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May 19, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 21

Executive Digest

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A section of a Quebec law that prohibits protesters from obstructing road traffic is no longer valid after the Quebec government did not rewrite it within a deadline imposed by a judge who struck it down last fall.

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TORONTO - The union representing Toronto police is calling out what it sees as "a growing disconnect between the police and the community."

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MONTREAL - Several dozen Montreal police officers will be wearing body cameras as part of a nine-month pilot project starting today.

May 18 2016

OTTAWA - Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says RCMP investigators have been reprimanded for conducting unauthorized surveillance on two journalists nine years ago.

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OTTAWA - As the Liberals prepare to bolster a review of national spy services, two federal security agencies have flagged serious headaches that might come with more scrutiny, internal documents show..

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Parliament misses Supreme Court deadline for RCMP union bill



May 17 2016

OTTAWA - Sixteen months after the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Mounties have the right to collective bargaining, Mounties now have even less of a voice when dealing with management.

In January 2015, Canada's top court gave the federal government one year to draft new legislation to permit RCMP officers to form a union or association and engage in meaningful negotiation with top brass. The previous

government did little on the file before the federal election, so the Liberals asked for an extension.

The extension expired yesterday and has left Mounties in labour relations limbo, according to University of Ottawa law and business professor Gilles LeVasseur.

"What is their legal status, what are the rights and privileges that they do have and how clearly is it spelled out?" LeVasseur said to CBC News.

Bill C-7, the RCMP union legislation,



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passed third reading in the House of Commons last week after the government cut off debate.

Next stop is the Senate, but Conservative Senator Vern White said he and his colleagues have already started hearing from front-line officers unhappy with the bill. White said he is among those who will push for changes to the legislation.

Bill C-7 would exclude a long list of issues from the bargaining table, such as staffing levels, harassment and equipment.

"I think there are pieces of that, that I think we in the Senate will look at closely and ask whether it's fair that they're excluded from bargaining," said White.

Critics say the bill in its present form would only permit RCMP members to negotiate pay and benefits. The RCMP remains, to date, the only non-unionized police service in Canada.

LeVasseur said it is "abnormal" to see so many limitations on collective bargaining.

"Work harassment, sexual harassment ... these are fundamental issues that need to be looked at and probably discussed. And there's a whole thing of disciplinary measures also that needs to be part of a collective agreement. It's like that in every other workforce," he said.

The concerns are among those MPs heard during parliamentary committee hearings over the last few weeks. They agreed to remove two contentious clauses that would have altered RCMP health benefits for members injured on the job, but they did not touch the exclusions.

White said RCMP management shouldn't fear negotiating with its members.

He speaks from experience, having served as police chief in Ottawa and Durham Region in Ontario after retiring from the RCMP as an assistant commissioner.

White said working in a transparent unionized environment was "easy" and that

leaving many issues open for negotiation is good strategy.

"When I was the chief in Ottawa, if all we could negotiate was pay and benefits. I can guarantee you that the pay and benefits costs would go to the top every time, because that's all they would have been chasing. You want them to have other things they can pursue, realistically," said White.

As it stands now, with so many exclusions to examine, White said he's not sure when Bill C-7 will become law.

"I'm actually a little bit concerned about whether or not the bill will get through the Senate before the summer break," White said.

LeVasseur said that would be bad news for Mounties, because the RCMP brass has already disbanded the existing staff relations representative program, leaving officers without a single united voice to deal with management.

"Are [senators] entitled to go on recess, summer vacation and not have this problem solved? That will be a key issue. If they're saying no and continuing, that's good. But if they're going two, three months on vacation ... could that be considered bad faith?" asked LeVasseur.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson has said he decided to disband the 41-year-old staff relations program because the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional. As of today, it is formally replaced by another management-created regime called the member workplace services program.

Until Mounties choose whether to unionize, it will provide individual advice, support and guidance to officers with issues in the workplace.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY MAY 12, 2016

May 12 2016

MONCTON, N.B. - Wives of two fallen officers left a courtroom disappointed Thursday after the RCMP pleaded not guilty to Labour Code violations stemming from a 2014 shooting rampage targeting Mounties.

"At this point we're just hoping for a quick resolution," said Angela Gevaudan, whose husband Const. Fabrice Gevaudan was one of three Mounties killed when Justin Bourque began shooting at police in a residential neighbourhood.

"It has been a frustrating process," said Nadine Larche, whose husband Const. Doug Larche was killed.

Trial was set for April 17, 2017. The RCMP are accused of four violations relating to the force's equipment, training and supervision.

The charges allege the RCMP failed to provide members with the appropriate equipment, information, instruction and training in an active shooter event, and failed to provide supervisors with appropriate information and in-

struction or training in an active shooter event.

"The matter is going to go to trial and the RCMP is going to contest the allegations," said defence lawyer Mark Ertel Thursday.

The RCMP had been expected to enter pleas and set a trial date during a court appearance in Moncton last month, but defence lawyer Ian Carter says the Crown and defence needed more time to discuss narrowing the issues in the case. They also talked about the possibility of achieving a resolution.

But instead, Ertel entered pleas of not guilty on Thursday.

Outside the court, Ertel said the lawyers will meet for a pre-trial conference in January to try to condense the proceedings.

"Maybe to streamline the procedure and to fine tune the time estimate which is now three months, and it could be shortened if we could come together on some parts of the case," Ertel said.

A review of the shootings said officers responding to the shootings faced a litany of problems that included communicating accurate information, accessing high-powered weaponry and securing protective equipment.

May 12 2016

More than a year and a half after a father was shot dead and his daughter injured in a police confrontation, B.C.'s police watchdog is challenging the RCMP's official account.

John Buehler, 51, died after an Emergency Response Team was deployed to a forested area at Lake Kinbasket south of Valemount, in September, 2014. His adult daughter, Shanna Buehler, was shot and rushed to hospital.

Several hours after the fatal incident, the RCMP released a public statement saying, "Shots were fired and police officers returned fire."

Now, after a lengthy investigation, B.C.'s Independent Investigations Office says there's no evidence to support that claim.

"There was no independent evidence to suggest an exchange of gunfire took place," said Marten Youssef, IIO's manager of strategic communication.

Youssef said shortly after the shootings, the RCMP provided information to the IIO that "an exchange of gunfire took place between police officers and an adult male."

"The IIO investigation identified no independent evidence to suggest the exchange of gunfire took place."

The IIO investigation also concluded an officer "may have committed an offence" during the incident and has forwarded the file to Crown Counsel.

A Crown spokesman said no decisions have yet been made about whether a charge is warranted in this case.

The IIO does not make recommendations on charge approval. And the threshold of referring matters to the Crown is lower for the IIO than for other law enforcement agencies in B.C.

Staff Sgt. Rob Vermuelen, Senior Media Relations Officer with B.C. RCMP Commu-



BLUE LINE NEWS WEEK Celebrating 20 Years

ISSN 1704-3913
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Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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nication Services, said it would be inappropriate to comment on the IIO's findings while the matter is being reviewed by Crown.
(CBC News)

May 12 2016

Dozens of RCMP members from Newfoundland and Labrador are being sent to Alberta to help rebuild after a wildfire ripped through the Fort McMurray in early May.

"I am pleased to advise that 30 officers and one civilian member of the RCMP in Newfoundland and Labrador have been deployed to Fort McMurray to assist in that work," said Justice Minister Andrew Parsons.

"They will join RCMP members from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba who have been posted in Alberta on an emergency basis."

Officers will be wearing a provincial pin on their uniforms to identify them as coming from Newfoundland and Labrador.

"The request for RCMP members from our province came due to this province's unique connection to Fort McMurray and the people who live there," said Parsons.

"I understand that when the call for officers to volunteer went out, the response was overwhelming."

(CBC News)

May 12 2016

The British Columbia Fugitive Return Program (BCFRP) has resulted in 141 wanted fugitives - including six in the past few weeks - being returned to other parts of Canada since the program's inception in 2012.

"The people arrested often have extensive criminal histories and are continuing to commit crimes within our provincial borders," said RCMP Cpl. Trish Robinson, one of the program's coordinators. "Facilitating their transport back to the jurisdictions where they are wanted not only helps to hold them accountable for their actions, but prevents further criminal activity here in B.C."

In the past few weeks, six wanted fugitives have been arrested in various regions of B.C. with the assistance of the program. Five of the fugitives have been transported out of province, back to the jurisdictions where they were wanted, and the sixth was released on his own recognizance with a promise to return on his own.

Among them were co-accused John Grande and Matthew Hawrysh, who were wanted in Saskatoon for firearms and drug trafficking offences from 2013. In a coordinated effort with Vancouver police and Richmond RCMP, both men were arrested and on April 14 transported to Saskatchewan.

As well, Montana Quesnel was wanted in Edmonton for assault causing bodily harm and 18 additional charges. He was arrested by Vancouver police and on April 19 transported back to Alberta by Alberta Sheriff Services.

The BCFRP, managed by the RCMP, has a joint team consisting of the Vancouver police and the RCMP.

(Vancouver Sun)

FRIDAY MAY 13, 2016

May 13 2016

TOBERMORY, Ont. - Police say following the instructions from a GPS on a foggy night left an Ontario woman taking an unplanned swim in Lake Huron.

Ontario Provincial Police say the 23-year-old woman from Kitchener, Ont., was following a route on her car's GPS while driving in the dark on Thursday night in Tobermory, Ont.

They say she made a turn that took her straight into Little Tub Harbour on the shores of Lake Huron, where her car sank about 30 metres from shore.

Police say the woman was able to roll down the window and swim to safety in frigid water temperatures of 4 C.

They say she did not suffer any injuries.

OPP say they were able to tow the car out of the water early Friday morning.

SATURDAY MAY 14, 2016

May 14 2016

VICTORIA - Plumbing is being installed at a tent city set up on the lawn of Victoria's court house.

The province is installing running water and a flushing toilet at the homeless camp,

where about 100 people have been living since last spring.

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps says the plumbing comes in response from neighbourhood concerns, such as the smell associated with the camp's port-a-potties.

Neighbours living near the site have called it an urban ghetto, saying they have picked up discarded needles, human waste and other garbage left in the area by campers.

Helps says the province is looking for other places to house the campers because no one wants the tent city to stay on the courthouse lawn permanently.

Last month the B.C. Supreme Court refused to grant the government an interim injunction to dismantle the camp, but the province is expected to go back to court later this year seeking a permanent injunction.

(CFAA)

May 14 2016

MONTREAL - Mayor Coderre is said to be losing patience following recurring problems involving the new communication system for Montreal police.

According to La Presse, he's demanded a meeting next week with Airbus DS Communications.

It's responsible for installation, management and maintenance of the SERAM system.

The system, which has cost 70-million dollars so far, has apparently broken down 5 times, 3 since the beginning of the year.

The system was installed in December, 2014.

(CJAD)

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May 15 2016

PETERBOROUGH - The Peterborough police services board should have paid the chief and deputy chief \$460,000 in compensation, the provincial minister in charge of police boards says in a letter that explains it's one of the main reasons he asked that the board's affairs be investigated.



Yasir Naqvi wrote a letter to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCP) in March, asking that the Peterborough Police services board be investigated.

The letter, obtained on Sunday by The Examiner, states that Naqvi has a list of concerns about the board dating back two years.

For example, he was concerned when two provincial appointees to the board — Andrea Maxie and Tom Phillips — resigned on the same day in August, saying the board had become “increasingly dysfunctional”.

But Naqvi stressed in his letter that he's even more concerned about the controversial payout for Police Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson.

Last year, the two top officers asked for \$460,000 in compensation pay after the police service was de-amalgamated.

Both an arbitrator and a judge have ordered the police services board to pay, but the board hasn't done so.

Naqvi writes that this goes against the board's code of conduct, which states that board members should carry out their duties “loyally, faithfully, impartially” and in a manner that inspires public confidence. The board has mismanaged the issue, Naqvi writes, and he thinks that has caused “a breakdown of communication between the board and the chief” that has eroded the way the board's functions.

The problem stems back to January 1, 2015, when the Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police disbanded.

It was immediately replaced by Peterborough Police, a city-only service that excludes the nearby village of Lakefield as a part-owner.

Both Rodd and Farquharson have a clause in their contracts saying that if the police force disbands for any reason, they each get a year's pay. But the police board won't pay.

Nonetheless, the city - the sole funder of

the police - is suing Rodd and Farquharson for the \$460,000.

Meanwhile, other allegations have been made.

Naqvi writes that the two provincial appointees of the board - Jamie Tudhope and Ken East - have recently complained to the OCP about two of their fellow board members.

They've alleged that the city council appointees to the board - Coun. Dan McWilliams and Coun. Dave Haacke - should have declared a conflict when the board made decisions related to the lawsuit.

It's the city's lawsuit, they've argued, so Haacke and McWilliams are in conflict by dint of being city councillors.

Naqvi writes that he thinks all this is

affecting the police board's ability to do its job effectively — and that it might have an impact on policing, too.

Later in March, the OCP wrote a letter to police services board chairman Bob Hall and to Chief Rodd explaining that there would be an OCP investigation.

Linda Lamoureux, the executive chair of the OCP, writes that no particular person on the board or on the police force would be investigated.

She writes that the investigation was set to begin April 1, and would wrap up with a report at the end of September. The idea is to ensure the police force is doing its job effectively, she writes.

(Peterborough Examiner)



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May 16 2016

TORONTO - The wife of a Toronto police officer found guilty of attempted murder in the shooting death of a troubled teen says her husband doesn't deserve to go to jail because he isn't a risk to society.

Irina Forcillo has made her plea to Justice Edward Then in a letter submitted as part of Const. James Forcillo's sentencing hearing, which is to hear lawyers from Crown and defence lawyers on Wednesday.

"I do not see how James can ever be in jail. He is not a danger to the public, I assure you of that!" the mother of two wrote. "In fact, he is the one whose purpose has always been to protect."

Forcillo has been out on bail ever since being charged in the July 2013 death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim, who was gunned down while holding a small knife on an empty streetcar.

The incident, which was captured on cellphone video that went viral, triggered public outrage and prompted Toronto's police chief to launch a review of officers' use of force and their response to emotionally disturbed people.

In January, after a lengthy trial, a jury acquitted Forcillo of second-degree murder in Yatim's death, but found the officer guilty of attempted murder for continuing to fire after the dying teen had fallen to the floor.

Forcillo's lawyers have since filed a constitutional challenge to the mandatory minimum sentence of four or five years the officer faces, asking a court to consider a sentence of house arrest for the man rather than time in prison.

Irina Forcillo, in her letter to the judge who will decide Forcillo's sentence, explained why she believes her husband should not be sent to prison.

"He is not a criminal. He is a police officer who had an extremely dangerous and tragic encounter."

It's a sentiment echoed by Forcillo's lawyers, who argue that certain sections of the Criminal Code involving the mandatory minimum sentence for attempted murder are unconstitutional and weren't meant to deal with cases like Forcillo's.

They argue that Forcillo was duty-bound to protect the public from a knife-wielding Yatim, trained to draw his gun and had been found to be justified in killing Yatim.

Irina Forcillo also emphasized the devastating impact a jail sentence would have on her family.

"If he is to be sent away, I will not be able to go on with my life," she wrote, noting that she and her two young daughters would lose their home and have to move into her parents' basement.

"The worst part is how am I going to explain this to my five- and six-year-old girls.

What will I tell them? That daddy was trying to protect people but unfortunate events happened and now he has to go to jail. Jail, where drug dealers, rapists and real cold-hearted murderers go."

Irina Forcillo also acknowledged the "absolutely tragic" nature of the shooting and the pain it caused Yatim's mother.

"It will never be right as Sammy Yatim is not with us," she wrote. "It is not justice to break our family apart in return. To scar our children for the rest of their lives and to break a marriage."

May 16 2016

SURREY, B.C. - A transit police officer has been cleared of wrongdoing in a fatal confrontation in Surrey, B.C.

The Independent Investigations Office, the body that probes serious incidents involving police, issued a report saying the officer used reasonable force when she shot the 23-year-old man in a Safeway December 2014.

The report says two officers arrived at the scene and were confronted by a shirtless man with multiple wounds who had reportedly stabbed himself inside the grocery store.

Police ordered the man to drop the knives he was waving, but he did not and instead moved towards the officers.

The report says the knives could have caused the officers serious injury or death and the female officer's decision to fire her gun was reasonable given the circumstances.

The officer later told investigators that she believed the young man was high on drugs or in a severe episode of mental illness.

May 16 2016

A section of a Quebec law that prohibits protesters from obstructing road traffic is no longer valid after the Quebec government did not rewrite it within a deadline imposed by a judge who struck it down last fall.

But it might be a temporary reprieve for protesters. On Monday, the government said it plans to rewrite the law this fall.

In a November ruling, Quebec Superior Court Judge Guy Cournoyer ruled that a section of the Highway Safety Code that prohibits protesters from blocking traffic "violates the freedoms of expression and of peaceful assembly protected by the Quebec and Canadian charters."

Article 500.1 of the code reads, in part: "No person may, during a concerted action intended to obstruct in any way vehicular traffic on a public highway, occupy the roadway, shoulder or any other part of the right of way or of approaches to the highway."

Cournoyer noted the prohibition "isn't framed by a precise and understandable standard for the public an those who apply it."

Under his ruling, the restriction on blocking traffic remained in effect for six months, during which the government could amend the code. The six-month deadline expired on Friday without any change to the article's

wording. That means the restriction is no longer in place.

"The government decided not to appeal the judgment but rather make appropriate legislative amendments," Melissa Turgeon, a spokesperson for Transport Minister Jacques Daoust, told the Montreal Gazette.

Quebec will "clarify the scope" of Article 500.1 in the fall, when it updates the Highway Safety Code, Turgeon added. She said it's too early to say what the amendments might entail.

Article 500.1 might be in limbo, but protesters can still be fined under Montreal bylaw P-6, which, among other things, requires protesters to give police their itinerary beforehand, said Gonzalo Nunez, a spokesperson for the city of Montreal.

(Montreal Gazette)

May 17 2016

PETERBOROUGH - The city is sticking to its plan to take back the \$250,000 the police managed to save on their 2015 budget.

Councillors had decided earlier this month to take all the money back to pay city bills. But the decision needed a final vote from city council, and that happened Monday. The vote was 8-3.

Bob Hall, the chairman of the Peterborough Police Services Board, asked councillors prior to the vote to consider giving the full surplus to the police.

He was accompanied by police board member Ken East. East said police need money for items such as tasers, for example; they are currently using second-hand models.

He also said there's a need to upgrade police radios, particularly for use in certain areas of Cavan Monaghan Township where they don't work.

They also need \$250,000 in a special fund in case a major crime needs investigation, East said.

There could be a "complicated homicide," for instance, that could suddenly require funding.

The police have about \$250,000 in their reserves while the city's contingency fund is overdrawn by \$19,000.

(Peterborough Examiner)

May 17 2016

A judge has ruled that a regular practice of the Northwest Territories justice system - holding women who are awaiting bail hearings in Yellowknife in RCMP cells - is a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Women in custody awaiting court hearings in the city are often held in the RCMP detachment cells because there is no women's correctional facility in Yellowknife.

On Friday, Judge Robert Gorin reduced a woman's 10-month sentence to eight months because of the charter violation.

The woman had pleaded guilty to trafficking cocaine. She was kept in RCMP cells in Yellowknife for 12 days.

"If she had been a male offender, in the normal course, she would have spent a day or two in RCMP cells," said her defence lawyer, Peter Harte.

A man in the same circumstances would be housed at the North Slave Correctional Centre.

Harte successfully argued that the extended stay in RCMP cells violated the woman's constitutional right to equal treatment under the law.

"At North Slave Correctional Centre, you're not in solitary confinement - or close confinement as it's now called. You're in the general population, you get to watch TV, you get to go to the bathroom without having a camera watching you."

The Crown had asked for a sentence of 15 to 18 months.

There's no word yet on whether the Crown will appeal the ruling.
(CBC News)

May 17 2016

TORONTO - Toronto's police chief says the city remains "the safest in North America" despite a spike in homicides this year, including a recent shooting that killed a pregnant woman sitting in a car.

Mark Saunders says there are no simple solutions to complex issues such as gun violence, but stresses the force is doing what it can to reach out to the communities hardest hit by crime.

The chief says co-operation from those communities is key to solving crimes, including Sunday's shooting, which claimed the life of Candice Rochelle Bobb, of Mississauga, Ont.

Her baby was delivered prematurely by emergency C-section and was said Monday to be in stable condition. Saunders said he did not have updated information on the baby's health.

Bobb, who was five months pregnant, became Toronto's 29th homicide victim in a year police said has seen a marked increase in gun on city streets.

Saunders says there were 15 homicides at this time last year, and 20 at the same time the previous year.

"We still have to work together to solve these homicides as best as possible, especially the ones that are out in public spaces," he said in a news conference.

"Those who have that information need to come forward... Public outrage will not be enough."

Bobb, 35, was shot late Sunday while returning from watching a basketball game.

Police said she was in a vehicle in the city's northwest end with three other people at the time of the shooting.

The occupants of the vehicle were not known to police, but officers said the vehicle was the clear target of the shooting.

May 17 2016

A Quebec Superior Court Judge has ruled a protest that saw police officers, firefighters and municipal workers light a bonfire in front of Montreal City Hall was illegal.

The unionized workers were upset over Bill 3, provincial legislation that reforms public pensions.

The afternoon protest included fire trucks, police cars, and other city-owned vehicles as hundreds of city employees staged the wildcat strike.

Many police officers and firefighters were on duty, but said they were taking part in the protest as part of a union-mandated break.

The city filed a complaint and Quebec's Labour Relations Board ruled the protest was illegal.

gal. It did not demand any fines or punishment, but said police officers were acting against their values in disrupting public security.

Montreal's police union, the Police Brotherhood, fought the ruling in court but on Monday Judge Stephane Sansfacon dismissed the case.



(CTV Montreal)

May 17 2016

WINNIPEG - The number of fatal vehicle collisions in Manitoba more than doubled this year over last.

As of May 8, 2016 there have been 29 people killed in car crashes compared to 13 during that same time period in 2015, RCMP said.

Sgt. Bert Paquet said alcohol and speed are the key contributing factors behind this



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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

latest spike in fatalities. He also said distracted driving and drivers not wearing a seat belt play a significant role.

Paquet said it's sad that many of the fatalities have been caused by collisions that are so violent, as they send people flying from their cars.

With a long weekend approaching, Paquet is hoping to get the word out to prevent more deaths, but said sadly, almost every long weekend a Manitoban loses their life in a collision.

(Global News)

Feb 17 2016

VANCOUVER - Traffic police have a new tool to help them bust distracted drivers in BC.



This comes just ahead of the May long weekend and in time for the start of a crack-down on dangerous driving.

The upgraded camera scopes will allow officers to catch people using the phones while driving from up to 1.2km away.

"In addition to the officer actually viewing the violation, it allows that officer to capture a still image of the violation while it's happening," says Constable Melissa Wutke with BC RCMP Traffic Services. "That just helps us make our best evidence in court if we need to. But it also allows the violator to make an appointment to come down to the police office and actually look at the photo for themselves."

"It eliminates any conversation or disagreement that the offense was taking place at the time that the officer says it was happening - as opposed to just the officer's word against the driver's," she adds.

Police say the scopes will help tackle what's become one of the top dangerous driving behaviours in BC, with 66 people killed in distracted driving accidents in 2014.

New fines for distracted driving kick in on June 1st, with the first offense costing a total of \$543.

(News 1130)

May 17 2016

Preliminary statistics released by the FBI on Monday show that 41 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in 2015, a 20 percent decrease from the previous year.

Although the statistics are preliminary and are subject to revision, these numbers indicate that police officer deaths are near

historic lows. This release comes during national police week, which began with a candlelit vigil on May 13.

The number of police officer deaths decreased significantly last year and is at the second-lowest level in the past decade.

Both felonious and accidental deaths were relatively low in 2015 compared to previous years. Felonious deaths experienced a 20 percent decrease from the previous year. With 41 felonious deaths, last year matched 2008 with the second lowest number in over a decade. The lowest number in recent history came in 2013 with 27 deaths from felonious incidents in the line of duty.

Accidental deaths did not change between 2014 and 2015, but at 45, that number is at its lowest level for over a decade. A death is considered accidental by the FBI when it was a result of something that was not willful or intentional.

The South saw the most with 46 percent of the total deaths, followed by the West with 22 percent, the Midwest with 12 percent, and Northeast and Puerto Rico with just under 10 percent each.

While the statistics released on Monday do not provide details about the number of law enforcement officers and the population covered by each region, it is important to note that historical data indicates that the South has both more people and officers compared to other regions. Based on data from the 2014 report, the last year with complete data available, the South had about 40 percent of all employed police officers and the South has historically had higher numbers of police officer deaths than other regions.

All but three deaths were due to the use of firearms, with handguns accounting for nearly three-quarters of firearm deaths. The FBI also notes that 30 of the 41 officers were wearing body armor when they were killed.

The vast majority of the 45 accidental deaths involved automobiles; 29 were due to automotive accidents, seven were struck by vehicles, and four were fatally injured in motorcycle accidents.

While the FBI does not have any information available for 2016, and likely won't until it releases preliminary data this time next year, there are independent counts of law enforcement fatalities with more updated information. The Officer Down Memorial Page, which has tracked this data for a long period of time, has found 17 fatal shootings and one intentional death using a vehicle as a weapon so far this year. As the Guardian points out, if this rate continues for the rest of the year there would be 48 officer deaths - an increase from 2015 and the same number as 2014, based on the website's count.

The final data, which will have expanded details and information on assaults that resulted in injury in 2015, will be released by the FBI in the fall with its annual Law Enforcement Officers Killed in Assaulted report.

(Law Street)

May 17 2016

TORONTO - The union representing Toronto police is calling out what is seen as "a growing disconnect between the police and the community."



In an open letter to the residents of Toronto, published as a full page ad in both The National Post and the Toronto Sun Tuesday, Toronto Police Association President Mike McCormack says that the disconnect "comes at a time when the Toronto Police Service is facing unprecedented challenges, including proposed budget cuts and 'transformative change' in the delivery of police services."

McCormack says that violent crime is on the rise in the city and that police insight needs to be considered in combating it.

"The safest city in North America has a gun violence problem," McCormack says, adding later that "a firm stand against violent crime" is needed in the city.

The letter comes a day after the fatal shooting of a pregnant woman in Rexdale sparked public outrage at gun violence in the city.

McCormack says that police are facing a slew of challenges as "politicians and some community groups" look to reduce policing costs.

Police spending has remained a hot button topic in the city over the last few years. The Toronto Police Service budget remains the biggest line item in the city's overall budget, with a 2016 allocation of more than \$1 billion. In February, Toronto City Council approved a 2.5 per cent increase to the 2016 police budget after a heated debate during which some councillors argued that the budget in fact needs to be trimmed.

The same month, outgoing deputy police chief Peter Sloly rustled some feathers after he said the force wastes money on infrastructure and that it could likely get by with several hundred less officers.

The letter also comes a day before a sentencing hearing for Const. James Forcillo, the officer found guilty of attempted murder in the fatal streetcar shooting of Sammy Yatim in 2013.

Forcillo's case, as well as the local Black Lives Matter movement fueled by the shooting of Sudanese immigrant Andrew Loku, have drawn criticism about the way police interact with the public.

In the letter, McCormack says the TPA is "100% committed to building a mutual trust and respect with the communities we serve and protect" and stresses that "public safety must become a public matter" rather than an

issue decided behind closed doors.

McCormack also uses the letter to acknowledge that the practice of street checks, which allowed police to detain people on the street without providing a reason, has effectively come to an end after being quashed by provincial legislation and local efforts.

"For the record, let us say this - we accept that carding, or whatever we call street checks - is over," he says.

"It is time to move forward and find a meaningful way to engage proactively with the community. There has never been a more critical time for the police, the province, our civic leaders and the residents of Toronto collectively take a firm stand against violent crime."

While the letter does not offer any specific prescriptions, it asks residents to engage with the TPA on its website.

Discussing the letter with reporters outside city hall on Tuesday, Mayor John Tory said that "we have to keep working at finding new opportunities for police and members of the community to engage each other."

Tory, however, brushed aside McCormack's suggestion that a lack of police engagement with the public is entirely to blame for the recent spike in gun crime.

"This is a serious problem. I don't deny that for one second but I also don't have a magic wand to wave any more than Mr. McCormack or anyone else does," he said. "There is no single answer to this. If we had one we would have implemented it by now." (CP24)

WEDNESDAY
MAY 18, 2016

May 18 2016

THUNDER BAY - The Ontario Independent Police Review Director says of the approximately 3,000 complaints he receives annually, nearly two-thirds are about officer conduct, which is broadly referred to as incivility.

It's an issue of "communication, communication," said Gerry McNeilly during a visit to Thunder Bay on Tuesday to speak to that city's police services board.

Many of the complaints are against officers who have zero to seven years on the job and "they speak, as half of my staff do, in short sentences", a function of the years they've spent texting, and emailing, suggested McNeilly.

It's a form of communication which doesn't always translate well in face-to-face encounters, such as a traffic stop.

"You say something like 'You were speeding! Why were you speeding?' There's a power structure and order that's being given, as opposed to 'Hi. Do you know why I stopped you?'," said McNeilly.

Many of the complainants tell him "if the officer approached me differently, if the

officer didn't yell at me, if the officer didn't embarrass me, it would have been different. I wouldn't have filed this complaint," he said.

It's an issue that is only exacerbated by the increasing diversity of both the population and the province's police forces.

"There is sometimes, in my opinion, not a lack of respect, but a lack of understanding."

McNeilly said he was surprised to learn the Ontario Police College does not emphasize communication, and that's why he is encouraging individual police chiefs and forces to spend more training time on the subject.

It's also why he's a strong advocate of what he calls Customer Service Resolutions, a type of mediation early in the complaint process.

This form of resolution can involve both the officer and the complainant reflecting on their behaviour, said Thunder Bay Police Chief J.P. Levesque.

"We're only human as well, and sometimes our officers can go offside and not act as professionally as they should and we try to ensure that people have the voice to say 'I don't appreciate the way I was treated' and then we deal with it through a number of resolution methods," he said.

Levesque said the Thunder Bay force is tackling the issue by reminding members it's about "common sense" and common courtesy, and by offering diversity training to help officers learn about other cultures "and that helps us avoid a lot of situations as well."

The OIPRD received 27 complaints about the Thunder Bay force in 2014 to 2015. Thirteen were screened out of the process, one was withdrawn and 14 required further investigation. (CBC News)

May 18 2016

TORONTO - A 45-year-old woman is dead and a police officer who tried to save her is in hospital after a fire at a community housing building in north-west Toronto.

The fire broke out in a third floor apartment at about 1:30 a.m.

Firefighters pulled the woman from the burning building without vital signs and she later died in hospital.

Fire officials say a police constable tried to rescue the woman before firefighters arrived, but the smoke was too heavy, and the officer required treatment for smoke inhalation.

The Ontario Fire Marshal's office is investigating.

The victim's name has not been released. (CFRB, 680News)

May 18 2016

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's justice minister says she's disturbed by police statistics that show only 22 per cent of sexual assault cases in Halifax have led to charges over the last five years.

Diana Whalen says her department is currently looking at how Nova Scotia compares to other provinces in dealing with sexual assault cases.

Whalen says the goal is to find ways to help people feel safe and supported enough to come forward with their cases.

While not specific about possible steps, Whalen didn't rule out the possibility of looking at a sexual assault court, adding that other specialty courts have already been established for domestic violence, mental health and drug addiction.

Whalen said how people dealing with sexual assault are treated in conventional courts has been a concern of hers over her years in public life.

The statistics released by Halifax Regional Police show 73 per cent of sexual assaults reported from 2010 to 2015 were closed while another five per cent of cases remain open.

May 18 2016

MONTREAL - Several dozen Montreal police officers will be wearing body cameras as part of a nine-month pilot project starting today.



The initiative will be the first of its kind in Quebec and Montreal will become the first Canadian police agency to use Taser body-worn cameras.

Taser's Canadian subsidiary, Axon Public Safety Canada Inc., said the data from the cameras will be hosted on Evidence.com, which is hosted in Canada. It says all data will remain within Canada.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre said the cameras will help protect both citizens and police officers in an age where nearly everyone is equipped with a cell phone video camera.

"We need to be in tune with the times and, as we can see, the times have clearly changed," Coderre said, contending that the cameras will give a more complete sense of events.

Coderre, who hinted the pilot project could very likely become something "permanent," made the announcement at city hall on Wednesday alongside Montreal's police chief, Philippe Pichet.

Officers will be trained to know when to turn on or off the camera during police operations. While they will be able to view video they've recorded, they won't be able to modify or delete it.

In phase one, 20 Metro police officers and 10 traffic patrollers working in the southern part of the island will be equipped with body cameras.

The second phase will involve expanding the number of officers wearing the cameras, to include those who patrol in other sectors.

The pilot project will last one year, leading to a public consultation in April 2017. The decision on whether or not to move forward will be made by next summer.

Yves Francoeur, president of the Montreal Police Brotherhood, has already said he supports the idea, noting the cameras may add context to what citizens post online.

"What you're going to see on YouTube is from the moment of the arrest, but we never have what happened before," Francoeur said recently.

Aggressive behaviour toward officers in Edmonton and Calgary dropped once people knew they were being filmed, according to Francoeur.

Montreal has been exploring the possibility for years and several police forces in Canada, the United States and Europe have already introduced body cameras or implemented pilot projects.

(CBC News)

May 18 2016

OTTAWA - Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says RCMP investigators have been reprimanded for conducting unauthorized surveillance on two journalists nine years ago.

Goodale's comments Wednesday followed a CBC News report that a rogue group of RCMP officers investigating a leak of a secret document spied on the pair for more than a week without authorization.

The Mounties placed two Ottawa-based journalists working for Montreal newspaper La Presse, Joel-Denis Bellavance and Gilles Toupin, under physical surveillance for nine days in 2007, says the report, based on a government briefing note obtained by the broadcaster through the Access to Information Act.

The RCMP was looking into the leak of a Canadian Security Intelligence Service document about a terror suspect. The police force hoped that keeping tabs on the reporters would lead them to the leaker.

CBC says the surveillance was done without the required permission of Bob Paulson, an acting assistant commissioner at the time and now commissioner of the RCMP.

The Mounties had no immediate details Wednesday about the reprimands.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the surveillance was unacceptable and noted that an apology had been given to the journalists involved.

"Freedom of the press is a fundamental Canadian value that's enshrined in the charter," Goodale told the House.

"The unauthorized surveillance was entirely unacceptable. It was contrary to a ministerial directive. It was contrary to RCMP policy, and it was stopped when RCMP headquarters became aware of it, and the investigators have been reprimanded."

The rogue team was acting contrary to the RCMP rule book for investigations into so-called "sensitive sectors," a term that refers to criminal probes involving academia, religion, the media and trade unions, the CBC said.

According to the broadcaster, the briefing note says the unidentified Mounties received "criticism" for not seeking approval for the nine-day surveillance operation.

"While journalists have no privilege or immunity from investigation, the application of the RCMP's sensitive sector approval policy recognizes that the state's interests in the investigation of crime and the freedom of the press (or religious/academic freedom) need to be balanced appropriately on a case-by-case basis," says the note, approved by Paulson on Nov. 13 last year.

"Vital to maintaining this balance is the centralized independent governance of these criminal investigations - a framework that was just being implemented at the time of these events in 2007."

Though the RCMP monitoring of the two reporters was unauthorized, the note adds that "limited physical surveillance" of the journalists was approved by the police force in 2008 but never carried out.

May 18 2016

TORONTO - The lawyer for a Toronto police officer found guilty of attempted murder in the shooting death of a teenager says injuries the victim suffered from a second round of bullets should not be a significant aggravating factor in determining the officer's sentence.

Sammy Yatim was already dying from wounds caused by the first volley of bullets legally fired by Const. James Forcillo, lawyer Peter Brauti said Wednesday during the officer's sentencing hearing.

"It deserves the most minimal assessment of actual harm because, from an actual harm perspective, we know it doesn't accelerate or cause his death," Brauti said, as Yatim's mother broke into tears and rushed out of the courtroom.

Brauti is seeking a sentence of house arrest for Forcillo while Crown prosecutors have asked for a prison term of between eight to ten years.

Justice Edward Then, who will decide Forcillo's sentence, noted that there was still "substantial harm" caused to Yatim from the second volley of six bullets fired by Forcillo.

"The only wrinkle here is that by the grace of God it wasn't felt because he had been rendered a paraplegic by the previous bullets," he said.

In July 2013, Forcillo fired two separate volleys - three shots and then six shots - at Yatim, who had consumed ecstasy and was wielding a small knife on an empty streetcar.

A jury acquitted Forcillo of second-degree murder in the 18-year-old's death, but found the officer guilty of attempted murder for continuing to fire after the dying teen had fallen to the floor. The attempted murder charge pertained to Forcillo's second volley.

Brauti is arguing that certain sections of the Criminal Code involving the mandatory minimum sentence of five years for attempted murder are unconstitutional and weren't meant to deal with cases like Forcillo's.

Forcillo's sentencing hearing continues on Thursday.

May 18 2016

OTTAWA - RCMP members don't have to notify the commissioner's office if they want to speak with the oversight body conducting a review of the force — they only have to notify superiors if the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission contacts them, Commissioner Bob Paulson says.



In a response letter posted on the RCMP website, Paulson responded to concerns raised by the head of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission, Ian McPhail, before the Senate national security committee on Monday.

McPhail, who is conducting a review of sexual harassment in the force, told senators the report is behind schedule because of a February directive from Paulson that requires force members to disclose their contacts with the commission.

"Frankly, we're behind schedule, in that I have written to the commissioner requesting, amongst other things, that members of the RCMP be assured of confidentiality in speaking with us," McPhail said. "At the present time, members of the RCMP are not permitted to speak to the commission without first notifying the commissioner's office and that's not acceptable in terms of any review."

However, Paulson says that members are not required to disclose if they reach out to the CRCC - only if they are contacted by the CRCC, and that's because the force wants to ensure a coordinated response.

Paulson said that there is no need for him to give employees permission to speak with the CRCC but did not specifically address McPhail's request for an assurance of anonymity for members who agree to speak with him.

"In light of what I've laid out above, it is clear that I need not specifically 'allow' employees to contact the Commission directly, and it must therefore go without saying that reciprocal contact or an ensuing dialogue is equally without need of permission," he wrote.

A spokesperson for McPhail's office said while they appreciate that Paulson has responded to their letter, his response ignores another section of the directive, which states:

"Divisional, business line or policy centre personnel are not to initiate direct contact with the CRCC relative to a file or CRCC outreach activities without previously contacting their Division PRU, which in turn will

contact the NPCD (unless specific arrangements have already been made in advance on a particular file, etc.). The NPCD and the Division PRU will jointly identify the most effective means to engage with the CRCC.”

“This very direct language leaves little room for misinterpretation (as the Commissioners suggest the CRCC has done). It is clear that members cannot contact the Commission without first advising Division PRU and or NPCD, who will determine how to best ‘engage the CRCC,’” said Tim Corgon, spokesperson for the CRCC.

“The CRCC was at a loss to understand how any member of the RCMP could feel free to raise issues with the CRCC, relating to workplace harassment, with this requirement in place. Members will not feel they can maintain confidentiality without breaking the rules set out in the framework - an impossible position to be in.”

Cogan said the CRCC intends to follow up with Paulson “on these and other points.” (iPolitics)

May 18 2016

Emails, communications memos and training reports obtained by The Rebel under the Access to Information Act, show that up until late last year, all of the prototype hijabs that the RCMP tested for safety “failed miserably,” according to the inspector spearheading the project.

A comprehensive report concluded they “cannot be deployed operationally due to concern for officer safety while wearing the garment.”

Cadets who wore them during hand-to-hand combat assessments needed to end the simulations because they were literally choking, and the hijabs partially blocked their vision.

It took more than a year and a half of development, testing, reporting and analysis to build three failed prototypes, and up until October of 2015, no new models were ordered.

In November 2015, the RCMP had two new prototypes, though according to these documents, the RCMP didn’t re-run any of the safety tests that it did for the first batch of models. In spite of this, communications briefings, drafted by sworn police officers, told department officials to say “the RCMP-issued hijab has undergone rigorous testing to ensure the design meets the highest standards of officer safety.”

One RCMP staff sergeant said the uniform hijab was “seen as reducing a potential barrier for some women candidates (to the police department).”

An early draft of a communications briefing said that one of the objectives of the uniform change was “to attract and retain Muslim women to the organization,” though this was scrubbed from the final draft.

Another officer recommended that even non-Muslim female officers wear the hijab when “serving in communities with significant Muslim communities” or visiting a mosque “as part of their duties/outreach.”

(The Rebel)

THURSDAY
MAY 19, 2016

May 19 2016

OTTAWA - As the Liberals prepare to bolster a review of national spy services, two federal security agencies have flagged serious headaches that might come with more scrutiny, internal documents show.



The RCMP fears more eyes looking over its shoulder could compromise criminal investigations, while the electronic spies at the Communications Security Establishment warn against creating a super-watchdog with its associated “burden and costs,” say notes obtained under the Access to Information Act.

The Trudeau government plans to usher in a national security committee of parliamentarians, whose members would have access to classified records.

It is also studying gaps in the current web of watchdogs that monitor intelligence services to ensure a comprehensive system is in place.

Existing review bodies cannot look at issues beyond their specific agency of focus, and have “limited authority” to collaborate with one another, say briefing notes prepared for Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale.

It means the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission, which oversees the RCMP’s national security activities, might be barred from exchanging notes on an alleged scandal with the watchdog that keeps an eye on the Communications Security Establishment.

The Liberals are looking at fostering such co-operation - known as inter-agency review - because many watchdog investigations involve a need to scrutinize the actions of more than one outfit.

While the Mounties support national security accountability, inter-agency review “presents the RCMP with some challenges,” say briefing notes drafted for Deputy Commissioner Mike Cabana’s appearance at a Senate committee last year.

If a review involved an ongoing criminal investigation, the Mounties would be concerned about its potential impact on evidence destined for a court proceeding, say the notes.

“The RCMP would want to prevent operational interference and disclosure of information before the conclusion of an investigation. In addition, review of an active criminal investigation could bring reviewers into the chain of evidence, and might necessitate disclosure at trial or even being called to give testimony.”

Justice Dennis O’Connor, who probed the Maher Arar torture affair, recommended changes to allow national security watchdogs to exchange information and conduct joint investigations. He also advocated a co-ordinating committee that would include various security watchdog chairs to ensure seamless handling of complaints and probes.

The watchdog who monitors the Communications Security Establishment has called for legislative changes to encourage and authorize more co-operation between his office and the watchdog that oversees the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

May 19 2016

WINNIPEG - Thousands of outstanding traffic violations may be rendered invalid after a judge ruled that a Winnipeg woman had to wait too long to fight her speeding ticket and threw it out of court.

Provincial court Judge Mary Kate Harvie ruled in a 12-page decision released Wednesday that it was unreasonable for Genevieve Grant to have to wait 18 months to have her case heard.

Court was told Grant was caught speeding on Oct. 27, 2014 by a photo radar camera and mailed an offence notice on Nov. 4, 2014, giving her until Dec. 19 of the same year to decide whether to pay it or plead not guilty.

When she decided to plead not guilty, the trial date was set for 18 months from the date of the offence.

Manitoba Justice says the Crown will review the decision to determine whether the matter will be appealed.

Harvie said a ticket should take only a few months to come to court because of the “minimal amount of time for preparation and a minimal amount of actual court time.”

“It seems reasonable to expect these types of summary proceedings to be completed within four to six months of a plea being entered,” she wrote.

Grant was not available for comment Wednesday.

Insp. Gord Friesen, commander of the Winnipeg police community support division, said figures from the 2015 Photo Enforcement Annual Report show \$17,252,999.39 in revenue, with expenses of \$5,517,736. Once all costs were added up, the surplus from photo radar enforcement was \$11,735,263.

May 19 2016

OTTAWA - The RCMP say they will not charge Sen. Pamela Wallin after a criminal review of her Senate travel expenses.

The force made the announcement today in a short statement, nearly three years after they first started looking at the Saskatchewan senator and weeks after a judge dismissed 31 criminal charges against Sen. Mike Duffy.

The Mounties have had a file open on the Saskatchewan senator since 2013 after a critical audit of her spending ended with her repaying some \$150,000 - including interest - for claims the Senate said were unjustified.

A GIFT FOR ONE WHO HAS GIVEN



Life can always throw us one more curve — but we can respond

We are looking for a kidney. Let us tell you why.

If you had to choose one word to best describe what new officers expect when they enter policing, it may well be “unpredictability.” This is both a drawing card and source of anxiety. There are endless opportunities, both within a given day and through a career, but sometimes unpredictability is associated with danger or risk.

While policing does not actually rate among Canada’s 10 most dangerous occupations, it comes with a steady dose of uncertainty and unpredictability. An officer never knows which call or event might lead to a negative outcome.

The life career of one senior officer, retired chief Terry Coleman, shows how both the advantages and disadvantages of unpredictability play out.

Coleman was featured as the cover story for *Blue Line Magazine* in 2003. Then chief of the Moose Jaw Police Service, he led its transformation after a few years of what was described at the time as stagnation and demoralization. The article recognized his significant leadership and considerable influence in turning around a struggling organization.

Terry began his policing career in Calgary, where he served for 27 years. Achieving the rank of inspector, he served in a wide variety of roles and initiated and developed a variety of programs, including the first Canadian Crime Stoppers. He was one of the original investigators in the country’s first dedicated sex crime unit, led the internal affairs and

citizens complaint units and was the human resources director for the 1997 World Police and Fire Games.

Calgary led to Moose Jaw and, after ten years as chief, to a deputy minister position within the Saskatchewan government. Along the way, Terry acquired an academic bent, completing two masters degrees and the first ever doctoral in police studies from the University of Regina. He continues to be associated with a variety of academic facilities — Dalhousie, Athabasca and the University of Regina — and particularly enjoys working with more junior officers who aspire to leadership roles. His commitment to contemporary policing is ongoing.

Terry has also been involved in police leadership organizations, including the SACP and CACP. In conjunction with the latter he developed a still-ongoing relationship with the Mental Health Commission of Canada, where he has become a well-known consultant and advocate for improving relations between police and people with mental illnesses.

Not exactly the career you would have predicted for a kid who left school after his A levels in England and took a job as a bank teller.

There are other aspects of unpredictability — like the unpredictability of danger. By most standards, Terry has survived his 40 plus years in policing relatively unscathed — no major injuries (“the usual,” he says) and had never even been in hospital, so it seems the height of irony that Terry might end up being done in by his own kidneys.

About 18 months ago, a routine physical revealed that his kidneys were inexplicably failing. The reason? Unknown. The likely outcome? Not good. The solution? A kidney transplant.

What are your kidneys doing today? Have you ever thought of being a donor? We each have a spare — and here is someone who could surely use one. Police are noted for their concern for the welfare of others, and for looking out for their own. We here at *Blue Line* can’t help but think that somewhere in our readership, there is a person willing to step forward and consider being a donor:

- Yes, you can continue as a police officer with only one kidney.
- No, it is generally not as major a surgical process as it used to be. In fact, it is often done laparoscopically (AKA minimally invasive or keyhole surgery) these days.
- No, you don’t have to be a relative, and matching is not as complicated as it used to be, given improvements in anti-rejection drugs.
- Yes, you do have to be reasonably healthy but no, you don’t need to be perfect.

Terry has given more than his fair share to policing. How about one of us giving back? The Kidney Foundation says it is a very positive psychological experience for donors, knowing they have helped someone in need.

If you think you might like to help out Terry in particular, email kidney@blueline.ca. This is a special address we have set up just for him and we promise a very quick response. If you would like even more information visit <http://www.kidney.ca/living-donation>.