

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

Sep 05 2015

In the year leading up to the terrorist attacks in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., and Ottawa, the section of the federal public safety ministry in charge of anti-terrorism was completely dysfunctional because of a rotten work environment, according to a top secret investigation conducted by the former head of the RCMP at the request of the government.

Page 3

Sep 06 2015

TORONTO - Despite launching a comprehensive review of street checks, the province did not request data from Ontario's police services that could demonstrate the efficacy of the controversial practice.

Page 4

Sep 08 2015

As of Sept. 1, all police departments in B.C. must adhere to standards the government first announced in November 2014 that include officers completing a detailed report for each bite incident, taking photographs of injuries and providing related data to the police services division of the Ministry of Justice.

Page 6

Sep 09 2015

TORONTO - The provincial government plans to dramatically cut annual funding to the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS), a specialized crime-fighting initiative among the highest profile policing units in the city.

Page 7

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OPP union announced reforms after scathing report



Sep 08 2015

BARRIE, Ont. - The union for Ontario's provincial police has announced "significant reform" to its organization following a look at workplace behaviour and the use of union money by some former leaders of the association.

The Ontario Provincial Police Association said it commissioned an independent investigation from the law firm Stikeman Elliott LLP in March.

The association launched the probe amid an ongoing investigation by the RCMP,

which said Tuesday that no charges have been laid against the former leaders.

The former leaders declined to be interviewed for the Stikeman Elliott report. A lawyer speaking on behalf of the men cited the ongoing RCMP investigation as a reason for that.

The Stikeman Elliott report looks at the spending of the association's funds by former president Jim Christie, former chief administrative officer Karl Walsh and former vice-president Martin Bain.



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The report alleges “the work environment at the OPPA was repeatedly described as ‘toxic,’ ‘fear-based’ and marked by ‘intimidation’ and ‘bullying.’”

Walsh, the report said, was “famous for sending ‘tyrannical,’ ‘aggressive,’ ‘confrontational’ or ‘scathing’ emails.”

The report says that Bain did not engage in the “same type of ‘tyrannical’ or bullying conduct which was stated to be common from Christie and Walsh.”

The investigation was limited because Christie, Walsh and Bain all declined to be interviewed, the report said.

The union is in a unique situation in that it still represents Christie, Walsh and Bain because they are OPP officers, although all three no longer hold their administrative duties with the association. The union would not offer comment on their behalf and the three couldn’t immediately be reached for comment.

The report says Julianna Greenspan, who represents Christie, responded to investigators from Stikeman Elliott and declined a meeting with them on behalf of Christie, Bain and Walsh.

“We trust that your investigation thus far has revealed the inaccuracies that are rife within the (court documents submitted by the RCMP),” Greenspan wrote in a letter dated July 10.

Greenspan responded on behalf of all three on Tuesday night.

“Considering the fact that there is an ongoing RCMP investigation, at this time we are unable to comment on the internal investigative reports prepared by Stikeman Elliott LLP and Hansell LLP at the request of the OPPA,” she wrote in an email to The Canadian Press.

Acting association president Doug Lewis said the union also commissioned a report from Carol Hansell, whom he called a leading expert on governance.

The Hansell report includes recommendations such as implementing a whistleblower policy, a comprehensive code of conduct, governance training and a revision of expense policies.

“There were some examples of some significant bad behaviour and we are changing or preparing to change many of our administrative and governance practices as a result of that,” said Lewis.

Lewis said his biggest disappointment from the Stikeman Elliott report has been the alleged behaviour of its top leaders.

“This has been a very dark chapter for the OPPA and its members,” Lewis wrote in a statement. “We are turning the page.”

Stephanson, a Certified General Accountant by training, has been a Weyburn City Councillor since 1996 and has sat on the local police board since 2003.

“I feel my experience, background and involvement with the Weyburn Police Service and with municipal government in general will assist me in providing leadership on national police governance issues,” Stephanson said.

The CAPG, formerly the Canadian Association of Police Boards, represents more than 75 municipal police boards and commissions across Canada.

(Weyburn This Week)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

Sep 03 2015

WASHINGTON - Federal law enforcement officials will be routinely required to get a search warrant before using secretive and intrusive cellphone-tracking technology under a new Justice Department policy announced Thursday.

The seven-page policy, the first of its kind, is designed to create a uniform legal standard for federal law enforcement agencies using equipment known as cell-site simulators. It comes amid concerns from privacy groups and even judges that the technology, which is now widely used by local police departments, is being misused and without public accountability.

The technology can sweep up basic cellphone data from a neighbourhood by tricking phones in the area to believe that it’s a cell tower, allowing it to identify unique subscriber numbers. The data is then transmitted to the police, helping them determine the location of a phone without the user even making a call or sending a text message.

Besides requiring a warrant in most circumstances, except for emergencies like an immediate national security threat, the policy also requires authorities to delete data that’s been collected once they have the information that they need. It also makes clear that the technology cannot be used to collect the contents of any communication, such as a phone call or text message.

The policy could act as a blueprint for state and local law enforcement agencies in developing their own regulations. But it’s unclear how broad an impact Thursday’s announcement will have, since it does not directly affect local police agencies unless they’re working alongside federal authorities or using their assistance.

Sep 03 2015

Weyburn City Councillor Rob Stephanson is the new president of the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG).

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

Sep 04 2015

SUMMERSIDE, P.E.I. - A one-time deputy police chief in Prince Edward Island, who was also past-president of a local Mothers Against Drunk Driving chapter, has been sentenced to five days in jail on a charge of impaired driving.

David Griffin of Summerside pleaded guilty in provincial court.

Griffin was a 39-year veteran of the Summerside police force, and was president of the East Prince chapter of MADD when he was charged on July 31st.

The court heard that at the time of the arrest, Summerside’s blood-alcohol level was double the legal limit.

Defence lawyer David Hammond says Griffin struggled after facing a lawsuit that accused him of sexual harassment in the late 1990’s.

Those charges were eventually dismissed, but Hammond says the court battles that followed took their toll.

Sep 04 2015

ST. JOHN’S, N.L. - The uproar this week over a police inspector’s role in an online video endorsing the Newfoundland and Labrador premier is raising questions about rights and acceptable restrictions.

Premier Paul Davis, a former police constable, at first defended the appearance of Insp. Todd Barron. The series of testimonials from supporters - interspersed with cuts of Davis jogging and making phone calls - included Barron describing Davis as a tenacious “normal guy doing an important job.”

That portion was swiftly edited out, however, as the video drew media questions and the attention of Royal Newfoundland Constabulary brass.

Davis acknowledged the act governing the force restricts political activity. But he also questioned whether such rules infringe the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

“I respect people’s individual rights to have an opinion, to express that opinion as well,” he said Wednesday. “If they have a

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sworn duty, an obligation to government as an employee and so on, if it doesn't interfere with that then they are well within their rights."

Or are they?

Constitutional lawyer Jamie Merrigan did not wish to comment specifically on the ad for Davis, whose Progressive Conservative government faces an election Nov. 30.

But Merrigan said there's a growing need to clarify the legal boundary between individual rights and expectations of public servants. This is especially so in the social media age as once private political opinions become public at lightning speed, he said in an interview.

"Once upon a time, if you supported a candidate you shook their hand on the doorstep and you might put a sign on your lawn. Now there are 50 different ways that you can express your political view, and figuring out which of those are safe for a public servant and which of those are not is going to be complicated."

Ongoing court cases are only beginning to set out how rights and restrictions should be balanced, Merrigan said.

His advice to clients who might want to push workplace boundaries: "Think very hard before you step outside of or challenge these rules. Get legal advice and make your challenge in an appropriate venue."

Tom Stamatakis, president of the Canadian Police Association, said the knee-jerk reaction to the Davis video suggests wrongdoing where there might be none.

"I think it's extremely unfortunate that we seem to be in an environment where public officials, whether they be police chiefs or government officials, are that reactive or sensitive to a headline," he said in an interview.

"It implies that you've done something wrong, and I'm not sure that's exactly the case."

Stamatakis stressed that police officers must park their own opinions as they go about their jobs.

"You need to serve a diverse range of people with different views and interests, and you have to do that in a way that's impartial and fair," he said. "But at the same time, I think it's also important that police officers do have the right to express an opinion outside of that context."

In fact, police are frequently sought out for all manner of public input, Stamatakis said.

"I think ultimately the overriding consideration should be that we have the Constitution that guarantees the right to be able to freely speak about different issues. It's all about balancing that right against making sure that you don't go too far where it may leave a perception that there is bias."

Sep 04 2015

ST. ALBERT, Alta. - Alberta's police watchdog has cleared Mounties in the death of a suspect who holed up in a house after shooting two officers.

The Alberta Serious Response Team says its investigation confirms that Shawn Maxwell Rehn killed himself, and that there was no criminal conduct on the part of the RCMP

who were involved.

Rehn fatally shot Const. David Wynn and seriously injured Auxiliary Const. Derek Bond on January 17 when the officers confronted him in a casino in St. Albert about a stolen truck.

Police tracked him to an unoccupied home where they found the door broken and the burglar alarm sounding.

They surrounded the property and tried to make contact, but weren't successful, and then they heard what they believed was a gunshot.

When they went inside, they found Rehn in a downstairs in a bedroom with a catastrophic gunshot wound to his head.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

Sep 05 2015

CARTWRIGHT, N.L. - RCMP say a 25-year-old man is in stable condition after he was shot by an officer in a community on Labrador's southern coast.

Police responded to a complaint of an assault of a woman around 8:30 p.m. Friday in Cartwright, roughly 400 kilometres east of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

They say when officers arrived, they were confronted by a man carrying a weapon.

The Mounties say attempts to negotiate with the man were not successful and during

the encounter, an officer fired his service pistol and hit the suspect.

He was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and is in stable condition.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary will conduct an independent investigation of the incident.

Sep 05 2015

DIGBY, N.S. - Nova Scotia's police watchdog is investigating after a motorcyclist was seriously injured in Digby when police tried to stop him on suspicion of impaired driving.

The Serious Incident Response Team says two RCMP officers responded to a call early Saturday morning.

They say police located the suspect, but he sped away and crashed his motorcycle at a nearby intersection.

The agency says the 45-year-old man, who was attending a motorcycle rally in the area, was seriously injured in the crash.

Sep 05 2015

In the year leading up to the terrorist attacks in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., and Ottawa, the section of the federal public safety ministry in charge of anti-terrorism was completely dysfunctional because of a rotten work environment, according to a top secret investigation conducted by the former head of the RCMP at the request of the government.

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A culture of fear, insults, lack of information sharing, internal fights, unwillingness to hear divergent opinions, favouritism and the cleaning up of reports to make superiors believe that all was fine on the ground: that is the tale contained in some 900 pages of government documents, much of it censored, obtained by La Presse under the Access to Information Act.

The analysis is overwhelming: "Something is broken," a high-level manager concluded during one meeting dedicated to the work environment.

Alarm bells first rang on April 17, 2014, six months before the attacks in the Quebec town of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu and in Ottawa. The deputy public safety minister, François Guimont, received an anonymous letter at his Laurier Ave. office in Ottawa. It identified a series of problems within the National and Cyber Security Branch, a division of the ministry dealing mainly with the government's anti-terrorism strategy and hacking. Some of the facts raised were censored in the letter obtained by La Presse, but it seems they all pointed to a toxic working environment.

The letter writer did not identify himself or herself out of fear of the reaction of certain managers in the department. "The future of the section is in your hands," the letter concluded.

The deputy minister took things very seriously, the internal ministry correspondence shows. He ordered his subordinates not to embark on a witch hunt to reveal the whistleblower but rather to concentrate on shining a light on the serious allegations that had been raised.

The ministry needed an outside investigator for the task, but it had to be someone who could be trusted to handle the ultrasensitive material dealt with by the division. "Because of the mandate of the section, the issues raised have the potential to have national security implications," noted one manager handling the case.

They settled on Norman Inkster, a former head of the RCMP retired from the federal public service since the mid-1990s. The ministry gave him a budget, an office and top secret clearance so he would have access to all the information necessary to carry out his mission.

It didn't take long before he was bogged down in testimony that showed the gravity of what had been going on. "The current situation is, at best, unhealthy," he indicated.

The comments he received during interviews with employees were nearly all negative. "The vast majority of the people interviewed expressed an opinion that the work of the section is/was a work experience that was particularly unpleasant," he wrote in his report classified as "confidential," which was largely censored before being released to La Presse.

The fear of reprisals for having protested or even for having expressed a professional opinion different from that of the boss seemed widespread.

"The section is far from being an environment where people feel free to say what they are thinking," Inkster wrote, adding that many feared being left out of meetings,

publicly denigrated or losing their files if they dared to open their mouths.

A widespread perception of favouritism and of internal battles marked by an attitude of "us against them" was detrimental to the work of all the employees, they believed.

The people who confided in Inkster were also nearly unanimous in denouncing the lack of information sharing and the silos where people jealously guarded important information from their colleagues, even if it would have helped their work. Many employees denounced an "air of mystery" so pronounced that some were even uncertain of their mission within the section.

The "poor treatment" and general "negativity" seemed to have led to a loss of important competency in the area of national security, according to Inkster.

"It was reported that many highly qualified individuals quit the department to take on less significant and less important work just to escape a work atmosphere they could no longer tolerate because it was having an impact on their health and their relationships," he noted.

Inkster also weighed in on a troubling allegation that an official report had been falsified, something that had been raised in the anonymous letter.

The matter proved to be unfounded; the report in question was factual. But the testimony collected during the investigation was judged to be troubling, all the same. Employees considered that, in general, the rewriting of reports by higher-ups altered or completely eliminated important points that should have been made public or brought to the attention of the government.

"Many of those interviewed declared that they had been told to "soften" their language and others declared that they were told to change the way they expressed certain facts to give the impression their files were progressing more than they actually were," Inkster noted. "We said that the documents were cleaned up. Those interviewed believed that it was an attempt to give the impression that all was going well when that wasn't necessarily the case," he wrote.

The documents obtained by La Presse show that the leadership of the ministry qualified the findings of Inkster as "troubling" and put in place an action plan to change the way things were done. The school of the public service was called to the rescue to put the changes in place, and courses on workplace harassment were offered.

(La Presse)



TORONTO - Despite launching a comprehensive review of street checks, the province did not request data from Ontario's police services that could demonstrate the efficacy of the controversial practice.

Some Ontario police forces say they would voluntarily provide information demonstrating how street checks reduce crime but others say it is logistically difficult to track every instance of the tool leading to arrests, charges, the discovery of drugs or weapons, and more.

The lack of statistics to back up the police claim that street checks - commonly known as "carding" - solve crime and keep communities safe has become a central issue in the impassioned debate, which rages as the provincial government undertakes a review to establish new regulations.

At a public meeting in downtown Toronto earlier this week, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Yasir Naqvi and Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders were asked how they can call the practice effective and necessary without statistics to back it up.

Naqvi said one of the challenges of the review had been that, legally, the province could not compel police services to hand over carding data. Part of their review now includes determining ways to require police to provide such information.

But the ministry did not ask any police force to voluntarily provide data on street checks to help inform the current review. Jonathan Rose, Naqvi's director of communications, said that the ministry did not need the information to know that changes must be made to how street checks are conducted in Ontario.

"Based on the countless negative personal experiences, the community's concerns over such arbitrary and random stops, and the publicly available police statistics and reports . . . it wasn't necessary to request and wait for additional data to know that this was an issue that required the province's intervention," Rose said in an email.

"Our focus was on taking action to ensure people's rights were protected," he said. (Toronto Star)

Sep 06 2015

TORONTO - The City of Toronto has slammed the brakes on prosecuting around \$20 million worth of parking tickets.

Lawyers from the city went to court on Friday and withdrew 880,000 contested tickets that were issued between 2002 and 2012 but were moving too slowly through the court system, the Toronto Sun has learned.

A source told the Sun those now cancelled tickets were worth approximately \$20 million in possible revenue but city officials argued taking them all to court with a very low chance of conviction could have ended up costing up to \$23 million.

The city moved to dump the tickets because there was no reasonable prospect for conviction due to the fact it had taken too long for a trial date to be scheduled.

The 880,000 tickets represents around 3% of all tickets issued by the city between 2002 and 2014.

(Toronto Sun)

EDMONTON - Edmonton's photo radar revenue continues to grow.

The city expects to pull in \$47.8 million from automated traffic enforcement by the end of 2015, according to a year-end financial statement that will go before council Wednesday.

That's up from about \$30 million in 2014.

A \$6.8-million chunk of the revenue increase is due to a provincial move to increase traffic fines and violations by an average of 35 per cent.

The city is projecting a reserve fund balance of \$25.3 million this year, which is nearly 10 times higher than the minimum required reserve balance of \$2.4 million.

Last year's reserve hit \$18.6 million. Using that fund as well as this year's revenues, the city plans to allocate \$18.8 million to the Edmonton Police Service, \$11.5 million to the Office of Traffic Safety and smaller amounts to a community facility grant program and other traffic safety initiatives. (Edmonton Sun)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2015

Sep 07 2015

A police shooting in Abitibi-Témiscamingue is being investigated by Quebec's public security minister and the Montreal police.

On Sunday, officers with the Sûreté du Québec shot and injured a man after he allegedly open fire.

Officers near Val d'Or had received a 911 call reporting a suicidal man had barricaded himself inside his car.

The man got out of the car carrying a rifle and allegedly shot at police.

"The man just fired shots into the officers' direction with a long rifle," said Montreal police Const. Manuel Couture.

The man is in hospital and is expected to survive. (CBC News)

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

Sep 08 2015

SYDNEY, N.S. - A Cape Breton police officer has been charged with assault following an independent investigation into an incident last month.

The province's Serious Incident Response Team looked into allegations made against the male member of the Cape Breton Regional Police.

It says the officer was accused of assaulting two women at a fire hall and outside a pizza shop just after midnight in Dominion on Aug. 1.

The team says it received statements from 19 civilian and eight police witnesses as part of its investigation.

Const. Jefferey Hennessey is facing a charge of assault against one woman and two charges of assault against another.

He is due in Sydney provincial court on Sept. 24.

CALGARY - A Calgary police officer is recovering from a minor leg injury that happened while checking out an allegedly stolen pickup truck.

Officers spotted the truck in a southeast neighbourhood early Tuesday morning after getting reports of possible prowlers.

They pulled the vehicle over and a male passenger was removed without incident.

Police say when a woman who was driving was asked to step out, she put the truck in reverse, sideswiped an officer and collided with a police vehicle before speeding away.

The officer was treated at hospital.

The woman has still not been found.

Sep 08 2015

TORONTO - RCMP say a Brampton, Ont., man has been arrested and charged with illegally importing Fentanyl.

Police allege the man brought more than 500 grams of powdered Fentanyl into Canada from China on Aug. 25.

The man was arrested in his Brampton home and has been charged with importing drugs, possession for the purpose of trafficking and conspiracy.

At the time of the arrest, police say officers also seized a set of body armour, a number of long knives and cash.

Barna Olvedi, 31, has been released on bail and is scheduled to appear in a Brampton court Oct. 2.

RCMP say they worked with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Homeland Security and the Canada Border Services Agency in the investigation that led to the arrest.

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"Fentanyl trafficking and abuse is a serious concern that plagues Canadians coast to coast," said Insp. Dean Dickson of the RCMP Toronto Airport Detachment Serious and Organized Crime.

"The RCMP is determined to stop the illegal importation of Fentanyl into Canada and to arrest the people who are responsible for it."

Sep 08 2015

WINNIPEG - Police in Winnipeg say that four out of five missing persons reports they receive are about young girls in the care of Manitoba Child and Family Services.

The numbers are in a report prepared for the police board.

The report says city police get an average of 550 missing persons reports a month.

Just over 80 per cent are about kids in government care and 71 per cent are girls.

Another police report prepared for the board shows the top 19 missing persons locations are all CFS facilities.

Federal government statistics show Manitoba has the highest number of missing persons reports per capita in Canada.

"Habitual/chronic" missing persons account for almost 70 per cent of all 709 reports between April and June, the Winnipeg police report stated.

"The vast majority of missing persons reported are short-term chronic runaways," the report said. "Most are vulnerable indigenous youth who are in the care of Child and Family Services."

Sep 08 2015

SAANICH, B.C. - A warrant has been issued for a 30-year-old inmate from the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre after he was accidentally released from custody.

Grant Barker was set free Sunday, although details of how he was able to leave the Saanich-area jail are not being provided and a police investigation is underway.

A warrant has now been issued for Barker and he faces charges of escaping lawful custody and identity fraud.

Officers believe he is still in the greater Victoria area.

Sep 08 2015

TORONTO - A man who went on a stabbing rampage at a Toronto office while being fired has been found not criminally responsible for his actions.

An Ontario judge said his decision in Chuang Li's case was "an extremely close call," but he ultimately found the 49-year-old not criminally responsible due to a mental disorder.

Li was charged with three counts of attempted murder, four counts of aggravated assault and four counts of assault with a weapon.

Four people were taken to hospital, two of them with life-threatening injuries, after Li started stabbing people while he was in

the process of being fired from the human resources company Ceridian Dayforce Corporation last April.

His trial heard Li told officers arresting him that his victims deserved the attack.

Li's lawyer said his client suffered from paranoid delusions at the time of the incident.

Sep 08 2015

As of Sept. 1, all police departments in B.C. must adhere to standards the government first announced in November 2014 that include officers completing a detailed report for each bite incident, taking photographs of injuries and providing related data to the police services division of the Ministry of Justice.

In June 2014, the Pivot Legal Society released a report that showed police dogs in B.C. bit and injured 490 people between early 2010 and early 2012. The legal society tallied that number after collecting data over three years from Freedom of Information requests, statistics from the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner and various police departments.

Pivot determined that while the VPD polices 58 per cent of B.C.'s urban population, its dog squad was responsible for 80 per cent of all police dog bites in urban areas. In 2011, there were 14.75 dog bites per 100,000 persons in Vancouver compared to 12.73 in Abbotsford, 2.5 in Victoria and 2.34 in West Vancouver.

Saanich and New Westminster, where departments use the bark-and-hold method, had no recorded police dog bites in 2011. The majority of police forces, including the VPD, train dogs to bite and hold a suspect rather than the bark-and-hold method.

The new standards - the first of their kind in Canada - require annual testing of every dog handler team. Notably, dogs must demonstrate their ability to be called off a suspect, remain under control while biting and promptly release a bite upon hearing a handler's command.

Const. Brian Montague, a VPD media relations officer, said in an email to the Vancouver Courier that "for the most part, the standards set by the government have for some time been standard practice for the VPD."

In July, the Vancouver Police Board approved an updated policy on the use of the VPD's dogs, including clear guidelines for taking photographs, giving "loud, verbal" warnings before a dog is deployed and how the use of a dog "must be proportional to the level of risk posed to the officer, the suspect and the public."

The new VPD policy also defined police dogs as "intermediate weapons in the context of use of force."

Montague said the VPD's dogs are "a tremendous asset" to the department and "help at hundreds and hundreds of calls every year." He said when a dog is deployed and contact is made with a suspect, "it often results in sort of injury, unfortunately."

Added Montague: "Injuries are usually

minor in nature and are treated by paramedics at the scene before the suspect goes to jail. Serious injuries that require the suspect to go to hospital for treatment are all reported to the [Independent Investigations Office]. However, I would suggest that most cases where a [dog] is present, they are not deployed because the suspect is compliant or other options are more appropriate."

(Vancouver Courier)

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

Sep 09 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has a new police horse on duty.

The force's mounted unit now includes a four-year-old male percheron named Dr. Rich.

The 1,600-pound horse was donated by Lt.-Gov. Frank Fagan, who named the horse after his son, the late Dr. Richard Fagan.

He completed his medical studies at Memorial University in St. John's, but lost his battle with cancer in 2012 shortly before his 26th birthday.

(VOCM)

Sep 09 2015

FREDERICTON - RCMP in New Brunswick say they have dismantled a sophisticated laboratory set up to produce ecstasy.

Three men and one woman, all of them from Quebec, were arrested after police executed search warrants in Quebec and New Brunswick.

RCMP, working with Quebec provincial police and the Edmundston Police Force, searched five properties in Quebec and one in New Brunswick, where they seized documents, equipment and chemicals.

Police say they also found two labs, one in Quebec and the other in a residence in Lac Baker, N.B.

Police say both labs were shut down and dismantled before any drugs could be distributed.

Sep 09 2015

The president of the New Brunswick Police Association said police chiefs in the province are staging a "power grab" with their push to be able to suspend officers without pay.

Dean Secord made the comment on Wednesday at a news conference it called to respond to the recent calls by chiefs to rewrite the Police Act.

"We're witnessing a power grab attempt by the chiefs of police ... to destroy the balanced Police Act," said Secord.

On Aug. 27, Fredericton Police Chief Leanne Fitch said the New Brunswick Association of Chiefs of Police has been pushing for changes to the Police Act for several years. One of the reforms it seeks is for the option to suspend an officer without pay.

"It is not lost on me or the vast majority

of members of our force that suspensions with pay during lengthy criminal and Police Act cases do have an impact on the public perception of fairness," said Fitch.

The Fredericton police chief was speaking at a news conference she called to address the number of suspensions on her force.

In his news conference, Secord said the people front-line officers deal with include those who attempt to "injure, maim and kill them."

"These criminals attempt to avoid prosecution and get back at officers by filing false complaints," he said.

Five members of the Fredericton Police Force are currently under suspension. Alleged infractions by the officers include impaired driving while off duty, assault, misappropriation of funds, or firearms offences.

At Wednesday's news conference, Secord pointed to police officers in Saint John and Miramichi who were off duty for three or four years before being able to clear their name.

"No frontline officer could financially survive if the act allowed chiefs unfettered power to suspend without pay," said Secord. (CBC News)

Sep 09 2015

TORONTO - A Durham Regional Police officer has been suspended from duty after allegedly attending a call while under the influence of alcohol.

Police said the on-duty officer was dispatched to an Oshawa residence regarding a teenager being threatened on Facebook just after 10 p.m. on Friday.

The officer completed the interview and left the residence at approximately 11:30 p.m., at which point the homeowner called police concerned that the officer was showing signs of intoxication.

Police administered a breathalyzer test to the officer back at the station, which he failed.

Ian Cameron, 43, was charged and released on a promise to appear. He has been suspended from duty from the Central East Division and has been charged with "Exceed 80 mgs."

Cameron was also suspended and faced charges after he allegedly threatened a fellow officer with his police firearm in September 2009.

Durham Regional Police would not comment on those charges. (Shaw Media)

Sep 09 2015

TORONTO - The provincial government plans to dramatically cut annual funding to the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS), a specialized crime-fighting initiative among the highest profile policing units in the city.

After a decade doling out \$5 million a year to deploy teams of officers into high-crime neighbourhoods, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services is cutting the TAVIS budget to \$2.63 million, effective January 2016, with the ultimate aim to axe the program altogether.

The move appears to signal a shift in the province's vision for policing, stepping away from a reactionary, hard-line approach to violent crime and focusing on prevention.

Lauren Callighen, spokesperson for MC-SCS minister Yasir Naqvi, said the government is working on a new funding model that ends specific grant programs like TAVIS - which can only be used for specific purposes, whether a local need exists or not - and focuses instead on "a proactive, collaborative, and community-based model of policing."

"We believe that the best way to prevent crime and keep our communities safe is to work with local groups and prioritize community-based crime prevention and youth engagement - by giving communities the ability to allocate funding where it's needed most,"

Callighen said in an email.

Overall, Toronto police will receive \$4.7 million more from the province for policing in 2016 than in 2015, bringing the total to \$47,663,212. That leaves Toronto police with the option to continue TAVIS as-is, or direct the funds elsewhere.

It's not clear what direction Toronto police might take. They are now in the process of determining the next steps, spokesperson Mark Pugash said Wednesday.

The province's move to cut TAVIS funding has brought praise from critics who have long decried the program, which involves an injection of officers into communities experiencing a surge in crime, a tactic known as targeted policing.

For years, TAVIS officers have also been

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criticized for straining relations with highly policed communities, in large part for their high rate of "carding."

But Toronto police also credit the specialized teams with decreasing crime through intelligence gathering, arrests and seizing weapons.

"We were quite shocked," said Toronto Police Association president Mike McCormack. "This would be a depletion of the unit ... When we need to saturate an area because we've had high crime, it would definitely have an impact on our ability to deploy strategic policing."

TAVIS was formed in response to increased shootings in 2005, when 67 per cent of the city's 78 homicides were gun-related, a rate double that of the previous year. Three teams, each consisting of 18 high-visibility, "rapid response" officers, were quickly credited with reducing violence in crime-ridden areas. (Toronto Star)

Sep 09 2015

KELOWNA - Construction has officially begun on a new headquarters for the Kelowna RCMP. The new facility, which being built at the intersection of Clement Ave. and Richter St., is expected to be complete in the spring of 2017.

The RCMP are looking forward to moving out of their aging downtown detachment and into the new facility.

"We're going to be very excited to watch the building as it rises from the ground," says Kelowna RCMP Superintendent Nick Romanchuk. "We're in very crowded conditions. Our cell block has reached its best before date a long time ago. We have people working in the old cell block that's really like a dungeon and we have one person that literally works in a closet."

The new detachment is budgeted to cost \$48-million.

"It's part prison. It's part forensic laboratory. It's not your typical office building which makes it more expensive and more intricate to design," Romanchuk says.

The new facility is expect to consolidate the operations at the RCMP's current downtown Kelowna detachment and Windsor Rd. location under one roof and will be double the size of those two existing RCMP facilities.

(Global News)

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Sep 10 2015

MONTREAL - Five suspects are in custody in connection with the theft of about \$10-million worth of silver last Friday from the Port of Montreal.

The men were arrested during a series of police raids in the city's suburbs late Wednesday and early Thursday.

Montreal police spokesman Manuel Couture says the suspects are aged between

35 and 53 and face multiple charges, including theft over \$5,000 and conspiracy.

Police said thieves had stolen a truck in the city's west end, drove it to the port and loaded a shipping container onto it.

The container, which held up to \$10-million dollars in silver, was found empty on Saturday in Repentigny just outside Montreal.

Investigators credit tips from the public in helping move the case forward. Police have not yet indicated if any of the stolen silver was recovered in the raids.

(CJAD)

Sep 10 2015

CHARLOTTETOWN - The RCMP say a full recovery is expected for a Mountie who was injured after being dragged by

a vehicle on the Confederation Bridge.

The Mounties say 33-year-old Const. Ryan Jewett is still in hospital in Charlottetown.

He's expected to remain there until next week.

Earlier this month, Jewett suffered several broken bones when he was hit by a truck and dragged a considerable distance across the bridge that links New Brunswick with Prince Edward Island.

Jewett was dispatched to the bridge after the RCMP received a report that a man was preparing to jump from the bridge.

A 28-year-old man faces several charges, including criminal negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm, flight from police and theft of a vehicle.

(Charlottetown Guardian)

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