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AUGUST 14, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 33

Executive Digest

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SASKATOON - A "cutting edge" analytics laboratory opening at the Saskatoon police headquarters this fall will allow researchers to crunch numbers and advise officers on how to focus their investigations.

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Fentanyl overdoses likely to increase



Aug 11 2015

VANCOUVER - The RCMP is working with the United Nations and China to dampen the influx of the dangerous opioid fentanyl onto Canada's streets, but one high-level investigator expects the overdose problem to increase.

That information comes as health officials across Canada urge jurisdictions to collaborate to combat the drug linked to at least 655 deaths. A bulletin released by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse says

fentanyl was determined to be a cause or contributing cause of the deaths between 2009 and 2014.

Cpl. Luc Chicoine, the RCMP's national drug program co-ordinator, said it's being smuggled into the country in many ways, from inside shaving kits on passenger planes, to couriers, to gangs importing shipments in commercial containers.

Police have been unable to confirm the drug's primary origin.

All the while the death toll climbs and



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could get worse, Chicoine said.

"That's why I'm going back into my speech of awareness, and understanding the long-term problem that we're slowly stepping into."

Sixteen people overdosed in Vancouver on Sunday alone - including six in one hour - from heroin that police suspect was laced with fentanyl. The drug has been linked to the deaths of four people in Metro Vancouver since July 20.

"You need so little fentanyl, (that tracing) the chemical signature would be extremely difficult," Chicoine said. "I don't even know if the technology is there."

About 100 grams can be mixed with fillers to make one kilogram of street drug, while only a few salt-sized granules can be toxic, he warned.

Fentanyl is between 50 and 100 times more potent than morphine. The drug represents an entirely "different scale" than bad narcotic batches in the past, such as tainted ecstasy, add health experts in B.C.

Deputy provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry is calling for a "national co-ordinated approach" to better predict how the overdose situation will evolve, while noting the problem has accelerated in recent years, leaving an "immense" impact.

"We're not all using the same data sources, we're not all looking for the same thing, not all of us are monitoring things in the same way," she said Tuesday.

The RCMP is not conducting frontline investigations, but is leaving that work to local authorities. The force is working to identify sources.

China-based pharmaceutical-grade producers of the synthetic drug could be the fountainhead for organized crime groups, said Chicoine, who has raised the issue with his counterparts in China.

"What's happening in Vancouver at the moment, in the last few days, this is being

compiled in our big picture of the Canadian situation," he said.

"When I sit down at the table with my counterparts at the U.N. and I'm sitting next to China ... we discuss those issues."

He spent two weeks meeting officials there last April discussing the problem, Chinese regulations and ways authorities in both countries can work together.

Broader discussions have been ongoing for at least three years, he said. Because the Chinese government's attitude has changed and the country is acknowledging its own social problem, he said he's noticed a difference in co-operation.

Global investigations have been initiated as part of a group involving 35 countries, he said.

Fentanyl's reach is being tracked by the United Nations, according to the organization's World Drug Report 2014, which found heroin is being replaced by the drug on the black market in some countries.

Police don't believe Canadian companies with legitimate import licences are involved. Instead, packages of raw powder may be smuggled inside goods shipped from China, Japan, Australia or Europe that eventually reach Canadian ports.

Customs agents need enough data before they'll make secondary and tertiary searches, he said.

In Canada, there has been only one small-scale bust of a laboratory making fentanyl from scratch - in Surrey, B.C. in 2011, said Chicoine.

He said police have uncovered about 20 production facilities pressing imported powder into tablets. Illegal manufacturers were arrested in Vancouver, B.C.'s Lower Mainland, the B.C. Interior, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

"A smear campaign like that constituted a 'particular circumstance' in labour relations at the police station justifying the surveillance measures used," the Court of Quebec wrote. "It is hard to imagine that they were members of 'law enforcement' who did that."

Ledoux, a 30-year veteran of the Montreal police, was an outsider when he took over as chief in Mont-Tremblant in 2007.

He made it his mission to ensure officers were better prepared in court and in general to tighten discipline among the roughly 30 officers. Some of the officers, led by the president of the police brotherhood, were not amused.

After Ledoux suspended two officers early in 2011 and amid contentious contract negotiations, Ledoux and his assistant responsible for investigations became the targets of personal attacks at the police station.

Crude photo montages appeared in the station depicting Ledoux with a penis in his face, as a baboon having anal sex and as a Klansman.

Insult-laden tracts, associating the police chief with sexually transmitted diseases and mental illness, were also posted inside the station. In addition to the bomb and the effigy of an officer strung up outside the station, a dog cage was left outside his door and he would arrive to find his parking space or the hall to his office blocked.

Fed up, Ledoux bought a camera hidden in an alarm clock and a microphone hidden in a key chain, purchases that were reimbursed by the town. It did not take long to establish that Sgt. Serge-Alexandre Bouchard, president of the police brotherhood, was behind the campaign, according to the judgment. Video captured him posting posters on Ledoux's office door.

Audio recordings revealed the underlings wanted to drive Ledoux out. "I hope he is smart enough to leave," one officer was heard saying. "A boss can't live with harassment like that," said another. "All organizations run by guys from Montreal are crap," said another.

In one recorded conversation, officers laugh over Bouchard's treatment of Ledoux before a charity hockey game at the local arena. Ledoux had come to give the officers a locker-room speech. "Serge-Alexandre told him to get the hell out of the room.... He slammed the door on him."

The court concluded that Ledoux was the victim of a form of psychological harassment known as mobbing, to the point where he took his service revolver home and considered suicide.

But instead of dealing with the offending officers, the town administration fired Ledoux, saying he had broken the law with his surveillance. The town manager claimed she had been unaware of the extent of Ledoux's spying, but the court cast doubt on her testimony. A lawyer for the town concluded the harassment was part of normal union pressure tactics.

"These were not legitimate pressure tactics used in the context of the negotiation of a collective agreement," the court ruled. "They were sneaky personal attacks directed

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5, 2015


Aug 05 2015

MONTREAL - One day, Michel Ledoux found a fake bomb outside his office door. Another time, he arrived at work to find himself hanging in effigy.

Ledoux was chief of police in the Laurentians resort town of Mont-Tremblant, Que., but the intimidation tactics were not coming from local gangsters. His own officers were targeting him.

A Court of Quebec decision this week concludes that Ledoux was the victim of a "vicious and degrading" harassment campaign and that he was justified in resorting to secret video and audio surveillance to identify his tormentors.

Calling the facts of the case unprecedented, the three-judge panel has ordered that Ledoux be reinstated as police chief with back pay after the town fired him in 2011 for spying on his subordinates. A jury had earlier acquitted him of criminal charges related to the surveillance.



BLUE LINE NEWS WEEK Celebrating 20 Years

ISSN 1704-3913
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Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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at chief Ledoux, aimed at harassing him to ultimately have his head.”

Under the circumstances, the court concluded, the officers’ right to privacy did not protect them from surveillance aimed at exposing their abusive behaviour.

A town spokeswoman said the municipality needs more time to study the decision, which cannot be appealed. A message to the police brotherhood was not returned.

Ledoux’s lawyer, John T. Pepper, said his client intends to return as chief despite the poisoned work environment. “He was the boss and he did no wrong,” Pepper said. “He should be there, and the other guys should be out.”

(National Post)

THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2015

Aug 06 2015

VANCOUVER - The coroners’ service will investigate the death of a 25-year-old woman found in medical distress shortly after she was transported to a northern British Columbia jail.

Alyssa George was discovered in distress 14 hours after police locked her in an RCMP holding cell in Terrace, B.C., in September 2013.

She was flown to a Vancouver hospital, but died six days later.

A public inquest will begin on Oct. 19 at B.C. Supreme Court in Terrace.

Presiding coroner Donita Kuzma and a jury will hear from witnesses to determine the facts surrounding George’s death.

The jury will then present recommendations aimed at preventing future deaths under similar circumstances, but may not make findings of fault.

FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 2015

Aug 07 2015

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - American prosecutors say two Ontario men have been convicted of running a marijuana smuggling operation that brought nearly 10 metric tonnes of pot across New York’s northern border.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office says Michael Woods and Gaetan Dinelle, both of Cornwall, were convicted Wednesday after a six-day trial in federal court in Syracuse.

Officials say the men were found guilty of conspiracy charges involving the smuggling of more than 9,980 kilograms of marijuana into the U.S.

Prosecutors say Woods and Dinelle ran their pot-smuggling operation from Cornwall from at least 2005 until 2008.

The men bought large amounts of marijuana in Canada and arranged for it to be stored on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation

before smuggling it across the border.

The two men will be sentenced Dec. 8 in Syracuse.

Aug 07 2015

CAPE DORSET, Nunavut - Nunavut RCMP have charged a former Mountie with sex offences involving a child that stem back to the 1960s.

The charges follow a complaint filed by one person about alleged sexual assaults in Cape Dorset, a hamlet near the southern tip of Baffin Island.

Police say Lauren McKiel, who is 78, is charged with rape, indecent assault and having sex with someone under 14.

He is to appear in Iqaluit court on the charges on Sept. 14.

RCMP say McKiel held the rank of superintendent when he retired.

Aug 07 2015

EDMONTON - RCMP have arrested two men in central Alberta following what Mounties are calling a violent crime spree.

Police say the men were arrested near Breton after ramming a patrol car with a truck and attempting to run over a Mountie.

Police say the men are suspected of breaking into a service station in Rimbey Thursday morning and torching a stolen vehicle outside the town.

Mounties say they found a loaded shotgun, stolen property and cash in an abandoned pickup.

The men, who have not been identified, face charges including assaulting a police officer, possession of dangerous weapons, dangerous driving, hit and run, flight from police and theft.

Police say one of the men also faces criminal charges in relation to an armed home invasion in Hinton on April 5.

Aug 07 2015

EDSON, Alta. - RCMP say police have shot and wounded an armed man at a provincial government building in western Alberta.

They say officers were called to the building that holds the courthouse and other government offices in Edson, east of Jasper.

Sgt. Josee Valiquette says officers tried to make a peaceful arrest but were unsuccessful and the man was shot.

He received medical treatment at the scene and no others were hurt.

Valiquette was unable to provide more details about the shooting.

She says the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is investigating.

Aug 07 2015

SASKATOON - A Saskatchewan judge has denied the appeal of an American man convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend in her Saskatoon home in 2006.

George Mitchell Allgood was found guilty of first-degree murder after a judge-alone trial in 2013.

The trial showed how Allgood confessed

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to killing 40-year-old Susan Reinhardt during an undercover police operation known as a "Mr. Big" sting.

There was no other direct evidence linking Allgood to the crime, and the confession was crucial to Allgood's conviction.

In his appeal, Allgood argued for a new trial after the Supreme Court came out with guidelines on how Mr. Big stings must be conducted in order for confessions to be admissible in court.

But the appeal court judges ruled that the trial judge, Justice Grant Currie, followed those guidelines when making his decision.

"I find the probative value of Mr. Allgood's confession to outweigh its prejudicial effect," Justice Maurice Herauf wrote in his decision released Friday afternoon.

Allgood also appealed the conviction on the grounds that the trial judge erred in admitting hearsay evidence made by the victim to her friends before she died. But Herauf dismissed that argument as well.

"The trial judge found the statements to be relevant, necessary and reliable. A trial judge is well-placed to determine the extent to which hearsay dangers of a particular case are of concern and whether they can be sufficiently alleviated," he wrote.

Reinhardt and her boyfriend, David Ristow, were shot in the bedroom of their home on July 15, 2006. Reinhardt died from her injuries while in the hospital, but Ristow survived.

Allgood is serving a life sentence for murder and was also sentenced to an additional 25 years for attempted murder.

(CKOM)

Aug 07 2015

Canadian police forces are undergoing a transformation dealing with changing service demands at a time when the national crime rate has dropped to its lowest level since 1969.

But the head of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) says while the stats seem to indicate a kinder, gentler society, they fail to tell the full picture of what's happening on the streets.

"The reality is that crime is coming down but the demand for our service has not decreased," Clive Weighill, who is also Saskatoon's police chief, told Yahoo Canada News.

"We are seeing this right across Canada as about 25 per cent of our resources are dealing with crime issues. The rest is dealing with social issues."

Weighill, a 31-year veteran officer, explained those issues could be calls, such as checking out a suspicious person or vehicle and neighbourhood or custody disputes.

"These are the things that are time consuming and tying us up."

Police forces are also under increasing pressure, but are working with organizations like the Mental Health Commission of

Canada, to learn how to handle being on the front lines when someone is having a mental health issue or crisis.

Also of concern to police, he said, is the increasing number of illegal guns on the street.

"It used to be that knives and baseball bats were the weapons of choice, but it seems now that is shifting a little bit more to firearms - especially with organized crime and gangs," said Weighill.

He points to his own city of Saskatoon, which is Canada's most crime-ridden city, is dealing with increased gun calls.

"We've already had 20 shootings and five homicides. We don't normally have that many shootings. We're also seeing people wearing

bullet-proof vests with firearms in the cars - things that we didn't see 10 years ago."

Time consuming investigations of serious crimes also means police are pressured to look for ways to pull officers away from some of their traditional duties. While this is not the case in Canada, police in Britain have stopped going to break and enter scenes - handling it by phone or report.

Weighill said there are pressures to find answers in Canada, but he warns there will be ramifications if similar changes happened here.

"We're trying to reconcile the cost of policing and trying to find efficiencies, but we hope that's not one of the roads we go down in Canada. A break-and-enter in your house,

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or theft of property, can be very traumatic for people and if someone feels the police don't care, then there's going to be a real disconnect between people and the police."

Legislative changes are causing increased demands for police resources, he said, adding changes to disclosure provisions and requiring additional search warrants for many investigations don't help.

"These kinds of things are slowing down and bogging down the system."

The CACP president said crime stats no longer paint a complete picture as they don't include items that were included in the past - such as graffiti calls in some cities. Weighill pointed out that in British Columbia it was taking so long to prosecute impaired driving cases under the Criminal Code that they have enacted provincial legislation to deal with impaired drivers.

"So we're no longer charging people with impaired driving in Canada - the offences are still happening, but they are being recorded under provincial statutes, not crime stats, which could also be why crime is falling."

"Statistics Canada and CACP are working closely to examine how to record not only stats, but calls for service, what is really driving the demand - how busy are police?"

Criminologist Rick Ruddell of the University of Regina said staffing levels in most Canadian police services have been relatively stable for the past 40 years - with about 1.95 officers per 1,000 residents.

Statistics Canada issued a report in March showing police strength has declined slightly since 2011. There were 68,896 police officers in Canada on May 15, 2014, 354 fewer officers than in 2013, the report said.

Ruddell said the study paints a full picture of police and crime issues in Canada. He said police forces in Canada have been increasingly required to add duties to their jobs.

"Even though Statistics Canada reports that crime has been on a downward trend - we have to remember that responding to crime is only a portion of a police officer's job," Ruddell told Yahoo Canada News.

"Some scholars have estimated that less than 25 per cent of an officer's time is spent in actual law enforcement."

Ruddell also cautioned against reading too much into decreasing crime stats.

"We also have to remember that the number of crimes actually reported to the police is only a fraction of the offences that actually occur - many minor and serious crimes go unreported," he said, adding U.S. police forces found that out the hard way.

"After the economic crash in 2008, many U.S. police forces reduced the number of officers and crime increased afterwards in some cities. The number of civilian personnel in police services has also been increasing to 'free up' officers who were doing administrative jobs, so that they can return to the streets."

(Yahoo Canada)

Aug 07 2015

RCMP are set to take over policing on the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation from the Dakota Ojibway Police Service this fall. As it stands, specifics on the RCMP policing plan aren't available - the force says more may be known closer to the takeover.

But one resident and critic says if the plan doesn't include a Sioux Valley detachment or office, or bring a boost in RCMP officers in Virden, the level of policing at the community is going to drop.

"Obviously it's going to affect the type of policing they're going to do in our community," said Sioux Valley resident Frank McKay, a former councillor who has questioned the change.

While he doesn't expect RCMP "will set up an office in Sioux Valley due to the cost, Chief Vince Tacan says he also doesn't expect a lack of a detachment will have a significant impact on response.

"I don't think so," Tacan said. "We have a detachment right there in the community now, and (DOPS) response times are long now as it is."

While the Manitoba West District of the RCMP says the handover will happen in the "near future" and no firm date has been set, DOPS expects that Mounties will take over on Oct. 1.

Last October, band council passed a resolution to end DOPS policing at Sioux Valley. The initial end date was March 31, but that was extended to allow for the transition.

Tacan cited complaints about DOPS as part

of the reason for the decision to switch forces. Those concerns included response times.

He has said that, ultimately, the plan is for Sioux Valley to set up its own police force in partnership with RCMP to be consistent with its self-government agreement.

(Brandon Sun)

SATURDAY
AUGUST 8, 2015

Aug 08 2015

RCMP are searching for suspects after an officer was injured during a confrontation with a suspected impaired driver in Grande Prairie early on Saturday morning.

The officer was treated in hospital for his injuries.

RCMP say the incident happened at about 3 a.m. Saturday, when officers were dispatched to a complaint of a possible impaired driver.

RCMP say an officer with the canine unit found a purple Neon that matched the description of the suspected impaired driver, and pulled the car over. The car had a man and woman inside.

During the traffic stop, a man got out of the vehicle and "an altercation ensued" between the suspect and the officer. The suspects then fled on foot, and the officer was taken to hospital. The nature of his injuries has not been released, but RCMP say the injuries were not life-threatening.

(Edmonton Journal)



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SUNDAY AUGUST 9, 2015

Aug 09 2015

OTTAWA - An off-duty Ottawa police officer struck by a car while riding her bicycle will be in hospital for some time after being hit from behind on Saturday, police service officials said Sunday.

The 51-year-old officer, who remains unnamed, was out for a morning bike ride in the area of Leikin Drive and Holitzner Way in Barrhaven when she was struck. She was taken to hospital suffering what was at the time described as "serious but non-life threatening injuries."

A driver fled the scene following the collision, police said.

On Sunday, Insp. Michel Marin provided an update on the officer's condition, saying she remained in "fairly serious" condition, but was expected to make a full recovery.

A man was in custody over the weekend. He is expected to appear in court Monday morning. His name was not released Sunday. (Ottawa Citizen)

Aug 09 2015

NELSON - Nelson's top cop says will step down when his five-year contract expires early next year.



Chief Wayne Holland told a recent police board meeting that he will end his policing career on Jan. 29. Holland came to Nelson in 2011 following almost 30 years with the Vancouver Police Department.

In a news release, Holland said leading the local police department has been "one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences" in his long career.

"We have excellent sworn, civilian and volunteer personnel who have been a pleasure to work with," he said.

Although Holland has no immediate plans, he expects to do some travelling. He and his wife Eileen - who served on the Nelson library board and wrote a book updating its history - plan to return to the Lower Mainland to be near family and friends, although they expect to return to Nelson often.

The board has appointed a committee to find Holland's replacement.

Holland is the 20th chief in the department's history, which dates back to the city's incorporation in 1897. He succeeded Dan Maluta.

(Nelson Star)

MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2015

Aug 10 2015

VANCOUVER - A total of 16 drug overdoses, including six in a single hour, have been reported in Vancouver and fentanyl is the suspected culprit.

Police in the city say they handled six overdoses between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. Sunday.

In a release, Sgt. Randy Fincham says local service providers advised police of a further 10 overdoses handled the same day, but no fatalities are reported.

He says, drug users believed the pink-coloured drug they had purchased was heroin but did not know it contained other toxic chemicals.

The additional substance is still being tested, but Fincham says fentanyl is suspected and he urges drug users to be extremely cautious.

Aug 10 2015

TORONTO - An Ontario superior court judge has dismissed a charter challenge filed against a practice that saw a handful of provincial police officers pose as journalists.

Three major media organizations went to court last May to argue that the practice violated the constitution by having a chilling effect on freedom of the press.

But in a decision released last month, Justice Benjamin Glustein said that no such practice truly existed.

The cases at the heart of the charter challenge centred on police efforts to gather information during high-profile protests by aboriginal groups.

Philip Tunley, the lawyer representing the media group, says Glustein's ruling was disappointing and did not address the main questions around freedom of expression.

He says the CBC, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression and the Radio-Television News Directors Association of Canada are considering whether or not to appeal the ruling.

Aug 10 2015

A murder trial for five alleged Hells Angels began Monday with the Crown saying it might call as many as 300 witnesses.

The trial is expected to last between 12 and 18 months.

Yvon Tanguay, Claude Berger, Francois Vachon, Sylvain Vachon and Michel Vallieres are facing charges of murder and conspiracy.

The Crown alleges the five took part in the biker war between 1994 and 2002 to help the Hells expand its turf and control the trafficking of drugs.

They were arrested as part of a 2009 police operation called SharQc that netted more than 150 people, including 111 suspected members of the Hells.

More than 100 of the accused pleaded out

in the case, while a judge released another 31 in May 2011 due to unreasonable delays in the court proceedings.

Two anglophones who are charged will have a trial in English, beginning in January.

Several people wanted in the case are still on the lam and three accused have died since 2009.

Aug 10 2015

A teenage basketball star who has been courted by U.S. colleges is now facing criminal charges after a hit-and-run crash on the weekend left an Ottawa police officer injured.

Edward Ekiyor, 18, is charged in the alleged hit-and-run, which saw an off-duty police officer struck while bicycling on Leikin Dr. in Barrhaven on Saturday.

Ekiyor was released from custody Sunday on a \$3,000 bond. He's charged with criminal negligence causing bodily harm and failure to remain at the scene of a crash that caused bodily harm.

Ekiyor, a student of the elite New Hampton high school in New Hampshire, will be allowed to return to the United States without a surety when the school year begins, court documents say.

While in Ottawa he must live with his surety, obey a curfew and not drive.

He returns to court Aug. 25.

(Ottawa Sun)

Aug 10 2015

WINDSOR - Windsor's police chief says some people may not be happy with the way he's been dressing lately, but they'll have to deal with it.

Chief Al Frederick and his fellow senior officers have been wearing dark blue shirts for months, a switch from the white shirts that executive officers have traditionally worn.

"People will come around and they'll get used to seeing us like this and I like it, so that's what counts right now," said Frederick, when asked about the feedback he's been receiving about the sartorial swap of white for blue.

Frederick said the change has been made to reinforce the fact that all officers are part of the same team.

"I think everyone appreciates the fact that regardless of what rank we are or what your job is in the organization, we're police officers first," he said.

"And we all come up through the ranks and we're very proud of that heritage."

The police chief said that the idea had been kicked around for a while before it was implemented in the past year.

"It was an evolution amongst the senior ranks. We talked about it a couple of times and then we just decided to make it happen," said Frederick.

One exception to this change is when Frederick and other senior officers are in their dress uniform for formal occasions. In those cases, they will still wear white shirts.

(CBC News)

TUESDAY AUGUST 11, 2015

Aug 11 2015

After a lengthy in-camera session at the Treaty Three Police Services' annual general meeting in Kenora on Tuesday, area chiefs decided to replace the current board with new leadership.

Chairman Wayne Smith stepped down, with Shoal Lake 39 Chief Eli Mandamin taking over the position.

Although a 45-day layoff notice given to officers earlier this month was not rescinded, the new board was meeting today for orientation and then will discuss the woes that have been facing the police service.

Treaty Three police officers received word July 4 that the board would be shutting down and laying off all of its officers within 45 days.

Letters of correspondence between the board and the Public Service Alliance of Canada, which represents the Treaty Three police officers, indicated financial difficulties as a reason for the shutdown.

News of the shutdown sparked outrage among many band members across the Treaty Three region, with several sessions held some by the union-indicating they would fight to keep the police service open.

A petition bearing 2,470 signatures was presented at Tuesday's annual general meeting and many attended it.

Most seemed pleased with the outcome of the meeting and are hopeful the police service has been saved.

"The new board [the chiefs] have agreed to transfer the [chairman's] seat back to community representatives in three-six months," Tania Cameron, of Dalles First Nation, noted on Facebook.

"They have also agreed to give the officers' union access to the books," she said.

"The board and officers are mandated to come to a resolution once a review is conducted," Cameron added.

(Fort Frances Times)

Aug 11 2015

WINNIPEG - A new unit formed in June to review police officer conduct in Manitoba says it has taken on its first four cases.

The Independent Investigation Unit is looking into three cases of RCMP officer conduct while on duty.

It is also investigating an RCMP officer who is accused of physically abusing a child since 2010.

The unit's job is to consider all serious cases involving police officers in Manitoba - whether they happen on or off duty.

The unit is led by civilians and will also be able to take over any police investigation it considers to be in the public interest.

(CJOB, CP)

Aug 11 2015

HALIFAX - A Halifax man has been charged with illegally importing acetyl fentanyl, a powerful prescription drug linked to hundreds of deaths across the country in the past couple of years.

Richard Dale States, 54, was arrested earlier this week and charged by RCMP with importing a controlled substance after an investigation that began in July when Canada Border Services Agency agents in Vancouver intercepted a package destined for a Halifax residence.

RCMP and agency investigators say the package contained about 514 grams of fentanyl.

Police departments across the country have issued warnings about the dangerous

use of the drug, which is legally prescribed by doctors for managing long-term pain.

It is often mixed in with illegal drugs and sometimes labelled as oxycodone or hydro-morphone when sold on the streets, RCMP say.

RCMP spokesman Cpl. Ken Boone said RCMP are working with other agencies to "ensure we're on top of this. We're getting in front of it, if - and before - we get an influx of this into the province."

He said police aren't trying to use scare tactics but are realistic in their concern.

States was released on a recognizance and is scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court Sept. 24.

The investigation is ongoing.
(Chronicle Herald)

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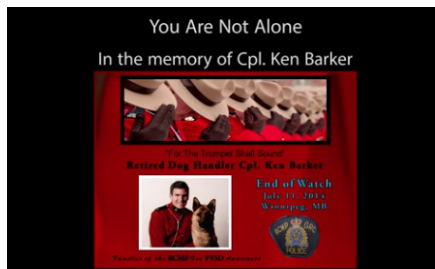
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Staring into the video camera, they each take turns sharing their darkest secrets.



One says "life didn't matter" to her anymore. Another says he was constantly spooked by loud noises.

Yet another binged on alcohol.

In an effort to raise awareness of the ravages of posttraumatic stress disorder and to build a support network, nine current and former RCMP members have gone public with their stories in a 13-minute video that is part confessional, part public-service announcement. The video was done without the RCMP's knowledge. It was spearheaded by the wife of a Mountie who started a campaign a few years ago to eradicate PTSD's stigma.

"I wanted to do something that would reach people across the country no matter where they were, no matter what stage of their career they were in, and speak to them about PTSD and make it human," said Lori Wilson, who founded the online group Families of the RCMP for PTSD Awareness after her husband's struggles with PTSD.

"When you're off-duty sick, you're isolated from your detachment and your fellow members. I believe that slows healing not to have that connection... Just knowing that you're not the only person going through this is huge relief."

In recent years, growing attention has been given to the spate of suicides among first responders. One of the most high-profile cases involved Ron Francis, a New Brunswick corporal who accused the RCMP of not doing enough to address PTSD and who was seen in public smoking medical marijuana while in uniform. He took his life last October.

There have been 30 suicides this year among first responders in Canada, according to the non-profit Tema Conter Memorial Trust.

The Mounties have tried to elevate PTSD's profile. Last year, they released a video from Peter Neily, a constable who shared the story of how he turned to alcohol following the fatal shooting of an armed suspect.

But Wilson said more was needed - something that would show the different ways PTSD can manifest itself, the triggers, and the range of people it can afflict.

Her video, dedicated to the memory of Cpl. Ken Barker, a retired dog handler in Manitoba who committed suicide in 2014, features current and retired members, as well as civilian dispatchers, at various stages of recovery.

They include Const. Annabelle Dionne, an eight-year veteran, who says her PTSD

was triggered by the murder of a colleague.

"Many of my co-workers were affected, but we were just not talking about it. I think the isolation that followed helped my PTSD to grow," she said. "Basically, I felt my life didn't matter anymore. I felt as if I was dying inside."

She finally got help after relocating to a larger city and getting treatment at a federally funded operational stress injury (OSI) clinic.

After being informed of the video, Assistant Commissioner Gilles Moreau said Monday it will be made available on the force's website for all employees to see. "We know that we can always do more and we continue to increase the visibility of the issue," he said via email.

Moreau said employees and their spouses have round-the-clock access to a short-term counselling and referral service provided by Health Canada.

The RCMP also has a peer-to-peer program to guide employees on where to find help, as well as occupational health offices across the country.

Members can also receive treatment at a Veterans Affairs Canada or Canadian Forces operational stress injury clinic.

Moreau said the force is also looking at preventive measures and will launch a national training program this fall called Road to Mental Readiness that was adapted from the Department of National Defence.

(StarPhoenix)

Aug 11 2015

PETERBOROUGH - Two members of the five-person police services board quit on Tuesday, saying the board has become too dysfunctional for them.

Andrea Maxie and Tom Phillips released a joint statement Tuesday afternoon saying they were stepping down, effective immediately.

They wrote that they've resigned because the police services board has grown "increasingly dysfunctional", and it's made it too difficult to do their jobs as board members.

Both of them had been provincial appointees. Maxie had been vice-chair of the board, and Phillips had been budget chairman.

This leaves three members on the board: Coun. Dan McWilliams, Coun. Dave Haacke and former city councillor Bob Hall.

The resignations come less than a week before an important deadline for the board.

Police Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson were recently awarded nearly \$460,000 in compensation following the de-amalgamation of the police force. The arbitrator ordered the police services board to pay that compensation no later than Aug. 17.

But there's no police services board meeting scheduled before then, and no city council meeting either. (The police board gets its money from the city.)

Mayor Daryl Bennett said city council has received no request for money from the police board.

The three remaining members will appar-

ently be left to figure out what to do about the arbitrator's order to pay Rodd and Farquharson by next Monday.

(Peterborough Examiner)

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2015

Aug 12 2015

SEBA BEACH, Alta. - A man accused of ramming a police cruiser during a 100-kilometre chase appears to have marked a first for a central Alberta RCMP detachment by hiding in a tree to elude capture.

Mounties at Evansburg got a call last Thursday about a stolen vehicle in the summer village of Seba Beach, about 90 kilometres west of Edmonton.

The driver was spotted swerving from shoulder to shoulder when officers caught up to him, and he took off when they tried to pull him over.

Police say that after ramming one of their vehicles, the driver sped through several fields near the community of Niton Junction on the Yellowhead Highway, west of Seba Beach, and eventually stopped before fleeing on foot.

Officers aided by a police dog service team eventually found him hiding in a tree.

Daniel Patrick O'Donnell, of no fixed address, remains in custody on charges that include dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and flight from police.

RCMP Sgt. Brian Topham with the Evansburg detachment says in his 33 years of policing, he's never seen a suspect take such an unusual escape route.

"I've seen them run until they can't run anymore, hide in all kinds of places in the ground, or cross rivers, but I've never seen anybody go up a tree."

(CHQR,)

Aug 12 2015

FREDERICTON - A national cargo theft reporting program that started as a pilot program in Quebec and Ontario is being expanded to the rest of the country, starting with Atlantic Canada.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada, the RCMP, and the Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association are joining forces to run the program in the region.

"We've been running this program in Ontario and Quebec for over two years, and just with the information that we've been receiving through that part of the program - which is why we're taking it nationwide - we're seeing the results," said Amanda Dean, Atlantic vice-president with IBC.

The program will be expanded to western Canada later this year.

Dean said that cargo theft has historically often gone unreported, but encouraging reporting by trucking companies and information from the public can have a major impact.

Jean-Marc Picard, executive director of

the Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association said often trucking companies wouldn't report cargo thefts because of concerns of how it would affect their reputation or insurance.

But he said the companies now understand the need to work together to try to curb the crimes.

"The value of goods by theft represents \$5 billion in Canada with tens of millions in Atlantic Canada," Picard said.

"It's a growing problem, and one that affects our economy, our local businesses, our carriers, our drivers and our livelihood."

Recently a truck stolen from Moncton was found the next day in Quebec, emptied of its \$50,000 cargo.

Picard said it's clear that organized crime is involved in the thefts.

"These crimes are very well thought out and individuals know very well what is in the trailer, and there is a network to distribute the goods," he said.

Under the new program, once a theft is reported, the information is distributed to police agencies and border officials in both Canada and the United States, along with all the trucking associations in the region in an effort to detect the movement of stolen goods.

RCMP Chief Supt. Wayne Gallant said New Brunswick is a gateway to major markets.

Aug 12 2015

MISSOULA, Mont. - A man who broke into a car in Missoula had to call police for help after finding himself locked in the trunk.

KGVO-AM reports that Missoula Police Patrol Sgt. Colin Rose says 31-year-old Ryan Payne broke into a car Tuesday night and then called 911 after managing to lock himself in the trunk of the car. It was not known how long he had been trapped in the vehicle.

Rose says police had to get help from a nearby business owner who had the key to let the man out.

Payne admitted to breaking into the car. He is facing multiple misdemeanour charges, including criminal mischief for damage he did to the car while trying to get out.

Aug 12 2015

PITTSBURGH - A U.S. man whose fingertips were captured in the explicit pictures he took of a 3-year-old girl and her older sister has pleaded guilty to child pornography charges.

Twenty-five-year-old Tyler Seevers, of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, faces 15 to 30 years in prison after entering a guilty plea Wednesday. He will be sentenced in December.

Prosecutors say Seevers took the pictures using an iPod Touch last summer. The mother of the girls discovered the pictures on the device and contacted authorities.

A police fingerprint expert examined the fingertips visible on the edges of the photos because the person who took the pictures had them in front of the lens. The expert identified them as Seevers' fingers.

Seevers' public defender declined comment.

Aug 12 2015

GRAND BEACH, Man. - A Manitoba man has turned his cellphone case over to police after it caused panic on a crowded public beach.



The black case, shaped like a handgun, was tucked in the waistband of the man's shorts on Sunday while he was at Grand Beach north of Winnipeg.

RCMP were called and responded with real rifles and Tasers.

They found the man sitting on the beach with family members, including children, and quickly determined he was only armed with an iPhone.

Sgt. Bert Paquet says the 34-year-old man was questioned and voluntarily gave officers the case for disposal.

He will not face charges.

Aug 12 2015

LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles will pay \$15 million to settle a lawsuit over the police shooting of a teenager who was holding a pellet gun.

The Los Angeles Times says the City Council approved the settlement on Wednesday.

Royahent Gomez Eriza was 13 when he was shot and paralyzed in 2010 as he and friends played with the plastic pellet gun on a dark Glassell Park street.

The officer who shot him said he couldn't see the gun's orange tip that showed it was a toy.

The officer was cleared of wrongdoing but the teen and his family sued.

In 2012, a jury awarded \$24 million but the city appealed.

An attorney for the teen and his mother, Arnoldo Casillas, says they decided to settle to avoid returning to trial.



Aug 13 2015

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team says police were justified in using a service dog to track a suspect who was bitten by the animal.

The independent watchdog organization says Halifax police responded to a Hammonds Plains address in November 2014 after a 51-year-old man alleged he had been stabbed in the chest by his 48-year-old wife.

Police were unable to find the woman and a search involving the K-9 unit ensued in thick woods behind the home.

SIRT says the tracker dog made contact with the woman in her hiding place and bit her on the leg.

The woman sustained deep lacerations to her leg.

The investigation found the use of the dog was justified in order to locate a potentially dangerous suspect and to protect the safety of the officers involved in the search.

Aug 13 2015

VANCOUVER - Police have moved in to shut down an illegal Vancouver marijuana store that investigators allege has links to organized crime.

Sgt. Randy Fincham says officers raided the Limelife Society store in east Vancouver on Wednesday night.

He says one employee was arrested and released at the scene and evidence has been seized to help with the ongoing investigation.

Members of the Vancouver Police drug unit have watched the store for about a month, following complaints that it may be linked to organized crime.

Fincham says officers quickly determined the outlet was selling to youths and people without valid medical marijuana licenses.

To date, 11 warrants have been served on suspected illegal marijuana stores across Vancouver and Fincham says the VPD remains focused on stopping violent drug traffickers and those who jeopardize the safety of young or vulnerable residents.

Aug 13 2015

SASKATOON - A "cutting edge" analytics laboratory opening at the Saskatoon police headquarters this fall will allow researchers to crunch numbers and advise officers on how to focus their investigations.

"It's going to be one of the first labs of its type anywhere that's actually housed in a police station," Deputy Chief Bernie Pannell said.

"Until we get this up and running we're not really sure exactly where it's going to lead us, but they think there's definitely an opportunity to work with the mathematics specialists and improve the way we're analyzing our data."

The provincial government gave the police service \$210,000 left over from the serious violent offender program to fund the lab. The one-time investment will buy computers and software that will be set up in a police station meeting room and used by University of Saskatchewan researchers and doctoral students.

The first round of data to be analyzed will relate to missing persons cases, Pannell said. All data related to cases the police have investigated will be stripped of identifying information and shared with researchers, who will look for trends and patterns to identify, among other things, the types of people who are more likely to go missing.

Pannell said police officers have anecdotally identified risk factors for missing people, and work in the analytics lab could cement those assumptions or provide new insights.

"This will give us some statistical information as to whether these are the right things to be looking at when examining risk for missing people," he said.

Once those numbers are crunched, "the spectrum is wide open" in terms of what other types of cases will be analyzed. Although

city police already employ analysts who look at data collected during investigations, Pannell said the new lab "goes way beyond that," and that analysts on staff are looking forward to partnering with the researchers.

(StarPhoenix)