

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

March 31, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 14

Executive Digest

Mar 25 2016

Civil liberties groups are bracing for a battle as British Columbia's privacy commissioner launches an inquiry into a device that allows police to secretly monitor mobile phones.

Page 3

Mar 29 2016

OTTAWA - Canada's top Mountie told the federal government last spring the RCMP had "moved beyond" internal issues of harassment and bullying through "concrete actions" that had fostered a more respectful workplace, newly disclosed records show.

Page 6

Mar 30 2016

OTTAWA - A solution may be at hand in a constitutional challenge of a retroactive Conservative law that allowed the RCMP to escape penalty for illegally destroying gun registry records.

Page 7

Mar 30 2016

Prosecutors resolved a Montreal mafia murder case on Wednesday with 11th-hour guilty pleas that scuttled a same-day appellate court hearing that risked revealing sensitive RCMP surveillance technology.

Page 9

Mar 31 2016

TORONTO - A Canadian news outlet must give the RCMP background materials used for stories on a suspected terrorist, despite objections from the reporter, a judge has ruled.

Page 10

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

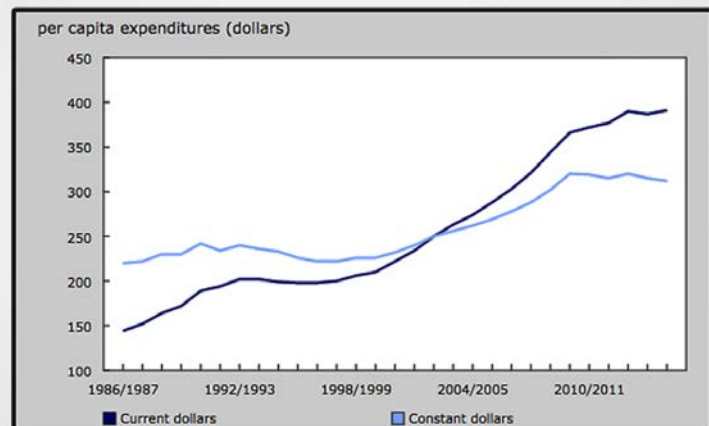
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Police strength down for fourth straight year

Police resources in Canada, 2015

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in The Daily, Wednesday, March 30, 2016



Note(s): Current dollars express the cost of items in terms of the year in which the expenditure occurs. Constant dollars are adjusted (by inflation or deflation) to show changes in the purchasing power of the dollar. The Consumer Price Index was used to calculate constant dollars over a base year of 2002 (2002=100). Populations are based on Statistics Canada's July 1 estimates. Source(s): Police Administration Survey (3301).

Mar 30 2016

The number of police officers in Canada edged downward in 2015 yet again, according to new numbers from Statistics Canada.

On the snapshot date of May 15, 2015, there were 68,777 police officers in Canada, 29 fewer than in the previous year. The rate of police strength declined 0.9% from the previous year to 192 officers per 100,000 population. It may not be a huge drop, but it does represent the fourth annual decrease in a row. It's also a reversal of the the upward

trend Canadian police forces saw between 1999 and 2010.

The rate of police strength fell in every province in 2015 with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, where the rate was stable (-0.4%), and Alberta, where it increased slightly (+0.5%).

In 2015, five of 49 police services serving a population of 100,000 or more reported an increase in their rate of police strength. They included three British Columbia communities, Surrey, Burnaby and Langley Township, as well as Lévis, Quebec and Red Deer, Alberta.



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The number of female police officers in Canada continued to grow. On May 15, 2015, there were 14,332 female officers, up 1.2% from 2014. Female police officers accounted for one in five (20.8%) of all police officers in 2015. The proportion of female officers employed by Canadian police services has increased annually since data were first collected in 1986.

The proportion of female senior officers, meaning those occupying the ranks of lieutenant to police chief, more than doubled over the last decade, from 5% in 2005 to 12% in 2015.

For the fourth consecutive year, the proportion of officers aged 40 and older increased, rising from 50% in 2012 to 54% in 2015. According to the Police Administration Survey, 5% of police officers in 2015 were 55 years or older. However, eligibility to retire may not be based solely on age and requirements may vary by police service.

In the calendar year or fiscal year 2014/2015, 11% of all police officers in Canada were eligible for retirement, but three per cent, or 1,741 officers, opted to retire. Those who did retire accounted for 70% of all police officers who departed from their service.

The Codiac Region, or Moncton, saw its police strength drop by 5.8 per cent, year-over-year, the second largest fall among the 49 communities studied by StatsCan. The community's force also has 22.8 per cent of its officers eligible for retirement.

It's a similar situation in Winnipeg, where 23.9 per cent of the force could retire and the city's police strength fell 5 per cent.

The 28,368 civilians employed by police services on May 15, 2015, accounted for 29% of total police personnel. The proportion of civilians in policing has gradually increased since data were first collected in 1962. The more recent increase in civilian staff has mainly been driven by the growing number of management/professionals employed by police services.

Year-end operating expenditures for police services in Canada in 2014/2015 totalled \$13.9 billion in current dollars. These expenditures comprised salaries and wages (66%), benefits (15%), and other operating expenditures (19%). When adjusting for inflation, police spending increased annually from 1997/1998 to 2010/2011. Since then, police operating expenditures have been relatively stable, and were unchanged in 2014/2015. However, when considering the population of Canada and inflation, policing costs per capita declined 0.9% in 2014/2015. In current dollars, annual police operating expenditures in 2014/2015 totalled \$391 for every Canadian.

Largest Decreases, %

1. Richmond, B.C.: -11.6
2. Codiac Region (Moncton), N.B.: -5.8
3. Coquitlam, B.C.: -5.1
4. Winnipeg, Man.: -5
5. Laval, Que.: -4.6

Largest % of cops eligible for retirement

1. St. John's, N.L.: 33.4
2. Winnipeg, Man.: 23.9
3. Codiac Region (Moncton), N.B.: 22.8
4. Victoria, B.C.: 21
5. Hamilton, Ont.: 20.6

(Statistics Canada, National Post)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 2016

Mar 23 2016

The overdose-reversing drug naloxone has been delisted by Health Canada and could be available without a prescription, if individual provinces sign off.

Health groups and advocates across the country have been clamouring for naloxone to be widely available in order to prevent deaths, following a flood of fatalities linked to street drugs containing the powerful opiate fentanyl.

Health Canada issued a statement about the change on Tuesday following a brief consultation period that began in mid-January.

It has removed naloxone from the federal prescription drug list, which means it's now up to individual provinces to make it available without a prescription. That could take several months depending on how fast the provincial governments act.

The ministry said all 130 responses it received on the subject were in favour of the change. It said doctors, pharmacists and patient organizations were some of the groups included in the consultation.

The most common comment, said Health Canada, was "the need for a more user-friendly dosage form." Currently the drug is administered through injection - it said a nasal-spray form isn't yet available in Canada.

Naloxone can restore breathing within two to five minutes.

According to the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse, there were 29 fentanyl-related deaths in 2009 across the country but that number spiked to nearly 900 in 2014.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY MARCH 24, 2016

Mar 24 2016

MONCTON, N.B. - A Moncton man who robbed a sandwich shop was caught when he unfriended the victim on Facebook shortly after the heist.

Prosecutor Jessica Lavoie said 20-year-old Ryley Smith was sentenced Wednesday to three years in prison for robbery and masking his face during the commission of a crime.

Smith admitted threatening a Subway employee with a knife and getting away with about \$1,000 in cash on Nov. 12, 2014.

Lavoie said Thursday that the victim soon noticed Smith had unfriended him on the social media site, which got him thinking that perhaps Smith was the masked robber.

Lavoie said the victim went to police, who obtained a warrant for a DNA sample, and matched it to a bandanna found in the Subway parking lot after the robbery.

Smith was arrested last November in Calgary, where he was then living.

Judge Irwin Lampert's sentence was for three-and-a-half years, including the equivalent of six months for time served since his arrest.

Mar 24 2016

OTTAWA - Health Minister Jane Philpott says the federal government will not appeal a Federal Court decision which struck down a ban on medicinal marijuana patients growing their own pot.

Philpott says the government respects the February decision.

She also says the government will move to address medicinal marijuana regulations in response to the concerns of the court.

In his decision, Judge Michael Phelan suspended the ruling for six months to allow Ottawa to rewrite the law.

The regulations were first introduced in 2013 and required patients to buy cannabis from licensed producers instead of growing their own.


The Federal Court ruled after four British Columbia residents challenged the Harper-era legislation, arguing it violated their charter rights.

Mar 24 2016

MONTREAL - One Montreal taxi driver is taking a new approach when it comes to showing his anger over ride-sharing service Uber.

He has started sporting camouflage pants, black jackets and red baseball caps.

If that outfit sounds familiar, it's because



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GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
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the taxi drivers are trying emulate the Montreal police force's protest look.

"Another day could be another pair of pants, like the green army pants."

According to Montreal Defence Lawyer Philip Schneider, the cabbie run the risk of impersonating an officer and could face charges.

In the Criminal Code, anyone who "falsely represents himself to be a peace officer or a public officer" is committing an offence.

Schneider said this is the case even though police officers are technically not wearing their official uniform because of their own protest - as it could still cause confusion.

He cited the part of the Criminal Code that states charges can be laid against anyone who wears "a badge or article of uniform or equipment in a manner that is likely to cause persons to believe that he is a peace officer or a public officer."

(Global News)

FRIDAY MARCH 25, 2016

Mar 25 2016

Civil liberties groups are bracing for a battle as British Columbia's privacy commissioner launches an inquiry into a device that allows police to secretly monitor mobile phones.

British Columbia's privacy commissioner has launched a closed-door inquiry into the public's right to know about Stingray, a high-tech tool that mimics a cellphone tower and tricks phones in order to scoop up everyone's data in range, and potentially store it all.

Stingray is part of mass surveillance systems that police are fighting to keep secret.

Micheal Vonn, of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, says Stingray should not be used by law enforcement.

"What we're saying here is, does it help to collect the data of tens of thousands of individuals that aren't the subjects of police investigation?" Vonn said in an interview with CTV Vancouver. "No, of course it doesn't help."

U.S. federal agencies as well as dozens of local departments have been deploying the spying device for a decade now. But new American laws are restricting its use.

But in Canada, law enforcement from Quebec RCMP to Vancouver police are battling any disclosure.

Police in Vancouver have not confirmed whether they use Stingray. In a statement, Vancouver Police Const. Brian Montague said, "We never discuss or provide information regarding investigative techniques or police tactics."

Criminal defense lawyer Matt Nathanson says the stakes are high and revelations regarding Stingray use could see courts flooded with conviction appeals.

"In my view, this is patently unconstitutional and if this matter will be litigated before the courts, I think the courts would be very clear in their condemnation of it," Nathanson said.

(CTV News)

Mar 25 2016

After being nearly shut out of this year's budget, the RCMP are embarking on a year-long process to determine how much money they need to fulfill their mandate and convince the government to come up with the required funding.



The national police force has been struggling to adapt to a high tempo of national security operations ever since the terrorist attacks in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Ottawa in October, 2014.

There is a shortage of about 500 Mounties to meet the needs of the force's contract arrangements with provinces and municipalities across the country, as well as its own investigations in areas such as organized crime and national security.

"It's a difficult situation, it's a very challenging situation," RCMP chief financial and administrative officer Alain Duplantie said in an interview. "Across the board, we need more police officers."

Speaking to a parliamentary committee in early March, Public Safety Minister Ralph

Goodale said "you can't give [the RCMP] a mandate and demand they perform miracles and then not provide the resources necessary to get the job done."

However, the Trudeau government's first budget provided no significant top-ups to operational funding for Canada's security agencies. There was new funding for cybersecurity and "counter-radicalization," which fulfilled campaign pledges, and spending on infrastructure for a new RCMP forensic laboratory and upgrades to existing training facilities.

As they prepare for the next budget cycle, the RCMP have launched two reviews in a bid to come up with a new, fully funded policing strategy.

The first one, which should be completed in six weeks, aims to determine exactly how many recruits need to be trained each year at the "Depot" facility in Regina. Training recruits takes about 18 months, so the RCMP must figure out quickly whether they need to increase the number of graduates in coming years.

"We're working to strengthen and add rigour to our funding model so that Depot is operating at the optimal level, so that when the government contemplates adding additional resources in one area or the other, we're in a position to fill those positions and deliver on the additional mandate," Deputy Commissioner Duplantie said.

The second "resourcing review" will be handled by an outside consulting firm, which is in the process of being hired. The goal is to examine all RCMP programs and see wheth-

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er they meet their stated goals, before determining the necessary funding levels.

The review could lead to a wide variety of findings, including changing some elements of the RCMP's mandate or calling for internal reallocation of resources.

The results will then be submitted to the federal government's central agencies, which will determine whether the RCMP should get a budget boost.

"Our intention is to produce recommendations to the Minister of Public Safety within the current fiscal year, to try and connect with the next budget cycle," Deputy Commissioner Duplantie said. "Assuming there are incremental budget asks, it then goes through the process of competing against other government priorities."

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson has repeatedly said he has had to pull detectives off organized-crime investigations to staff holes in the terrorism file.

In particular, the RCMP has focused massive resources on "high-risk travellers" looking to participate in the global jihadi movement, "foreign fighters" who have made it overseas and "returnees" who have come back with intentions unknown.

"I've not seen a tempo and pace of [counterterrorism] operations like this. ... It is an unprecedented alignment of our resources," Commissioner Paulson said earlier this month.

Deputy Commissioner Duplantie said he predicts the situation will last at least through the coming year.

"That pattern holds," he said.

(Globe and Mail)

SATURDAY MARCH 26, 2016

Mar 26 2016

TORONTO - Police arrested a 23-year-old Ontario man under a little used section of the criminal code relating to terrorism.

The RCMP issued a news release saying Kevin Omar Mohamed was arrested under a Criminal Code provision titled Fear of Terrorism.

The provision was tweaked last year as part of the former Conservative government's controversial Bill C-51, which allowed police to arrest someone — with consent of the attorney general — on grounds they may commit a terrorist offence.

Previously, police had to believe someone actually would carry out the crime.

A charge is not laid under the rarely used provision.

But police have laid charges against Mohamed of carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a weapon dangerous to public peace.

Police say there is no evidence of any plans of a domestic terrorism attack and the RCMP specified that the suspect's arrest is not linked to recent terrorist attacks in Brussels.

Mohamed is in custody and is due in court again on Tuesday.

SUNDAY MARCH 27, 2016

Mar 27 2016

OTTAWA - The federal government has issued guidance to Canada's spy agency on using contentious new anti-terrorism laws - but most of the instructions won't be made public.



Many passages of the ministerial direction to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, issued last July, were withheld from release due to provisions of the Access to Information Act concerning security, internal deliberations and cabinet confidences.

The office of Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said ministerial offices are not involved in the processing of access requests, nor should they be.

But the federal decision to keep much of the ministerial direction under wraps did nothing to reassure those with concerns about C-51, the omnibus security bill that received royal assent early last summer.

The legislation gave CSIS the power to actively disrupt suspected terrorist plots, even allowing the spy service to take actions that breach the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as long as a judge approves.

Mar 27 2016

CALGARY - Warm weather, more enforcement, and a higher traffic volume resulted in a jump in photo radar tickets issued to speedy Calgary motorists in 2015, say police.

The Calgary Police Service handed out 273,082 photo radar tickets in 2015, the highest number issued since 2010. There were 186,144 tickets given out in 2014, and 155,154 the year before.

Staff Sgt. Paul Stacey with the traffic section attributed the spike to a few factors.

"With the weather being so favourable for pretty much the entire year, especially versus 2014, which had a winter that never seemed to end, 2015 was amazing for road conditions," Stacey said.

"We see speeds tend to stay up there."

Stacey said the traffic section also increased the number of photo radar vehicles on city streets, from six in 2014 to 10 in 2015, in response to the public's demand for safer roads, which has been reflected in the annual Calgary Police Commission citizen surveys and at community forums.

The photo radar units operate daily and move all over the city, and members of the public can submit a traffic service request if they have

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concerns about speeding in their area.

"We hit every single community in the city throughout the year, some multiple times depending on complaints from the public and speed surveys undertaken," Stacey said.

Police said the 2015 court fine revenue from photo radar tickets was \$21.1 million, \$10 million from speed-on-green tickets, and \$15 million from manned enforcement. Additionally, revenue related to red light cameras was \$3.6 million, said the Calgary Police Commission.

(Calgary Sun)

Mar 27 2016

The recruitment age for UK police should be lowered to 16 to enable forces to best tackle the changing nature of crime, a senior police officer has suggested.

Chief Superintendent Gavin Thomas, who took over as President of the Superintendents Association this week, said school leavers might prove more adept at fighting cyber-crime and social media offences than older officers.

He said allowing 16-year-olds to join the service on an apprenticeship basis could be one way of ushering in the sort of diversity that will be needed if the police are to stay one step ahead of the criminals in the future.

Mr Thomas said many so-called traditional crimes such as burglary and car thefts were disappearing, but at the same time there had been a dramatic rise in fraud and cyber offences.

The youngest someone can join the service at the moment is 18, but Mr Thomas said the police needed to be far more flexible in its recruitment policy in order to ensure it had the right people to tackle the new criminal landscape.

Mr Thomas told the Telegraph: "I joined in the 1980s when I was eighteen and a half. I think there are very few people joining at that age in the service at the moment, partly because a lot of our people are recruited with a university education so I think generally speaking a lot of people are coming into the service in their mid to late 20s.

"We still require people with those traditional skill sets to be able to engage with people on the street, deal with violence, deal with those horrendous situations people sometimes find they are faced with in life.

"But the pace with which technology is changing means that someone who is 26 might be in a completely different space on social media to someone who is 16, so there is undeniably a generational thing."

(UK Telegraph)

MONDAY
MARCH 28, 2016

Mar 28 2016

WASHINGTON - The FBI says it successfully used a mysterious technique without Apple's help to break into an iPhone linked to the gunman in a California mass shooting.

The surprise development effectively ends a pitched court battle between Apple

and the Obama administration.

The government told a federal court Monday without any details that it accessed data on gunman Syed Farook's iPhone and no longer requires Apple's assistance. Farook and his wife died in a gun battle with police after killing 14 people in San Bernardino, California, in December.

Apple did not immediately comment on the development.

A U.S. magistrate last month ordered Apple to provide the FBI with software to help it hack into Farook's work-issued iPhone. The order touched off a debate pitting digital privacy rights against national security concerns.

Mar 28 2016

In his zeal to investigate reports of rampant harassment in the workplace, RCMP Commissioner Bob was formally accused of being a bully.

The 2012 allegation prompted then-public safety minister Steven Blaney to probe Paulson's conduct and force the commissioner to apologize for exercising "bad judgement," the National Post has learned.

The incident arose after a staff sergeant in British Columbia accused Paulson of being intimidating and demeaning during a heated email exchange about the direction of the Mounties and in interviews with reporters after those emails became public.

Blaney reviewed the complaint with the help of a consulting firm and Larry Murray, a retired military vice-admiral and former civil servant. He ultimately found some parts of it were

justified and ordered Paulson in early 2014 to apologize and take "corrective measures."

The details of the investigation, unreported until now, come as the RCMP is continually accused of being an inhospitable place in which to work - two class-action lawsuits alleging gender-based sexual harassment and discrimination have been filed.

Paulson acknowledged Monday he could have been more circumspect in his exchange with his subordinate and has learned to accept people hold views that "aren't always in line with mine."

That said, he does not think the episode has compromised the force's efforts to create a more respectful workplace.

"I am not concerned this event will be misunderstood as somehow discordant with the work we have done on harassment," he wrote in an email.

"I think if someone takes the time to get to the nuts and bolts of this particular exchange you'd see a passionate exchange about what needs to get fixed in the RCMP."

The complainant, Staff Sgt. Tim Chad, at the time posted to the Ridge Meadows detachment in B.C., declined to comment Monday through a staff relations representative, Staff Sgt. Eddie MacDonald.

"It is evident that he is not completely satisfied with the outcome," he said.

The spat erupted when Paulson was months into his role as commissioner.

He had just launched a new initiative, Every Employee Engaged, and sent out a video message intended to spark discussion



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about creating a more respectful workplace and improving accountability.

Chad emailed Paulson to complain the talk about changing the RCMP culture seemed to cast all members in a negative light.

"We are not all a bunch of screw ups but it is evident that we are all being lumped into that category and we are not valued and trusted," he wrote.

"The vast majority of the membership already lives by our core values and works hard every day to do the right thing."

Paulson replied Chad's email revealed an "ill-informed arrogance" and he was "living under a rock if you think that our current situation ... does not warrant an 'all hands on deck' approach to restoring the public trust.

"Your attempt to discredit my effort to have an honest discussion with the staff of the RCMP strikes me as a cheap and unsophisticated insult, when you suggest that I am talking down to members."

Paulson copied his response to Chad's commanding officer, the officer in charge of his detachment and a district officer.

After the emails were leaked, Paulson defended his remarks, telling The Province newspaper in Vancouver he was facing "pockets of resistance" to cultural change.

Chad filed a harassment complaint, accusing the top Mountie of belittling, demeaning and intimidating him in his email and in media interviews.

"We tried to resolve it informally and that didn't work," MacDonald said.

Ottawa conflict-management firm, Quintet Consulting, determined two of Chad's three allegations, on their face, met the definition of harassment according to Treasury Board and RCMP policies.

In his final report, Blaney wrote he did not think further investigation was needed and concluded the complaint was "partially founded."

He ordered Paulson to post an apology on the internal RCMP website; contact Chad's superiors to say the only reason he copied them on his email was to "acquaint them with issues" they discussed; clarify in writing he was not referring to Chad when he spoke about resistance to change; and meet Chad to apologize.

He also asked Paulson to report to him annually for three years to confirm Chad did not face reprisals as a result of filing the complaint.

In the apology, Paulson said he was sorry for his "inflammatory language."

"It was bad judgment on my part to have used some of the phrases I did."

He added he did not mean to appear "menacing" when he copied Chad's superiors and offered to "intervene with them and set it all straight."

"Clearly you were simply expressing your heartfelt views about some of the challenges the force is facing," he wrote.

"I see now the irony of seeking feedback from the audience I was addressing in my video message and then responding the way I did to you when you were providing me the very feedback I was seeking."

(National Post)

TUESDAY
MARCH 29, 2016

Mar 29 2016

OTTAWA - Canada's top Mountie told the federal government last spring the RCMP had "moved beyond" internal issues of harassment and bullying through "concrete actions" that had fostered a more respectful workplace, newly disclosed records show.



RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson advised Steven Blaney, public safety minister at the time, that the problems had taken up a great deal of time and energy since he took the helm of the national police force three-and-a-half years earlier.

"I am pleased to report that we have worked hard to understand the challenges, implement measures to improve our culture, and establish a system in which destructive or discriminatory behaviours are not tolerated," says Paulson's May letter, released under the Access to Information Act.

The Mounties followed up in September with a detailed progress report that concluded a "culture of respect has been woven into the RCMP" as a result of the various efforts on everything from recruitment and training to promotion and retention of staff, the access records show.

Recent headlines tell a different story.

Just last month, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale expressed dismay over allegations of sexual harassment within the police force.

Goodale, who assumed the post in November following the Liberal election victory, demanded a plan to end "toxic workplace behaviour" after CBC News reported accusations of unwanted sexual touching, bullying and wanton nudity at the explosives training unit of the Canadian Police College in Ottawa.

In recent years, the RCMP has been shaken by complaints from women and men of harassment and bullying. A new law has streamlined the process for addressing conflict, giving supervisors more power to deal with disputes promptly, but some critics fear that has opened the door to abuses.

The letter to Blaney and the September progress report both paint a rosy picture of the RCMP's overall efforts to rid the force of oppressive behaviour and discrimination, based on 36 steps outlined in a 2013 plan.

In 2014, the RCMP received 120 complaints of workplace harassment, the second-lowest number since 2005 - progress due in part to use of informal conflict resolution, Paulson's letter says.

Of these, 30 were deemed to be founded, representing just 0.1 per cent of RCMP employees, he writes. In addition, of all the harassment complaints made between February 2005 and October 2014, three per cent were related to alleged sexual wrongdoing, Paulson adds. "The numbers are low and decreasing with time."

The report cites several positive developments including:

- A mandatory online "respectful workplace" course that focuses on building the skills and understanding needed to prevent inappropriate behaviour;
- Establishment of local employee advisory committees to provide an unfiltered forum for discussion between senior management and staff on topics such as staffing, labour relations, diversity and improving communication;
- Women making up almost one-third of the RCMP's senior executive committee.

In a foreword to the report, Paulson notes that a 2014 public service survey showed 80 per cent of RCMP employees believed the force was respectful, up from 76 per cent in 2011, while 78 per cent felt the police force respected individual differences, an increase from 67 per cent three years earlier.

"These results suggest that our focus should now shift towards a broader suite of tools and responsibilities to promote organizational health and inclusiveness," he writes.

For instance, the report says in a section called 2016 and Beyond, the RCMP recently launched a mental-health strategy and will soon be audited for compliance with the Official Languages Act. "We must continue to promote and maintain a diverse, inclusive and respectful workplace culture that promotes employee well-being."

Mar 29 2016

BRAMPTON, Ont. - RCMP has laid a terror-related charge against an Ontario man initially detained out of fear he might commit a terrorism act.

Kevin Omar Mohamed appeared in court today in Brampton, Ont.

The Crown told court a bail hearing for Mohamed could take up to three days.

Mohamed, 23, was arrested Friday in an unknown location under a controversial law that essentially allows detention without charge.

Police initially charged him with two minor weapons offences related to a hunting knife, but have now also charged him with participation in a terrorist group.

Mohamed's lawyer has said it was not clear what the RCMP believed Mohamed was planning.

Mar 29 2016

The Chief of Fort William First Nation says he supports a call for a comprehensive review of the way Thunder Bay police investigate the deaths of Indigenous peoples.

Peter Collins met last week with the brother of Stacy DeBungee and the chief of Rainy River First Nation, the home community of the DeBungee family.

They're asking Ontario's civilian oversight body, the Office of the Independent Police Review Director, to order a new investigation into DeBungee's death and to conduct a review of Thunder Bay police practices.

"We all feel the pain and we all feel the suffering of the communities when they lose their family members or their loved ones and they're not dealt with adequately," he said.

DeBungee's body was found in the McIntyre River last October.

Thunder Bay police quickly deemed it "non-criminal."

A private investigator later hired by the DeBungee family said he found reasons to be suspicious, such as the use of Stacy DeBungee's bank card after he had died.

The lawyer for Thunder Bay police said the investigation into DeBungee's death is ongoing.

Chief Collins said First Nations people need more say in the way police operate. (CBC News)

Mar 29 2016

VANCOUVER - Two criminologists in British Columbia are using pig carcasses to better understand how human bodies break down hundreds of metres below the Pacific Ocean.

Gail Anderson and Lynne Bell of Simon Fraser University have discovered that the decaying process deep in the water is dramatically different than what happens in nearby, shallower waters.

Their research stands to help investigators learn what to expect of bodies recovered from deep underwater.

The study involved strapping pig bodies to metal grates and lowering them 300 metres to the ocean floor off BC's south coast.

Anderson says the carcasses can last weeks or even months near the ocean's surface.

But at 300 metres she says the pigs are quickly covered in a four-to-five-inch layer of small creatures known as sea lice, which devour the entire carcass in as few as three days.

Anderson says the lowered oxygen level in the surrounding water, along with the noise made by the feeding critters, could one day help investigators pinpoint the location of bodies from afar.

The criminologists want to further their research by moving their studies into even deeper waters.

Mar 29 2016

WHITE ROCK, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog is investigating the in-custody death of a 58-year-old woman south of Vancouver.

Mounties say the woman was arrested last Friday on an outstanding warrant and was being held in custody in White Rock, B.C., for a court appearance.

They say officers called paramedics to assess the woman early Tuesday but she remained in custody.

Hours later, a guard saw the woman lying

on the floor, unresponsive, and police say efforts to revive her weren't successful.

The RCMP say the Independent Investigations Office is now in control of the investigation.

Mar 29 2016

REGINA - Police say the search for the suspect in a fatal shooting on a northern Saskatchewan reserve has ended with gunfire and the man's death.

RCMP told residents of the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation to stay inside their homes on Tuesday after a shooting outside the community's health centre left a 56-year-old man dead.

Police searched for a man who was spotted leaving the scene on an ATV and wearing camouflage, but they did not confirm whether he was connected to the shooting.

Late in the afternoon, police say they located a 59-year-old man on the First Nation who investigators think was the suspect.

They say in a news release that while police were at the scene, a firearm was discharged, and the man was later pronounced dead in hospital in Shellbrook.

The release says RCMP did not fire their weapons.

Mar 29 2016

B.C.'s top cop says the province wasn't consulted by Ottawa before the announcement of a new RCMP forensics laboratory in Surrey.

Solicitor General Mike Morris said Tuesday he's not sure what the new lab will mean for B.C. and whether it in any way will affect the cost of DNA services that the federal government has downloaded onto municipalities and their police forces.

"Just to be clear, the province was not consulted on this decision and at this point in time it's unclear how this investment fits into the Biology Casework Analysis Agreement or the cost of DNA services to municipalities," Morris said in a statement. "We do however expect to be consulted on any changes to the agreement or cost impacts to the agreement."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government last week outlined a \$60.4 million five-year commitment to build a new RCMP forensic laboratory located at the BC RCMP headquarters in Surrey.

"The new, more efficient laboratory will support the investigation of the most serious and violent crimes, helping to quickly identify and apprehend offenders, and contribute to enhancing the safety of Canadians," read his government's budget.

But it does not appear to address criticism from municipalities over the rising cost of DNA analysis services provided by the RCMP. The federal government replaced a flat rate for DNA analysis in 2013 with a cost-sharing model with provinces. B.C.'s bill is expected to be \$4.9 million. The B.C. government will pay only \$1.37 million, leaving the shortfall to be paid by municipalities. The cost equates to \$650,000 for the

City of Vancouver, \$410,000 for Surrey and \$115,000 for Richmond.

"What is important is that further costs are not downloaded to municipalities by the federal government, which is why the province is considering alternatives to RCMP services such as building our own forensic laboratory or contracting with a private provider," Morris said.

B.C. issued a call for information from private labs last spring, and still is reviewing the response, said Morris.

(Vancouver Sun)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30, 2016

Mar 30 2016

OTTAWA - A solution may be at hand in a constitutional challenge of a retroactive Conservative law that allowed the RCMP to escape penalty for illegally destroying gun registry records.

Three Liberal ministers have requested a meeting with federal information commissioner Suzanne Legault to discuss the suspended case.

Legault is pursuing the court challenge on behalf of Bill Clenett.

His 2012 request for gun registry records was ultimately thwarted when the Mounties destroyed the data in direct violation of the Access to Information Act.

The former Conservative government cleared the force and dismissed a probe into their activities by the Ontario Provincial Police by passing a retroactive law just before Parliament was dissolved last summer.

Legault's challenge was set to begin court hearings in December but was suspended for three months at the request of the new Liberal government.

That three-month postponement has been extended.

A spokesman for Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says the three ministers — Goodale, Treasury Board president Scott Brison and Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould — have asked to meet Legault to discuss "a mutually satisfactory resolution."

Mar 30 2016

MONCTON, N.B. - With a single announcement, New Brunswick's premier demonstrated Wednesday how much Canada's debate over marijuana has evolved in the last three decades.

Premier Brian Gallant announced almost \$1 million in potential funding for a medical marijuana company, OrganiGram, that aims to tap into the recreational market if the federal government decriminalizes the drug as expected.

One of Gallant's predecessors, Richard Hatfield, was thrown out of office in the 1980s after a marijuana scandal - but for Gallant on Wednesday, marijuana jobs were a good-news announcement.

"We are pleased to see more opportuni-



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Tuesday, April 26, 2016



Contraband Tobacco and Its Impact on Organized Crime

Gary Grant
Contraband tobacco is a serious problem all over Canada and is particularly bad in Ontario where an estimated 1-in-3 cigarettes purchased over the last year were illegal.



Police Response and Mental Health

Dan Hirdes & Ron Hoffman
This presentation will provide evidence to show how the use of a new mental health screening tool enhanced the ability of officers to identify persons with serious mental disorders.



Police Act Charges & Case Law Updates

Simon Borys & L. Gridin
legal education to frontline officers on criminal and Police Services Act charges, complaints resolutions, and SIU investigations.



PTSD and Policing

Ian Johnstone & Pat Simon
The challenge for police services is to manage PTSD cases lawfully, honouring the obligations placed on services under, police legislation and human rights codes.



Automotive Investigations

Bob Lucas (OMVIC)
It is well known among the police community that auto thefts are linked to organized crime and terrorist groups. This session will introduce attendees to basic auto theft investigation techniques.



Non-Accusatory Interviewing

Gord MacKinnon
Instruction will cover the techniques for obtaining and maintaining rapport with the interview subject as well as the importance of critical listening to obtain information. You will gain an understanding of the key element of any successful interview.



Police Ethics

**Dr. Ruthie Williams
Dr. Elsie Smalls**
Explore the connection between individual ethics in the framework of the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on leadership roles in the organization and the role of values in public policy and management.



Breaking the Stigma: Compassion Fatigue

**Lambia Karitsiotis
Peggy Campbell-MacLean**
This session focuses on assisting workers to identify different forms of work-related trauma, learn proper debriefing techniques and learn how to build resiliency before taking time off work.

Wednesday, April 27, 2016



Basic Note-taking

Michael Souliere
Notes continue to come under scrutiny in legal processes both criminally and civilly. This presentation will explore both the shortfalls and successes of officers notes and will engage the learners with some 'food for thought' with respect to recording events.



Leadership Strategies in VUCA Situation

Dr. Mitch Javidi
Learn how volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA) applies to community policing strategies and what deliberate leadership strategies are most effective.



Interactions with Mental Health Issues

**Dr. Terry Coleman
Dr. Dorothy Cotton**
Presenters will be able to share emerging promising practices that have been adopted by agencies with regard to mental health issues.



Interac Fraud

Rachel Jolicœur
This presentation will provide an overview of a recent attempt to outwit chip fraud and an overview of current fraud trends and investigative methods on the INTERAC network regarding debit card transactions.



Deploying a Video Library System on a network

Rob Poretti & Claude Turcotte
Learn the various approaches for deploying a network-based media library system that collects audio, video, and metadata from numerous sources for re-distribution.



Police Professionalism

Geoff Gruson
Explore opportunities to advance a Canadian policing profession in light of the changing societal and economic realities and recent events for policing management and governance.



The Ethical Use of Force

Al Arseneault & Toby Hinton
Issues regarding the ethical applications of effective and practical uses of force will be addressed. Tried and true methods of physically taking people into custody will be shown and discussed.



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Randall Arsenault
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ties for people to work right here, in New Brunswick,” Gallant said in a news release.

Hatfield was charged with possession after marijuana was discovered in his luggage during a routine baggage inspection during the 1984 royal tour. He was acquitted, but lost every seat in the 1987 election to Liberal leader Frank McKenna.

Mar 30 2016

MONTREAL - A man is facing terrorism-related charges after allegedly attempting to break into RCMP headquarters in Montreal.

Sidy Mouhamoud Keita, 19, was arraigned today and will remain detained pending a bail hearing Thursday.

He allegedly attempted to jump over a fence at the RCMP building on Tuesday and was arrested on the spot.

He was charged with breaking and entering, with authorities fearing he may commit a terrorist act.

A Criminal Code provision allows police to arrest someone on the grounds they believe a person may commit a terrorist offence.

He also faces a charge of harassment.

Mar 30 2016

In what it called the largest raid of its kind in America, provincial police dismantled a drug, tobacco and money laundering ring on Wednesday that had roots in Quebec and reached as far as South America and Europe.



While collaborating with more than a dozen municipal police forces, the operation led to more than 60 people being arrested - including the alleged head of the organization - and more than 70 search warrants being carried out.

In total, police seized \$13.5 million worth of tobacco, more than \$3 million in U.S. cash, \$1.5 million in Canadian cash and more than 800 kilograms of cocaine.

“This is the largest operation we’ve had to this day in connection to contraband tobacco, and also in cross-border crime between Canada and the United States,” Sûreté du Québec chief Frédérick Gaudreau said in a statement.

According to police, the network that was targeted had ties to both biker gangs and Aboriginal organized crime.

Police allege the criminal organization imported 158 tobacco cargoes since August 2014, totalling more than 2 million kilograms and representing fraud of more than \$530 million. The majority of it was being sold in Kahnawake and in the Six Nations of the Grand River reserve in Ontario, police said.

A map provided by police alleges that tobacco was being shipped toward Montreal and Kahnawake from North Carolina, after stops in New Jersey and Buffalo.

Authorities believe most of the tobacco was brought in through three border crossings: one in Lacolle, Que., one in Lansdowne, Ont. (on the Thousand Islands bridge), and the Fort Erie crossing that connects Ontario to Buffalo, N.Y.

As part of the investigation, there were four separate 12,000-kilogram tobacco shipments that were seized between the three border crossings in the last two years alone, said Dominic McNeely, a spokesperson with Canada Border Services Agency. The last shipment was seized this month.

The agency had about 100 officers helping with the operation on Wednesday.

Police also allege that the organization was shipping drugs from Montreal to Detroit, and from South America into the United States.

Police seized 21 kilograms of methamphetamine, 100 grams of fentanyl and 35 pounds of marijuana on Wednesday.

As for the money laundering, police suggest money was being sent from Montreal to different places in the United States and South America, before ultimately heading toward Europe.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was also involved in the operation, but would not comment on its involvement, in order to “protect the integrity of the investigations.”

The arrest of three members of the Kahnawake Mohawk band presented the SQ with a few additional hurdles. Because the provincial police don’t have jurisdiction on the South Shore territory, they needed to cooperate with local peacekeepers Wednesday morning.

But the growth and sale of contraband tobacco isn’t considered illegal in Kahnawake, who deem it a constitutional right akin to hunting and fishing on other territories. Though his officers don’t intervene in tobacco-related arrests, chief Peacekeeper Dwayne Zachary helped broker a compromise with the SQ.

“I told them, what we could do is assign somebody to notify the individuals about the (arrest warrants),” Zachary told the Montreal Gazette. “From there we helped them arrange a location where they could turn themselves in (to provincial police).”

The investigation, titled Project Mygale, started in the fall of 2014. A total of 700 police officers were involved on Wednesday.

(Montreal Gazette)

Mar 30 2016

Prosecutors resolved a Montreal mafia murder case on Wednesday with 11th-hour guilty pleas that scuttled a same-day appellate court hearing that risked revealing sensitive RCMP surveillance technology.

The outcome of the case means there will be no binding Quebec Court of Appeal hearing related to a “mobile device identifier” technology that police had used to keep tabs on alleged mafia members.

What the Crown refers to as “MDI” technology bears similarities to controversial devices more generally known as “IMSI catchers” that essentially impersonate cellphone towers and pull data off all phones in a given radius.

Police use of such devices has never been officially acknowledged in Canada. But as The Globe reported earlier this month, the so-called RCMP “MDI” technology had been used in an investigation dubbed Project Clemenza. The technology had helped lead to the arrests of seven people after a reputed mobster was shot dead on the streets of Montreal, in 2011.

In recent years, lawyers for some accused had been fighting for revelations about the technology and Crown prosecutors had been resisting claiming it fell under “police investigative techniques privilege.”

A December ruling by a lower court judge ordering police to reveal the details of the “mobile device identifier” technique set the stage for a Quebec Court of Appeal hearing on Wednesday.

However that hearing lasted only a few minutes as lawyers told the judge that the accused were pleading guilty to conspiracy to murder charges in Laval earlier Wednesday morning - thus obviating the need for any appeal hearing.

From a legal standpoint this means that there is no binding ruling on the police use of the technology and that the disclosure issues related to it will have to be argued all over again in court - should it ever be again revealed to have been used by police in the course of a criminal investigation.

“We’re going to file an abandonment of the appeal because the case on the merits was decided in Laval this morning.

“Six of them (pleaded) to conspiracy to murder, one of them to accessory after the fact” prosecutor Robert Rouleau said, adding one first-degree murder charge had also been dropped in the course of the proceedings.

“Since the case becomes moot there’s no production order of there is no disclosure or be made,” he said.

As a result of the pleas, the accused all face significantly lesser sentences than if they had gone to trial. Several had been jailed for nearly five years, awaiting trial a factor that will count against their sentences.

Last November, Quebec Superior Court Judge Michael Stober ordered the Crown to acknowledge its use of RCMP “mobile device identifier” (MDI) technology, and added that the accused are entitled to know details about it.

Crown lawyers immediately appealed. “The information sought would tend to identify the RCMP’s methods and give a way to circumvent them,” says the Dec. 14 appeal brief, arguing that the technology was shielded by “police investigative techniques privilege.” The brief says any disclosure will “hinder the RCMP’s capabilities to lead criminal investigations.”

The Crown had been resisting the defence’s bid for the “manufacturer, make, model” of the device in question, as well as

its “practical range.” The defence had wanted “confirmation the device is a cell-site simulator” and, also, to know whether federal authorities have studied the privacy, safety and technical impact of such surveillance.
(Globe and Mail)

Mar 30 2016

EDMONTON - Thirteen RCMP officers were honoured Wednesday in Edmonton with commendation awards for risking their lives to save others



“These members here today acted tremendously,” RCMP Sgt. Maj. Kevin McGillivray said.

He said the Commissioner’s Commendation for Bravery and the Commissioner’s Commendation for Outstanding Service, presented by RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, are the highest honours the RCMP can bestow.

The Commissioner’s Commendation for Bravery recognizes officers who show exceptional courage in the face of dangerous circumstances, risking injury or death.

“It shows what kind of person they are to be able to stand up to that kind of danger and persevere,” McGillivray said.

Const. Gordon Marshall said receiving the commendation for bravery was bittersweet. While he felt honoured to be recognized for his actions, it also brought up memories of the day he and his partner could have lost their lives.

“Every day that we go to work, it’s possible that something like this could happen again. It’s something that’s present in my mind and that of my family,” Marshall said.

Marshall and his partner Const. Tapatha Curnew raced to a scene in Fort McMurray on March 16, 2011, where a woman said a man was in her apartment threatening people with a gun. As she was on the line with police, the man started firing.

Officers smashed through the glass doors of the lobby with a shotgun before Marshall, with Curnew behind him, entered the apartment building.

“As we went in to address the threat, he was waiting for us. He ambushed us and started shooting,” Marshall said.

One shot hit Curnew in her hip, the bullet tearing through her thigh. Marshall said she almost died at the scene.

Officers returned fire, killing the gunman.

It wasn’t until Marshall was in hospital with his partner that he realized his radio had stopped a bullet.

“Otherwise I would be in a wheelchair, or worse,” Marshall said.

Now stationed with RCMP in Stony Plain and Spruce Grove, Marshall said he wasn’t afraid until after it was over and he was able to reflect on what occurred. Curnew has left the RCMP.

Also receiving an award was Const. Leah Russell. She had been an RCMP officer for less than two years when she ran into a burning building at a seniors living facility in Rocky Mountain House on July 29, 2013.

Russell and her partner, Const. Dru Abernethy, arrived before fire crews. Smoke was billowing from the windows.

The officers charged into the burning building, battling through choking smoke to rescue the people inside. At one point, Abernethy’s uniform caught fire.
(Edmonton Journal)



Mar 31 2016

TORONTO - A Canadian news outlet must give the RCMP background materials used for stories on a suspected terrorist, despite objections from the reporter, a judge has ruled.

In addition, Ontario Superior Court Justice Ian MacDonnell banned publication of information police relied on to obtain a court order that Vice Media and reporter Ben Makuch produce the materials related to Farah Shirdon.

The three Vice stories in 2014 were largely based on conversations Makuch had with Shirdon via an online instant messaging app called Kik Messenger. RCMP want access to Makuch’s screen captures of those chats.

“The screen captures are important evidence in relation to very serious allegations,” MacDonnell said in his ruling. “There is a strong public interest in the effective investigation and prosecution of such allegations.”

In October 2014, Makuch cited Shirdon, of Calgary, as saying from Iraq: “Canadians at home shall face the brunt of the retaliation. If you are in this crusader alliance against Islam and Muslims, you shall see your streets filled with blood.”

RCMP charged the Toronto-born Shirdon, 22, in absentia last September with several offences, including leaving Canada to participate in the activity of a terrorist group, taking part in the activity of a terrorist group, and threatening Canada and the U.S.

Police said they needed the Makuch materials as proof Shirdon had been in Iraq. They also want to know how Makuch tracked the suspect down, but the reporter said he simply monitored his online activities.

Makuch did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but his lawyer, Iain MacKinnon, said Thursday they were considering an appeal.

“(I’m) concerned about the impact it could have on the ability of journalists to properly do their jobs,” MacKinnon said.

“Police officers investigating crimes may

start using similar production orders more often in the future and rely on journalists as an investigative arm or tool to gather evidence in their investigations.”

MacDonnell, however, accepted government arguments that Vice was the only source of the needed information.

“The screen captures are a copy of the actual electronic messages that Shirdon placed on Mr. Makuch’s computer screen,” MacDonnell said. “They are highly reliable evidence that do not require a second-hand interpretation.”

The justice also rejected Vice’s argument that police essentially already had all the relevant information.

He said he was satisfied the judge who issued the initial production order last year had taken into account the special position of the media, and had properly balanced the interests of law enforcement and the media’s right to freedom of expression.

MacDonnell’s ruling was issued Tuesday, but was subject to a temporary ban to give the federal government a chance to see if any of this reasons needed redacting. That ban has now been lifted.

Mar 31 2016

PETERBOROUGH - If you could get a ticket for typos, Peterborough Police would have been fined.



A cruiser belonging to the city force was photographed this week with a glaring error.

Instead of ‘police’, in large capital letters on the door, a decal read ‘POLCE.’

The photo was captured by Trent University student Amanda White and shared on her Facebook page.

It then made the rounds on Twitter, too, with some people puzzling over the mistake and others poking fun of it.

Lauren Gilchrist, a spokeswoman for Peterborough Police, released a statement about it on Wednesday.

“We can confirm that the vehicle is one of our police vehicles that was recently repaired,” she wrote. “It was removed from service immediately and the decal has now been fixed.”

Gilchrist didn’t comment any further on the matter.
(Peterborough Examiner)

Mar 31 2016

WINNIPEG - Parole has been denied to a Winnipeg man who shot and wounded two city police officers during a drug raid more than nine years ago.

Daniell Ian Anderson was given a 14-year prison term in 2009 for attempting to kill Constable Donald Murray and discharging a

firearm with intent to injure Constable Curtis Penner.

The Parole Board of Canada ruled earlier this month that Anderson, who is 30, has behaved poorly behind bars.

Board documents note that in January, paper found in his cell had methamphetamine residue.

In February, some of his mail had traces of fentanyl, while early this month paper discovered in his cell had THC residue.

One of the officers who was shot has said that his injuries have been "life altering" and have limited his ability to work.

(CBC, CP, Online Out)

Mar 31 2016

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver branch of the SPCA is hoping a donation challenge from the canine unit at the Vancouver Police Department pays off for the organization.



Branch manager Charlotte Ellice says members of the Vancouver unit donated \$1,300 in overtime hours last week to cover vet bills for 66 dogs seized during a raid on a puppy mill last month in nearby Langley.

When the donation was made, Ellice says Vancouver dog handlers challenged members in other canine units to do the same and the society is optimistic that will happen.

Spokeswoman Lorie Chortyk of British Columbia's SPCA says vet bills for the seized dogs have topped hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Ellice adds the total number of dogs has grown to 88 due to the recent arrival of 22 puppies, including 10 over the Easter weekend.

All the seized dogs had a variety of ailments including ringworm, which forced the Vancouver shelter to shut its doors to other admissions while the Bernese mountain dogs, Wheaten terriers, Portuguese water dogs, and poodle mixes were treated.

Ellice says vets have now cleared all the remaining dogs for adoption and the shelter reopens Friday.

Mar 31 2016

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - Police in Saskatchewan are searching for an escaped murder suspect after two masked attackers used a gun and bear spray to ambush two corrections officers.

Prince Albert police Sgt. Brandon Mudry says Braidy Vermette, who is 27, faces a first-

degree murder charge.

Mudry says Vermette was being taken to a hospital on Wednesday night for treatment of a self-inflicted arm injury.

Mudry says two masked attackers hit the two corrections officers escorting Vermette with bear spray when they got out of their vehicle.

Neither of the workers from the Prince Albert Provincial Correctional Centre was seriously hurt before Vermette and the attackers drove away in a dark-coloured SUV.

RCMP are involved in the search and police are warning people not to approach Vermette, who they consider to be armed.

Mar 30 2016

A study ordered by Quebec's Public Security Ministry into police incidents that triggered an independent investigation found most involved people in 'altered states' due to mental illness or intoxication.

Annie Gendron, a researcher with the École nationale de police du Québec (ENPQ) research centre, analysed 143 incidents between 2006 and 2010.

Gendron looked in detail at those incidents in which police discharged their firearm, someone attempted or committed suicide in the presence of police or police were involved in chasing a suspect.

Some key findings:

- 41.1 per cent of the interventions involved aggression towards the police with a weapon: In a third of those cases the weapon was a firearm.
- One in four incidents in which a police weapon is fired could be characterized as "suicide by cop."
- 79.3 per cent of the cases analyzed involved people in "an altered state of consciousness" either due to mental health issues, intoxication or both.
- Half the police shootings analysed took place within 10 minutes of police arriving.
- In incidents when someone attempted or committed suicide in the presence of police, half the time police were unaware that the person was armed.
- 92 per cent of suicidal individuals were in an altered state of consciousness.
- In those cases where a motorist fled police, those fleeing were under the influence of intoxicants in more than half the cases when the police chase occurred.

In response to these findings, ENPQ said it has already added several hours of training for police cadets, including:

- A three-hour workshop on stress and emotional management, aimed at giving police cadets better tools and strategies to cope with stressful situations.
- Improvements to training aimed at realistically simulating police interventions, including crowd control, driving in emergency situations and shooting in self-defence.
- A three-hour workshop aimed at dealing with people in all states of crisis, includ-

ing those who are armed and unarmed, people who suicidal, people who seek to commit "suicide by cop," people in states of excited delirium or altered consciousness.

The aim is to teach de-escalation techniques, communication tactics and physical tactical intervention.

(CBC News)

Mar 31 2016

MONTREAL - A psychiatric evaluation awaits a man facing terrorism-related charges after allegedly trying to break into RCMP headquarters in Montreal this week.

Sidy Mouhamoud Keita returned to court Thursday when his lawyer asked he be seen at a psychiatric hospital.

The Crown did not object to the request that an expert determine his level of criminal responsibility in the current case.

Keita, 19, of nearby Longueuil, was arrested after allegedly trying to jump a security fence at the RCMP building on Tuesday. He faces three charges: harassment, perpetrating a terrorism hoax and breaking and entering.

Defence lawyer Vanessa Sadler said the RCMP met with Keita's mother, who told them there were some concerns about her son's mental welfare. In a different case this year, Keita was ordered to see a doctor because of mental-health issues.

"There was evidence in the (current) file that there was maybe some problem with his mental health," Sadler said. "The RCMP agents also met with members of his family because they noticed themselves there might be something off about the behaviour of my client."

The case returns to court April 29.

Mar 31 2016

COLWOOD, B.C. - A former RCMP officer on Vancouver Island has received the mandatory minimum six month jail sentence for possession of child pornography.

Former Sidney-North Saanich officer Dale Sheets was immediately taken into custody following Wednesday's decision in Western Communities provincial court in Colwood, outside Victoria.

Sheets pleaded guilty last October to the offences, which occurred in 2013.

In passing sentence, the judge accepted defence arguments that Sheets' actions were influenced by post-traumatic stress disorder he developed during two decades of service with the RCMP.

A psychiatric report found Sheets is a low risk to reoffend.

He will serve 18-months probation once released, must not access to the Internet and must have no contact with anyone under 16 unless a parent is present.

(CFAX)