A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

MARCH 18, 2016 - Vol. 21 No. 12

Executive Digest

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WINNIPEG - The RCMP investigation into allegations of fraud at the new Winnipeg police head-quarters is looking into "the largest data set" ever examined in provincial history, according to court documents.

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Government tech support put RCMP, public safety at risk



Mar 16 201

Internal RCMP reports and emails obtained by CBC News show that Shared Services Canada's takeover of the Mounties' tech support has been a costly disaster that has jeopardized court cases and investigations while putting the safety of officers and members of the public at risk.

The documents received through access to information include correspondence from RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson in which he refused to give SSC any more control over the Mounties' information technologies.

SSC is the federal department created in

2012 to take over the delivery of email, data centre and network services for 43 government agencies, including the RCMP.

By all internal accounts, its work on behalf of the RCMP has been a fiasco.

At a Sept. 25, 2015 meeting between Paulson and SSC president Ron Parker, the commissioner highlighted a number of examples where the department's mistakes and oversights have affected policing operations, including:

On October 22, 2014 while the terrorist attack on Parliament Hill was taking place - without consulting the RCMP or understanding the risks involved - SSC



increased bandwidth to receive evidence gathered by the public by shutting down the Disaster Recovery site.

- Mission B.C.'s phone system is in need of replacement. The concern was originally raised with SSC in January 2015, with no progress to date. The situation has come to the point that there is a public safety risk because the phone line service is unstable, affecting 911 calls and dispatch.
- On September 18, 2014 a server failed at a Westmount, Que. data centre, resulted in some corruption of data needed for an investigative disclosure package. SSC had been advised on Nov. 7, 2012, and through several follow-up inquiries, that the equipment was past the end of its life but did not replace it.
- SSC has lapsed contracts concerning security protection of networks and servers.

Overall, the documents raise serious concerns about three major areas - safety and security, loss of service or information, and cost to taxpayers.

A January 2014 memo to Paulson from the RCMP's civilian IT employees highlighted dozens of concerns.

In December 2013, Mounties reported having to spend almost \$1 million to sustain systems critical to two special units, including one that investigates online child sex assaults, because SSC "is neither willing nor able to purchase" the equipment required.

"There is simply no appetite to fix any systems until they have failed. When this happens, it will be too late. RCMP will lose court cases," the group of employees told Paulson.

Another system failure occurred when SSC could not renew Hewlett Packard warranties.

"It cost approximately \$20,000 to have HP come in to attempt repairs and system recovery ... RCMP was left with a broken system to fix and major data loss which may impact court cases."



ISSN 1704-3913 Copyright 2016

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Published weekly by *Blue Line Magazine, Inc.* as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1 Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@bluellne.ca Even more money was wasted when SSC had to pay \$10,000 in interest after it didn't pay Northwestel - the force's phone and internet provider in the territories and northern B.C. - for months on end.

"Shared Services has not been paying their bills. Vendors have threatened and have cut-off service to various units such as Shaw Cable, disrupting operations to the RCMP. There is risk to the front line," the employees warned Paulson.

Several more egregious examples of ineptitude include how SSC couldn't get the newly opened Berens River RCMP detachment any kind of telecommunications service for two years.

"In desperation a regular member in Berens River ordered satellite service so he could do his work ... and paid for it out of his own pocket on his personal credit card. Shared Services then declined to pay for his out-of-pocket expense," RCMP supervisor Rick Lippens told senior management in an email.

Members of the RCMP repeatedly expressed frustration that SSC treats the Mounties as though they work at a regular government department working 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Ottawa.

"They've extended our evergreening cycle from three years to six. That's just asking for trouble. It's one thing if a router goes down in Ottawa and they can walk over and replace it but we need to deal with very remote locations that could be down for days until we can get in there by plane, boat or ice road to deal with a failure," a group of employees wrote in frustration to Paulson.

No one from the RCMP or Shared Services Canada responded to our requests for comment on the documents.

However, in Paulson's Nov. 25, 2014 letter to Forand, the commissioner wrote that the department's proposal to manage even more of the RCMP's information technologies "pose unacceptable risks to public safety, protection of RCMP members and policing across Canada."

Paulson went on to explain how he is compelled to exercise his authority to refuse the Mounties' participation in the next phase of Shared Services Canada.
(CBC News)

THURSDAY MARCH 10, 2016

Mar 10 2016

REGINA - A jury has made four recommendations following an inquest into the death of a 42-year-old man who was fatally shot by an RCMP officer.

Gerald Lord, who was 42, died Sept. 11, 2013 at his home in Holdfast, about 80 kilometres northwest of Regina.

The officer, who can't be identified due to a publication ban, testified he went to the house about a complaint of criminal harassment against Lord, who he said resisted arrest, choked him and threatened to kill him. The officer said he Tasered Lord, but it didn't work, so he fired his gun three times before shooting Lord in the head.

The jury recommended that if a rural RCMP officer is attending to a situation with the intent to arrest a suspect, they should be required to call and wait for assistance.

They also said the RCMP should review the following: the design of the Taser for more effective use in close quarters; the effectiveness of each tool on an officer's belt; and training procedures for hand to hand combat in close quarters.

(CTV Regina)

Mar 10 2016

In June 2014, an officer with the Durham, N.H., Police Department opened what she thought was a digital fax attached to an email about an investigation she was working on. Instead, it was a type of malicious software that infected files throughout the entire police department's network of computers. By the next morning, the entire system was in serious trouble.

The officer had accidentally downloaded an extortion malware program popularly known as ransomware. It encrypts a computer's files and then sends victims a digital ransom note, demanding money to decrypt them.

The Durham police department was able to minimize the damage and recover the locked files from a backup copy that hadn't been infected without paying the ransom. But that hasn't been the case for a number of other law enforcement agencies.

Last year, five small police departments in Maine had their files encrypted. Police departments in Illinois, Massachusetts and Tennessee have also been held hostage by ransomware attacks. In each case, the police had to pay a ransom.

Of course, it's not just police who have been victims

In 2014, an attacker demanded \$800,000 from the city of Detroit after infecting some of its computer files. (The city didn't pay, though, because the encrypted database was no longer used by city staff).

In February of this year, the town of Medfield, Mass., paid a \$300 ransom after its computer system was locked down by extortionists.

Public-sector problems with ransomware have been at a low simmer for a while, with 35 state and local governments reporting problems in 2014, according to the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, an organization that tracks cybersecurity issues for states and localities. But in 2015, the FBI warned that the problem is on the rise -- growing 114 percent in 2014 -- and said that unlocking the files is so difficult that the agency often suggests just paying the ransom.

The tactics of each type of ransomware vary, but all follow the same theme: make the victim believe there's no option but to pay. The most common way it happens is through an email attachment that looks like an invoice, bill or delivery. Sometimes it's

just a matter of clicking on what appears to be a legitimate advertisement on a website. Once the software launches, it quickly encrypts computer files, making them inaccessible. Victims then receive a message on their computer screen, telling them their files have been encrypted and that they must buy an electronic PIN number to enter into a box on the screen. The amount varies but is usually between \$300 and \$700. Rather than try to extort large sums of money from only a few victims, hackers have found more success expanding the number of people and organizations they target and asking them to pay modest ransoms.

There's also a psychological aspect to ransomware that increases its success rate.

"When people see the ransomware notice on their work PC, they panic," said Rahul Kashyap, chief security architect at Bromium Labs, a security firm. "They think it's their fault for triggering the attack, so they pay."

Adding another layer of terror is that the threats set a time limit for victims before they lose the agency's files.

"There's a timer on the screen that ratchets up the sense of fear," he said.

But why are police departments -- where leaked or lost computer files could damage trials and cases and endanger people -- not better guarded against such cyberattacks?

Part of the problem is that law enforcement agencies tend to be small and lack sophisticated computer protection systems and/or IT personnel. About half of all lo-

cal police departments employ fewer than 10 officers, according to the US Bureau of Justice Statistics. When it comes to technology, information security remains a low priority. Only half of departments have policies in place to minimize the risk of cyberattacks, according to a 2013 survey from the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

At the same time, the public sector has become a growing target for hackers. Symantec reported that 29 percent of all types of cyberattacks in 2014 (compared to 12 percent in 2012) were directed at government agencies.

The simplest way to avoid a ransomware problem is to back up computer files and make sure the virus protection software is up to date. Another way, some say, is to not give in to the extortion.

"Don't pay the ransom, don't negotiate," said Richard Stiennon, who has written extensively about cybersecurity. "If everybody stopped paying, this form of malware wouldn't continue."

Dave Kurz, the chief of police for Durham, N.H., reminded police agencies that whatever their size and in spite of their best efforts, they will be exposed to modern cyberthreats like this. His best suggestions for limiting their impact are to minimize downloads, and if an email attachment looks suspicious, "don't hesitate to hit delete."

FRIDAY MARCH 11, 2016

Mar 11 2016

BURNABY, B.C. - Vancouver police says one of its cruisers that hit a building in Burnaby early Friday morning was stolen.



Police say the marked police car was stolen at about 1:30 a.m. on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Police say in a news released that two officers had jumped out of the cruiser to chase a suspect and when they returned minutes later a woman had allegedly bypassed the car's immobilizer and driven away.

GPS was used to track the vehicle to a busy Burnaby intersection where it was found against the side of a building.

Police say all the items in the cruiser have been recovered and a woman is facing charges of theft over \$5,000 and possession of stolen property.



Investigators say the suspect whose was chased by police in Vancouver was also arrested on a Canada-wide warrant for break-and-enter.

Mar 11 2016

MONTREAL - The RCMP says a Quebec man is facing a charge of attempting to leave Canada to participate in the activities of a terrorist group.

Authorities announced the charge today against Ismael Habib, who is scheduled to return to a Montreal courtroom today.

Habib, 28, was arraigned on a charge of giving false information in order to obtain a passport and appeared briefly in court on Thursday.

A federal prosecutor told reporters she was also seeking a peace bond against Habib - a measure that would restrict his activities and keep him under surveillance.

The resident of Gatineau, Que., near Ottawa, was already detained in an unrelated case on charges of criminal harassment and possessing false documents.

Gatineau police said they arrested Habib after they received a domestic violence complaint against him in late February.

Mar 11 2016

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog is investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a woman in Prince George last weekend.

The Independent Investigations Office says RCMP officers responded to a report at 10:08 p.m. of a disturbance at a home on Saturday.

The RCMP say they were able to find one individual believed to be associated with the complaint, but they could not find a female victim.

The Mounties say they searched and were informed at 10:28 p.m. that a woman had been found in medical distress in the same area.

The RCMP say the unnamed woman was taken to hospital, where she died.

The Independent Investigations Office says its initial focus will determine if there is a connection between the woman's death and "actions or inactions" of officers.

Mar 11 2016

VANCOUVER - An RCMP special constable in Burnaby, B.C., has lost his appeal of a 14-month sentence for stealing drugs from the Mounties' exhibit locker.

Gary Read was in charge of exhibits for the Burnaby detachment until 2011 when he was charged with the theft of about one kilogram of cocaine.

He was convicted last February and handed a 14-month jail term, after provincial court Judge Paul Meyers rejected a request for a sentence that would have allowed Read to serve his time in the community.

Read appealed, citing several errors by Meyers.

But in a unanimous ruling, three B.C. Court of Appeal justices have sided with their lower-court colleague.

The ruling says a conditional sentence would not have reflected deterrence or denunciation and the decision notes that even if the trial judge had made errors in principle, Read failed to show how the 14-month term

Mar 11 2016

ORILLIA, Ont. - Provincial police say traffic fatalities in OPP jurisdiction increased last year, but deaths due to the so-called Big Four causes were down.

Statistics released this week show 299 people were killed in 260 fatal collisions on OPP-patrolled roads last year, compared to 288 in 2014.

But police say while deaths due to alcohol or drugs, inattention, speed, and not wearing a seatbelt declined in 2015, the Big Four still accounted for the majority of the deaths - 226.

Police also say last year marked the lowest number of alcohol or drug-related deaths in more than 10 years and the fewest of inattention-related road deaths since Ontario introduced distracted driving laws in 2009.

But they also say the number of multipledeath collisions rose in 2015 - there were four times as many crashes in which three people died and one of the collisions claimed the lives of four people.

Seventy-one people died in collisions involving large commercial transport trucks

last year, compared to 66 in 2014, and 2015 had the highest number of transport truck-related road deaths in the last eight years.

Mar 11 2016

BELLEVILLE, Ont. - Belleville police say they believe a shooting incident at a high school was a distraction for a bank robbery a few minutes later.

Insp. Mike Callaghan says the shooting Thursday at Quinte Secondary School wasn't targeted and no one was injured.

A man escaped from the bank with an unspecified amount of money after producing a firearm.

The suspect is still at large and while it's unclear whether more than one person was involved in the incidents, police say the same man fired the gun at the school and held up the bank.

Counsellors were at the school on Friday to help students and staff cope with the incident.

Mar 11 2016

The Durham Regional Police Services Board is asking the province for farreaching changes to the legislation governing police in Ontario, including allowing more police work to be outsourced to civilians.

"The public expectations of the police, and the society in which they wield their powers, has changed considerably over the past quarter century," says the board in a letter sent to Yasir Naqvi, the Minister of Community



Safety and Correctional Services.

"Quite simply, it is no longer practical for a fully armed and trained police officer to assume many of the roles that we now ask of them. Many roles could be undertaken by other agencies or by civilians within a police agency."

The letter, dated Feb. 24 and signed by Durham police board chair Roger Anderson, also suggests the emergence of unarmed public safety officers be explored in Ontario. They are currently deployed in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Sudbury.

And it recommends that police forces hire officers only after they've completed an accredited training program, rather than waiting to train them until after they're hired which "is not entirely rational."

"There is no compelling reason why policing should be different," than other professions "from engineers to nurses, to teachers and accountants."

The province is holding public consultations on proposed amendments to the Police Services Act, introduced in 1990 to increase accountability and public trust in policing.

The government has also asked police boards for their input. The Halton Regional Police Services Board has already thrown its "full support" behind the letter.

Mar 11 2016

WINNIPEG - The city is on the hunt for a new police chief after Devon Clunis announced his retirement Thursday. Clunis said the retirement had "nothing to do with" the potential cuts heading to the Winnipeg Police Service, but because he accomplished his goals after 29 years with the police service and more than three years as chief.

The Winnipeg Police Service's budget has a shortfall of \$2.45 million dollars and there's a chance some officers could be out of job in order to save some money.

Global News compiled a list of police chief salaries across Canada in 2014 (note not every major city made the list).

Out of all the cities, Winnipeg's police chief ranks one of the lowest in the country, sitting at \$160,272.

The police chief in Brandon makes more than Winnipeg's. Thunder Bay's chief (which has a much smaller population) is paid nearly \$190,000.

Meanwhile. Vancouver, Calgary and Regina have some of the highest salaries.

Check out the full list below.

Police chief salaries across Canada (2014)

- Vancouver \$331,077
- Calgary \$275,000 to \$325,000
- Regina \$253,275
- Hamilton, ON \$228,518
- Abbotsford, BC \$218,695
- Barrie, ON \$213,154
- Toronto \$204,922
- Ottawa \$198,530
- Niagara, ON- \$195,989
- Saskatoon (2013) \$198,735, \$194 666
- Thunder Bay, ON \$190,987
- Peterborough, ON \$171,200

- Brandon, MB \$161,133
- Winnipeg \$160,272
- Windsor, ON \$160,000

Although Winnipeg ranks one of the lowest in police chief salaries, Manitoba continues to have the highest rate in officers among the country, according to Statistics Canada. (Global News)

SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2016

Mar 12 2016

HALIFAX - A British man is upset he had to spend almost a week in jail after Canadian border agents carried out a drug test on a recently deceased friend's ashes.

Russell Laight was on his way from Britain to Nova Scotia when his flight was diverted to St. John's, Newfoundland due to a storm on March 2nd.

He says that's when Canada Border Services Agency agents told him a test showed the ashes of a boyhood friend he was bringing to friends in Nova Scotia turned out to have tested positive for the drug ketamine.

Laight says a follow up test was carried out by Health Canada after a request by his friends in Halifax and that it countered the first result.

By then, he had spent six days behind bars. The 41-year-old man says the Canada



Border Services Agency should have automatically performed a followup test.

Laight says after being arrested, charged and jailed, he was asked for a large sum for bail and declined, believing further information would show he was innocent of any wrongdoing.

He says his stay in the St. John's jail cell was difficult and frightening, adding that, "the inmates were kinder than the guards."

SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2016

Mar 13 2016

EDMONTON - A rural community wants the NDP government to directly pay for the cost of police officers who work in Alberta schools.

Sturgeon County is to present a resolution to the Alberta Association of Municipal District and Counties this week that calls on the province to provide dedicated funding for school resource officers.

Coun. Susan Evans said some rural school boards and municipalities that have been sharing the cost are struggling to pay for the program.

"Because the funding isn't sustainable and not predictable from year to year you never know if that program is going to be there," she said in an interview.

"A school has to make a choice either to fund student safety or education."

Many rural communities depend on RCMP for these officers. In Edmonton and Calgary the officers are city police.

The lack of direct funding represents a downloading of the province's responsibility to fund safe and secure schools onto communities and school boards, she said.

In 2013 the association that represents Alberta's police commissions said inadequate funding was limiting the placement of police resource officers in schools.

MONDAY MARCH 14, 2016

Mar 14 2016

OTTAWA - Two studies commissioned by the federal government say deporting convicts to Jamaica and Honduras poses a boomerang-style threat because returnees may become involved in international crime that hurts Canada.

The studies say that while removing people who've committed serious crimes may be an important part of Canada's public security strategy, it places strains on law-enforcement and social services in the two destination countries and could have "unintended consequences" for Canada.

They also suggest the Canadian government could do more to support programs in

Jamaica and Honduras to prevent such deportees from returning to crime.

The previous Conservative government ushered in the Faster Removal of Foreign Criminals Act three years ago, broadening the scope of those affected and limiting their appeals.

Between 2000 and 2013, Canada deported nearly 2,800 people to Jamaica.

Mar 14 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating a shooting which left one man dead in Toronto Sunday night.

The Special Investigations Unit says police were called to a subway station around 11 p.m. for a report of two men fighting.

The SIU says one of the men fled on foot to a nearby park and there was a confrontation involving police during which a police firearm was discharged.

The SIU says a 21-year-old man was hit and rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Mar 14 2016

EDMONTON - Alberta's police watchdog is investigating to determine whether an encounter with Edmonton police may have contributed to a threevehicle crash that killed two people.

The collision happened early Sunday morning at a major intersection in northeast Edmonton.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says one of the vehicles came to the attention of city police not long before the crash.

Susan Hughson, a team spokeswoman, says investigators want to find out whether the encounter contributed in any way to the collision.

There's no word on the identity of the victims and Edmonton police are not releasing any further information because of ASIRT's involvement.

ASIRT is expected to release more details later today.

Mar 14 2016

OTTAWA - An organization representing many rank-and-file RCMP members says collective-bargaining rights for the force must cover key issues such as harassment, discipline and equipment.

The Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada says it will fight for changes to recently introduced legislation to ensure these matters will be on the table during contract talks.

Former RCMP officer Rob Creasser, an association spokesman, says members want to work with management on issues in a collaborative - not top-driven - way.

Last year, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the right of RCMP officers to collective bargaining and gave the government time to create a new labour-relations regime.

The high court did not explicitly state that Mounties have the right to form a union,

but the justices effectively opened the door to that possibility.

Earlier this month the Liberal government tabled legislation that would allow RCMP members and reservists to choose whether to be represented by a bargaining agent. It would make independent, binding arbitration the dispute-resolution process for bargaining impasses, with no right to strike.

RCMP members are the only police in Canada without a right to engage in collective bargaining.

Currently, Mounties have voluntary associations funded by members' dues that work with management to establish pay and benefits, but the top brass has final say.

Creasser told a news conference Monday the force has been shaken by chronic harassment issues and the 2014 shooting deaths of three officers in Moncton, N.B. In addition, the RCMP is 65th on the pay scale among forces in Canada with 50 members or more.

The retired Mountie said he has a 22-year-old son who is looking at law enforcement as a career.

"I would love for him to join the RCMP. But I can't in good conscience recommend the organization to him right now."

Mar 14 2016

The hundreds of Mounties redeployed to counter terrorism since late 2014 are now "insufficient" to meet the crush of cases, says the RCMP.

A week before the unveiling of a new federal budget, the federal police force says the move of 600 organized-crime, financial-crime and drug investigators to terrorism probes is stretching the organization thin.

"The operational tempo over the medium to long term is not sustainable and will require redress over the next few years," it says in a plans and priorities report for the coming fiscal year.

That compares with a statement last March by RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, who told a Commons committee, "We have enough people who are working these (terrorism) cases, but they're not doing what they're supposed to be doing."

At the time, 600 officers had been reassigned to counterterrorism (CT) duties in reaction to the October 2014 terrorist attacks in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Ottawa. They joined about 175 Mounties already on the jihadi beat.

Today, however, "these redeployed resources remain insufficient, leaving limited personnel for serious and organized-crime and financial-crime investigations," says the report.

The RCMP is a \$4.8-billion annual operation. Almost \$3 billion came from the federal government in 2014-15, with an additional \$1.8 billion in revenue, mostly for contract police services to provinces, territories and municipalities outside Ontario and Quebec.

Since taking power in November, the Liberals have been advised by security experts that their two chief national security initiatives - reversing the previous Conservative government's controversial Bill C-51

powers for federal spies and promising to put the national security establishment under dedicated parliamentary oversight - will not be enough.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, responsible for the RCMP, hinted last week that next Tuesday's budget will boost funding for the force and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

TUESDAY MARCH 15, 2016

Mar 15 2016

TORONTO - A man who allegedly said Allah instructed him to kill was charged Tuesday with stabbing and wounding two uniformed soldiers at a north-end military recruitment centre a day earlier.



While investigators were probing possible terror links, the city's police chief said there didn't appear to any connection to terrorist groups, although it appeared the man had deliberately targeted military personnel.

"To date, there is nothing to indicate the accused is working with anyone or in concert with any organization," Chief Mark Saunders said. "It will take some time to have a complete picture."

The incident occurred mid-afternoon Monday, when a man walked into the government building that houses a Canadian Armed Forces recruitment centre on the ground floor.

He walked into an office with a "large knife" in hand and began striking a uniformed master corporal, who fell to the ground, Saunders said. The soldier was able to get to his feet, at which point the suspect slashed his right arm.

As military personnel moved civilians to safety, police said he tried and failed to slash a female soldier before other soldiers were able to subdue him and hold him for police. Another military member was stabbed trying to apprehend the suspect.

"While at the scene, the accused stated that 'Allah told me to do this; Allah told me to come here and kill people," Saunders said.

Following the arrest, the accused became "non-responsive," Saunders said, meaning he refused to answer any police questions. He was taken to hospital because of his behaviour. The two soldiers required treatment for minor injuries.

Saunders said Toronto police were working with federal security and anti-terrorism

forces on the investigation.

Police named the suspect as Montrealborn Ayanie Hassan Ali, 27, who moved to Toronto in 2011. Ali was charged with several offences, including two counts of attempted murder and aggravated assault. He was due to appear in court later Tuesday.

Mar 15 2016

METRO VANCOUVER - A woman is in custody following an unusual break and enter near Prince George Sunday that ended with the suspect and arresting officer on the same ice floe.

Prince George RCMP Corp. Craig Douglass said that at about noon Sunday, the homeowner of a residence in the community of Miworth, just west of Prince George, reported that she returned home and found an adult female inside her house.

The suspect fled in a pick-up truck, narrowly missing the homeowner but colliding with the homeowner's vehicle. Police subsequently located the vehicle nearby and the suspect was tracked by a police service dog team to an ice floe on the Nechako River approximately two kilometres from the truck.

Douglass said she had started a fire on the ice and the officer, believing she was trying to destroy evidence, jumped on the nearly stationary ice floe located a few metres from shore.

The suspect initially resisted arrest but was taken into custody without incident.

Meanwhile, local boaters showed up and transported the suspect and another officer to a safer location on the river where a police vehicle could be accessed.

"They weren't stuck on the ice floe together," said Douglass, of the suspect and the police dog team. "It was close to shore and he jumped off once she was handed over to the officer in the boat.

"They (the boaters) were very helpful."
Philicity Rhea Lafreniere, a 25-year-old
Prince George resident, has been charged with
break and enter to commit; dangerous operation
of a motor vehicle; mischief under \$5,000; two
counts of possession of property obtained by
crime under \$5000; and resisting arrest.

Mar 15 2016

HALIFAX - An elderly woman known as the Internet Black Widow has agreed she won't be romancing any men once she's out of prison unless police are first informed, but it's possible she'll fight this and other conditions of her release at a future court date.

Melissa Ann Shepard, now in her early 80s, is set for release from a federal women's jail in Truro, N.S., on Friday, after being denied parole and serving her full sentence.

In her latest conviction in June 2013, she was sentenced to two years, nine months and 10 days in jail for spiking her newlywed husband's coffee with tranquilizers.

Crown prosecutor James Giacomantonio said Tuesday that his office recently decided she was a strong candidate for a rare peace bond application that had to be authorized by the province's attorney general.



"We believe she's a significant risk to the public," he said after a court hearing.

He said Shepard hasn't yet agreed to that bond, and that matter was set over until an April 4 hearing.

But during Tuesday's appearance, Shepard - who was rolled into the building in a wheelchair by sheriffs while she covered her face with her hands - said in a soft voice that she will agree to abide by essentially the same conditions while awaiting that peace bond hearing.

The 22 conditions include the requirement she report her relationships, that she not use the Internet, that she stay at home at night, that she provide photos on demand, and that she inform police of any attempts to change her appearance.

Mar 15 2016

RED DEER, Alta. - A 21-year-old man has been charged after a BB gun was fired at the downtown RCMP detachment in Red Deer, Alta.

No one was hurt when two second-storey windows were struck Monday afternoon.

Police later tracked down a truck and took four occupants into custody during what they call a high-risk arrest.

Cory Daniel Picard of Red Deer is facing charges that include mischief and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

The other three - a man and two women - were released without charges.

Supt. Scott Tod of Red Deer City RCMP says the fact a BB gun was used doesn't diminish the action.

Mar 15 2016

VICTORIA - Victoria's embattled police chief wants to block efforts to launch an external review into allegations he was having an affair with the wife of an officer under his command.

In documents filed this week in B.C. Supreme Court, Frank Elsner claims the province's police complaint commissioner doesn't have the authority to order a second, external review following the completion of a confidential internal probe.

"I never imagined that the police complaint commissioner could commence another investigation when I had already accepted discipline for my conduct," Elsner wrote in a court affidavit dated March 14.

"I strongly believe my reputation has been irreparably tarnished and my career in policing is over, regardless of the outcome of the investigation."

Allegations surfaced in the media in December that Elsner had sent inappropriate Twitter messages to a colleague's wife, who was herself an officer in a neighbouring jurisdiction.

At the time, Elsner said he was "truly sorry and humiliated" by his conduct.

This week's court documents say Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps and Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins, who co-chair the municipalities' shared police board, were aware of the allegations as early as mid-August. The

pair confronted Elsner the following month, according to the petition.

In his affidavit, Elsner said he received assurances from Desjardins that by consenting to the appointment of an independent investigator the matter would stay entirely in-house.

"It was very important to me that the investigation remain confidential," Elsner wrote. "I did not want my family members to have to deal with the publicity surrounding these matters."

Patricia Gallivan was mandated to investigate whether Elsner was ever involved in an inappropriate relationship with an unnamed woman and whether he improperly used the Victoria Police Department's official social media account.

Elsner was also accused of contacting two witnesses connected to the internal investigation, which court documents say the internal review dismissed as unrelated and not compromising the integrity of the investigation.

Although he said the findings presented to him by Desjardins and Helps were "fundamentally flawed," Elsner said he opted to "show leadership (and) take responsibility for my conduct," in order to put the matter to rest so he could get on with his work.

Elsner said that he was "shocked" to learn fewer than two weeks later about the launch of a second, external investigation, which his court petition says came about in part as a result of media reports.

He was placed on administrative leave around Dec. 22 after questions surrounding his online communication escalated into allegations of discreditable conduct and breach of trust.

At the time, Victoria's police union called for Elsner to be removed from his job for betraying the trust of his officers.

Chief Supt. Sean Bourrie was tasked with the investigation, but Elsner raised concerns in his petition about the officer's subordinate

"I am concerned that Chief Supt. Bourrie does not have the necessary understanding and experience with respect to the duties of a municipal chief," he wrote.

Elsner also expressed concern about judicial access granted to Bourrie for his personal and work email accounts, which he said contain sensitive information, including correspondence related to ongoing union negotiations.

Elsner was sworn in as Victoria's chief constable in December 2013 following nearly three decades of policing experience. He served previously as the police chief in Sudbury, Ont., and described his Victoria appointment as "my dream job and the culmination of my career in policing."

Mar 15 2016

MONTREAL - Montreal's annual protest against perceived police brutality went off without a hitch Tuesday night after a few hundred demonstrators, including some wearing masks and

singing anti-police chants, marched downtown for about 90 minutes.

The march ended across the street from the old Forum with those still left congratulating themselves for an incident-free evening.

One woman took a megaphone to say she was surprised they managed to get that far because everyone believed the police were going to shut the event down right away.

At one point, protesters headed west, against the traffic, on busy Sainte-Catherine Street.

Some previous editions of the March 15 event have turned nasty, featuring massive arrests and vandalized police cruisers.

Mar 15 2016

HAMILTON - Former Chief Glenn De Caire got to keep his Hamilton Policeissued computer and cell phone when he retired but the service's governing board did not wipe any sensitive information that might be saved on them before transferring ownership.



The transfer raises questions about the security of police information and the oversight and safeguards of the Hamilton board.

And while Hamilton police services board members say they have faith and trust in the integrity of the former chief, a privacy and data security expert says that's not good enough.

Ann Cavoukian, executive director of the Privacy and Big Data Institute at Ryerson University and a former Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario says the issue isn't one of trust but of the board needing to have sound policies and practices for protecting sensitive information.

Until he retired in January, De Caire used a computer and printer in his home office issued by the service. His contract stated that the equipment belonged to the board, which oversees the service and is responsible for hiring the chief.

But when De Caire retired, the board transferred ownership of that computer and a cell phone over to him.

The transfers are listed in De Caire's retirement agreement, which CBC Hamilton obtained via a Freedom of Information request.

There's no mention in that agreement about any steps the board took to examine the contents of the equipment before turning it over to De Caire, or to wipe any sensitive materials or documents from it.

Coun. Lloyd Ferguson, who chairs the

police services board, told CBC Hamilton the board "pulled the plug on the VPN," cutting off De Caire's access via that computer to police servers and internal records systems, including where ongoing sensitive files would be stored.

Mayor Fred Eisenberger, who sits on the board, said that VPN cutoff was the more critical issue.

But the hard drive was not examined or wiped, he said.

"I don't think there was an overriding concern about the content in his own laptop," he said.

Eisenberger said any employee who had "nefarious" intentions would have other ways to export information from a work computer. He said there's a "level of faith and trust" that goes into the equation.

Other high-level police officials who have left the service in recent years have also received their home computers, Ferguson said.

After years of use, the hardware isn't worth much, Ferguson said.

But it's not about how much the computer is worth monetarily, said Cayoukian.

"It's not about the hard drive or the value of the equipment," she said. "It's about the wealth of potentially sensitive police information that resides on the hard drive or the cell phone."

Cavoukian said the board should have a "written policy about the transfer of information when someone retires."

The question is not about the trustworthiness of the person who leaves the position, Cavoukian said.

It's about the board taking steps to ensure its information is protected from a breach.

"It's not that we don't trust the former police chief," she said. "It's that accidents happen."

"Police are there to protect us and to make sure that the information is secure," she said. "I don't want to suggest otherwise, but nonetheless this material has to be governed by strict policies and protocols."
(CBC News)

Mar 15 2016

The Canadian Police Association is joining the Montreal Police Brotherhood and firefighters around the world in boycotting The World Police and Fire Games, scheduled to take place in Montreal in 2017.



The 60,000 members of the Canadian Police Association are standing with their Montreal colleagues against the contentious law passed in December 2014 which caps

the cost of pension plans and retroactively requires municipal employees to contribute half their cost.

The national police association's president, Tom Stamatakis, said the Quebec law undermines basic labour rights.

"The decision of the board of directors was unanimous," Stamatakis said Tuesday.

"We have 28 representatives from coast to coast, and the message they will go back to their members with is that we will support our colleagues in Montreal."

The decision to boycott the games came last year, in response to Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre's support for the pension reform law, which municipal unions say denies members their right to free collective bargaining.

Coderre has brushed off any discussion of the planned boycott, saying last summer that everyone should focus on sports instead of the labour dispute.

In February, thousands of Australian firefighters decided to boycott the games in solidarity with the Montreal police and firefighters.
(CBC News)

Mar 15 2016

QUEBEC - A coalition of police, public health and victims' rights organizations held a news conference Tuesday to express their support for Bill 64, a proposed gun registration law.

The Quebec Association of Provincial Police and the Association pour la santé publique

du Québec said the long-gun registry was abolished by the federal government, which means they can now be "purchased and transferred without leaving a paper trail."

Bill 64, which goes before a parliamentary committee next week, calls for non-restricted firearms to come with a registration number and for business owners to keep a chart that tracks the sale of their weapons.

The organization said Tuesday that 94 per cent of guns in circulation in Quebec are non-restricted - a category that includes hunting rifles but also assault weapons.

Pierre Veilleux, president of Quebec's provincial police union, said these tracking measures are crucial to ensure that guns "don't fall into the wrong hands." Bill 64 would be a useful tool for police, he said, because they can better manage interventions knowing if a person owns weapons or not.

Yves Franceour, the president of Montreal's police brotherhood, said gun legislation is an "essential component" that would help police who cannot otherwise rely on a federal gun registry.
(Montreal Gazette)

Mar 15 2016

OTTAWA - The Ottawa Police Service says it is no longer looking at outfitting officers with body cameras, instead focusing on other priorities, such as recent violence that has lead to five homicides in 2016.

Matt Skof, president of the Ottawa Police Association, has been calling for body

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cameras in recent years, but said he wasn't surprised by the decision.

"We are in an unfortunate situation where we have a staffing issue with our service," he said. "Obviously with the very limited budget provided to our service, this is going to be a matter of priorities."

Skof said he agreed with the decision, adding that the budget should go towards the priority of staffing issues, but he did admit body cameras on police will soon be required.

"If you look at the way we've moved in society, towards what's required for an evidence issue for officers around proving themselves and their innocence, this is going to be something that is going to be necessary," he said.

Another concern stems from requirements for the privacy and quality of the data derived from the cameras. Skof said the quality, security and storage of the data adds to the expense of using body cameras.

"This should be a provincially mandated project where the data is stored at a provincial level so that there is no accusation of tampering and it is all stored at one level that the courts require." Skof said.

"It's absorbed at a cost by that level since the provincial units, as well as the court system, is the one who has the true advantage of having this data."
(CBC News)

Mar 15 2016

The sight of a high-ranking Sûreté du Québec officer inside the provincial police force's financial offices - a highly unusual occurrence - is what sparked the investigation that produced criminal charges against five officers.

A witness testifying on Tuesday at the Montreal courthouse in the fraud and breach of trust trial of Jean Audette, 55, a former deputy-director of the SQ, revealed how his curiosity touched off everything. Audette is charged with using a secret fund - intended to be used only for criminal investigations where expenses had to be kept under wraps for security reasons - to continue paying a retired colleague, Denis Depelteau, while he worked as a consultant to an SQ advisory committee.

Provincial rules put in place in 2011 should have prevented Delpelteau from continuing his work with the SQ because he owed Revenue Quebec a large amount of money.

The man called as a witness for the prosecution on Tuesday cannot be identified because the judge in the case, Quebec Court Judge Thierry Nadon, has imposed a publication ban on his name. The evidence the man provided Tuesday morning revealed how his curiosity created a chain of events that led to criminal charges being filed against Richard Deschênes, the former director-general of the SQ, Audette and Depelteau as well as Steve Chabot, 57, another former deputy-director and Alfred Tremblay, 63, a former chief inspector.

Depelteau pleaded guilty in December

2014 to forgery and breach of trust for the illegal payments and received a 15-month sentence that he is currently serving in the community.

The other three former officers - Deschênes, Chabot and Tremblay - are charged together in a case separate from Audette's and are expected to have a trial at a later date. They are accused of fraud, theft and breach of trust.

The witness who testified Tuesday revealed it was Chabot's appearance on March 17, 2010 inside the SQ's finance offices that drew his curiosity.

"It was not usual at all to see an officer appear in the office without an appointment. They might come in for other reasons, like to say hello to everyone during the holidays, but it was unusual," the witness said, adding he asked Chabot if he needed to be served. "He said someone else was already serving him and that everything was all right."

The man said that after Chabot left he asked the person who served him to show him what Chabot asked for. He said the then deputy-director received a cheque in his name, for \$167,000 and one in Tremblay's name, for \$78,000. The witness said he found it strange that the amounts somewhat matched Chabot and Tremblay's salary scale.

Defence lawyer Pierre Dupras objected to the amounts being mentioned in open court, because the evidence doesn't apply directly to Audette's case, but Nadon allowed it. It was while arguing over the objection that prosecutor Maxime Chevalier revealed that "everything in the investigation stemmed" from Chabot's appearance in the office that day.

"It was abnormal that it came at the same time when (Chabot and Tremblay) were taking their retirement," the witness said. He added that the cheques were drawn from a special SQ account called the caisse ramifiée. The SQ uses it to cover expenses quickly (for example, an unexpected trip to Europe). The expenses are later covered by the provincial government.

"(Officers) are not supposed to draw their pay from the caisse ramifiée," the witness said, while adding he asked his superior if everything was above board with the cheques. He testified that his superior checked with Deschênes and was told that everything conformed to the SO's rules.

Audette's trial is expected to continue well into next week.

(Montreal Gazette)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16, 2016

EDMONTON - A man convicted in the 1990 death of an Edmonton police officer has died.

Albert Foulston was found dead in his northwest Edmonton home Tuesday night.

Police will only say his death is noncriminal in nature, and there will be no investigation.

On June 25, 1990, Const. Ezio Faraone was shot and killed when he approached a vehicle suspected in a bank robbery.

Foulston was in the driver's seat and Jerry Crews, who was hiding in the backseat, shot Faraone with a sawed-off shotgun.

Foulston was sentenced to 20 years after being convicted of manslaughter in Faraone's death and was released after serving two-thirds of his sentence.

Mar 16 2016

OTTAWA - An Ottawa police officer criticizes how the force handles its promotions and patrol officers in an internal email response to Chief Charles Bordeleau's open letter earlier this week.



On Monday, Bordeleau sent an internal email flagging an open letter on a spike in drug-related violence in the city that was being released to the public.

In a reply all email sent later that day and obtained by CBC News, Const. Paul Heffler wrote the chief was missing a few things and that proactive policing, especially patrol work, was eroding away.

"This service does not seem to recognize that a well educated, well informed, motivated, supported patrol section will solve 90 (per cent) of your and this communities' problems," he wrote.

Heffler's email noted there isn't enough feedback or support for officers who do street checks, when police ask someone for ID due to suspicion of criminal activity, which is demoralizing.

"There are few services and businesses that pay their employees \$100,000.00 salaries and treat them like they are dime store security guards," he said.

"However, that is what happens here."

In Monday's letter, Heffler also suggests concerns over false traffic warnings that have 11 officers under investigation come from the way officers are promoted.

"There is precious little to be gained for officers whose intention is to truly serve and protect. There is much to be gained for officers who want to police for the sake of recognition and promotion," he wrote.

"Your ghost warning investigation isn't a symptom of corrupt cops, it's a symptom of a corrupt system."

Officer ticket statistics are used to evaluate officers, Bordeleau said when the investigation was announced, although Ottawa police are now reviewing it.

Heffler works out of the central division and has about 30 years experience in policing, according to a 2013 letter he wrote to the Ottawa Sun referring to his "27 years of policing, 11 with the OPP."

The head of the union representing Ottawa police officers says Heffler's views aren't new, aren't surprising, and aren't his alone.

The head of the union representing Ottawa police officers says Heffler's views aren't new, aren't surprising, and aren't his alone.

"The membership on a whole has felt this belief that our morale is suffering... but this is all stemming from an issue around resources and it's unfortunate that over the last couple years we've seen a cap put on the investment made from city hall and the police services board back to the police service," said Matt Skof, president of the Ottawa Police Association.

"We've seen a tendency toward legacy and pet projects that have been prioritized philosophically over the investment in key infrastructure funding of policing."

Skof said proactive policing, such as officers walking their communities, has suffered because of budget constraints and police don't know their communities as well as they used to.

"We're now getting to a point where we're going call to call to call. This concept of proactive policing is becoming almost a historical thought," he said.

"To be clear, the city is safe, 911 will be answered, but there's a point where you can only do so much and right now we've become reactive. It's very difficult to be proactive."

CBC News has reached out to Ottawa police and the city's police services board for comment. (CBC News)

Mar 16 2016

BROCKVILLE - Brockville's Ontario Provincial Police costing process resumed last week with a closed-door meeting, a fact that hasn't sat well with an advocacy group for the city's local force.



The local Citizens Offering Police Support (COPS) committee has sent a complaint to the Ontario ombudsman about the March 7 meeting being held in-camera, something the group's members say gives the people of Brockville the wrong perception about the committee's intentions.

"It's such a serious matter. We want to make sure the people are kept fully informed of what's going on, and that's our sole purpose in doing this," said Cec

Drake, co-chairman of COPS.

The contact committee, created to discuss the nuts and bolts of the OPP costing, includes the chair of the Police Service Board, support staff, the city's CAO and other staff members, plus the chief of po-

The committee met for the first time earlier this week since the province lifted a moratorium on OPP costing processes, and the March 7 committee agenda stated:

"The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members.'

Drake said he thought this was the wrong decision to make.

"We felt that if it's just training and education, why does that have to be behind closed doors?

"The question is, why does the mayor want this first meeting to be behind closed doors? That's what everyone has been asking. Why isn't he making this more transparent so the people of Brockville can understand and see the whole process?"

Mayor David Henderson said the meeting rules were followed "categorically" and they had the mandate to have an incamera meeting based on the content up for discussion.

"It was requested by the OPP as part of their process as an information session, which is one of the identified reasons for having in-camera sessions," he said.

Drake said the Ontario ombudsman's office has confirmed with the group an investigation into the in-camera meeting will take place.

COPS has been campaigning in support of keeping Brockville's 184-year-old municipal police force, since the group believe a local service plays a vital role in the community that an OPP force could not emulate. (Brockville Recorder)

Mar 16 2016

The Sureté du Quebec and Revenue Quebec are breaking up a fraud ring that is said to have dodged an estimated \$90 million in taxes.

About 150 police officers and 70 Revenue Quebec investigators executed 27 search warrants in Montreal, Quebec City and Sherbrooke.

The warrants say the scheme involved franchises selling computer products. When the franchises were sold to investors, the amount on the invoice was much higher than the actual sale.

Buyers then turn in the amount to Revenue Quebec and received deductions for a company that did not exist.

Some 1,100 computer products franchises were sold to more than 450 investors, police said.

No arrests have been made so far. The investigation began about a year and a half ago. (CTV Montreal)



THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2016

Mar 17 2016

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's police watchdog has cleared a Halifax police officer in his handling of a high speed pursuit that resulted in a crash that injured a teenage girl.

The Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) says the chase occurred in Herring Cove in June 2015.

The team's report says the officer was attempting to check a car parked at the look-off in Herring Cove when its driver fled the scene, reaching speeds estimated at over 100 kilometres an hour for about 700 metres.

The car went out of control with the officer in pursuit and crashed into a ditch and hit a culvert before flipping on its roof.

Five people were inside the car, but only a 14-year-old girl sustained serious injuries, fracturing her ribs, back and pelvis.

SIRT says while the speed of the pursuit was "somewhat high", it was short and late at night and there are no grounds for any charges because the officer's actions were justified.

The team says the driver of the car, which had been stolen, was found guilty of several charges including impaired driving causing bodily harm.

Mar 17 2016

CAMBRIDGE, Ont. - An OPP officer is facing charges after what police are calling an alleged case of road rage.

Police say the incident took place in Cambridge, Ont., on Sunday night.

The officer faces two charges of assault and two charges of uttering threats.

The 19 year veteran is currently serving with the Wellington County detachment of the OPP.

The OPP has launched an internal investigation into the incident.

Mar 17 2016

OTTAWA - An RCMP officer has been pronounced dead in hospital after he was found shot inside a building in downtown Ottawa.

Police and paramedics were called to 33 Metcalfe St. for a medical call at 8:55 a.m. FT

It doesn't appear that anyone else was involved. Police say there is no danger to the public.

The officer was a member of the general duty protective policing unit, according to the RCMP's Gilles Michaud, commanding officer of the national division.

The shooting was not related to the officer's duties, Michaud said.

Ottawa police are handling the investigation. (CBC News)

Mar 17 2016

WINNIPEG - The RCMP investigation into allegations of fraud at the new Winnipeg police headquarters is looking into "the largest data set" ever examined in provincial history, according to court documents.



In a raid of Caspian Construction offices in December 2014, officers seized approximately 46 banker boxes and "four filing cabinets representing thousands of financial documents." Court documents reveal Mounties also copied six terabytes of digital material including 200,000 email messages from Caspian's hard drives and servers, including external servers in Ontario.

Two months after the police raid, an RCMP officer looking into the allegations said he expected charges would be laid in the case, according to court documents.

"I believe the items seized under the authority of the search warrant ... will afford evidence to support charges of fraud and similar charges which I anticipate will be laid at the conclusion of this investigation," wrote RCMP Const. Marc Paul Allard in court documents obtained by CBC.

In the court documents, Allard also commented on what police had seen in the two months since searching Caspian's office.

"From the initial review, some documents have been identified as false or misrepresented as it pertains to work being coded to the new Winnipeg police headquarters." But more than a year after that statement, the investigation is still not complete.

During the search, RCMP busted open the safe in Caspian owner Armik Babakhanians' office, containing cash which was "bagged and sealed", according to court documents.

Officers were forced to transport the money to RCMP headquarters on Portage Ave. for safekeeping until it could be returned to the Babakhanians. He was out of the country on holidays at the time of the search and officers did not know when he was to return.

The Mounties are not looking into Caspian's records on their own. A forensic accountant was hired in 2015 2015 to analyze the financial records and it was anticipated the work would take several months.

RCMP investigators were also looking for construction professionals with experience in multimillion dollar construction projects to review change orders, documents and records for their "technical validity." That project was also expected to take several months.

By February 2015 police had conducted more than 30 interviews in the

investigation. That number jumped to more than 80 as of two weeks ago according to an RCMP spokesperson.

"At times, the RCMP had 14 investigators assigned to this case in addition to a number of specialized support staff. This is a large and extremely complex case," Sgt. Bert Paquet said in an email.

Charges have not been laid in the case and none of the allegations have been proven in court.

Calls to Armik Babakhanians have not yet been returned.

Mar 17 2016

MONTREAL - A former Quebec deputy premier is among seven people arrested in an alleged scheme in which political financing and gifts were said to be exchanged for lucrative government contracts.



Ex-Liberal cabinet minister Nathalie Normandeau was among those arrested Thursday in early morning sweeps by the province's anti-corruption unit, known as UPAC.

Also facing charges are: Marc-Yvan Cote, former Bourassa-era Liberal cabinet minister; Bruno Lortie, Normandeau's former chief of staff; Mario W. Martel and France Michaud, two former executives with engineering firm Roche; Ernest Murray, a former political aide to ex-PQ leader Pauline Marois; and Francois Roussy, the former mayor of Gaspe.

According to charges filed in Quebec Court, the accused are facing charges that include corruption, fraud towards the government, conspiracy, breach of trust, and using forged documents - acts alleged to have occurred between 2000 and 2012.

All of the accused are to appear in court in Quebec City on April 20th.

"It is unfair and unequal to use political contracts as a political tool," anti-corruption unit chief Robert Lafreniere told a news conference. "And it's also unacceptable to use the power of influence to favour elections."

Authorities say the "marathon" investigation started out as two distinct investigations but were merged into one.

Boulanger said that at different times and in different ways laws were circumvented to gain unfair advantages such as gifts, party financing and for some, public contracts.

Normandeau worked for Quebec City radio station FM93. It reported this morning that she had been arrested and later announced she was suspended without pay.



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