

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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April 14, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 16

Executive Digest

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COLWOOD, B.C. - An RCMP officer who established herself as an investigator in a small town detachment was remembered Tuesday for the impact she had on everyone she met.

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TORONTO - Fearing political leaders are bowing to lobby group pressure and judging cops unfairly through an "anti-racism lens," the Toronto Police Association has warned its members to take "all precautions" to avoid "exposing" themselves to "undue jeopardy."

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VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department has concerns about how technology is changing policing, such as how some technology allows criminals to attack victims regardless of borders and provides offenders with anonymity.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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City of Richmond to retain RCMP



Apr 12 2016

RICHMOND - The City of Richmond will be sticking with the RCMP for its policing needs for the foreseeable future following a decision by City Council on Monday evening.

This follows the release of the findings of a public consultation conducted earlier this year that engaged residents on the question of whether the municipal government should

create its own independent police force.

A report submitted to Council found that most residents in the municipality are against the transition based on the high cost.

Richmond's policing requirements are currently fulfilled by a detachment of the RCMP funded by the municipality.

The "Let's Talk Richmond" survey found that 67% support the funding model for the RCMP while just 29% support the

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independent police force funding model.

A local independent police force, similar to the structures of the Vancouver Police and West Vancouver Police, would cost between \$46.97 million and \$48.67 million to operate on an annual basis.

In contrast, Richmond taxpayers currently pay \$44.74 million per year for the RCMP's coverage, a figure that already accounts for approximately 20% of the municipality's annual budget. There are significant economies of scale provided by the RCMP's national network, which effectively reduces operational costs and the need for redundancies.

In addition to increases in the annual operational cost, an independent police force would have a one-time estimated \$19.6-million start-up cost. This may include new facilities, equipment, patrol cars, and other initial capital expenses.


Council has previously voiced issues over the accountability and governance of the Richmond RCMP, given that the municipality does not have any control of detachment's finances and that the policing work is governed by a police board in Ottawa.

But residents in the survey disagreed with Council and staff recommendations, with 59% of survey respondents saying they have a greater confidence in the RCMP for local decision making authority and community needs. Only 43% said the same for an independent police force.

Overall, 62% of respondents said they preferred the RCMP model while 32% support an independence police force model.

Richmond City Council renewed its contract with the RCMP for a 20-year term in 2012 with significant reservations.

(Vancity Buzz)



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THURSDAY APRIL 7, 2016

Apr 07 2016

HALIFAX - Four months after a judge struck down Nova Scotia's pioneering cyberbullying law as unconstitutional, the province's justice minister says she has yet to decide whether rewrite the act or appeal the decision.

Diana Whalen said Thursday the absence of the law - inspired by the death of teenager Rehtaeh Parsons - has created a void in the justice system because the province's groundbreaking, five-member CyberScan unit no longer has the tools it needs to combat cyberbullying.

However, Whalen says the province may turn to other means to revamp its tools for dealing with online harassment.

Whalen says that could include making amendments to existing acts or introducing new policy tools and training to get the job done.

She says meetings have been held, but no decisions have been made.

As well, she says no deadline has been set for filing an appeal of the December court decision because the court has yet to issue a written ruling.

Apr 07 2016

MONCTON, N.B. - Court proceedings have been delayed in the case of alleged Labour Code violations by the RCMP related to the force's response to a June 2014 shooting rampage in Moncton, N.B.

The RCMP was expected to enter pleas and set a trial date during a court appearance in Moncton on Thursday, but defence lawyer Ian Carter says the Crown and defence still require more time to discuss narrowing the issues in the case, which has been set over until May 12.

Both sides had previously asked for more time in what they described as a complex case during a court appearance in January.

Employment and Social Development Canada alleges there were four violations of the code relating to the force's equipment, training and supervision in the June 4, 2014 incident that resulted in the deaths of three Mounties.

Justin Bourque was sentenced to life in prison with no eligibility for parole after pleading guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

Last May, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada recommended the RCMP be prosecuted for contravention of occupational health and safety provisions.

Apr 07 2016

MONTREAL - A Montreal police officer is to be suspended for 10 days without pay after he cut off a cyclist with his cruiser, sending the rider flying to the ground and injuring his head.

In rendering its decision, the Quebec Police Ethics Committee found that Constable Roberto Tomarelli acted imprudently and used poor judgement when he decided to intercept the cyclist with his vehicle.

Tomarelli, who has been on the force for 14 years, admitted to the ethics committee that he had misjudged the speed at which the cyclist was pedalling when he decided to cut him off with his vehicle. The cyclist smashed into the cruiser and hit the ground, injuring his forehead.

The ethics committee warned that a police officer must act with greater vigilance when in pursuit of a cyclist than a motorist.

Tomarelli's lawyer sought a five-day suspension. The ethics committee released its statement on Tomarelli's suspension on Thursday, but did not disclose when and where the incident occurred involving the cyclist.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 07 2016

Members of a loosely affiliated band of vigilantes who use covert social media accounts to expose and publicly shame alleged online predators have emerged in Medicine Hat.

Police in the southern Alberta city said Thursday they recently met two people who called themselves "Creep Catchers" and claimed to have recently met one of their targets.

They told officers they baited their target by posing online as a teenage girl to arrange a meeting, which they claimed to have recorded on video and threatened to post it on social media.

"Individuals who engage in vigilante activity are putting themselves at considerable risk of defensive or retaliatory harm from the people they are confronting," Medicine Hat police said in a statement.

Creep Catchers pose a growing concern for law enforcement across North America, including in Calgary, where Dawson Raymond wages a similar public shaming campaign.

Raymond told Postmedia last fall he poses as a young teenage girl on online dating sites, where he claims a surprising number of men request to meet, despite the fact the fictitious girl is a minor. He later confronts these men in person as a friend captures video footage, which he posts to his website.

The Calgary man's website says Creep Catchers help prevent the exploitation of children and young adults. "We are building our presence across Canada to catch and expose online child/teen predators as well as similar topics of interest," the site says.

Calgary police say they do not condone Raymond's vigilante tactics, though they are investigating complaints that have emerged from his video-recorded confrontations.

Officers warn these vigilante acts could interfere with police investigations and the collection of evidence, which could mean suspects are not charged or convicted.

(Calgary Herald)

Apr 08 2016

NEW YORK - The U.S. Justice Department says it will continue trying to force Apple to reveal a phone's data in a New York drug case.

The government told a Brooklyn judge Friday it still wants an order requiring Apple's co-operation even though it no longer needs the company's help with a phone linked to a mass shooting in California.

An Apple lawyer did not immediately return a request for comment.

The Justice Department recently dropped a legal fight to compel Apple to help it break into an iPhone used by a gunman in the December attack in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14 people.

A magistrate judge had blocked the government from forcing Apple to help in the Brooklyn case. The government appealed to a district judge.

Apr 08 2016

MONTREAL - Collective bargaining talks between the City of Montreal and the Police Brotherhood are at a standstill, and the union has asked for help.

According to La Presse, the Brotherhood has applied to the Ministry of Labour for neutral third-party assistance through arbitration.

It appears some of the city's demands are too hard to swallow.

An internal document obtained by the newspaper shows the city believes SPVM officers have seen pay increases significantly higher, in some cases 15% more, than other municipal employees and other police forces.

The city's offer is a 2% wage increase each year for three years from 2015 to 2017.

Also on the list of the city's demands, more work hours per week, less overtime and fewer police directing traffic.

Officers on traffic detail are often doing so while working overtime, costing the city millions of dollars.

The city wants to reduce the number of police officers directing traffic, replacing them with outside agents in a bid to save money.

Montreal police have been without a collective agreement since the end of 2014. (CJAD)

Apr 08 2016

SURREY, B.C. - The mayor of a Vancouver-area city where police have logged 31 shootings this year has approved 24-hour police access to more than 400 closed-circuit cameras in an effort to stop the relentless violence.

Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner says the shootings have damaged the reputation of the city and she promises those involved

will be caught.

RCMP Assistant Commissioner Dan Mallow says they've learned that those responsible are "kids" in a low-level dispute over drugs that has killed one and injured several others.

He adds that the problem isn't just in Surrey, but in Metro Vancouver as well, and more resources from specialized units are being made available to stop the shootings.

Public Safety Minister Mike Morris told the same news conference that some of the shootings have been around elementary schools and in residential areas, which has led to greater police focus on the crimes.

Apr 08 2016

A Carcross RCMP constable has been given a conditional discharge, after pleading guilty to assaulting a prisoner in his police vehicle last spring.

Jason Potter, 37, was sentenced in Yukon Territorial Court on Friday, after two days of hearings in Carcross this week.

Court heard how Carcross "drunks and drug abusers" were so hostile to police, the RCMP detachment installed tinted windows.

Threats grew so persistent last year, Const. Potter protected his home with a nine foot fence, video cameras he monitored from work, and began answering his door with a pistol drawn behind his back.

Then last May, while Potter was transporting a very intoxicated Duke Beattie to

jail, the suspect made threats against Potter's wife and family.

Court was told Potter "lost it", stopped the vehicle, and threw himself on the handcuffed prisoner.

Potter himself reported the assault and pleaded guilty when charges were laid. He's already been fined and disciplined internally by RCMP, including giving an apology to Beattie.

The conditional discharge means Potter will not have a criminal record if he abides by the sentencing conditions.

They include nine months of probation, 40 hours of community work, and continued psychological counseling.

Sentencing Judge Heino Lilles said the community of Carcross deserves to know more about the case.

He's promised a detailed explanation in his "reasons for judgement", which is expected some time within the next few weeks. (CBC News)

Apr 08 2016

Pot grow-op busts are way down in Alberta, with most of those smoked out now legal gardens, say cops.

They also seized 13,067 pot plants province-wide last year - a whopping 234% decrease from the 43,606 confiscated in 2012, said the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT).

The vast majority of the cannabis plants seized last year - about 86% - were in the

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zone south of Red Deer.

While those numbers are dramatic enough, the majority of public tips to police now lead to medicinal marijuana gardens, reflecting the increasingly murky, fluid nature of the war on cannabis, said Staff Sgt. Keith Hurley.

"We're seeing more permitted grows than un-permitted grows, the number of illegal ones are drastically below the permitted operations," said Hurley, a Calgary Police Service officer in charge of ALERT's southern Alberta green team.

Many of the legal operations backed by medicinal permits are unsafe for electrical or mould reasons, said Hurley, who also suspects they're often fronts for illegal, commercial harvesting.

But because of their legal documentation, there's little he can do, including take measures to comfort concerned neighbours, he said.

Grow-op search warrants executed by ALERT - which says it conducts about 95% of that activity in the province - dropped from 105 in 2012 to 60 last year.

(Calgary Sun)

SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2016

Apr 09 2016

A new bill in the Ontario legislature seeks to crack down on the multimillion-dollar contraband tobacco trade by giving police departments financial incentive - through civil forfeiture - to investigate the crime.



Bill 139, which passed second reading in November and is being examined by a standing committee, puts harsher penalties on contraband tobacco trafficking and would create a public anti-tobacco education program for schools.

But one key provision of the bill - which gives the finance minister the option to give proceeds from property seized during a contraband tobacco investigation to the police force that did the investigation - alarms anti-civil forfeiture advocates.

Civil forfeiture law has amassed opponents who say the measures can be abused, with people having their property wrongly taken.

Concerns have been raised about the threshold to seize property, with forfeitures being processed through civil court and requiring no criminal charges or convictions.

Todd Smith, the Conservative MPP from Prince Edward-Hastings behind the bill, says the provision to provide police forces with a financial incentive to go after contraband tobacco was made to provide cash-strapped municipal police forces with the funding they need to fight the crime.

"The bill just really empowers local police services and incentivizes local police services to make these kind of busts so we can crack down on this," said Smith.

He added many municipal police forces do not bother dealing with the trade, leaving it to the RCMP to handle because contraband tobacco is principally in their jurisdiction.

In 2014, the RCMP seized contraband tobacco worth more than \$4 million across Canada. The RCMP also used civil forfeiture against the contraband tobacco trade, seizing more than 50 vehicles with a total value of \$400,000.

Seizing property relating to crimes, selling it and distributing the proceeds to law enforcement have taken place under civil forfeiture laws in Canada for several years.

Ontario instituted civil forfeiture in the Civil Remedies Act of 2001, becoming the first province in Canada to do so.

The laws allow police forces to seize assets such as houses, cars and cash if they are shown to be a proceed or instrument of crime in civil court. Funds received from selling the properties are held by the government, distributed with law enforcement grants or given to victims' agencies.

In Ontario since November 2003, approximately \$48.6 million worth of property was seized by the province, with another \$10.5 million worth of property being held and frozen. According to the provincial Ministry of the Attorney General, \$24.5 million of that has been distributed to victims' funds and \$10.9 million was distributed to law enforcement agencies through grants.

The remainder has been held by the government to help recover the Crown's cost to handle cases of civil forfeiture.

(CBC News)

Apr 09 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief says the homeless population in the city is taking away valuable police resources.

Chief Rod Knecht says there's been a notable increase in homeless-related calls to the force.

"The homeless issue continues to grow. I don't think it's diminishing at all. I think we need to come up with some real inventive solutions," said Knecht during the "Coffee with the Chief" media event Friday.

Knecht says he's not confident the current plan to end homelessness is working.

The City of Edmonton launched a '10-Year Plan to End Homelessness' in 2009. The plan outlined a number of initiatives to lower homeless numbers in the city, including providing housing options and reducing shelter use.

(Global News)

SUNDAY APRIL 10, 2016

Apr 10 2016

False 9-1-1 emergency calls continue to be a problem for police in Canada despite changes in cellphone design that are expected to reduce cases of inadvertent "pocket" dialing.



Concerns about how such calls bog down emergency dispatch centres prompted the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to complain to Ottawa about cellphones that can dial 9-1-1 with a single button push.

The wireless industry responded with assurances that cellphones with that feature are no longer being sold and those still in use will be gradually replaced by consumers.

But problems persist, including nuisance calls from people who dial 9-1-1 in non-emergency situations.

Saskatoon Police Chief Clive Weighill, president of the chiefs association, says in his city about one-third of the estimated 62,000 emergency calls last year were either misdialled or for non-emergencies.

Edmonton Police say of the nearly 389,000 calls made to 9-1-1 last year, about 39 per cent were bogus.

Some false 9-1-1 calls are made by young children from old cellphones that parents give their kids to play with.

Weighill says police in Canada favour awareness campaigns such as one underway in Edmonton that encourage people to call a different phone number for non-emergencies.

He says a new 9-1-1 system is under review by federal regulators where people will be able to text emergency calls.

Apr 10 2016

WINDSOR - A Windsor police officer suffered a serious hand injury Saturday night when a man who was asked to leave Caesars Windsor pulled a knife on the officer and stabbed him.

"The officer sustained a serious hand injury," Staff Sgt. Dan Potvin said Sunday morning.

The officer was on contract duty in a common area at Caesars Windsor and was working with security to get a disorderly male to leave the casino Saturday at about 11:40 p.m., Potvin said.

While attempting to escort the man out, the man brandished a knife and stabbed the officer in the hand, Potvin said. The officer used a Taser at least twice.

The officer had surgery on his dominant hand on Sunday morning and was released from hospital, Potvin said.

(Windsor Star)



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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. Gudin

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 Karisiotis
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 Jolicoeur

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 Arsenault & 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.



Effective and Innovative Community Engagement
Randall Arsenault

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Apr 11 2016

VANCOUVER - British Columbia is attempting to crack down on money laundering at casinos with help from the province's anti-gang police agency.

Finance Minister Mike de Jong says 22 officers with the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit will now be dedicated to investigating groups that use gaming facilities to legalize the proceeds of crime.

He says investigators will work with the B.C. Lottery Corp. and the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch.

De Jong says suspicious currency transactions tracked last July led to the creation of a unit that would focus on illegal gaming.

He says the government's anti-money laundering strategy involves promoting the use of cash alternatives such as debits cards though some cultures have a propensity to enter casinos with vast sums of money.

The police agency's chief officer Kevin Hackett says they'll target high-level, violent crime groups that launder money through illegal gaming.

Apr 11 2016

EDMONTON - Bill spends many nights in a cinderblock holding cell, countless more in the back in of an ambulance.



He had been homeless for years, sleeping on the streets or in shelters across Edmonton's west end. Often disoriented from long-undiagnosed mental health issues, encounters with police came all too often.

Bill, whose last name is being withheld by police for privacy reasons, is one client benefiting from a Edmonton Police Service program which helps break the cycle of crime and poverty for some of the city's most at-risk offenders.

The 'Heavy Users of Services' brings together 16 different agencies including government and not-for-profits to find a better way of dealing with their most chronic, complex clients; people who often suffer from addictions, mental health issues and homelessness.

The agencies identified the 15 people who encounter police most often while relying heaviest on health and inner city services, before developing an individualized care plan that will be tracked for up to two years.

Sgt. Tracy Ward told CBC radio show Edmonton AM that it gives police the chance

to help break the cycle.

"Our members only have so many tools on their belt, they have limited time and resources that they can spend dealing with these people," Ward said.

"They're very limited in what they can do, but this project has the time and the resources to deal with those people in a different way."

The program, funded by the provincial government is part of the EPS Violence Reduction Program, was launched as a pilot last year.

Of 15 initial clients, 10 are currently housed. With the first round of clients becoming more stable, three new clients have been selected for the program.

So far, the strategy has proved effective in reducing the strain on police resources of chronic clients.

For instance, one client had a staggering 186 encounters with EPS and Edmonton Transit on record in 2013, but after being enrolled in the program, that number plummeted to a mere 15.

For Staff Sgt. Derek McIntyre, who has been involved with the project since the beginning, Bill's case is the one that stands out.

Now diagnosed with advanced dementia, Bill is being cared for at the Royal Alexandra. He has a warm bed, regular meals and soon will have a place to call home.

When the beat cops, who know him well from his years on the street, got word of his progress, they got together and went to his hospital room for a visit.

"They collected a Tim Hortons cup of coffee for Bill, went in and the most important part of the visit with Bill was that he was willing to have them come into his room and visit, McIntyre said.

"It was a really a big day not only for those beat members, but Bill as well.

"We've come a long way with the empathy and compassion that we show toward vulnerable people. And that case just punctuated where we are as a police organization."

(CBC News)

Apr 11 2016

WINNIPEG - Manitoba's police watchdog says there's not enough evidence to lay charges against an RCMP officer accused of abusing a child.

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba launched a review after Spruce Woods RCMP received a complaint last June.

It was alleged an officer physically abused a child between 2010 and 2015.

The investigation unit says in a news release that the matter is closed.

The unit also found insufficient evidence to lay charges after a suspected drunk driver collapsed and died after a request for a roadside screening test last July.

The investigation unit also says it is conducting an investigation into how an Ojibwa man from Sandy Bay was cut on the forehead while in custody.

(CTV Winnipeg, CJOB)

Apr 11 2016

It's as easy as ordering a book online: Sign up for an account, choose a method of payment, and receive the package in three to four business days.



But first, there are some choices to make. The fentanyl hydrochloride comes in a variety of quantities, ranging from a half-gram sample for \$35 (U.S) to a kilogram for \$21,000. It also comes in different strengths - purchasers are warned to "be careful" and do their research on the product, described as 99-per-cent pure. And of course, there are the related pharmaceutical products: the fentanyl patches, tablets and even lollipops.

Buyers are assured their package won't get seized at the Canadian border. To avoid the risk of detection, says a supplier from China, he conceals the purchase alongside urine test strips. Not that there's reason to worry: Canadian border guards cannot open packages weighing less than 30 grams without the consent of the recipient. (A Globe and Mail reporter corresponded with sellers and suppliers using a pseudonym and did not disclose himself as a journalist, in order to obtain accurate information from the seller.)

The supplier, who identified himself only as Alan, says he has two customers in Canada. He e-mails photos of fentanyl hidden inside silica-desiccant packets - the type normally used when shipping goods such as electronics - and a screen shot of a recent order from Canada, including a shipping address for a clothing store in British Columbia's picturesque Okanagan Valley.

Alan says he is based in the southern metropolis of Guangzhou, the trading crossroads for manufacturing in China - a country that is, in turn, at the centre of the vast underground world of synthetic-drug manufacturers. Enforcement is fragmented, and companies operate with impunity.

Fentanyl is an opioid, a class of painkillers that also includes oxycodone and morphine. Prescription-grade fentanyl is up to 100 times more toxic than morphine.

Chemical companies in China custom-design variants of pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl by tweaking a molecule ever so slightly. A few hundred micrograms - the weight of a single grain of salt - are enough to trigger heroin-like bliss. But the line between euphoria and fatal overdose is frighteningly thin: An amount the size of two grains of salt can kill a healthy adult.

0A Globe investigation has found that many of those deaths could have been avoided.

Among the investigation's findings from interviews with nearly three dozen medi-

cal experts, public-health doctors, police and family members of overdose victims: Federal and provincial rejection of harm-reduction measures hindered the response to the fentanyl crisis in Alberta. Neither Ottawa nor the provinces are taking adequate steps to stop doctors from indiscriminately prescribing highly addictive opioids to treat chronic pain - in 2015 alone, doctors wrote enough prescriptions for one in every two Canadians. And addiction-treatment programs are few and far between - a legacy of the former Conservative government's tough-on-crime policies.

The investigation also found that online suppliers are exploiting gaps at the border. Fentanyl and many chemically similar drugs are classified as controlled substances in Canada, making them illegal to import without a licence or permit. But, for online suppliers, the borders may as well not exist; they devise clever ways to conceal the drugs and skirt inspection rules. Suppliers often ship drugs in packages under the 30-gram threshold, ensuring border agents won't open them. One supplier with whom a Globe reporter corresponded promised to ship fentanyl inside a gift-wrapped package. Another pledged, "No problem of police coming to you," as the package would be labelled household detergent, complete with a certificate of analysis. Many suppliers will even offer guaranteed reshipment to customers in the event their package gets intercepted.

Because illicit fentanyl is so potent, once it arrives here, the white crystalline powder gets diluted with powdered sugar, baby powder or antihistamines before it can be sold on the street and consumed. It is also mixed into other drugs, and sold as heroin or OxyContin.

As Canada wakes up to a mounting public-health crisis, it is left playing catch-up with the United States, which is confronting its own epidemic of illicit and prescription drug abuse. Policymakers in Canada do not even have the basic tools to monitor this leading cause of accidental deaths - in contrast to the situation in the United States, there is no national system tracking fatal opioid overdoses.

The arrival of illicit fentanyl in Canada is a "game changer," says Benedikt Fischer, a senior scientist at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. When Canada's opioid problem involved only the abuse of prescription drugs, he says, policymakers squandered an opportunity to address it. Now that many addicts are turning to a drug that is manufactured without government oversight - and in countries beyond our borders, to boot - it is nearly impossible to get a grip on the problem. "Even if we wanted to now suddenly take action, there's nothing we can do," he says. "We have no way of controlling thousands of illegal drug labs in China."

Police across Canada have shut down 20 fentanyl labs since that first major bust in April, 2013, mostly operated by organized-

crime groups, according to a Globe review. The biggest raids were in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan. Police have also made dozens of busts involving illicit fentanyl and the prescription-grade patches. This week, police charged a doctor and a pharmacist from the Toronto area with participating in a fentanyl trafficking ring.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), the first line of defence in preventing illicit goods from entering the country, is responsible for clearing international mail. In 2015, the agency made just under 11,000 illicit-drug seizures, half of which came through the postal system. And yet, even as the volume of all commercial goods cleared at the border increases, including international mail, the number of front-line officers continues to shrink.

As long as fentanyl continues to arrive in Canada undetected, municipal police cannot arrest themselves out of the problem, says Calgary Police Staff Sgt. Martin Schiavetta. He wants to know how serious the federal government is about fentanyl. "Are they aware of the scope of the problem?" he asks. "What strategies does the RCMP have to deal with these Chinese imports? Does CBSA have enough capacity to deal with all the packages?"

(Globe and Mail)

Apr 11 2016

An RCMP employee who drank heavily and smoked pot at a lakeside party hosted by a senior officer has won compensation for being suspended

and fired by the national police force.

David F  thi  re said he was discriminated against because of his alcohol problem, and targeted by bosses because of his missteps at the summer bash.

In a recent ruling, the federal labour relations tribunal dismissed F  thi  re's discrimination claim, but found that his suspension and firing were disguised forms of discipline.

Marie-Claire Perrault, an adjudicator with the Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board, said RCMP officials acted on a false pretext because they didn't like having a pothead in their ranks.

The RCMP, she said, revoked F  thi  re's reliability status - a move that rendered him unemployable by the force - in order to "camouflage" its discipline.

All public servants with access to protected material must pass a reliability screening test, which serves as a minimum form of security clearance.

Perrault said the RCMP misused the system in F  thi  re's case.

"That revocation of reliability status ... is not actually based on legitimate security concerns but instead on a concealed desire to terminate the employment of an employee who uses marijuana," she wrote.

Perrault overturned the RCMP's decisions to suspend F  thi  re, revoke his reliability status and fire him.

Although reinstated, F  thi  re has decided not to return to the force since he now works for an insurance company. Instead, he



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has asked the tribunal to award him \$40,000 in damages plus his lost wages.

Perrault ordered the two sides to negotiate a compensation award in the case.

Féthière was a civilian clerk in the RCMP unit responsible for investigating telemarketing fraud. His job performance reports were consistently positive until July 7, 2012, when Féthière went to a large police gathering at the home of Staff Sgt. Jacques Rainville.

Féthière arrived early, drank heavily and, at one point, asked Rainville if he could smoke a joint. The RCMP officer issued a categorical no.

Minutes later, Féthière offered a joint to a female officer, and wandered onto a nearby road to smoke it.

Officers later took away his car keys and confiscated his marijuana. He spent the night on Rainville's sofa.

Féthière told the labour relations board that he remembers little about the incident because he was "extremely drunk."

Rainville filed an incident report, which triggered discipline measures - a 10-day suspension - and a security investigation.

Féthière told RCMP investigators that he used pot to relieve his back pain, and acknowledged an alcohol problem for which he was seeking help.

But he insisted that his personal and professional lives were separate worlds.

The RCMP, however, considered that attitude dangerous and concluded that Féthière's loyalty and integrity were in doubt because of his substance abuse and personal indebtedness.

The situation made him susceptible to bribes and coercion, investigators concluded.

Féthière's reliability status was suspended in August 2012 and revoked in June 2014 after he tried to return to work. He was then fired because he didn't hold a security clearance.

Féthière told the labour relations tribunal that he grieved his firing because he didn't believe that such extreme measures could be taken in response to such a small amount of pot.

Lawyers for the RCMP argued that the force must be able to carry out risk assessments, and that those decisions should not be subject to review by a labour board.

The board, however, ruled it did have legal authority to intervene in the case since the RCMP's actions were disciplinary in nature. The adjudicator rejected the RCMP's contention that organized crime could gain access to information contained in police data banks through someone like Féthière.

"Infiltration of the RCMP by the grievor (Féthière) being manipulated by organized crime seems so unlikely to me that I must reject that unreasonable theory," she wrote.

Perrault concluded that Féthière's marijuana use was "the real, and disguised, reason" that his security clearance was revoked. (Ottawa Citizen)

TUESDAY
APRIL 12, 2016

Apr 12 2016

TORONTO - A new report says Ontario laws should be changed so that police officers aren't the only ones allowed to direct traffic - a move it says could save Toronto taxpayers a bundle.

Under current provincial rules, only police officers are authorized to direct traffic and close highways, which often means hiring off-duty officers to supervise construction sites and street festivals.

Toronto officers working so-called paid

duty earned \$25,540,792 last year, with the force bringing in an additional \$1,419,049 for equipment costs and \$3,842,790 in administration fees.

The report, prepared by city staff, says it would cost less to hire special constables, peace officers and other trained officials to perform the same duties.

It doesn't say just how much taxpayers would stand to save, but notes city divisions and agencies spent \$1.49 million in paid duty last year, nearly five per cent of what the program brought in.

The report will be presented at next week's meeting of the council executive committee.

The controversial paid-duty program has

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been a political hot potato for decades.

No one seems to know when it started, but mentions of the program date as far back as the 1920s, when Toronto's then-police chief said it would likely be rescinded.

Apr 12 2016

CALGARY - Police have laid charges following the discovery of a hidden underground tunnel filled with stolen goods in a Calgary backyard.



Officers were searching a home last month in the city's southeast when they found the tunnel extending about nine metres out from the house.

Police say the passage contained five guns and ammunition, as well as up to \$100,000 worth of stolen property that included bikes, tools, electronics and sporting goods.

Douglas Scott Pentland, who is 50, is charged with 15 counts of break and enter.

Police say additional thefts in Calgary and south of the city are being investigated as a result of the discovery.

The recovered items have been catalogued and police are looking to return them to their owners.

(CHQR)

Apr 12 2016

QUEBEC - A serious charge has been laid against Isabelle Morin, a Quebec City police officer who was involved in a collision that led to the death of a citizen last September 10 in the provincial capital.

The Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales (DPCP) confirmed Tuesday that after examining all the evidence, the police officer is being charged with dangerous driving causing death.

The victim's family was made aware of the charge.

The accident happened on Highway 73 (Autoroute Laurentienne) in Quebec.

The investigation revealed that the police officer made a U-Turn in a construction zone and the victim, who was on a motorcycle, slammed into the police cruiser.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 12 2016

The Sûreté du Québec has taken over duties from the local police force on the territory of the Atikamekw First Nation of Obedjiwan in the Mauricie region - at a cost of more than \$100,000 per week.

The Obedjiwan council disbanded its police force, which employed 22 officers to pa-

trol the reserve 200 kilometres west of Roberval, Que., on April 1, because of a dispute with the province over policing costs.

The chief of the Obedjiwan band council, Christian Awashish, said the Public Security Ministry failed to provide \$600,000 in additional funding promised to the community to keep its police force afloat.

CBC's French-language service, Radio-Canada, has learned that the SQ has dispatched about 10 officers to patrol the community of 2,000 since the local force was disbanded.

Most are there on overtime, assigned to shifts in Obedjiwan while on leave or in addition to their regular duties.

That means the SQ is also incurring costs for the officers' travel, meals and other expenses, according to a retired SQ officer, Sylvain Tremblay.

The provincial police force is bearing all of those costs, without any financial contribution from the federal government.

Ottawa usually pays half the cost of policing on reserves in Quebec under tripartite agreements signed with First Nations' authorities.

However, the agreement in the Atikamekw community of Obedjiwan hasn't been renewed because of the funding dispute.

The band has been seeking more money since 2012.

A 2015 study conducted by the SQ concluded the Obedjiwan police force required between \$2.6 million and \$3.2 million to operate. It now receives about \$2.2 million in annual financing - which works out to about \$42,000 a week.

Negotiations between Obedjiwan and Quebec's Public Security Ministry to end the dispute over funding have gone nowhere, so far.

(CBC News)

Apr 12 2016

COLWOOD, B.C. - An RCMP officer who established herself as an investigator in a small town detachment was remembered Tuesday for the impact she had on everyone she met.



Const. Sarah Beckett, 32, who died on duty last week when her cruiser collided with a pickup truck in the Vancouver Island community of Langford, was also described as a loving wife and mother with a quirky sense of humour and a commitment to service.

The 11-year member of the force left behind a husband and two sons aged five and two.

"Goodbye, Sarah," said former colleague Staff Sgt. Phil Lue in an emotional message

at the packed Q Centre hockey arena in Colwood.

"Your memory will always stay with us and you will be missed."

Lue said when Beckett arrived at the Port McNeill detachment on the northeast end of Vancouver Island she quickly "established herself as the alpha dog."

But even though her skills as a rookie officer were impressive, it was her sense of humour and larger-than-life personality that drew people to her, he said.

"She could sound exactly like a seagull," said Lue, recalling how her calls always drew hordes of birds.

Lue said Beckett was "kind, generous, sweet, loyal and loving."

Her godfather Jack Hayden said Beckett wanted to become a paleontologist - seeing the movie "Jurassic Park" 14 times - before deciding to follow her grandfather and become a Mountie.

"She lived for her family," Hayden said, adding that besides her love for her two boys and their dog Maximus, Beckett prized her life with her husband Brad, who she met and married in Las Vegas.

"You warned me this day may come when we first met each other," her husband said in a message read by Hayden. "I would still take this journey 1,000 times with you."

Hayden said Beckett had an infectious laugh and her colleagues nicknamed her Backup Beckett after she backed into a fire truck with her cruiser.

Beckett served at Port McNeill for five years after finishing her training in 2005. She also served with an RCMP investigations unit in Victoria before transferring to the West-shore detachment in Langford, a suburban community just west of Victoria.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson described Beckett as smart, strong and fun.

"She loved this job because it played to her strengths: her perceptiveness, her personal acumen, her confidence, her resolve," he said.

"She was outraged by injustice and fought to make it right. She had no time for complacency and didn't abide it. She had a knack for interviews and it followed a gift for engaging people. She was, in short, the archetypal modern Mountie. We will miss her."

Before the service, the clicking sound of boots marching on wet blacktop punctuated a grey, drizzly afternoon as a procession of law enforcement officers arrived for Beckett's funeral. Hundreds of people lined the procession route as a hearse made its way to the service.

A riderless horse signifying a fallen officer was part of the procession as officers marched in the sombre but colourful tribute to one of their own.

Beckett's coffin, draped with a Canadian flag, was carried into the service by RCMP officers dressed in their traditional red serge uniforms.

Apr 12 2016

HALIFAX - Less than a month after being released from prison the woman known as the "Internet Black Widow" is accused of breaching the conditions of her peace bond.



Halifax police say 80-year-old Melissa Ann Shepard faces three counts of breaching the conditions imposed following her release.

Police say Shepard was arrested Monday after an officer observed a woman attempting to access the Internet at the Halifax Central Library.

After she was arrested, police say they found she had a device capable of accessing the Internet, a cellphone, which is also a violation of the peace bond conditions.

Shepard is also charged with breaching a condition that she keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

Police say Shepard was released on a further condition that she not go within a 25 metre radius of any library in the Halifax area and she is to appear in provincial court May 24 to answer to the charges.

Apr 12 2016

The president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police says it was an eye-opening experience to visit three fly-in First Nations in northwestern Ontario on Monday.

Jeff McGuire said it was important for members of his association to see, first-hand, the challenges police face in remote communities.

But he said the trip was also a way to reach out to communities served by the Nishnawbe-Aski Police.

"Each council that I spoke to, I said, 'I hope that you're not seeing us just as tourists bouncing through to have a look and take some pictures and leave that's not our goal here. We're here to support [NAPS Chief] Terry [Armstrong], and the people that work with him and let you know that they're working as hard as they can to try and convince the government of the challenges that you face,'" McGuire said.

"They seemed to already know that."

The board of directors of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police is meeting in Thunder Bay today and Wednesday.

The chiefs are coming together to discuss public safety issues affecting families, communities and businesses across the province, the association announced in a written release.

The chiefs will also be considering what changes might be made to the Police Ser-

vices Act, as well as sharing their thoughts on the new provincial regulations governing street checks.

Thunder Bay police chief J.P. Levesque is the association's vice president, while NAPS chief Terry Armstrong is a member of the board.
(CBC News)

Apr 12 2016

TORONTO - Fearing political leaders are bowing to lobby group pressure and judging cops unfairly through an "anti-racism lens," the Toronto Police Association has warned its members to take "all precautions" to avoid "exposing" themselves to "undue jeopardy."

Frustrated by a narrative the association feels paints police officers as racist, president Mike McCormack sent out a strongly worded letter to his 7,000 members Tuesday night to offer his advice.

"The association questions how our members can effectively carry out their duties if they don't have the confidence and support from the (Toronto Police Services Board), city council and the province?" McCormack writes.

Much of the concern stems from restrictions the province put on random police street checks, as well as how police were portrayed after Ontario's Special Investigations Unit recently cleared an officer in the deadly shooting of a man with a hammer in July.

On the association's website, McCormack writes "the tragedy of Andrew Loku, who was fatally shot during a confrontation with police last summer and whose death has now become the focal point for a protest movement, is not about race. It never was."

But when it comes to policing, many officers now feel they have two hands tied behind their back.

McCormack is worried about their safety.



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"We recognize that the absence of sound policy and procedure relating to provincial street checks exposes our members to unnecessary risk and jeopardy," his letter to members says.

"The regulation is counterproductive to proactive community engagement and crime prevention and forces a reactive model of policing. The new regulation comes at a time when Toronto is experiencing an increase in violent crime."

McCormack cites the violent start to 2016, which includes 23 homicides and a 60% spike in shootings.

This, McCormack says, is the time for government to get behind police.

"A motion passed unanimously April 1 at City Hall, requesting that police services provided by the City of Toronto and the mandate, procedures and outcomes of SIU investigations be viewed through an anti-black and anti-racism lens, adds additional challenges for our members and creates a divisive environment between the community, police officers, the SIU and the (police services board)," McCormack's letter says.

He says if the motion is "acted upon," he fears "officers risk judgment based on political considerations and agendas driven by special interest groups."

There's no better example of this than Premier Kathleen Wynne's comments to Black Lives Matter protesters last week that "systemic racism" still exists.

Wynne later clarified that she wasn't referring to police, but the Toronto Police Association is skeptical since she was speaking to protesters who had just spent two weeks at police headquarters.

McCormack says officers are approaching him on the street because they're worried about what the perceived lack of support means for them in the field. He advises officers to "be aware that even if you carry out your duties lawfully, to the best of your ability and training and requirements of law, your actions may be subject to review through a subjective anti-racism lens."

Police Chief Mark Saunders wasn't immediately available for comment.

McCormack says this is just the beginning.

"We are taking a strong position with this issue because our officers are increasingly frustrated that every time they put on their uniform they are now heading out into a political and procedural minefield," he told the Toronto Sun.

McCormack is telling his members they are under political attack, and while the politicians may not have their backs, their association does.

He encouraged members to "continue to do your job as best you can in accordance with the law, recognizing that legislation/policy changes may severely impact your ability to provide effective policing and expose you to unnecessary risk."

(Toronto Sun)

Apr 12 2016

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department has concerns about how technology is changing policing, such as how some technology allows criminals to attack victims regardless of borders and provides offenders with anonymity.

In a request to its police board, the force wants Canadian jurisdictions to examine what can be done.

"Local crimes can now be committed using transnational infrastructure, access to victims is no longer limited by geography, and evidence related to these crimes may reside in data held by service providers or persons around the world," Vancouver police wrote in their request.

"Technology that was intended to protect the personal information and the privacy of citizens such as passcodes, encryption and the 'Dark Net' is also being used to cloak criminal activity."

The department also pointed to challenges of technology evolving faster than legislation, and how police operate in information "silos," since they are bound by jurisdictions and political boundaries, while online crime is not.

"Threats to our safety can be made, organized and co-ordinated from anywhere in the world. This is a global issue that merits discussion and requires collaborative efforts from multiple organizations to study, with the goal of finding and implementing solutions," the department wrote.

Police suggested that themes to be examined could include the threat of terror attack, cyber attacks and online exploitation of people. The evaluation, police said, should also examine the readiness of police and Crown prosecution to respond to these crimes, and the frequency and potential risk of the offences.

(24 Hours)

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 13, 2016

Apr 13 2016

WINNIPEG - An aging Tyndall limestone-clad building which has served as Winnipeg police headquarters for half a century has moved a step closer to demolition.

Members of city hall's property and development committee voted Tuesday to endorse an administration recommendation to bring down the Public Safety Building and redevelop the land it sits on.

Planning director John Kiernan says restoring the building's crumbling exterior would likely cost about \$7 million, but \$66 million or more would be needed to modernize the interior for use by other civic departments.

For the past 10 years, the sidewalk around the PSB has been covered in plywood to prevent chunks of the weather-beaten facade from falling on pedestrians.

The 1960s-era PSB is considered the best example of Winnipeg's Brutalist architectural style, and arguments have come from many circles to save it as a heritage building.

Police will vacate the building this summer as they move into their new headquarters in another part of the downtown.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Apr 13 2016

TORONTO - A senior police officer deserves to be fired for the wanton trampling of civil liberties during the tumultuous G20 summit six years ago, his sentencing hearing heard Wednesday.

Supt. David (Mark) Fenton has shown no real remorse and attempted to blame everyone other than himself for the indiscriminate mass arrests that stained the weekend gathering, lawyers for the complainants argued.

"Fenton was militant and uncompromising. He affected martial law," lawyer Adrienne Lei said.

"His conduct at the time was alarmist. He continues to be alarmist."

Retired justice John Hamilton convicted the 27-year veteran under the Police Services Act last year on three counts of exceeding his authority and discreditable conduct.

Hamilton found some of Fenton's testimony was simply not credible, and said the officer had no reasonable grounds to order the detentions, in one case just six minutes after coming on shift.

Fenton, a 27-year member of the Toronto police force, is the only upper command officer to face disciplinary proceedings for his summit actions.

Apr 13 2016

MONTREAL - Montreal's police chief said the union is being 'irresponsible' in discussing how a riot was handled.

One week ago a protest in Montreal North turned ugly as demonstrators smashed store windows and set cars on fire.

Now the chief of police has strong words for the police officer's union.

Police have said they deliberately did not act because they felt the protest had been taken over by provocateurs who were trying to bait police into splitting up.

The Police Brotherhood sent a letter to Mayor Denis Coderre on Tuesday saying it is perplexed by the city's approach to public safety.

In the letter, Yves Francoeur wrote "Police officers did not at all appreciate being ordered to stand down and having to tell business owners and citizens asking for help that they were ordered not to intervene."

In response, police chief Philippe Pichet said the union is out of line.

"I found it irresponsible for the union to say that kind of thing which affect the sense of security of the citizen and also the security of my police officers," said Pichet.

"My role is to ensure the security on the island and the role of the union is to, is totally different."

Pichet said the police strategy of being less visible was not perfect, and said there will be recommendations made in the next few days regarding how police deal with violent protests.

The original demonstration was to mark what would have been the birthday of Fredy Villanueva, killed by police during an arrest on August 9, 2008, and to protest the death of Patrick Bony, who died several days after a March 30th drug raid where he was shot in the head with a rubber bullet.

(CTV Montreal)

Apr 13 2016

EDMONTON - Albertans who fail to pay fines for minor offences may soon discover they can't register their vehicles.

The province has proposed legislation to change how it handles infractions such as littering, jaywalking, trespassing and riding a transit train without a ticket.

People could still fight a ticket in court, but if they didn't - or were convicted - they would no longer be issued a warrant or face getting arrested.

The fine would come up instead when they tried to reregister their vehicle.

If that isn't effective, the province says it will pursue other civil measures such as deducting the fine from income tax rebates.

Apr 13 2016

As Brockville continues with its Ontario Provincial Police costing, one neighbour to the north is poised to abandon a similar effort before it even begins.

A three-year delay before the OPP's actual prices kick in, and the uncertainty that causes, is prompting Smiths Falls council to withdraw from that town's OPP costing process, said mayor Shawn Pankow.

But his Brockville counterpart, David Henderson, said the numbers are not completely uncertain.

In a 4-3 vote this week, Smiths Falls council's committee of the whole voted to discontinue the OPP costing process.

The decision was a "straw vote," said Pankow, noting committee of the whole decisions must be ratified at a full council meeting.

Since all seven council members were present, however, a different outcome would require a change of opinion before next Monday's final vote at council.

"It'll be an interesting week to see if anything changes," said Pankow.

The mayor, who was in favour of proceeding with the costing, said council's ultimate decision stemmed from the fact the final rate the town would pay the OPP, based on the provincial force's new billing model, would only take effect in three or more years.

"There's some uncertainty as to what the costs would be," he said.

Pankow is disappointed, as the town's costing was scheduled to start in July and he would have liked to have a comparator to the current municipal force's costs.

(Brockville Recorder)

THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2016

Apr 14 2016

OTTAWA - Canada's privacy commissioner is investigating whether the RCMP might be using a controversial mass-surveillance device on Canadians.

Commission spokeswoman Tobi Cohen confirms the agency is looking into the Mounties' refusal to disclose whether they are using the Stingray device.

The device uses technology that mimics cell phone towers to covertly intercept text and audio communication, as well as extract internal data and pinpoint a phone's location.

Stingray also works indiscriminately, collecting information from any phone within range, whether it belongs to a suspected criminal or an everyday citizen.

The investigation was prompted by a complaint filed last month by the advocacy group OpenMedia.

Apr 14 2016

PETERBOROUGH - The local police chief and deputy chief never endured any "threatening" or "vexatious" behaviour from city officials, say the city's lawyers.

Peterborough Police Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson beg to differ.

Their lawyers, Ian Johnstone and Alex Sinclair, recently wrote in court documents that the two top officers endured threatening behaviour from city officials - including the mayor.

But now the city's lawyers, Peter Thorup and Casey Dockendorff, have filed their reply - and they say that isn't true.

The city is suing Rodd and Farquharson for a total of \$460,000.

That's the sum the officers claim they are owed as severance, according to their contracts - even though they kept their jobs.

Earlier this year, the officers' lawyers filed court documents stating that Rodd and Farquharson endured "a pattern of threatening and vexatious conduct" from city officials.

They cite an example: Mayor Daryl Bennett was removed from the police services board in 2014 by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission over "inexcusable" misconduct, including "ceaseless and undignified attacks" on Chief Rodd.

But the city's lawyers say there weren't any threats.

The lawyers also write that the city "specifically denies" that the lawsuit was launched just to avoid paying that \$460,000 in compensation.

None of these allegations has been proven in court.

(Peterborough Examiner)

Apr 14 2016

CALGARY - Calgary police deputy chief Sat Parhar is under ASIRT investigation.

A deputy chief with the Calgary police is being investigated by the province's police watchdog - a fact the chief was aware of when he promoted him, CBC News has confirmed.

Sat Parhar is the subject of a complaint by a fellow member of the Calgary police.

The chief of police, Roger Chaffin, was aware of the complaint when Parhar was promoted to deputy chief.

The complaint is based on a sworn affidavit that Parhar is being accused of not handling properly.

The complaint could not be investigated internally without at least the appearance of a conflict of interest, which is why the investigation was handed off to the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT), according to CBC sources.

They believe Parhar will likely be cleared of any wrongdoing.

Parhar has been with the Calgary police for 25 years and currently heads the bureau of specialized investigations, which is responsible for areas including organized crime, intelligence and homicide.

(CBC)

Apr 14 2016

WASAGA BEACH - A Wasaga Beach OPP officer wept in court late last night as a jury found her guilty of breach of trust, but not guilty of obstruction of justice.

"It's very disheartening," said Const. Kara Darnley as she stood outside of court with her mother and father. "This has been going on for four years."

Darnley was charged with obstruction of justice and breach of trust in charges stemming from incidents in 2012 where she copied documents that stated her fiancé's friends were under surveillance for drug trafficking, then told him about it.

Unknown to Darnley, the documents were fake and deliberately planted near a hidden camera in the police office where she would find them.

The scheme, which police called an 'integrity play' involved 680 hours of undercover surveillance with 480 hours of wire taps on Darnley to test her mettle as a police officer.

Throughout the sting, a female undercover officer was hired to befriend Darnley and pretended to keep watch while Darnley looked through the bogus documents.

Her lawyer, Angela McLeod, said she is disappointed and plans to argue her client was tricked and will ask a judge to stay the charge at an entrapment hearing.

"We will be asking the judge to find that the undercover officer lured her into committing a breach of trust," McLeod said.

"We stand by our daughter one hundred per cent," said Darnley's mom and dad who have sat through the entire trial. "We are very proud of her for stand up and fighting against these charges."

Darnley still faces charges under the police act from the same incidents.