

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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New chief 'right leader for the right time'



Oct 06 2015

CALGARY - Calgary's new police chief says he's reminded to keep a level head every time he picks up his officer's hat.

Inside the red lining, Roger Chaffin keeps a photo of his former partner, Peter Bellion, who died in 2004, to make sure of that.

"He had that sort of amazing bluntness about him," Chaffin told reporters shortly after he was named Calgary's top cop on Tuesday.

"He always used to challenge me about stuff and I just liked that about him," Chaffin said. "The ability to speak candidly, and be clear, and drop political correctness to make sure we were doing the right things."

Chaffin, who joined the Calgary Police Service in 1986, was appointed chief following a six-month search to fill the role after Rick Hanson stepped down in March.

Rod Fong, chairman of the Calgary police commission, said the search to replace Hanson was an exhaustive process involving months of consultations with citizens and community stakeholders.

"We are confident that based on the input that we received from extensive community engagement that we have chosen the right leader for the right time," Fong said.

Both the police commission and city council unanimously approved Chaffin's selection. Council ratified his five-year agreement on Tuesday, which takes effect Oct. 19.



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Chaffin previously served as a deputy chief and has overseen several key investigative units dealing with organized and serious crime, and was seen by many as a viable contender for the top job.

He comes to the position as the city grapples with significant challenges, such as stemming the tide of fentanyl use and curbing a recent uptick in gang-related violence.

"Rest assured, we will double down on this idea that gang violence and these threats to our community will not go unchallenged," Chaffin said.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi, who praised the Calgary Police Service as "amongst the very best if not the best" in the world, said his priority for the future chief was focused on building strong, resilient and connected communities.

"I'm particularly thrilled that our new leader of our Calgary Police Service comes from within, showing the strength and the depth of the police service as it now stands," Nenshi said.

Chaffin echoed the mayor's sentiments, saying he would continue building relationships within the community, and noted the police service in Calgary has evolved into "an instrument of social justice as opposed to an instrument of paramilitary force" over the years.

"I see no need to ever step back from that model," he said.

Like Chaffin, the other two deputies who served under Hanson, Trevor Daroux and Murray Stooke, also applied for the top job.

"All of them could have done the job easily and they all have different attributes," said Howard Burns, president of the Calgary Police Association, which represents the department's 2,100 rank-and-file officers.

Sources confirmed to the Herald two current superintendents applied for the job, and that the list of external candidates included two senior officers who left the force in recent years: a former deputy chief and a retired superintendent who works for a private-sector company.

In his most recent role, Chaffin headed

the bureau of organizational support, which oversees training, information technology, and human resources.

"I noticed (Hanson) leaned on him - and leaned on him heavily," Burns said.

Burns credited Chaffin with solving chronic problems with the police radio system - an issue that didn't generate much public attention, but had the potential to endanger officer safety if it wasn't dealt with properly.

"If you don't handle issues like that well, those are the sorts of things that can boil over publicly," said Burns.

Chaffin said he'd like to see the service become more innovative and adopt new and emerging technologies to tackle crime under his watch.

"There are little things that perhaps people don't notice but there are technologies out there that make us faster, make us smarter (and) take fewer people to do better work," he said. "(It's) something we have to look at." (Calgary Herald)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2015

Oct 01 2015

SAINT JOHN - A dispute between the provincial government and the Saint John Police Force could soon close the city lockup to people arrested by the RCMP.

Sheriff's officers, who were running the detention centre, will no longer be guarding detainees at Saint John's police headquarters. That job will now be handled by the Canadian Corps of Commissioners.

Nicole Paquet, the chair of Saint John's Police Commission, says the changes follow word from the provincial government that it would no longer provide sheriffs to staff the detention centre after hours and on weekends.

"The arrangement we had before was off the table," said Paquet.

The police department felt there was risk associated with having two service providers - sheriffs on weekdays and security guards at all other times - and elected, after issuing a request for proposals, to hire the Corp of Commissioners.

Tender documents on the city's website reveal the police department was asking for two guards to staff the detention centre 24 hours a day, seven days a week - one male and one female - for a total of 10 positions.

Paquet says unless a deal is reached with the province this fall, the department has to stop taking people into RCMP custody because the province is unwilling to pay the "rack rate," which is the fee charged by the city to hold people being held by other police forces.

The provincial government has not revealed where people picked up by officers from RCMP detachments between Sussex and St Stephen will be held in the new year.

In a statement this afternoon, Anne Bull, a spokesperson with the Department of Justice, said the move "was due to a decision by the Sheriff's Services branch to focus its efforts on its core responsibilities, which in-

clude courthouse security, detainee transfers and the execution of court orders."

No reason has been given. As of Oct. 1, RCMP are still using the lockup. The contract with the city expires Dec. 31.

However, Paquet says the police department budget will be able accommodate the new arrangement, if negotiations do not lead to a solution.

"We've gone through the numbers," said Paquet. "We're comfortable with those numbers."

She says the city accepts about 2,000 detainees annually from the RCMP.

(CBC News)

Oct 01 2015

The accidental drug overdose of a Nova Scotia man is shining a light on so-called "research chemicals" that are making their way into the illicit drug market.

The chemicals are marketed by companies for what they say are research purposes. However, police forces in North America are now seeing them emerge as street drugs and say they are being deceptively marketed.

The problem, experts say, is some labs are making small changes to regulated prescription medications, creating these "research chemicals" that can be marketed with far less government oversight.

In Nova Scotia, the family of Michael Thompson, who was addicted to prescription drugs, were alarmed to find an envelope of white powder arrive in the mail just two days after his death on March 18.

The family says the envelope was from reChem Labs, a Kitchener, Ont.-based company, and contained what they thought was a drug equivalent to Ativan, which is often prescribed for anxiety. RCMP have launched an investigation, part of which generally includes sending a sample to a lab for analysis.

ReChem does not sell Ativan - also known as lorazepam - but it does sell a similar chemical called etizolam. The drug, which is 10 times as potent as Valium, is sold as a prescription medication in India, Italy and Japan to treat panic attacks and insomnia.

But it is not approved for sale in Canada or the United States. And when it's marketed as a research chemical, that's a red flag signalling deception, according to a spokesman for the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Some companies "try to convince the user or the consumer, the person on the other end of the computer, they're legal, they're safe, they're used for research, or it might be a safe alternative to an illegal drug," Rusty Payne says.

"All they want is the sale."

In the U.S., those addicted to lorazepam compare it to etizolam as a way to get high. Law enforcement seizures are growing; between 2012 and 2014, Payne says 145 samples tested in DEA labs contained etizolam.

And in Toronto, police last year issued a warning after two men accidentally overdosed after taking research chemicals.

David Gardner, a professor of psychiatry and pharmacy at Dalhousie University, says



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etizolam is a "family member, absolutely" to benzodiazepines such as Ativan, Valium and Xanax.

Benzodiazepines can be dangerous if abused and are controlled drugs in Canada and the U.S. Gardner says when taken recreationally, benzodiazepines have a euphoric but relaxed high, and are often combined with other street drugs.

The chemical changes between etizolam and lorazepam may be small, but legally they make a huge difference.

"There's chemical houses that are able to change the structure in very subtle ways to get around the regulations that we have, [so] that the chemical itself is not identified as a previously viewed and regulated substance," Gardner says.

(CBC News)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, 2015

Oct 02 2015

SYDNEY, N.S. - Nova Scotia's police watchdog says charges will not be laid against two officers in Cape Breton involved in the arrest of a youth whose mother complained that excessive force was used.

The Serious Incident Response Team says it received a complaint from the boy's mother on Jan. 19 after he had been arrested for attempting to break into a parked transport trailer in Sydney.

In his statement, the youth acknowledged he and a friend were caught trying to break into the transport trailer and alleged he was punched and tripped by the officers with Cape Breton Regional Police after he was handcuffed.

The officers denied the allegations and accused the boy of resisting arrest, saying he might have suffered his injuries when he was taken to the ground to control him.

The watchdog says the youth and the police officers appeared credible, and video of what happened no longer existed by the time its investigators were informed of the matter.

But it says the video had been viewed by the owner of a nearby store who did not see the police do anything out of the ordinary.

Oct 02 2015

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C. - A coroner's jury has made 25 recommendations after reviewing evidence in the deaths of a Prince Rupert, B.C., mother and her severely autistic son.

Thirty-nine-year-old Angie Robinson killed her herself on April 3, 2014, after taking the life of her autistic 16-year-old son Robert.

The jury heard the Ministry of Children and Family Development had received nine reports about incidents of child-safety protection, but closed the mother's case in December 2013 because there were no new events.

Among its recommendations, the jury

called for the ministry to provide child safety training to social workers dealing with special needs children to identify when to involve child services.

It also called for a review of the autism funding cap of \$6,000 per year for children over age 6 and consider increasing funding to ensure higher need children are being accommodated.

The jury also recommended that the ministry ensure caregivers of special needs children, living with conditions such as mental health issues or domestic violence, are assessed to determine appropriate support requirements.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2015

Oct 03 2015

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Service says its mental health program is making a difference in reducing stigma and building resiliency within the force, and has now attracted the attention of law enforcement agencies from around the world.

Representatives from Scotland, the Netherlands and California attended a symposium held in Calgary in late September to learn about the service's Road to Mental Readiness or R2MR program and are now looking to adopt a similar initiative, after hearing about the successes within the city's police force.

And the facilitators who brought R2MR to the Calgary Police Service - the first municipal police organization in Canada to offer the program - are hoping the program's reach will continue to grow.

"There have been some life-altering cases and game-changers for certain people," said Kyle Clapperton, manager of the health, safety and wellness section at the Calgary Police Service. "We're seeing a reduction in stigma and an uptick in seeking resources early. That's a great positive of the program."

City police first learned of the Department of National Defence's R2MR program, used by members of the Canadian Armed Forces, in 2012, and started researching how they could reconfigure the program to fit a law enforcement context.

Sgt. Sergio Falzi, the Calgary Police Service's peer support co-ordinator at the time, and Theresa Shaw, wellness co-ordinator, worked with the Mental Health Commission of Canada and Alberta Health Services to adapt R2MR as a pilot project. The program was later adopted by the police service in late 2014.

"What was really important for us was, the program needed to build resiliency and be taught at a peer level so that it became something that really became rooted and grounded into the Calgary Police culture," Clapperton said.

Andrew Szeto, a researcher and assistant professor with the University of Calgary's department of psychology, said R2MR is geared

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toward stigma reduction, building resiliency, and teaching people to be more aware of the state of their mental health.

Members are trained to use evidence-based skills, including positive self-talk, smart goal-setting, visualization, and diaphragmatic breathing to help manage stress and increase performance. The skills are meant to be applied to work and personal life scenarios, he added.

"Obviously, policing is a stressful job. There are tragic events that happen, they have to deal with life or death situations," Szeto said. "But really, the program is an excellent resource that helps police members increase their skills so they can deal with those stressors, the demands they experience in a policing environment."

Clapperton couldn't give specific examples, but says the tools can help officers when they attend calls.

"They can visualize some of the possibilities that are going to occur in the call and think about how they can respond to them. They can use diaphragmatic breathing to calm themselves, and be able to perform at a high level. It's about controlling arousal and being ready to perform at their best."

Szeto said he's also noticed, through focus groups and interviews, that members are accessing resources earlier and more frequently.

To date, nearly 2,000 members of the Calgary Police Service - about three-quarters of the force - have received the training, and more than 50 members have been coached to be peer trainers. The program is part of regular training for new recruits, and facilitators are currently testing a family version of the program.

Overall, about 8,000 members within law enforcement agencies across Canada - including in Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec and the Maritimes - have received the training.

"We're getting quite a bit of interest," Szeto said. "We're looking to further spread the program internationally."

(Calgary Herald)

MONDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2015

Oct 05 2015

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog is investigating a fatality on or near the Pattullo Bridge, east of Vancouver.

The Independent Investigations Office says several police agencies responded to a person in distress at about 3 a.m.

The civilian agency says police have reported that the person did not survive.

The bridge that connects New Westminster and Surrey was closed until about 9 a.m., causing gridlock on other routes into Vancouver during the morning rush.

Oct 05 2015

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - Two men accused of severely injuring an RCMP officer near Kamloops, B.C., have been ordered to stand trial.

Jerry Lamar and Leon Leclerc were charged with one count each of attempting to wound, maim or disfigure Const. Paul Koester in Pritchard on July 5, 2014.

Lamar is facing an additional count of refusing to provide a breath sample.

Neither Lamar nor Leclerc are in custody, and a trial date is expected to be set on Nov. 9.

(Kamloops This Week)

Oct 05 2015

A 43-year-old man is facing dangerous driving charges after he allegedly posted a video of himself speeding down a Manitoba highway near Swan River.

The man posted the video on Facebook on Sept. 25 with the caption, "f--king ford escape and runnin from nothing at 190,, couldn't even get 200 outta that f--ker no matter how long I held it down , f--kin take all day to load from the driver's seat of his Ford Escape truck."

The video is shot from the driver's seat and shows the driver zooming past a truck. The shots dip down the speedometer every few seconds. The speedometer reaches about 190 kilometres per hour.

But Swan River RCMP caught wind of the video, which was peppered with comments from the man's Facebook friends that said things like "Don't do that" and "That's craziness buddy" and "Not cool."

"It was actually one of our officers that saw the video posted on Facebook, and as soon as that officer saw the video, we contacted one of our members in the Swan River RCMP detachment," said RCMP Sgt. Bert Paquet. "We don't see this very often. Sometimes one bad decision leads to another, and driving at 185, 190 km/h is definitely not a good idea."

Paquet said officers probably wouldn't have been aware of the incident if it hadn't been posted to Facebook.

Now, the 43 year old has been charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and he's been slapped with a number of tickets for speeding, failing to use a seat belt and using an electronic device while driving (distracted driving).

(CBC News)

Oct 05 2015

VICTORIA - It was the perfect Hollywood ending to a guns-drawn pursuit of a cougar bounding across backyards, over fences and through garages in a downtown Victoria neighbourhood steps from British Columbia's legislature.

Dozens of residents peered over fences or stood on balconies watching the drama as police and conservation officers with dogs ran through alleys and along sidewalks with their pistols drawn as noisy crows led the chase from the sky.

Relieved neighbours and bystanders clapped and cheered after one shot from a tranquilizer rifle immobilized the big cat Monday morning.

About a half dozen officers surrounded the cougar as it lay on the grass with a dart in its side, its chest heaving, before it was lifted into the back of a pickup truck and placed in a steel barrel.

"We decided to tranquilize it because we had a chance to," said conservation officer Peter Pauwels.

He said he expected the cougar to wake up in a few hours when it would be released back into the wild Monday evening.

"I'm going to try and take it as far away from human civilization as I can get on southern Vancouver Island."

The pursuit was anything but quiet as police sirens wailed, tracking dogs howled and crows screeched from above.

Two Laysan panting hounds named Jim and Phoebe, their noses to the ground, had the cat's scent and were just steps behind the cougar.

Vancouver Island is believed to be home to up to 800 cougars.

Oct 05 2015

WINNIPEG - The head of Manitoba's new Independent Investigation Unit has had to recuse himself from its first major case.

The unit is investigating the death of Haki Sefa, 44, who was shot and killed by police after a confrontation on Highway 59 in mid-September.

It turns out that Zane Tessler, the unit's civilian director, is in a conflict of interest



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because when he was working as a Crown attorney in 2011, he was involved in prosecuting Sefa.

The director of a similar unit in Nova Scotia will take over the case.

Tessler told a news conference last month that officers got a call from a man's family saying they were concerned for him.

Officers spotted the man's white work van and followed it to the area where the shooting took place.

Tessler wouldn't confirm the man shot had a gun of his own but said a firearm was found at the scene that did not belong to any of the police officers.

Very few other details were released about the case.
(CJOB)

Oct 05 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police force tried to clarify Monday comments its chief made last week that out-of-work oilpatch workers could be to blame for the city's recent rise in crime.

On the weekend, the Edmonton Police Service released tables and charts that it said shows monthly crime statistics in Edmonton climbing over the past 12 months as oil prices dropped to record lows.

On Monday, deputy chief Brian Simpson spoke to reporters on the steps of police headquarters.

"It's not linked to oil prices," he said. "It's linked to the change in the economy that we experience in Alberta. This has been an Alberta experience for a long time."

The department had said the data was provided in response to a request from Melissa Blake, the mayor of the Regional Municipality

of Wood Buffalo, that Chief Rod Knecht back up his claim that low oil prices and crime were connected.

"The price of oil is not the only factor behind a higher crime rate - population growth in the city and the local unemployment rate are also contributing factors," the news release on Sunday said.

"However, as the statistics show, the connection between the price of oil and crime rates in the city is clear."

Knecht said last week a lot of people are coming back to Edmonton from Fort McMurray and Cold Lake and are sitting around in Edmonton waiting for the price of oil to go back up so they can go back to work.

Blake called the comments "unjust."

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson also weighed in on the debate last week, saying the downturn in the economy means Edmonton ends up policing "northern Alberta's problem children."

The EPS will be asking city council for 80 additional officers during budget deliberations in November.

(CHED, CTV Edmonton)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2015

Oct 06 2015

NEW YORK - Cybercrime costs are climbing for companies both in the U.S. and overseas amid a slew of high-profile breaches, according to research released Tuesday.

A sixth-annual study by the Ponemon Institute pegged the average annual cost of cybercrime per large U.S. company at \$15.4

million. That's up 19 per cent from \$12.7 million a year ago.

It also represents an 82 per cent jump from Ponemon's inaugural study six years ago.

Individually, cybercrime costs for the U.S. companies surveyed varied dramatically, ranging from \$1.9 million to \$65 million. And the average cost of a cyberattack on a U.S. company rose 22 per cent to \$1.9 million from \$1.5 million.

Globally, the average annualized cost of cybercrime increased 1.9 per cent from last year to \$7.7 million.

The study examined the total cost of responding to cybercrime incidents, including detection, recovery, investigation and incident-response management. It also looked at after-the-fact expenses designed to prevent additional costs stemming from the potential loss of business or customers.

The study looked at a sample of 58 U.S. companies with at least 1,000 connections to its computer network. Globally, the study analyzed data from 252 companies in the U.S., United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Japan, Russia and Brazil.

Oct 06 2015

TORONTO - Toronto's former city hall will likely serve as a courthouse for an additional five years as city council considers extending the province's lease until a new downtown facility is built.

A report presented to the city's government management committee earlier this week recommends stretching the lease to Dec. 31, 2021.

City council is expected to approve the extension at its Nov. 3 meeting. What to do with the building - which was designated a

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national historic site in 1984 - once the courts move out is also up for consideration.

Oct 06 2015

SASKATOON - A Saskatchewan senator is challenging the RCMP and the federal government to release statistics proving that 70 per cent of aboriginal females killed in cases solved by police have died at the hands of other aboriginals.



Lillian Dyck, who was in Saskatoon for a panel on missing and murdered aboriginal women, says the RCMP has not released the data that backs up that conclusion.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson released the statistic earlier this year in a letter addressed to Chief Bernice Martial of Cold Lake First Nation in Alberta.

Martial had asked Paulson to verify the number, questioning whether the figure, earlier spoken of by Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt, was accurate.

Paulson said the data from nearly 300 contributing police agencies "has confirmed that 70 per cent of the offenders were of aboriginal origin."

Dyck says she wonders if the federal government pressured the RCMP to back them up.

"I don't think it's true, someone should challenge them to release that data," she says. (CKOM)

Oct 06 2015

The RCMP have launched a 10-day nationwide social media campaign aimed at solving cases involving missing aboriginal women.

From Oct. 5 to Oct. 14, the Mounties will highlight specific cases of missing Aboriginal women and girls across Canada on Facebook and Twitter, asking for the public's help in locating them.

Each case on the Canada's Missing website is profiled with a poster that provides information about the missing individual and the circumstances of the case and can be printed for distribution.

The month of October was chosen to coincide with the Sisters in Spirit Vigil held by the Native Women's Association of Canada (CTV Atlantic)

Oct 06 2015

KENTVILLE - Kentville's chief of police, Mark Mander, speaks from the heart when he advocates on behalf of those lost in the abyss of addiction.

A ceremony to recognize Mander for his work to reduce prescription drug misuse in the Annapolis Valley, provincially and nationally took place on Sept. 28.

He was honoured by his peers from across the province and as far away as Prince Edward Island, as well as provincial health minister Leo Glavine and local politicians.

Mander says his efforts have been reduced since he developed Multiple Sclerosis.

"That's the elephant in the room," he said. "I'm finding out the new normal."

Mander thanked his family, especially his wife, and his colleagues, some of whom drove several hours to be at the ceremony organized by the Annapolis Valley Opioid Issues Council.

Chief Edgar MacLeod of the Atlantic Police Academy said Mander warned him a number of times about policing in reference to prescription drug addiction, "we can't arrest our way out of this issue."

Dr. John Campbell, who heads mental health services in the Valley, recognized Mander for being an inspiring force. Health minister Leo Glavine said the chief was "so deserving of this recognition."

Mander was recognized by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, as well as the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, for his outstanding service to law enforcement and the public good.

(Kings County Register)



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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2015

Oct 07 2015

KITCHENER, Ont. - Police have increased their presence in a Kitchener, Ont., neighbourhood as they continue to search for clues following the death of a 60-year-old man who was found with an arrow in his chest outside a home.



Waterloo Regional police say they were called to the neighbourhood around 7 a.m. at Margaret Ave. and Union St. where they found Michael Gibbon lying on the ground.

They say paramedics took him to hospital where he died.

Police say Gibbon's injuries aren't self-inflicted.

Investigators say they're working around the clock, canvassing the neighbourhood and have set up a command post as part of their investigation.

Waterloo Regional police chief Bryan Larkin says the community is fearful and is pleading with the public for information.

Oct 07 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders has admonished party-goers for their reckless behaviour during an all-night outdoor arts festival over the weekend that left three police officers injured.

Saunders says they were responding to calls about a person with a gun at Nuit Blanche and the crowd fled when a fight broke out shortly after police arrived.

He says a young woman was trampled in the process.

Saunders says many in the crowd appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the party and the mood shifted when officers arrested a man who allegedly had an imitation gun, a baton and a knife.

The police showed videos from social media of fights and bottles being launched at police officers.

Saunders says three officers were injured, including one officer who broke a bone in his hand, but describe all injuries as minor.

He said there needs to be a "wide-ranging public discussion in what is acceptable behaviour in the public of our city."

"We take pride in the public spaces where people gather. Our citizens must be able to do so without being subjected to any unacceptable behaviour we saw over the

weekend - behaviour that somehow sees violence as some sort of performance to be encouraged, supported, recorded and broadcasted. This type of behaviour can never be tolerated."

Oct 07 2015

WINNIPEG - Manitoba drivers are making it easy for thieves to steal their vehicles.

That's according to Manitoba Public Insurance, which launched an awareness campaign Wednesday to urge people to keep their keys in secure areas at all times.

The Crown corporation says of the 400 vehicles stolen this past spring, 75 per cent of them involved the use of keys.

MPI says key-related thefts in this spring increased 11 per cent, compared to the spring of 2014.

Minister Gord Mackintosh says immobilizers have helped reduce auto theft rates and that over the past 10 years, auto thefts in Winnipeg have declined 85 per cent.

MPI's Ward Keith said immobilizers are only effective if thieves don't have access to a vehicle's keys.

(CTV Winnipeg)

Oct 07 2015

MONTREAL - Montreal's new police chief Philippe Pichet told Global News the city will "have to cut some police officers."



He said police departments across North America are facing serious budgetary constraints.

"Costs are going up. Criminality is going down, even if the criminality is more complex. That's a challenge," he told Senior Anchor Jamie Orchard.

"That's why I want to look at the optimization of our human resources."

Pichet replaced Marc Parent, who stepped down after five years as police chief and a total of 31 years of service.

Parent had been the first officer to recognize that racial profiling exists in the Montreal police force.

Pichet said he recognizes that profiling can happen and Montreal police must continue to collaborate with communities in order to address the issue.

Pichet also told Global News that he is in favour of placing body cameras on police officers.

He said that is among one of his policy priorities.

"I have to make sure that all citizens in Montreal can have a safe place to live," he said.

(Global News)

Oct 07 2015

CALGARY - Police in Calgary have laid almost 70 charges against two suspects believed to be responsible for multiple break-ins in Calgary and southern Alberta going back 12 years.

A description by a homeowner who reported a break and enter in the city's southwest last month led police to a residence where officers executed a search warrant and arrested two men.

Police say two firearms, drugs and more than 400 items of suspected stolen property were seized, including jewelry, computers, other electronics, collectibles, sports equipment, safes and military medals.

Officers also seized fentanyl, marijuana, heroin and oxycodone.

Investigators worked closely with the RCMP to link the recovered property to more than 30 residential robberies in Calgary and area between 2003 and 2015.

Oct 07 2015

The RCMP says the PV Murray, long used to patrol Newfoundland's south coast looking for illegal activity, will no longer be stationed in Burin.

The RCMP has reviewed its marine operations in the province and concluded the PV Murray will no longer be part of its fleet of vehicles.

"[The review] found that smaller, more versatile marine vessels, such as rigid hull inflatable boats, are better suited to meet our needs," according to an email statement from RCMP spokesperson Laura Hepditch.

"A decision has yet to be made as to where the PV Murray will be used in future."

A 2011 RCMP website described the PV Murray as "a deterrent for illegal activity on the marine side and is active in gathering and reporting Marine Intelligence."

The PV Murray is currently being refitted.

(CBC News)

Oct 07 2015

MONTREAL - Montreal police officer Maurice Robitaille has been suspended for five days without pay after the police ethics board ruled he had illegally stopped, searched and pepper-sprayed David Daumec.

Daumec filed the complaint in 2012, initially accusing Robitaille of racially profiling him as he drove home from a party at a Pointe-aux-Trembles reception hall.

The accusation of racial profiling was dropped during the course of the police ethics board hearing because it was too hard to prove.

However, Robitaille was found guilty of having illegally stopped, searched, arrested and detained Daumec. He was also sanctioned for using illegal force against the victim, namely, using pepper spray.

He was sanctioned a total of 18 days, but they will be served concurrently over five days.

(CBC News)

Oct 08 2015

ROSEBURG, Ore. - The gunman in last week's rampage at an Oregon community college was wounded in a shootout with police officers before he killed himself in the classroom where his victims lay dead and wounded, authorities said.

It was authorities' most detailed account yet of the death of 26-year-old Christopher Harper-Mercer, who killed nine other people at Umpqua Community College. The victims included his classmates in a writing class and the instructor.

When two plainclothes detectives spotted Harper-Mercer in the doorway of a campus building, he fired at them, and the officers quickly returned fire. The killer then went back inside and shot himself in the classroom, Douglas County District Attorney Rick Wesenberg said at a news conference Wednesday.

The detectives arrived within minutes of the first reports of gunfire at Umpqua Community College.

Seconds later, the officers "both felt they had a good target," Wesenberg said. Two of their bullets hit a wall. A third struck Harper-Mercer on the right side.

The wounded gunman "entered the classroom again, went to the front of the classroom and shot and killed himself," Wesenberg said.

The attack in this rural timber town was the worst mass shooting in Oregon history. Nine others were wounded in the Oct. 1 attack.

Investigators have not yet shared any motive for the killings.

Oct 08 2015

SYDNEY, N.S. - The RCMP say an officer with the Cape Breton Regional Police faces a charge of identity fraud.

Const. Mark Skinner says the charge against the 39-year-old man involves fraudulently impersonating another person, living or dead.

Skinner says the officer cannot be named as the charge has not yet been sworn in court.

The officer was arrested Wednesday after the Mounties seized electronic devices from a home in an undisclosed location within the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Investigators also seized a computer from a police-owned vehicle.

Skinner declined to say how long the Mounties have been investigating.

The RCMP say the accused has been released from custody and will appear in Sydney provincial court Dec. 15.

A spokeswoman for the Cape Breton Regional Police says the officer in question has been suspended with pay pending the outcome of the investigation.

Oct 08 2015

TORONTO - Thirteen people are facing 48 charges in an investigation into an international drug- and weapon-smuggling operation.

Ontario Provincial Police say illegal drugs - mostly cocaine - were being brought into Canada from Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia and Guyana, then distributed through the Toronto area and in Newfoundland and Labrador.

OPP say prohibited guns were also being brought in from Florida.

They say officers seized 123 kilograms of cocaine, 22 firearms, \$146,000 in Canadian currency and four vehicles over the course of the investigation, dubbed Project Monto.

OPP Chief Superintendent Rick Barnum says the people charged are those who orchestrated, rather than carried out, the smuggling.

Twelve of those charged - all from the Toronto area - have been arrested.

Oct 08 2015

HALIFAX - A review into the handling of the Rehtaeh Parsons case by the RCMP and Nova Scotia's Public Prosecution Service says it was reasonable of the Crown to conclude there was no realistic prospect that sexual assault charges would result in conviction.

The provincial government ordered the review by Murray Segal, a former Ontario chief prosecutor, in August 2013 but it was delayed until legal proceedings involving two men charged with child pornography offences in the case concluded.

"Another Crown counsel could have reasonably chosen to prosecute the sexual assault component of the case, but it no doubt presented a unique challenge for the prosecution," says the report released Thursday.

"The police investigator understood that the decision whether to lay charges was still hers to make but in light of the Crown prosecutor's opinion, the decision not to lay charges of sexual assault was understandable."

The young woman's family alleged she was sexually assaulted in November 2011 when she was 15 and bullied after a digital photo of the alleged assault was passed around her school. Parsons was taken off life-support after attempting suicide in 2013.

Police said they looked into the allegations of sexual assault and an inappropriate photo, but concluded there weren't enough grounds to lay charges after consulting with the prosecution service.

The child pornography charges were laid after Parsons died.

A 20-year-old man pleaded guilty last November to distributing a sexually graphic image of Parsons. Another 20-year-old man later pleaded guilty to making child pornography by taking a photo of the accused having sex with Parsons.

Segal's report also deals with the subsequent allegations of child pornography and says the police investigator was told by another Crown prosecutor that those offences could not be prosecuted. The investigator was told it

was not possible to tell from the photo that the persons involved were under age.

"The Crown's advice related to child pornography offences was incorrect," the report says.

"It reflected a misunderstanding of the law as it relates to child pornography."

The report says the Internet Child Exploitation Unit reviewed the file and concluded that child pornography charges could have been laid at the conclusion of the initial investigation.

In his report, Segal describes Parsons as a "vibrant and promising young woman" with a loving and supportive family.

He writes that Parsons was "devastated by the circulation of an intimate photograph taken without her consent, and the bullying and cyberbullying that resulted from it."

The investigation into Parsons' allegations of sexual assault took close to a year to conclude, the report says.

It was during that time that Parsons changed schools twice and was hospitalized for weeks following renewed thoughts of suicide.

"In the end, she did not receive the support and assistance a young person in crisis required," the report says.

Oct 08 2015

HALIFAX - Some of the recommendations made by a review of the Crown and RCMP's handling of the Rehtaeh Parsons case:

- Police officers investigating sexual assault allegations involving children should try to interview children with a Department of Community Services worker present at the earliest opportunity.
- Crown prosecutors who handle sexual assault cases should receive more training about sexual violence and how to respond to those cases.
- There should be more Crown counsel available to prosecute Internet child exploitation cases, and those Crown attorneys should receive increased training in this specialized area.
- The police should explore the creation of a cybercrime support unit with a broad mandate to be involved in any investigation that requires its expertise.
- Nova Scotia's departments of Justice and Education should look at whether provisions of the Education Act in 2013 that relate to cyberbullying are sufficient to address a scenario like the Parsons case, and if they are not it should be amended.
- The two departments should also determine whether principals and school staff have received enough guidance on how to interpret and apply the new provisions.
- In cases where cyberbullying may be criminal in nature, the provincial government's Cyberscan Unit - created to investigate cyberbullying - and the police should work together to ensure there is a prompt investigation and a strategy to protect the alleged victim from further acts of bullying.

Order of Merit of the Police Forces

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presided over the annual Order of Merit of the Police Forces investiture ceremonies at Rideau Hall on September 18th, and at the Citidel on October 5th, 2015.

2015 Appointments

COMMANDER



Chief Constable James Chu, C.O.M.
Vancouver Police Department

OFFICERS



Deputy Chief Roger Chaffin, O.O.M.
Calgary Police Service



Chief Glenn DeCaire, O.O.M.
Hamilton Police Service



Chief Constable Frank Elsner, O.O.M.
Victoria Police Department



Deputy Chief Michael Federico, O.O.M.
Toronto Police Service



A/Commissioner Tracy Hardy, O.O.M.
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Chief Eric Jolliffe, O.O.M.
York Regional Police



A/Commissioner James Malizia, O.O.M.
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Deputy Chief Mark Saunders, O.O.M.
Toronto Police Service

MEMBERS



C/Superintendent Michael Armstrong,
Ontario Provincial Police



Superintendent David Attfield,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Sergeant Rob Bernier,
Ottawa Police Service



C/Superintendent Fred Bertucca,
Ontario Provincial Police



Staff Sergeant Ghalib Bhayani,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Inspector Carole Bird,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Chief Richard Bourassa,
Moose Jaw Police Service



Director Serge Boulrice,
Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu Police Service



Staff Sergeant Jacques Brassard,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Superintendent Donald Campbell,
Toronto Police Service



Superintendent Claude Castonguay,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



A/Commissioner Brenda Butterworth-Carr,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



C/Superintendent Peter Clark,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



C/Superintendent Gaetan Courchesne,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



C/Superintendent Charles Cox,
Ontario Provincial Police



Chief Dale Cox,
Lakeshore Regional Police Service



Superintendent Joanne Crampton,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Superintendent Len DelPino,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Director Helen Dion, C.D.
Repentigny Police Service



Superintendent Brendan FitzPatrick,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Chief Albert Frederick,
Windsor Police Service



Chief Superintendent Wayne Gallant,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Staff Sergeant Darrell Gaudet,
Halifax Regional Police



Detective Inspector Christine Gilpin,
Ontario Provincial Police



Superintendent Graham Gleason,
Ontario Provincial Police



Staff Sergeant Isobel Granger,
Ottawa Police Service



Staff Sergeant John W. Goodman,
Waterloo Regional Police Service



Chief Ian Grant,
Brandon Police Service



Constable Arnold Guerin,
Saanich Police Department



Deputy Chief Tony Harder,
Edmonton Police Service



Superintendent Peter Haring,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Sergeant Philip Hasenpflug,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Staff Sergeant Lindsay Hernden,
Halifax Regional Police



Sergeant Stephen Hicks,
Toronto Police Service



Mr. Gary Holden,
Brantford Police Service



Deputy Chief Constable Steven Ing,
Victoria Police Department



Chief Inspector Daniel Jacques,
Quebec Provincial Police



Chief Darrell Kambeitz,
Camrose Police Service



Detective Inspector Andy Karski,
Ontario Provincial Police



Staff Sergeant Matthew Kavanagh,
Hamilton Police Service



A/Commissioner Louise Lafrance,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Captain Dominique Lafreniere,
Quebec Provincial Police



Superintendent Serge Lalonde,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Chief Inspector Peter Lambrinakos,
Montreal Police Service



Chief John Leontowicz,
LaSalle Police Service



Deputy Chief Constable Del Manak,
Victoria Police Department



Deputy Chief Joseph Matthews,
Niagara Regional Police Service



Deputy Chief Christopher McCord,
Peel Regional Police



Constable Michael McCormack,
Toronto Police Service



Inspector Dwayne McDonald,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Superintendent Robin McElary-Downer,
Ontario Provincial Police



Inspector Dennis McGuffin,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Deputy Chief Antje McNeely,
Kingston Police



A/Commissioner Gilles Moreau,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Staff Sergeant Paul Mulvihill,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Inspector Robert Page,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Deputy Chief John B. Pare,
London Police Service



Chief Paul E. Pedersen,
Greater Sudbury Police Service



A/Commissioner Pierre Perron,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Chief Superintendent Guy Pilon,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Inspector Christopher Renwick,
Ottawa Police Service



Deputy Chief Daniel Rioux,
West Grey Police Service



Staff Sergeant Mike Savage,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Inspector Roderick Shaw,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



A/Commissioner Todd Shean,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



A/Commissioner Dale Sheehan,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Dr. Verona Singer,
Halifax Regional Police



Sergeant Craig Smith,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Superintendent Marlene Snowman,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Sergeant Jeff Swann,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



A/Commissioner Marc Tardif,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Superintendent John Tod,
Ontario Provincial Police



Detective Superintendent Dave Truax,
Ontario Provincial Police



Patrol Sergeant Edith Turner,
Winnipeg Police Service



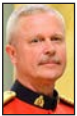
A/Commissioner Stephen White,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Superintendent Daryl Wiebe,
Vancouver Police Department



Inspector Catherine Yeandle-Slater,
Ontario Provincial Police



Superintendent Andris Zarins,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



ORDER OF MERIT OF THE POLICE FORCES FACT SHEET

The Order of Merit of the Police Forces honours a career of exceptional service or distinctive merit displayed by the men and women of Canadian police forces, and recognizes their commitment to this country. The primary focus is on exceptional merit, contributions to policing and community development.

The commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Principal Commander of the Order, submits recommendations for appointment to the governor general on behalf of an advisory committee. Nominations for appointment to the Order may be made by submitting the name of a member or employee of a police force to the commanding officer of that police force.

Levels and post-nominals

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the Sovereign of the Order; the governor general is the chancellor and one of the Commanders of the Order. The Principal Commander is the commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



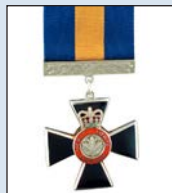
Commander - Post-nominals: C.O.M.

Recognizes outstanding meritorious service and demonstrated leadership in duties of great responsibility over an extended period, usually at the national or international level.



Officer - Post-nominals: O.O.M.

Recognizes outstanding meritorious service in duties of responsibility over an extended period, usually at the regional or provincial level.



Member - Post-nominals: M.O.M.

Recognizes exceptional service or performance of duty over an extended period, usually at the local or regional/provincial level.

Insignia Description

The badge of the Order is the same as that of the Order of Military Merit: a blue-enamelled, straight-end cross (four arms, narrow at the centre, wider at the ends) with an annulus in red, surmounted by St. Edward's Crown. The ribbon is different and consists of three equal bands of blue, gold and blue. The annulus bears the inscription **MERIT.M RITE.CANADA**.

For more information about the Order of Merit of the Police Forces, visit the Honours section at www.gg.ca/honours.



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston

ORDER OF MERIT OF THE POLICE FORCES INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Monday, October 5, 2015

a “force” as we know it today than a group acting as night watchmen for the community.

As time went on, people realized that a volunteer or self-policing approach simply wasn’t the best approach to maintaining law and order. The best way is to recruit talented men and women and to build public trust. You do this by following the rule of law and by working hand in hand with the community. By ensuring your presence is felt and by treating those you serve with respect and with compassion.

In other words, we make our cities safer by putting our trust in people like you. You are officers of the highest quality. You enforce our laws. You keep the peace. You act as community ambassadors. You provide essential services and you do it well.

It’s not easy, the job you do. There was a stark reminder of that just last week, on Police and Peace Officers’ National Memorial Day. Hundreds of police officers, peace officers, families and friends gathered on Parliament

Hill to hear the recitation of the Honour Roll—the names of more than 850 officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Officers who were doing their duty, who were protecting us, who were ensuring the safety of others.

The Memorial wall on Parliament Hill is a potent reminder of the sacrifice police officers make. But what has struck me the most in ceremonies such as this is your humility. You don’t consider yourselves heroes, just regular people doing your job. Yet, there’s nothing ordinary about each of you. Through your sense of duty, your courage and your compassion, you do the extraordinary.

The insignia you will receive shortly represents all that you have accomplished, all that you have done for this country. It’s Canada’s way of saying thank you for your continued dedication to your communities. You have earned our respect and our gratitude. Keep up your good work, helping us create more secure and caring communities.

The Citadelle, Quebec, Monday, October 5, 2015

I’m honoured to welcome all of you to the Citadelle today.

How fitting that we’re here celebrating police officers in Quebec, considering the history of this place. One of the first Canadian police forces was formed in this city in 1651. However, that gathering of individuals was less of

2016 POLICE LEADERSHIP AWARD



The 2016 award recipient will be recognized in the April 2016 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at a presentation held in conjunction with Blue Line Awards Gala, April 27, 2016.

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