

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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VANCOUVER - Vancouver police department's gang crime unit is defending the use of surveillance cameras towering over an East Vancouver neighbourhood, saying it's one of many approaches it is taking to prevent violence.

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Senior G20 officer guilty on three charges



Aug 25 2015

TORONTO - The most senior police officer charged over mass arrests made during the Toronto G20 summit five years ago was found guilty on three out of five offences at a disciplinary hearing on Tuesday.

Retired Ontario judge John Hamilton, who had been presiding over the case, found Supt. David Fenton guilty of two of three counts of unnecessary exercise of authority and one of two counts of discreditable conduct.

Hamilton said Fenton is committed to serving the public but was working with a lack of understanding of the public's right to protest when he chose to order the boxing in and mass arrest of protesters five years ago.

"This case is about the order that Supt. Fenton made and the consequences that fell from them," he said.

"Legitimate protesters ... had the right not to be subject to arrest for making noise, chanting and sitting in the public street."

Fenton later issued an apology via a statement from his lawyer, Peter Brauti.



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“He would like to personally apologize to all those innocent parties that were negatively affected,” Brauti said.

“He had to make quick decisions and judgement calls to protect the city. He deeply regrets that some of those decisions led to the arrest of people who were not involved in the violence and that some people were held in the rain for hours.”

Brauti said he and Fenton are disappointed with the charges but respect the ruling and process.

Fenton had pleaded not guilty to a total of five Police Services Act charges stemming from two “kettling” incidents that occurred during the chaotic 2010 summit weekend.

The first took place on Saturday, June 26, 2010, hours after a small group of vandals smashed windows and set police cruisers alight.

Fenton ordered officers to box in protesters in front of a downtown hotel. More than 260 people were arrested and taken to a makeshift processing centre, which came under severe criticism for its deplorable conditions.

The second incident occurred the next day when, six minutes after coming on shift, Fenton ordered police to keep scores of people standing for hours at a downtown intersection despite a severe thunderstorm that left them drenched.

Hamilton said Fenton was charged with discreditable conduct because he had a responsibility to protect detainees from the harsh weather.

Fenton was found not guilty of a second count of discreditable conduct for detaining people at the hotel because those people “were not subject to unduly harsh conditions,” Hamilton wrote in his ruling.

Hamilton said Fenton’s decision to order mass arrests of the crowds in both cases was an unnecessary exercise of authority, and he had no legal or probable grounds to arrest people for breach of peace or conspiracy to commit mischief.

“That said, containing or kettling is not illegal,” Hamilton said, adding the action was not prohibited by the Toronto Police Service’s policies at the time of the summit.

Hamilton said Fenton was found not guilty on the third count of unnecessary exercise of authority involving detained protesters because Fenton was not responsible for the amount of time they were held or for monitoring them because an officer of equal rank was in charge.

More than 1,000 people were detained over the summit weekend in what is considered the largest mass arrest in Canada’s peacetime history. Most were released without charge.

(The Canadian Press)



Aug 20 2015

EDMONTON -An Ottawa prosecutor will lead a review of Alberta’s bail system following the shooting death of a Mountie earlier this year.

Nancy Irving is expected to make recommendations to the Alberta government in February.

A key question is who should be conducting initial bail hearings in the province -- Crown prosecutors or police officers.

Const. David Wynn was shot at an Edmonton-area casino in January.

The killer, Shawn Rehn, later killed himself in a nearby home.

Rehn, a career criminal with a history of violent behaviour, was out on bail after a hearing in which an Edmonton police officer consented to his release.

The RCMP have questioned why Rehn was allowed on the streets.

Edmonton police asked the province in 2006 to be removed from bail hearing duties. The following year, a task force recommended the change and the province agreed to make the switch, but it didn’t happen.

Alberta Justice has said that police officers are used for initial bail hearings to speed up the court process.

Irving worked most recently as a general counsel for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and has also served as an adviser to the RCMP.

(The Canadian Press)

Aug 20 2015

With intense code names such as “Jugular” or “Wolfhound,” a new cell phone sniffing technology has caught the attention of law enforcement across the country because it’s cheap, small - and possibly used without a warrant.

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that local police departments in 25 states, including Baltimore, Indiana, and Florida, have already tens of thousands of dollars worth of the handheld equipment that allows police to track cell phones through radio waves emit-

ted when phones search for a nearby cell tower, and only between \$6,000 and \$9,000 each. Additionally, agencies within the Justice Department and Defense Department, such as the DEA, are the largest purchasers of the technology.

About a dozen states have enacted laws restricting police from using location-tracking devices, requiring warrants beforehand. That’s in part because other signal sniffing tools are more invasive and pose more direct threats to privacy, such as the stingray, which masquerades as a cell tower and siphons location data from nearby phones.

The Wolfhound isn’t a pretender, it’s passive, picking up signals via a small antenna that can be clipped to clothing. But just like other police surveillance tools, details of how police departments are using Wolfhounds is a closely guarded secret.

“We can’t disclose any legal requirements associated with the use of this equipment,” Elise Armacost, Baltimore County Police spokeswoman told the Journal.

Cyberlaw expert Orin Kerr of George Washington University weighed in, saying the Wolfhound’s passive data collecting likely means they don’t need a court order under current federal laws.

Some states are being cautious about using Wolfhounds, seeking at least a court review before deploying them in the field. The Indiana State Police, which bought \$6,500 worth of Wolfhounds in 2013, preemptively ask for judicial reviews and court recommendations for such devices to avoid legal complications later in an investigation, the Journal reported.

Law enforcement agencies have increasingly welcomed technology, enhancing investigative abilities through tracking devices such as drones, data, and social media in an effort to reduce and prevent crime.

Police and new technology have a complicated history peppered with intentional and accidental privacy or civil liberty violations. Some police departments have begun using license plate scanners to collect data to locate stolen cars or those that were used in commission of a crime. But privacy advocates worry that, similar to the collection and storage of body camera footage, police departments aren’t protecting the rights of individuals who are just bystanders. That’s what happened in North Carolina when the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police department long used stingrays to track criminal suspects for years, but also everyone else.

Phone tracking equipment isn’t a new law enforcement tool, but their legality has raised questions in the post-Snowden era, where public awareness of state surveillance is heightened. But the law has been slow in catching up, especially on the federal level. Police search of an arrested individual’s cell phone without a warrant was only outlawed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2014 police could no longer search a person’s cell phone upon arrest without first obtaining a warrant except in exigent circumstances like a potential bomb detonation.

(Think Progress)

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EDMONTON - Some inmates at a maximum-security prison in Alberta have overdosed, prompting officials to test whether the prisoners ingested fentanyl.

Acting deputy warden Mark Otto with Edmonton Institution says the prisoners have been taken to an outside hospital.

He wouldn't say how many men fell ill or their medical conditions, but none has died.

Police and health officials across the country have issued warnings about fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that has killed hundreds of Canadians in the last few years.

Fentanyl overdoses have recently spiked in Western Canada, with about 145 deaths in Alberta so far in 2015.

Otto says the prison overdoses prompted a lockdown on Wednesday afternoon and officers are continuing to search for contraband.

He says the prevalence of fentanyl in the community means officials are not ruling it out as a cause.

"We're certainly not excluding it, but it isn't the only thing we're considering at this point," he said.

(The Canadian Press)

TORONTO - A new law that gives the federal government the power to revoke Canadian citizenship for certain dual nationals undermines the country's identity and violates its Constitution, a coalition of civil rights groups said Thursday.

The British Columbia Civil Liberties Association and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL) said the rules that went into effect when Bill C-24 became law in May create a two-tiered system in which naturalized Canadians are treated as second-class.

The two organizations are launching a formal constitutional challenge of the law on the grounds that it violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The organizations take exception to the government's much-publicized position that the bill is necessary to protect Canada from terrorism, but have focused the charter challenge on many of the law's lesser-known clauses.

Vague stipulations about a new Canadian's intention to live here, plus changes to the procedure by which people can contest challenges to their citizenship, mean the bill could have an impact on millions more than Ottawa's intended target, they said.

"All Canadian citizens used to have the same citizenship rights no matter what their origin," B.C. Civil Liberties Association Executive Director Josh Paterson said at a news conference.

"We were all equal under the law. Now this new law has divided us into classes of citizens: those with more rights and those -- overwhelmingly immigrants to Canada and their children and grandchildren -- who have fewer rights."

In rolling out the contentious bill, the federal government spoke openly about some of the new powers it would provide.

The new law allows Ottawa to revoke citizenship for anyone convicted of terrorism, treason or espionage offences inside or outside of Canada. The rules also apply to dual citizens who take up arms against Canada by fighting in a foreign army or joining an international terrorist organization.

Immigration Minister Chris Alexander has previously stated that the regulations are necessary to combat "the ever-evolving threat of Jihadi terrorism."

But the civil rights groups said other provisions, such as the "intent to reside clause," present more insidious threats.

CARL member Lorne Waldman said the ambiguously worded clause forces naturalized citizens to declare their intention to make Canada their permanent home, but leaves the

door open to accuse them of misrepresenting their claims if they're out of the country for an extended period of time.

"This means that if after they obtain citizenship they wish to travel abroad for an extended period, perhaps if they got accepted into a university or because there's a family member who's ill, they face the prospect of having their citizenship revoked because they misrepresented their intention," he said.

Waldman also expressed concern over the revamped revocation process.

He said people on the verge of losing citizenship previously had the right to a hearing in front of a judge, who would then decide their fate.

Now, Waldman said, people are given 60 days to fight the revocation through a written

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submission, and the final decisions are made by government employees.

He also criticized Ottawa's stated purpose for Bill C-24, saying many terrorism convictions handed down outside of Canada are reached through dubious processes.

Waldman cited the example of Mohamed Fahmy, the Canadian-born journalist convicted of terrorist offences in Egypt during a trial that was internationally condemned as politically motivated and unjust.

Fahmy's case was so infamous that the official opposition New Democrats extracted a promise from the government that the new rules would not be used to target him when the law was first announced.

A spokesman for the federal government said it would "aggressively defend itself in court" and said the bill enjoys popular support.

This is not the first time Bill C-24 has been taken before the courts.

Last October, Toronto-based lawyers Paul Slansky and Rocco Galati launched a constitutional court challenge against the new law. Federal Court Judge Donald Rennie dismissed the case earlier this year.

Paterson said this latest effort differs from the previous suit by tackling the law based on the charter rather than more technical constitutional grounds.

(The Canadian Press)

Aug 20 2015

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog says there are no grounds to charge any Toronto police officers involved in the shooting of a 40-year-old man last December.

The Special Investigations Unit has determined that police were justified in shooting the man after he advanced on them wielding a 13-centimetre knife in a Walmart parking lot.

The investigation found that the man, a Walmart employee, had been harming himself with the knife after he grew distraught during a meeting with loss prevention officers about his suspected theft of store items.

The SIU says police first tried persuading the man to drop the knife, then drew their guns and finally fired three shots when he continued closing in on them.

The man was taken to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre for treatment.

The SIU is automatically called in when there is a death or serious injury involving police.

Aug 20 2015

CALGARY - The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team has cleared Calgary's former police chief of conflict-of-interest allegations.

Rick Hanson deployed 22 new officers to a district on his last day on the job before announcing he was running there in the May provincial election.

Hanson was a candidate for the Progressive Conservatives in Calgary-Cross and lost the seat by 100 votes.

ASIRT says in a release that the need for

more officers in the area was well-documented and had been recommended as far back as 2011.

The agency says there is no evidence Hanson attempted to personally benefit from the decision to boost resources in the district.

It says it found no indication that Hanson used the issue during his election campaign.

"While there may have been an appearance of a conflict, the evidence demonstrates clear and compelling justification for the decision," ASIRT said in a release.

FRIDAY AUGUST 21, 2015

Aug 21 2015

MACKENZIE, B.C. - A 20-year-old man has been arrested in northern British Columbia as RCMP investigate two deliberately set fires.

Mackenzie RCMP Cpl. James Fayle says the blazes were set Wednesday evening along a trail near the Mackenzie Leisure Centre, about 200 kilometres north of Prince George.

Fayle says firefighters were able to extinguish the flames, but not before one fire had grown to about 10 square metres.

The suspect was arrested a few hours later and is expected in court to face two counts of arson.

In addition to those fires, two other blazes set a day earlier on the northern outskirts of Mackenzie remain under investigation.

Fayle says the suspected arson fires troubling, especially as wildfires burn across the province.

(The Canadian Press)

Aug 21 2015

Following two speed-related traffic fatalities in the past 24 hours, Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht is calling on the provincial government again to introduce legislation that would give police officers permission to seize vehicles caught going more than 50 kilometres over the speed limit.

Knecht said on Friday that officers have been catching excessive speeders with "increasing frequency" over the past two years, both on highways and residential streets.

One motorcyclist, he recalled, was caught going 110 km over the speed limit on Anthony Henday Drive.

"They're endangering their own lives and they're certainly endangering the travelling public throughout the city," he said. "We can stop someone for going 60, 70, 80 over the speed limit in downtown Edmonton. And then they go on their way ... I don't think that's good practice for public safety."

Police in other parts of the country do have the ability to impound vehicles for excessive speeding, though the threshold varies per province. In British Columbia, for example, drivers caught exceeding the limit by more than 40 km/h receive a \$368 fine

and three penalty points. For a first offence, a vehicle is impounded for seven days and the driver pays about \$200 in towing and storage costs. Fines escalate for subsequent offences and higher speeds.

Police chiefs, Knecht said, have told him anecdotally that tougher rules have helped to drive down the number of traffic fatalities in their cities.

Edmonton has seen 24 traffic fatalities so far this year, surpassing the 23 in 2014.

More than 90 per cent of tickets EPS issued for excessive speeding (this year and last) went to male drivers. Just over 36 per cent of the tickets this year have gone to drivers between the ages of 25 and 35.

Knecht said he has not yet discussed potential legislation with government officials but hopes to meet with the transportation minister in the next two or three weeks.

MONDAY AUGUST 24, 2015

Aug 24 2015

OTTAWA - A new administrative scheme that would allow police to obtain basic information about Internet subscribers without a warrant is one option being considered by federal officials following a landmark Supreme Court ruling that curbed access to such data, Canadian police chiefs say.

The glimpse into federal deliberations about how to address the highly influential court decision comes in a newly published background document from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, which is urging the government to fill the legislative gap.

Law-enforcement agencies require "real-time, or near real-time" access to basic subscriber information -- usually a telecommunications customer's name and address -- to investigate everything from child sexual exploitation to terrorist threats, the police chiefs say in a resolution passed at their recent annual conference.

In June last year, the Supreme Court ruled police need judicial authorization to obtain subscriber data linked to online activities. The high court rejected the notion the federal privacy law governing companies allowed them to hand over subscriber identities voluntarily.

The court judgment came amid swelling public concern about authorities quietly gaining access to customer information with little evident scrutiny or oversight.

Telecommunications companies and other service providers -- such as banks and rental companies -- now demand court approval for nearly all types of requests from authorities for basic identifying information, the police chiefs say.

They reveal that a discussion paper spearheaded by the Department of Justice was recently presented to the federal, provincial and territorial cybercrime working group of senior officials. It outlined three legislative

options for allowing access to basic subscriber information:

- An administrative scheme that would not involve court approval;
- A new judicial order process or a tweak to the existing regime;
- A judicial order process for subscriber information with a greater expectation of privacy, and an administrative, non-judicial one for less sensitive subscriber data.

The chiefs say they will keep abreast of the efforts of the working group, which plans to meet next in November. At the same time, two of the chiefs' own committees will develop legislative proposals.

The Canadian Press reported in November that the RCMP had abandoned some investigations because of the new hurdles that flowed from the Supreme Court ruling.

The police chiefs echo these concerns, saying criminal investigations are "often delayed and in some cases, not pursued" due to the challenges involved in getting a court's approval.

"This impact applies to a range of investigative work, such as cases involving suspected online child sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud and other financially motivated crimes, organized crime, requests for international law enforcement assistance, and national security matters involving suspected extremism."

Before the Supreme Court ruling, it would take police less than an hour to complete a voluntary request to telecommunications providers for subscriber information, and they would receive a response the same day, the chiefs say. Obtaining the same information now requires 10 to 20 times the amount of work and documentation as well as days of preparation to seek judicial authorization, and responses from providers can take up to a month, they add.

Rogers Communications, for one, saw a sharp drop in the number of requests for customer information from government and police agencies last year.

Rogers received fewer than 114,000 such requests for subscriber information in 2014, down from almost 175,000 the previous year, the company said in its annual transparency report, issued in April.

Aug 24 2015

CALGARY - Somewhere inside Calgary police headquarters, there's one constable investigating hundreds of sex crime cold cases.

She was brought on a year ago, Staff Sgt. Bev Voros said, to close up a glaring gap.

Twenty years ago, Voros said, a strand of hair lacking a root bulb might not have gotten a DNA hit on a suspect, but it might if it were resubmitted today.

With advancements in technology, she said, "(Now) they need less to do more."

"We want to make sure that we do everything we can for victims, whether it be yesterday or 20 years ago," she said.

"Bringing in a constable to look over these files, I think, will help us close that gap.

"She's looking at probably 200 cases a year. It's going to take us a while, but we will get to the bottom of every one of these files."

Exactly why there's a gap of years worth of files, Voros said she doesn't know - but the constable is the start of the solution.

If there's DNA that was never resubmitted against the National DNA Data Bank, the cold case moves forward and it's rebuilt.

The original investigators' notes are pulled and scoured.

Victims might be re-interviewed by today's investigators.

In some cases victim's may have to be found all over again - witnesses also.

"In the last year, she's done six years (worth of cases)," Voros said.

Charles Henry Desjarlais' Aug. 15 arrest for sexual assault and assault with a weapon in connection to a 1995 cold case is an example of the constable's work.

Back then the hit didn't happen, but it did in 2014.

"I don't know why the hit didn't come through (then) but I know that we did not get a hit," Voros said.

Today, she said, virtually any kind of cross-contamination of hair or skin follicles or of bodily fluids between a suspect and a victim might bring back a result.

"It might change everything," she said.

"If we get a conviction and everything goes forward as we planned - no one's guilty until proven - if he is proven guilty then you could look at dangerous offender (status)

and it could change a lot of things.

"He was out and he was living free. Now he's in custody for a while and he'll have to answer for a crime that's 20 years old."

(Calgary Sun)

Aug 24 2015

Danny Smyth, a Winnipeg police superintendent who has been the public face of the police service in recent high-profile cases, has been promoted to deputy chief.

Police Chief Devon Clunis announced on Monday that Smyth is now deputy chief of investigative services, which is a new position.

A second-generation police officer, Smyth joined the Winnipeg Police Service in 1986 and has worked as a uniformed officer as well as in covert investigations.

As a superintendent, Smyth oversaw the investigations branch, which includes the homicide, major crimes, organized crime and forensic, intelligence and technology units.

He spoke for the police service in some high-profile cases, including a vicious attack on teenager Rinnelle Harper in November 2014 and a series of mail bombings last month.

Before being named a superintendent in 2012, he played "key roles" in establishing a full-time tactical support team and a street crime unit, the service said in a news release.

(CBC News)

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CORNWALL - The province is taking a closer look at the Police Services Act and Cornwall's Chief Dan Parkinson said, though most of the changes being suggested are administrative, they are necessary due to the shift in the true identity of policing.

Parkinson said police are engaging with offenders at an earlier level and a lot of effort is being put into keeping people out of the justice system.

Parkinson said there are four main areas the Act is looking into. First is to enhance accountability and strengthen civilian governance of police services boards.

"The main piece is we want the ability to suspend without pay," said Parkinson. Currently, police services boards can't suspend an officer without pay regardless of the officer's charge.

"That is the big thing we need to talk about," he said, though he cautioned there is a need for clear definitions as to what would be a suspendable offence without pay.

"The offence would have to be egregious," said Parkinson. As it stands now, an officer on suspension receives full pay as long as he is available to report for duty. Parkinson cited a case, not in Cornwall, where an officer was suspended for four years with pay and spent his time playing golf and going back to school.

Parkinson said another issue police services boards have been having is recruiting board members.

"We find it a significant challenge to keep up with appointments to fill vacancies," said Parkinson. This year, Cornwall's board is expecting to lose a member and sometimes it takes months to fill the position.

"It's a complex board to serve on," said Parkinson. "The Police Services Act is a big piece of legislation."

The second area the ministry is looking to update is to improve interactions between the police and "vulnerable Ontarians".

"We have had tragic encounters with people with mental health issues," said Parkinson. "We need to recognize the need for training to recognize mental health issues."

The third area the ministry is looking at is to clarify police duties and deliver services using a range of public safety personnel.

"This is something police leadership has looked at in the province," said Parkinson. "We know there are economies of scale." Parkinson said there should be different classifications of police officers, including special constables.

"Special constables have a role," said Parkinson. "We should have different classifications handling different situations."

Parkinson said it isn't an effective use of a fully trained and armed police officer to respond to a situation like a break-in after the fact.

"We have identified this as being necessary for a long time," he said of the classifications of officers. "If we can use different classifications of officers, I'm a happy guy."

Finally the ministry is looking at

developing a framework for First Nations policing. Parkinson said this doesn't affect Cornwall police services, but it is something sadly lacking on both the federal and provincial level.

Parkinson said a group of police chiefs have been asking the ministry to support a summit to have a full and frank discussion on the future of policing in Ontario.

"The key point of all of this is we need to remain focused on the role in this society to keep our communities safe," he said. "The cost of policing cannot outweigh that mandate."

Parkinson said he expects the changes to the Act to be tabled in 2016, but changes won't make it to the Act until probably 2017.



Aug 25 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A popular police service dog in Newfoundland and Labrador has died.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says Arek, a seven-year-old German shepherd, passed away suddenly Monday night.

The force says Arek was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer two weeks ago.

The diagnosis was made after emergency surgery to remove a tumour and his spleen.

Arek was with his partner and handler, Const. Adrian Edison, when he died at the

officer's home in St. John's.

He had been a service dog with the force for six years before retiring last week.

(The Canadian Press)

Aug 25 2015

TORONTO - A type of less-lethal projectile that's gaining popularity among American police forces is now finding its way onto Canadian streets.

Six forces across the country, including the RCMP and Correctional Service Canada, have begun making use of a type of expanding rubber bullet that's designed to incapacitate targets without causing lasting harm.

The manufacturer of the Blunt Impact Projectiles, Security Devices International, said municipal police forces are starting to make use of the technology as well.

Chief Executive Greg Sullivan said the BIPs have been fairly widely deployed among officers in Montreal, while smaller task forces in Toronto, Regina and Saskatoon are also starting to make use of the weapons. Edmonton and Calgary are looking into the possibility of equipping some of their patrol cars with BIP launchers as well, he added.

Sgt. Laurent Gingras of the Montreal police said the force uses the projectiles "very rarely" as part of swat team interventions or at certain public protests, but declined to offer more information. None of the other forces currently using the BIPs immediately responded to a request for comment.

Sullivan said the growing popularity of the bullets is an extension of a trend that's

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been even more noticeable south of the border, where a spate of high-profile police shootings of African-Americans have lent new potency to long-standing debates on race relations.

While Sullivan said the racial undertones are less pronounced in Canada, he said the nation's police forces still have a pressing need to broaden their arsenal of less-lethal weaponry.

"Dealing with mentally ill people is becoming a huge factor for police," the former officer with the Toronto and Halton forces said in a telephone interview. "... some of these people can become very violent, and there's got to be a way to subdue that without using lethal force."

Police have long had what they considered "non-lethal" weapons at their disposal, including pepper spray, stun guns and beanbag projectiles. But even those weapons have caused deaths, leading to a search for "less-lethal" alternatives.

Canada has had its share of fatal incidents, some of which have gained national notoriety.

When Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski died in a terminal at the Vancouver airport after being stunned repeatedly with a Taser, the graphic video depicting the incident touched off a heated debate about the effectiveness of the weapons. The incident ultimately sparked a public inquiry and led to three convictions of perjury against officers who lied during their testimony.

The July 2013 death of Toronto teen Sammy Yatim resulted in second-degree murder charges against an officer. A video capturing the encounter shows the 18-year-old being gunned down on an empty downtown streetcar.

And earlier this year, the Office of the Independent Police Review Director announced it would review the way all of Ontario's police forces handle incidents with the mentally ill.

Sullivan said the BIPs have the potential to reduce the number of run-ins that wind up generating controversial headlines.

The silicone heads of the projectiles do not penetrate the skin, like conventional bullets, but they do cause pain and discomfort.

"It's a bullet with an airbag," Sullivan said. "Once it hits, the head collapses, and what that does is it disperses inertia over a wider part of the body. You're actually hitting more nerve-endings in the surface of the skin causing more pain, but you're not getting that depth and penetration that can be problematic and cause injuries."

While the projectiles are designed to be aimed at a person's limbs, Sullivan said a Canadian force recently had to fire at a person's torso during an encounter that he declined to expand on.

In that case, he said, the shot caused only limited bruising on the suspect's body.

The projectiles, with an average price of \$33, carry a variety of payloads, including a powder used in pepper spray, marker rounds used to identify riot agitators and a malodor-

ant that smells like sewage.

The product, however, has its limits. While it could subdue an armed suspect from a distance in a hostage or standoff situation, it probably wouldn't be useful during sudden confrontations, said Toby Wishard, a sheriff in South Dakota.

"This product is not practical to carry on a belt. You'd have to have the time to get it into place; then the opportunity would have to present itself for you to use it," Wishard said. "I look at it as more of a specialized tool."

Aug 25 2015

HALIFAX - An anti-cyberbullying law drafted in response to the Rehtaeh Parsons case needs to be rewritten because it is too broad and allows anything online that hurts somebody's feelings to be considered an offence, a lawyer argued in Halifax Tuesday.

Halifax lawyer David Fraser asked the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia to hear the Charter challenge of the Cyber-safety Act Tuesday after a judge upheld a protection order in a case involving two businessmen.

Robert Snell has been accused of cyberbullying Giles Crouch when the two former business partners got into a dispute.

Crouch has been granted a cyber safety protection order under the new law, which prevents Snell from communicating with him.

After a judge's ruling that Snell had engaged in cyberbullying and the protection order was justified, Fraser told the court the law is an unreasonable and unjustified infringement of freedom of expression rights under sections 2b and 7 of the Constitution.

He argued that the law can't simply be left open to interpretation.

"To borrow a term that I've learned on social media the Cyber-safety Act is a dumpster fire that can only be extinguished by the Charter," said Fraser. "What is at issue . . . is the incredibly broad manner in which the act defines cyberbullying."

The provincial act defines cyberbullying as any electronic communication "that ought reasonably be expected to cause fear, intimidation, humiliation, distress or other damage or harm to another person's health, emotional well being, self-esteem or reputation."

Fraser said the law doesn't clearly spell out what is prohibited and simply gives the impression that "thou shalt not hurt anyone's feelings online."

Crown attorney Debbie Brown, appearing on behalf of Nova Scotia's attorney general, argued that in formulating the law the provincial legislature recognized that existing laws were insufficient and that cyberbullying is different than other forms of bullying.

"We are dealing with the cyber world where messages can go viral in a very short period of time," said Brown.

She said that's why the law allows a person being bullied to seek an order against their tormentor before a justice of the peace without giving notice.

That's something Fraser argues is against Charter rights, but Brown said is necessary

to protect a complainant against potential retaliation from a bully, given the speed of technology.

Brown said with technology continuing to evolve the legislature had to create a definition for cyberbullying that would leave latitude for interpretation by the courts.

She said interpretation is part of the judicial process.

"To put too restrictive a definition in place, it would result in the act being essentially useless within a very short period of time," Brown said. "That would leave victims without recourse or any form of protection against cyberbullying."

She said it is the attorney general's position that the Nova Scotia law is constitutional.

The law was passed in May 2013 by the province's former NDP government in response to public outrage around the case of Rehtaeh Parsons.

The teen's family alleges Parsons was sexually assaulted in November 2011 and bullied for months when a digital photo of the assault was passed around her school.

She died after attempting suicide in April 2013.

Parsons' death also acted as a catalyst for the federal government, which changed the Criminal Code to make it illegal to distribute intimate images without consent.

The case was adjourned until Thursday when the Crown is expected to conclude its arguments before Judge Glen MacDougall.

(The Canadian Press)

Aug 25 2015

VANCOUVER - Four decades after he escaped the hangman's noose, a convicted murderer has been told he no longer needs the structure of a Vancouver Island halfway house and must find his own home.

Elery Long, 70, has a pension to afford reasonable housing, the Parole Board of Canada said in a recent decision.

He shot Delta police Staff Sgt. Ron McKay in 1974 but his death sentence was commuted in 1975 to life without the chance of parole for 25 years when the death penalty was abolished.

In March, the board granted Long full parole but imposed a six-month residency condition, requiring him to remain in a community residential facility in an unnamed city.

He subsequently wrote the board two letters, saying he was stressed and struggling with rejection because he couldn't find non-profit or seniors' housing and feared being a failure.

The board said Long's case management team did not support his request.

"Your CMT suggests it is not appropriate for you to live a lifestyle devoid of rent and bills simply because you are serving a life sentence when other seniors in the community do not have such an opportunity," the board wrote in its decision.

It said Long needs to lower his standards and find a home in a less-desirable area, is capable of avoiding negative influences and

has a support network.

Long's parole officer is confident he will be able to deal with stress in a "pro-social manner," the board found.

A 2011 psychological assessment also found Long was a low or moderate risk to re-offend and was suitable for full parole.

Long was granted day parole in 2000 and full parole two years later but was in and out of prison for using drugs and associating with sex-trade workers and a known offender, the decision said.

It said Long's case management team has had no concerns since his last parole suspension in 2013.

Long appears to have not used drugs in years, has completed all programming, is abiding by his release conditions and maintains his health and fitness, the board said.

McKay was 47 when he was shot in the chest in Tsawwassen, leaving behind a wife and two teenage children.

The Delta Police Department's website said his wife Alyce McKay died in 2013.

Chief Const. Neil Dubord said Long's full or day parole has been revoked about a dozen times since he his initial release.

"Elery Long has failed attempts to successfully reintegrate himself in civilized society even with the support of a system that was designed to achieve just that," he said.

"It still remains the opinion of the Delta Police Department that this individual should never have been released."

(The Canadian Press)

Aug 25 2015

WINNIPEG - Mounties have a suspect in custody in the death of an inmate at a federal prison outside of Winnipeg.

Officials say Clayton Korski, who was 33, was found unresponsive Monday at the medium security unit at Stony Mountain Institution.

Staff say first responders could not save Korski, who was serving a life sentence for first-degree murder.

Assistant warden Guy Langlois would not name the person in custody or give details about the crime.

Langlois says the prison remains on lockdown and RCMP are still searching cells at the prison.

The cause of Korski's death has not been released.

He shot a man to death, execution style, at a playground at a school in 2004.

Meanwhile, a stress management team has been called to Stony Mountain.

James Bloomfield, Prairie president of the Union of Canadian Correctional Officers, said one person was involved in the inmate's death.

He said investigators don't see the death as a prison-wide issue or a serious gang situation.

Bloomfield was asked what guards saw.

"A very difficult scene is probably the lightest way I could put that from the reports to me," he said.

"The staff will definitely have to be debriefed well and make sure that they're taking care of themselves after something like this." (CJOB)

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26, 2015

Aug 26 2015

SHERWOOD PARK, Alta. - An Alberta RCMP officer has been handed a conditional sentence after pleading guilty to firearms charges.

Const. Stephen Hudson was charged in May with the unlawful possession of a Bushmaster assault rifle - which is a restricted weapon - and the careless storage of the assault rifle, as well as other offences.

Hudson appeared in a Sherwood Park court Wednesday and pleaded guilty to five of 10 charges, including unsafe storage of a

firearm, possession of an unlicensed weapon and possession of an unlawful device.

He received a conditional sentence including nine months house arrest and nine months of living under a curfew.

Hudson, who is 49, says that he has tendered his resignation from the RCMP after nine years of service.

During the hearing Hudson told court that the day he was accepted to be a police officer was the best of his life.

(The Canadian Press)

Aug 26 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police department's gang crime unit is defending the use of surveillance cameras towering over an East Vancouver

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neighbourhood, saying it's one of many approaches it is taking to prevent violence.

"We have been very successful at reducing gun and gang violence in the city," said Const. Brian Montague.

"This is not the first time we have put this unit out, and the cameras are only one of a number of proactive approaches we take."

The four cameras, which are mounted on a tall pole on top of a small trailer, have been deployed near East 22nd Avenue and Kaslo Street in Vancouver.

"Those living in the immediate area are informed that the cameras are there and why," said Montague. Mixed reaction recorded

Despite the notice, some expressed surprise when the camera pole appeared.

Twenty-year resident Mona Robertson said she watched police erect it, and was shocked when she realized what it was for, leaving her with a lot of questions.

"What does this mean? What about my privacy. What about my daughter who has to walk to school in that area ... I am still trying to get my head wrapped around this," she said.

Robertson said she was aware there were a "few shootings" but did not realize it was "bad" enough to warrant a security camera.

"At what point does it invade my privacy ... and what are my rights?"

The mother of three said she did not find the camera comforting, it only raised her fears about family safety.

The gang crime unit tweeted out that they had erected the towering cameras on Tuesday, eliciting a mix of reactions on social media.

A group called Cannabis Oil Corp tweeted, "This is a huge invasion of my privacy on the premise of gang violence? what gang violence?"

"Starts with mobile in problem areas to full damn Orwell and UK once complacency sets in and the Beta test is complete." Tweeted Rob E, @bobbyboucher604, who changed his Twitter image to a photo of the cameras.

Among those who applauded the move were Debbie Fleming, who tweeted, "Thank you for all you do! Appreciate it."

Former B.C. solicitor general and former Vancouver police superintendent Kash Heed said police did their research before making the decision to put the cameras into a neighbourhood.

"This type of technique is used worldwide to prevent various types of crimes from occurring, whether it's gang violence or some other kind of public safety issues. [There's been] some success and some not as successful.

"It's something that police have in their toolbox to use and I think it's appropriate when we have an issue to ensure the public remains as safe as the police can make them."

Surveillance camera use has also been the subject of criticism by those who are concerned about privacy in public spaces.

Police argue that the impact on privacy is minimal because just having them there helps discourage criminal gatherings and activity.

Abbotsford Police often have two or three of the conspicuous units installed at any one time.

"We don't gather a lot of [intelligence] from the cameras. They tend to work more successfully in terms of suppressing and dissuading people from re-engaging in those types of incidents," said Abbotsford Constable Ian MacDonald.

The footage is kept and archived in case it becomes important during an investigation. (CBC.ca)

Aug 26 2015

CHATHAM-KENT - Chatham-Kent police are investigating allegations of excessive use of force by two of its officers.

The case stems from an incident involving a Chatham teenager and two Chatham-Kent police officers.

The police service says a chief's complaint has been initiated after surveillance video of an altercation surfaced.

Initially, the 17-year-old alleged victim was charged with assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest, but those charges have now been adjourned as police investigate what exactly happened.

"There's been some evidence that's come forward since the allegations were laid against my client that suggest he was treated incorrectly over the course of his arrest," says the teen's lawyer David Sandor.

Surveillance video allegedly showing an altercation between a 17-year-old African Canadian male and members of the Chatham-Kent Police Service.

"The video surveillance suggests that not everything was as described in the crown's information," says Sandor. "When I provided that video surveillance to the crown attorney they decided it would be important to investigate this further."

Sandor says the incident happened on July 25.

The surveillance footage appears to show the teenager is either pushed or thrown into view of a camera, landing on the ground.

A few seconds go by and another police officer comes into view, standing next to the youth.

The male is on his hands and knees when the first officer appears to deliver five punches to the male's head and one punch to his mid-section.

The video seems to show the second officer quickly stepping in with what appears to be a stun gun, allegedly shocking the youth's shoulder for several seconds before the male is handcuffed and taken away.

"Ultimately a video camera is often much more reliable than somebody's memory," says Sandor.

Chatham-Kent police Insp. Trevor Crane, who is also with the professional standards branch, issued a statement this morning saying, "The matter came to the attention of police late last week and as a result, a chief's complaint was initiated and an investigator has been assigned to the file."

Crane said further details would not be released to prevent jeopardizing the investigation.

"If something did indeed happen as seems to be the case in the video, it's not representative of what the majority of police officers do," says Sandor. "It's not representative of any large scale particular problem that we're looking into at this stage, but it is enough that if it happens once in our society we should stand up and take a look and say what exactly happened and how do we stop this from happening again in the future."

The 17-year-old cannot be identified under the criminal Youth Justice Act.

Aug 26 2015

WATERLOO - A former Waterloo Regional Police constable who was charged with 12 offences under the Police Services Act - charges stayed when she resigned her position - may have been rehired by the organization in a different role.

Deborah Bourne resigned from Waterloo Regional Police earlier this month, after 25 years with the organization.

She had been on paid suspension since November 12, and was facing various Police Services Act charges including discreditable conduct, neglect of duty, deceit, insubordination and corrupt practice.

As she was no longer a police officer, those charges were stayed once she resigned - with no finding of guilt.

She was never charged with any criminal offences.

The Police Services Act charges can be reinstated if Bourne is hired to work as a police officer in the next five years.

That wouldn't happen were she to be hired for a different job within the law enforcement system.

Several people have contacted CTV News alleging that, after quitting Waterloo Regional Police, Bourne was hired back as a special constable.

A special constable is a civilian position. They perform various duties including providing security at the courthouse in Kitchener.

Asked if Bourne had been rehired as a special constable, various representatives of Waterloo Regional Police declined to answer any questions or take part in an interview.

Instead, they issued a statement outlining the Police Services Act process Bourne went through prior to her resignation - and emphasizing that accusations against Bourne were only allegations, and "there was never a full hearing of evidence."

Included in the statement is a quote from Chief Bryan Larkin, who said that every situation must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis - and in this case, medical evaluation figured prominently.

"Out of respect for the process and for our members, anything additional is between an employee and an employer and although we understand the interest in this, we appreciate and are grateful for the public's trust in us to manage these issues accordingly," he said.

The statement does not directly address

whether Bourne is once again employed by Waterloo Regional Police.

It does say that “whether she is qualified to take on another position in the organization is a separate and private employment matter.”

Whatever decisions were made by Waterloo Regional Police regarding Bourne, they have the support of the union representing police employees.

When contacted by CTV News, the head of the Waterloo Regional Police Association said that the union had been involved in every step of the case.

“We support the decision and actions the Waterloo Regional Police Service have taken pertaining to Ms. Bourne in this matter,” Paul Perchaluk said in a statement.

While on paid suspension, Bourne received more than \$260,000 in salary and nearly \$70,000 worth of benefits.

Aug 26 2015

SAANICH - A Saanich police officer under investigation for using images of tactical team members and training videos to promote a workout video has resigned from the department.

Sgt. Todd Lamb, a former leader of the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team, is the subject of a Police Act investigation for allegedly using unauthorized material - including a fellow tactical team member's name and photo as a testimonial - for his fitness program, Spec Force Alpha.

On Tuesday, Lamb tendered his resignation, which Saanich police spokesman Sgt. Steve Eassie said will take effect “in the near future.”

“Only Todd would be able to provide information about the reasons for his decision,” Eassie said. “I can advise that this was not a result of a discipline by the department.”

Lamb could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Lamb's resignation does not shield him from discipline under the Police Act. Eassie said an officer's retirement does not preclude a Police Act investigation.

In 2009, changes to the Police Act gave the police complaints commissioner the power to continue disciplinary proceedings even if an officer resigns. Any discipline is added to their service record in case they apply for a job with another department.

In the YouTube video, Lamb touts his experience as “the leader of an elite SWAT team and one of the top tactical fitness experts in the world.”

At one point, the video shows the image of a Victoria police officer who is part of the region's Emergency Response Team. His name is shown alongside a text-on-screen testimonial, which the officer did not know was going to be used in the promotional material.

Lamb shows photos of himself holding an assault rifle, surrounded by other tactical team members, their faces blacked out. Lamb is also seen target shooting at a gun range.

The video was decried by women's advocates as sexist and completely inappropriate coming from a police officer

who is sworn to protect the public.

Lamb said in the video it makes him “furious to see the sneaky feminization of the once proud male physique” and that he's witnessing the “sissy-fication” of the male population.

He promises men who follow his “elite muscle program” will have a body “that's as useful for taking down bad guys as it is for attracting the ladies.”

Saanich Police Chief Bob Downie has not commented on Lamb's video but Victoria Police Chief Frank Elsner said in an email to his department: “As a chief whose department is part of the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team, I can clarify that the attitudes and tone portrayed within the internal material are not reflective of the values and attitudes of GVERT and the VicPD.”

Before joining the Emergency Response Team, Lamb was a canine officer for Saanich police from 2001 to 2008.

He was also a former president of the Saanich Police Association.



Aug 27 2015

WINNIPEG - Manitoba's highest court won't hear an appeal by a man who plunged a knife into his girlfriend's chest after accusing her of cheating on him.

Gary Linklater of Winnipeg wanted to argue that his two-year prison sentence should be reduced on several grounds.

Linklater's girlfriend was taken to hospital in critical condition and had to undergo surgery to repair damage to her liver and diaphragm.

Court was told she continues to suffer physical and emotional distress, court was told.

Linklater said the judge exaggerated the attack by calling it “relatively forceful,” and also didn't give proper consideration to his troubled background.

The Manitoba Court of Appeal, in a written decision released this week, said there's no denying it was a violent attack.

“(The trial judge's) description of the assault as being ‘relatively forceful’ was, in my view, clearly reasonable and supported by the fact that a ten-inch blade was buried in his girlfriend's chest up to the handle of the blade,” Chief Justice Richard Chartier wrote.

He said the judge did take Linklater's past, and prospects for rehabilitation, into account when handing down her sentence.

Finally, Chartier said there's no merit to Linklater's claim that his girlfriend essentially brought on the stabbing and that the trial judge didn't factor that in.

“It is hard to conclude that this finding is in any way unreasonable given what can only be described as a clearly disproportionate response by the accused,” said Chartier.

Linklater has a lengthy prior criminal

record including domestic violence. He was also under a court order to abstain from alcohol at the time, yet was grossly intoxicated when he attacked the woman.

He argued he's shown true remorse by pleading guilty to aggravated assault and extending apologies for his actions.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Aug 27 2015

FREDERICTON - Fredericton's chief of police says she shares the public's sense of disappointment over the recent suspensions of five officers.

Chief Leanne Fitch said at a news conference today she thinks it is unprecedented to have that many members of one force off at one time.

She would not comment on the specifics of the suspensions, but says they involve alleged impaired driving, shoplifting and misappropriation of funds.

She says all of the officers were with the Fredericton force but off duty at the time of the alleged infractions.

Fitch says some of the officers are repeat offenders and have records of discipline on file, but she offered no other details.

Fitch says she wanted to reassure the public that the loss of five officers wasn't compromising policing services in the city.

Aug 27 2015

WINNIPEG - A Manitoba judge has tossed out a gun-trafficking conviction after ruling that the RCMP used illegal tactics during their investigation of a rural businessman.

The decision this week from Queen's Bench Justice Colleen Suche also overturns the minimum three-year prison term handed down earlier this year to Cory Seymour.

The 36-year-old man was found guilty after he was targeted in an undercover operation in 2010.

Investigators believed Seymour was illegally selling guns out of a hunting and fishing store on the Sagkeeng First Nation.

Mounties set up a sting in which an officer posing as a hunter with a damaged firearm approached the accused at the store to request repairs and to borrow another gun.

Seymour's lawyer filed a motion arguing entrapment and Suche agreed, criticizing the actions of police in finding they acted improperly.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Aug 27 2015

HALIFAX - Police say 14 people are facing 48 charges following a 10-month drug trafficking investigation that spanned from Lunenburg County to Halifax.

Operation Hamlin saw about 100 police officers arrest 10 people on Wednesday morning, while conducting eight residential search warrants. According to RCMP, they seized powder and crack cocaine, prescription pills, marijuana, grow-op equipment, cash and firearms.

Three additional people were arrested last week.

An arrest warrant will be released for another accused, Kyle Richard Young, 23, for Trafficking Cocaine and Failure to Comply with Conditions of Probation Order.

At a news conference, RCMP told reporters this is one of the largest drug busts they have seen in the area recently. They cannot put a monetary value on the drugs seized and investigators are still working to determine the exact types of prescription drugs discovered.

"The results of Operation Hamlin will have a direct impact on Lunenburg County," said Supt. Sylvie Bourassa-Muise, RCMP District Policing Officer with Southwest Nova District.

"It has dismantled a main supply of illicit drugs to our streets. Drugs have a devastating impact on our community and after today, we expect to see an immediate reduction of these drugs available locally."

Multiple agencies assisted in the investigation, including the RCMP Federal Operations & Support Branch, the Drug Unit and Guns and Gangs Unit of the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division, the Shelburne Street Crime Enforcement Unit (SCEU), the Kings District SCEU (Kentville Police Services & RCMP Kings Detachment), the South Shore SCEU (Bridgewater Police Service & RCMP Lunenburg County District RCMP), and the Criminal Intelligence Services of Nova Scotia (CISNS).

Police say they anticipate they will be making more arrests and laying additional charges as part of the investigation.

(Global News)

Aug 27 2015

SUDBURY - Greater Sudbury Police had scarcely flicked the switch on their new plate scanner Wednesday morning when the high-tech tool caught a driver breaking several laws at once.

"The very first individual we stopped as a result of a hit on the ALPR (automated licence plate recognition) system was someone who was suspended, had improper validation stickers on his plates, did not have insurance, and had an unsafe vehicle," said Insp. Todd Zimmerman, with the Operational Support Division.

Zimmerman noted police would not have learned of the latter situation had they not been using the scanner, since the vehicle looked safe enough from the outside.

Once the vehicle was stopped, however, officers noticed the driver's seat "was tied up with ratchet straps, making it completely unsafe," he said.

The driver had his vehicle impounded and is facing a variety of charges.

While police had not yet sorted through the full results of Wednesday's blitz, the early-morning patrol in the Chelmsford/Azilda area nabbed three more suspended drivers and six whose plates had invalid stickers.

Zimmerman wouldn't specify the exact

locations where the scanner-equipped SUV was deployed, but said its use wasn't limited to Chelmsford or Azilda.

"We've been all over the place today," he said.

The plate-capturing technology can be used while the patrol vehicle is parked on the side of a road, but also while it's in motion.

"There are cameras to the front and cameras to the side," said Zimmerman. "So, we can have it in a stationary location watching vehicles drive by, or if there is, say, an amber alert, and we're looking for a particular vehicle, we can be driving in a parking lot or down a roadway and we may get a hit."

The inspector stressed, however, that officers will also use common sense and not pull over a car every time a red flag shows up in a plate capture.

"Any potential hit we get, the first thing we have to do is verify it," he said. "We have approximately 10,000 suspended drivers in the Sudbury area, but that doesn't mean 10,000 people are driving under suspension."

Drivers are suspended for a variety of reasons, including medical conditions, demerit points and fines, he said, but someone else could be driving a vehicle to which they are associated.

"If it's a female that's suspended and a male is driving the vehicle, you wouldn't stop that vehicle," he said. "You might stop it for something else, like speeding, but it doesn't meet the parameters for a suspended driver."

And while some may fear what seems like a Big Brother-esque intrusion on privacy, Zimmerman said the system isn't set up to catalogue information pertaining to law-abiding drivers.

"Unless a hit comes across as a possible suspended driver or improper plates, the plate is not kept in the database," he said. "The officer has to verify the plate and manually capture it for court purposes, if it goes to that level, so it's automatically wiped from the database unless we do something to maintain it."

Police have been quite open about the existence of the scanning device and the type of patrol vehicle to which it is currently assigned, in part because they want to deter suspended drivers from hitting the road in the first place. But it might be harder to know what squad car is scanner-equipped going forward.

"Right now it's pretty obvious we have it, and we want the public to know about it," said Zimmerman. "Having said that, we might get more in the future, or may put it on other vehicles."

The scanning unit itself cost \$35,000, with an additional \$10,000 required for the laptop and software that go with it, but it didn't put a dent in the police service's budget.

"We were fortunate with this one to get it through a Civil Remedies grant," noted Zimmerman.

It's unlikely the service will get multiple grants of this nature to purchase more ALPR

systems, but they may still be something worth investing in, said Zimmerman.

"If we show it's definitely worth it and improves public safety, it may be something the police services board and city council would want to provide funding for," he said.

Asked if the plate scanners might not pay for themselves through an increase in fines to drivers, Zimmerman said it wasn't that simple an equation.

"A lot of people look at it that way, but it's not that black and white," he said.

The inspector said the police service is treating the introduction of the device as a one-year pilot project, after which its effectiveness will be weighed in a variety of respects.

"We'll look at the costs of the equipment, the amount of time it takes officers to deal with increased enforcement issues, how much time is in court, and are there cost savings," he said. "We're going to explore everything at the end of the year, and if we need to continue or increase the amount of ALPRs we have in our fleet, we'll go from there."

Aug 27 2015

HALIFAX - A judge reserved his decision today on a case that challenges on constitutional grounds Nova Scotia's groundbreaking anti-cyberbullying law.

Lawyer David Fraser is testing the Cyber-safety Act as part of a case involving client Robert Snell, who was placed under a cyber safety protection order sought by his former business partner last December.

Fraser says the law is too broad and is an "unreasonable and unjustified" infringement of freedom of expression rights.

The Crown finished its arguments after Judge Glen MacDougall ruled earlier this week that the protection order should be maintained.

Fraser says the law doesn't clearly spell out what is prohibited and simply gives the impression that "thou shalt not hurt anyone's feelings online."

The law was passed in May 2013 by the province's former NDP government in response to public outrage around the case of Rehtaeh Parsons.



The International Police Association (IPA) Canadian Section banner features the organization's logo on the left, which includes a globe and the text 'International Police Association'. To the right of the logo is the text 'Canadian Section' flanked by two Canadian flags. Below the logo and text is a photograph of a group of police officers in uniform standing in front of a globe. Underneath the photo is the text: 'The IPA strives to enhance the image of police in its member countries and to facilitate international cooperation through friendly contacts between police officers of all continents.' Below this is a yellow bar with the text 'Service through Friendship'. At the bottom of the banner is a dark blue bar with the text: 'Membership is \$30 annually To learn more visit the website www.IPA.ca'.