

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | January 08, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 02

Executive Digest

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Drug squads in Vancouver and Victoria have discretion on whether to bust illegal marijuana dispensaries, but police boards in those cities should have clear policies on when and why they enforce the federal laws prohibiting such storefront pot sales, says B.C.'s municipal police watchdog.

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A judge is urging the Calgary Police Service to consider creating a policy for foot pursuits after a police chase ended with an officer shooting and killing a man brandishing a screwdriver in 2011.

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Peterborough suing its top cops



Jan 05 2016

PETERBOROUGH - The City of Peterborough is suing the chief and deputy chief of police for nearly half a million dollars in relation to the severance pay that was awarded to the pair last year.

According to court documents, the city claims general damages for misfeasance in public office; breach of fiduciary duty; breach of the duty of good faith; and breach of the

Police Services Act, totaling \$248,920.86 against Chief Murray Rodd and \$210,329.46 against Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson.

The city also claims punitive damages against in the amount of \$20,000 per defendant.

“(Chief Rodd and Deputy Chief Farquharson) have knowingly engaged in deliberate and unlawful conduct in their capacities as public office holders, knowing the significant damages that would result to the city



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and, in turn, the taxpayers of the city," reads the statement of claim filed on Dec. 22.

In the claim, the city says the defendants breached their fiduciary duty and duty of good faith to the city by neglecting to provide "full, complete, sufficient, honest and reasonable information" to the city.

Furthermore, the city says the conduct of the defendants amounts to "discreditable conduct, deceit, and a breach of their statutory duties and responsibilities pursuant to the police services act."

Allan Seabrooke, CAO for the city, says the statement of claim was served to the lawyers for Rodd and Farquharson on Dec. 28.

"Right now there's no indication where and when the document will go to court," says Mr. Seabrooke.

In a statement Tuesday (Jan. 5), Alex Sinclair, the lawyer representing both defendants, said this:

"The action that has been brought by the City of Peterborough against the Chief and Deputy Chief is ill-conceived and without merit. It represents an unfortunate waste of taxpayers' money. Our clients will vigorously defend the allegations against them."

In July, an arbitrator deemed that the two top police staffers were entitled to a combined \$460,000 in severance when the police service de-amalgamated with Lakefield in late 2014.

The arbitrator's decision followed the de-amalgamation of the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service, which council approved in December 2012.

Prior to that approval, as outlined in the statement of claim, the city examined the costs associated with de-amalgamation including any terminations or lay-offs and any severance costs associated with those terminations. The city determined there would be no terminations within the police service, nor would any employees lose employment or

suffer a reduction in compensation.

As part of the process of reporting to council on budget implications, Peterborough Treasurer/Director of Corporate Services, Sandra Clancy, requested Rodd review the budget prepared by the city in relation to the costs associated with de-amalgamation and confirm whether the costs were correct.

On Oct. 22, 2013, Rodd responded, saying he had reviewed the budget and that he was "comfortable with what is being said and further that it reflects the truth of the matter," according to the court document.

"The budget prepared by Ms. Clancy at the time did not indicate any potential severance amounts that would be owing to Rodd and Farquharson upon the de-amalgamation of the predecessor board and service, given that the city was unaware of the dissolution of service clauses in each of their respective employment contracts," reads the statement of claim. "Despite Rodd's full knowledge and awareness of his and Farquharson's potential entitlements...Rodd deliberately, willfully and purposely failed to bring those to the attention of Ms. Clancy."

The document claims neither Rodd nor Farquharson reported the costs associated with their dissolution of service clauses, "despite their obligations to do so pursuant to the (police services act) and their employment contracts."

"Had the city been aware of, and had Rodd and Farquharson advised the city of the costs associated with their dissolution of service clauses, the city would have reported those costs to the municipal council and the municipal council may not have proceeded with the de-amalgamation given the significant cost associated with the dissolution of service clauses."

According to the statement of claim, the city learned about the clauses for the first time on Oct. 22, 2014.

(Peterborough This Week)

National Parole Board and workplace harassment.

Lordon is currently a partner at Begley Lordon, a Moncton firm specializing in workplace law.

No timeline for her report has been disclosed.

Once the investigation is completed, the results and any recommendations will be sent to the minister of public safety for consideration.

The Police Commission announced the review just three days after Dennis Oland, 47, was found guilty of second-degree murder in connection with the 2011 bludgeoning death of his multimillionaire father.

Oland's defence team has said it plans to file an appeal.

Nicole Paquet, chair of the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners, requested the review by the independent provincial oversight body.

Paquet told CBC News the review is necessary for the public's confidence in the force, and that it will also be important for the morale of the police officers themselves.

It's not about laying blame, she said, it's about finding areas that need to be improved.

"It's very important that we look at those areas brought forward by [Court of Queen's Bench] Justice John Walsh in his instructions to the jury [at Dennis Oland's murder trial] to assure the public that those areas have been addressed, and if they still need to be addressed, that measures will be taken to restore public confidence in the investigative practices and policies of the Saint John Police Force."

Several problems with the investigation were brought forth during the high-profile trial.

Dennis Oland was charged on Nov. 13, 2013.

The jury heard evidence that police failed to protect the crime scene from possible contamination, used the bathroom located in the foyer outside the victim's office for two days before it was forensically tested, and never tested the back door for evidence.

Police also failed to ask the pathologist whether a drywall hammer was a possible weapon.

A key piece of evidence in the Crown's largely circumstantial case against Oland - a blood-stained brown sports jacket - was also handled by the former lead investigator with his bare hands and rolled up into a 30 centimetre by 30 centimetre paper exhibit bag by another officer, the jury heard.

There's a second investigation underway as a result of the trial.

Saint John Police Chief John Bates, who joined the force in 2015, had previously asked the provincial commission to investigate allegations about Deputy Chief Glen McCloskey that arose during testimony at the trial.

Retired staff sergeant Mike King testified McCloskey, who was an inspector at the time, had suggested he lie to the court about him having been at the crime scene.

McCloskey denied the allegations under oath, but admitted he entered crime scene twice - once to "observe the body" and a second time out of "curiosity."

Former Fredericton police chief Barry MacKnight had already been appointed to investigate that complaint.

(CBC News)

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK Celebrating 20 Years
ISSN 1704-3913
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GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048

12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2015

Dec 31 2015

The New Brunswick Police Commission has named lawyer and former crown prosecutor Kathleen Lordon to examine the Saint John Police Force's handling of the Richard Oland murder case.

This comes after a number of revelations during the high-profile trial about the police force's work during the four-year investigation.

Lordon's credentials make for a lengthy list; in addition to being a former crown prosecutor in New Brunswick, she is a former member of the Police Commission, the Vice Chair of the Complaints Committee for the Law Society of New Brunswick and was a founding member of the Canadian Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

She has extensive investigative experience with the N.B. Police Act, Corrections Canada,

FRIDAY JANUARY 01, 2016

Jan 01 2016

ORILLIA - The OPP recently marked the 40th anniversary of a specialized unit tasked with ferreting out and bringing to justice sexual predators who target children.

What began humbly decades ago with two investigators has evolved dramatically in answer to the avalanche of child pornography that became readily available with the advent of the Internet.

"The victimization there is sickening, and every image is a victim and every day you do so much to help our youth and help society become a better place to live," Chief Supt. Don Bell told those involved in the daily fight during an event at General Headquarters.

The OPP Child Sexual Exploitation Unit is part of a two-pronged attack on the scourge of child pornography.

Armed with ever-advancing technology and investigate techniques, highly trained teams from 26 police agencies work cooperatively with the OPP as part of a provincial strategy.

That strategy was created in 2006 in response to the need for a coordinated, province-wide approach to combatting online crimes against children.

The job of overseeing the provincial strategy falls to Det. Staff Sgt. Frank Goldschmidt, an OPP veteran.

"There is more child pornography and child exploitation on the Internet now than you've ever seen before," Goldschmidt told Orillia Today. "The Internet has provided people the perfect tool to be able to find each other, (including) like-minded offenders. It's allowed offenders to find children and lure them online. The progression has just been very quick."

Provincial support for efforts to stem the tide of child pornography has enabled law enforcement to respond in kind, he adds.

"The days when I started, and there were two or three people in the unit, there are now 16 full-time members of the OPP Child Sexual Exploitation side and an additional 82 members on the provincial strategy side," Goldschmidt adds.

Their work is paying dividends.

To date this year, the unit and members of the provincial strategy team undertook more than 5,000 investigations and laid 1,350 charges against more than 380 people.

In that same period, 106 victims were identified and referred to community support services.

"Being able to identify a child and remove that child from that harmful situation and get them into some counseling and some help is the ultimate reward," Goldschmidt said.

Just as victims require support, so too do the investigators who find themselves face to face with horrific images of child abuse in the course of their daily duties.

"I can't think of anything more graphic and more challenging (than) when you have to deal with a child victim," Commissioner Vince Hawkes told the audience.

A newly unveiled OPP mental health strategy includes increased supports to help ensure the well being of staff involved in such investigations.

"If our people are solid, then we can do our work and help our communities," Hawkes added.

(Orillia Today)

SATURDAY JANUARY 02, 2016

Jan 02 2016

A man serving a prison sentence for his involvement in the the so-called "Toronto 18" bomb plot has been granted day parole.

Saad Gaya, now 28, is serving time after pleading guilty to participating in a plot to bomb three Toronto targets, including the Toronto Stock Exchange, in protest of Canada's military involvement in Afghanistan.

The former McMaster University science student was arrested in 2006 while unloading a delivery truck filled with three tonnes of bags marked ammonium nitrate fertilizer. He was originally sentenced in 2010 to 12 years in prison, and an appeal court increased that to 18 years.

Gaya made headlines in October when the former Harper government threatened to revoke his Canadian citizenship, despite the fact he was born in Montreal.

On Wednesday, Gaya was denied full parole, but was granted up to six months of day parole, which will allow him to attend school and work in the community. But he must return to a community-based residential facility at night. According to the Parole Board of Canada decision, Gaya plans on pursuing a master's degree.

Gaya's day parole is subject to special conditions, including mandatory religious counselling from an Imam who is approved by Correctional Service of Canada. He is also prohibited from associating with people he knows or has reason to believe are involved in criminal activity, and cannot own or use a computer, or any device that can connect to the Internet.

MONDAY JANUARY 04, 2016

Jan 04 2016

BATHURST, N.B. - The case of two New Brunswick police officers charged in the shooting death of a 51-year-old man will return to court in early February.

Michel Vienneau of Tracadie-Sheila was shot in his vehicle near the Bathurst train station last January.

The RCMP say Patrick Bulger and Mathieu Boudreau of the Bathurst City Police force were both charged in November with manslaughter, assault with a weapon and unlawfully pointing a firearm.

Both men appeared in provincial court Monday, but the defence asked for more time to review the case before entering pleas.

The officers are scheduled to return to court Feb. 3.

Jan 04 2016

CALGARY - A fatality inquiry judge is calling for stricter reviews of gun licence applications after a southern Alberta man with a history of mental problems was fatally shot by RCMP.

Corey Lewis, who was 39, was shot outside his Okotoks home on July 2010 after a standoff with a Mountie tactical team.

He was found holding a dark-coloured umbrella that he had pointed at RCMP members, who thought the object was a weapon.

Judge Marlene Graham says she finds it disturbing that Lewis was granted licences for five firearms despite his mental problems, a suicide attempt and a previous emergency protection order.

Graham says having the guns was a key factor in the events that led to his death, and recommends better screening for firearms licence applicants, including a telephone interview with the applicant's spouse.

She also recommends that police consult with mental-health professionals when dealing with armed people in standoffs to help get them to surrender.

Jan 04 2016

INNISFIL, Ont. - Five people are facing charges after a break-in at a Health Canada-authorized medical marijuana producer in central Ontario.

Police say an employee monitoring security cameras at the operation - the location of which was not released - spotted five people attempting to break in early Monday.

Investigators say the employee's presence scared the suspects off.

However, they say his excellent description of the getaway vehicle led responding South Simcoe police officers to arrest five men nearby.

The five - who range in age from 29 to 37 - are charged with break and enter, possession of a prohibited weapon, possession of break-in tools, and disguise with intent.

Jan 04 2016

TORONTO - Toronto public health says a raccoon that bit a city police officer was not rabid.

Police received a call last Monday from a store owner for a raccoon that "appeared to be in distress and possibly blind," hanging around a downtown store.

Two officers showed up and tried to corral the raccoon, which is when one officer was bitten in the hand and was taken to hospital to be treated for a minor injury.

Toronto public health said in an email

Monday that as of Jan. 4, 2016 all animals, including raccoons, that had been submitted for testing have come back negative for rabies.

Jan 04 2016

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - A trial date is expected to be set later this month for a man charged with the attempted murder of a Mountie in Kamloops, B.C.

Courtroom scheduling matters have delayed the case of 37-year-old Kenneth Knutson, who is set to return to court on Jan. 18.

He was ordered to stand trial after a one-hour preliminary hearing on Dec. 7.

Knutson is facing five charges stemming from the December 2014 shooting of RCMP Cpl. Jean-Rene Michaud during a traffic stop.

The officer was struck by two bullets - one in the elbow and another in the torso.

Michaud has had multiple surgeries and may be back at work later this year.

(Kamloops This Week)

Jan 04 2016

Terry Hall was hard to miss on the OPP biker squad, and not just because of his solid 6-foot-5 frame.

He was always quick with a joke and never shy about being the first one in the door when police raided biker gang club-houses.



“He was a consummate professional and a great friend to many police officers,” said Paul Bailey, a retired York Regional Police officer who

often worked with Hall.

“He would be the first one in the door and the last one to leave,” Baile said. “I raided a number of them with him.”

Hall passed away on Jan. 1 at age 70 after a lingering illness.

“He was in good spirits to the end,” Bailey said. “He was an inspiration to all of us.

“Everything was a positive. There wasn’t a weak part of Terry that I knew.”

He joined the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force as a teenager in 1962 and transferred to the OPP in 1967.

He was a veteran of several undercover assignments who became a thorn in the side of outlaw bikers.

He sometimes wore Satan’s Choice support T-shirts when dealing with their rivals in the Outlaws club and Outlaws T-shirts when dealing with the Satan’s Choice.

“They were the original biker unit,” Bailey said. “Terry was the go-to guy for any police department in Ontario for information on bikers.”

Hall completed his career as a homicide investigator, retiring in 1997.

(Toronto Star)

Jan 04 2015

COALDALE, Alta.- The Lethbridge Regional Police Service is out, and

the RCMP are in, as Mounties have officially taken over policing the Town of Coaldale.

A temporary location at the town office will house the Coaldale RCMP officers, who will work alongside the rural Lethbridge RCMP. There are over a dozen officers between the two teams.

They will all be under one roof when a new detachment is eventually built in Coaldale, including Integrated Traffic, K-9, and Forensic Units.

“The plans are in place, a new architectural firm has been announced in Edmonton, so the firm will start the planning process for the new building,” Henry said.

Coaldale Mayor Kim Craig said so far the transition has been smooth, for both the RCMP and the town.

(Shaw Media)



Jan 05 2016

CHICAGO - The city of Chicago has paid \$5.5 million in reparations to 57 people whose claims that they were tortured by police decades ago were found to be credible.

The money was paid Monday to victims of a police unit commanded by disgraced former police commander Jon Burge from the 1970s through the early 1990s, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

More than 100 men, mostly African-American, have accused Burge and officers under his command of shocking, suffocating and beating them into giving false confessions, some of which landed them on death row. Burge has never been criminally charged with torture, but he served a 4 1/2-year sentence for lying about the torture in a civil case and was released from a halfway house last year.

The \$5.5 million adds to more than \$100 million that has been paid in court-ordered judgments, settlements of lawsuits and legal fees - most of it spent by the financially strapped city of Chicago and some by Cook County - over the years related to the torture scandal. The \$100,000 payment most victims received Monday is a fraction of some previous settlements.

Jan 05 2016

FREDERICTON - A Fredericton police officer now faces assault and threat charges in relation to separate incidents.

Sgt. Tim Sowers was charged today with one count of summary assault by Kennebecasis Regional Police.

That’s in addition to a charge of uttering threats that was laid Dec. 22 in relation to an incident that occurred in June.

On Monday, Fredericton Police said Cpl. Lou Lafleur was also charged in connection with an impaired driving incident that occurred last year.

Miramichi police laid the charge against Lafleur, who has been placed on

administrative desk duty by the Fredericton force until the matter is resolved in court.

Investigations will be conducted under the Police Act, once criminal proceedings are concluded.

Jan 05 2016

MONTREAL - A Quebec teen convicted on two terrorism-related charges will have to wait until later this year for his sentencing hearing.

He was found guilty in December of committing a robbery in association with a terrorist organization and planning to leave Canada to participate in the activities of a terrorist group abroad.

Youth court Judge Dominique Wilhelmy authorized a number of expert and pre-sentencing reports today that will take several weeks to complete.

The case returns to court March 29 when lawyers will decide if they can proceed with hearings in early April.

Prosecutors say the 16-year-old is the first Canadian convicted of attempting to leave the country to participate in terrorism-related activities since the charge to the Criminal Code in 2013.

The case stems from an October 2014 convenience store robbery the Crown successfully argued was linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and committed to help finance the boy’s trip to take part in the conflict in Syria.

Jan 05 2016

TORONTO - The union for correctional and probation officers has scheduled a last-ditch attempt at reaching a contract with the Ontario government and avoiding a strike.

Smokey Thomas, the president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, says the two sides will meet Friday.

The workers - who rejected an earlier tentative settlement - will be in a legal strike position as of 12:01 a.m. Sunday.

The government, meanwhile, has been making contingency plans in the event of a strike to have managers from other areas of the public service to help keep the jails and probation offices running.

A spokeswoman says most direct contact with inmates “will be handled and overseen by experienced corrections managers.”

Strike preparations have long been in the works, as the correctional and probation workers have been without a contract since December 2014, with the government spending \$8.5 million on training and renovating spaces in the jails.

Jan 05 2016

TORONTO - The lawyer for a Toronto police officer on trial for killing a teen on an empty streetcar asked a jury to acquit the man, saying Tuesday that the prosecution in the case was trying to “criminalize a judgment call” made by a first responder.

Const. James Forcillo has pleaded not

guilty to second-degree murder and attempted murder in the shooting of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim, whose death triggered outrage across the city 2 1/2 years ago.

As the trial nears its end, Forcillo's lawyer cautioned the jury that the case needs to be decided not out of sympathy for any party, but on the evidence heard at trial.

"Officer James Forcillo is not guilty of murder, attempted murder or any other criminal offence," Peter Brauti said in his closing address. "What the prosecution is really trying to do is criminalize a judgment call."

Crown prosecutors argue Forcillo's actions were not necessary or reasonable. Brauti contends the officer's actions were justified and carried out in self-defence.

"To be clear, no one likes the end result in this case," Brauti said.

"There can be no doubt that while Mr. Yatim may not have been a perfect young man, he is missed by his family. The answer in this case is not to take officer Forcillo away from his family. That is not justice."

Brauti accused Crown prosecutors of trying to "cloud the big picture" in the case by engaging in a frame-by-frame microanalysis of the confrontation, along with suggestions of alternative-use-of-force options the officer could have used.

"What's important to understand is it is Mr. Yatim's outward behaviour that results in him being shot," Brauti said.

"If he obeys any one of the dozen commands given, if he puts down the knife, Mr. Yatim lives to be put on trial for criminal

conduct and we would not be here today."

Brauti said Crown theories that Yatim was coming forward to surrender, in the process of putting his knife down, or that Forcillo could have used more polite language, or hurled baseballs or paintcans at the teen instead of shooting him, were all attempts to "distract" the jury.

"This case is about second guessing where an officer is allowed to draw his or her line in the sand," he said.

Brauti also noted that Forcillo had called for a sergeant with a Taser during his interaction with Yatim, and suggested that meant he didn't want to use lethal force unless it was necessary.

Jan 05 2016

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg man who backed his truck into five police cars after getting a ticket has been sentenced to 2 1/2 years in jail.

Wayne Rennie will also have to pay Manitoba Public Insurance for the repair bill, which is more than \$66,000.

Court heard Rennie was given a ticket for distracted driving on July 20 after recording notes on his phone about deliveries he was supposed to make.

The police officer who wrote the ticket noted that Rennie was upset and told her "now you'll see what I have to do."

Two hours later, Rennie methodically backed up his truck into a row of police cars parked in front of Winnipeg police headquarters.

Rennie apologized in court. (CJOB)

Jan 05 2016

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A Newfoundland man who complied with a court order to check-in with police on New Years Day now faces new charges - accused of showing up in a stolen car.

Const. Steve Curnew of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says police received a tip that Michael Legge, 22, of St. John's would be driving a stolen car when he went to police headquarters last Friday.

Curnew says by the time the front desk was notified, Legge had already signed in and left.

He says officers saw the vehicle leaving and attempted to stop it, but it sped off at a high rate of speed.

Curnew says the vehicle was soon found stuck in a snowbank, and Legge was spotted nearby on foot, and arrested.

Legge has been charged with possession of a stolen vehicle, dangerous driving, evading police and four counts of breaching court orders.

Jan 05 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberal government faces substantial work on the international stage before it can follow through on its promise to legalize marijuana.

That includes figuring out how Canada would comply with three international treaties to which the country is a party, all of which criminalize the possession and production of marijuana.

Justin Trudeau's plan to legalize, regulate

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[†] S-AWC standard on Outlander GT. [‡] Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. New vehicle limited warranty covers most vehicle parts (excluding batteries, with entertainment systems and other items excluded under the warranty's terms and conditions) under normal use and maintenance. ^{**} Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. See dealer or mitsubishi-motors.ca for warranty terms, restrictions and details. Not all customers will qualify.

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and restrict access to marijuana is already proving a complicated and controversial undertaking on the domestic front, in part because it requires working with the provinces.

Internationally, says a briefing note prepared for the prime minister, Canada will also have to find a way to essentially tell the world how it plans to conform to its treaty obligations.

The note to Trudeau was obtained by through the Access to Information Act.

Errol Mendes, a constitutional and international law expert at the University of Ottawa, says the government faces a long, hard slog in the global arena before it can legalize pot at home.

Jan 05 2015

South Island police and firefighters will experience clearer and more reliable radio communication with an initiative announced Monday.

Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications, or CREST, says it has agreed to a \$13.1-million deal with Motorola Solutions Canada for new digital infrastructure to run radio communications.

The new radio system will supply the 50 emergency-response agencies in BC's Capital Regional District, including police, fire and ambulance.

Audio clarity for individual police officers and firefighters will be improved and coverage of the geographic area will also be enhanced.

The new technology is part of a \$24.4-million upgrade in communications infrastructure, such as computers, lines and transmission towers, agreed to in 2014.

CREST is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2001 to take care of all emergency responders in the CRD, police, fire and ambulance. Its radio system now serves 50 agencies.

At the announcement of the new Motorola contract, CREST officials, including general manager Gord North, said the organization was able to save about \$1.2 million by partnering with E-Comm, the public-safety communications agency serving the Lower Mainland through to the Sunshine Coast and Fraser Valley.

Another benefit of working with E-Comm is that teams with emergency agencies served by the two communications companies can operate in each other's areas when required.

Responders from the Lower Mainland could step in and help out on southern Vancouver Island in an emergency, and vice versa. "It would be seamless for the folks because the platform is exactly the same," said North.

Also, if a catastrophe such as an earthquake knocks out emergency communications command in one area, the other can serve as a backup, directing police, fire and ambulance workers on their radios.

It's what Deputy Chief Scott Green of the Saanich Police Department called a built-in "redundancy."

"We will end up with a much more resilient system overall," said Green.

CREST is planning to introduce the new communications technology in three phases, to be completed in 2018.

(Victoria Times Colonist)

Jan 05 2016

SASKATOON - A man has been sentenced to four months in jail for making false allegations against Saskatoon police.

Dustin Keegan Eagle claimed in January 2013 that officers had driven him out of town, taken his coat and shoes and left him to walk home in -30 C temperatures.

About a year later, he admitted he made the whole thing up, but never explained why.

Eagle pleaded guilty earlier this week to mischief charges and was sentenced to an additional four months in jail.

He is already serving a four-year term on charges of assaulting a police officer and possessing a weapon.

Police Chief Clive Weighill said a lot of time and effort was expended to disprove the allegations.

"Several hundred hours of investigative time were exhausted to conclude a very thorough investigation," he said. "We worked very closely with the provincial complaints commission and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations special investigative unit."

Such accusations have a major impact on morale and hinder the department's efforts to rebuild its reputation and trust with the aboriginal community, Weighill said.

Last fall marked the 25th anniversary of the death of aboriginal teenager Neil Stonechild, who was found frozen to death on the outskirts of Saskatoon.

It was suggested that he had been taken on a "starlight tour" - the name given to a quick way for police to handle troublemakers by leaving them on the outskirts of the city.

A judicial inquiry found that Saskatoon police constables Larry Hartwig and Brad Senger had the 17-year-old in custody the night he was last seen alive in 1990.

No charges were ever laid. Hartwig and Senger have always said Stonechild was gone by the time they arrived at an apartment building to investigate a disturbance complaint.

About a year ago, a Regina woman claimed police drove her out of the city and took her coat and boots before taking her to the drunk tank. Her allegations also turned out to be false, but she wasn't charged.

(CJLR)

Jan 05 2016

Drug squads in Vancouver and Victoria have discretion on whether to bust illegal marijuana dispensaries, but police boards in those cities should have clear policies on when and why they enforce the federal laws prohibiting such storefront pot sales, says B.C.'s municipal police watchdog.

Police Complaint Commissioner Stan Lowe said in letters to the chairs of both boards that police departments should craft criteria determining which risks to public safety merit raiding a dispensary and that forces should provide detailed explanations of what such a process looks like.

The letters, obtained by The Globe and Mail, contain recommendations that are not

binding, but Mr. Lowe's suggestions come as police forces across Canada grapple with a burgeoning number of dispensaries.

The Vancouver force needs a "clear, objective policy to guide officers," Mr. Lowe wrote in a Nov. 20 letter to Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, head of the city's police board.

Mr. Lowe noted that council had drafted bylaws to regulate and curtail the illegal shops, and "it is apparent that enforcement of criminal legislation remains an important component of the city's approach to this issue."

"But there remains a gap in policies with respect to how police enforcement will fulfill this role."

In a Dec. 29 letter to the two mayors that co-chair the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board, he stated that the force "could benefit from the creation of a clear and objective policy in the area of enforcement as it relates to marijuana dispensaries."

Mr. Lowe did not say whether such policies should be made public, but in both letters he referenced the Vancouver Police Department's landmark 2006 drug policy, which he said clarified its enforcement priorities for officers and "other stakeholders" alike.

The mayor of Victoria and a Vancouver police spokesman both declined to comment on Tuesday.

The office handles complaints against 11 municipal departments and three other specialized forces across the province.

(Globe and Mail)

Jan 05 2016

A judge is urging the Calgary Police Service to consider creating a policy for foot pursuits after a police chase ended with an officer shooting and killing a man brandishing a screwdriver in 2011.

The fatal confrontation on Aug. 11, 2011 happened after friends led police on an hours-long dangerous driving spree around north Calgary in stolen pickup trucks. Jonathan Rawlings, 36, and a woman eventually abandoned one of the stolen vehicles and ran into a residential area in Whitehorn.

Rawlings was pursued on foot by an officer - a 10-year-veteran - and followed to a backyard where he held an edged instrument (later determined to be a screwdriver) and shouted he had a knife. Rawlings was shot four times by the lone police officer and died as a result of his injuries.

A public fatality inquiry report, released Tuesday, into the fatal shooting more than four years ago concluded the incident was "tragic and difficult" for both the victim, the victim's loved ones and the police officers involved "who were doing what they were trained to do."

In the report, the judge stated while it is difficult to formulate recommendations that could prevent similar deaths, it is apparent that police foot pursuits are dangerous for the pursued subject, police officers and innocent bystanders.

The only recommendation urged by the judge in the 19-page report is that the Calgary Police Service "give consideration to

formulating a policy on police foot pursuits, including a consideration of holding reviews of those pursuits in serious incidents directly involving foot pursuits.”

Calgary Police Association president Howard Burns called the suggestion fair.

“It wouldn’t hurt to examine and look at a policy in relation to foot pursuits,” he said.

The service has policies relating to vehicle chases but lacks a similar formal policy respecting foot pursuits.

“It seems like a reasonable recommendation,” Burns said. “The police service is always looking at ways of doing things better and reducing risk to all people involved.”

Foot pursuits are a daily occurrence for the force, Calgary Police Service spokesman Kevin Brookwell said.

“These are spur of the moment things,” he said. “Often times you don’t know you’re going to be in a foot pursuit until seconds before.”

Brookwell said the police service has an internal process in place that will examine if this particular recommendation will be put into effect.

“Every time there’s a fatality inquiry and recommendations are made, we take a really hard look at those and put some rigour to see if it could be implemented,” he said.

Brookwell said if police do review certain foot pursuits, as recommended, thresholds would have to be established because of the large number of chases the service engages in.

“The volume of foot pursuits we have our officers involved in every day would be almost overwhelming for the service to look through all of those,” he said.

In August 2013, an independent review by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team found the officer was justified in shooting Rawlings.

(Calgary Herald)

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 06, 2016

Jan 06 2016

FREDERICTON - A Fredericton police officer, who was accused of theft from a store in Maine, has been fired following a Police Act hearing and arbitration ruling.

In a statement, Fredericton Police Chief Leanne Fitch says the employment of Const. Cherie Campbell is terminated effective immediately.

Fitch says she’s confident in the process and that the arbitrator made a fair decision.

Campbell was accused of shoplifting from a store in Houlton, Maine in December 2014, but her trial ended in a hung jury and she was not retried.

In a 34-page decision released Wednesday, arbitrator Cedric Haines says after reviewing the evidence he believes Campbell did commit theft and did try to use her position as a police officer to gain favourable treatment from a member of the Houlton Police Department.

He says Campbell engaged in discreditable conduct in violation of the Code of Professional Conduct.

Jan 06 2016

GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alta. - A police watchdog says a suspected robber shot and killed by RCMP outside a convenience store in northern Alberta wanted to die.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says in a release that the 19-year-old man planned the confrontation with Mounties in Grande Prairie on Jan. 2, 2015.

It says he armed himself with a unloaded pellet gun that looked like a real handgun and ordered the store clerk to call police.

The man later released the worker and, over the phone, warned officers that he had a gun and would kill officers if they did not shoot him first.

When he came out of the store, he aimed at an officer, who shot the man in the stomach and legs.

He later died in hospital.

Jan 06 2015

MONTREAL - A Montreal police officer has been hit with a two-day suspension without pay for his actions during a student protest in January of 2012.

Officer Guy Hamilton was found to have violated the police ethics code in two separate incidents during a protest on Jan. 27 in front of the education minister’s office.

Hamilton admitted his guilt in the allegations made to the police ethics committee, which included beating two people holding a banner with Hamilton’s baton, and shoving a woman to the ground while clearing a path for a police cruiser.

In its decision, the committee said Hamilton abused his authority and used excessive force during the protest.

(Montreal Gazette)

Jan 06 2016

NEWMARKET, Ont. - A man accused of drunk driving in a horrific crash that killed three young children and their grandfather accepts full responsibility for his actions, his lawyer said Wednesday as he announced the man will plead guilty to multiple charges.

Marco Muzzo - a member of one of Canada’s wealthiest families - faces a dozen counts of impaired driving and six more charges of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle related to the Sept. 27 crash.

His case took several quick turns on Wednesday, starting out in a bail court and ending up before a Superior Court judge who granted his lawyer’s request to have Muzzo return early next month to enter his guilty plea.

“Mr. Muzzo has always accepted full responsibility for his actions and his conduct, and has from the first day of our meeting expressed his wish that this matter proceed as expeditiously as possible to this resolution,” Muzzo’s lawyer Brian Greenspan said outside court.

Greenspan said some of the charges Muzzo faces are “redundant,” adding that his client will plead guilty to “those charges that the Crown presents to the court” at his next appearance.

Nine-year-old Daniel Neville-Lake, his five-year-old brother Harrison, their two-year-old sister Milly, and their 65-year-old grandfather Gary Neville died after the van they were in was T-boned by an SUV in Vaughan, Ont.

The children’s grandmother and great-grandmother were seriously injured in the crash.

THURSDAY JANUARY 07, 2016

Jan 07 2015

MONTREAL - Montreal police officers who shot and killed a man last spring will not face charges.

The incident took place on May 31, 2015, when officers responded to 9-1-1 calls regarding a man attacking a woman.

When officers arrived on the scene they ordered René Gallant to take his hands off the woman’s neck and put his hands up.

Instead, the man grabbed a knife and lunged at officers.

Two officers drew their weapons and fired a total of five bullets at him. He was taken to hospital with serious injuries and died of his wounds.

The Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions notes that the facts reported by the police were confirmed by witnesses.

(CTV Montreal)

Jan 07 2016

OTTAWA - Alberta’s justice minister has forced an inquiry into a Federal Court judge who asked a sexual assault complainant why she couldn’t keep her knees together.

The Canadian Judicial Council says the inquiry, which is likely to be public, will determine whether Justice Robin Camp should be removed from his job.

An inquiry is held automatically when a provincial justice minister requests one.

The council had already ordered a review panel to examine the judge’s decision in a 2014 case when he was a provincial court judge in Calgary.

Camp acquitted a man of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old girl after deciding that the man’s version of events was more credible.

Three legal academics who filed a complaint about Camp’s decision said he disregarded the law and treated the woman badly.

Jan 07 2016

TORONTO - Ontario has settled a lawsuit with convicted murderer Richard Wills, who killed his lover and hid her remains then billed taxpayers \$1.3 million for his defence.

After spending seven years trying to

recoup some of the money Wills' lawyers billed Legal Aid - assistance the former Toronto police officer got despite his personal wealth - the government has now called it a day.

An assessment hearing in 2013, a separate process from the lawsuit, reduced Wills' lawyers' bills by \$219,892.25, said Brendan Crawley, a spokesman for the Ministry of the Attorney General.

"Ontario aggressively pursued Mr. Wills and his lawyers in order to recover money for the taxpayers," he said in an emailed statement.

"In light of the successful assessments, and given that Mr. Wills is in prison, the Crown has now settled the civil action."

Wills was convicted in 2007 of killing Linda Mariani, his longtime lover. His trial heard that he hit her in the head with a baseball bat and used a skipping rope to strangle her, stuffed her body in a garbage can and sealed it behind a wall in his basement for nearly four months.

Wills was once a millionaire, but following his 2002 arrest he systematically got rid of his assets in order to qualify for legal aid.

Wills' behaviour at his preliminary hearing was so outrageous no lawyer was willing to take his case at regular legal aid rates, then about \$93 an hour. The judge ordered the attorney general to fund the cost of his defence at an enhanced rate of \$200 an hour.

The 2013 assessment decisions chalked more than \$200,000 up to overbilling, but that still leaves the total tab at \$1 million.

Crawley would not say how much money, if any, Wills will repay as a result of the settlement.

Jan 07 2016

REGINA - Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says there's one way to avoid prison food - don't go to prison.

Nearly 70 inmates at the Regina Correctional Centre are refusing to eat because of the quality of the food.

Concerns about the food started being raised by inmates in November, shortly after food services at the jail were switched to a private company, Compass Group.

The premier says food provided to anyone in the public system should be high quality and safe.

But Wall says he's seen the menu and believes inmates are getting a good choice; the government also notes that no one has gotten sick.

The premier says he's eaten the company's food at other venues across Saskatchewan and it was pretty good.

Jan 07 2016

TORONTO - A Toronto Police officer who shot down a teen on an empty streetcar was "a hothead and a bully" who had viable alternatives to lethal force but didn't use them, a Crown prosecutor argued Thursday.

As the trial draws to a close, Crown prosecutor Milan Rupic told jurors Forcillo wanted to assert his authority over a "mouthy, mock-

ing teenager" without trying to make a connection with a person he knew was in crisis.

Forcillo's lawyer has argued in his own closing statement that the Crown is trying to "criminalize a judgement call" made by a first responder. He has also placed blame for the incident squarely on Yatim's shoulders, saying the knife-toting, unco-operative teen "got himself shot."

"It is wrong to say Sammy Yatim got himself shot," said Rupic. "It was not necessary and it was not reasonable for the defendant Forcillo to shoot the young man..."

"The defendant shot Sammy Yatim not because he posed any real threat to anyone, but rather because Yatim simply moved 50 centimetres and failed to obey the ultimatum," said Rupic, noting that the teen had not lunged or charged towards

Forcillo.

"The defendant drew an unreasonable, unwarranted and dangerous line in the sand."

Rupic reminded the jury that when testifying, Forcillo said he had been "trained to win the situation," and suggested the officer's thinking was wrong.

Forcillo didn't follow his police training, contrary to what he has told the court, because he didn't engage in sufficient de-escalation, nor did he properly consider other use-of-force alternatives, Rupic said.

Forcillo also did not make use of his most valuable asset - time, Rupic said.

"The defendant tried to take control solely by pointing his gun and shouting commands," Rupic said. "The defendant was not as rational and mindful of his training as he would have you believe."

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