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Executive Digest

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WINNIPEG - A judge examining the deaths of three children and a grandfather on remote northern Manitoba reserves says all First Nations deserve 911 service.

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Criminals hide dirty deeds from police



Det. Sgt. Kim Gross, the head of the Toronto Police Sex Crimes Unit

Nov 05 2015

TORONTO - Toronto police Det. Paul Krawczyk is posing as a pedophile in an online chat forum where anonymous men are sharing some of the most troubling thoughts the mind can fathom - from luring young children for sex to feeding them rape drugs.

"This person has told me ... they're interested sexually in 3-year-olds to 9-year-olds," says Krawczyk, a senior child exploitation investigator, reading a message sent on a "boy love" chat forum.

The online posters trade technical tips on how to hide their identities from police throughout.

"He's saying to use a particular chatting program that is known for its encryption."

A joint Toronto Star/Scripps News investigation has detailed how post-Snowden privacy measures - including highly advanced encryption and added search-warrant requirements - have allowed child molesters, drug dealers and organized crime members to hide their crimes from police.

While stronger privacy measures have



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addressed concerns about authorities snooping into our lives, police say they have had unintended consequences: the likelihood that criminals can evade justice because evidence is unattainable.

It raises an unanswered question of the digital age: how do we balance protecting personal privacy with the ability of police to investigate crime?

On the one hand, police warn that crimes can now unfold before them as they stand by handcuffed by time-consuming judicial bureaucracy or unbreakable encryption. On the other, privacy advocates say we are all better protected from criminal threats posed by everything from tyrannical governments to sophisticated criminals.

"Is the public ready to accept that there is a wall too high and a moat too deep ... for law enforcement and security agencies in Canada to access information that is a security concern to all of us?" asks Scott Tod, Ontario Provincial Police deputy commissioner.

"The Microsofts, the Googles, the Amazons, the large digital giants in the world, in my opinion, are setting the pace for that privacy discussion. ... But what about the security aspect? That's a discussion that's not happening."

The OPP can only now access about 20 per cent of the digital communications it collects with search warrants because of uncrackable encryption, Tod says.

And encrypted devices containing vital evidence are increasingly beyond the technical reach of police.

The OPP has only just started tracking how many devices investigators are unable to access. But anecdotally, they say a growing number are unbreakable - a trend heading swiftly in one direction.

"(This cellphone) may as well be a brick," says Toronto police's Krawczyk about a phone recently seized in a child exploitation case. "Finding that information is more difficult. Therefore, finding the offender is more



difficult. ... There are definitely child predators that get away."

In New York, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office says that in fewer than 12 months "roughly 111 iPhones ... were inaccessible."

Examples of investigations that hit brick walls because evidence was beyond reach, provided by police in Canada and the United States, include: A computer hard drive seized in Toronto that contains what police believe is a vast collection of child pornography that could provide evidence and help rescue victims; an encrypted cellphone containing communications that could assist in solving a murder case in the U.S.; and cases in which police couldn't intervene quickly enough because required warrants couldn't be obtained.

The RCMP points to a case in which they attempted to intercept encrypted emails among high-level drug traffickers.

"With judicial authorization in hand, the RCMP dedicated thousands of hours to this effort, but was ultimately not successful because of various technical and jurisdictional challenges," RCMP Sgt. Harold Pfeleiderer wrote in an email.

Privacy advocates, including U.S. tech giants, have made clear in public statements and by political lobbying that loosening privacy to assist police is a non-starter.

Calls for a "back door" that would allow police access to encrypted devices have been dismissed because technology experts say it would be exploited by hackers, organized crime and hostile foreign governments.

Even most within law enforcement acknowledge the damage caused by mass surveillance conducted by the American National Security Administration that was exposed in the Snowden leaks. And most agree that privacy concerns are legitimate and a backdoor encryption hole for police is problematic.

They also concede that they have failed to make their case to the public. Repeated requests produced little actual data on U.S. or Canadian investigations undermined by emerging privacy restrictions. In addition to the OPP, several agencies said they have just begun documenting the problem.

"I think we haven't done a good enough job in the past of really having the discussion publicly among the American public to say this is what we're trying to do," said Amy Hess, executive assistant director of the FBI's Science and Technology Branch.

The Spencer Decision

The number of children rescued by Toronto police has been cut in half since last year and even though the number of child exploitation investigations are rising, there has been a decline in arrests and charges, says Det. Sgt. Kim Gross, the head of the Toronto unit.

The reason, she says, is a requirement imposed by the Supreme Court last year in the Spencer decision that found Canadians have a reasonable expectation of online privacy in their "basic subscriber information," including their name, address and IP address.

Police are now required to obtain judicial orders to access those basics on a suspect - a process that can take up to a month - rather than the previous informal arrangement in which service providers handed it over within hours.

"We work that much harder and our results are not as good," Gross says. "Between the Spencer decision and encryption, it's a deadly combination."

The effects have been felt across Canadian law enforcement.

Since the decision, the number of production orders filed by OPP child exploitation investigators have doubled while charges against alleged offenders have been cut in half, says OPP Insp. Lisa Taylor, who heads the unit.

"You've got a toddler being victimized and you may have an IP address," she says. "Now you have to write a production order. You're looking at delays in that. It's not acceptable. Do we wait to find a child is abused in that time period?"

OPP officers liken it to stopping someone driving erratically and having to file a formal judicial request to obtain their name and address weeks later when the person has long since disappeared and any evidence has been lost.

Toronto police are even turning away tips about alleged child exploitation cases, says Gross.

"You can't triage tips because you can't get the information fast enough," she says. "The people who really suffer are children and families of these children. We're not going to suffer like those kids will suffer."

In August, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police passed a resolution that cited the Spencer decision as the reason some criminal investigations - sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud and "suspected extremism" - were not pursued. It called on the federal government to create a "reasonable law."


The unbreakable Apple

The latest Apple iPhone is perhaps the most ergonomically designed symbol of modern police frustration.

For police, the new operating system, which boasts unbreakable encryption, has transformed the cellphone into an expensive paperweight.

Even Apple says it can't crack the encryption, which means that police search warrants demanding the company's assistance aren't worth the paper they are printed on.

Case in point: Apple received a search warrant earlier this year requesting help to



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access content locked inside a cellphone belonging to Brittney Mills, a 29-year-old pregnant woman who was murdered in Baton Rouge, La., in April. In September, Apple's privacy and law enforcement compliance team wrote to Baton Rouge police that since the device was running iOS version 8 or later, the "extraction could not be completed."

Apple declined repeated interview requests. In Canada, it's the same story.

With previous versions of the iPhone, OPP deputy commissioner Scott Tod says his officers could get a warrant from a justice of the peace, fly to Apple's offices in California and get a seized phone opened. No more.

"We await a technical solution that would be ... provided to law enforcement in Canada ... to get by the pass code, again, with warrant," says Tod. "That's the discussion that needs to take place."

(Toronto Star/Script News)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29, 2015

Oct 29 2015

Quebec Public Security Minister Lise Theriault, who has been front-and-centre during the Val-d'Or aboriginal abuse crisis, is taking a leave of absence for health reasons.

"(Theriault) has health problems," said Theriault's spokeswoman, Emilie Simard. "Health issues are between her and her doctor. We wish her the best for a quick recovery."

Municipal Affairs Minister Pierre Moreau will step in for Theriault during her leave, the government announced Thursday.

Theriault has been on the defensive ever since news broke that several native women in the town of Val-d'Or, about 525 kilometres northwest of Montreal, accused provincial police officers of physical and sexual abuse going back several years.

Last week, in a rare public showing of emotion, Theriault cried during a news conference in which she was questioned about the affair.

(CBC News)

Oct 29 2015

OTTAWA - Neither Ottawa's police chief nor the head of the police association greeted the provincial government's proposed new regulations for so-called street checks with any enthusiasm Thursday.

Describing the draft regulations as "complex," Chief Charles Bordeleau said the would-be rules impose "significant new requirements" on police officers simply trying to doing their jobs.

Police Association president Matt Skof echoed that concern, suggesting the regulations would leave officers even more "frustrated."

On Wednesday, Ontario Minister of Community Safety Yasir Naqvi announced regulations that will prohibit police from stopping individuals at random on the street - police carding, as it's called - for the sole pur-

pose of collecting and storing information.

"We're saying that (a police stop) cannot be random, nor arbitrary, nor can it be based on race or the neighbourhood you live in," Naqvi said.

Bordeleau and Skof questioned the assumptions behind Naqvi's statement, saying police do not act arbitrarily or randomly in making street checks. "The Ottawa Police Service has always maintained that random and arbitrary street checks are illegal and are not practised by our officers," Bordeleau said.

Skof concurred, maintaining that Ottawa police "do not engage in arbitrary street checks."

He suggested the government has been listening to those who stand to benefit from restrictions on police street checks. "The most vocal opponents to the practice as it previously stood appear to have been given the biggest seat at the table."

Skof worried the "blanket policy" will force officers to document voluntary interactions between police and civilians in other ways, making police work even more complex and imposing even more paperwork. Encountering someone on the street, officers might realize they have not followed the new procedures - since they did not anticipate conducting a street check - and that will force them to document those interactions in their regular police reports, he said.

Skof was equally skeptical that the new regulations would shield officers from racial profiling complaints.

Bordeleau, meanwhile, said department

officials will review the draft regulations over the next few weeks "to determine the practical applications and project impacts on the scope, approach and budget."

In the meantime, "our officers will continue the current practice in place until such time as the ministry's new regulations are enacted."

(Ottawa Citizen)

Oct 29 2015

TORONTO - Toronto Police Deputy Chief Michael Federico had decided to retire after 40 years on the job.



That was last month.

Now he's signed an extension to stay as Chief Mark Saunders' right hand man.

Four policing sources tell The Toronto Sun the 62-year-old Federico did indicate he would retire at the end of 2015.

"For two weeks, he was retiring," an insider said, adding colleagues were planning his party.

But then duty called.

Sources say the Toronto Police Services Board stepped in and "offered him a new contract and he accepted it."

Mayor John Tory, who is a member of the police board, confirmed the new contract.



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"Deputy Federico is a decorated 40-year police veteran and an expert in the critically important area of how police interact with people in the midst of a mental-health crisis," Tory said in a statement. "The Toronto Police Service, and the city, are fortunate to have an experienced and dedicated leader protecting and serving our community."

It's believed to be a two-year extension, but details haven't been released. Federico, who's served as deputy since November 2012, earned \$243,469.38 last year.

The decision comes just after Saunders exchanged the roles of his deputies. Federico is now in charge of the Community Safety Command, which handles the day-to-day operations of the divisions and investigative offices, and Deputy Chief Peter Sloly runs the Operational Support Command, which includes communications and video services, court services, fleet and materials management, parking enforcement, professional standards and the police college.

A source said the board decided "they need an experienced hand to help Saunders grow into the job." Saunders hasn't commented, but a source said Federico's vast experience is something he wanted to keep.

Another source said while this is a positive move, it does stall some careers.

"There were competent people vying for a soon-to-be-vacant deputy position."

Some suggested for deputy included Insp. Shawna Coxon, Supt. Peter Lennox, Staff-Insp. Mario Di Tommaso, Staff-Insp. Greg McLane and 14 Division Unit Commander Frank Bergen.

They may now have to wait two more years or go elsewhere.
(Toronto Sun)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2015

Oct 30 2015

The number of collisions on GTA highways with HOV lanes sky-rocketed during the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games.

Police say collisions jumped by 73 per cent to 1,720 during the time the HOV lanes were in effect this year, compared with an average of 993 collisions during the same time period in the previous four years.

The lanes were in effect from June 29 - 11 days before the Pan Am Games opened - through July 26, the end of the Parapan Am Games.

OPP Sgt. Kerry Schmidt says police don't keep statistics on which lanes collisions occur.

Schmidt says the numbers reflect collisions that occurred on the stretch of road where HOV lanes existed during the games, but may not have occurred in the lanes themselves.

The HOV lanes were installed on the 400-series highways, the Queen Elizabeth Way, the Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway to speed up traffic, and get Pan Am officials and athletes to events faster.
(CBC News)

Oct 30 2015

University of Huddersfield investment psychology lecturer Dr Chris Street is making breakthroughs that are leading towards a clearer understanding of how humans tell lies and how their deceptions can be detected.

For more than 30 years it has been said

that we should trust our hunches and unconscious knowledge of body language. Yet his work, described in a new journal article, shows that we would be better off consciously relying on a single "cue", such as whether or not a person is plainly thinking hard.

But gathering reliable research data is a tricky proposition. To begin with, a set of lies and truths need to be collected. Ideally, participants should not be aware that they are taking part in experiments that are dealing with the subject of truth and lies. So Dr. Street and his colleague devised an ingenious and well-intentioned deception of their own that involved hiring a film studio in London and persuading passers-by to be interviewed for a "documentary" on tourism.

They were told by research assistants placed outside the studio that the film makers were running out of time and asked if, in addition to describing genuine travel experiences, they would talk about places they had not actually visited. Inside the studio, the speakers were then interviewed by a director who - they supposed - was unaware that they had agreed to lie on film.

"The idea was that they were lying to someone that they could potentially deceive. They were lying on behalf of another person, but the lie was spontaneous and told with an intention to mislead," said Dr. Street. The sequence of filmed interviews that resulted from the experiment constitutes a valuable body of material that is being made available to other researchers in what is still the relatively new field of human lie detection.

For more than 30 years, the standard approach to tapping the unconscious has been to use the "indirect lie detection" method.

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"People are asked to rate some behaviour that is indirectly related to deception," explained Dr. Street. "For example, does the speaker appear to be thinking hard or not? The researcher then converts all thinking-hard judgments into lie judgments and all not-thinking-hard judgments into truth judgments."

The fact that these indirect judgments give better accuracy than asking people to directly and explicitly rate statements as truth or lies has been taken as evidence that people have innate, unconscious knowledge about human deception. Dr Street and his co-researcher and author Dr Daniel Richardson, of University College London, have developed a different explanation, which they explore in their new article in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied.

"Indirect lie detection does not access implicit knowledge, but simply focuses the perceiver on more useful cues," write the authors. It is an argument that could have real-world significance, in the training of interrogators, for example.

"There has been a push in the literature suggesting that indirect lie detection works and the reason is that it is unconscious - so people should not be making reasoned judgments but relying on their gut feeling," said Dr. Street. "But if our account is correct, that is a very bad way to go."

He readily concedes that human lie detection - while a fascinating subject - requires a great deal more research and is a long way from infallibility.

"Typical accuracy rates are around 54%, reaching up to around 60% with training. So there is unlikely to be a one-size-fits-all strategy that gives us accuracy rates anything like what we would want in a legal setting. The field needs to start considering how to improve clues to deception, how to prevent raters from using less reliable clues, and to better understand how information about the current context plays into that judgment."

"We often think of nonverbal behaviour when we think of deception," continued Dr Street. "But it would be better to focus on the content of the tale people are selling us, and asking if it is consistent with other facts we know. But even then there is a large amount of room for error."

(EurekAlert/University of Huddersfield)

Oct 30 2015

VANCOUVER - B.C.'s new missing persons legislation is going to add a significant amount of work to the thousands of cases officers handle each year and it could end up back-firing, according to the Vancouver Police Department.

Currently, if a parent reports a teen missing, when the child comes home the parents can just call police and the file would be closed.

But starting next September officers will be required to do a "safe and well check" before they can close a file, to verify the person has been found with face-to-face contact.

Detective Const. Raymond Payette of the VPD says the new law will be difficult to manage.

"[The] pending legislative change is in some ways the largest challenge we're going to face in the new year," he said.

The new regulation is a result of the 2012 Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry by Wally Oppal.

B.C.'s Attorney General Suzanne Anton says police forces should be able to manage the increased workload.

"They've got good judgement," said Anton. "They can make priorities about when they need to get to a place."



Six officers in Vancouver's missing persons unit will investigate about 4380 missing

person reports this year, an average of 12 per day. Payette says 99.9 per cent of the people reported missing are located.

Speaking before the Vancouver Police Board, Payette also explained that the new "safe and well check" could backfire in the cases of high-risk missing people, especially if they also have a warrant for a petty crime like shoplifting.

Currently phone confirmation from a social service group or staff at supportive housing unit is all that's needed for police to cancel their investigation. But with the new face-to-face check policy, police would be compelled to take a person with a warrant into custody.

"Does that mean the supportive housing





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unit will not call us that she's back, because they don't want her arrested, which means we'll keep working a file," asked Payette.

"Or, I will be honest, this is my biggest fear - they won't call her in at all?"

Payette believes the safety of the missing person should be paramount in such cases.

The VPD has identified 10 people - all women with drug or mental health issues - who will account for 250 missing person reports this year alone.

"In the Downtown Eastside, if we get back into a situation where supportive housing units aren't calling them in as missing because they're worried we're going to arrest them when they come back, that's something we don't want to go back to."

(CBC News)

Oct 30 2015

DARTMOUTH, N.S. - Mounties say they have smashed a drug trafficking and money laundering ring that moved large amounts of cash and marijuana from British Columbia to Central and Eastern Canada.

Simultaneous raids were carried out Wednesday on six homes around Halifax and eight in Metro Vancouver, with five men and a woman arrested in Nova Scotia and seven men taken into custody in B.C.

Police say nearly 78 kilograms of marijuana was seized, along with more than \$117,000 in cash, weapons, ammunition, other drugs, and 14 vehicles.

The B.C. suspects have been flown to Halifax and charges against the alleged ring-leaders include conspiracy to traffic marijuana, possession of the proceeds of crime and money laundering.

Police say the sophisticated ring has ties to organized crime and members travelled via commercial airlines, to Halifax, St. John's, N.L., Toronto and Montreal, carrying drugs and cash in checked luggage.

The RCMP's Federal Serious Organized Crime Group estimates, including the latest busts, it has seized more than \$232,000 and almost 93 kilograms of marijuana since surveillance began five months ago.

Oct 30 2015

REGINA - Two people have been arrested after someone drove a stolen vehicle at a Regina police officer who had approached on foot to investigate.

The officer fired at the vehicle, which sped away, and was pursued as far as Tuxford outside the city.

A man and a woman, both in their 20s, were arrested.

Police say no one was hurt.

The firing of the gun, as well as the chase that followed, will be reviewed by the Regina Police Service.

Another review will be conducted by the Saskatchewan Police Commission.

Oct 30 2015

WINNIPEG - Manitoba RCMP have not yet determined whether an officer whose gun was stolen and used in a shooting had followed protocol for storing the weapon.

The gun was taken Oct. 23 from the officer's marked vehicle, which was parked outside his home.

Winnipeg police say the gun was used in a shooting hours later that left a 16-year-old girl in critical condition in hospital.

In a written statement, RCMP Chief Supt. Scott Kolody says rules require a duty firearm be secured and rendered inoperable when stored.

He says whether the gun last week was properly stored is a question that will be answered by an independent criminal investigation being carried out by Winnipeg police.

The officer whose firearm was stolen remains on duty pending the outcome of the investigation.

Oct 30 2015

HYTE, Alta. - A Mountie suffered non life-threatening injuries when he was dragged by a car for about 50 metres in northwestern Alberta.

It happened at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday when Beaverlodge RCMP officers were called about a domestic dispute northwest of Hythe.

A Mountie spotted a car matching the description in the complaint and saw a man and woman sitting in the driver's seat of a dirty

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black four-door car.

During the stop, the officer asked the man to step out of the car, but the driver allegedly put the car in gear and quickly accelerated away with the officer dragged for 50 metres before he let go.

The man is described as white, about 45 to 50 years old, scruffy with a grey beard and wearing a black jacket and baseball cap.

The woman is described as white, about 45 to 50 years old with chin length blonde hair. (CFFR)

Oct 30 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton police have unveiled a memorial for canine officers killed in the line of duty.



The statue of a shepherd-style dog will honour five members of the canine unit, including Caesar, a five-year veteran of the force shot by a suicidal man who had a shotgun near a schoolyard.

Other dogs honoured in the memorial include Brix, struck by a police vehicle that was pursuing a suspect; Titus, hit by a car while chasing an armed robbery suspect; and Arry, killed when he jumped over a three-foot wall in search of robbery suspects.

The most recent loss came on Oct. 7, 2013, when police dog Quanto was fatally stabbed by a suspect.

His death led to the implementation of Quanto's Law, new federal legislation that means anyone convicted of intentionally killing a service animal can now face up to five years in jail.

The monument cost \$40,000, and it was paid for by donations. It is located at the Vallevand Kennels, a private EPS facility. (CTV Edmonton)

Oct 30 2015

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service will not make changes to its controversial street check policy following an internal review.

Amid concerns about racial profiling, Ontario is moving to ban random street checks, commonly known as "carding." But Edmonton police insist that street checks aren't a concern here.

"No, we don't think it's a problem here," said Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht Friday. "We don't randomly check people."

"And I think that's the difference between the two. Here if we check somebody it's because we have reasonable probable grounds that they've committed a crime, or

we have reasonable suspicion, or it's just basic community policing where we're out there talking to people but we're not just randomly checking people at all."

Each year, Edmonton police stop, question and document tens of thousands of citizens who are not under arrest.

Edmonton police called a news conference to defend street checks, which local critics say are just as discriminatory as they are in Ontario and should be abolished. Insp. Dan Jones told reporters an internal review showed street checks in Edmonton are being handled properly.

"The review we did -- we feel that we as an organization are absolutely following along with fair and equitable policing across the board," said Jones.

The Ontario government announced earlier this week it will ban all random and arbitrary police stops. It will also require police to inform people upfront that stops are voluntary and provide documentation and a reason for the stop.

The policy was the result of province-wide public consultations sparked by widespread criticism about the practice.

In Edmonton, police say street check practices are regularly reviewed with legal advisers and department staff, taking into account issues like equity, diversity and human rights.

Community groups, such as Native Counselling Services and the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, are also consulted, police say.

"They're not getting complaints," Jones said. "In fact, in speaking with people from Boyle Street yesterday, they appreciate that we go out and talk to the community."

Teresa Strong called street checks a "life saver" that kept her safe during 18 years on the street.

A former gang member and addict, who now works with the DECSA Transitions program helping others get their lives together, said she was carded a few hundred times, often by Jones, who used to patrol the streets.

"I can say first hand that Dan saved my life," declared Strong.

Strong echoed comments from Jones, who said random checks allowed him as a police officer to build relationships with people on the streets. For some, it might even be the last point of contact before they disappear, so the stops help in a subsequent police investigation.

"If you're not in trouble and you're not living the lifestyle, you're never going to get bothered. Like I never get bothered by the police now that I am sober and clean, and being a part of society rather than a menace," said Strong.

Critics of street checks have called for rules requiring police to inform people upfront that they have the right to walk away without co-operating.

But Jones rejected that idea, suggesting opening a conversation with a person during a street check would defeat the purpose.

"If I walked up to some of these individu-

als and said, 'You have the right not to talk to me,' how is that engaging?" Jones asked.

Alberta Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley said Thursday the province is unlikely to follow Ontario's lead.

Ganley said she has been in contact with Knecht and other police departments to make sure they are following police guidelines. (CBC News)

Oct 30 2015

As Justin Trudeau's Liberals prepare to tackle the task of legalizing weed, one challenge they'll face is how to crack down on those who light-up before getting behind the wheel.



Clive Weighill, president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, said he's spoken with police in the U.S. where marijuana has been legalized.

"We have talked to our counterparts in Colorado, and this is very preliminary, but they have seen an increase of impaired driving with marijuana use," he said. "But it's so preliminary yet. It could be that the police are looking for it a bit more because it's legalized."

Trudeau hasn't revealed exactly how he plans to fulfill his election promise and it's not clear whether Parliament would limit how much someone could smoke before driving. But looking at how states like Colorado and Washington deal with drivers who've smoked marijuana could provide a blueprint.

One problem: police can't easily test a driver suspected of being high.

"We don't have a current instrument recognized by the courts to quantify the amount of marijuana in someone's blood system if we suspect they are impaired," said Weighill. "We have to go by the symptoms. We use a drug recognition system much like it used to be before we had breathalyzers and intoxilyzers."

Washington limits the amount of active THC, the chemical in pot that makes you high, in a driver's blood at a maximum of five nanograms per millilitre of blood. Officials there believe it to be equivalent to a blood alcohol level of 0.08.

A similar law was put into place in Colorado, which also legalized marijuana, but to enforce it officers need to order a blood test.

Weighill, who is also Saskatoon's police chief, said police have a hard time convincing a Canadian court to order a blood sample from someone believed to be impaired.

"It's a very long process for us to get au-

thorization to take blood from somebody," he said. "Unless it is a fatal accident or something along those lines we don't have a roadside system like we do for alcohol."

Fatal crashes in Washington only increased slightly after legalization, but the number of drivers involved in those crashes who tested positive for THC doubled from six per cent in 2010 to 12 per cent in 2014.

(Global News/CP)

Oct 30 2015

WINDSOR - You don't have to talk to the police. With new legislation setting strict rules on how police can do street checks, they'll have to remind you of that almost every time they approach you.



But Windsor's police chief calls the province's plan "negligent," saying it will handcuff officers trying to question suspicious-looking people or stop a crime before it happens.

"It will really impact front-line policing," said Chief Al Frederick. "They're telling officers drive down the street and keep your eyes closed. They might as well stay in the station and just respond once the crime occurs, because that's really what they're asking us to do."

The province this week announced the draft regulation that also bans random carding or street checks, saying it will "protect civil liberties and support community safety."

There will be a 45-day public consultation on the regulations, which were drafted after racial profiling controversies in other cities. The rules will start taking effect in different stages next year.

There were public meetings about the regulations before they were drafted, but the closest one to Windsor was in London. Frederick said the province did not consult Windsor police on the plan.

"We asked for that and it didn't happen," he said. "I think it's important if they want to get a cross-section of the voices of Ontario that they reach every corner of Ontario. They did not."

The legislation will require police to tell people they are not legally required to talk to an officer or remain in the officer's presence. If police are collecting information, they must tell the person why.

The regulations also ban police from arbitrarily stopping people and collecting information about them.

Frederick said Windsor police do stop people on the street for various reasons but

added he doesn't consider them random. He said those reasons could include investigating a suspicious-looking person or checking on sex offenders.

"Our stops are all based on suspicious activity or are mandated through our other policies and procedures, like the sexual assault registry," said Frederick.

After stopping someone on the street, he said, telling them they don't have to talk to police will essentially kill any potential investigation.

"The officer himself is having the responsibility of saying 'you don't have to engage with me if you don't want to,'" said Frederick. "That in itself is going to render the process pretty well null and void. The people will simply walk away at that point."

Frederick said the Windsor Police Service already informs people of their rights on its website and in pamphlets. On the street is not the place for it, he said.

"If you're driving a car you must stop," said Frederick. "If you're on the street, you know your rights, you don't have to stop and engage with the officer. But to expect an officer to do that on the street is an unreasonable request."

Windsor police average 1,265 street checks a year, according to a report released at this week's police services board meeting. In 2014, officers submitted 953 street check reports.

The report also states that the drugs and guns unit has executed 66 search warrants so far this year. Information gleaned from street checks led to 18 of those search warrants. If people are told from the start they don't have to talk to police and they walk away, said Frederick, those investigations might never have happened.

"Maybe 18 different search warrants aren't granted, and guns and drugs aren't taken off the street," he said. "This is how important the practice is."

(Windsor Star)

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2015**

Oct 31 2015

TORONTO - Vice Media is waging a legal battle with the RCMP after the digital media company was ordered to produce all communications between its employees and a man facing terrorism charges, said Vice Canada's head of content.

The Mounties issued a production order to two of Vice's offices in February, said Patrick McGuire. A production order is similar to a search warrant.

Police demanded "any notes and all records of communications" between reporter Ben Makuch, or any employee of Vice Media, and alleged Islamic State militant Farah Mohamed Shirdon, Vice reported.

In September, the RCMP issued a Canada-wide arrest warrant against Shirdon, a former resident of Calgary. He has been charged

in absentia with several offences, including participation in the activity of a terrorist group and instructing others to carry out terrorist activity.

Vice News has published several interviews with Shirdon, including one on video.

The head of content at Vice Canada, Patrick McGuire, said that the company is going to court to dismiss the production order.

Vice isn't trying to dismiss the order to protect Shirdon, but rather to protect the relationship between a reporter and a source, McGuire said.

The RCMP did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Oct 31 2015

EDMONTON - RCMP report that 11 people have died in several separate collisions on northern Alberta roads in the short span of 13 hours.



Mounties in Two Hills were called to a crash between a car and a truck near Willingdon, 110 kilometres northwest of Edmonton, at about 8 p.m. on Friday that killed a 44-year-old man who was driving the car.

Only a few hours later, officers from the same detachment responded to a single vehicle rollover that killed four of the seven people in the vehicle and sent the remaining three to hospital.

One person died in a third crash near Evansburg later in the morning, and another two died after being ejected from a vehicle during a rollover near Peace River.

Shortly after nine on Saturday morning, three people who were in a pickup that collided with a gravel truck died in a collision west of Edmonton near Spruce Grove.

RCMP Cpl. Leigh Drinkwater says all of the crashes remain under investigation.

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2015**

Nov 01 2015

BROCKVILLE, Ont. - A 20-year veteran of the Ontario Provincial Police faces a string of charges after an investigation by the force's Professional Standards Bureau.

Police say Const. George Duke, 52 of Brockville is charged with theft over \$5,000, possession of property obtained by crime, breach of trust and four weapons counts.

A police news release issued Saturday provides no details of the investigation or any specifics on the allegations that led to the charges against Duke.

He is due to appear in a Brockville court on December 11.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Nov 02 2015

WINNIPEG - Manitoba's attorney general says the province will make it easier for people to get protection orders following the brutal beating death of a young mother.

Selena Keeper was denied a protection order against her former boyfriend five months before he was charged with killing her.

Gord Mackintosh says protection orders aren't always as accessible as they should be.

He says the province is determined to improve the application process for those at risk.

Mackintosh says Manitoba is looking for feedback from people who have had experience with applying for protection orders before making changes.

Keeper sought an order in April but was denied because a justice of the peace found she wasn't in imminent danger.

Nov 02 2015

MIDDLESEX CENTRE, Ont. - Police say they've arrested a man who allegedly abducted a child, crashed his vehicle into police cruisers and fled on foot.

Ontario Provincial Police say they received information from Waterloo Regional Police alleging a man had taken a child during a domestic incident on Sunday and headed westward in a SUV.

Police say they spotted the vehicle on Highway 401 near London, Ont., around 8 p.m. and tried to stop it.

They say the driver fled from officers before allegedly crashing into two police cruisers, striking the median before barreling into the ditch and rolling.

They allege the man took off on foot while a one-year-old girl was ejected from the car, receiving non-life-threatening injuries.

A 38-year-old man from Cambridge, Ont., is facing 10 charges, including abandoning a child, driving while a passenger under 16 is not wearing a seatbelt, resisting a police officer and dangerous operation of a vehicle causing bodily harm.

Nov 02 2015

NEW YORK - Calls by police groups to boycott Quentin Tarantino's "The Hateful Eight" are putting pressure on one of December's most anticipated releases and inserting one of Hollywood's top directors into a pitched cultural battle.

In recent days, a growing number of police groups have called for the boycott of the upcoming Weinstein Co. release. After local police organizations in New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, the National Association of Police Organiza-

tions recently joined the ranks opposing Tarantino after remarks the director made during a recent rally against police brutality.

"We ask officers to stop working special assignments or off-duty jobs, such as providing security, traffic control or technical advice for any of Tarantino's projects," the organization said in a statement. "We need to send a loud and clear message that such hateful rhetoric against police officers is unacceptable."

Tarantino attended the Brooklyn rally against brutality on Oct. 24 where he told The Associated Press: "I'm a human being with a conscience. And if you believe there's murder going on then you need to rise up and stand up against it. I'm here to say I'm on the

side of the murdered."

Tarantino's comments drew condemnation from, among others, New York Police Department Commissioner William Bratton. "Shame on him," he said, speaking shortly after NYPD officer Randolph Holder recent fatal shooting in East Harlem. "There are no words to describe the contempt I have for him and his comments at this particular time."

Nov 02 2015

QUEBEC - The head of Quebec's permanent anti-corruption squad is asking for the unit to be turned into an independent police force.

Robert Lafreniere told a legislative committee today in Quebec City that his five-year

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mandate should also be renewed.

He says the anti-corruption squad should be separate from all other police forces in the province and have full jurisdiction over its investigations.

The anti-corruption unit was formed in 2011 after a series of high-level corruption and fraud allegations surfaced in the province involving municipal and provincial politicians, the construction sector and organized crime.

The unit has made about 150 arrests since 2011 including the ex-mayors of Montreal and neighbouring Laval.

Nov 02 2015

VANCOUVER - B.C.'s police watchdog has cleared a Vancouver officer of any wrongdoing after a woman's death in custody.

The Independent Investigations Office says evidence it collected does not suggest that the officer committed a criminal offence.

It says in a report that police were called to a home about a domestic disturbance on Dec. 15, 2014 and took a woman into custody.

She fell unconscious in the back of a police van and was transported to hospital, where she died eight days later.

The IIO says the woman was likely impaired when she was arrested, but did not appear to need medical attention.

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Nov 03 2015

VANCOUVER - A Vancouver police officer who has won accolades for his actions both on and off duty has been sentenced for punching a cyclist during a March 2013 arrest.

Const. Ismail Bhabha, 41, was found guilty in August of one count of assault, and during a hearing in provincial court in Surrey on Tuesday was given a conditional discharge and six months of probation.

In March 2013, Bhabha and another officer stopped cyclist Andishae Akhavan-Kharazi for riding without a helmet and allegedly running a red light.

As Akhavan-Kharazi was being handcuffed, Bhabha punched him once in the head, allegedly for resisting by trying to pull his arm away.

Akhavan-Kharazi suffered a chipped tooth, cut lip and neck and jaw injuries.

A friend of Akhavan-Kharazi filmed the assault and later posted it online.

In his reasons for judgment following the trial, Judge Richard Miller said handcuffing Akhavan-Kharazi was unnecessary, unlawful and a "serious, humiliating and undoubtedly scary thing to do."

Defence lawyer Kevin Woodall characterized the offence as an error of law and an error of judgment.

"The accused believed - incorrectly, in the court's view - that he had the power to handcuff and detain Mr. Andishae Akhavan-Kharazi in order to confirm his identity," Woodall said.

Bhabha did not commit the act because of malice, bad temper or animosity, Woodall said.

(The Province)

Nov 03 2015

INNISFIL, Ont. - He doesn't appear to have used that brain the Wizard gave him.



Police say officers dispatched to a fight call early Saturday in Innisfil, Ont., found a man dressed as the Tin Man from "The Wizard of Oz" being treated for injuries.

South Simcoe police say witnesses at the Stroud Arena - who were dressed as Dorothy, Glinda the Good Witch and the Wicked Witch of the East - said the Tin Man had been punched by his friend the Scarecrow.

In a release, police say "the Scarecrow didn't have the brains to stick around, and ran away with the Cowardly Lion."

Turns out "the Tin Man didn't have the heart to lay charges against his friend, and refused to tell the officers anything." He was treated for minor injuries.

Police say they believe alcohol was involved.

Nov 03 2015

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department is asking the public for ideas as it sets its strategic goals for the rest of the decade.

"We need input from our community on our priorities, goals and what your police department should be focusing on for the next five years," Chief Constable Adam Palmer said on Tuesday.

"It doesn't matter whether you live, work or play in Vancouver, we're interested in what citizens have to say.

While the VPD has long devised five-year plans, it hasn't asked for public input in more than 10 years.

Residents can submit their views through email, an online form or filling out a form at one of the city's libraries, community centres and community policing centres.

(The Province)

Nov 03 2015

SHERWOOD PARK, Alta. - A central Alberta man who dragged a Mountie who had stopped him for speeding in a pickup truck has been sentenced to 18 months in jail.

Christopher Ferguson, who is 24 and from Three Hills, has also been given a 15-month driving ban to be served after his release.

He pleaded guilty last June to dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm and obstructing or resisting a peace officer.

The seven-year RCMP veteran was dragged for about 100 metres in May 2014 after he pulled over Ferguson east of Sherwood Park, Alta.

The officer's injuries were not life-threatening, but he did require surgery.

Police say there was a young child in the truck with Ferguson, who was later found at an acreage near Three Hills.

The child, who was not with him when he was arrested, was found safe with family.

Police said at the time that the officer had approached the truck's window so he could speak to Ferguson. During that conversation, Ferguson sped off before the Mountie could free himself.

Other officers chased Ferguson, but he didn't stop and smashed through a fence in a subdivision.

(CKGY, CP)

Nov 03 2015

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard says a woman will be named the independent observer of an investigation into alleged police abuse of aboriginal women.

Couillard told reporters today that he's narrowed down the list of possibilities to two or three people and hopes to announce the appointment soon.

Eight Quebec provincial police officers have been suspended amid allegations of assault, sexual misconduct and other abuses of power against aboriginal women.

The alleged incidents are reported to have occurred in the northwestern Quebec town of Val d'Or over several years and were the subject of a Radio-Canada investigative report.

Montreal police have been tasked with investigating the allegations.

Couillard is scheduled to meet with the chief of the Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador on Wednesday in Montreal to discuss the allegations.

Nov 03 2015

MOOSE JAW, Sask. - A police officer in Moose Jaw, Sask., has been ordered to stop using Twitter after he tweeted comments about a female prisoner that many on social media didn't find that funny.

His tweet read: "Adult female prisoner asked officers to pass around a hat today to help her with bail money."

The tweet also included the hashtags "short of the goal," "she's still here," and "we don't wear hats."

"All of a sudden there were a lot of complaints that seemed to be coming through our Twitter account," said police chief Rick Bourassa.

"I saw the complaints about it and we deleted that message that evening and I sent out an apology to people for the content. It just doesn't reflect the values that we have. We have a very strong sense of treating people with dignity and respect."

Bourassa says the Moose Jaw police service is working on a formal social media policy to replace the current informal policy.

He has spoken to the officer who sent the tweet and that officer won't be allowed to use the Twitter account until the matter is resolved.

(CJME)

Nov 03 2015

VANCOUVER - VPD Chief Constable Adam Palmer says the force is looking at hiring more officers.

"For 2016, we are looking for a status quo budget, so we are looking to not have any further cutbacks, we are looking to keep our budget where it is at. Of course, it will go up because of collective bargaining increases. As far as increasing the number of officers in the VPD, we are going to do some pretty intensive research on that, so when we go forward for our budget next year, we'll have a good business case, and we will see where we need to be."

The City of Vancouver's 2015 budget shows the VPD didn't fill 59 vacancies, in a bid to save money.

They avoided layoffs through attrition.

The VPD's total budget is \$257 million.

(AM 730)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4 2015

Nov 04 2015

CALGARY - Calgary police shot and wounded a man Tuesday afternoon after what they say was a deliberate hit-and-run involving a cyclist in the downtown core.

Police say no officers were hurt but the suspect was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and the cyclist was in serious condition and undergoing surgery.

"The shocking, wanton recklessness of this is something all Calgarians are going to be concerned about," police chief Roger Chaffin told a news conference Tuesday night.

After the cyclist was hit and even as he was being attended by EMS, police say the suspect returned to the scene and drove his vehicle - a suspected stolen, black SUV - directly at officers when they tried to stop him.

One officer had to take evasive action and dive into a police vehicle to gain cover.

He narrowly avoided being struck, but the police van was hit by the suspect vehicle and was significantly damaged.

That's when another officer opened fire, wounding the suspect.

A woman with no injuries was also taken into custody while a third potential suspect

remains at large.

Police also say they are investigating the possibility of a connection between this incident and a series of violent incidents that occurred throughout the day including attempted car thefts and dangerous driving incidents, involving a number of suspects and vehicles.

Nov 04 2015

WINNIPEG - A judge examining the deaths of three children and a grandfather on remote northern Manitoba reserves says all First Nations deserve 911 service.

Judge Tracey Lord is recommending coordinated firefighting training for First Nations communities and greater priority given to fire safety inspections.

In her final report released today, she says 911 service should also be established in all First Nation communities.

But Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson says that won't help if there is no one properly trained to answer the call.

The house fire in St. Theresa Point in January 2011 killed two-month-old Errabella Harper.

A second fire about two months later in God's Lake Narrows killed Demus James and his two grandchildren.

Nov 04 2015

VICTORIA - The Victoria Police Department is asking municipal councillors to approve a two-year, \$500,000 pilot project to create a better mental-health team, a new item in the 2016 budget.

At special joint meeting of Victoria and Esquimalt councillors Wednesday, police Chief Frank Elsner said people with mental-health issues trigger many calls for police assistance. A new way of responding is needed, he argued.

"Police are not the best people to deal with people in mental-health crises," Elsner told councillors. "But we still get the calls."

"Police are the first ones there and the last ones standing," he said at the meeting held in Esquimalt to present the department's provisional budget.

Overall, the department is asking for councillors to approve a 2016 budget of \$50,629,102 - a 3.57 per cent increase over the previous budget of \$48,884,183.

Of the requested increase, \$1,392,918, or 2.85 per cent, is due to expected inflationary items such as \$1,061,000 in salary hikes and \$120,000 in DNA testing costs downloaded from the RCMP.

But the mental-health unit, along with a \$79,000 audit operation to develop ways to measure success of police programs and \$23,000 to assist the continuation of a proven restorative-justice program, for a combined total of \$352,000, are all new items.

Elsner said the police department currently has one over-worked officer who collaborates with Island Health and provincial social workers on mental-health issues. It seems to be working out and calls from the

public for assistance seem to have diminished slightly, he said.

But Elsner would like to see two more officers working to create a "wrap-around" response. So, instead of police simply taking a person in the middle of a psychotic episode to the hospital to be stabilized and then released back to the street, officers might assist with follow-up questions and assistance.

Also, adding the two officers would not necessarily result in a bigger department. They would become permanent only if councillors agree after two years that the program was a success.

(Victoria Times Colonist)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Nov 05 2015

VANCOUVER - A rappelling Vancouver police dog has become the latest Internet sensation after a photo of his impressive skills made headlines as far away as Australia.



The Vancouver Police Department posted a photo of service dog Niko, a five-year-old purebred German shepherd, in the middle of a training scenario in which he's rappelling down a wall with his handler, Const. Dan Ames.

While Niko was harnessed in a full body sling, it didn't seem to be enough support for the pooch, so he clung to Ames's leg to steady himself.

The photo, posted on Oct. 22, is appropriately captioned "Hey dad ... This rappelling? Yuh, I'm not a fan."

The picture has since garnered more than 3,400 likes, more than 2,800 shares and nearly 300 comments. It's been covered on news sites in the U.S. as well as Down Under.

"It's broken all our social media records, that's for sure," said VPD spokeswoman Const. Sandra Glendinning.

(The Province)

Nov 05 2015

HALIFAX - A Halifax jail guard is facing drug trafficking charges at the largest provincial jail in Nova Scotia.

The RCMP say in a news release that a

39-year-old corrections officer was arrested as part of an investigation into drug trafficking at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility.

Police say the investigation began in July and the employee was allegedly moving drugs within the jail.

He was arrested Wednesday in Shubenacadie without incident and is set to appear in court on Dec. 7.

The man, whose name was not released by the RCMP, is being charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, possessing proceeds of crime and breach of trust.

Nov 05 2015

HALIFAX - It's not just the oil and gas sector luring easterners west for work.



As touted in a multi-platform advertising campaign, Edmonton Police Service recruits will return to Halifax later this month to recruit more candidates to move west.

According to statistics from the Edmonton Police Service, the force finds more out-of-province recruits per capita from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick than almost anywhere else in Canada.

Thirty-two Maritime residents have been hired to work in Edmonton since 2009.

In 2014 and so far in 2015, most of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) recruits have been locals from Alberta. The total number from the East Coast is comparatively small.

However, when population is considered, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick each offered more recruits per capita than British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec combined.

"We travel out of the city and province for two primary reasons," said Cheryl Shepard, media relations officer with the EPS, in an email. "The first is to increase the number of applications submitted to the Edmonton Police Service to get the best quality officer."

"The second is to increase interest and the profile of a policing career," she said.

Edmonton police hired seven Nova Scotians in the past two years. By comparison, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) hired three in 2014 and 22 in 2015.

Those acquisitions are offset, though, by 19 HRP officer retirements or resignations.

One main difference between the two cities is the rate of population change: Halifax's population growth is relatively stagnant. Edmonton is among the fastest growing cities in Canada, and it needs more officers to police the extra people.

(CBC News)

Nov 05 2015

OTTAWA - Canada's new justice minister says her "sleeves are already rolled up" and she's looking forward to tackling several issues in her portfolio, including doctor-assisted suicide legislation and calls for an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

Jody Wilson-Raybould told CTV's Canada AM Thursday morning she has met with some of the officials and is going through the briefing material they've prepared for her to decide on her first priorities.

"Doctor-assisted suicide is certainly a priority that we need to move forward with sensitivity and urgency," she said from Ottawa.

"Also, the inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, this is a concrete commitment we made in our platform and certainly again one that needs to be approached with sensitivity, openness and honesty."

Several First Nations groups have applauded Wilson-Raybould's appointment as minister of justice and attorney general, noting she's the first aboriginal person to hold the post.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde says it's worthwhile to point out that Wilson-Raybould wasn't "pigeon-holed" into the ministry of aboriginal affairs simply because she is indigenous.

"We have First Nations people who are doctors, lawyers, business people, scientists, and we're doing a whole range of things, so it's

really good to see that the prime minister saw fit to put her into a very key role, which doesn't just deal with First Nations issues but overall justice," Bellegarde told Canada AM Thursday.

He added that Wilson-Raybould brings a great deal of experience and education to the table, and says she is knowledgeable not only in common law and civil law but also First Nations law.

"That's huge. So it's a really strong statement and I'm really happy to see her being appointed," he said.

Wilson-Raybould is a rookie MP who worked briefly as a Crown prosecutor before serving as the regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations from 2009 to 2015.

She also served as adviser on the B.C. Treaty Commission, and focused on the advancement of First Nations governance, access to land and resources, and improved education and health.

She is a member of the We Wai Kai Nation and uses Puglaas as her Twitter handle, which is the native name given to her by her grandmother. The word means "a woman born to noble people" in the Kwak'waka language spoken by We Wai Kai Nation people.

Wilson-Raybould says there is a sense of optimism in the new government and she is grateful to be a part of it.

"I said yesterday I'm incredibly proud to be an aboriginal person and to be a Canadian and to be given the honour and privilege of this portfolio and the responsibility that comes with it," she said.

(CTV News)

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