

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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WINNIPEG - The Manitoba government has announced new legislation to recognize post-traumatic stress disorder as a work-related illness, which will extend coverage to all employees who are eligible under the Workers Compensation Board.

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TORONTO - The Crown has dropped privately laid assault charges against former federal cabinet minister Julian Fantino in an alleged incident 42 years ago.

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Don't rush to judge chief: Victoria police board



Dec 22 2015

VICTORIA - Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board is asking the public not to rush to judgment or speculate as the RCMP investigates allegations against the chief constable.

Police complaint commissioner Stan Lowe announced last week that RCMP Chief Supt. Sean Bourrie will lead two Police Act investigations into eight breach-of-trust allegations against Chief Const. Frank Elsner, who has stepped aside and is on paid leave.

Elsner is alleged to have contacted a

witness during an internal investigation and provided misleading information to an investigator.

Lowe has said Elsner is also accused of workplace harassment by four employees of the Victoria Police Department.

Earlier this month, Elsner apologized and said he was "truly sorry and humiliated" after a police-board investigation found Twitter messages he'd sent to another officer's wife were inappropriate.

Following an in-camera meeting on Monday, the board asked the public on Tues-



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day to allow the investigation to proceed and to respect "the interests of those directly affected."

The board has referred questions and clarifications to Lowe's office and a public-relations firm that says on its website it specializes in "crisis communications and government relations."

Police board co-chairwoman and Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins said deputy chief Del Manak will immediately become acting chief.

"It's tragic," Desjardins said. "I know the community is concerned. I know there are members of that police department who are hurting."

A notice for investigation issued by Lowe alleges Elsner provided misleading information to an investigator and contacted a witnesses during an internal investigation, including the officer whose wife the chief had messaged over Twitter.

"I think the commissioner described that he feels these allegations are extremely serious," said deputy police complaint commissioner Rollie Woods in an interview. "That's the way we are treating it."

Elsner has not been available for comment. He apologized on Dec. 6 after a police-board investigation found Twitter messages he'd sent to another officer's wife were inappropriate.

Lowe said in a statement that he received more information from Victoria's police union about four employees alleging workplace harassment by the chief related to ongoing conduct starting in early 2014.

In addition to asking that the chief's conduct be investigated by the RCMP, Lowe has asked retired judges Carol Baird Ellan and Ian Pitfield to look into the separate allegations and decide whether misconduct is involved.

Lowe set out five aspects in his order for launching an external investigation against

Elsner, saying that if substantiated, they would constitute misconduct.

He said that could mean Elsner engaged with the spouse of an officer under his command, provided misleading information to an investigator and contacted a witness during an internal investigation.

Woods said the decision to proceed with the internal investigation includes allegations that Elsner contacted a Victoria police officer about his wife and provided the officer with information that convinced him a further investigation was not required.

"Information provided later on in the internal investigation report suggested that the chief constable provided misleading information to his member that contributed to him making the decision not to ask for an investigation," said Woods.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 17, 2015

Dec 17 2015

TORONTO - An independent review has found that a controversial hair analysis program in Toronto that tested for drug and alcohol use was "inadequate and unreliable" for use in child protection and criminal proceedings.

The program - called Motherisk Drug Testing Laboratory - was run by the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children.

The review, which was ordered by the Ontario government last November, found that between 2005 and 2015 the laboratory did not meet internationally recognized forensic standards.

Susan Lang, a retired appeal court justice who led the review, says the use of Motherisk's hair-testing evidence in child protection and criminal proceedings has "serious implications" for the fairness of those proceedings and warrants additional review.

In April, children's aid societies were told to immediately stop using the program.

At that time, the Ontario government said the review of the Motherisk program would be expanded to all tests done at the laboratory over the past five years.

Last year, Ontario's highest court set aside a criminal conviction on the basis of differing expert opinions about a particular hair-testing method previously used by Motherisk.

Dec 17 2015

OTTAWA - The prime minister says there's potential for a bit of revenue from legalizing marijuana, but the federal government isn't looking for a financial windfall.

Justin Trudeau says any money that flows to public coffers through taxation of pot should go towards addiction treatment, mental health support and education programs - not general revenues.

In a roundtable interview Trudeau said that for his party legalization of marijuana

has always been about public health and safety, not about making money.

The Liberals have promised to legalize, regulate and restrict access to marijuana to keep it out of the hands of children while denying criminals the financial profits.

The new system of marijuana sales and distribution would include appropriate federal and provincial excise taxes.

However, Trudeau cautions that taxing pot too much would fuel the black market, something that resulted from heavy taxation of tobacco cigarettes.

Dec 17 2015

WINNIPEG - One of the first cases in Manitoba of a driver being accused of being impaired from smoking marijuana has ended in an acquittal.

Judge Cynthia Devine ruled that while she had no doubt Tyler Manaigre smoked up before he got behind the wheel of his vehicle, it's not clear his marijuana use had any significant impact on his motor skills.

Court was told Manaigre was pulled over by RCMP Cpl. Terry Sundell in November 2013 because he was driving about 20 kilometres an hour below the speed limit - no other driving infractions were recorded.

Sundell, who had recently finished a course in drug recognition, said his suspicions were raised by the slower driving, even though it was a dark winter's night.

Manaigre admitted he had smoked about half a gram of pot that night but said he felt like he was OK to drive.

Sundell testified Manaigre did not perform well on some standard field sobriety tests such as balancing on one leg and touching the nose, and also had mixed results in specific drug evaluation tests.

"People that are sober and have no disabilities do not perform poorly on these examinations," he told court.

But Devine wasn't so sure. She said there was nothing about Manaigre's driving that night that speaks to possible impairment and that the mixed results on his various tests don't provide a clear picture of his status.

"The accused in this case did well on several aspects of the tests and not as well on others," said the judge. "It is also difficult to know how a completely sober person would perform on several of these tests. The presumptive statement of the officer that sober people do not have difficulty with these tests is not helpful."

She said the law requires her to find there was more than just "marijuana use" but actual impairment in order to convict.

"I am satisfied he consumed marijuana. I am even satisfied that he felt the effects of the marijuana at some point. But I am not satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that his ability to drive was impaired, even to a slight degree, which is what is required in a driving impaired case."

(Winnipeg Free Press)



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Dec 17 2015

MONTREAL - A Montreal police sergeant faces a five-day suspension after slamming a suspect's head against his patrol car and lying about it in his arrest report.

The sergeant's colleague, now retired, also faces disciplinary action for using excessive force during the same 2011 incident.

In a decision handed down this month, Quebec's police ethics commission determined the officers showed poor judgment during a routine arrest in September 2011.

That night, Sgt. Laurent Lisio and his partner spotted a group walking down St-Laurent Blvd. sipping cans of beer and pulled up to them in their car. After one of the beer-drinking men refused to give the officers his address, they called for backup and started handcuffing him.

When he struggled to break from the officers' grip, Lisio slammed his head into squad car three times. While writing his report of the arrest, Sgt. Lisio knowingly omitted this crucial fact, according to the ethics ruling.

As the arrest unfolded, Sgt. Jean-Luc Gagnon asked a friend of the suspect to step away from the scene. When she refused, he shoved her into a parking meter, causing injuries to her ribs and hip. The commission ruled this was unnecessary and that the officer should have demonstrated restraint.

Gagnon retired after 28 years of service before the ruling was handed down. He had no prior infractions of the police ethics code. Meanwhile, Lisio will serve his five-day unpaid suspension and resume his duties afterward.

(Montreal Gazette)

Dec 17 2015

TORONTO - Mayor John Tory is calling for Toronto police officers to be used more effectively to suppress violence in the city, after the Toronto Police Services Board voted in favour of creating a new task force to determine how to best deploy resources.



"We are presently using police officers - expensive highly trained, very skilled police officers - doing things like sitting two in a car and watching to see if people turn left," Tory said, adding he expects results from the task force after a spike in recent violent crime in the city.

"We can use technology to watch for people turning left and - in fact - then use those police officers to be out in the community trying to crack down in various ways and to liaise with the communities and stop these violent acts."

Tory said he would like to see healthcare

resources used to assist in some of the mental illness calls police officers often respond to in the city.

"The treatment of people with mental health is still a scandal in this country and it needs to be addressed and it needs to be addressed as part of the healthcare system," he said, adding it's a "serious problem" police receive thousands of mental health calls every month.

The task force will be jointly chaired by Toronto Police Services Board Chair Andy Pringle and Chief Mark Saunders and will include a maximum of 12 people from service members and external experts.

After careful review of the KPMG report, Pringle said Thursday the task force will now consider its findings and will also look into other suggestions put forward by the public.

The report makes a series of short-term and long-term suggestions that would allow the Toronto Police Service to streamline its operations.

Short-term recommendations include reductions to current operation budgets - like reducing premium pay or overtime - and temporary deferrals of "non-essential promotions."

Mid-term suggestions consider possibly outsourcing parking enforcement models and court security services.

Long-term recommendations suggest outsourcing for HR, IT and finance positions and also recommend a shift in staffing for the Toronto Police College from uniformed to civilian officers.

(Global News)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 2015

Dec 18 2015

MONTREAL - A Montreal police officer who was charged in 2013 with trafficking in steroids and possession of a small quantity of hashish has been granted an unconditional discharge as a sentence that will allow him to try to get his job back.

Charles Lavallee, 37, was granted the discharge by Quebec Court Judge Jean-Pierre Boyer at the Montreal courthouse on Friday.

Boyer and other police officers were charged with a series of crimes in 2013 while the Montreal police investigated how one of their officers was assaulted in Mexico at a resort. The assault was believed to be tied to Shane Kenneth Maloney, an alleged member of the West End Gang.

During that internal investigation, the police uncovered evidence into the hashish and steroids found on Lavallee. The crimes had nothing to do with what happened in Mexico.

He was caught in possession of 1.16 grams of hashish and had brought a bottle of 100 steroid pills to his friend, a fellow police officer, at Montreal police headquarters in 2012.

While the possession of steroids is not illegal in Canada, trafficking in them is.

The discharge means Lavallee won't be left with a criminal record. He was suspended without pay after his arrest. He will also have difficulty getting his job back because, for the time being, he is not allowed to possess a firearm.

Boyer said a "well informed public" would understand why Lavallee could be sentenced to the unconditional discharge if they considered the "overall" punishment he has already received.

Since his suspension he has lost \$200,000 in salary and he has only been able to find sporadic work for low pay. His spouse also left him after the arrest.

(Montreal Gazette)

Dec 18 2015

HALIFAX - The RCMP have launched a cuteness offensive in Nova Scotia. Their weapon of choice? Puppies.



For the next 12 months, the police force will be posting photos, videos and text online to document the progress of their latest recruits: two, 10-week-old German shepherd puppies.

The dogs - Helo and Hamer (pronounced Hammer) - recently arrived in Nova Scotia from the Police Dog Service Training Centre in central Alberta, the one place in Canada where RCMP police dogs are born and trained.

The centre in Innisfail trains both officers and dogs and, once a match is made, it usually lasts for a canine's entire career.

However, before training in Alberta begins, potential police dogs are teamed up with handlers across the country for a 12-month trial period that involves some training and plenty of exposure to the public.

Dec 18 2015

CALGARY - A unit that investigates police says there will be no charges against Calgary officers who shot and killed a man and critically wounded a woman after a car chase.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says police were pursuing a truck last February after they got calls about shots being fired in the city's southeast.

ASIRT says the truck was deliberately ramming vehicles - injuring a number of people - as well as driving on sidewalks, medians, pathways and through a fence.

The pickup eventually smashed through a concrete barrier and was heading the wrong way on a freeway when officers rammed the

truck to stop the chase.

Two officers fired at the vehicle and the 34-year-old driver was killed.

A woman passenger who was pointing a black object was shot in the face, but survived. (CHQR)

Dec 18 2015

BRAMPTON, Ont. - A third man has been charged after a police officer was shot and wounded in Brampton, northwest of Toronto, this fall.

Police say the officer was responding to a call on Oct. 16 when gunshots were fired at his cruiser. One of the bullets hit the officer.

Police say another person had been shot before the officer arrived. Both were treated in hospital and eventually released.

David Lee Kawal, 23, was arrested Thursday and charged with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of kidnapping, and multiple firearms offences. He is due in court Friday.

Christopher Osborne, 25, and Tyrel Nicholson, 23, were arrested on Oct. 21. They are also facing two counts of attempted murder, two counts of kidnapping, and multiple firearms offences.

The three men are from Toronto.

(680 News)

Dec 18 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief says the community should be outraged after two convenience store clerks, who were working alone and didn't fight back when masked robbers walked into their stores early Friday, were shot dead for small amounts of cash.

Three suspects have been arrested, including a 13-year-old boy.

"This was a barbaric and gratuitous act of violence upon two innocent persons resulting in a senseless loss of life," Chief Rod Knecht said at a late-afternoon news conference.

He went on to describe the crime as "over-the-top violence, absolutely unnecessary, gratuitous - evil."

All three suspects have criminal records and were prohibited from possessing firearms, he said. He described the youth's criminal past as violent.

Charges are pending against the three. The other suspects are 26 and 24 years old.

Knecht said the violence started about 3:30 a.m. at a Mac's store on the city's south side.

A panic alarm call came from the business. When police couldn't reach staff by phone, officers were dispatched.

Karanpal Singh Bhangu, 35, had been shot in the stomach and was rushed to hospital, but died of his injuries.

About fifteen minutes after that alarm came in, a 911 call was made from another Mac's store. A delivery man had found a trail of blood leading to a storage room.

It's believed the clerk at that store had been shot in the front and dragged to the back area, said Knecht.

The 41-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene.

In both cases, the culprits made off with cash. Using video camera footage from the stores, police next dispatched a description of the masked suspects and their clothing.

And because the targeted locations were both Mac's, officers were tasked with checking in on other stores.

A short time later, officers spotted them in a stolen vehicle near another Mac's, which led to a brief chase along Whitemud Drive, a major city freeway. It ended underneath an overpass when the suspect vehicle crashed into a guardrail.

Knecht said investigators have made a possible link between the suspects and other recent robberies. It's unclear why the crimes escalated. Surveillance video shows the two victims were passive and co-operative.

"I would suggest they did not expect to be executed," he said.

Dec 18 2015

BRAMPTON - A third suspect is facing charges in connection with the shooting of a police officer in Brampton earlier this year.

A Peel Regional Police officer was injured during an incident on Stokes Road, at approximately 10:20 p.m. on Oct. 16. A male civilian was also injured during the shooting, police said.

Both the officer and the other victim suffered non-life-threatening injuries, and have since been released from hospital.

Two months after the shooting, 23-year-old David Lee Kawal was arrested.

Kawal has been charged with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of kidnapping and "numerous firearms-related offences," police said in a statement Thursday.

Two other suspects face the same charges in connection with the case. Christopher Osborne, 25, and Tyrel Nicholson, 23, were arrested and charged in October.

(CTV News)

Dec 18 2015

HAMILTON - In a move that shocked many, Hamilton police Chief Glenn De Caire announced he is leaving policing and taking on a new role as director of security and parking at McMaster University.



De Caire gave his bosses at the Hamilton Police Services Board just 15 minutes' notice before he released the news via a two-page letter at 1 p.m. Friday.

"All the essential parts are in place," De Caire wrote after several paragraphs describing the accomplishments of the service during his tenure.

The news came mere weeks after De Caire pursued and accepted a two-year extension to his controversial term as chief.

At a hastily called news conference Friday afternoon, police board chair and city councillor Lloyd Ferguson said he received the chief's resignation "with great surprise and some regret."

Board member Terry Whitehead said Friday afternoon that "we had no idea" the chief was retiring.

"The chief maintained that he wanted another four years and wanted to keep the job," he said. "There was no sign that was not sincere."

At Friday's news conference, De Caire explained that he had applied for the McMaster job before his board had committed on Nov. 19 to extending his term as chief. "I had no conflict (of interest)."

De Caire also pointed out he had worked in policing for more than 35 years before making this jump.

"I don't think it's surprising," he said. "Many police officers retire after 36 years of service ... people move on."

He acknowledged he had sought out McMaster and not the other way around.

McMaster said that "after an extensive international search," the university offered De Caire the post last Saturday. De Caire made his decision, he said, in part because McMaster was offering him "long-term" employment; the chief's job came "with a limit" (a two-year contract).

Provincial records put De Caire's 2014 chief's salary at \$228,519 with \$18,902 in benefits.

In his new role, De Caire will be succeeding former Hamilton police superintendent Terry Sullivan, who spent more than 30 years with the Hamilton police before moving to McMaster as security chief 10 years ago.

The province's 2014 sunshine list shows Sullivan earning \$133,852.35 with \$8,560.11 in benefits.

So De Caire's move will mean a salary and benefits cut in the neighbourhood of \$100,000. The blow will be softened, however - he should be eligible for his full public pension from his policing career.

This is the second time De Caire has shocked the city by announcing his retirement. In 2013, as his first five-year contract was coming up for renewal and immediately after going through a closed-door evaluation by the police board, De Caire announced that he would be stepping down at the end of his term the following year.

However, in a controversial move, the police board decided to reoffer him a two-year extension to his contract despite the ongoing search for a new chief.

His term came up for renewal again this fall and it was only on Nov. 19 that De Caire received approval from the Hamilton Police Services Board for a second contract extension for two more years.

Instead De Caire will stay for a single month more.

(Hamilton Spectator)

Dec 19 2015

OTTAWA - Two Ottawa police officers who are part of the RCMP's national security team have been told they will be returning to patrol duties in a move that insiders suggest is indicative of a strained relationship between city police and the national force, the Citizen has learned.

A sergeant who was an acting supervisor in the unit and a constable will be back on the city's payroll in January after Ottawa police ended their secondments, which were scheduled to run until 2017, with one of the RCMP's integrated national security enforcement teams, or INSET. Ottawa police officers are routinely on loan to other police forces as part of larger initiatives. No other secondments with any other force has been rescinded by Ottawa police and it's unclear whether future secondments with INSET will be affected.

Chief Charles Bordeleau refused to comment on the cancellations of the secondments, answer questions on why they were cancelled, or even confirm if any officers would have the secondments in the new year.

Yet the city force confirmed the existence of the positions as recently as October to the Citizen.

The national security teams are made up of representatives of the RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Security Intelligence Service and provincial and municipal police forces.

Bordeleau rebuffed any suggestion that the policing relationship between the forces has deteriorated.

"The partnership between the OPS and the RCMP has never been stronger and we continue to work as full partners with the RCMP and INSET."

Police sources believe that police brass are using staffing shortages as an excuse to disguise what has been strife between the two forces, recently taking the form of tensions between the local intelligence unit and the RCMP. In November, 26 Ottawa police officers were re-assigned to patrol for six months because frontline police were shortstaffed. Patrol has made no additional request for staffing beyond that.

The INSET positions themselves are paid for by the RCMP. Sending the officers to patrol means city police will now foot the bill for their salaries, an unusual move if the intent is to shift resources to cover staffing shortages.

The police union has filed a grievance on the matter.
(Ottawa Citizen)

Dec 19 2015

WATERLOO, Ont. - BlackBerry's chief executive John Chen says he stands by a controversial blog post he published earlier this week that outlines

when he'd be willing to hand private customer information over to law enforcement.

The CEO of the Waterloo, Ont.-based company was taken to task by technology websites and commentators over what some deemed as hypocrisy coming from the leader of a brand that pledges security and privacy.

Without pointing Apple out by name on Tuesday, Chen slammed a recent update to Apple's operating system which makes it impossible for the company to unlock the devices, even if there's a search warrant for a criminal investigation.

Talking with reporters on Friday, after BlackBerry released its latest financial results, Chen said he wasn't fazed by the backlash.

"I strongly believe that if there are bad

elements out there trying to harm society, for one reason or another... it's our social responsibility to help," he said.

He also offered some more insight into his post -- highlighting a "longstanding policy" established at BlackBerry before his arrival two years ago, which outlines when the company would be willing to give access to police under a court order.

"We are going to be able to provide your location, who's called who, and all of the metadata around that," he said in a roundtable with reporters.

But he emphasized that BlackBerry wouldn't give authorities a user's specific texts or other communication.

"The data itself is safe because we never have it," he said. "We never save the content."

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Dec 19 2015

FORSYTH, Ga. - Sheriff's deputies in a central Georgia county have been surprising motorists, some of whom expect a ticket.



Instead, they've gotten \$100 bills.

The Telegraph reports that Monroe County Sheriff John Cary Bittick gave officers 54 \$100 bills to hand out randomly over three days during the past week. The newspaper reports that the money came from an anonymous benefactor.

Bittick said the donor had seen the concept somewhere else, and thought it would be a great idea in light of tensions nationwide between police and the public.

The Telegraph reports that some of the recipients were so moved they broke into tears. But not everyone.

Deputy John Thompson said one motorist cussed him out before learning about the money, and she didn't get a \$100 bill.

(AP)

Dec 19 2015

HALIFAX - The new chief of the Saint John Police Force says the guilty verdict at Dennis Oland's second-degree murder trial in the 2011 bludgeoning death of his father provides "a degree of validation" for the beleaguered force.

"I want to state publicly that no winners emerge from such a tragic event. A man is deceased and his immediate and extended family remains devastated," Chief John Bates said in an emailed statement on Saturday, shortly after the jury delivered its unanimous verdict.

"As chief of police, I do take some solace in the fact that our investigative team and the force, as a whole, which have been under some intense scrutiny and assailed with criticism ... will have realized a degree of validation," said Bates.

"Not for a second, did I waiver in my belief or faith in their integrity, effort, or investigative skills."

Bates said he will address criticisms of the murder investigation "in further detail at a later date."

The investigation dates back to July 7, 2011, when the body of prominent businessman Richard Oland was discovered in his investment firm office, lying face down in a large pool of blood.

The 69-year-old multimillionaire had suffered 45 sharp and blunt force injuries to his head, neck and hands. No weapon was ever found.

Dennis Oland, 47, who was the last

known person to see his father alive during a meeting at his office the night before, was convicted on Saturday after a three-month trial and four days of deliberations by the jury.

He was initially considered a witness by police, but was quickly deemed a suspect during his videotaped statement, the trial heard. He was not charged, however, until more than two years later.

(CBC News)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 2015

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating after a man died in a collision while being pursued by police near Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The Special Investigations Unit says that shortly after 2 a.m. Sunday, a York Region police officer pursued a vehicle that the officer had attempted to stop.

The agency says the vehicle left the roadway and drove into the ditch.

It says a 30-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Dec 20 2015

TORONTO - Each year, on the first Sunday of May, police members, political leaders and families gather on the grounds of the Ontario legislature, at a memorial made of granite and bronze, to commemorate officers who died in the line of duty.



The CN Tower is lit in blue to honour them, and their names, which are etched in stone for permanent remembrance, are read out one by one: all 257 fallen, including 41 who served in the country's largest municipal police force.

Missing from the Toronto Police Service's honour roll is Eddie Adamson, a former staff sergeant who took his life a decade ago after a long struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The province's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board determined Mr. Adamson's suicide was the result of his PTSD and the board deemed his death occurred "on duty." But his family's pleas to have him remembered in the Toronto police honour roll and memorial wall have gone unheeded.

Now, the Ontario Human Rights Commission is taking up the fight, asking the province's Human Rights Tribunal to order

the Toronto police to commemorate officers such as Mr. Adamson in a case that could reverberate across the country.

Mr. Adamson's mental illness was triggered by the shooting of a fellow officer in a harrowing robbery and hostage-taking at a downtown bistro in 1980. Mr. Adamson led an emergency police task force to the scene, but he was ordered to wait and not storm the bistro. He could hear a wounded Constable Michael Sweet beg for help. By the time the emergency team burst in, the constable couldn't be saved.

Police members who die by suicide because of a mental disability incurred on the job are not the only ones among Canada's unremembered: Afghanistan war veterans who took their lives after serving in the mission are not memorialized in the same way as those who perished in theatre.

"We all still have this stigma around suicide. It's still taboo," said former paramedic Vince Savoia, founder and executive director of The Tema Conter Memorial Trust, which assists public-safety workers and military members coping with mental illness. "Nobody really wants to die by suicide," added Mr. Savoia, who was affected by PTSD and suicidal in the past. "It's the last step, God forbid, for some individuals who just feel they have nothing left to give."

The Ontario Human Rights Commission's application seeking recognition for Mr. Adamson was filed on Remembrance Day. That day, Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr pledged to find a way to commemorate military members and veterans who killed themselves after returning from the Afghanistan mission.

The minister's spokesman, Christian Duval, said recently that discussions on the matter will be held next year.

The case before the provincial Human Rights Tribunal could have far-reaching consequences. The commission is arguing that, under the human rights code, the exclusion of officers who died because of a mental illness sustained while on duty from the Toronto Police Service's memorial wall and honour roll constitutes employment-based discrimination. The commission has stepped in because a previous human-rights bid brought forward by Mr. Adamson's family was rejected because the tribunal concluded his estate could not, under the rules, initiate such a claim.

If the commission's application is successful, Chief Commissioner Renu Mandhane said the ruling would put other police services and boards in the province on notice and pressure them to re-examine their criteria for memorializing fallen officers. It could also send a signal to other public-safety organizations.

"You could say this is just about a memory wall. But I think it actually is emblematic of something a little bit larger," Ms. Mandhane said, noting that the disparate treatment of deaths related to mental disorders creates a stigma and may dissuade some from seeking help.

For the family of Mr. Adamson and oth-

ers, Ms. Mandhane said the desire for recognition is about "dignity" and "the idea that their family members died protecting the public good."

The Toronto Police Service is not saying much about the commission's human-rights application, after initially suggesting Deputy Chief Michael Federico would speak to The Globe about the issue.

"This matter is before the Human Rights Tribunal so we are unable to comment but we are determined to work towards a resolution," a police spokesperson said in an e-mail late Friday afternoon - more than a week after a request for comment was made.

Former police chief Bill Blair had set up an advisory committee to examine the matter, but the group hasn't met for some time, said Toronto Police Association president Mike McCormack.

The police union supports commemoration of officers who die as a result of job-triggered mental disorders, but is unsure of what the best way is to remember these members, Mr. McCormack said. Aside from the provincial memorial at Queen's Park, Toronto police maintains its own memorial wall in the police college's lobby, as well as an honour roll in the lobby of its headquarters.

"There should be recognition," Mr. McCormack said. "We think it's fundamental."

(Globe and Mail)

MONDAY DECEMBER 21, 2015

Dec 21 2015

HALIFAX - An independent investigation has found that a police officer was justified in using a conducted energy weapon on a man who was injured as he fled Halifax police.

The Serious Incident Response Team investigated an incident on March 23 in which police were pursuing a man accused of stealing money from a purse at a restaurant.

The officers said the man broke free and ran as they tried to arrest him.

The SIR Team says an officer used his stun gun, causing the man to fall to the ground and hit his face, resulting in skull fractures and a brain injury.

The team says there are no grounds for charging the officer because the injury was accidental and unintended.

Dec 21 2015

VANCOUVER - Conservation officers have called off the search for a cheetah last seen roaming along a highway in British Columbia's Interior late last week.

Insp. Joe Caravetta of the Conservation Officer Service says there have been no reported sightings of the stray cat since it was originally spotted last Thursday.

Caravetta says officials have spoken to one person of interest since the investigation began, but didn't elaborate why they were

talking that person.

RCMP notified the public Thursday evening that the big cat had been seen wandering along Highway 3 near Crawford Bay, about 50 kilometres northeast of Nelson.

Caravetta says there is no immediate danger to the public.

He says B.C.'s provincial veterinarian reports it would be difficult for cheetahs to survive any length of time in cold weather without finding heat and food.

Dec 21 2015

Police in rural Manitoba say impaired driving charges are pending against a Zamboni operator.

Officers received a complaint Saturday

about the man during a minor hockey game in Ste. Anne, southeast of Winnipeg.

Marc Robichaud, chief of the town's police department, says the machine was striking the rink's boards and moving erratically around the ice.

An officer spoke with the driver between periods of the game, then placed him under arrest.

Robichaud says the man in his 30s, who was new to the ice-clearing job, has been released from custody.

He is to face charges of impaired driving, refusing a breath sample and resisting arrest.

Robichaud says arresting a Zamboni driver for impaired driving is a first for him, but the offence includes operating any

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motorized vehicle.

"Liquor and any kind of motorized vehicle don't mix, irregardless of whether it's on the road or wherever it may be," he said.

There was no damage to the machine or the rink.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22, 2015

Dec 22 2015

FREDERICTON - An investigator is being appointed to examine how the Saint John police force handled the Richard Oland murder.

The announcement was made today on the website of the New Brunswick Police Commission, which says it's acting at the request of the Saint John board of police commissioners.

The way Saint John police conducted their investigation was a central issue during the second-degree murder trial, which began in September.

A jury found Dennis Oland guilty Saturday of killing his father.

Justice John Walsh reminded jurors during his charge there was evidence that police failed to prevent too many people from entering Richard Oland's office after his body was found and officers allowed a second-floor washroom to be used before it could be forensically tested.

The court also heard police didn't ensure the back door - a possible exit from the crime scene - remain untouched before it could be examined.

The Fredericton-based police commission says the results and any recommendations will be forwarded to the provincial minister of Public Safety for consideration.

Dec 22 2015

A drunk driver recently smacked into a traffic light and drove a kilometre with the pole on its hood before coming to a stop, RCMP say.



The 48-year-old Manitoba driver of a minivan hit a pole while heading west on the Trans-Canada Highway in Headingley, Man., on Dec. 19 at about 6 a.m., RCMP said. The van eventually broke down.

"The vehicle's transmission had actually blown out due to the collision," RCMP spokesperson Robert Cyrenne said, adding investigators don't really understand how the van was able to keep going with the heavy light on its hood.

The driver, whose blood alcohol content registered at twice the legal limit, was apparently on his way home when he crashed, RCMP said.

The driver wasn't injured but was charged with impaired driving.

(CBC News)

Dec 22 2015

OTTAWA - The RCMP is hoping the Liberal government will consider crafting a new law that would allow police to access personal information from telecom companies without first obtaining a warrant.

Investigators say a recent Supreme Court decision has significantly slowed down investigations into crimes such as child pornography - and that is putting children at risk.

"Kids could be exposed to the hands of a predator longer, before we're able to intervene," RCMP Assistant Commissioner Joe Oliver, who oversees the force's technical operations, said in an interview.

The court ruled in June 2014 that police could no longer obtain what's known as basic subscriber information from telecoms without a judicial production order or warrant.

Police say they would previously approach companies with computer IP addresses that were linked to criminal activity or were suspicious, and ask for the name, address or phone number of the person associated with that computer address.

Oliver said it used to take an hour to write a request and then a day to get the information back from companies. But now they need to have grounds to believe a crime has been committed - and it takes two days to write the production order, and in some cases, more than a month to get data back.

In one recent case of suspected child pornography, Oliver said by the time officers found out the suspect's address, he had moved two days earlier and police had to start from scratch.

In an interview with Global News: BC1, Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould would only say she is working with her colleagues at Public Safety on this issue, and among many others.

The Supreme Court's ruling said police could still get personal information without a warrant in emergency circumstances, or where a "reasonable law" exists.

But it failed to define what a reasonable expectation of privacy would be, something the federal privacy commissioner asked the previous Conservative government to outline in legislation.

"I did ask that Parliament clarify this area, of what is a reasonable expectation of privacy, when would the police be able to access information without a warrant," Privacy Commissioner Daniel Therrien said in an interview.

"I think that would be desirable because the law of course would be public, it would be transparent, it would be objective."

(Global News)

Dec 22 2015

MONTREAL - Five men belonging to a ring that was allegedly involved in several armoured-car heists were arrested Tuesday, Montreal police said.

Vincent Rozon, commander of the department's major crimes unit, believes the arrests will put an end to the recent spate of violent armoured-car robberies in the Montreal area.

The five suspects aged between 47 and 64 allegedly robbed five vehicles between 2011 and 2015 and unsuccessfully tried to take a sixth in an aborted attempt in 2014.

Police say they believe the men were also responsible for robbing an armoured car in 1999 outside a Montreal-area shopping centre.

"This group of five individuals was very organized," Rozon said.

Police say Walter Butt, 54, Paul Thomas Bryntwick, 64, David Stachula, 47, Serge Fournier, 64, and Gary Marsden, 63, are to be arraigned Wednesday on various charges, including armed robbery, conspiracy, kidnapping, possession of stolen goods and break and enter.

Dec 22 2015

OTTAWA - Repealing a provision of the Criminal Code that shields parents from facing assault charges for hitting their children would affect more than just First Nations communities.

Legal experts say it would also affect many immigrant and minority parents caught in a legal haze when it comes to child-rearing.

Section 43 of the Criminal Code gives parents and teachers a legal defence when they physically discipline children, which is most often understood as legalizing spanking.

Removing the section was one of the 94 recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that examined the legacy of Canada's residential schools.

The Liberals have committed to implementing all of the recommendations but experts say the section needs to be amended, not repealed outright, to continue to provide some degree of legal protection to parents.

The Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Medical Association Journal have in the past lobbied for its repeal, but private member's bills to remove it from the Criminal Code have repeatedly failed to pass the Senate and House of Commons.

Dec 22 2015

WINNIPEG - A man has been charged with impaired driving after a vehicle was found with a traffic light standard on its hood and windshield west of Winnipeg.

Manitoba RCMP spokesman Robert Cyrenne says the vehicle hit the light standard in Headingley, then dragged it for almost a kilometre before it broke down.

Cyrenne says it happened around 6 a.m. on Saturday.

He says the man had double the amount of the legal limit of alcohol in his system.

Cyrenne says no one was injured and the minivan's transmission conked out and stopped the vehicle.

Dec 22 2015

VICTORIA - No charges will be laid against members of a Vancouver Police Department strike force whose arrest of two men left one of the suspects with a broken jaw.

The B.C. Criminal Justice Branch announced Tuesday that the available evidence against the officers doesn't meet its charge-assessment standard for approval.

In September last year, a team watching four people believed to be behind multiple robberies witnessed a jewelry store heist, then tracked the suspects through four Metro Vancouver cities, cornering two men in Port Moody.

A summary of the event said several officers and a police dog moved in to arrest the pair, and in the struggle one suspect received a broken jaw and bite wounds.

The branch says neither the suspect nor other witnesses could explain how the man's jaw was injured or who might be responsible.

B.C.'s police watchdog, the Independent Investigations Office, conducted a review of the incident and then passed its report on to Crown, which determined that it couldn't prove any of the three officers used excessive force.

Dec 22 2015

WINNIPEG - The Manitoba government has announced new legislation to recognize post-traumatic stress disorder as a work-related illness, which will extend coverage to all employees who are eligible under the Workers Compensation Board.

Under the new legislation, which comes into effect on Jan. 1, 2016, anyone who faces traumatic experiences in the workplace will be eligible for worker's compensation, if they've been diagnosed with PTSD. The Workers Compensation Board will presume the PTSD was caused by a workplace event, unless proven otherwise.

"This is compassionate, humane, but smart legislation," Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger said during an announcement on Tuesday. "It helps people suffering from PTSD, no matter what area of work they are in, to get timely help."

The change is designed to grant traumatized workers in any workplace access to the mental health services they need, in a timely manner. It applies to everyone from firefighters and first responders to nurses and retail workers.

(CTV News)

Dec 22 2015

The new commanding officer of the RCMP's Woodstock detachment expects staffing in the unit to be back to full-strength by mid-January after seeing 20 per cent of members there suspended.

The suspensions of four officers for alleged discreditable conduct was announced Dec. 8 by RCMP Assistant Commissioner Roger Brown. A criminal investigation is taking place. The nature of the allegations that led to the suspensions and investigation has not been revealed.

"Four suspensions in a force of 20 is, I guess, unprecedented at this point," said Sgt. J.P. MacDougall, who has agreed to take on the role of commanding officer in Woodstock.

"Surprisingly, morale is pretty good," he said.

"When I was asked to take this position on, obviously one of my first concerns was whether morale was going to be pretty low given that four officers were suspended from the same location," he said.

"But what I've discovered is that the members have pulled together and are moving forward as a team," said MacDougall. "It's actually been quite surprising that the morale is as high as it is."

"Members are still happy to come to work and still want to do a good job and are happy that the division has provided the support that it has in order for them to be able to do that."

(CBC News)

Dec 22 2015

OTTAWA -- Move over Angry Birds, angry extremists are looking to capture more than just market share and give new meaning to the phrase killer app.

The Islamic State's online reach seemed to know no bounds in 2015, with brutal YouTube video executions, Twitter messaging and even good old-fashioned chat rooms, but defence contractors and security groups are now warning about the extremist organization developing its own smartphone application.

It can be used on Android devices and gives access to the online portal Amaq News Agency, which western intelligence officers, who spoke on background, claim is associated with the Islamic State's propaganda arm.

The app also contains written accounts of life under the self-declared caliphate, battlefield reports, statements on executions and perhaps most importantly videos.

Canada's top military commander says the app doesn't represent some great technical achievement because the group strives to put "a veneer of sophistication" on whatever they do online.

What is concerning for western intelligence and military is how it will be used to distribute propaganda, recruit new fighters and potentially aid in the self-radicalization phenomenon that is proving a challenge for those same agencies to counter.

Dec 22 2015

CALGARY - The head of the Calgary police economic crimes unit says organized crime and the reorganization of police resources are factors in a 60 per cent increase in car thefts this year.

The surge in stolen vehicles started in December 2014 and affects all four quadrants

DISPATCHES

Mike Serr is the new deputy chief constable for the Abbotsford Police Department. He was sworn in November 2015 and will be responsible for the administration division of the APD. Serr began his policing career in 1990 with the Vancouver Police Department. Over the past 25 years, Serr's assignments with the VPD have included Strike Force, the Major Crime Section, the Integrated Gang Task Force and the BC Municipal Undercover Program. Serr is the recipient of Chief Constable Commendations from both the VPD and APD.



John Bates has been formally welcomed as new police chief for the Saint John Police Force during its official change of command ceremony. Bates was previously the chief of police in Stratford, Ont. and replaces former Chief Bill Reid. He began his policing career with the Brantford Police Service in 1985 where he served for 21 years prior to being appointed as deputy chief of the Stratford Police Service in 2006. He served as both deputy chief and then as the chief in Stratford for nine years. Bates' policing experience includes uniform patrol, traffic enforcement, collision investigation and reconstruction, major crime investigation and tactical response.



Scott Tod is the new deputy chief at the North Bay Police Service. Most recently he was the a deputy commissioner with the Ontario Provincial Police and has spent over 30 years in law enforcement. He has been with the OPP since 1982 and served in a variety of leadership capacities. Deputy Commissioner Tod served as a major case manager in the OPP criminal investigations branch for five years and he was designated as a multi-jurisdictional major case investigator by the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. An Officer of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces, he is also the recipient of the Police Officer Exemplary Service Medal and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.



PROMOTIONS RETIREMENTS RECOGNITION

If you have a senior officer in your agency recently promoted or retiring or an individual you wish to have recognized (major award or recently deceased) you can let *Blue Line Magazine* know by email to:

Dispatches@blueline.ca

of the city, with about 5,000 vehicles reported stolen this year compared to about 3,000 in 2014.

Police say the increase can be blamed on several factors but are primarily tying it to other crime, including organized crime.

Police are also seeing an increase in the number of cars stolen with their keys, which they say means the car can be sold.

Around 80 per cent of cars and trucks are recovered, but it's the other 20 per cent that concern police.

The most targeted type of vehicles are Ford trucks and Honda Civics, and the Beltline was the most targeted neighbourhood.

Police are looking into different strategies, including the return of the bait car program, to combat the increase.

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 2015

Dec 23 2015

VANCOUVER - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to legalize and regulate marijuana but no timeline is in sight. Meantime, cannabis-related crimes continue to tie up police and court resources, leaving some feeling like they're in legal limbo.



Nanaimo RCMP raided three dispensaries, including Phoenix, on Dec. 1. Selling pot over the counter - whether medical or recreational - remains illegal in Canada, and Mounties sent warning letters weeks before executing search warrants.

The RCMP's raids on B.C.'s pot shops are unusual. But across Canada, charges for cannabis possession remain relatively common and have increased over the past decade.

Last year, 24,542 people were charged with marijuana possession, up from 18,953 in 2004. Charges for the crime hit a peak in 2011, with 27,997 people charged.

Simon Fraser University criminologist Neil Boyd found in a 2013 study that the Vancouver police rarely recommended charging individuals for cannabis possession as a singular offence, while the RCMP was mostly responsible for a two-fold increase in charges over a decade in B.C.

Boyd said the federal government should consider immediately decriminalizing possession for personal use, while it works out the details of legalization.

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, when asked whether she'd consider immediately decriminalizing possession, said charging for criminal offences is an enforcement

issue.

"Marijuana is still a Schedule 2 controlled substance under the (Controlled Drugs and Substances) Act and we'll be further considering that as we move forward."

National RCMP spokeswoman Const. Annie Delisle said while the government designs a regime to legalize marijuana, the RCMP is still mandated to enforce current laws.

In Washington state where marijuana is legal, the percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for marijuana doubled over four years to 12 per cent in 2014. Police must use blood tests to determine if a driver recently consumed pot, as there is no approved roadside breath or saliva test.

Dec 23 2015

TORONTO - The Crown has dropped privately laid assault charges against former federal cabinet minister Julian Fantino in an alleged incident 42 years ago.

Crown Attorney John McInnes told court there was no reasonable prospect for conviction due primarily to inconsistencies in the accuser's testimony and lack of witnesses.

Fantino's lawyer, Mark Sandler, called the accusations patently false and said it was no coincidence the allegations against the Conservative MP were levelled just before the Oct. 19 federal election.

The allegations of assault with a weapon

and assault causing bodily harm were made by John Bonnici and stemmed from when Fantino was a Toronto police officer. None of Bonnici's allegations were proven in court.

Fantino, the onetime veterans affairs minister, lost his bid for re-election to Liberal Francesco Sorbara in the riding of Vaughan-Woodbridge. He was not present at Wednesday's hearing

Dec 23 2015

Three people were taken to hospital after a crash involving a New Westminster police officer, Tuesday night.

The collision happened around 11:30 p.m. on the Burnaby side of the municipal boundary.

The crash closed the intersection for several hours while the RCMP's Integrated Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Service investigated.

A Burnaby RCMP officer at the scene said the New Westminster officer was responding to a call in her unmarked SUV with her lights and siren activated at the time of the crash.

The police cruiser appears to have been hit broadside by a white hatchback, which sustained significant front-end damage.

The officer and two occupants of the white Mazda were taken to Royal Columbian Hospital with minor injuries, according to police.

(CBC News)



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