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Executive Digest

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Ontario judge deems widely used breathalyzer inaccurate



May 02 2016

Thousands of impaired-driving sentences across Canada could be called into question after an Ontario judge found that a common type of breathalyzer test was inaccurate.

Legal experts say the ruling could set a powerful precedent for impaired-driving cases and change the way police test for blood-alcohol content throughout the country.

The ruling centres around a 2014 case in which Peel Regional Police arrested a driver who blew well over the legal limit.

However, a defence lawyer and accompanying scientific expert convinced the judge that the breathalyzer device at the police station - the Intoxilyzer 8000C - was intrinsically flawed.

The judge sided with the defence and dismissed the charges.

"You can bet that there are defence lawyers everywhere saying, 'Wait a sec, I want my turn at this same argument,'" legal analyst Edward Prutschi told CTV Toronto.

"If this snowball continues to roll and other judges buy into this or an appeal court



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says, 'Yes, that's the way it ought to have been; the judge got it right,' then they're going to have to do something."

The case boiled down to "a battle of the experts," according to defence lawyer Richard Posner.

The court heard testimony from a former official with the Centre of Forensic Sciences, who opened up the breathalyzer's black box and looked inside for clues. The findings highlighted a series of strange results, the defence said.

"There were a large number of unusual or aberrant results. There were very unusually low calibration checks, there were failed diagnostic tests. Just a number of problems in the instrument's history," Posner said.

In a statement to CTV News, the U.S.-based company that makes the Intoxilyzer says the instruments are approved and used "in many countries throughout the world."

"CMI stands behind the accuracy and integrity of its breath testing instruments," said the statement.

While the ruling may influence current and future impaired driving cases, Prutschi says it's unlikely it would have the power to reopen past convictions if they've passed the 30-day appeal period.

The device is commonly used by police across the country. Ontario officials would not comment Monday as to whether the province would suspend use of the instrument.

Toronto's police chief raised questions about the judge's decision.

"I'm not sure what the judge's background is in science, and we'll see what science says in respect to those comments," Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders said.

The Crown has said it will appeal the ruling. Legal experts say the case could go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada.

(CTV News)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2016

Apr 27 2016

A group of physicians and public-health officials in Ontario is calling on the provincial government to implement emergency planning measures to address a spike in overdoses linked to illicit fentanyl.



Ontario is unprepared for an influx of illicit fentanyl and other toxic opioids, warns a letter signed by more than 200 physicians, medical officers of health, and addiction and harm-reduction organizations.

The letter, addressed to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Health Minister Eric Hoskins, says the toll from the opioid crisis in Ontario "is poised to rise sharply given the presence of non-pharmaceutical 'bootleg' opioids, specifically bootleg fentanyls in both powder and pill forms, in several Ontario communities."

The letter follows a Globe and Mail investigation that found that Ontario, like the other provinces and Ottawa, is not taking adequate steps to stop doctors from indiscriminately prescribing highly addictive opioids to treat chronic pain. Illicit fentanyl, largely a product of organized crime, has its roots in Canada's abuse of prescription painkillers.

Amid an anticipated surge in opioid overdoses this year, the group is urging the government to expedite the creation of an emergency preparedness plan. Such a plan, says a copy of the letter obtained by The Globe, must include the establishment of real-time surveillance on the number of people overdosing on opioids, timely toxicology testing on drugs seized at a crime scene and broader distribution of the overdose antidote naloxone.

Rosana Salvaterra, medical officer of health for Peterborough, Ont., and lead author of the letter, said what's missing in Ontario is co-ordinated leadership and planning. "Our letter really is a cry for that," she said in an interview.

Dr. Hoskins was not available for comment on Wednesday. A spokesman referred to a previous statement, in which the Health Minister said the government "takes the issue of opioid drug abuse and misuse very seriously."

British Columbia declared a public-health emergency this month after a surge in drug-related overdoses and deaths. But the scourge of fentanyl has rapidly moved east. In Ontario, several communities have sounded the alarm

in recent weeks about a spike in overdoses from street drugs that appear to have been laced with fentanyl.

Dr. Salvaterra said the Ontario government needs to get the rescue medication naloxone into the hands of everyone who is at risk of an overdose. The government's current naloxone program is limited largely to distributing the drug to public-health units and community organizations that manage needle-exchange programs.

The Ministry of Health has distributed 3,489 naloxone kits over the past 2 1/2 years, according to spokesman David Jensen. One in five of the kits has been used by someone who overdosed - the drug reverses the effects of an overdose within minutes.

In British Columbia, by comparison, Toward the Heart, the province's harm-reduction program and the biggest distributor of naloxone, handed out 7,418 kits between August, 2012, and April, 2016. British Columbia's population is roughly one-third the size of Ontario's.

Dr. Salvaterra is also calling on the Ontario government to pay for naloxone under its publicly funded drug program for seniors and residents on social assistance. A naloxone kit containing two doses typically retails for about \$45 - a price barrier for many, she said.

Mr. Jensen confirmed that the Health Ministry would only consider listing naloxone on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary if it were to receive a request from a drug manufacturer.

"Are we going to allow the pharmaceutical industry to drive a provincial emergency response?" Dr. Salvaterra asked.

(Globe and Mail)

Apr 27 2016

MONTREAL - Montreal police will start publishing detailed crime data for citizens and researchers to use as they please.

The crime data, which will be released via Montreal's open data portal, is part of an initiative to be more transparent.

The police released its first dataset on Wednesday, publishing details of the 10,860 breaking-and-entering offences in 2015 and the first three months of 2016.

This summer, it will release data on car thefts, armed robberies, traffic accidents and fatal offences, the police said.

The data will only cover the territory of the City of Montreal. Demerged municipalities on the island, including Westmount and the West Island suburbs, are not included.

The city will also publish a tool that allows residents to explore the data on a map without the need for technical skills.

To avoid personally identifying victims of crimes or their homes, the locations of each crime will be moved to the closest intersection.

Data on sexual assault will likely not be released to prevent the possibility of identifying victims, said Chief Insp. Johanne Paquin of the Montreal police.

(CBC News)

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THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2016

Apr 28 2016

OTTAWA - Canada lacks a full picture of the issues related to bail, says a recent note drafted to brief Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould on the state of the criminal justice system.

The document, obtained by Canadian Press, suggested half of those in provincial jails are on remand and have not been convicted of anything.

The Liberal government, which is considering bail reform, got some advice on the issue recently, in a study by University of Ottawa criminologist Cheryl Webster.

It said a "risk-averse mentality" has permeated the bail process. This leads to vigorous attempts to avoid releasing accused persons who might commit crimes while on bail.

Change would require federal legislation, Correctional Investigator Howard Sapers said Thursday.

A co-ordinated response is need for the system to have any coherence, he added.

"Jurisdictions have to be seen to work together so a co-ordinated response is absolutely required," Sapers said.

"The federal government is still responsible for the creation of criminal law so much of the bail reform that has been discussed... would require criminal law amendment."

As of 2013-2014, adults in remand made up 54 per cent of the jail population- with the largest proportions in Nova Scotia, Ontario and Manitoba.

The Statistics Canada data also show indigenous offenders accounted for 24 per cent of all admissions to remand in that year, up from 19 per cent in 2005-2006.

Wilson-Raybould's office did not immediately provide a comment Thursday.

FRIDAY APRIL 29, 2016

Apr 29 2016

HALIFAX - Police in Halifax say two officers were injured while pursuing an SUV that allegedly tried to hit them during a chase through the city.

They say a white SUV was doing damage to a sculpture on the Halifax waterfront at about 4:20 a.m. and began to follow it.

Officers say when they approached the vehicle in the Bayers Road area, the driver sped toward them to strike them, but they were able to jump out of the way.

They say the SUV also drove toward another police car before it fled onto a highway, where they allege the driver again tried to hit a police car.

Police say the driver turned the lights off and drove the wrong way on Highway 102 before stopping, when police arrested the 30-year-old driver and a 28-year-old passenger.

They say one officer was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries while the SUV driver suffered minor injuries.

Apr 29 2016

CAMPBELLTON, N.B. - A New Brunswick judge has thrown out limits on cross-border beer sales, in a local case involving 14 cases of beer that could have implications on cross-border trade in Canada.

Judge Ronald LeBlanc threw out all charges Friday against Gerard Comeau, who had been charged with illegally importing the beer and three bottles of liquor from a Quebec border town in 2012.

The New Brunswick Liquor Control Act prohibits anyone in the province from having more than 12 pints of beer that wasn't purchased through a liquor store in the province.

Comeau's liquor was seized and he was fined \$292.50.

His lawyers challenged the provincial laws as unconstitutional, arguing the Constitution says anything produced in one province shall be admitted free into the other provinces.

The prosecution told the court when the case was heard that the issue is whether the section of the Constitution Act applies today in a country that has developed significantly since 1867.

Comeau's lawyer, Mikael Bernard, said earlier that a court ruling in his favour would affect free trade with regards to alcohol and it could also be a benchmark for the other provinces.

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TORONTO - A Canadian news outlet is asking an appeal court to throw out a ruling forcing one of its journalists to give the RCMP records of interviews he did with an accused terrorist.

Documents filed this week show Vice Media also wants the Ontario Court of Appeal to allow publication of the information police relied on to get their order for the records.

“This appeal raises issues concerning one of the hallmarks of a democratic society - a free and independent press,” the appeal application states.

Vice argues that the RCMP demand would have a “detrimental chilling effect” on journalism in Canada if it is allowed to stand.

Last month, Superior Court Justice Ian MacDonnell ordered Vice and reporter Ben Makuch to turn over background materials related to stories about Farah Shirdon.

Apr 29 2016

HALIFAX - The Nova Scotia government is hiring two Crown attorneys to prosecute Internet child exploitation cases.

Justice Minister Diana Whalen says the government is dedicating more resources to the issue due to a perceived rise in Internet child exploitation.

Funding for the positions comes through an increase of \$192,000 for the Public Prosecution Service in the latest budget.

The new positions double the service’s complement of Crown attorneys dedicated to cybercrime prosecutions.

Whalen says they also fulfil a recommendation stemming from a review of the Rehtaeh Parsons case, which said there should be more Crown attorneys devoted to cybercrime.

The new attorneys are expected to be in place by the fall.

Apr 29 2016

CALGARY - A review ordered after the fatal shooting of a Mountie in Alberta suggests police officers should not have to stand in at bail hearings that immediately follow an arrest.

The review says Crown prosecutors should instead be present at all such hearings.

The Alberta government says it is already acting on several of the review’s 31 recommendations, but adds it will need to consult with police and the courts before moving forward with others.

The province asked for the review following the shooting death of RCMP Const. David Wynn outside an Edmonton-area casino in January 2015.

The shooter, Shawn Rehn, had a lengthy history of criminal and violent behaviour, but was free after a bail hearing where a police officer was present.

That raised the question of whether Crown prosecutors, with more courtroom experience, should attend all bail hearings.

The government said Friday that there were about 60,000 criminal arrests in the province in 2015 that were followed by a first-instance bail hearing. Police were pre-

sent at 99 per cent of those hearings.

Rehn was found dead in a home after the shooting and his death was deemed a suicide

Between 1995 and 2015, he had been convicted of 68 offences, most of them property crimes, but some involving violence and drug use.

He was charged with breaching his bail conditions on 10 different occasions, which resulted in 21 charges.

On the day he died, Rehn was still facing 30 charges for four separate offences, including fraud, resisting a peace officer, escaping lawful custody, possessing a prohibited firearm, failing to appear in court, failing to stop for police, dangerous driving and multiple charges of breaching bail conditions.

A survey of justice and Crown officials from across Canada at the time revealed a patchwork of policies, but Alberta was the only province that predominantly relied on police rather than Crowns at initial bail hearings.

Apr 29 2016

TORONTO - A retired judge has been tapped to lead a review of Ontario’s police oversight agencies - a move the Liberal government announced as it partially released a report into a fatal police shooting.

The government has been under increasing pressure to release the Special Investigations Unit’s director’s report that found a Toronto police officer used justifiable force in fatally shooting a man armed with a hammer.

The officer who shot Andrew Loku on

July 5, 2015 is not named in the report, but SIU Director Tony Loparco says that Loku walked toward police, carrying a hammer saying, “what you gonna do, come on, shoot me,” and that the officer feared for his or her life.

The report says that though media coverage has noted Loku had mental health issues, there was no evidence that was the reason he was “aggressive” toward police, rather it is “as likely” the reason was that his blood alcohol level was three times the legal limit for driving.

Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur says in a statement that Appeal Court Justice Michael Tulloch will lead an independent review of Ontario’s three police oversight agencies and will examine how SIU reports could be made public in the future, as well as whether past reports could be published.

Normal SIU practice is to issue a press release summarizing a case, and not the full report, when an officer is either cleared or charged with an offence following incidents involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

Apr 29 2016

VICTORIA - Victoria’s police chief has been suspended amid allegations stemming from reports that he sent inappropriate Twitter messages to the wife of one of his officers.

A new investigation into Chief Frank Elsner’s conduct was announced by the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner Friday involving new information that includes allegations of false statements and the deletion of data.

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A spokeswoman for the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board said in an email that the adjudicator of the new investigation has ordered the chief be suspended immediately.

"The board is arranging to convene next week to discuss the implications of the order for suspension," she said.

Elsner stepped aside from his duties in December 2015, pending the results of two other investigations into his conduct.

Deputy police complaints commissioner Rollie Woods said Elsner now faces three investigations and a total of 11 misconduct allegations.

The latest allegations came to light from a team of senior Mounties and members of the Vancouver Police Department investigating Elsner.

"They provided a synopsis of some concerning information they had received during the course of the investigation," Woods said.

"That information alleges conduct by chief Elsner, if proven, would be misconduct."

Two retired B.C. judges began separate investigations last December, with one focusing on the social media allegations against Elsner and the other involving several alleged workplace harassment complaints filed by Victoria Police Department employees through the police union.

Elsner filed court documents last month in an effort to block the investigations, saying the commissioner did not have the authority to order another review after the completion of an internal probe.

The documents say allegations surfaced last year that Elsner may have been in a relationship with the wife of a fellow officer and that the woman was also an officer in a neighbouring district.

Woods said the new investigation involves three allegations that include Elsner asking someone to make a false oral or written statement, requesting a potential witness to destroy electronic data and Elsner accessing the police department's electronic database.

"There's evidence Chief Const. Elsner sought access to the Victoria police archive server and conducted various searches and erased or attempted to erase emails during the course of an ongoing investigation," he said.

None of the allegations against Elsner have been proven.

Elsner, who has been a police officer for 31 years, could not be immediately reached for comment about the new investigation.

In an affidavit filed last March, Elsner said he was shocked at the amount of information that has been made public about the allegations he faces.

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

Woods said such investigations of a police chief are unprecedented.

"It's unprecedented and it's unfortunate for the Victoria Police Department, I think, as a whole."

The Victoria City Police Union said in a statement Friday that it is aware of the new

investigation involving Elsner but would not comment.

Apr 29 2016

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - An Okanagan police officer is suing the RCMP over accusations that he drank on the job.

Const. Milan Ilic has filed a lawsuit alleging his reputation was tainted by the force during an investigation into a 2011 murder in Armstrong, B.C.

The issue came up at trial in 2014, when Ilic denied a defence claim that he had discarded a bottle of booze at the scene where 18-year-old Taylor Van Diest was found beaten on Halloween night.

Ilic was suspended by the Mounties in August 2014 and reinstated in July 2015, but

remains on sick leave.

The lawsuit alleges he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder from the night Van Diest was killed, and suffered from deteriorating health throughout the investigation.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.
(CKIZ)

Apr 29 2016

MONTREAL - A Quebec provincial police officer should be fired for cancelling a colleague's ticket and filing a false report about it, the Police Ethics Commission has ruled.

Two prior ethics rulings against Guy Bélanger were aggravating factors in the



The banner for the IALEP Conference 2016 features a blue background with a white silhouette of a city skyline. On the left, a circular logo reads "25th Anniversary". The main text in the center reads "IALEP CONFERENCE 2016" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, it says "Thinking Forward. International Association of Law Enforcement Planners September 19 - 23, 2016". On the right side, there are two logos: the top one is the "INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PLANNERS" (IALEP) logo, and the bottom one is the "Ontario Association of Law Enforcement Planners" (OALEP) logo, which includes a crest with a crown and a shield.

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS), in cooperation with the Ontario Association of Law Enforcement Planners (OALEP), is proud to be hosting the 2016 annual International Association of Law Enforcement Planners (IALEP) conference in Waterloo, Ontario, on **September 19-23, 2016**.

The theme of the conference is "**Thinking Forward**" and embraces a focus on skills and insight needed for police planning in the future, including strategic foresight, community safety, and the many challenges to anticipate along the planning continuum. This conference has only been in Canada three times in the past 25 years, and offers a great opportunity for you and your members to attend, network with an international group of sworn and civilian police planners and academia, and showcase some of our Canadian talent.

The conference begins in Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, September 19th with an evening reception at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), and runs all week, wrapping up with a Friday morning Roundtable breakfast. A special conference registration fee is being offered this year in celebration of the 25th anniversary of this annual training conference.

The agenda features topics on community engagement, learning through evaluation, socio-economic and policing impacts of autonomous vehicles, strategic foresight tools to help make robust long term decisions, visioning future law enforcement technologies, career passion by a renowned TED Talk presenter, arguments for evidence-based policing, a panel discussion on the future of community safety and well-being through collaborative partnerships, and much more! After hours, enjoy a curling bonspiel, a morning trip to St. Jacob's Farmers Market, and an evening banquet infused with the local Oktoberfest spirit.

Law enforcement planning and research is an integral component to police organizations and leaders, as we strive to **Think Forward** and stay ahead of this rapidly changing business of policing. We invite you and your members to join this international conference available in Waterloo, Ontario, this September.

The preliminary agenda is now available and registration is open.
Details can be found under the "Conference" menu at
www.ialep.org

commission's decision to impose the most serious sanction on its books.

The commission said Bélanger, who works in Saint-Jérôme, Que., stopped two motorcyclists in March, 2013.

One of the motorcyclists said he was a police officer.

"Bélanger withdrew the ticket and let him leave," said the commission.

When Bélanger was hauled before the commission to justify his actions, he admitted to the entire incident, calling it a 'white lie,' and even acknowledged he has been cancelling colleagues' tickets throughout his 20-year career.

"The incident ... was not isolated. Officer Bélanger testified that he did this on a regular basis," said the commission, adding that the officer showed no remorse for his actions.

The commission said the incident was "akin to the criminal offense of obstruction of justice."

"Officer Bélanger's misconduct calls into question his honesty and directly affects public confidence," the ethics ruling read.

The officer was previously cited for recklessly driving his cruiser, improper use of his gun and writing a false report.

Bélanger is currently appealing one of the sanctions.

It's extremely rare for the Police Ethics Commission to recommend a police officer be fired.

The agency usually recommends suspensions for offending officers.

(Global News)

Apr 29 2016

Lawmakers in New York are proposing a unique idea to curb texting and driving. It's called the Textalyzer, a roadside test that could be used at the scene of an accident, similar to how Breathalyzers are used in drinking-and-driving cases.



Democratic assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz sponsored the bipartisan Textalyzer bill, which would provide police officers with the technology to gain access to a phone's service history, allowing them to see whether a driver had been texting, e-mailing, or otherwise not abiding by distracted driving laws.

To avoid privacy concerns, police would not have access to the device's content. "The equipment only has the capacity to determine whether the phone was in use at the time of the accident," the proposed bill states.

The act is called Evan's Law, after 19-year-old Evan Lieberman, who was killed by a distracted driver in 2011. According to the bill, the cause of the accident was only discovered after

the cellphone records were analyzed.

Although distracted driving laws are already in place, the Canadian Automobile Association reports that driver distraction still factors into about four million motor vehicle crashes a year in North America.

Distracted driving accidents are responsible for nine deaths and over 1,150 injuries a day in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Crashes caused by distracted driving are not only costing people their lives, they're also costing the United States billions of dollars a year - about \$175-billion (U.S.) in economic and societal according to estimates made by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(Globe and Mail)

SATURDAY
APRIL 30, 2016

Apr 30 2016

An Alberta man is facing more than \$500 in fines for using a sign to warn drivers of upcoming radar speed cameras.



Jack Shultz is part of a Facebook group committed to helping drivers avoid speeding tickets on Edmonton roads.

"We try discussing where speed traps are, because all it is is a money grab, as far as I'm concerned," he said.

Shultz stands on the side of the road holding a sign that reads "radar ahead" to warn drivers about photo radar devices.

On Thursday, he said police gave him a warning and laid out some ground rules for what he was doing. Shultz said an officer told him that as long as he wasn't within 100 metres of a police cruiser looking for speeders and that he wasn't blocking the photo radar device itself, he wasn't breaking any rules.

But on Friday, Shultz said another officer issued him a \$543 ticket for pedestrian "stunting" while he was holding his sign on 170 Street. The Alberta Traffic Safety Act defines stunting as performing "any stunt or other activity that is likely to distract, startle or interfere with users of the highway."

"They called a supervisor in and then they went back to the supervisor's car and talked and said I was being detained and charged with pedestrian stunting and they confiscated my sign," Shultz said.

But an Edmonton police spokesperson said that while holding a roadside sign is not illegal, officers considered "the totality of the circumstances" when issuing the fine.

The department said officers tried to speak with Shultz and that his sign had an

obscenity on the back. Police say they were concerned for the safety of drivers on the busy road because many were slowing down to look and take photos of Shultz's sign.

Meanwhile, Shultz said he will continue to warn drivers about photo radar and that many people have come forward to help pay the ticket.

(CTV News)

SUNDAY
MAY 1, 2016

May 01 2016

MONTREAL - Montreal police are implementing a new training program for their officers to combat elder abuse - and they're hoping it catches on with other police forces across the country.

Starting Tuesday, all front-line Montreal police officers will receive training on how to identify and follow up on signs of mistreatment of seniors.

The intervention model was developed over the last three years by the city's police force and researchers at the Université de Sherbrooke.

Officers who spot signs of mistreatment are required to pull seniors aside for gentle questioning and make a report, even when nothing criminal has occurred.

The cases are then investigated by community relations officers or referred to community or social services.

The model was implemented in a few of the city's police stations last year as a pilot project and has already led to an increase in the number of reported cases of mistreatment.

The Montreal forces is now working on a training manual that can be shared with other Canadian law-enforcement agencies.

May 01 2016

MAYERTHORPE, Alta. - A firefighter who battled the flames that destroyed a railway trestle bridge northwest of Edmonton last week has now been charged with setting the fire, as well as others in and around his community.

RCMP say Lawson Michael Schalm, 19, of Mayerthorpe faces 18 counts of arson following the investigation into a recent rash of fires, including the one on the CN bridge on April 26.

The chief of the town's fire department, Randy Schroeder, says Schalm is the son of a former mayor of Mayerthorpe and joined the department as junior member when he was 15.

He became a full member when he turned 18.

Schroeder confirmed that Schalm was among the firefighters who battled last week's fire on the bridge.

Police say no one was hurt in the fires.

Schalm is being held in custody and will make his first court appearance on the arson allegations in Stony Plain Provincial Court on Wednesday.

MONDAY
MAY 2, 2016

May 02 2016

OTTAWA - A wave of retirements, low pay and the need to expand its pool of potential new officers are among the reasons the RCMP is making significant changes to its recruitment process.

This month, the RCMP is dropping its requirement that applicants must be Canadian citizens. It will now accept permanent residents. Post-secondary graduates will no longer have to write an entrance exam that measures aptitude for police work and the force will no longer require a physical abilities evaluation before people submit an application.

Speaking to Senators at national security committee, RCMP Deputy Commissioner of Human Resources Dan Dubeau said changes should get more people into the training academy quicker. Dubeau says the RCMP is planning for 34 troops comprised of 32 cadets each to go through the academy this year.

"Right now, I can be honest, 34 will not meet the gap," Dubeau said, adding that the RCMP is expecting up to 800 officers to retire this year, "with the growth in the West, that will not meet our gaps. So that's why we changed the process."

Recruitment processes would also allow new RCMP graduates from B.C. and the Prairies to remain in their home provinces for their first posting, which is where there is the greatest need for more officers.

Beyond streamlining the application process, Dubeau said allowing university and college graduates to skip the entrance exam should help the Mounties raise the overall level of education in the force.

That said, many frontline Mounties won't hesitate to say better pay would help recruit more officers. In recent years the RCMP has fallen far behind its goal of paying constables a salary on par with an average of the eight largest police forces. Even when one factors in pension, leave and benefits, Dubeau told Senators that RCMP constables are paid 11% less than their colleagues in the three highest-paid police services.

"That is very concerning for us so we have been talking to our colleagues at Treasury Board about trying to resolve that issue and putting forward some proposals, which I can't share because it's under cabinet confidence," Dubeau said.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson said Monday it's something members raise with him constantly.

"We work in a very integrated environment in Canada. In other words many of our officers are side-to-side, shoulder-to-shoulder with other police officers from many other police forces and every two weeks they get a chance to compare notes and share pay stubs and so it's not lost on our members that there is a growing difference," said Paulson.

People who complete the cadet training program and are hired as an RCMP constable have a starting salary of roughly \$50,000, the RCMP says.

(CBC News)

May 02 2016

TORONTO - Ontario has scrapped a proposal to have people pay traffic tickets online or dispute them outside of court.

The Liberal government had proposed dealing with Provincial Offences Act matters such as traffic and minor by-law tickets through a civil system, rather than in the criminal courts.

Known as administrative monetary penalties, a driver caught speeding would be assessed a financial penalty without a court hearing and if they wanted to dispute it, the matter would go to a hearing officer.

The idea was lauded by supporters as a move that could save court time and costs, but was decried by opponents as taking away

people's right to their day in court.

The Ontario government has now decided that's off the table.

A spokeswoman for the Attorney General says they still want to make the traffic ticket process simpler, more accessible and more convenient, but it won't be through administrative monetary penalties.

May 02 2016

KINGSTON, Ont. - What's in a name? Criminal charges, at least, for one man who allegedly gave a false identity while wearing a hospital bracelet displaying his real name.

Police in Kingston, Ont. say they arrested a man on Saturday after he was caught after allegedly trying to steal two bottles of alcohol



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from a local liquor store.

They say the man gave them a name that did not surface in police records.

But officers soon noticed the man was wearing an ID bracelet from a local hospital showing a different name altogether.

This one generated more hits, including word that the man was allegedly on probation with orders not to consume alcohol.

Police say the man is now charged with two counts of violating that probation along with obstructing police and theft under \$5,000.

May 02 2016

CALGARY - Calgary police say they have found a gun magazine and ammunition that fell from an officer's belt.

They say the officer was working on Thursday in a district that includes all communities south of Fish Creek Park.

He noticed one of the magazine carriers on his belt was open and the loaded magazine had fallen out.

The magazine and ammunition was found at the district office on Monday.

(CFFR)

May 02 2016

TORONTO - Toronto's police chief has responded to a Special Investigations Unit report that claimed an officer acted "improperly" by accessing a video that was part of the evidence in the Andrew Loku case.

Chief Mark Saunders issued a statement on Monday saying the police officer did not violate any rules and was within his right to try and secure the piece of evidence.

"Our officers have a legal onus to fulfil this responsibility. This includes the necessity to secure video evidence," Saunders said in the statement.

"Because of this, my officers attempted to locate and secure the video. Due to technical difficulties, they were unable to. They did not review the video, nor did they download the video. An officer was posted to security the scene until technical assistance could be contacted."

"The SIU, in fact," Saunders continued, "downloaded the video at a later time. The SIU's forensic examination states that no tampering took place."

Saunders also noted that SIU investigators were at the scene and "At no point did they question, contradict or prevent my officers from carrying out this responsibility."

Tony Loparco, director of the SIU, concluded in the report that the unnamed officer "saw fit to attempt to review and download the video recordings captured by cameras... I have not as yet heard an adequate explanation for the officer's conduct."

Loparco went on to say how this type of conduct "detracts from community confidence."

The report did note that the video was not tampered with.

Ontario's Attorney General released nine pages of the 34-page report on Friday, sparking outrage from community groups like Black Lives Matter who have pushed for

the entire uncensored report to be released as well as the video.

Loku, a 45-year-old man who suffered from mental health issues, came face-to-face with police in a narrow hallway and as he walked towards them, he lifted a hammer above his head and said, "What you gonna do, come on, shoot me."

Police were called to the area after someone reported that a woman was being threatened by a man with a hammer.

Loparco found that the officers acted reasonably to save their lives.

Members of Black Lives Matter have also called for a review of the SIU, something the Attorney General announced Friday afternoon. He said the independent review of the SIU and two other police oversight agencies would take about a year to complete.

Saunders said in the statement that the Toronto Police Service "strongly supports" the Attorney General's motion to review the regulations that surround and administer the SIU.

(CTV News)

May 02 2016

VANCOUVER - Vancouver's crackdown on unlicensed medical marijuana dispensaries has begun, with bylaw inspectors issuing 44 tickets to date and confirming that 22 stores have already closed.

But many owners are refusing to shut their doors and are mulling legal action, while others are refocusing their business efforts on cities without regulations including Toronto.

"It's absurd that these businesses that have laid the groundwork for access and legalization are being punished and shut down when they do no harm," said cannabis activist Jodie Emery.

"A lot of Vancouver dispensary owners in the last year have set up plans to move to other jurisdictions like Toronto because the regulations here are too restrictive."

Vancouver became the first city in Canada to develop regulations for medical marijuana businesses last year. Dozens of stores have opened in Toronto in the past few months alone.

But Vancouver refused to grant licences to 140 stores that violated certain rules including being too close to schools. Seven businesses have been issued permits and 13 applications are under review.

Bylaw inspectors began heavily enforcing the rules on Saturday. Twenty-three stores were ticketed over the weekend.

Andrea Toma, the city's chief licensing inspector, said in an interview on Monday that stores that continue to operate without a licence will face a \$250 fine for every day they stay open.

May 02 2016

RED DEER - The province's police watchdog is investigating an RCMP-involved shooting in Red Deer Sunday night in which a man was injured.

Mounties were called around 7:15 p.m. to respond to a report of an armed man at a

downtown apartment building.

When they arrived, they found the armed man, who was shot by police "in their efforts to ensure public safety," RCMP said in a statement.

He was taken to hospital for treatment. No one else was hurt.

Officers remained at the scene throughout the night to secure the area.

(Calgary Sun)

May 02 2016

SASKATOON - We are witnessing an "almost unparalleled" amount of synthetic drugs like fentanyl on the street says Saskatoon's police chief. Clive Weighill told Global News it's the demand for drugs that is driving up the rates for crimes like robbery and burglaries.

"We've seen crime increasing through the end of 2014, through 2015, and now 2016 again, and it's not just in Saskatoon," said Weighill.

"I just had a meeting with the western Canadian chiefs, and it's happening in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Prince Albert, Yorkton ... its mainly attributable to methamphetamine, fentanyl type drugs, synthetic drugs where people are getting highly addicted very quickly, and they need money."

"Saskatoon is a safe city," he said, "but we've just somehow got to get this synthetic drug problem ... like I say, it's not just Saskatoon."

He added it's frustrating, because crime rates in Saskatoon had dropped roughly 40 per cent in the last decade, and now the rates are going in the wrong direction.

"We're seeing a big increase in theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles, break and enters, and then the robberies that we've been seeing," he said.

Weighill is also head of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and in that regard he said police departments across the country are waiting for the new rules as Canada gets ready to legalize marijuana. However, Weighill said while some think it will be a free for all - the market will be highly regulated.

"It will still be regulated, who can grow it, who can sell it ... the regulations haven't been formed yet so we're not sure how that is going to shake out."

Last week an internal federal report warned that organized crime could still be involved even after pot is legalized, and Weighill said that remains a worry for police.

"That's one of our biggest fears - there will be a price point ... whoever sells it, and organized crime, whoever is selling marijuana right now, don't want to get out of the business so they'll cut their price a bit to undercut the sale price, and we're still worried about that. So there still will be trafficking laws, just as there is now," he said.

And there are enforcement issues that haven't even been settled yet, he said, like how to tell if someone is too impaired to drive.

"We haven't seen a lot of it, Colorado has experienced a lot since they legalized marijuana, and the issue is you might be .06

for alcohol so you're under the legal limit, and whatever the new limit is for drugs, you might be just a hair under that if you get tested for that, but when you combine the two you're way over the limit - that's the concern," said Weighill.

He said coming up with a legal impairment level for driving under the influence of marijuana is just one of a number of questions that still need to be answered.

(Global News)

TUESDAY MAY 3, 2016

May 03 2016

OTTAWA - Key findings from the spring report of the federal auditor general, released Tuesday:

- The RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency do not consistently share important details about criminal charges and potential residency fraud with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.
- Between 2008 and 2015, 50 different applicants used the same single address on their citizenship applications during overlapping time periods; seven of the applicants became Canadian citizens before the address was flagged during a residency fraud investigation.
- Citizenship officers did not always follow the standard procedure of checking travel documents against the department's database of lost, stolen and fraudulent documents.
- Out of 38 criminal cases since 2010 involving a permanent resident or foreign national, the RCMP shared the relevant details with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada in only two of them.

May 03 2016

A Longueuil police officer has been suspended for 10 days without pay for causing a car crash when he drove through a red light without his siren on.

The suspension — for not exercising care in using a police vehicle — was imposed in a Quebec Police Ethics Commission ruling made public on Tuesday.

On Feb. 23, 2014, just after 11 p.m., police officer François Alexandre and his partner were responding to a call about a home security alarm that had been triggered.

The police car's emergency lights were flashing, but the siren was not on.

Moments before the police car hit a Hyundai Sonata, Alexandre accelerated from 15 kilometres per hour to 42 km/h, according to the commission ruling.

Both cars were damaged beyond repair. Emergency workers used a hydraulic rescue tool to extract the passenger from the Sonata.

The driver of the Sonata suffered rib and shoulder injuries, while the passenger was treated for rib and knee injuries. The two police officers were slightly hurt.

Alexandre, who has been a Longueuil police officer since 2009, admitted he should have turned his siren on before crossing the intersection.

(Montreal Gazette)

May 03 2016

VANCOUVER - A British Columbia Mountie whose sexual harassment lawsuit against the RCMP prompted similar cases across the country has reached an out-of court settlement with the force.

Cpl. Catherine Galliford says she was mentally prepared to face a court battle next year and was blindsided by the settlement, which she couldn't discuss.

She says she was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after two decades of sexual harassment and bullying on the job and will now focus on her health.

Galliford launched court action five years ago after going on sick leave in 2006.

She says going public about the abuse she suffered helped other female Mounties come forward and that they still "carry the torch" to continue with their cases.

Galliford says she had nowhere to turn and that is still the case for officers who are dealing with an entrenched culture within the RCMP as it continues to police itself.

May 03 2016

TORONTO - Ontario says it will use advanced technology to crack down on smuggling of contraband into jails and detention centres, becoming the first province in Canada to install full-body scanners at all of its facilities.



Correctional Services Minister Yasir Naqvi said Tuesday that correctional officers have recently seen an increase in non-metallic contraband that evades the existing technology at the province's 26 adult jails and detention centres.

"So as the times change and technology becomes more advanced, it is imperative that we change with them in order to keep our staff and inmates safe."

The scanners will be installed over two years at a cost of \$9.5 million, including maintenance over 10 years.

The move follows a six-month pilot project at the Toronto South Detention Centre, which Naqvi said resulted in a reduction in contraband and fewer incidents with weapons.

May 03 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton police will get a new helicopter after council approved a \$2.5-million increase to the original budget Tuesday.

The new, single-engine helicopter was originally expected to cost about \$3.5 million, but the falling Canadian dollar drove

up those costs. In addition, struggling oil and gas-related companies flooded the market with used helicopters, which means the police can't get much for their old one.

"This is almost a 100-per-cent increase," Coun. Ben Henderson said, wondering why police or city administration wouldn't have hedged its bets by purchasing some U.S. currency before the Canadian dollar plunged.

"We knew what the costs were (going to be) a year and a half ago."

Todd Burge, chief financial officer for the city, said the city didn't buy enough U.S. funds because the dollar fell so quickly. "We probably didn't react fast enough."

Police Chief Rod Knecht said he'll likely wait until fall to make the purchase. The department needs to balance increasing maintenance costs with the hope that the Canadian dollar will rise quickly. "We'll try to find that sweet spot," he said.

In the spring capital budget adjustment, council also approved a new \$2.6-million walking and biking signage plan, mainly for the downtown. It can be expanded to provide better signs on city trails and maps online.

City staff are presenting the new designs at a public open house Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

(Edmonton Sun)

WEDNESDAY MAY 4, 2016

May 04 2016

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - Investigators with B.C.'s independent police watchdog say Abbotsford officers had nothing to do with the death of a man involved in a fight at a Clearbrook business.

Members of the Independent Investigations Office released jurisdiction of the case Tuesday, after being called to the scene on Sunday, May 1.

A ruling from the office finds no connection between the action or inaction of police, and the death of the 54-year-old victim.

Abbotsford officers responded to a business last Sunday evening after reports of a fight.

The victim was found unconscious, without a pulse, and police performed CPR until paramedics arrived and took over.

The unnamed man died a short time later in hospital.

May 04 2016

SALT SPRING ISLAND, B.C. - Major crimes investigators from Vancouver Island continue to probe the stabbing death of a 36-year-old man on Salt Spring Island, northeast of Victoria, but a team from B.C.'s police watchdog has cleared Mounties of any involvement in the homicide.

The Independent Investigations Office was called into the case after the April 22 stabbing.

RCMP had responded to reports of a fight

and took over resuscitation efforts when officers found the man without vital signs and receiving first aid from two people.

The victim died a short time later in hospital and the IIO has now ruled any action or inaction by police did not play a part in the death.

May 04 2016

WINNIPEG - Devon Clunis's last day on the job as Winnipeg's police chief will be July 9 but his replacement won't be hired until November.



The police board's recruitment committee outlined a timeline in its search for a new chief, and settled on Nov. 4 as the day that individual will be announced and sworn in.

Police board chairman Coun. Scott Gillingham said a new chief could be hired before November but added the board members wanted to ensure they didn't rush the process.

"We looked at the timeline and tried to compress it as much as we could," Gillingham said.

Clunis took the community by surprise when he announced his retirement March 10 - in the middle of a heated debate over the police budget. Clunis, a WPS veteran of 29 years, had only been in the top spot for three years. He said he was leaving because he had accomplished what he wanted to do and said his unexpected retirement was not linked to the budget dispute.

The police board, which is responsible for hiring the new chief, announced late Tuesday that it's inviting the public to suggest what leadership qualities and management skills they want to see in the new chief.

The board's recruitment committee consists of all seven board members, assisted by board staff and the city's human resources department.

The board will hear delegations on the police chief profile at its Friday meeting and will accept suggestions in writing until May 13.

A report to Friday's police board meeting states a recruitment firm will be hired by mid-month to assist the board in its search, a national advertising campaign will be launched by the end of the month, and a short list of candidates arrived by sometime in August.

Winnipeg has only ever gone outside its police service twice to fill the top cop post -- former senior Mountie Dale Henry (1991-1996) and former Edmonton deputy chief David Cassels (1996-1998). Gillingham said the board will search entire country for the best candidate but did not rule out the best candidate might already be working for

the WPS.

"This will be a sincere, national search. The successful candidate may come from inside the service, may come from outside the service."

Gillingham said Clunis was the first black police chief in Canada but he said the board's objective isn't necessarily to hire another visible minority.

"The board's priority is to identify the best candidate who can lead the Winnipeg Police Service at this point in the service's history," Gillingham said.

Gillingham said the board hasn't yet decided if they will appoint a single acting chief when Clunis leaves or have rotating acting chiefs.

Deputy Chief Art Stannard appeared at the police board's April meeting as acting police chief. Stannard is one of three deputy chiefs on the WPS, the others being Dave Thorne and Danny Smyth.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

THURSDAY
MAY 5, 2016

May 05 2016

TORONTO - A veteran Toronto police officer is being charged with sexually assaulting a woman while on duty for the second time this year.

Sgt. Christopher Heard has been charged following an investigation by On-

tario's Special Investigations Unit, just two months after being charged with sexual assault in connection with a similar allegation against him.

The province's police watchdog alleges Heard encountered a 25 year-old woman near King Street West and Blue Jays Way early in the morning on November 1, 2015.

The SIU alleges Heard drove the woman to her residence in his police cruiser and at some point after their initial contact sexually assaulted her.

Heard is scheduled to appear in court on June 9.

In March, the SIU charged Heard with sexual assault in connection with a similar alleged incident from September 2015.

That charged involves a 27 year-old woman Heard allegedly encountered in the Wellington Street and Blue Jays Way area around 1 a.m. on Sept. 24.

The SIU alleged Heard subsequently drove the woman home in his police cruiser and sexually assaulted her along the way.

Following the first charge, Heard was suspended from the police force with pay, which is required under the province's Police Services Act.

Heard, who has been a Toronto police officer for more than 20 years, is a father of three. In 2012, he was a member of the police's mounted unit. He also won an award for his role in an off-duty water rescue at Sharbot Lake Provincial Park.

(CBC News)

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