

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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Former Toronto deputy police chief joins Deloitte



Apr 28 2016

One of Toronto's best-known police leaders is going to the private sector, three months after announcing his retirement and a year after a controversial management shuffle at the police force.

Peter Sloly, 49, started last Monday as an executive director at professional services firm Deloitte Canada. He will advise client companies, in particular, on how to avoid and respond to cyberattacks and on other types of risk and security management.

"Our focus is working with businesses to recognize the new threat environment," he said in an interview.

Mr. Sloly, a police reformer who built relationships with Toronto's minority communities, will also counsel Deloitte and its client companies on diversity.

He was long considered a front-runner to replace former police chief Bill Blair. But last April, the board picked another deputy chief, Mark Saunders, as Mr. Blair's successor. Mr. Sloly was quickly taken off some of his long-time projects and even moved to



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a smaller office, moves that rankled many officers.

When Mr. Sloly retired in February, he said he had planned to leave and had only stayed for the ensuing months in order to help smooth the transition. Deloitte's top management got in touch soon after, he said.

"I'm feeling rejuvenated, I'm feeling rested [and] energized, and in large part because of the types of opportunities that have come my way," he said.

"I always wanted to have a big career after policing, multiple careers after policing, so this checks a big box for me - an opportunity to work in the private sector for a large, successful company and one where they would leverage my full skill sets, passions and interests."

Cybercrime was something Mr. Sloly saw up close many times on the police force, where he served for 27 years and as deputy chief for more than six.

Those cases ran the gamut "from the schoolyard bullying that went on online, to significant corporate hack attacks that would cost corporations, and in some cases governments, millions of dollars in lost capacity, if not hard losses," he said.

"Some people would suggest there isn't such a thing as cybercrime - it's just the new cyber-reality where every single crime has a cyber, social [media] or digital element to it."

He also helped usher in the first social-media strategy at a major Canadian police force and will be helping Deloitte clients improve their use of social media.

Mr. Sloly has been getting to know his new company's cybersecurity facility in Vaughan, and this week he attended a conference in the field in Washington.

He will often work around the globe in the "incredibly fast-growing" field of cybersecurity, said Ryan Brain, regional managing partner for Deloitte in Toronto.

"The nature of the attacks are getting more sophisticated, so to have someone with Peter's experience and background is something we're very excited about," he said. "The nature of this work truly knows no boundaries."

Mr. Brain and Mr. Sloly had both served on the board of the Toronto YMCA.

"The timing was very sort of serendipitous when he decided to retire from the police force, and given that decision and how hot the market is right now for services such as cybersecurity, we came together very naturally," said Mr. Brain.

Mr. Sloly, a familiar face at many Toronto non-profits and community groups, said he will keep serving on all of them. But he's giving the police force a wide berth except when asked.

"I'm always open and available; in fact I've had the odd phone call from former colleagues and members of the board just seeking a quick opinion from me on issues," he said. "But equally, I'm not reaching out. I want to make sure there's plenty of space for the current folks to do what they think they need to do without any unnecessary distractions."

(Globe and Mail)

THURSDAY APRIL 21, 2016

Apr 21 2016

WASHINGTON - FBI Director James Comey has hinted that the FBI paid more than \$1 million to break into the locked iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino attackers.

At an Aspen Security Forum event in London on Thursday, Comey said the FBI had paid an unidentified third-party more money than he'll earn in his remaining seven years as FBI director.

He did not reveal the precise amount.

The Justice Department last month revealed that an outside entity had approached it with a method that could hack into the phone used by Syed Farook, who along with his wife killed 14 people in the December attacks before dying in a police shootout.

Federal officials have said that the method was successful, though they haven't revealed what it was.

Apr 21 2016

VANCOUVER - Police across Canada will be testing three saliva-based roadside devices on suspected drug-impaired drivers after a team of scientists studied how they detect the presence of drugs such as marijuana.

Doug Beirness, vice-chairman of the Drugs and Driving Committee within the professional organization of The Canadian Society of Forensic Science, said the Mounties and the Ontario government funded their research, which was completed last year.

"What we were interested in was can you

use oral fluid screening at the side of the road to assess recent drug use? The answer to that was yes."

Beirness said two of the drug-detecting devices, the Draeger Drug Test and the Drug-wipe, are manufactured in Germany and the other is called the Alere, which is made in Britain.

The next step, before any of the devices can be approved in Canada, is for police officers to test them in the field in various jurisdictions, said Beirness, adding that a representative from the Justice Department attends their committee meetings.

The RCMP confirmed Thursday that its plans involve testing so-called oral fluid drug screening devices, which are similar to breathalyzers used to detect the presence of alcohol.

"Such devices can aid in the identification and apprehension of drug-impaired drivers and are becoming increasingly commercially available and are currently being used in other countries," the force said in a statement.

"The research project will help determine if roadside oral fluid drug screening devices have potential for use in drug-impaired driving enforcement in Canada. Legislative changes will have to take place before such devices can be approved for use in Canada."

The Mounties said surveys and research suggest drug-impaired driving is becoming as prevalent as driving under the influence of alcohol.

Officers using the device at the roadside would ask drivers to stick out their tongues as a sample of saliva is taken with an instrument similar to a tongue depressor.

Beirness, who co-authored a 2015 report on cannabis use and driving for the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, said the devices would help provide police with evidence that could lead to convictions.

Apr 21 2016

EDMONTON - Health Canada says it is moving quickly to include the dangerous synthetic opioid W-18 under the federal Controlled Drug and Substances Act but maintains the drug is already illegal under another law.

The department says it considers W-18 to be a new psychoactive substance after testing two samples from Alberta.

The Alberta government has been urging Ottawa to take action after police in Edmonton seized four kilograms of W-18 in December.

Police have said there was enough of the white powdery drug to make millions of pills and Alberta officials sent out a warning to front-line health staff to watch for a possible increase in overdoses.

There were 272 fentanyl-related deaths in Alberta last year and health officials in the province consider W-18 to be more dangerous.

Health Canada says it is moving to treat W-18 as a Schedule 1 drug, which would make its unauthorized use illegal under the Act.



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TOPLEY LANDING, B.C. - The RCMP says the Independent Investigations Office is probing a confrontation with police that left two people dead in northern British Columbia.

Mounties were called Thursday afternoon to a neighbour dispute involving a handgun in the Village of Granisle, located north of Topley.

After establishing a perimeter and attempting contact with residents, the RCMP says one person left the home and confronted police before shots were fired.

Then, Mounties say a second person left the residence, confronted police and shots were fired.

Both people were pronounced dead despite the efforts of paramedics who were staged nearby and there were no injuries to police.

Apr 21 2016

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - Canada Border Services Agency says three people are in custody after a suspected explosive device was found in a vehicle at a British Columbia border crossing.

Spokeswoman Bernee Bolton said during a routine secondary examination at a crossing in Abbotsford, B.C., officials found what appeared to be a suspected explosive device and immediately called police.

Bolton said three travellers were taken into custody and the investigation was ongoing with Abbotsford Police at the scene and RCMP providing assistance.

Abbotsford Staff Sgt. Rick Stewart tweeted a photo of a grenade Thursday evening with the hashtag #inert. He said the RCMP's Explosive Disposal Unit had been called out.

"Cutting through BC? Don't have grenade in plain view," he wrote. "Closed border & called out EDU. No entry for u."

The B.C. RCMP did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Apr 21 2016

OTTAWA - Parliament's public safety committee has deleted two controversial sections of a bill that would have moved injured Mounties from an internal RCMP health services program to provincial workers compensation programs.

Bill C-7 was introduced by the government to bring the RCMP into compliance with a Supreme Court of Canada decision that ruled Mounties have the right to collective bargaining. But C-7 also contained a list of issues excluded from the bargaining table as well as the controversial proposal to shift Mounties hurt on the job to workers compensation.

Mounties, their spouses, retired RCMP members and labour lawyers testified at a Commons committee about inconsistencies in health benefits among the provinces. They said moving RCMP members onto the provincial workers compensation schemes

would result in Mounties being treated differently depending on where they're posted.

Today, committee members unanimously supported amending the bill to remove the sections relating to health benefits.

Brian Sauve is with the National Police Federation, one of the groups vying to represent Mounties at the bargaining table. He thanked MPs for listening to Mounties' concerns.

"They realized it was inappropriate at this point in time to slide those in without any meaningful consultation," said Sauve.

Yet Sauve said he is disappointed the committee decided not to alter the list of issues such as harassment, staffing levels, promotions, transfers, discipline and equipment that Bill C-7 will exclude from collective bargaining.

"The exclusions that are in this bill will in my opinion, severely limit the ability to negotiate a proper collective agreement taking into account safety, health, working conditions and resource levels," Sauve said.

NDP MP Daniel Blaikie introduced an amendment to remove all of those exclusions. Liberal MPs expressed some interest in removing harassment and workplace safety from the list, which would have made them subject to bargaining.

However, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson told the committee that harassment was inextricably tied up with officer conduct and could not be bargained. He also assured committee members that senior management always has officer safety top of mind.

(CBC News)

Apr 21 2016

RCMP auxiliary officers are too valuable to see the program waste away, according to Yukon senator Dan Lang.

The RCMP has made changes to the program that takes away the opportunity for auxiliaries to go on "ride-alongs" with regular officers. They can no longer take part in traffic checkpoints - used to enforce impaired driving and other laws - and they will wear more casual clothing that doesn't resemble police uniforms.

The new guidelines were put into place by RCMP headquarters in Ottawa after a regular officer, Const. David Wynn, was shot and killed by a suspect in St. Albert, Alberta, in January 2015. An auxiliary officer with him, Const. Derek Bond, was wounded and released the same day from hospital.

The RCMP also cite the 2014 murder of Canadian Forces reservist, Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, who was shot while on sentry duty at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

Whitehorse RCMP Insp. Archie Thompson says it all means the 12 auxiliary officers in Whitehorse will assume new duties.

"We do not want to put them at risk, I mean they're not armed," he said. "Having said that, the program's changing, it's not going away."

Those duties could include search and rescue activities, Crime Stoppers and education of businesses and homeowners on how

to better protect their property from criminals, Thompson said.

The changes are being criticized, however, by auxiliaries across the country in chat forums and social media.

In Yukon, Senator Dan Lang has been contacted by local auxiliaries, "who go through over 200 hours of training, are continuously upgrading their skills and are there as volunteers," he said.

"To take this particular program and put it in a situation and take the various authorities and recognition away from them, this particular program will go by the wayside."

Lang raised the matter with federal Public Safety Minister, Ralph Goodale, at a Senate committee meeting in early March in Ottawa.

According to the transcript, he didn't mince words.

"We can find five different reasons why not to do something. We can always use safety as reason why we can't do something, and, at the end of the day, we wind up with a program that isn't of much value," Lang said.

This week, Lang said he's following up with the public safety minister as well as Bob Paulson, the Commissioner of the RCMP.

"My hope would be that common sense would prevail and the program will be re-instated back into the terms that were there previously," he said.

"If there's more risk out there, maybe there's more training required, but you don't eliminate the program."

Lang says enforcement against impaired

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drivers is likely to suffer in the Yukon. In Whitehorse, auxiliaries often make up the majority of officers at check-stops.

Lang notes that other volunteer first responders continue to do their jobs despite the risks, including thousands of volunteer firefighters across the country. He says the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve did not shut down when Cpl. Cirillo was murdered.

Some communities also seem to be going in the opposite direction.

Vancouver is hiring a new class of lower-paid police officer called Special Constable. They are in police uniforms, but are not armed. They can be called on to assist general duty officers or deal with lower risk activities on their own.

Toronto's city council is considering a similar proposal.

(CBC News)

FRIDAY APRIL 22, 2016

Apr 22 2016

BRIGHTON, Ont. - An Ontario man ran afoul of provincial police this week after spending a night at home with his pet parrot.

Police in Brighton, between Toronto and Kingston, said they were originally called to a home at 8 p.m. on Tuesday after neighbours heard what they believed to be a domestic dispute.

Northumberland OPP Const. Steve Bates said the neighbours knew the home was usually occupied by a couple, but police found only one person when they arrived.

"They heard him yelling and saying, 'I hope you die,' and so on and so forth," Bates said. "So we attended and we located the male of the household alone in the house screaming at his pet parrot who apparently was 'beaking off' at him, in his words."

The man had been drinking, Bates said, adding that the parrot did not appear to be hurt in any way.

Police did not lay any charges.

Bates described the call as a "very interesting" one for attending officers, adding such incidents sometimes create a welcome diversion.

"These are the kinds of stories that police run into all the time," he said. "It just adds some levity to the job."

Apr 22 2016

VICTORIA - A police officer who advocates for the legalization of drugs while off duty has been awarded \$20,000 in a human rights case that pitted the officer against his employer, the Victoria Police Department.

The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal sided with Const. David Bratzer, saying his employer interfered with his rights as a citizen to freely express his views and ordered the award for injury to dignity, feelings and self-respect.

Victoria Police acting Chief Const. Del Manak says in a statement that the department accepts the decision, will seek to learn from it and an appeal is currently not planned.

Bratzer filed the complaint against the department, saying it tried on numerous occasions to restrain his off-duty public advocacy for the group Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.

Bratzer's complaint noted police interference where he was directed not to speak at a federal Green party event on harm reduction and ordered not to comment to the media on the success of a Washington State marijuana referendum.

Bratzer has been a member of the Victoria police force since 2007.

Apr 22 2016

A 30-year-old man who allegedly struck and dragged an RCMP officer with his vehicle has been arrested just outside Calgary and now faces numerous charges.

The incident happened the morning of April 16, when a traffic officer with the Cochrane RCMP was assisting an Alberta Sheriff in investigating a suspicious vehicle.

The driver fled and the officer was hit.

The 30 year old suspect was found and arrested on Thursday near Calgary, with help from Strathmore RCMP.

He has been charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, assaulting a police officer, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm, failing to remain

at the scene of an accident, and possession of property obtained by crime.

The injured RCMP officer was released from hospital but remains off duty and is still recovering from his injuries.

(CBC News)

Apr 22 2016

RCMP say a new tactic used in Steinbach, Manitoba worked out well with a number of tickets and warnings handed out.

The two officers involved stationed themselves at an intersection on Wednesday. One held a sign that read "I'm not homeless. RCMP police looking for distracted drivers."

The other officer would check vehicles at the intersection and issue tickets to anyone on their phone, too distracted to notice the officer with the sign. Over a period of two hours nine tickets were handed out for people on their cell phones, as well as a number of other infractions.

"We actually warn drivers on social media and hold signs that clearly state our presence and enforcement," Sgt. Bert Paquet with Manitoba RCMP said Friday.

Manitoba RCMP tweeted two pictures showing the officers at work in Steinbach. The second tweet highlights the fine for distracted driving as \$299.65 and 5 demerits.

"Safe driving is about making smart decisions for yourself, and the other drivers you share the roads with. Do it for the ones you love," Paquet said Friday.

(Global News)

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Apr 22 2016

WINNIPEG - An independent unit that investigates serious incidents involving police in Manitoba is looking into how a drunk man in custody had part of his finger amputated.

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba will examine the circumstances that led to the man's injury at the Main Street Project detoxification centre on March 25.

Winnipeg police say the man grabbed hold of a cell door as it was being closed by officers, and that's when part of the finger was cut off.

The man was treated in hospital and released.

Apr 22 2016

Former Hamilton-Wentworth Police Chief Robert Hamilton has died.



Hamilton, 88, who was head of the department from 1985 until his retirement in 1988, died Thursday of heart failure at the Hamilton General Hospital.

Among his accomplishments, Hamilton is remembered for heading a committee in the 1970s that regionalized the department by bringing together the Hamilton, Dundas, Ancaster, Saltfleet and Stoney Creek departments into what became known as the Hamilton-Wentworth Police.

Hamilton succeeded Gordon Torrance as chief and preceded Colin Millar in the post.

He started with the department in 1953. He was promoted to sergeant in the early 1960s before climbing the ranks as staff sergeant, inspector, executive officer, superintendent and staff superintendent before his appointment as executive assistant to then chief Torrance. From there he was given the nod as chief.

(Hamilton Spectator)

SATURDAY
APRIL 23, 2016

Apr 23 2016

TORONTO - An Ontario judge has ruled that when a Toronto police officer pulled over a car with three young, black men inside, it was because he decided, despite any evidence, that "they were up to something" - and the probable reason was racial profiling.

Toronto police Const. Jason Crawford was

engaging in a kind of proactive policing that invites racial profiling, because it relies on a kind of sixth sense that uses "usual suspects" stereotypes, Ontario Court Justice Mary Hogan ruled in a decision handed down this week.

Hogan threw out four charges against Kyle Thompson, one of the passengers in the car, laid after Crawford pulled over the vehicle in September 2011 - including a charge of assaulting a peace officer, which Hogan tossed after viewing dashcam video she ruled showed Thompson was "not the aggressor."

"I find that upon seeing this older vehicle being driven by three young, black males Constable Crawford's immediate conclusion despite the lack of any evidence, was that they were up to something," Hogan wrote.

"It was more probable than not that there was no articulable cause for the stop but that the real reason for the stop was racial profiling."

In her April 20 judgment in the charges against Thompson, Hogan ruled that Thompson's charter rights were violated. As argued by Thompson's lawyer, Andrew Porter, Thompson was arbitrarily detained after a stop that was made either without the required grounds or for the "improper purpose of investigating the occupants for criminal activity based on a discriminatory hunch."

Crawford's testimony, Hogan wrote, was "replete with inconsistencies," including giving information directly contradicted by the dashcam video.

She noted that while Crawford had claimed Thompson was moving around the back seat of the car, and leaning forward in an unusual way, "I find the opposite," Hogan wrote, saying the movement was "fairly innocuous."

After viewing the video, which shows Crawford "extremely focused" on getting to the rear door of the stopped car, Hogan ruled his "actions and demeanour were those of an officer who clearly thought he was investigating more than possible minor traffic violations."

At that point, there was no evidence of any criminal activity Crawford could have witnessed, she wrote.

Hogan also found that the force used by Crawford was unnecessary and excessive. Video of the fight makes it appear as though Crawford punched Thompson first, Hogan wrote, though she acknowledges that "is not entirely clear." She ruled that in any event, Thompson "was not the aggressor."

To rule a police officer engaged in racial profiling, the judge had to find that it is more probable than not "that there was no articulable cause for the stop" and that the real reason for the stop was, in this case, the race of the occupants in the car.

(Toronto Star)

Apr 23 2016

MONTREAL - Montreal police are asking for amendments to Quebec's Highway Safety Code in order to crack down on impaired cyclists.

Right now, it's illegal for a cyclist to drink while riding but there's no specific offence for riding while impaired.

With the government looking at ways to improve the code, police say it's the perfect opportunity to make the change. Riding on Montreal's streets is hazardous enough, police say - adding alcohol to the mix is just asking for trouble.

Right now, the only provision about cycling and drinking is under section 489, which states no person may drink alcoholic beverages while riding a bicycle.

"The only tool we have is a municipal bylaw in Montreal which is the same one that we use when people are inebriated when they come out of bars, so we'd like something specific because you know riding a bicycle requires your attention," said Insp. André Durocher of the Montreal police.

Suzanne Lareau, president of Velo Quebec, says there should be priorities other than impaired riding, such as dooring. Velo Quebec says the only victim of a drunk cyclist is the cyclist.

(CTV Montreal)

SUNDAY
APRIL 24, 2016

Apr 24 2016

When should tech companies help law enforcement access their customers' personal data?

The question has fuelled pretty fierce debate in recent months, especially during Apple's very public battle with the FBI over the agency's request that the tech giant help it gain entry into the encrypted iPhone of one of the people involved in the December 2015 fatal shooting in San Bernardino, Calif.

Apple categorically refused to comply with the order from a U.S. federal judge, and the whole saga left some people with the mistaken impression that Apple never gives customer data to police.

In reality, Apple frequently complies with requests from police all over the world, as long as they are accompanied by proper legal documents - search warrants, subpoenas, production orders, etc. - and the company is technically able to help.

Earlier this week, for example, it was revealed that Apple helped a technical crime investigator with the Hamilton police extract data from an iPhone 4s that belonged to Delen Millard, one of two men accused in the high-profile 2013 slaying of Tim Bosma.

It's not clear exactly what Apple did in this instance. The company won't comment on specific cases, and the police investigator involved did not respond to CBC inquiries. The production order, signed by a judge, that would have accompanied the force's request is under a court seal.

In the first half of 2015, for example, Apple received eight requests from Canadian law enforcement agencies and provided data for nine individual accounts. By comparison, in the same period of time in the U.S., there were 971 requests, and data was disclosed for 1,407 accounts.

These were not necessarily all iPhones, since the figures - published online in biannual transparency reports - don't distinguish between the various devices Apple makes.

Many other tech companies also make transparency reports publicly available.

One notable exception is BlackBerry. The Waterloo, Ont.-based company was recently in the news after a VICE investigation showed that the RCMP had its global encryption key for at least two years. There's no hard evidence BlackBerry handed over the key to the Mounties.

(CBC News)

Apr 24 2016

A Nova Scotia Mountie injured after he was hit by a pickup truck during a traffic stop in 2014 said writing a song about fallen RCMP officers helped in his recovery.



Const. Stephen Pinksen wrote and recorded The Honour Roll as a tribute to all police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The incident came just months after three Mounties were killed and two wounded in the Moncton, New Brunswick shootings.

Pinksen said while recovering from his injuries and stuck in the house, he picked up his guitar and started writing the tune. He said as a teen he dabbled in music, but never really focused on it until his recovery.

The song started to take shape, but he couldn't find an ending for it. It came to him in early 2015 after hearing news of another Mountie killed on the job and he finished writing the song.

Pinksen said he thought that would be it.

Gradually Pinksen started to play it for family and close friends.

"The more I shared it, the more people wanted to hear it and told me I should do something with it," he said.

Eventually, Pinksen performed the song at RCMP memorial services in Regina and Ottawa. He said that is when people gave him the idea to record it so the message could be shared with families of fallen Mounties.

He was convinced to record the song at a studio in his home province of Newfoundland and Labrador, a major feat for a self-described private person.

"Definitely the hardest thing I ever did in my life was to share this song with other people," he said.

Since posting the song to Facebook, YouTube and iTunes, Pinksen said he has received a number of messages from across Canada and hopes he can reach "anybody who needs it."

Pinksen had surgery for his injuries about

eight weeks ago and is now working at the Yarmouth RCMP detachment. Currently on desk duty, he said he looks forward to returning to full duty soon.

(CBC News)

Apr 24 2016

OTTAWA - Legalizing marijuana won't automatically make Canada's black market for weed go up in smoke or banish organized crime, warns a draft federal discussion paper on regulation of the drug.

Justin Trudeau's Liberal government says a legal marijuana regime will keep pot out of the hands of children and deny criminals the profits of illicit dealing.

However, the December draft paper, ob-

tained by through the Access to Information Act, flags the ongoing involvement of organized crime - including possible infiltration of the new system - as a key issue the government must confront.

The Liberals plan to introduce legislation next year to remove marijuana consumption and incidental possession from the Criminal Code, and create new laws to more severely punish those who provide pot to minors or drive while under its influence.

In the House of Commons, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale recently said the new system would do a far better job of stopping the flow of shady money "to illegal gangs and organized crime."

The draft discussion paper outlines a more complex scenario.



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"As the experiences of other jurisdictions and of the regulation of alcohol and tobacco in Canada have shown, regulating a substance does not automatically remove it from illicit markets as evidenced by importation and sales of contraband tobacco," the paper says.

"Given the degree to which organized crime is currently involved in the marijuana market, they could continue to produce marijuana illicitly and may attempt to infiltrate a regulated industry."

Canada's illegal market for marijuana is estimated to be worth billions of dollars and organized crime is known to play a major role in illicit production, importation and distribution, the paper says. That means those who obtain pot - with the exception of sanctioned medical users - are exposed to criminal elements.

The paper warns of severe risks and consequences:

- Pressure from criminal elements to use more serious and dangerous drugs such as cocaine and crystal meth;
- Enticement of purchasers to become local distributors and therefore embark on a serious criminal path;
- Exposure to extortion, particularly those who do not pay for purchases or, if entangled in dealing, fail to follow orders or meet quotas.

The federal and provincial governments should have the power to levy taxes on marijuana, with Ottawa responsible for taxing manufacturers and importers, and provinces levying taxes at the retail level, the C.D. Howe Institute recommended in a recently published report.

The federal government should discourage black-market activity by defining the legal amount of pot someone can possess, as well as maintaining and building on penalties for illegal production and trafficking, the think tank argued.

"The challenge for policymakers is to set tax rates that do not foster an illicit market alongside legal sales."

Apr 24 2016

TIMMINS - A Timmins police officer lost his job Friday in a sentencing ruling following a conviction of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act.

Constable Steve Lapointe had pleaded guilty to the charge, and also previously pleaded guilty to criminal assault charges, stemming from domestic violence.

The sentencing ruling was written by former York Regional Deputy Chief Terence Kelly.

Kelly outlined how Lapointe at one time pushed his partner out of bed so she fell. In another instance, he pulled her from a car and she fell, he then pulled her on to the steps and into the house. Lapointe also threatened the woman, accusing her of infidelity and threatened to kill her son, Kelly said.

Kelly said he recognizes that Lapointe later apologized for his behaviour and pleaded

guilty to the criminal and Police Services Act charges, but he said he's not sure Lapointe realized the seriousness of his misconduct and ruled the behaviour cannot be condoned.

"The reputation to the Timmins Police Service has been significantly damaged as result of Constable Lapointe's actions," wrote Kelly. "The evidence indicates that there has been coverage of the criminal trial from the initial arrest of Constable Lapointe, and his subsequent conviction in the criminal forum."

(CBC News)

MONDAY
APRIL 25, 2016

Apr 25 2016

Canada's national law enforcement agency is becoming something of a go-to expert on encryption.



Late last week, police in the U.K. secured the country's largest gun smuggling conviction with help from the RCMP.

Central to the conviction was the help of the RCMP's tech lab in Ottawa. After capturing the gun shipment, police seized the two men's PGP BlackBerry smartphones and sent them to the Mounties.

PGP, short for Pretty Good Privacy, is a type of custom encryption software that can be installed on BlackBerry devices by a third-party to secure email communication. While there are any number of reasons a person may decide to secure their smartphone with additional encryption, over the past couple of years PGP BlackBerrys have shown up in a number of high-profile crime cases, including a kidnapping case in British Columbia.

The RCMP was able to break the encryption found on the phones, providing the National Crime Agency, the U.K.'s equivalent to the RCMP, with more than enough evidence to pursue its case against the two men.

Court documents dated to 2015 reveal the RCMP has had the capability to break the encryption found on PGP BlackBerry smartphones since at least 2015. In unusually colourful language for a legal document, the federal government describes how the RCMP was able to break open a PGP BlackBerry used in an Ontario drug case, leading to a conviction.

"This encryption was previously thought to be undefeatable. The RCMP technological laboratory destroyed this illusion and extracted from this phone 406 e-mails, 25 address book entries and other information all of which had been protected," says the document.

In fact, the past couple of weeks have

revealed the RCMP to be something of an expert on digital encryption, particularly as it pertains to BlackBerry devices.

Court documents obtained by Vice Canada and Motherboard Canada two weeks ago suggest the RCMP has the capability to intercept and decrypt pin-to-pin messages sent via BBM using a server located in Ottawa.

However, those same documents also suggest BlackBerry may have given the RCMP access to its global BBM encryption key to facilitate the police agency's investigation into a 2011 Montreal gang shooting. In statement published on the company's Inside BlackBerry blog, BlackBerry CEO John Chen neither confirmed nor denied whether BlackBerry assisted the RCMP in such a manner.

"This very belief was put to the test in an old case that recently resurfaced in the news, which speculated on and challenged BlackBerry's corporate and ethical principles. In the end, the case resulted in a major criminal organization being dismantled. Regarding BlackBerry's assistance, I can reaffirm that we stood by our lawful access principles," he said in the statement issued last Monday.

(mobilesyrup.com)

Apr 25 2016

OTTAWA - A Mountie accused of severe, long-term abuse of his 11-year-old son says an RCMP psychiatrist suggested that he play down his history of constant nightmares when he underwent a psychological evaluation before entering the police force.

The man, who can't be named to protect the identity of his son, made the claim at the first day of testimony by defence witnesses at his trial.

The Mountie and his wife were charged in February 2013 in what Ottawa police described as one of the worst cases of abuse they had seen.

In court today, the man testified he suffered nightmares from his childhood in war-torn Lebanon.

He also says he was sexually abused as a child.

But the now-suspended officer says when he wrote in an RCMP entrance exam that he was having nightmares, a psychiatrist suggested that he take the test again, but alter his answer.

Apr 25 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog has charged three police officers with assault after a takedown in London, Ont.

The Special Investigations Unit says several St. Thomas police officers were conducting surveillance on Feb. 2 as they searched for a suspect in a jewelry store robbery.

The SIU says the officers followed a taxi before removing a 35-year-old man and arrested him.

It says the man was injured during the arrest and was subsequently released after officers realized they had arrested the wrong person.

Const. Frank Boyes, Const. Sean James and Const. Daniel Spicer have been charged with one count each of assault causing bodily harm and are set to appear in court on May 31.

Apr 25 2016

KINGSTON, Ont. - A 36-year-old Os-hawa, Ont., man may be watching his back more closely after a bag of crystal meth that got stuck to that part of his body resulted in his arrest.

Police in Kingston, Ont. say they were asked to find the man after his girlfriend's family expressed concern for her safety.

They tracked the couple down to a Kingston motel and found her safe and sound, but grew suspicious of the man when they saw the bag of drugs stuck to his sweaty back.

A search of the room turned up more crystal meth, a fentanyl patch, marijuana and at least \$5,000 in cash.

Police say the man is facing five charges including possession for the purpose of trafficking and uttering threats.

He is being held in custody in a Kingston jail.

Apr 25 2016

VANCOUVER - British Columbia's highest court has ruled that two federal laws from the previous Conservative government's tough-on-crime agenda amount to cruel and unusual punishment and are therefore unconstitutional.

The B.C. Appeal Court has struck down mandatory, two-year minimum sentences for drug trafficking convictions that involve someone under the age of 18 or that occur in a public place frequented by youth.

The unanimous decision from the panel says a mandatory-minimum sentence of two years in such instances may be at times "grossly disproportionate" to the crime committed, so breaches an accused's charter rights.

The ruling is the latest in several cases where courts have overturned mandatory-minimum sentences that are largely the legacy of the former Conservative government.

A Supreme Court of Canada decision two weeks ago put an end to minimum sentences for specific drug crime convictions and limits on pre-trial credit in some conditions where bail is denied.

Apr 25 2016

MONTREAL - A 63-year-old Montreal man died on Monday after being shot and shocked with a stun gun during an incident with city police.

Officers were responding to a psychological distress call at an apartment block at about 8 a.m., said provincial police, who are heading the investigation.

Provincial police spokeswoman Marie-Josée Ouellet said Andre Benjamin confronted city police with a weapon.

She said Benjamin was shot at least once during the confrontation, but couldn't confirm the bullet came from police.

"That's part of the investigation," she said.

Ouellet, however, confirmed police used

a stun gun on him.

Benjamin was taken to hospital and was declared dead several hours later.

The incident occurred about three blocks south of the Olympic Stadium in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough.

Apr 25 2016

A police-community safety committee set up after a young woman fell or was pushed from a hotel window in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside in 2010 has scored some successes, including a role in the prosecution of Martin Tremblay, a sex offender who preyed on young aboriginal girls.

Despite that "significant positive impact," the initiative - called SisterWatch and launched in 2010 - has not managed to build trust between the Vancouver Police Department and residents of the Downtown Eastside, according to an evaluation report prepared last year.

"Though there are some trust relationships building, they seem to relate more to individual VPD members regardless of their connection to SisterWatch," states the report, which is dated June, 2015, and was released by the police department this month after a Freedom of Information request.

Asked to rank the level of trust between the VPD and women in the Downtown Eastside, a two per cent of officers who responded to a survey reported a very high level of trust, compared with zero per cent for women.

On the other end of the spectrum, four per cent of officers reported no trust at all, compared with 29 per cent of women asked the same question.

The report, prepared by consultant Alison Brewin, notes survey results are "limited in their reliability" because of the small number of respondents involved: 46 women and 82 police officers.

But the results provide a window into the concerns that launched SisterWatch and remain a challenge for the group, which was set up to address what critics saw as an uncaring, dismissive policing approach toward women in the Downtown Eastside.

Ms. Brewin's report includes 17 recommendations, including funding for a SisterWatch co-ordinator. A VPD spokesman said he could not speak to all of the recommendations but that progress on some is continuing.

(Globe and Mail)

Apr 25 2016

VICTORIA - Victoria Police strongly urged B.C. to act on tent city last year before it grew out of control, a newly released letter shows.

Deputy Chief Const. Steven Ing warned the province's position of non-interference regarding the Victoria Courthouse encampment was "unsustainable."

Ing's letter to a B.C. court services official was written in November, but was only released to the media on Monday.

"Past experience has demonstrated that



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allowing entrenchment of campers in an open area that has not been designed for permanent camping leads to numerous public safety and public order issues,” Ing wrote. “Past experience has also shown that a proactive approach to these types of situations is preferable to a reactive approach once the situation reaches a critical level.”

Ing said the purpose of the letter was to confirm the province’s stance on tent city in order to plan a coordinated response, “should public safety or the broader public interest require intervention in the near future.”

He ended the letter by saying police were willing to work with the government to manage the situation.

The force said it made the Nov. 2015 letter public Monday in the interest of transparency, but wouldn’t comment further on the matter.

Earlier this year, the province filed a temporary injunction request to try to force campers off the lawn, but it was denied earlier this month in B.C. Supreme Court.

Arguments for and against a permanent injunction will be heard at a trial set for Sept. 7.

Back in November, the encampment on the lawn of the Victoria Courthouse was just a fraction of its current size.

About 100 people now call tent city home amid complaints from area neighbours and businesses over its continued existence.

The camp sprang up last fall under a loophole in a Victoria bylaw that prohibits camping in city parks.

Because the land is provincially owned, the bylaw doesn’t apply.
(CTV News)

Apr 25 2016

A Quebec Court judge has ruled the trial of a man accused of sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl and strangling her with skipping rope can continue, even though key pieces of evidence were destroyed mistakenly by Montreal police.

Defence lawyer Sharon Sandiford had asked Judge Silvie Kovacevich for a stay of proceedings, arguing the destroyed evidence amounted to gross negligence.

Sandiford argued the error meant the accused, whose name is under a publication ban, would not receive a fair trial.

In her decision Monday, Judge Kovacevich told the court 17 pieces of evidence were destroyed as a result of “human error and a lack of attention” by a Montreal police investigator.

Kovacevich said the mistake showed that the officer had been careless, and the result was “unfortunate and regrettable.” However, she said, “it does not amount to gross negligence” on the part of police and will not prevent the accused from getting a fair trial.

The trial centres on an incident in May 2013, in which an 11-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted, strangled with a skipping rope and left for dead in an alley near her home.

When she came to, the court has heard, she went to a friend’s house to call her

mother, who then called 9-1-1.

The accused, a 44-year-old St-Laurent resident whom the girl knew, faces one charge of sexual assault and one count of attempted murder.

Kovacevich described how the evidence, including the girl’s bra and the skipping rope allegedly used in the assault, were destroyed in error in September 2014.

She said the officer responsible acknowledged his mistake, explaining that the evidence had somehow been mixed up with evidence from another case.

(CBC News)

Apr 25 2016

Quebec’s provincial police force is making a number of changes following two deadly accidents involving unmarked police cars.

The Sûreté du Québec (SQ) has updated the training for recruits to include a section on the risks of driving semi-identified or un-identified cars.

The SQ has 210 semi-identified or unmarked police vehicles and 858 police cruisers. The force will start tracking accidents involving all of its vehicles to see if any patterns emerge, depending on the type of vehicle or the officer driving it.

Witnesses to both the accidents said the unmarked cars were speeding.

SQ spokesman Lt. Jason Allard said a committee struck after the fatal Dolbeau-Mistassini accident found the provincial force already has the strictest rules in North America governing the use of unmarked cars.

“However, that doesn’t change [the fact that] the rules can be better, and public safety is number one,” said Allard.

The committee looked at accidents involving unmarked cars across North America and its own statistics.

It found fewer accidents for unmarked cars: 1 per 150,000 kilometres compared with 1 per 100,000 for marked cruisers.

Since July 2015, unmarked cars can only be used in three sets of circumstances:

- If the officer is closest to a scene where lives are in danger.
- In order to stop traffic violations, such as speeding or running red lights.
- With permission from a superior officer.

Allard said the committee looked at the question of speed limits and decided against imposing a maximum speed limit.

He said there were suggestions of installing a device that would tell the driver when he or she had gone over a certain speed.

“Depending on the situation, depending where you are, no electronic device can supercede the good judgment of an officer,” said Allard.

All five of the committee’s recommendations have now been in place for the past few weeks.

Along with new training for recruits, tracking accidents and other changes brought in last year, they include online training for officers already on duty.

(CBC News)

TUESDAY
APRIL 26, 2016

Apr 26 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario’s police watchdog is investigating after a 26-year-old man was found dead in an eastern Ontario home.

The Special Investigations Unit says Ontario Provincial police received a report Monday of assault and threatening behaviour at a residence in Bancroft, Ont.

It says officers showed up at the home around 7:30 p.m., but didn’t enter.

The SIU says the OPP’s tactical squad was also there and officers entered the home around 10 p.m.

It says officers found the man dead inside.

The SIU says one officer is the subject of the investigation and 13 officers have been designated as witnesses.

Apr 26 2016

Canadian police cannot keep secret their advanced spying devices or their relationships with telecommunications corporations because claims of police privilege carry little or no weight in criminal courts.

So ruled Quebec Superior Court Justice Michael Stober as he ordered several modern police surveillance techniques disclosed to lawyers representing six accused mobsters in Montreal. Finding that police arguments for secrecy rely at times upon “self-serving and weak” legal logic, his decisions have laid bare RCMP tactics.

From the Stober disclosure rulings flowed the recent revelation that the Mounties use a device that mimics a cellphone tower. The fact that Canadian federal agents also have access to a version of a virtual skeleton key, one that can crack coded BlackBerry communications, has also been exposed.

Police had fought for years to protect such methods from becoming broadly known, until a cat-and-mouse criminal case pitting the RCMP against the Montreal six forced Justice Stober to consider 21st-century techniques.

A publication ban was imposed on his rulings about pretrial disclosure when they were issued last fall, but redacted versions were filed in a higher court this spring. On March 30, the Quebec Court of Appeal in Montreal was to revisit the Stober decisions. But on the morning that matter was to be heard, the Crown lawyers who appealed the rulings walked away from the underlying first-degree-murder case.

Across town in Laval, the six people arrested in 2011 were acquitted of that charge and pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of conspiracy to murder. That outcome freed the Crown of its obligation to make increasingly uncomfortable amounts of disclosure and left the appellate judges with no case to consider.

At one point, an RCMP inspector testified

that a degree of secrecy is needed because being seen to help police is “not good marketing” for tech companies. But Justice Stober characterized such arguments as “weak and self-serving.” As a Canadian judge, he said, he had no legal basis to consider any “adverse impact on [Blackberry’s] business interests.”

The bottom line for the Crown was that Justice Stober’s disclosure orders could yield “a new and thorough body of information that would educate the criminal element,” or even provide it with “a user guide on how to circumvent a level of secrecy the State is entitled to protect.” This, at least, is what the Crown appeal had put forward, until the surprise plea arrangement between the Crown and defence scuttled the hearing.

(Globe and Mail)

Apr 26 2016

VANCOUVER - Vancouver medical marijuana businesses that are operating without a licence must close by Friday.

The city says inspectors will start enforcing regulations on compassion clubs and retail stores that have not complied with the rules but were allowed to remain open past a six-month grace period.

Regulation began last year when the shops started popping up across Vancouver, but the city refused to grant permits to 140 dispensaries because they didn’t comply with rules such as being too close to schools or community centres.

The city says seven businesses have been issued development permits under regulations adopted in June, and 13 applications are being reviewed.

Successful applicants then move on to the final approval stage to get a business licence, and the city says it’s currently processing three such applications.

The cost of a business licence is \$1,000 for compassion clubs and \$30,000 for medical marijuana stores.

Apr 26 2016

OTTAWA - Figures from the Justice Department paint a dark picture of the state of indigenous incarceration, with aboriginals seriously overrepresented in the youth criminal justice system

Data recently provided by the department to brief Justice Minister Jody Wilson Raybould says indigenous youth account for only seven per cent of the overall population, but make up 41 per cent of those entering the justice system.

The documents, obtained by , also say the problem has ballooned over the last decade and point to bias in the policing, justice and corrections systems.

Correctional Investigator Howard Sapers calls the figures atrocious and says they reflect systemic failures.

Murray Sinclair, the former chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and now a senator, says the child-welfare system is also connected to the alarming number of

aboriginals who end up behind bars.

He says indigenous children continue to be apprehended on the basis that families cannot be trusted, but says the system often fails to place children in safe environments.

Apr 26 2016

A B.C. Mountie has left the force a few days ahead of a disciplinary hearing focused on allegations of photos of the officer that were posted on a social networking site for sexual fetishists.

Cpl. Jim Brown with Coquitlam RCMP was under investigation for sexually explicit bondage poses wearing his Mountie boots.

The photos were discovered in 2012. Brown has been suspended with pay since July of that year.

“I have been seeking the dismissal of Cpl. Jim Brown since the conclusion of the investigation,” said Deputy Commissioner Craig Callens, the head of the RCMP in B.C.

“As the date for a hearing approached the individual submitted his discharge papers, which I immediately signed. His career with the RCMP is over.”

The disciplinary hearing on May 2, about four years after the investigation began, was to hear evidence related to five allegations of disgraceful or disorderly conduct and had been rescheduled several times.

“The hearing dates have been adjourned for reasons beyond my control, but are a reflection of some of the challenges we faced under the old RCMP Act,” said Callens.

Images of Brown appeared on the website Fetlife, where he went by the name Kilted Knight and listed himself as “dominant,” describing the kind of role he played in the world of bondage, discipline and sado-masochism.

(CBC News)

April 26 2016

CALGARY - Calgary police will soon charge new fees for alarm system permits and will stop responding to homes and businesses that don’t have a valid one.



The Calgary Police Service has just approved changes to how and when officers respond to alarm calls.

Beginning May 15, when an alarm is triggered, alarm companies must attempt to contact at least two key holders before calling police to the scene.

Later this year, Calgary 9-1-1 will no longer send police to premises where:

- no valid alarm permit exists;
- the permit is suspended;
- the call is within 14 days of installation; or
- the alarm agency is not properly licensed.

Police will also no longer be dispatched to commercial premises during regular business hours, as indicated on the registered alarm permit.

“This is really bringing us in line with what other jurisdictions are doing,” said Alison Turgeon, alarm coordinator with CPS.

The changes are meant to update a “fairly outdated” bylaw, recoup costs and reduce repeated false alarms, Turgeon said.

She said officers currently respond to approximately 45 alarm calls each day, 96 per cent of which are deemed to be false alarms.

False alarm fees and annual permit rates for homes and businesses have yet to be determined.

Licensed alarm agencies will be charged the penalty for requesting police assistance in the event of a false alarm.

Calgary police will continue to respond to all calls involving panic, hold-up, duress, two-activation alarms or confirmed criminal activity on site.

Turgeon expects Calgary will see improved call response times with no increased risk to the public.

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2016

Apr 27 2016

WASHINGTON - The FBI says it won’t publicly disclose the method that allowed it to access a locked iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino attackers.

In a statement Wednesday, FBI official Amy Hess said the FBI does not “have enough technical information” about the software vulnerability that was exploited to make it public.

An unidentified third party approached the federal government last month with a method that it said could get into the phone used by Syed Farook, who along with his wife killed 14 people in the December attacks.

The method proved successful.

But the FBI said Wednesday that although it paid for the method, it did not “purchase the rights to technical details about how the method functions.”

Apr 27 2016

OTTAWA - The RCMP is conducting a criminal investigation into the murder of hostage John Ridsdel in the Philippines.

A senior official says the Mounties are relying on the extraterritorial provisions of the Criminal Code in pursuing the overseas investigation.

It means the perpetrators, if found and charged, could one day face justice under Canadian law.

The official spoke with on condition of anonymity given the sensitivity of the ongoing hostage case.

Ridsdel, 68, of Calgary, was beheaded

earlier this week after a large random demand from his captors, members of the Abu Sayyaf militant group, went unmet.

Canadian Robert Hall, abducted with Ridsdel from a marina in September, is still being held along with several others.

Apr 27 2016

TORONTO - A drunk man found sleeping behind the wheel of his idling parked truck has lost his bid to take his impaired driving conviction to Ontario's top court.

In a decision Wednesday, the Ontario Court of Appeal rejected plans by Hugh O'Neill to argue he had only started the engine to keep warm and had no intention of driving.

O'Neill was found behind the wheel in the early hours of a December morning parked in a lot outside an industrial building in London, Ont. Court documents show a police officer had difficulty waking him. His blood-alcohol level was well in excess of the legal limit. He was convicted at trial. An initial appeal was dismissed.

O'Neill argued at trial that friends had driven him back to his truck after a night of drinking and he climbed in with the aim of sleeping until he was sober. He testified he had woken during the night, got out to relieve himself, and then got back in. At that point, he said, he had started the truck to keep warm and fell asleep again.

However, he insisted he planned to go get breakfast in the morning before driving to work.

At his trial, O'Neill took issue with the application of a section of the Criminal Code that assumes that someone in the driver's seat is deemed to have care or control of the vehicle unless they can show they had no intention of setting the vehicle in motion.

The trial judge sided with the prosecution that the presumption applied - and that he had failed to rebut it.

The Appeal Court agreed.

Apr 27 2016

OTTAWA - Two Ottawa police officers have been found not guilty of misconduct after their lawyers asked a police hearing officer to release them on charges laid by a civilian oversight body.

Supt. Don Sweet heard a "non-suit motion" and found Const. Katherine Plomp and Sgt. Wayne Wilson not guilty of neglect of duty under the Police Services Act on Tuesday.

Plomp, Wilson and a third officer, Det. Emmanuel Svidran, were charged by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director after a man claimed they mishandled evidence in his and his wife's arrests for fighting with neighbours.

Bruno Kraljevic lodged several complaints after he and his wife, Branka Kraljevic, were arrested after an altercation with three neighbours in July 2013. Branka was convicted of aggravated assault for stabbing one of the men.

Bruno alleged that Plomp, Wilson and Svidran were biased, acted negligently, unlawfully arrested him, unlawfully seized a cellphone and camera and deleted images from the camera that he said proved his

neighbours were the aggressors.

Ottawa police found no grounds for disciplinary charges against the officers, but a subsequent investigation by the OIPRD found what it believed to be evidence of policy breaches.

Plomp and Wilson were each charged with neglect of duty under the Police Services Act for what the OIPRD alleged was failing to put the seized camera and cellphone in an evidence locker, contrary to policy. The lead OIPRD investigator admitted in cross-examination in December, though, that she was uncertain whether Plomp or Wilson had seized the cellphone or camera. Still, the OIPRD under her direction charged them both with neglect of duty. They have since been acquitted of those charges.

Svidran is charged with two counts of neglect of duty for allegedly not reviewing the contents of the camera, not having Kraljevic's injuries photographed and failing to complete a form for all the items police seized. His police hearing continued Wednesday.

Police union president Matt Skof said the union is considering legal action against the OIPRD.

"This investigation was poorly done and should never have proceeded to a hearing in the first place," Skof said.

Skof called the investigation, the subsequent charges and their prosecution until Tuesday a "significant waste of taxpayer resources."

The union is considering suing the OIPRD to recoup legal costs, damage to the officers' reputations and to ensure that cases without reasonable prospects for convictions don't go forward again.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Apr 27 2016

Alberta's police watchdog has cleared a Calgary police officer in a "terrible" crash between a fleeing, stolen truck and two other vehicles that sent four people to hospital in 2014.

Following an investigation into the Dec. 11, 2014, collision, Alberta Serious Incident Response Team executive director Susan Hughson concluded Wednesday that the police officer didn't cause or contribute to the crash that left two men with serious injuries and two women injured.

"The responsibility for the collision rests solely on the unlawful and unsafe actions of the driver of the stolen vehicle," ASIRT said in a media release.

ASIRT said its investigation concluded the officer had the authority to conduct a traffic stop and the officer operated the police vehicle at reasonable and responsible speeds during the pursuit.

"The evidence establishes that there was nothing the officer could have or should have done differently that might have prevented this terrible event," ASIRT said.

(Calgary Herald)

Apr 27 2016

An Atikamekw First Nation in the Mauricie region will reinstate the community police force it dissolved earlier this month due to a funding shortage.

The Sûreté du Québec has been policing Obedjiwan - 200 kilometres west of Roberval,

Que. - since the band council decided to disband its police force of 22 officers.

Obedjiwan's leaders said the move was necessary because the Quebec government failed to provide \$600,000 in additional funding promised to the community to keep its police force afloat.

The band council said Wednesday that it had reached a temporary deal with the federal and provincial governments that will allow it take over policing from the SQ beginning May 1.

(CBC News)

Apr 27 2016

The New Brunswick RCMP say they have now withdrawn pay from one of the two Woodstock officers suspended from the detachment.

RCMP spokesperson Const. Jullie Rogers-Marsh said the move happened at some time after February 16.

Rogers-Marsh said the second officer remains suspended with pay, but did not reveal to CBC News whether the force is trying to remove pay from that member.

The RCMP had said in February it was pursuing suspension without pay for both officers.

The two are still subject to a criminal investigation and a Police Act investigation.

Four of the Woodstock RCMP's 29 officers were suspended last fall for alleged discreditable conduct.

Of the other two officers, one has since been disciplined and has returned to full duty.

The other, Cpl. Andy Munro, has since retired, but remains subject to a criminal investigation.

At a community policing forum in Florenceville-Bristol Tuesday night, the new Woodstock RCMP commander, Sgt. J.P. MacDougall, said his detachment is now at its full staffing level of 29 officers.

The nature of the allegations has not been revealed, but Assistant Commissioner Roger Brown, commanding officer of the RCMP in New Brunswick, said in December they are not drug-related and there are no public safety issues.

The provincial Police Act does not allow suspensions of officers without pay, but Mounties fall under federal legislation, which does allow suspensions without pay in certain cases.

A total of eight New Brunswick RCMP officers are currently suspended.

(CBC News)

Apr 27 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton media have won a battle to open a police disciplinary hearing to the public.

The hearing was originally scheduled as a public proceeding, but was closed suddenly on Tuesday, its opening day.

Three police officers involved in a drug trafficking investigation in 2010 face disciplinary charges of unlawful or unnecessary exercise of authority. They are accused of attacking a man in an altercation that has been compared with "the Rodney King beating" in Los Angeles more than two decades ago.

Kasimierz Kozina, the target of the 2010 investigation, claims he was dragged out of a

car, kicked, and repeatedly punched. He's suing the Edmonton Police Service for \$1 million.

The lawyer for one of the accused applied Tuesday to hold the hearing in private, citing concerns that police techniques or police informants could possibly be revealed.

Matthew Woodley, the lawyer representing CBC and the Edmonton Journal, argued Wednesday that closing the entire proceeding over those minor concerns was equivalent to "using a sledge hammer when you need a scalpel."

"Media play a vital role in the justice system," he said. "Those who cannot attend rely on the media to hear about the proceedings."

"It's important that the public know the system is open and transparent. That supports trust in the system."

After 30 minutes of deliberation, retired Court of Queen's Bench justice Mel Binder ruled in the media's favour.

"In my opinion, it is in the best interest of the police and public that the hearing be held in public," he said.

He then quoted what he referred to as one of the underlying principles of the police act, when it comes to disciplinary hearings.

"The fundamental purpose is to maintain the confidence of the public in police."

THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2016

Apr 28 2016

TORONTO - Dozens of people are facing hundreds of charges after a massive, provincewide investigation into child sexual abuse in Ontario.

Provincial police said the months-long investigation netted 80 alleged offenders who are now facing a total of 274 charges, adding more arrests are expected.

The bulk of the charges relate to sexual assault, child pornography and exploitation, but police said several counts also concern drugs and weapons.

OPP Chief Supt. Don Bell said Thursday the investigation involved collaboration with the RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency, United States Homeland Security, and 26 municipal police forces across Ontario.

He said the wide range of ages and jurisdictions involved in the probe shines a light on how pervasive and devastating the problem is.

From its inception in August 2006 to March 2016, Ontario's Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet has completed 32,808 investigations and laid 11,408 charges against 3,310 people, police said.

During that period, 870 child victims were identified in Ontario, and another 173 internationally, OPP said.

The 80 people charged in latest investigation range in age from 74 to a youth who cannot be named under the terms of the Youth Criminal Justice Act and span the province from Ottawa to Windsor.

Police said they identified 20 alleged victims over the course of the investigation who

have been referred to community supports for help.

The child pornography probe also overlapped with incidents connected to human trafficking, allowing police to release nine minors who had been forced into the sex trade against their will.

Those children included 14, 15, and 16-year-olds, police said.

The OPP indicated that the number of people charged is expected to rise, adding they had made additional arrests on Thursday and expected more in the coming days.

But Bell said tackling the problem would involve more than simply laying charges.

"We cannot arrest ourselves out of this phenomenon," he said.

"Our community partners are extremely important. Our educators are extremely important. We have to create an awareness, and as parents we have to take ownership of our children."

Apr 28 2016

VICTORIA - Serial killer Robert Pickton and other notorious criminals in British Columbia will no longer be able to profit from their crimes.

Public Safety Minister Mike Morris says proposed legislation prevents murderers and others convicted of serious crimes from making money through books and other memorabilia.

He says that if the law is passed, the province would be allowed to take revenue earned from publications by criminals and

distribute it to victims and their families.

The legislation was prompted by the publication earlier this year of a book reportedly written by Pickton, a move that drew condemnation from Premier Christy Clark and the federal public safety minister.

The 144-page book titled "Pickton: In His Own Words" was briefly listed for sale on the Amazon website.

Morris says the proposed law will apply to criminals convicted of serious or violent crimes, including murder, sexual offences, child exploitation, kidnapping, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons.

Apr 28 2016

ELK POINT, Alta. - An Alberta girl who got lost in the bush says her dogs kept her warm during the chilly night.

RCMP say they got a call Wednesday night about a nine-year-old girl from the Frog Lake First Nation being lost.

Sgt. Barry LaRocque says residents of the reserve, about 230 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, were already searching when police arrived.

He says they searched all night, and around 7 a.m. Thursday, the girl, along with three larger mixed-breed dogs, emerged from the dense bush a few kilometres from home.

LaRocque says she told him the dogs lay beside her and kept her warm throughout the night as temperatures dipped to 2 Celsius.

The girl was taken to hospital to get checked out, and LaRocque says she got a clean bill of health.

BLUE LINE

Canada's Law Enforcement Information Specialists



The June issue of *Blue Line Magazine* will have a section set aside for graduating police personnel.

If your agency would like to recognize a member for their academic achievements, submit the member's name and photograph along with details of the University, program and degree.

Space is limited and we are suggesting a 75 to 200 word write-up. This will be subject to editing for available space.

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