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JANUARY 1, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 4

Executive Digest

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Toronto deputy chief on leave after budget speech



Jan 19 2016

TORONTO - One of Toronto's police leaders is on leave after giving a speech calling for drastic cost-saving changes to the force.

Deputy Chief Peter Sloly, long seen as a reformer, is also the subject of three union complaints after he slammed the billion-dollar police budget on Friday and said hundreds of officers' jobs could stand to be trimmed. The remarks, to a small group of young entrepreneurs, were streamed online.

On Tuesday, Deputy Chief Sloly was off work. Mark Pugash, spokesman for the service, said the deputy chief is simply taking annual leave, and it was completely his choice to do so.

Mr. Pugash said he did not know how long Deputy Chief Sloly would be away from his duties or if he had previously planned to take time off this week. When asked if he was on vacation, Mr. Pugash said “apparently.”

Deputy Chief Sloly is still in Toronto and was reached at home on Tuesday, although he



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declined to speak to media.

Long considered a rising star, Deputy Chief Sloly once spearheaded a review of community policing and was seen as a front-runner to become the new chief last year. Current Chief Mark Saunders got the job.

The Friday talk, which included answering audience questions, was for the Studio Y fellowship program at the MaRS Discovery District. Although the organization publishes video from past speeches on its website, Deputy Chief Sloly's speech was not there early this week, and the site made no mention of his appearance, as it did for other past speakers.

According to a Toronto Star report, Deputy Chief Sloly said the police force could make better use of data and technology, that it wastes money on infrastructure, and that top brass had laughed at his calls to improve use of social media, which he said could have changed the course of two multiple shootings in 2012, at Danzig Street and the Eaton Centre.

"We run around all over the city in the most unfocused way, reacting to what you call us for, as opposed to trying to understand what's going on and... putting our most important resources in the best place," he said, according to The Star.

He also spoke about being "scrutinized and stigmatized and followed" by police as a young black man in Scarborough. In his interview for chief, he had told the board the biggest issue for police right now is earning trust and legitimacy, he said.

Chief Saunders was not available for comment on Tuesday, but he had said earlier that he would not be distracted by the remarks, Mr. Pugash said.

"When he was applying to be chief, he made it clear that his position was [that] there needed to be transformational change, and that's what he's working on now," Mr. Pugash said.

The Toronto Police Association did not

take the comments lightly, filing formal complaints on Tuesday to the chief, the police services board and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, union president Mike McCormack said. If the complaints are upheld, Deputy Chief Sloly could be reprimanded or face other penalties.

More junior officers have been disciplined for calling the police tribunal a "kangaroo court" and making other disrespectful remarks, and Deputy Chief Sloly's comments were no different, Mr. McCormack said.

"I'm not taking issue with the things he's talking about, but those things need to be explored in the proper forum with the proper evidence-based solutions," and not by someone bitter over losing the top job, which is "how it comes across to our members," he said.

(Globe and Mail)

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2016

Jan 13 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberal government is planning to put hundreds of Conservative crime-prevention initiatives under the microscope to determine which ones worked - and which ones didn't.



A request for proposals issued Wednesday says Public Safety Canada is launching a year-long study examining the sustainability of crime prevention projects the department has funded.

Starting in 2006 - when Stephen Harper's Conservatives took office - the department has funded about 800 crime prevention projects under the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

The strategy's current priorities, the RFP says, are to address early risk factors among children, youth and young adults that are at risk of offending.

"The priorities include youth gangs, drug-related crimes, reducing recidivism among high-risk groups, enhancing the exiting of sex work activities, and fostering the prevention of Aboriginal communities."

The study would review a sample of the 800 projects to determine the extent to which they have been sustained beyond government funding; in other words, which ones were adopted by non-governmental agencies and other levels of government.

A final report would be due this November, with a presentation to department officials in mid-December.

(Metro News)

THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 2016

Jan 14 2016

BRAMPTON - An Ontario judge has ruled there was a breach of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in "tower dump" production orders that required Rogers Communications Inc. and Telus Corp. to hand over the personal information of about 40,000 cellphone users to police.

Justice John Sproat of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Brampton issued a decision Thursday that found the orders had authorized unreasonable searches in contravention of Section 8 of the Charter, breaching the rights of Telus and Rogers subscribers.

The orders were made in 2014 but later revoked by the police after Rogers and Telus challenged them and the judge found the disclosure of personal information required went "far beyond what was reasonably necessary to gather evidence concerning the commission of the crimes under investigation."

Justice Sproat wrote that "common sense" dictates Canadians have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the records of their cellphone activity and while this type of information is often innocuous, "it remains that in a number of cases it will be quite sensitive."

He also set out guidelines in his ruling for how police and courts should handle requests for such orders to minimize the intrusion on personal privacy.

In the case at hand, Peel Regional Police sought details of subscribers whose mobile devices had pinged cellphone towers in the range of a string of jewellery robberies.

"Every year such orders require cellular providers to produce the names and addresses of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of subscribers; who they called; who called them; their location at the time; and the duration of the call. These orders may also require that credit card information be provided," Justice Sproat wrote.

Rogers and Telus challenged the orders in question for being overly broad, saying complying with them would have resulted in the disclosure of the personal information of more than 9,000 Telus subscribers and more than 30,000 Rogers subscribers.

Justice Sproat noted in his ruling that the orders also required production of bank and credit card information, which, "if it had any relevance at all in locating an individual, could have been sought in a follow-up application for a small number of actual suspects, i.e. a person whose cellphone was proximate to multiple crime locations."

The judge provided seven guidelines for police and courts to follow. Taken as a whole, his recommendations urge police to carefully outline the specific information they are seeking and why it is relevant and to consider requesting information in increments through carefully tailored requests.

Brendan Crawley, a spokesman for the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario,

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK Celebrating 20 Years
ISSN 1704-3913
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said the ministry is reviewing the decision, adding "as the matter is currently within the appeal period, we have no further comment."

Jan 14 2016

SASKATOON - Advanced statistics have revolutionized the way sports teams do business and now Saskatoon police are hoping a new lab doing the same kind of data analysis can help stop crimes before they happen.

"The lab is going to help validate a cop's instincts," Deputy Chief Bernie Pannell told reporters at a news conference Thursday.

Police officers, Pannell said, have piles of data stored away in notebooks and crime sheets. Most of it, he says, isn't ever used the way it could be. Now with the help of some computer scientists and mathematicians from the University of Saskatchewan, police are hoping that data will help predict and even prevent crime.

"We are limited only by our imagination as to the kinds of things we might take on in this lab," said Stephen Wormith, professor and director, centre for forensic behavioural science and justice studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

Wormith's team has already studied data on people inside Saskatchewan jails and whether they are likely to reoffend once released.

He says the never-before-seen data released to his team by police will allow researchers to more accurately predict when and where crimes will happen.

The lab is already being used to help with missing persons cases in Saskatoon. The lab is hoping to identify common trends and factors that cause runaway behaviours among the city's repeat runaways and find ways to intervene before they run away.

Police and the researchers hope to expand the research to analyze domestic violence cases and missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

Brian Rector, who works with the ministry of justice, said the data is going to be stripped of any identifiers that might lead to things such as racial profiling.

"It's not about how tall you are, what your cultural background is - those are not predictive variables. If we want to actually make a difference in reducing crime, what are the factors that really create it, to begin, and how can we intervene?" he said.

The lab operates out of a secure facility in the Saskatoon police headquarters.

The SPS is partnering with the Saskatchewan government and University of Saskatchewan in the project.

(Saskatoon Star Phoenix)

Jan 14 2016

REGINA - Saskatchewan's police watchdog says two Regina police officers used excessive force against an aboriginal man during an arrest.

Simon Ash-Moccasin lodged a complaint in December 2014 after police incorrectly ap-

proached him as a suspect in relation to the theft and sale of a television.

He said officers handcuffed him before shoving him in the back of a police cruiser and arrested him because the suspect police were looking for was aboriginal.

The Public Complaints Commission said in a ruling Thursday that Ash-Moccasin's complaint of excessive force and the way in which he was treated was substantiated.

However, the commission says police did not racially profile Ash-Moccasin and had a legitimate reason to approach him.

Commission chairman Brent Cotter said Justice Ministry prosecutors found no criminal charges were warranted against the officers.

(CJME)

FRIDAY JANUARY 15, 2016

Jan 15 2016

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Dwight Ball says his government plans to release the findings of an investigation into the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary as soon as possible.

Nova Scotia's police watchdog, the Serious Incident Response Team, says it's investigating allegations involving potential criminal conduct.

The Halifax-based team was contacted by Newfoundland's Justice Department in November.

Ball says he's unable to give detailed comment while the investigation is ongoing, but he says he has spoken with Justice Minister Andrew Parsons about the investigation.

Meanwhile, Ball says the province doesn't have an immediate need for an independent civilian body to investigate allegations against police officers.

But he says government will listen to all recommendations that come from the investigation.

(VOCM)

Jan 15 2016

The number of military-style firearms that can be temporarily jury-rigged to become automatic weapons has increased "dramatically" in Canada over the last decade - and so has the public-safety risk.

That's the stark conclusion of an internal RCMP laboratory report on improvised methods for upgrading semi-automatic weapons, and for illegally altering magazines to allow for rapid continuous fire.

The lab report notes that Criminal Code regulations designed to thwart makeshift upgrades may not apply to newer generations of weapons, creating a legal void.

"The restricted and prohibited firearm provisions of Criminal Code regulations were last updated in 1995, and there are pres-

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Lethal encounters between police and the mentally ill are all too common: dozens of Canadian families have lost a loved one in a police shooting, often minutes or even seconds after officers arrive on the scene.

Hold Your Fire reveals who these individuals were, aside from their illness and from the tragedy that ended their lives. The film deconstructs deadly scenarios to show how police training and response to people in crisis went off track - and how progressive police forces are striving to get onto a better path.

Can police be trained to hold their fire?

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Hold Your Fire will be posted online at the CBC website and the documentary will be rebroadcast on CBC News Network Saturday, January 23 at 11 pm ET and Sunday, January 24 at 6 pm ET.

ently numerous models of military and paramilitary firearms on the Canadian market which are outside the scope of the Criminal Code regulations, many being non-restricted in classification,” says the 15-page report.

“The Canadian introduction of new types of military and paramilitary firearms not mentioned in the Criminal Code regulations, nearly all with large capacity magazines sizes, started circa 2005 and has accelerated since.”

“The public safety threat posed by improvised conversion to full automatic fire has correspondingly increased.”

A heavily censored version of the internal report, dated November 2014, was obtained by CBC News under the Access to Information Act.

CBC News has previously reported on the RCMP’s concerns about improvised assault-weapon upgrades, an issue raised by RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson directly with then public safety minister Steven Blaney last year. But the detailed Mountie lab work documenting the issue was released only in the last week.

Last summer, Blaney rejected legislative changes to close any regulatory gap, saying the current law was sufficient. The Conservative government also passed Bill C-42 giving cabinet - not the RCMP - the final say about which weapons to restrict or ban, after the Mounties were slapped down for trying to get a popular semi-automatic withdrawn from Canada.

But the new Liberal government has promised to “put decision-making about

weapons restrictions back into the hands of police, not politicians,” raising the possibility the RCMP may yet be able to get some semi-automatics taken off the market.

A Mountie spokesman, Sgt. Harold Pfeiderer, would not say whether the RCMP is pressing the new Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale to act on the issue. “The RCMP does not comment on the advice it provides to the minister,” he said in an email.

A spokesman for Goodale reiterated the Liberal government’s commitment to get “assault weapons off our streets,” but said consultations are needed first.

“We will work with all levels of government, our stakeholders and the Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee to move forward on this commitment,” said Scott Bardley.

The RCMP lab tested 11 models of rifles and one pistol, including the weapon used by Marc Lepine in the 1989 Montreal massacre and the semi-automatic used by Justin Bourque in the 2014 Mountie shootings in Moncton, N.B.

The testing was prompted by Bourque’s statement to police that he had considered using an improvised technique to turn his rifle into an automatic weapon.

The report says more than 1,200 test shots were fired between July and November 2014, using a technique that is “widely reported on the internet complete with installation and fitting instructions.” The name of the technique is blacked out in the documents, but has been known in gun circles for decades, and infor-

mation about at least one other technique also circulates.

The Criminal Code regulations in the 1990s effectively protected against any upgrades “by taking the firearms most practical for conversion to full automatic fire off the civilian market,” says the document, authored by Murray A. Smith, manager with the RCMP Canadian Firearms Program.

“Thus, the public safety risk posed by improvised conversion techniques was largely negated and rendered moot, and not requiring much police attention.”

But the proliferation of new firearms since 2005 has increased the risk to the public, augmented by the availability of new magazines.

“Large capacity magazines are widely available for the military and paramilitary firearms, and although limited in capacity by law and generally reduced to five shots by a pin or similar modification, the original capacity is typically readily restorable.”

“The materials required for improvised full automatic fire are ordinary everyday products.”

Upgrading any weapon to fully automatic status is clearly prohibited by Section 102(1) of the Criminal Code, with prison terms of up to 10 years. But Smith’s report raises questions about the current effectiveness of 20-year-old Criminal Code regulations as they apply to newer weapons shown in lab tests to be “amenable to the improvised full automatic fire technique.”

(CBC News)

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Jan 15 2016

OTTAWA - Canada's top Mountie says the gunman who stormed Parliament Hill in 2014 would have had a difficult time pleading insanity had he lived to face charges.

But RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson acknowledges Michael Zehaf Bibeau could have benefited from mental-health counselling before the rampage that saw him die in a hail of bullets.

A rifle-toting Zehaf Bibeau, 32, raced into Parliament's Centre Block in October 2014 after fatally killing Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, an honour guard at the nearby National War Memorial.

Shortly before his attack, the gunman made a video in which he cited retaliation for Canada's military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq as his motivation.

Paulson told a Commons committee last year that the Mounties considered Zehaf Bibeau a terrorist, and that he would have been charged with terrorism offences under the Criminal Code had he survived.

The commissioner told a security conference today that Zehaf Bibeau might have then blamed his actions on mental illness - but Paulson doesn't believe such a breakdown was the main factor.

Jan 15 2016

MARKHAM, Ont. - Police in a city north of Toronto are chewing on a bizarre crime.

York Regional Police say a man stole more than \$1,500 worth of gum from a pharmacy in Markham, Ont., and they're hoping the public can help them identify the culprit.

Investigators say the man went to the drug store on the evening of Dec. 17 and video surveillance shows he went to the candy aisle, filled a garbage bag with gum and left.

A few moments later he re-entered the store, filled another garbage bag with chewing gum and walked out again.

Police say they believe he loaded both garbage bags - containing chewing gum worth \$1,528 - into a waiting taxi.

Investigators say they've exhausted all leads and have released the video surveillance as well as images of the suspect in the hope someone will recognize the man.

Jan 15 2016

WINNIPEG - Those little coloured validation stickers Manitoba drivers place on the bottom corners of their licence plates are about to disappear.

Effective March 1 this year, motorists will no longer be required to peel and stick the markers that indicate the month and year of a vehicle's insurance and registration renewal.

The Manitoba government says technology is now available which allows police to quickly scan a plate number to determine a vehicle's status.

Drivers will be given blank white stickers to cover up outdated ones on their plates whenever they renew their coverage.

Manitoba Public Insurance says eliminating the stickers for an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 drivers will save the Crown insurance company about \$200,000 annually.

Saskatchewan and Quebec have already eliminated licence stickers from their systems. (CJOB, CTV Winnipeg)

Jan 15 2016

VANCOUVER - A leaked internal police memo and accompanying photo labelled three "Middle Eastern" men suspicious, but on Friday Vancouver police said the men they wanted for questioning were actually innocent.

The leak gives an inside look at police communication and reveals how common

such suspicious circumstances can be.

Still photos from surveillance footage began circulating Thursday night after Internet news and culture publication Vancity Buzz posted an article saying police were looking to speak with the men, who were spotted taking pictures of the entrances and exits at a local mall.

Police Chief Adam Palmer told a news conference Friday that the information about the suspicious incident was included in a confidential police bulletin, and was never intended to be released to the media.

"We weren't planning on going public with it at this point because we didn't feel it was something serious enough to go public with at this point," he said.

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Hours later, police released a statement saying they had identified and spoken with the men.

"All three men were co-operative with investigators and they had a very logical explanation regarding their behaviour," the statement said. "The investigation has conclusively determined that their actions were completely innocent."

Vancity Buzz editor in chief Farhan Mohamed said his team published the story because it was in the public interest.

The publication received a tip, and confirmed the information with police, who did not ask them to stifle the story, Mohamed said.

Jan 15 2016

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog is investigating the shooting of a male by officers in the parking lot of a New Westminster shopping centre.

Acting Sgt. Jeff Scott of the New Westminster Police Department said officers responded at about noon Friday to a call of an unwanted male at the Walmart in the city's Queensborough neighbourhood.

"Through the course of the investigation, one male was taken into custody, and there was an interaction with a second male," said Scott. "That interaction with the second male resulted in an officer-involved shooting."

Scott said the male who was shot has been taken to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and a firearm has been located at the scene.

He said no bystanders were involved.

Jan 15 2016

TORONTO - Should the names of Toronto police officers who committed suicide be included on a wall alongside their colleagues who died in the line of duty?

The Ontario Human Rights Commission has filed a claim to the province's Human Rights Tribunal to have names of officers who killed themselves added to the wall. The claim argues that excluding those who died by suicide is discriminatory and stigmatizes officers who suffered from mental illness.

Currently officers who commit suicide are not named alongside their colleagues on the Memorial Wall at the Toronto Police College or on the Honour Roll wall at Toronto police headquarters.

Heidi Rogers's husband Sgt. Richard Rogers killed himself in July 2014, after grappling with mental illness for years. She's part of the human rights claim.

In an interview on Metro Morning Friday Rogers said her husband, a 22-year veteran of the force, deserves the honour because the illness that contributed to his death was directly related to his job.

"He was always fair," she said. "He was always willing to listen to both sides. He was very compassionate."

Sgt. Rogers was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety, something Heidi Rogers said he felt compelled

to hide. Heidi Rogers said her husband was belittled when he asked for help.

"You cannot come forward and say you have any sort of mental illness because then the whole stigmatization starts You're ostracized."

Rogers said not all officers whose names are on the wall died in the line of duty at the hands of others. She said she's been unable to find a list of rules for adding names to the wall.

"There are people on the wall who simply had a heart attack," she said.

"There are people on the wall who were not even on duty when they died in the car accident. Some of them are not related to responding to any call, they're just accidents."

"Why should someone who has a heart attack - a physical ailment - be any different somebody who has a mental ailment, both job-related?"

The widows of some police officers have said they will demand the names of their husbands be removed from the wall if Sgt. Rogers name is added to it.

"That's shocking," said Rogers, who argues that adding her husband's name takes nothing away from the officers whose names are enshrined there.

She said allowing her husband's name on the wall "would acknowledge that this was a work-related incident."

The Toronto Police Service declined the CBC's request for comment on this issue, saying they don't want to speak about a case before the tribunal.

(CBC News)

Jan 15 2016

Ontario police officers still have the right to impersonate journalists for investigative purposes, but have agreed to guidelines for doing so.

Defence lawyer Peter Rosenthal says the guidelines will do little to change police behaviour. Rosenthal represented Shawn Brant, an aboriginal activist who was filmed by a police officer posing as a journalist during the aboriginal day of action protests in 2007.

After a years-long legal battle, the Ontario Provincial Police have signed a Statement of Principles outlining when and how the OPP may act as a member of media, including:

- Officers must have approval before posing as media in an undercover or plainclothes role.
- Officers may not identify themselves as members of the media if they are asked while in a plainclothes surveillance role.
- Officers impersonating journalists must be made aware of the principles.
- The OPP must keep a record of members posing as journalists, including when a member does so without prior approval.

Journalists work as neutral observers in many situations - at protests or political rallies for example — often in large numbers. Such situations enable police to stand among the crowd unnoticed, often even to members of the media themselves.

"We became aware that at certain occasions, specifically some of the First Nations protests that were taking place, Ipperwash for example, that police had been taking what we thought was the unusual and unjustified step of impersonating journalists in order to get close to the crowd, to infiltrate the scene, and be able to gather intelligence," said Cal Johnstone, former president of the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) and current network managing editor at Global News.

"Our concern as an organization at that time is that it would put journalists in danger."

Johnstone says the solicitors for the attorney general reached out with the offer of drafting a Statement of Principles, which comes close to what the RTDNA was asking for initially.

(Global News)

Jan 15 2016

OTTAWA - More than a year after jihadi attacks killed two soldiers on the streets of Canada, high numbers of federal detectives specializing in Mafia and biker-gang investigations remain on loan to national-security squads.

Giving a keynote speech at a Canadian Association of Security and Intelligence Studies symposium on terror in Ottawa on Friday, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson spoke about how police try to contain extremists in Canada who take inspiration from the Islamic State (IS) overseas. The ultimate goal, he says, is to ensure no other potential "lone wolf" shooters, or organized group of shooters, get a chance to emerge.

Such police work is labour-intensive and comes at continuing cost in Canada, Commissioner Paulson said. For police it can mean investigative triage, where chronic issues such as dealing with organized crime can be put on the back burner to advance terrorism probes.

Commissioner Paulson talked about how an ongoing recalibration of what his officers focus on is taking place after last year's slayings perpetrated by IS sympathizers in Ottawa and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que. Many Mounties remain redeployed from their regular jobs to work at ensuring there are no repeat attacks.

"After Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and after Ottawa I had all my commanding officers, every division, every province, in to talk. And I said 'Okay. No, no, no, no, we cannot have an attack where it is remotely, remotely foreseeable,'" Commissioner Paulson said.

"That's why we have all of our organized-crime [detectives] - well, a lot of them - reassessed to national security, because we are not ready to accept any level [of attack threat].... It's a fascinating, fascinating challenge."

Commissioner Paulson added that for police, keeping up such staffing and vigilance "is very, very taxing, and frankly I don't know how sustainable it is given current realities."

Commissioner Paulson spoke about how police partnerships with federal intelligence agencies have left him fairly confident authorities can zero in on extremists in Canada at early stages. But the big fear is that the “lone wolf”-style threat that Canada saw in 2014 may evolve into something more organized and epic, like the IS-inspired attacks in Paris late last year.

“We need to have foreseen some of the challenges that will undoubtedly flow from an attack, an organized attack,” Commissioner Paulson said.

“So we are very responsive ... and other players in the intelligence world are very alive to that, and one of the reasons why all those resources are redeployed to national security is to guard against that.

“It leads to an interesting discussion in Parliament,” he said.

During his speech, Commissioner Paulson reiterated recent critiques he has made about Internet encryption methods and “restrictive” Canadian legal hurdles getting in the way of police being able to readily access communications and communication records that can help police keep tabs on what some extremists are saying on the Internet.

He said these hurdles are vexing but not fundamentally unlike what he went through as a detective a decade ago - when he was heading up organized-crime investigations in Chilliwack, B.C., and watching Hells Angels suspects go into open fields to talk to each other, safely out of range of listening devices. (Globe and Mail)

Jan 15 2016

OTTAWA - The federal government will have four more months to draft new legislation that would give RCMP members and reservists the right to collective bargaining, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled today.

The RCMP is the only police service in Canada without the right to unionize.

The Supreme Court ruled one year ago that members of the RCMP have the right to collective bargaining as other public servants do. The court gave the federal government one year to draft new legislation, a deadline that would have expired on Saturday.

The Liberal government had asked the top court for a six-month extension.

Today, the court granted the Liberals a four-month extension.

The court gave no reasons for its decision.

The Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada acknowledged today's ruling in a written statement.

“MPPAC has for many years been at the forefront of the fight to recognize the constitutional rights of RCMP members and remains focused on its goal of becoming the independent police association chosen by RCMP members to represent them,” Rae Banwarie, the president of the association said.

“The new legislation, once introduced, will provide the road map for making this goal a reality.”

Treasury Board spokesperson Jean-Luc

Ferland said the government was pleased with the decision, noting the government had already announced its intention to table legislation by the end of February.

“The new labour relations framework will ensure that RCMP members can exercise their charter-protected right to engage in collective bargaining by providing a labour relations regime that both complies with the Supreme Court's decision and reflects the particular operational policing environment of RCMP officers,” Ferland said in an email. (CBC News)

Jan 15 2016

MONTREAL - Charges were filed Friday in connection with secret intelligence stolen from the car of the head of the Montreal police's anti-street gang squad while he attended a Christmas party last month.

Nine charges were filed against Bouamrane Ahmed Fouatih, 31, a Laval resident who is a suspect in two recent thefts. He is charged with stealing objects from Cmdr. Patrice Vilceus, the head of the Montreal police Ese squad, a unit whose investigators gather intelligence on street gang members.

Ahmed Fouatih is also charged with smashing the window of a car on the same date as the theft.

According to reports published last week, Vilceus's car was broken into while he attended a Christmas party and items were stolen from the vehicle, including a USB key that contained information related to an ongoing investigation and information concerning police sources whose identities are supposed to be protected.

According to a source familiar with the case, investigators had their eye on Ahmed Fouatih for several days before he was arrested on Thursday. He was also charged on Thursday with driving a motor vehicle while he was disqualified from doing so.

The Montreal police scrambled to find whoever broke into the commander's car because of the sensitive nature of the information. Several police sources were also contacted to warn them of the serious breach.

The charges indicate the Montreal police got a break in the case from another theft that took place on Thursday. Ahmed Fouatih and a woman from Anjou each face six charges in a case where a woman's wallet was stolen. The charges allege that Ahmed Fouatih and the woman from Anjou also tried to use a Visa card that was stolen on Thursday.

The Montreal police media relations department was not able to say on Friday whether the sensitive information was recovered. (Montreal Gazette)

Jan 15 2016

The OPP is providing support to colleagues of a veteran officer who died while on duty this week.

“It is a very challenging time for our members,” Sgt. Peter Leon said. “It is a very sad time for the OPP family itself.”

Det. Const. Dave Herrington died while

on duty Thursday morning.

The Criminal Investigation Branch is conducting a death investigation, and the OPP is not providing further details on the death at this time.

Foul play is not suspected.

Leon said the OPP's Critical Incident Stress Responders are offering support to staff at General Headquarters in Orillia, where Herrington was a member of the OPP's Physical Surveillance Unit under the technical support branch.

Herrington had 25 years of service.

(Orillia Today)

Jan 15 2016

CHICAGO - Chicago's interim police superintendent John Escalante is struggling to explain the wild jump in shootings in the Windy City, and he thinks he has at least part of the explanation: it's social media's fault.

At a Wednesday presser, interim Chicago police superintendent Escalante blamed the “spike” in shootings on the fact that many of the city's gang members are driven by constant agitation on social media sites such as Facebook.

“A lot of it is gang conflicts, but [it's] also heavily driven by social media,” Escalante said. “It is the new way... of taunting and challenging other gangs, and is the modern way of gang graffiti.”

(Breitbart News)

Jan 15 2016

HAMILTON - In the middle of the night, in a Hamilton suburb, a young man walks up a driveway, turns a key in the door of a parked Acura and quietly gets into the driver's seat.

He doesn't start the car, instead reaching into his bag to pull out something that looks a bit like an oversized vintage Nintendo controller, 13-by-30 centimetres with a bright blue rubber border.

With a USB cable, he plugs it into the car's diagnostic system and punches some buttons. Then, trying the key, he hears the engine come to life. He backs out and drives away. Before the sun rises, he does the same with four more cars - and in that way, in less than a year, 500 cars in and around the GTA worth \$30-million are silently taken.

“They never think they're going to get caught, because this isn't a violent crime,” said Toronto police Staff Inspector Mike Earl, who helped bust the car-theft ring in the GTA last year - a more sophisticated scheme than police had seen before. “They're flying under the radar because they're doing these things at three, four o'clock in the morning.” The cars, he said, are “already maybe in a shipping container before they're even reported stolen.”

Forget hot-wiring: It's a new day for the old crime of stealing cars.

Today's thieves exploit the vulnerabilities of modern automotive technology, bypassing security systems in a matter of seconds.

And the cars' hapless owners aren't the

only victims: Black-market proceeds from North American car-theft rings, such as the one Staff Insp. Earl helped dismantle - in which most of the vehicles were shipped to Ghana and Nigeria and sold for half their original price - are often used to fund organized crime or even terrorism overseas.

It's more than a billion-dollar-a-year business in Canada alone, experts say. In some cases, the cars in the Toronto caper had been promised to black-market buyers long before they even reached the city, Staff Insp. Earl said. "This information is being obtained before it's even sold to a person," he said. "Before it's even delivered to the dealership."

The crime ring relied on a network of insiders. Three of the accused men worked at shipping yards - one in Concord, the other in east-end Toronto - where they had a few moments alone in brand-new cars that were on their way to dealers, police said. While driving a luxury vehicle off a rail container and parking it, the employees just needed to snap a photo of its key fob and make sure to copy the vehicle identification number (VIN) as well as the key code.

With all the information they need to cut a new key for the car, it was simply a question of waiting until someone took it home. A fourth member of the racket - allegedly a woman who worked at Service Ontario in Pickering - would notify them when someone registered a car with one of the stolen VINs. A conspiring locksmith would cut a new key. Then, with the hand-held electronic device that would allow them to program the key, the thieves would pick up the car at its new address.

Police believe there were at least 24 members of the ring. Eighteen were arrested, including the four insiders, with six still wanted. "It was like a company, almost," Staff Insp. Earl said. "You have your thieves, you have your brokers, you have your information-gatherers."

While still before the courts, the case has laid bare vulnerabilities across the system. Although they had special access, none of the people involved was a tech whiz. The key programmer they used, made by a Chinese company and able to reprogram keys for almost all makes of cars, is for sale on Amazon for \$700 (U.S.).

Investigators at the Insurance Bureau of Canada are following the changes closely. For years, car thefts in Canada had been decreasing, dropping 62 per cent from 2003 to 2013. But the number of thefts suddenly went up 1 per cent from 2013 to 2014, said Richard Dubin of the insurance bureau. That increase came along with something else Canadian border officials had noticed for years - that more luxury cars were being stolen.

"Fewer vehicles were being stolen, but what we were seeing at the port is that they were going after the higher-end type vehicles - more expensive," said Mr. Dubin. "So in the end, the dollar amount could have been just as high or higher." Canadians pay for the problem in insurance premium hikes, he said.

There are also implications for interna-

tional security. Vehicle theft in Canada has long been a moneymaker for organized crime - but the criminals and their sophistication have changed. In 2006, Statistics Canada said the main groups responsible were Eastern European, "aboriginal-based" and street gangs.

In the 2015 ring, investigators say there is a clear link with the Black Axe, a crime organization that originated in Nigeria and which Toronto Police revealed last year had put down roots in Canada. The group has been linked with fraud in Canada and with violent crime elsewhere.

The destination for the cars has often been West Africa in recent years, Mr. Dubin said. A lot of the stolen vehicles were SUVs, especially ones with four-wheel drive, he said, and experts believe that's appealing partly because it's suitable for West African terrain, assuming the region is a distribution point.

"We're talking probably well over \$1-billion a year in Canada" in stolen cars, he said. "Our concern is the money is so large, it's not only funding organized crime, that it could very well be funding terrorism in other countries."

(Globe and Mail)

Jan 15 2016

Counterfeiters aren't even trying to fake the Canadian dollar anymore.

The number of counterfeit banknotes received by Canadian retailers fell 74% last year, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police told Ottawa-based news outlet CBC.

The report came as the country's currency fell to its lowest point in 13 years, with a Canadian loonie worth less than 70 cents in U.S. money. Canadian authorities attributed the disappearance of fake bills to the country's switch to printing plastic money instead of paper in 2011.

Canada's new polymer banknotes, which also feature security holograms and unique texturing, are harder to fake, according to the CBC report.

But as the Canadian dollar loses value, the country's authorities are bracing for another funny money problem: More counterfeit U.S. currency, which tends to flood in when it has a better exchange rate against the loonie, CBC noted. The U.S. dollar, which some Canadian merchants accept, is now worth about \$1.45 Canadian.

(Fortune Magazine)

SATURDAY
JANUARY 16, 2016

Jan 16 2016

PETERBOROUGH - Lawyers for the police chief and deputy chief have said they will defend their clients in a lawsuit launched by the city - but they haven't said how.

The city is suing Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson after the two officers fought for a year's salary apiece.

They asked for this compensation even though they didn't lose their jobs.

The city is suing for roughly \$460,000

from the two officers. That's a year's pay for each of them.

They're also being sued for an additional \$20,000 each in punitive damages.

Court papers were filed by the city's lawyers in late December and it was expected that the defence lawyers would promptly respond.

But Rodd and Farquharson's lawyers had a choice: Either write a detailed statement of defence and file it to court, all within 10 days, or ask for more time.

This week they asked for more time. It means they now have until about Jan. 27 to file papers outlining the defense.

The city is asking for \$248,920.86 from Chief Murray Rodd - his annual salary, which both an arbitrator and a court judge said he was owed. The Peterborough Police Services Board has not made that payment.

It's the same for Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson: The city is suing him for \$210,329.46 (his annual salary).

(Peterborough Examiner)

Jan 16 2016

MONTREAL - Two Montreal police officers are being disciplined for abusing their authority.

The police ethics board found them guilty after a routine intervention almost four years ago ended with a black driver in hospital.

The ethics board said the officers were demeaning and racist in their treatment of the man, whose car was in a no-parking zone.

Police officers told Hando Wilkinson Andre to move his car from the corner of Mount Royal Ave. and St-Laurent Blvd. on March 30, 2012.

He moved his car, but not completely out of the no-parking zone. He was then arrested with force. One of the reprimanded officers, Jean-Francois Lemay, pressed down on Andre's trachea to decrease his blood flow during the arrest.

Andre said he tasted blood and spat on the ground even though he was told not to. Andre asked for an ambulance and was treated that night. He was later required to undergo surgery for throat injuries.

Lemay asked Andre if he had past offences and when told he did not. The officer said "Really, nothing?" and he added, "These people are always reversing their names"

The other officer being punished, Alain Chauvette, commented that Andre needed psychiatric, not medical, care. The ethics board found these comments offensive.

Chauvette, now retired from the Montreal police, has been told he cannot work as a peace officer anywhere in the province for a month. Lemay has been suspended without pay for one day.

(CTV Montreal)

Jan 16 2016

WINNIPEG - A shootout during a police chase of a robbery suspect in Winnipeg has ended without injuries.

Police say the suspect allegedly robbed a gas station early Saturday, and fired his gun

before taking off in a vehicle.

Police say they spotted the vehicle about a half hour later and the suspect sped off, driving erratically without regard for public safety.

Officers followed, and they allege he fired his gun in their direction and that police fired back.

The chase ended at a dead end.

A 51-year-old man was arrested and police say he faces numerous charges.

SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 2016

Jan 17 2016

PORT PERRY, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating a fatal shooting in Port Perry, north of Osawa.

The Special Investigations Unit says Durham Regional police officers were called to a house around 9:30 Saturday evening where they encountered a 59-year-old man.

The SIU says there was an interaction and the man was shot. He was rushed to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

No other details have been released.

Jun 17 2016

ST. ALBERT - St. Albert is a community more united following the shooting death of Const. David Wynn at Apex Casino one year ago, says Mayor Nolan Crouse.

"The mark that it leaves, it brings the community closer together," Crouse said. "It shows the family and the RCMP just how supportive we are as a community, as a city."

Aux. Const. Derek Bond and Wynn were shot at about 3 a.m. Saturday Jan. 17, 2015 while confronting a suspect about a stolen vehicle found near the casino.

Wynn later died. Bond was shot in the arm and torso and released from hospital later the same day.

The impact, felt throughout the community, turned into a rallying cry, Crouse said.

"The rally cry was targeted at support for the family, for the RCMP family, for Canadian safety and culture, the red serge," Crouse said.

The mayor doesn't believe the shooting left people in St. Albert more fearful. He said most understood it was an act of crime rather than a trend in the community.

The city will not mark the one-year anniversary with any special event or ceremony.

"We're going to wait, get past this first anniversary at the request of Mrs. Wynn," Crouse said. "Allow the weekend to go as a solemn reminder."

A committee has been formed to look at a long-term legacy project.

The city has already earmarked \$100,000 for the project and there have been donations set aside in a fund. Crouse said he expects there will be community-based fundraising events.

(CBC News)

MONDAY JANUARY 18, 2016

Jan 18 2016

HALIFAX - The Serious Incident Response Team is referring the case of a Halifax police officer back to the force for possible disciplinary action.

The recommendation from the independent investigative agency comes after it looked into an incident last July involving the arrest of a 33-year-old man in Dartmouth.

The team says police went to a home after learning that a man was breaching a court-ordered house arrest and had gone to another residence.

Officers went to the other home and one entered the apartment, where he found the man hiding in the bedroom and arrested him following a brief struggle.

The team says the man later complained of an injury to his hand and was taken to hospital, where it was determined he had fractured a bone in his wrist.

Investigators say there was no evidence the officer used excessive force, but it found he did not have a warrant to enter the apartment.

Jan 18 2016

VICTORIA - It cost almost \$5 million to process hundreds of people through the justice system after the Stanley Cup riot in Vancouver five years ago.

The cost is contained in a report released by the B.C. government that looks at how police and prosecutors tackled the mammoth task of prosecuting those involved in the riots after the Vancouver Canucks' lost the Stanley Cup final in June 2011.

The government's criminal justice branch set up a riot prosecution team that resulted in 284 guilty pleas and nine convictions at trial.

The report says the task was made easier by the vast amount of digital photo and video evidence gathered on the night of the riot.

It says additional funding was needed because of the extraordinary costs associated with the prosecution.

The report estimates the total monetary loss caused by the riot was \$3.78 million, including \$2.7 million to downtown businesses, \$540,000 to civilians and \$525,000 to the City of Vancouver, B.C. Ambulance Service and St. Paul's Hospital.

Jan 18 2016

CALGARY - A Calgary police constable won't face any charges after a patrol rifle was stolen from his car.

The officer, who was off-duty, parked his personal vehicle in the parking lot of a Calgary restaurant on April 4, 2015.

The police-issue patrol rifle was in the vehicle, along with two magazines of 28 rounds each, all in a locked hard-covered carrying case.

When he returned to his vehicle, he found it had been broken into and the patrol rifle case and contents were gone.

Calgary police's professional standards section investigated, and the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team reviewed the investigation.

Edmonton Crown prosecutor's office has recommended no charges be laid against the officer.

An internal investigation will continue under the Police Act which will look at the officer's judgement, service policies, and other factors related to this event.

Jan 18 2016

WINNIPEG - The Canadian Centre for Child Protection says it has received almost 350 reports in the last 10 months of sexual images being shared online without people's consent.

Nearly half the cases from across Canada involved teenagers between 15 and 17.

"When we look at today's reality for young people, it is not an easy one," Lianna McDonald, the non-profit group's executive director, said Monday.

"There are those individuals who misuse technology to exploit and to abuse vulnerable people."

McDonald spoke alongside Manitoba government officials to mark a new law against so-called revenge porn and other online abuse. The law, first promised last spring and in effect since Friday, allows any Manitoban whose intimate images are shared without consent to sue the perpetrators.

"Bullying isn't required, just the distribution of the images," said Attorney General Gord Mackintosh, who called the new law the first of its kind in Canada.

The legislation also empowers the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, which is funded federally and provincially, to help victims to get their images taken down from websites and social media platforms.

"The job is to get the pictures down, to get them back, to get lives back," Mackintosh said.

The centre is still working to raise awareness of the potentially devastating effects of sharing sexual photos on the Internet.

Jan 18 2016

WINNIPEG - The late Dennis Strongquill will be the first law enforcement officer to have a geographic location named in his honour and memory.

Attorney General Gord Mackintosh and Assistant RCMP Commissioner Kevin Brosseau, commanding officer, 'D' Division, and Strongquill's eldest daughter Theresa Strongquill announced Monday morning that a lake about 45 kilometres north of Flin Flon will be named after Strongquill.

"Forgive the tears. These are tears of happiness," said Teresa Strongquill, addressing people at the ceremony. "What a wonderful tribute to him to know that he hasn't been forgotten."

The lake is located about 45 kilometres north of Flin Flon.

"Knowing my dad, he would be giving you the thumbs-up," Teresa told the other Mounties.

Strongquill was a 52-year-old constable stationed in Waywayseecappo just before Christmas of 2001, when he was shot to death during a routine traffic stop just east of Russell.

Attempts to resuscitate Strongquill, a father of six, failed and he was pronounced dead at the Russell Hospital.

Police killed one of three suspects in a shootout in rural Saskatchewan the next day. Robert Sand was convicted of first-degree murder and Laurie Bell of manslaughter. (Winnipeg Free Press)

Jan 18 2016

A Waterloo Regional Police officer faces five criminal charges and an internal police review.

Police said Monday that the patrol officer has been charged with three counts of uttering a threat, and one count apiece of assault and mischief.

The charges relate to a family-related matter which occurred while the officer was off-duty, police said.

The officer was identified as an officer with 11 years of experience with Waterloo Regional Police, who is currently assigned to North Division - which covers Waterloo and northern parts of Kitchener.

Police did not release their name or gender, citing the possibility that doing so could identify the alleged victim in the case. (CTV Kitchener)

Jan 18 2016

HALIFAX - The Serious Incident Response Team is launching an investigation into allegations that Halifax police erased a video made during the arrest of a 17-year-old youth.

The agency said in a news release Monday that the young man was arrested by three members of the Halifax police in late November.

Investigators are looking into a complaint that officers deleted a video of the arrest that had been recorded by a third person on their phone.

The young man was staying at the Reigh Allen centre, a group home for teenagers in Halifax.

The police review agency says it is looking into whether the incident was a potential obstruction of justice.

Jan 18 2016

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg city councillor who spent a night in the drunk tank last fall is being allowed to stay on the city's police board.

A review concluded that Ross Eadie did not breach the board's code of conduct.

Eadie has not attended any police board meetings since the incident back in November.

Eadie says he's relieved at the decision.

Eadie has said he can't remember what he did that night but it wouldn't have been anything that would compromise his position on the police board.

Eadie admits he passed out after he and

a friend spent an evening drinking heavily at several different downtown locations.

(CJOB, CTV Winnipeg)

Jan 18 2016

Red-faced RCMP officials have apologized to a Delta firearms firm and its owner after a headline-making 2008 raid supposedly to stop gun trafficking to gangsters.

On the eve of a lengthy civil trial over the incident Monday, the federal government settled out of court and, as part of the agreement, the force issued a rare exonerating letter over the bogus operation.

"I write on behalf of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to apologize for the search of the Silvercore Advanced Training Systems Inc. ("Silvercore") premises in Delta, British Columbia, the seizure of Silvercore firearms inventory and records, the wrongful arrest of Travis Bader, and the prosecution of criminal charges against Travis Bader and Silvercore, which were ultimately stayed by Crown counsel," Inspector Janis Gray said.

"I have conducted an exhaustive review of the police file and all of the evidence and circumstances surrounding the search, seizure, arrest and charges, and I have concluded that there is no evidence that either Silvercore or Travis Bader ever committed any criminal offences."

Two Surrey RCMP Constables, David Clarke and Michael Everitt, provided with information by Canadian Firearms Centre officer Jeff Harrison, were behind the misguided operation.

The centre is responsible for administering the Firearms Act and the Firearms Registry, handling all licences and authorizations as well as the registration of restricted and prohibited firearms.

The police and firearms officer claimed they were only doing their duty in the investigation, reputedly triggered by an attempt by Bader's father to register a restricted handgun.

"A letter of apology from RCMP brass confirming my innocence takes some of the sting out of the long delay, and we look forward to resuming our relationship with the RCMP and its members," Bader said.

He started Silvercore in 2003 after roughly a decade of providing training in firearms and safety to police officers, sheriffs, corrections staff, Canadian Border Security guards and others.

As well as offering courses and training, his firm did gunsmithing and bought and sold firearms.

In the course of his business, much of it with law enforcement, Bader was authorized to possess, store and transfer restricted and prohibited firearms as well as regular guns.

Still, in May 2008, the RCMP raided the Delta company's facility, alleging it was connected to guns that ended up in the hands of criminals.

According to police, decommissioned guns that could be easily reassembled and returned to working order were finding their

way into the wrong hands.

Bader's father, Gordon, is a retired 30-year veteran of the Vancouver Police Department and was an instructor with Silvercore.

The former ERT sniper and past director of the anti-gun-control lobby, the Responsible Firearms Owners Coalition of B.C., Gordon Bader was also a firearms instructor at the Justice Institute of B.C., which trains police officers, and a gunsmith at the Vancouver Police Museum.

Both father and son said at the time the accusations were rubbish.

Still, Travis added the "confusion, the anger, the embarrassment" were nearly unbearable.

The Mounties painted the arrests and the raid, during which hundreds of guns were seized, as a response to what was then a murderous spree of gang violence around Metro Vancouver that had claimed 31 lives.

Still two years later, one of the officers involved, Clarke, was charged with dealing drugs, theft of police property, breach of trust, and possession of a number of illegal restricted weapons.

All criminal charges against Silvercore and Bader were stayed on March 19, 2010, by Crown attorney Todd Buziak.

"From my review of the entirety of the information provided to me, I can advise you that neither Travis Bader nor Silvercore Advanced Training Systems Ltd. were involved in any criminal wrongdoing," Buziak wrote in a letter after the charges were dropped.

All Firearms Act charges were stayed in May 2010.

"I think that everyone will understand that a letter of apology from the RCMP is a precious commodity and the settlement sum is confidential," Bader's lawyer Jason Gratl said.

The force has not yet responded to a request for explanation. (Vancouver Sun)

Jan 18 2016

Deciding to set a K9 unit loose on a suspect who repeatedly created a high-risk scenario for officers was the right call, Alberta's police watchdog says.

According to an Alberta Serious Incident Response Team report made public Monday, the suspect, who stole a vehicle and took runs at officers during a lengthy pursuit, in late October 2014, told ASIRT himself he, "had decided he wasn't going to give the vehicle up and that if the police had not moved he would have 'hurt them.'"

That night two Calgary police officers tried to pull the vehicle over and had to scramble as they were nearly run down.

In the pursuit that followed, he rammed civilian vehicles and an RCMP cruiser, which was left disabled.

After a spike belt crippled the suspect's vehicle he battled officers trying to get him out of the vehicle and into custody, causing police to pepper spray him and break a window to get the K9 unit inside.

The suspect received considerable dog bite injuries to both of his arms.

"The driver's conduct created circumstances that constituted a high risk take down for police and the deployment of the police service dog was reasonable in those circumstances," ASIRT executive director Susan Hughson said, also adding, "It was due, in large measure, to the effective deployment of the police service dog that the safety of officers on scene was secured."

(Calgary Sun)

Jan 18 2016

SASKATOON - Saskatoon Police will soon be taking advice from Twitter users on where traffic enforcement should be set up.

Starting tomorrow, the Saskatoon traffic unit's Twitter account will set up a poll, giving users a choice of where officers should be based that day. People will have 24 hours to vote between three locations.

Eventually, the results of the day's enforcement for the area will be posted on the @SPSTraffic account.

"We often have people offering suggestions of where they would like to see us," said Staff Sergeant Judy McHarg of the Traffic Unit in a press release. "We see this initiative as a way to give them that opportunity and further engage with our community on a larger scale."

The Twitter account is also using the hashtag #SlowDownYXE in an attempt to discourage speeding.

(CBC News)

TUESDAY
JANUARY 19, 2016

Jan 19 2016

OTTAWA - RCMP officers have been dispatched to Burkina Faso to help local authorities after more than two dozen people - including six Canadians - were killed in a terrorist attack.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, says the Mounties will assist officials with victim identification and paperwork so the bodies of Canadian victims can be returned home.

Six Quebecers on a humanitarian mission were killed in Burkina Faso's capital of Ouagadougou last week during an attack carried out by al-Qaida.

Four of the dead were from the same family: Yves Carrier, his wife Gladys Chamberland, their adult son Charlelie Carrier and Yves' adult daughter, Maude Carrier.

Adam Barratt, a spokesman for Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion, says the department's priority is the families of the victims.

He says departmental resources in Ottawa and overseas will be used to help repatriate the victims as fast as possible.

"We are working with the local authorities in Burkina Faso to determine and confirm what the families want."

Jan 19 2016

WINNIPEG - Manitoba is recognizing a correctional officer who died on the job by naming a lake in her honour.

Rhonda Commodore was a guard at The Pas Correctional Centre when she was killed in a highway crash while transporting inmates to Dauphin in 2014.

Commodore Lake is 45 kilometres north of Flin Flon.

Jan 19 2016

BlackBerry is refuting recent media claims that its encryption was "cracked" in police investigations where data was recovered from encrypted devices.

Police in the Netherlands and Canada reported that they had managed to access data from BlackBerrys in recent investigations, prompting BlackBerry's unsigned blog post stating that its devices are "secure as they have always been."

The company also firmly denied that BlackBerrys have backdoors for law enforcement access.

The "cracked" reports first emerged after Dutch website Misdadnieuws published documents from a criminal case claiming that the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI), a Dutch law enforcement agency, was able to access encrypted data from a BlackBerry PGP device.

Motherboard picked up the story and got confirmation from NFI and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that they had recovered supposedly-encrypted data from BlackBerry PGP devices, although neither law enforcement agency would say how.

BlackBerry said in the blog post that it had no details about the types of device the reports were referring to, or how they were configured or protected, and suggested numerous ways other than "cracking" that the police might have used:

"If such an information recovery did happen, access to this information from a BlackBerry device could be due to factors unrelated to how the BlackBerry device was designed, such as user consent, an insecure third party application, or deficient security behavior of the user."

BlackBerry also said "there are no backdoors in any BlackBerry devices," and it doesn't store and can't share device passwords with law enforcement:

"Furthermore, there are no backdoors in any BlackBerry devices, and BlackBerry does not store and therefore cannot share BlackBerry device passwords with law enforcement or anyone else. In other words, provided that users follow recommended practices, BlackBerry devices remain as secure and private as they have always been."

(Naked Security)

Jan 19 2016

SURREY, B.C. - A man wanted in Surrey, B.C., for wearing a unique disguise during a bank robbery is now in custody.

RCMP say the 39-year-old Surrey resident has been identified and arrested.

Police asked for public help identifying the man following the heist at a financial institution near the Guildford Town Centre on Dec. 29.

The man was wearing a patterned dress, white wool sweater, a long blond, curly wig and a pink toque that partially obscured his face.

In a release issued Tuesday, Mounties confirmed the man was in custody, but did not release his name or say what led them to him.

Jan 19 2016

HALIFAX - An RCMP plan to document the lives of two German shepherd puppies during their training has ended sadly for one of the canine recruits.

The Halifax division announced Tuesday one of the pups - Helo - has died after ingesting rope and rocks.

Const. Mark Skinner says the accident occurred as the puppy pursued his natural tendency to chew on objects.

Helo was the more vocal and bouncy of the two pups that captured many hearts when they appeared before the media four weeks ago as examples of the training program.

Skinner says when Helo ate the rope and rocks it caused scarring of his intestines, and the damage couldn't be repaired despite three surgical procedures.

The spokesman says the progress of Helo's brother Hamer will continue to be shown on Facebook and Twitter postings by the police force.

Jan 19 2016

EDMONTON - An Edmonton police constable faces one count of assault in relation to an on-duty call three years ago.

Police say Dustin Adsett was responding to a report of a disturbance in January 2013.

Adsett is a seven-year-member of the Edmonton Police Service and remains on active duty.

The charge follows an investigation by the police department's professional standards branch and a recommendation from Alberta Justice.

Police say they will not comment further as the matter is before the courts.

Jan 19 2016

TORONTO - The Special Investigations Unit is looking into the circumstances of a collision that occurred at a north Toronto intersection and sent two people to hospital.

The police watchdog agency says a Toronto police van attempted to follow a vehicle that sped away as officers were verifying an address.

Moments later, the officers discovered a collision between a car and a truck at the intersection (of Wilmington and Combe Avenues).

Both drivers were taken to hospital.

The SIU says the truck driver suffered life-threatening injuries, while the driver of the other vehicle has a leg injury.

Jan 20 2016

TORONTO - Recent inquests into the deaths of Ontario children have failed to shake persistent myths that prevent many people from reporting concerns about kids to child welfare authorities, two provincial offices said Wednesday.

Teachers, police officers and other professionals who deal with children often remain reluctant to share information with children's aid societies due to common misconceptions about privacy, according to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario and the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth.

Though they may mean well, their hesitation is misguided and may put children at risk, the officials said.

"Professionals who are working with children not only may share information that may help protect that child, but in some cases, have a duty to share that information," said the privacy commissioner, Brian Beamish.

A new pamphlet released Wednesday aims to clear up those misunderstandings by laying out those responsibilities.

The 15-page document will be distributed to teachers, health-care practitioners, law enforcement and children's aid societies through professional associations.

The need for greater communication between those who work with and care for children has been at the forefront of several coroner's inquests into the death of children.

Jan 20 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police have purchased dozens of patrol rifles that will be made available to front-line officers along with less lethal firearms dubbed sock guns.

Police spokesman Mark Pugash says the Colt C8 patrol carbine has been used for years by the Emergency Task Force, guns and gangs unit, and other specialized units.

Pugash says the carbines will be distributed by the end of May to three scout cars in each of the city's 17 divisions - 51 in total, though some are part of the force's existing stock.

Each costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Officers in the scout cars will also be given so-called sock guns, which fire rounds that do not penetrate the body.

"What this means is that front-line officers have a less lethal use-of-force option," Pugash said.

Jan 20 2016

VANCOUVER - After 35 years with the Vancouver Police Department, a prominent officer is leaving the force to run another.

Deputy Chief Doug LePard will be in charge of the Metro Vancouver Transit Po-

lice, although an exact date for the start of his new job has not been announced.

LePard has been with the VPD since 1981 and currently heads up the investigation division, but in 2010 he led a review of the investigation and eventual capture of serial killer Robert Pickton.

He is replacing former Transit Police boss Neil Dubord who's now the Delta Police Chief.

In a statement, LePard says he's leaving many valued friends and colleagues behind, but he's excited about working with TransLink to improve the safety of the region's transit system.

Vancouver Police Chief Adam Palmer says LePard has left an indelible mark, and he's looking forward to working with him in his new role.

Jan 20 2016

HALIFAX - The Serious Incident Response Team has cleared a guard of criminal wrongdoing in the death of an intoxicated man who was found unconscious in a Halifax police cell in 2013.

However, the independent agency said Wednesday that the guard failed to follow police procedure and check the man to see if he could be roused before he was found breathing but unresponsive in the cell on Sept. 5.

The 52-year-old was taken to hospital, where he died on Sept. 8 after being diagnosed with a serious brain bleed.

"The failure of the guard to conduct checks that match policy and may have alerted him to the male's condition are of significant concern," the report stated.

"However, to be a criminal act, the actions of the guard must constitute a marked departure from the standard of care expected of a reasonably prudent jail guard in the circumstances."

The agency said the guard did not know the man had medical issues and decided to let him sleep, concluding his actions did not constitute a criminal act and may not have saved his life.

It said the guard checked on him every 15 minutes as required by police policy, which also states that a prisoner be checked to see if he can answer simple questions.

The agency also obtained three expert medical opinions concerning the cause of death and what effect the guard's failure to wake the highly intoxicated man may have had on his chance of recovery from his injury.

"While earlier intervention would have been preferable, it is not certain that (his) death would have been prevented by such intervention," the report states, adding that an alcoholic can suffer a brain bleed from a minor injury.

Jan 20 2016

SASKATOON - Police in Saskatoon are being more careful with information about people they may be holding in custody.

Spokeswoman Kelsie Fraser says the

change is meant to ensure police are in compliance with the province's privacy act.

Fraser confirmed that in the past anyone could ask to find out if someone was in detention, but it became a privacy issue when police realized people who may not have had the best intentions were calling.

"It kind of gets into a grey area," she said. "It should be for a missing person's report, not to just check on a whim to see if (someone's) in custody."

Fraser said there's an exception if a youth is involved. In that case, a parent, legal guardian or lawyer can call to ask if the child or teen was picked up by police. They will get an answer as long as they can prove their identity.

Anyone concerned about the whereabouts of an adult relative or friend needs to come down to the police station and file a report, she said.

"And before we go ahead and list somebody as missing, we're going to do our due diligence and make sure that they're not in our custody first."

(CKOM)

Jan 20 2016

RED DEER, Alta. - Three Alberta RCMP officers have been found not guilty of assaulting a man they arrested for carrying a bottle of root beer.

The RCMP said in a statement that the Red Deer judge "exonerated" the officers.

Cpl. Kevin Halwa, 42, Cpl. Dean Purcka, 41, and Const. Drew Burchett, 50, were charged after an incident in Sylvan Lake, Alta., on Aug. 20, 2011.

The complainant, Levi Desjarlais, testified in Red Deer court that he was walking from one hotel to another when he was approached by Burchett in an unmarked police van.

Desjarlais testified he was tackled to the ground, choked, pepper sprayed, and handcuffed.

The RCMP said the judge ruled Wednesday that all three officers "acted lawfully, properly and provided reliable and honest evidence."

Jan 20 2016

TORONTO - Nine months ago, as he introduced Mark Saunders as the unanimous choice for the next Toronto police chief, Alok Mukherjee praised the longtime cop as someone who will lead with a "spirit of co-operation."

Then the chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, Mukherjee favourably described Saunders as someone who "likes a good argument."

On Wednesday, one such argument erupted between the former chair and the chief, as Mukherjee filed a complaint about Saunders to the province's police watchdog, alleging the new chief had "violated his oath of office."

It is the latest sign of turmoil within the Toronto police force, now in the midst of a heated dispute between reformers and those accused of being resistant to change.

In a complaint filed Wednesday to the

Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD), Mukherjee is alleging Saunders “deliberately” engaged in misrepresentation “with the malicious intent of damaging my reputation” in comments the chief made to the Star earlier this month, stating an op-ed piece by the ex-chair contained “inaccurate” information.

In a separate complaint to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, Mukherjee alleges the board did not do enough to investigate when Mukherjee brought forward his complaints about Saunders’ comment earlier this month.

None of the members of the Toronto police board could be reached for comment Wednesday. Mark Pugash, spokesperson for the Toronto police, said it would be inappropriate to comment on an ongoing complaint.

The OIPRD will now determine whether Mukherjee’s complaints merit an investigation.

Mukherjee’s complaints stem from a pull-no-punches article he penned for NOW magazine, in which he questioned whether Saunders and Toronto police were misrepresenting what was being done to reduce fatal encounters between police and people in mental or emotional crisis.

Following the July 2013 shooting death of teenager Sammy Yatim by Const. James Forcillo, Toronto police commissioned retired judge Frank Iacobucci to perform a review on police use of force. The retired judge made 84 recommendations to the Toronto police; last fall, the force claimed it had implemented or partially implemented 79 of them.

But in his article, Mukherjee questioned whether the behaviour of the average officer had been affected. “As far as the rank and file is concerned, little has changed,” Mukherjee wrote that an unnamed frontline supervisor told him.

Asked to respond to Mukherjee’s column during an interview last month, Saunders told the Star: “I don’t want to respond to comments that aren’t accurate.”

In early January, Mukherjee wrote a letter to the Toronto Police Services Board saying he was “seriously concerned about this aspersion on the integrity of my piece.” Mukherjee requested that Saunders provide, within seven days, an explanation of what specifically was inaccurate in his column.

One week later, board member and city Councillor Chin Lee wrote Mukherjee to say the board reviewed the letter from Mukherjee and it “will take it into consideration in the context of the board’s performance monitoring function.”

Dissatisfied, Mukherjee doubled down on this request for an explanation last week, but said was fruitless and decided to elevate the complaint.

In a letter filed to the OIPRD, Mukherjee claims Saunders violated “his oath as a police officer, his oath of office as Chief of Police, the Police Services Act Code of Conduct and the (Toronto police board)’s expectations related to honesty, integrity and ethical conduct on the part of a police officer and, especially, a Chief of Police.”

Saunders’ failure to provide an explanation for his comments “has led me to the conclusion that Chief Saunders was deliberately engaging in misrepresentation with the malicious intent of damaging my reputation,” Mukherjee wrote.

“From the generality of Chief Saunders’ comment, I infer that he was impugning the integrity of the entire article, thus undermining my ability and credibility to make public comments on policing matters. This ability and credibility are central to my current professional activities.”

Mukherjee has also complained about the conduct of Toronto police board members to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. (Toronto Star)

THURSDAY
JANUARY 21, 2016

Jan 21 2016

ST. JOHN’S, N.L. - Newfoundland and Labrador’s justice minister says the province needs a civilian oversight agency for police.

Andrew Parsons says the concept of “police investigating the police” can sometimes leave questions unanswered.

He says having a third party, civilian entity to oversee police is something the government will be looking into.

In November, the Department of Justice called in Nova Scotia’s Serious Incident Response Team, to investigate allegations made against the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

Parsons says the need for a similar agency is something he looked into during his time in opposition.

He says the main argument for such an entity is ensuring public confidence in the justice system.

(VOCM)

Jan 21 2016

SAINT-JOSEPH-DU-LAC, Que. - Police north of Montreal have shot and killed a man they say was threatening them with a chainsaw.

Deux-Montagnes regional police officers were called to deal with a family dispute early this morning and found the 52-year-old man with the motor-driven saw, which they say was running.

Police say they fired at least one shot after he began acting in a threatening manner.

He was declared dead in hospital.

The incident occurred in Saint-Joseph-du-Lac, northwest of Montreal.

Provincial police have taken over the investigation.

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