

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY | OCTOBER 23, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 43

Executive Digest

Oct 16 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed British Columbia's tough drunk-driving law, which imposes heavy fines, penalties and immediate roadside suspensions.

Page 2

Oct 18 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police say they are finally seeing a plateau in the number of mental-health related arrests following years of rising numbers.

Page 3

Oct 20 2015

FREDERICTON - The New Brunswick Police Commission is calling for changes to the province's Police Act and is holding two days of meetings in Fredericton to discuss proposed amendments.

Page 6

Oct 20 2015

FREDERICTON - Former Fredericton police chief Barry MacKnight has been appointed by the New Brunswick Police Commission to investigate a complaint made against Saint John Deputy Police Chief Glen McCloskey by the chief of the Saint John Police Department.

Page 7

Oct 21 2015

QUEBEC - The new federal government's promise to legalize marijuana is raising concerns among Quebec's political class.

Page 8

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RCMP warned of Parliament attack



Oct 21 2015

OTTAWA - Mounties received at least three warnings of potential terrorist attacks on uniformed officers before last year's shootings on Parliament Hill, yet the RCMP wound down extra patrols around the parliamentary precinct just days before the tragedy, newly disclosed documents show.

The RCMP unit that patrols Parliament Hill, which shooter Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, 32, successfully stormed, was understaffed by at least 29 positions at the time of the attack.

An inside glimpse of the RCMP's security posture on Oct. 22 is contained in a 1,000-

page dossier obtained by CBC News under the Access to Information Act, following an 11-month delay in its release.

The file reveals an Oct. 18, 2014, "security reminder" from the force's Criminal Intelligence Integrated Unit, widely distributed the weekend before the shootings.

The one-page warning said ISIS "is actively encouraging jihadists in the West and encouraging newly sworn militants to launch attacks against members of law enforcement from countries fighting its troops."

"ISIS threats against law enforcement in the West are real ... Canada is not immune to such threats," read the document, which called



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on Mounties to take precautions, especially in their personal postings on social media.

A day earlier, on Oct. 17, the Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre (ITAC) warned that a "violent act of terrorism could occur." The centre increased the terror threat level that day to medium from low, where it had remained for four years.

The RCMP dossier shows the ITAC warning was widely distributed among Parliament Hill officers, who were specially told "to remain alert and vigilant."

A third warning to RCMP officers was issued the day before the Ottawa shooting "outlining security/prevention measures for police officers with regard to recent threats made by the Islamic State group towards law enforcement." Details of the third warning, from the RCMP's National Intelligence Co-ordination Centre and which followed an Oct. 20 terror-linked attack in Quebec, were censored in the package released to CBC News.

The Harper government's 2012 deficit-fighting budget cuts had already seriously eroded staffing levels for the RCMP's parliamentary force. An October 2014 human resources report shows at least 29 vacant positions, and as many as 51 empty posts depending on the accounting method.

There were a total of 177 positions authorized for the unit, but only 126 "members available," Supt. Luc Lemire reported to his bosses.

An Ontario Provincial Police investigation into the Oct. 22 shootings also cited the resource-starved RCMP unit, although the exact staffing shortfall numbers were blacked out in the public version of the final report.

The RCMP dossier shows that despite chronic staffing issues, the RCMP managed to increase its patrols in the parliamentary precinct and on Sussex Drive, near the residences of the prime minister and the Governor General, after two security incidents in mid-October.

On Oct. 15, two men in a 2011 Ford Escape tried to force open the iron gates at Rideau Hall at 3:15 a.m. The next day, a man attempted to force his way into the Italian ambassador's limousine on Slater Street in downtown Ottawa.

Investigations later showed the first two men were drunk and harmless, and the latter was "mentally disturbed" and not a genuine threat. Even so, the RCMP launched "enhanced patrols" after the incidents - but stopped them on Oct. 20, two days before Zehaf-Bibeau's attack. He was shot dead after opening fire inside Centre Block on Parliament Hill.

The heavily censored public version of the OPP report from March 2015 does not refer to the terror warnings or increased patrols, but is highly critical of the minimal resources given to the RCMP.

"The approach to the security and protection of Parliament Hill is highly inadequate," it concluded. "The RCMP posture on Parliament Hill has been challenging due to the limited amount of resources available, which are reflective of budget cuts in 2012."

The main solution, said the OPP report, was to unify the House of Commons and Senate security forces under the RCMP to provide seamless rather than balkanized security on the Hill. The government announced that very measure on Feb. 4 this year and the process of integration continues.

RCMP officials did not immediately respond to CBC News requests for comment on the security lapses.

(CBC News)

on the issue - stating it's a private, contractual matter - it has applied an application for a judicial review of the issue.

It's unclear when the court will make a decision on the application but in the meantime, the police services board has been ordered to settle up with Chief Rodd and Deputy Chief Farquharson.

Justice Corkery didn't rule on whether the Board is responsible to pay the Chief and Deputy Chief's legal costs but says if the two sides can't come to an agreement he'll accept brief written submissions on the issue in the next two weeks.

(Peterborough This Week)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2015

Oct 16 2015

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's education minister says there will be a review of how school boards deal with police investigations following concerns raised in a report on the Rehtaeh Parsons case.

Karen Casey says each school board has its own protocol when it comes to dealing with police investigations on school property.

Casey says a review will determine whether any of the protocols need improvement or whether a provincewide policy is required.

Parsons was 17 when she was taken off life-support in April 2013 after attempting suicide.

Her case attracted national attention when her family alleged she had been sexually assaulted in November 2011 at the age of 15 and then bullied after a digital photo of the alleged assault was passed around her school.

Last week, an independent report into how police and prosecutors handled the case found school board officials prevented a police investigator from talking to students at Parsons' school.

Casey says school board officials did the right thing despite the perception they were thwarting an investigation.

Oct 16 2015

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed British Columbia's tough drunk-driving law, which imposes heavy fines, penalties and immediate roadside suspensions.

The high court handed down a pair of judgments Friday, a 6-1 decision and a unanimous 7-0 ruling, that uphold key portions of the law.

It ruled the province had the jurisdiction to enact the law in 2010 and that it did not violate the charter protection of the presumption of innocence.

However, a majority of the court said the law violated the charter prohibition against unlawful search and seizure.

In 2012, B.C. amended the law to deal with that issue, allowing drivers who failed a roadside breath test to ask for a second test and

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2015

Oct 15 2015

PETERBOROUGH - A Peterborough judge has ruled in favour the city's police chief and deputy chief in their attempt to collect on a combined \$460,000 in severance payments.

Earlier this year an arbitrator ruled Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson were entitled to severance when the Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police Service disbanded at the end of 2014 - and Justice J. C. Corkery is enforcing that decision. After addressing the issue in Superior court in September, Justice Corkery filed a written decision on the matter on Wednesday (Oct. 14).

That document lays out two simple reasons for enforcing the arbitrator's ruling - the first being that both the chief and deputy chief were, in fact, employed by the former police service and the second being that arbitration awards have already issued in their favour.

The Peterborough Police Services Board agreed to take on any liability from both the top staff members contracts as part of having them stay in their positions with the newly create police service. The Board had up to Aug. 17 to pay out the severance or appeal the arbitrator's decision but did neither.

While board members aren't commenting



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apply for a review of their driving prohibition.

Today's Supreme Court ruling deals only with law as it stood in 2010.

Justice Andromache Karakatsanis, writing for the majority, said the roadside screening scheme was "valid provincial legislation" and the presumption of innocence protection was not at play because "the provincial regime does not create an 'offence.'"

However, Karakatsanis upheld the original trial judge's finding that the law "as it was constituted from September 2010 to June 2012" violated the charter provisions against unreasonable search and seizure.

The province amended the law in 2012 to deal to deal with that issue.

Oct 16 2015

MONTREAL - The Crown in Quebec says it won't appeal a judge's decision to end a murder trial for five Hells Angels after prosecutors failed to disclose key evidence in a timely manner.

Prosecutor Annick Murphy says the Crown studied Superior Court Justice James Brunton's ruling and a committee recommended the Crown not appeal.

Brunton ordered the five men released as he granted a defence motion for a stay of proceedings because evidence they'd sought since 2011 was divulged only in September.

Murphy says her office will launch an internal investigation of why it took so long to hand over the evidence.

She says a separate committee will also study the concept of megatrials and how they are managed.

Murphy noted the 2009 police sweep against the Hells Angels, dubbed Operation SharQc, has resulted in 104 convictions with sentences ranging from five years to life in prison.

Oct 16 2015

EDMONTON - Investigators say staff at an Edmonton pizza shop have been delivering more than tasty pies.

Police say 240 cans of beer and 100 bottles of spirits were found inside pizza boxes and brown paper bags at an unlicensed restaurant.

The restaurant was shut down for one day and four employees were issued a provincial summons under the Gaming and Liquor Act.

Investigators believe the alcohol was being sold illegally during deliveries and inside the restaurant after hours.

Police say the investigation began last month after beat officers received a tip.
(CHED, CTV Edmonton)

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17, 2015

Oct 17 2015

BRAMPTON - Three suspects are in custody after a shooting in Brampton, Ont., that injured a police officer and a civilian on Friday night.

Peel police spokesperson Const. Thomas Ruttan said the officer was on a call on Stokes

Road at approximately 10:30 p.m. when he was shot in his cruiser.

The officer was stuck by a single shot and was able to drive away from the scene. Ruttan said the officer suffered serious injuries, but is expected to survive.

Police said two suspects were taken into custody on Friday night. The third was arrested at approximately 9 a.m. on Saturday morning inside a vehicle in a nearby garage.

All three suspects will face charges that have yet to be determined, Ruttan said.

The male civilian was injured prior to the police's arrival and no police firearms were discharged during the incident. As a result, the Ontario Special Investigations Unit will not be involved in the case.

The man was rushed to hospital, where he remains in stable condition.

Police are also searching for a fourth suspect who is considered to be armed and dangerous. The suspect is described as black male wearing dark clothing.
(CTV Toronto)

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2015

Oct 18 2015

Police in London, England have charged a man who allegedly posted an online threat against Wilfrid Laurier University.

The man was arrested in London on Friday, and the charge laid Saturday.

The 22-year-old man, identified by police as Daniel Ransem, will appear in court Monday.

He faces a charge of malicious communications.

The U.K.'s Malicious Communications Act makes it illegal for anyone to send a threat with the intent to cause distress or anxiety.

The man's connection to Wilfrid Laurier, if one exists, is unknown.

Oct 18 2015

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police say they are finally seeing a plateau in the number of mental-health related arrests following years of rising numbers.

A packed room of professionals and advocates met Saturday at the Symposium for

Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System to discuss the complex issues of working with people who are mentally ill that come into contact with police, courts and corrections in B.C.

Sgt. Lynn Nofle, with the Vancouver Police Department's mental health unit, said that usually first involves an apprehension under Section 28 of the B.C. Mental Health Act, which allows police to take a person facing a mental health crisis into custody before escorting them to a physician.

From 2010 to 2014, police saw a 32 per cent increase in Section 28 apprehensions, Nofle said, and there were some 3,000 such apprehensions in 2014.

But data suggest that a program introduced last year, the Assertive Outreach Team (AOT), has been effective in mitigating repeat offences and keeping people with mental illnesses connected with treatment and care.

"Year-to-date to September, (for) the very first time - this is huge - our police apprehensions are stabilizing," Nofle said.

"We're hoping that that's due to collaborations we have in community and working with these programs that have creatively assisted people in need."

Nofle said police data show that in the first four weeks following clients' participation in the AOT program, they experienced reductions of 68 per cent in apprehensions, 45 per cent in negative police contacts, 87 per cent in emergency room visits and continued improvements during a four-week followup period months later.

"We're hoping, since this is a new program, that those changes are consistent," Nofle said.

The AOT was formed in March, 2014, in response to recommendations made in the B.C. Ministry of Health's mental health action plan.

The multidisciplinary team - a collaboration between Vancouver Coastal Health and the VPD - consists of a nurse, social worker, police officer and administrative support, along with specialist support when needed.

Nofle described the AOT as a "quick-flying team" that's "highly police-intensive" compared to other programs, created to pro-



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vide clients with short-term transitional care, along with long-term care provided by one of five Assertive Community Treatment teams, which were created in 2012.

"We see someone at hospital, we make sure that person has all their needs met, whether it's housing, whether it's picking up medication, whether it's taking care of a dog," Nofle said.

"This is a creative team that doesn't say 'no.' They're inclusive and I think that's part of the response that we have to take."

(The Province)

Oct 18 2015

The Peel Regional Police officer shot while in his police cruiser responding to an emergency call Friday night, has been identified as acting Sgt. John Alwyn.

The injured officer, with seven years service on the force, is recovering and "doing well" after being shot in the arm Friday night.

A man in his 20s was also shot when gunfire erupted on Stokes Road, in the area of Chinguacousy and Drinkwater roads, around 10:20 p.m.

Both the officer and the injured civilian suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Const. Thomas Ruttan didn't confirm the officer's identity. However, officers in 22 Division describe Alwyn as a hard-working constable devoted to public safety who is quickly working his way up the ranks.

Ruttan said the officer is "in good shape" but had yet to be released from hospital Sunday afternoon and that the civilian is in stable condition.

(Brampton Guardian)

Oct 18 2015

The man who trashed the St. George RCMP station in southwestern New Brunswick has been sentenced to three years in prison.

Nolan Joseph LeBlanc, 27, of Saint John pleaded guilty to a slew of charges in September.

The building's windows were smashed and some equipment inside the building was damaged, along with a number of vehicles in the parking lot.

Police say the station was empty at the time of the break-in.

In total, there was \$184,000 worth of damage.

(CTV Atlantic)

MONDAY
OCTOBER 19, 2015

Oct 19 2015

CARROT RIVER, Sask. - RCMP say a man is in hospital after a shootout with a Mountie in northeastern Saskatchewan.

Police say two officers were responding to an assault complaint on Saturday night on the Red Earth Creek reserve when a man fired a gun at them.

They say a Mountie fired back at the man, who ran away from the scene.

A wounded 24-year-old man was later found and transported to a Saskatoon hospital.

RCMP say they have asked the Saskatoon Police Service to investigate.

It is to report the results of its investigation to Saskatchewan's Justice Ministry.

Oct 19 2015

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - A Hamilton police officer is facing a criminal charge after a probe by the province's Special Investigations Unit.

Const. Kudo Park is charged with assault causing bodily harm after a 35-year-old man sustained injuries while in police custody in April of this year.

The SIU says Thomas Schonberger complained of pain after spending a night in a local jail cell and had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

Park is scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 24.

The unit would not release further details of its investigation.

Oct 19 2015

TORONTO - The Toronto Police Services Board is sending the 2016 budget back to Chief Mark Saunders.

The board, led by Mayor John Tory, decided not to approve the proposed operating budget and instead asked Saunders to find more cuts and savings before next month's meeting.

The budget unveiled Monday is \$1.015 billion - a \$36.1 million or 3.69% increase compared to 2015.

It's the first time the service's budget request has topped \$1 billion and comes despite the city's request for a 1% decrease from the 2015 budget of \$979.7 million.

The 2016 budget doesn't include the financial impact of a salary settlement between the police board and the Toronto Police Senior Officers' Organization (SOO), whose collective agreement expired Dec. 31, 2014 and has yet to be settled.

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The police budget has grown by \$263.4 million between 2006 and 2016.

In the 2016 budget report, Saunders says the main budget pressure over the past 10 years has been collective agreement settlements. He says salary and benefit increases have hiked the budget \$235.1 million between 2006 and 2016.

It isn't clear where police could find further savings, the budget report says.

"Despite considerable efforts, any further reductions would significantly risk the chief's ability to provide adequate and effective policing services."

But Tory's confident the cops can find more savings.

The mayor said the city must also change how it polices. One example he mentioned is using technology to monitor people making illegal left turns instead of having two cops sit in a car and give out tickets.

"We're going to be looking at making some more fundamental changes that will free up expensive police officers for real police duties and take some of the pressure off the budget."

(Toronto Sun)

Oct 19 2015

MAYFIELD, N.B. — Police say a 34-year-old man has been taken into custody after he barricaded himself in a home for nearly 21 hours in south-western New Brunswick.

During the incident, the RCMP says shots were fired from the home towards officers outside.

They say no one was injured.

The RCMP say they were called to the home in Mayfield on Sunday at about 3:15 p.m. following a report of a shot being fired.

They say the shooting occurred when the fire department arrived to respond to a car fire.

Police say more shots were fired towards officers later in the day, with one bullet striking the RCMP's armoured vehicle.

Oct 19 2015

VANCOUVER - A Campbell River RCMP officer is believed to have saved a woman's life after she was tasered while trying to kill herself early Monday.

RCMP said that officers responded to a call at a residence on the Island Highway at 2:20 a.m. to help B.C. Ambulance paramedics respond to a suicidal woman, who was holding a knife and making threats to harm herself.

During attempts to contain the situation, the woman began harming herself, prompting an officer to deploy a conducted energy weapon (CEW), causing her to drop the knife and allowing officers to safely apprehend her under the Mental Health Act.

The woman was taken to Campbell River General Hospital and was treated for non-life-threatening self-inflicted injuries.

She was not hurt by the CEW, police said.

(Vancouver Sun)

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TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2015

Oct 20 2015

FREDERICTON - The New Brunswick Police Commission is calling for changes to the province's Police Act and is holding two days of meetings in Fredericton to discuss proposed amendments.

The commission has released a discussion paper with 30 possible changes, ranging from the length of disciplinary investigations to suspension without pay.

The commission has been calling for changes for the last two years, but the issue became public recently when Fredericton police Chief Leanne Fitch suggested the need to be able to suspend officers without pay.

She called a news conference in August to talk about the suspension of five of her officers.

Commission executive director Steve Roberge says police chiefs, civic authorities and the RCMP are attending the discussions in Fredericton.

He says it's disappointing that union representatives and the minister of public safety declined to take part.

Oct 20 2015

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog has cleared a Waterloo Regional police officer in the death of a 20-year-old man.

The Special Investigations Unit says Beau Baker, of Kitchener, Ont., was holding a knife and moving towards police when he was shot seven times by an officer.

The SIU says Baker told a 911 operator he was either going to kill himself or hurt others, including police officers and paramedics.

The watchdog says the police officer who shot Baker knew about the threats when he drew his gun and demanded Baker drop the knife.

They say Baker threatened to stab the officer and began moving towards him, which is when police began shooting with one bullet severing the 20-year-old's aorta.

Oct 20 2015

TORONTO - Two Toronto men have been charged with attempted murder and kidnapping in connection with Friday night's shooting of a Peel Regional Police officer and a civilian on a residential Brampton street.

The hunt continues for one more suspect.

Both the officer and the civilian shooting victims have now been released from hospital and are recuperating from their wounds, police have confirmed.

Investigators have also now revealed that there were two civilian victims in the Friday night incident. One was found at the scene suffering gunshot wounds, the second was located nearby and was uninjured.

The Peel police officer was shot at 10:20 p.m. Friday while responding to an unknown emergency in the west end neighbourhood.

Three men were arrested, but charges have only been laid against two, according to police. Both men were held for bail hearings on the weekend and remain in custody.
(Brampton Guardian)

Oct 20 2015

LACOMBE - A one-year-old girl is alive today thanks to a determined police officer in Lacombe, Alta., says the Lacombe chief of police.

Police were first to arrive at the fire scene just after midnight Monday to find a four-level building in flames.

Officers ran into the building, breaking into the units to alert residents.

In one unit, a woman told police her hus-

band and baby were still upstairs.

Const. John Hubbard found the man trying to fight his way through the smoke. The man told Hubbard the baby was in the next room.

Hubbard told the man to get out. Down the hallway Hubbard found the girl standing in her crib just as the room was catching fire.

He grabbed the girl and her blanket, returning through smoke down the stairs, safely leaving through the front door where the child's mother was waiting.

Once officers completed the search of adjacent units, firefighters began attacking the fire.

Firefighters eventually rescued two cats from one of the units.

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"I could not be more proud of our officers that night," said Chief Steve Murray of the Lacombe Police Service. "There is little doubt after viewing dramatic footage of the scene captured by witnesses that the actions of the Lacombe police officers not only protected several residents, the life of a one year old girl was saved."

Lacombe is 25 km north of Red Deer.
(CBC News)

Oct 20 2015

EDMONTON - An Edmonton police officer has been charged with stealing from gas pumps owned by the city.

Police say the alleged thefts took place between Sept. 7 and Oct. 8.

Const. Heinz Schilling, a seven-year member, is charged with one count of theft under \$5,000.

Police allege the constable stole the gas while off duty.

Schilling is suspended from duty without pay.

Oct 20 2015

WATERLOO, Ont. - Police have charged a 29-year-old Kitchener, Ont., man with first-degree murder in the arrow death of 60-year-old Michael Gibbon.

Eric Amaral is being held in custody pending a court his next court appearance next month.

Gibbon was found with an arrow in his chest (at the corner of Margaret Avenue and Hartwood Avenue) on the morning of Oct. 5 and died of his injuries in hospital.

Amaral was arrested last week after a traffic stop, where a Waterloo Regional Police officer was shot with a pellet gun.

Court documents show that he's been charged with 17 offences, mostly relating to weapons and probation breaches and including assault of a peace officer with a weapon.

Officers continue to investigate the death and they're appealing to the public for information.

(570News)

Oct 20 2015

SURREY, Canada - British Columbia's police watchdog says it is no longer investigating a rampage that left a 22-year-old man dead and 11 people injured in a First Nation band office.

Mounties were called to the Lillooet-area Bridge River Indian Band office last Wednesday and found a suspect restrained and not breathing.

CPR was performed but officers could not revive the man later identified by the coroner as band member David James, who'd gone from room to room attacking people with a weapon.

The Independent Investigations Office says there was no connection between his death and the officers' actions, so it is no longer involved in the case.

It says the BC Coroners Service and RCMP retain jurisdiction of their own investigations.

Coroner Barb McLintock says she can't comment because the service could call an inquest into the tragedy.

Oct 20 2015

FREDERICTON - Former Fredericton police chief Barry MacKnight has been appointed by the New Brunswick Police Commission to investigate a complaint made against Saint John Deputy Police Chief Glen McCloskey by the chief of the Saint John Police Department.



Saint John Police Chief John Bates asked for the investigation on Oct. 14 following testimony that arose during Dennis Oland's second-degree murder trial.

During the trial, retired staff sergeant Mike King testified McCloskey suggested he lie under oath about the Richard Oland murder case.

McCloskey also testified and denied King's allegations that he suggested the investigator alter his testimony about McCloskey's presence at the bloody crime scene.

McCloskey served as Saint John's acting police chief between Bill Reid's retirement in April and a few weeks ago when Bates took over the role. McCloskey remains on active duty.

Bates directed the Saint John force's professional standards unit to look into the issue and also advised the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners and the New Brunswick Police Commission of the matter.

The investigation under the Police Act by MacKnight will not begin until the conclusion of the Oland trial.

The trial is expected to run until mid-December.

The police commission announced the MacKnight appointment as they were set to begin a three-day workshop Tuesday to discuss possible changes to the Police Act.

The topics under discussion include everything from the ability to suspend officers without pay, to coming up with a new name for the commission.

(CBC News)

Oct 20 2015

OTTAWA - Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau has authorized an investigation after an officer was captured in a video punching a man in the face outside the Salvation Army shelter on George Street on Monday afternoon.

Mirna Guerrero said she later witnessed the same officer push a woman to the ground outside the shelter on George Street after the woman asked for his badge number.

Matt Skof, head of the Ottawa Police Association, said the man was drunk and combative before he was punched by the officer.

"As hard as it is for the public to see, they have to understand the entire context of it," he said.

A man who refused to be named told CBC News that the white man captured in Guerrero's video was drunk and shouting racist obscenities at the arresting officer, who is black.

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2015

Oct 21 2015

CARROT RIVER, Sask. - A charge of attempted murder has been laid against a man accused of firing a gun at two RCMP officers on a northern Saskatchewan reserve.

The suspect is facing several other charges that include counts of assault and discharging a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Mounties say the officers were responding to an assault complaint Saturday night on the Red Earth Creek First Nation when someone fired at them.

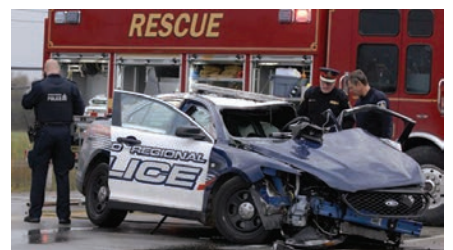
They say one of the officers fired back at a person, who ran from the scene.

A wounded 24-year-old man was later found and transported to a Saskatoon hospital.

Mario Whitehead of the Red Earth First Nation is scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

Oct 21 2015

A Waterloo Regional Police Service officer was airlifted to hospital following a collision involving her cruiser and two fire trucks.



The crash occurred at a Cambridge intersection at approximately 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

Police said all three vehicles were responding to a call about a fire in North Dumfries, a community approximately 12 kilometres west of the crash scene.

It is not clear what caused the vehicles to collide, but the female officer became trapped in her vehicle, and one fire truck was stuck in a ditch. Firefighters involved in the crash rushed to help the officer, extracting her through the broken windshield.

"Even though they were involved in a collision and suffered injuries, they immediately ran from their fire truck to provide

immediate care,” Waterloo Regional Police Chief Bryan Larkin told CTV News.

The officer was pulled from the wreckage and rushed by air ambulance to a Hamilton, Ont., hospital, 40 kilometres southeast of the scene. Police said she is conscious and experiencing back pain.

Five firefighters were also taken to hospital to be treated for minor injuries.

(CTV News)

Oct 21 2015

VANCOUVER - A judge has struck down a controversial municipal bylaw that banned tents in local parks.

Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson ruled on Wednesday that homeless people in Abbotsford, B.C., have the right to erect temporary shelters in parks between 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. because of a lack of accessible shelter space in the city.

The legal action by Abbotsford was the latest attempt to evict the homeless campers that began with issuing bylaw notices, but escalated to spreading pepper spray and chicken manure on the camps and finally destroying or disposing of tents and other personal property.

The 81-page ruling found that a prohibition on camping violated their charter rights to life, liberty and the security of person.

“Allowing the city’s homeless to set up shelters overnight while taking them down during the day would reasonably balance the needs of the homeless and the rights of other residents of the city,” Hinkson wrote.

His ruling referenced a 2008 decision, also from B.C. Supreme Court, that upheld the right of homeless people in Victoria to erect temporary shelters in city parks.

Hinkson stressed that the temporary, overnight nature of the camping permission would help address poor living conditions that he believed arose out of more permanent makeshift settlements, including the proliferation of drug paraphernalia, garbage, human waste and criminal elements.

The ruling included a harsh rebuke of the city’s tactics used to displace the campers, including municipal workers using shovels to dump the chicken manure from city trucks onto an encampment.

He called the actions “disgraceful and worthy of the court’s disapproval.”

City officials have not said whether they would appeal the decision.

Oct 21 2015

QUEBEC - The new federal government’s promise to legalize marijuana is raising concerns among Quebec’s political class.

Some cabinet ministers didn’t hide their discomfort when asked Wednesday about the prospect of legalized pot in the near future after the Liberal victory in this week’s federal election.

Public Security Minister Lise Theriault says questions of public safety are paramount and must prevail, adding that many people share that concern.

“We should be worried, definitely, it’s

something that can really upset a lot of people, including me,” Theriault said.

While it hasn’t rejected the idea outright, the Couillard government wants to see detailed plans from the new Liberal government in Ottawa.

Justin Trudeau, the prime minister-designate, has promised to legalize cannabis by selling and taxing it much like alcohol, but hasn’t said how quickly that might happen.

The federal Liberals argue legalization means the drug will be less accessible to minors and will snuff out the ability of criminal groups to profit from the pot trade.

Oct 21 2015

VICTORIA - A B.C. judge’s decision that a mandatory-minimum sentence for a gun conviction was “grossly disproportionate” and violated a man’s charter rights will be appealed by prosecutors.

The Criminal Justice Branch announced Wednesday it is appealing the sentence given to Jeffrey Oud, who was convicted of reckless use of a firearm for discharging a rifle at a house, grazing one person and narrowly missing others inside.

The Crown asked for a five- to seven-year prison term, but Justice Robin Baird sentenced Oud to four years, ruling there was no justification under the constitution for such a long term.

Baird said in his ruling that the prison term was adequate for a first-time offence for a man who had a solid work history, a good

family and who has sworn off drugs and stayed clean.

The branch says in a news release that there were errors in the judgment and the public interest requires an appeal.

It says the judge didn’t sufficiently consider the principles of denunciation and deterrence and failed to impose a term that was proportionate to the gravity of the offence.

Oct 21 2015

VANCOUVER - The number of people injured in the care or custody of the Vancouver police who required medical treatment at a hospital has steadily increased since 2011 and could reach 200 people by year’s end.

The majority of injuries since 2011 were caused by police dog bites followed by “empty hand” takedowns, according to the Courier’s review of Vancouver Police Department reports on injuries and statistics obtained from the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner.

The data shows 182 people in the first nine months of this year required a trip to hospital after being involved in incidents with police. Ninety people suffered dog bites and 45 were injured in takedowns.

Steadily, injuries have increased from 139 in 2011 to an average of 188 over the last three years. The data shows that, in some cases, police used more than one type of use of force that led to a trip to the hospital.

Other injuries reported this year were related to the use a beanbag shotgun (14),

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a Taser (eight), an Arwen plastic bullet gun (two) and one case involving a gun.

Police Chief Adam Palmer said the statistics have to be put into context before the public draws conclusions about the reasons for the hospital visits. Statistics for the last two years show 56 of the injuries were self-inflicted, which could include a suspect falling to the ground while running from police.

"It could be a relatively minor injury but we take them to the hospital and they get checked out," said Palmer, noting another reason for the increase in injuries this year can be attributed to more calls for service. "So it's logical that if there's more demand for police, you're going to go to more incidents and you're going to have more issues like that."

Const. Brian Montague, a VPD media relations officer, said in an email that an injury suffered by a suicidal person who refuses to cooperate with police and proceeds to harm him or herself is also reported in the statistics.

"Those are obviously difficult for us to control," Montague said. "Bottom line is police never have to use force on someone who is cooperative and complies with the directions of officers."

(Vancouver Courier)

Oct 21 2015

Transport Canada marked Back to the Future Day on Wednesday by issuing a recall for faulty time-travelling DeLoreans.



Oct. 21, 2015 marks the day *Back to the Future* characters Marty McFly, Doc Brown and Jennifer Parker travelled to in the trilogy's second installment, which was released in 1989.

The recall applied to the DMC-12 model of DeLoreans, advising Canadians, "On a certain DMC-12 car converted into a time machine, a defect in the flux capacitor could lead to inability to travel through time while travelling at 88 miles per hour (141.6 km/h) and may increase energy consumption beyond 1.21 gigawatts."

The recall continued, "This could have disastrous consequences."

Transport Canada later printed a correction to the recall, saying, "Correction: Doc Brown will affect repairs."

Meanwhile, police agencies from coast to coast reported sightings of Doc's DeLorean.

Sightings in Newfoundland were reported by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, around 6:30 a.m. CT.

"We're receiving many reports of a flying DeLorean in Metro. Suspect described as

older w/messy grey hair #nltraffic," the RNC tweeted with a photoshopped picture of the DeLorean on a Newfoundland highway.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the country, Vancouver police reported sightings as well.

"There was a #DeLorean sighting at 10th/Yukon, but it were gone by the time our police units got there #BackToTheFuture," they tweeted.

And over in York Region, O.N., their regional police force tweeted they stopped a driver and ticketed them for "Operate Vehicle With Flux Capacitor."

(CBC News)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2015

Oct 22 2015

TORONTO - The Crown is to continue its case today against a Toronto police officer charged with second-degree murder in the death of an 18-year-old man.

On Wednesday, the Toronto jury saw several videos of the July 2013 incident in which Sammy Yatim was fatally shot by Const. James Forcillo on an empty streetcar.

Forcillo has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and attempted murder in the shooting.

Crown prosecutors have said they plan to prove that Forcillo's actions during the incident were neither necessary nor reasonable.

Forcillo's lawyer has said he will be arguing that the officer's actions were justified and carried out in self-defence.

The jury has also been told an autopsy found Yatim had consumed the drug ecstasy before he boarded the streetcar where he died.

Oct 22 2015

WASHINGTON - The Obama administration is joining with private companies to train law enforcement officials about the virtual currency Bitcoin and how to fight crime arising from its use.

The Blockchain Alliance has two main goals, according to those involved in the project: educate investigators on how the technology works and enhance the reputation of

a digital currency that's been associated with high-profile crime even as it has slowly gained mainstream acceptance.

The alliance announced Thursday includes the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and representatives of private companies such as BitFury, BitPay and Coinbase that are involved in virtual currency.

The name comes from the term "blockchain," which refers to the digital ledger on which Bitcoin transactions are recorded.

Supporters see Bitcoin as a fast and easy payment system that is gaining legitimacy among regulators and businesses.

Bitcoin has been exploited by criminals in Ponzi schemes and as the primary currency for Silk Road. Two agents from the Secret Service and DEA assigned to a Silk Road task force pleaded guilty this year to siphoning off Bitcoin proceeds.

"Far too many people think of Bitcoin as the currency of criminals," said Jason Weinstein, the alliance's director and a former Justice Department deputy assistant attorney general.

"We think that changing that misperception, that image problem, will be good for the growth of the industry as a whole," he said.

He said he envisioned the alliance as a "one-stop shopping resource" for law enforcement, with training sessions and conference calls to answer questions about Bitcoin. Industry participation is intended to signal a commitment to helping law enforcement weed out criminal activity associated with it.

"The more law enforcement understands how this technology works, the more they can understand what they can ask for, how they can ask for it," said Jerry Brito, executive director of Coin Center, a Bitcoin advocacy group.

He said the public perception of the virtual currency is reminiscent of the Internet's early days, when many saw the World Wide Web as a hub for illegal activity. Just as that association has changed over time, so too might the perception of Bitcoin, he said.

"We should get to a point where we don't think badly of Bitcoin because criminals use Bitcoin," and part of the way to get there is to draw attention to its legitimate uses, he added.



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