckon workers don't care enough about the implications of a security breach to change their behaviour.

(UK Register)

THURSDAY
JULY 30, 2015

Jul 30 2015

REGINA - Louise Lafrance's first police chief was completely against employing women in policing.

"He was telling me - straight to my face - that women were meant to be in the kitchen and we were meant to have children," she said during the opening keynote address for the Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) International Society's North West Regional Conference (NWRC) at the Radisson Plaza Hotel on Wednesday evening.

Thirty years later, Lafrance maintains respect for her former Mont-Laurier, Que., police chief because "that's what he believed in."

Now a chief superintendent with the RCMP and the agency's assistant commissioner, Lafrance believed in herself even when she was told she wouldn't survive policing because of her compassionate nature.

Jump ahead to 2015 and compassion is one of the RCMP's core values, Lafrance told the 300 DKG educational leaders from four provinces and 12 western American states.

"I strongly believe that if you have compassion you will be a respectful person, and in return people will respect you for who you are," she said.

Lafrance says there is no such thing as a work-life balance. She maintains it will happen as a result of the choices women make.

She said that there will be times when women will be tremendous parents and other times when they will do amazing work in their professions, but it's nothing to express guilt over.

"The guilt is what kills us - women - in everything. We feel guilty about everything," Lafrance said, admitting she's guilty of this herself.

Pregnant with the first of her three children, Lafrance said it wasn't until she was five months into her pregnancy when she finally disclosed it to her superiors because she felt guilty.

As a young police officer she also felt guilty for not calling for backup in dangerous situations because she was afraid of how she would be perceived by her predominantly male colleagues.

The DKG International Society is a professional organization of women educators with 80,000 members in 17 countries.

(Regina Leader-Post)

CINCINNATI - A University of Cincinnati police officer who shot a motorist after stopping him over a missing front license plate pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of murder and involuntary manslaughter.

Twenty-five-year-old Ray Tensing appeared at his arraignment wearing a striped jail suit, with his hands cuffed behind him. He was indicted Wednesday in the July 19 shooting of 43-year-old Samuel DuBose, of Cincinnati, during a traffic stop.

Prosecutors had asked for the \$1 million bond. Shanahan rejected the defence's contention that Tensing wasn't a flight risk.

Tensing is due back in court Aug. 19.

DuBose's family has urged the community to remain calm, as it has in a series of demonstrations since the shooting. Tensing had stopped DuBose for a missing front license plate, which is required in Ohio but not in neighbouring states.

DuBose was black; Tensing is white. Authorities so far have not focused on race in the death of DuBose. City officials who viewed video footage from Tensing's body camera said the traffic stop shouldn't have led to a shooting.

"This officer was wrong," Police Chief Jeffrey Blackwell said Wednesday, adding that officers "have to be held accountable" when they're in the wrong.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters scoffed at Tensing's claim that he was dragged by DuBose's car, saying the officer "purposely killed him." Using words such as "asinine" and "senseless," the veteran prosecutor known for tough stands on urban crime called it "a chicken crap" traffic stop.

"It was so unnecessary," Deters said. He added that Tensing "should never have been a police officer."

Tensing, who was jailed overnight Wednesday, was fired soon after the indictment was announced. He had been with the University of Cincinnati for more than a year after starting police work in 2011 in a Cincinnati suburb. He also had earned a UC degree in criminal justice.

Tensing's attorney, Stewart Mathews, said that he was shocked that his client was indicted on a murder charge and that Tensing did not intend to kill DuBose.

Tensing, who could face up to life in prison if convicted, has said he thought he was going to be dragged under the car and "feared for his life," Mathews said.

Mathews said a video from the body camera of a police officer who arrived right after the shooting shows Tensing lying in the street after he had gotten free of the car, but that video hasn't been released by authorities.

"With the political climate in this country with white police officers shooting black individuals, I think they need somebody to make an example of," Mathews said.

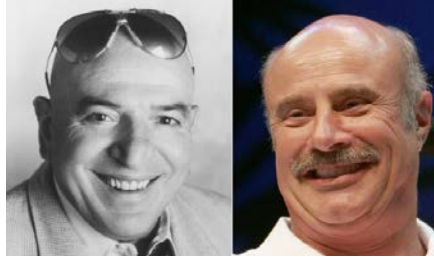
Authorities have said Tensing stopped the car and a struggle ensued after DuBose failed to provide a driver's license and refused to get out of the car.

"I didn't even do nothing," DuBose can be heard telling Tensing. DuBose held up what appears to be a bottle of gin.

Tensing fired once, striking DuBose in the head.

Jul 30 2015

Canada's national police force is taking a gentler, less accusatory approach to suspect interrogations amid growing criticism that certain interview tactics used widely by law enforcement agencies can lead to false confessions.



Under the RCMP's new approach, quietly adopted in December, investigators are encouraged to keep an open mind, resist presuming guilt, and focus more on gathering information than on getting a confession, Sgt. Darren Carr, who led the development of the new interview model, told the National Post.

"When I'm training people, I always say, 'Less Kojak and more Dr. Phil,'" he said, comparing the gruff 1970s fictional TV detective to the more easygoing style of the popular TV host/psychologist.

Like most North American police agencies, the RCMP's traditional interviewing methods were heavily shaped by the Reid Technique. Pioneered in the U.S. in the 1950s, and named after Chicago polygraph expert John E. Reid, the technique consists of two parts.

The first component is a non-accusatory interview that involves asking "behaviour-provoking" questions and assessing a suspect's body language to determine if that person is lying. If investigators believe the suspect is lying, they move on to the interrogation, which is more accusatory.

Investigators will tell the suspect that the investigation clearly establishes his or her role in the crime. They might offer a moral justification for the crime, telling a robbery suspect, "I think you acted out of desperation because of your financial situation." They might also present two choices for what happened - both incriminating. "Have you done this many times before or was this just the first time?" they might ask.

If the suspect continues to deny involvement, investigators are trained to swat away the denials and re-state their confidence in the suspect's guilt.

These tactics have come under increasing fire in academic papers and in court decisions for being overly coercive.

In May, an Ontario judge ordered the exclusion of parts of a statement given by a suspect in a child-sex investigation because of

the "very real possibility that (the suspect's) will was overborne" by a Peel Regional Police investigator.

The investigator offered the suspect, whose mother had operated a daycare, a choice between admitting that he was a "child molester" and he had made a onetime "mistake."

Later, the investigator suggested unless the suspect admitted it was a mistake, police might have to question every child that had been in his mother's care. "This is either gonna barrel into ... a huge thing, or this is a one-time situation," the investigator said.

That's where the investigator crossed the line, Judge Peter Schreck said.

"Where the accused is given a choice between two versions and there is some suggestion that the consequences to him will differ depending on which version he chooses, the police are treading on dangerous ground."

The RCMP's Carr said continuing criticism of the technique - "particularly the overly rigid, guiltpresumptive nature of it" - caused the police force to reflect on its practices. It had already ditched the behavioural analysis component in 2004, after realizing officers were no better at detecting deception than the average person.

Now, the RCMP's new interview standard, influenced by the PEACE model developed in Britain, encourages more of a dialogue between investigator and suspect.

Investigators are trained to ask the suspect to describe what he or she was doing on the day the crime was committed. If a suspect says he went to a coffee shop, investigators might ask for details about the store, the staff and what he ordered.

If there are inconsistencies between his answers and the evidence, the investigator might ask the suspect to explain the discrepancy.

Investigators are taught to resort to a more accusatory interview only if they have compelling evidence, such as a murder weapon with the suspect's DNA on it.

But even then, there is no need for the investigator to become more aggressive, Carr said.

Under the new model, denials should not be shot down, Carr said. Neither should investigators have to resort to lying or exaggerated claims.

One cautionary tale Carr brings up in training is the 2003 case of a Hamilton, Ont., man who was accused of breaking into a jewelry store.

During the interview, the suspect, Michael Dixon, repeatedly proclaims his innocence, but the investigator is having none of it. The evidence - including video evidence - is overwhelming, the detective said, which was a lie.

"All I have to ascertain is what kind of guy you are," the investigator said. "Whether ... you're, like, a serial burglar and this is what you're doing all the time? Or whether this is a one-off thing."

The answer was neither, as Dixon was riding a bus when the crime occurred. He successfully sued the Hamilton Police Service.

(Star Phoenix)