

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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TORONTO - A woman found with marijuana in her car trunk has won an acquittal on appeal, in part because police violated her rights with an unnecessary high-risk takedown and then lied about what had happened.

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MONTREAL - When the city of Montreal decided in March to cancel plans to host the 2017 World Police and Fire Games, it had already paid about \$6.2 million to the games organizers, according to a report in La Presse. The city is trying to recoup some of the money now that the games have been called off.

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WATERLOO REGION - The Waterloo Regional Police Services Board approved a revamped policy on street checks Wednesday that will ensure all police stops are reported publicly.

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CALGARY - New research out of the University of Toronto suggests the growing number of police services testing or adopting the technology should wait before investing in a costly tool whose merits, researchers say, have yet to be proven.

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Police need to shoulder some blame



Jun 01 2016

WINNIPEG - Canada's top First Nations leader says police should brace themselves for some blame in an upcoming inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde says fingers will be pointed during the inquiry, which is expected to last two years.

"You guys didn't do an adequate job. You didn't put enough human and financial resources into the research and the investigation surrounding

all these cases involving First Nations women," Bellegarde said Wednesday in a speech at a two-day CACP conference in Winnipeg.

"That's what's going to happen. You know that. I know that. So what is your answer?"

Police forces should start compiling statistics and thoughts now, he suggested. They should figure out how to showcase what they're doing well, but be equally prepared to examine their shortcomings.

Many people still stereotype indigenous people as "stupid, lazy, drunk, (and



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on) welfare," he said.

"Be big enough to show that more work needs to be done to improve the system."

The federal government is expected to set a mandate this summer for the long-awaited inquiry into about 1,200 missing and murdered indigenous women.

A report released Wednesday summarizing public consultations suggested law enforcement should address "delays in responding to reports of missing indigenous women and girls."

The government report also says police should address "systemic racism" and look at how officers treat indigenous women, girls and their families.

Some of the criticism likely to come out of the inquiry is justified, said Saskatoon Police Chief and CACP President Clive Weighill.

"There has been a lot of controversy right across Canada for decades now about police involvement with missing and murdered indigenous women," Weighill said. "I think the inquiry will hopefully lay some of that to rest or hold some people accountable."

But he also said police have changed the way they handle such cases. They don't wait 24 hours to start investigating a missing person, work more closely with families and have put in safeguards to ensure cases don't fall through the cracks.

A monument to missing and murdered indigenous women is being built in front of the police headquarters in Saskatoon, Weighill pointed out.

"The world has changed in the last decade."

Weighill says looking at the way plane crashes are investigated could help officials understand the reasons behind the missing and murdered Indigenous women.

"I would suggest to you if it was plane crashes the government would be going right back and saying, 'What's causing those planes to crash? Are we training people properly? Are we giving them proper funding for

the aircraft? Are they getting built properly?' Because they know if you don't fix the planes they're going to keep crashing."

He said the tragedies will continue unless the federal government focuses on what puts Indigenous women at risk in the first place.

"We're hoping that inquiry will start to focus on what are the root causes that are delivering young women to be in vulnerable situations - the poverty, the poor housing, the disadvantage, being left behind - because if you can't fix those root causes, we're going to continue to have missing women. Just like if you don't fix what's going wrong with the planes, they're going to keep crashing," he said.

"We have to work closer with the Indigenous community itself. We have to work with people that have lived experience, that can understand the issues, help guide us through some of the problems that unfortunately Aboriginal people face," he said.

Weighill said one way of helping at-risk Indigenous youth is by putting more resources into the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

"It's a good act. It allows the police to divert youth away from the criminal justice system. The unfortunate part is there is no infrastructure around that act. No place really for us to divert the youth. We need addiction centres, we need programming for the youth," Weighill said.

(CBC, CP)

WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 2016

May 25 2016

VANCOUVER - Canuck the crow, Vancouver's most notorious bird, is being accused of flying away with a knife from a crime scene.

The crow has quite a reputation in Vancouver and its antics are regularly chronicled on social media, including a dedicated Facebook page that has a profile photo of the bird holding a knife in its beak.

Earlier on Tuesday, police had shot a man near Hastings and Cassiar streets. They were called to the scene of a car engulfed in flames. When they arrived, police said, they were confronted by a man with a knife.

Shots were fired and the man was arrested.

Vancouver Courier reporter Mike Howell said he saw the bird - which had a red tag on its leg as does Canuck - swoop in and pick up an object from inside an area cordoned off by police tape.

"A cop chased it for about 15 to 20 feet, and then the crow dropped it and took off," Howell told CBC.

"It was really strange. In my 20-plus years reporting from crime scenes, I've never seen anything like that crow trying to take a knife."

Vancouver police confirmed a bird did indeed take off with crime scene evidence.

"The crow was persistent, but the knife was eventually gathered as evidence," Const. Brian Montague said in an email.

The bird was also spotted sitting on the roof of the burned car and trying to get into a camera operator's gear.

(CBC News)

May 25 2016

A judge has ended a seven-year civil suit involving the families of Fredy Villanueva and the other two men injured when the then-18-year-old was shot and killed by a Montreal police officer in 2009.

Quebec Superior Court Judge William Fraiberg has ruled that the families' respective lawyers have failed to meet deadlines on too many occasions, causing frequent and unjustified delays over the last seven years.

Fredy Villanueva was shot dead by a police officer in a Montreal North parking lot in 2008 when a police intervention to break up a game of dice degenerated. Two others, Denis Meas and Jeffrey Sagor-Metellus, were also shot but survived.

The next year, the three families filed lawsuits against the city of Montreal and the two police officers involved. The Villanuevas, headed by Fredy's older brother Dany, were seeking almost \$1 million in compensatory damages.

The judgment, rendered last Friday, rejects requests heard in February to allow the civil suits to continue, saying both the families and their lawyers have shown negligence throughout the process, and "have provided no reasonable explanation to explain or justify this neglect."

The lawsuits were put on hold during the public coroner's inquest into Villanueva's death, which was eventually published in December 2013. The lawyers involved had different deadlines to re-activate the lawsuits after the inquest was published, but, the judgment notes, failed to "do anything at all" to show they wanted to move forward for nearly a year afterward.

The lawyer representing Dany Villanueva would later argue the deadline was missed in part because of Villanueva's troubles with Canadian immigration services, which were close to deporting him back to Honduras at the time.

The judgment describes other subsequent delays throughout the process as "exorbitant and unjustifiable," and says that one of the lawyers involved "seemed to have simply dropped the case."

(Montreal Gazette)

THURSDAY MAY 26, 2016

May 26 2016

It's apparently easy being green after all if you are the Sûreté du Québec.

Officers from the provincial police force modelled the new uniforms on the SQ's Facebook Page on Thursday. The uniforms are olive green, despite a report in La Presse that the police force was considering ditching its

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iconic green colours in favour of a look more in line with other police forces.

What's new about the uniform is black has been added to the colour scheme. The SQ said this is the first time in 50 years a new colour is being added to the uniform.

(Montreal Gazette)

May 26 2016

VANCOUVER - A notorious character with prior run-ins with Vancouver Police briefly snatched a knife from a crime scene, but the cops aren't recommending charges.

That's because the knife thief is believed to be Canuck the Crow, an infamous bird with a dedicated social media following and more than 12,000 Facebook fans.

The incident unfolded after police shot and wounded a man in East Vancouver on Tuesday, prompting media including Vancouver Courier reporter Mike Howell to race to the scene.

Vancouver Courier reporter Mike Howell says he saw a crow swoop into an area taped off by police and pick up something. An officer chased the bird for several metres before it dropped the object.

Vancouver Const. Brian Montague confirms it's not the first time the department has encountered the feathered foe.

May 26 2016

MONTREAL - A former Montreal police officer has been given a one-year suspended sentence and 60 hours of community work for assaulting a member of the public.

The sentence handed down in Montreal this afternoon for Stefanie Trudeau is what the Crown had been seeking.

Her lawyer wanted an absolute discharge.

Trudeau was found guilty last February of assaulting Serge Lavoie in 2012.

She is appealing the conviction.

Trudeau's arrest of Lavoie was caught on video and showed her keeping him in a chokehold as she forced him down stairs.

May 26 2016

TORONTO - A woman found with marijuana in her car trunk has won an acquittal on appeal, in part because police violated her rights with an unnecessary high-risk takedown and then lied about what had happened.

In a decision this week, Ontario's top

court rejected prosecution arguments that the rights violations were minor or only happened after police had already found the drugs.

"The admission of the marijuana would bring the administration of justice into disrepute," the Appeal Court said.

"This is one of those cases in which the court's need to disassociate itself from the police's conduct is greater than society's interest in prosecuting (the accused)."

The case arose in June 2010 when Ottawa police saw Eneida Pino, 43, leave a suspected grow-op and put a box in the trunk of her car. As she and another man were driving, two officers in an unmarked cruiser forced them to stop.

One officer, Det. Jason Savory, was dressed in black, his face was covered with a balaclava. With his gun pointed at the occupants, Savory yelled at them to get out of the car. Pino was arrested and handcuffed before Savory and Const. Marco Dinardo searched the car and found the marijuana.

At trial, Ontario court Judge David Paciocco concluded the officers had lied about whether Savory had drawn his gun and that the stop had been routine.

In all, Paciocco found three violations of Pino's rights: that the arrest by way of a dangerous and unnecessary masked takedown at gunpoint was unreasonable, that the officers misinformed her about her right to counsel, and that police held her in a cell for more than five hours before allowing her to call a lawyer. Nevertheless, he refused to exclude the marijuana evidence and convicted Pino

of possession for the purposes of trafficking.

In quashing the conviction, the Ontario Court of Appeal agreed with Paciocco's findings, but not his conclusion to allow the drug evidence.

That the violations of her right to counsel occurred only after discovery of the drugs did not automatically mean the evidence should be admissible given all the circumstances, the Appeal Court found.

"This is a difficult issue (but) the court should consider the entire 'chain of events' between the accused and the police," the Appeal Court said.

"The marijuana seized from the trunk of Ms. Pino's car and all three Charter breaches are part of the same transaction...Ms. Pino's arrest."

The Appeal Court also rejected the prosecution argument and the judge's finding that the violations were relatively harmless, finding instead that the breaches were close to the "extreme end of seriousness."

The fact that the officers had lied at trial was especially problematic, the Appeal Court found.

"For the purpose of assessing the seriousness of the Charter breaches and the overall assessment of whether the marijuana should have been excluded from the evidence at trial, the officers' dishonest testimony should not be understated," the Appeal court ruled.

May 26 2016

A former Kamloops police officer has been charged with three counts of cocaine trafficking - with allegations she was selling the drugs while still

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employed as a Mountie.

Randi Love, who has since retired from the RCMP, is accused of dealing cocaine on three occasions last June, while still a member of the national police force.

According to court documents, the 40-year-old allegedly trafficked cocaine on June 13, June 22 and June 26.

KTW has learned Love retired from the RCMP in recent months after discovering she was the subject of a drug-trafficking investigation.

This is not the first time Love has found herself at the centre of a criminal proceeding.

In 2013, she was a key witness for the Crown in the fraud trial of her ex-boyfriend, disgraced RCMP Const. Trent Wessner.

Wessner was convicted, based largely on Love's testimony, of bilking Costco out of \$400 after ordering home-theatre equipment and claiming it was never delivered.

During the trial, Wessner claimed Love pinned the fraud on him out of revenge following a nasty breakup.

At the time, court heard Wessner left his job with the RCMP and had found work as a railway conductor.

Love suffered an injury on the job and had been on medical leave from the RCMP for some time before she is alleged to have trafficked cocaine, KTW has learned.

In 2008, her policing duties included media relations and she was, at times, the public face of the Kamloops RCMP detachment.

Love is expected to make her first appearance on the drug charges in Kamloops provincial court on June 16.

(Kamloops This Week)

FRIDAY MAY 27, 2016

May 27 2016

WINNIPEG - The Trudeau government will deliver soon on its promise to set up a parliamentary oversight committee for Canada's national security agencies.

And it will follow that with a public review of anti-terrorism legislation.

Government House Leader Dominic LeBlanc says legislation to create the committee will be introduced before Parliament breaks for the summer and he hopes it will pass quickly in the fall.

He says the committee will include MPs and senators from both the governing and opposition parties.

He says it will look at the operations of 19 different agencies that have responsibility for national security, including the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the secretive Communications Security Establishment.

LeBlanc says Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale will also soon begin a public review of anti-terrorism legislation passed by the previous Conservative government.

The Liberals supported that legislation, but said they would repeal some

controversial provisions to ensure a better balance between security and individual civil liberties.

Among other things, the Liberals promised to narrow the definition of terrorist propaganda and ensure that lawful protest and advocacy could not be considered terrorism.

May 27 2016

TORONTO - "Genuine" health concerns and "significant" community complaints prompted a string of police raids on unregulated marijuana dispensaries across Toronto, the city's police chief said Friday as angry pot-smoking activists protested outside his office.

Police Chief Mark Saunders emphasized that the operation - dubbed Project Claudia - would not prevent anyone with a prescription for medical marijuana from accessing the drug.

"I want to be very clear about our intentions," Saunders told a news conference that drew a mix of journalists and marijuana activists.

"Project Claudia is not an attack on the lawful production, distribution or purchasing of marijuana for medical purposes," Saunders said. "It's a genuine health concern because there is no regulatory process behind this."

Since March, he said, the number of marijuana dispensaries has doubled in the city - with half of the facilities investigated by police located within 300 metres of schools.

After consulting municipal officials and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Saunders said he had to make the "hard decision" to clamp down on the proliferation of pot shops.

"Once I had a full understanding of what the health concerns were, that was when I decided to take the action," he said. "This is about public safety."

Search warrants were carried out on 43 locations by police who were accompanied by city municipal licensing and standards officials, Saunders said.

The action resulted in 90 people being arrested and a slew of charges laid - 71 criminal charges and 186 under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

About 270 kilograms of dried cannabis as well as hundreds of kilograms of pot-laced food products such as chocolate, brownies and candies were seized during the raid.

"These locations have a broader impact on the surrounding neighbourhoods. There is no quality control whatsoever on these products," Saunders said as dozens of bags of seized goods were laid out before him. "They are marketed in a way to disguise the unknown and unregulated amount of THC (a chemical compound found in marijuana) in the products."

All the dispensaries targeted had been under investigation for weeks, and had been issued letters on May 18 warning them they were engaged in unlawful activities and that action would be taken if they didn't stop.

Only one pot shop shut down as a result of the warning letters, Saunders said.

"These locations cannot tell you where it's coming from nor what its contents is," he said. "You don't even know who you're purchasing off. Out of the arrests that we made, two people were wanted."

SATURDAY MAY 28, 2016

May 28 2016

MONTREAL - Police are confirming the man shot dead in his car near Montreal today is Rocco Sollecito, who is described by Mafia experts as a former prominent associate of the late Vito Rizzuto.

Provincial police spokesman Jason Allard says the 67-year-old victim was possibly tied to organized crime and was shot one or more times in his car in Laval, north of Montreal.

Mafia experts say Sollecito was a well-known former associate of Vito Rizzuto, who ran the infamous Rizzuto crime family before his death in 2013.

Sollecito's murder comes after his son, Stefano, was arrested in November in a major drug sweep and accused of being an influential leader of the Montreal Mafia.

Also arrested in November was Vito Rizzuto's son, Leonardo, who police say worked with Stefano in a large-scale drug trafficking operation.

May 27 2016

The Quebec government announced new anti-radicalization measures on Friday, some of which focus on a Montreal-area CEGEP that has seen several of its students leave the country to join jihadist groups.

Central to the new policy is more training for police officers and the hiring of more outreach workers.

The announcement came at a press conference given by Public Security Minister Martin Coiteux, Higher Education Minister Helene David and Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre.

Coiteux said training will be given to police officers that is specific to radicalization, though few details as to what that training will look like were given.

A pilot project that will see four or five outreach workers assigned to Maisonneuve College is another part of the new measures. In April, 2015, two students at the CEGEP were arrested on terrorism-related charges and five other students have also left to join jihadist groups in the Middle East.

"They are really involved on the floor with the students, with the staff, with the teachers," said David. "They are psychologists who specialize in psycho-education and social workers."

Earlier this week, Coderre announced a new anti-hate crimes police unit, which will be working with the city's anti-radicalization centre.

That centre has received 762 calls in the past year, resulting in 14 police investigations.

(CTV Montreal)

SUNDAY
MAY 29, 2016

May 29 2016

TORONTO - Ontario is promising to improve standards of care for nearly 16,000 young people in foster and group homes, youth justice facilities and mental health residential treatment following a scathing report from an expert panel.

The report focuses on a scattered system with no common standards of care for the children or set qualifications for staff who look after them in institutions that "need significant security controls" because of gangs and peer-to-peer violence.

"There is an urgent need to address the existing and longstanding challenges in the current model of residential service delivery," concludes the government-appointed panel. "Change has been very slow. It is time to shift gears."

The experts say there are significant variations in the use of secure isolation or solitary confinement at youth justice facilities, and warns the government will have to make a sustained effort to mitigate its impact and develop alternatives.

The panel complains about "unco-ordinated oversight" of a system that has grown to more than 600 different agencies and operators, including 47 Children's Aid Societies and a mix of for profit and non-profit service providers.

It concludes "the current system has evolved without much oversight, accountability or incentives to consistently focus on quality of care considerations and the every day experiences of young people living in out-of-home care."

MONDAY
MAY 30, 2016

May 30 2016

RCMP rededicated the grave of a member of the Northwest Mounted Police in eastern P.E.I. on Saturday.

The recently discovered grave of Const. James Henry Blackett in Souris had previously gone unmarked. Blackett signed up to serve with the Northwest Mounted Police in March 1900 and was medically discharged in March 1901. He died in 1933.

"As a member of the Northwest Mounted Police and a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police we tend to think of ourselves as one big family from coast to coast," said RCMP spokesman Corp. Scott Stevenson.

"It's important to recognize the service that these members have given the RCMP and the country."

The rededication ceremony at St. Mary's Cemetery in Souris included the installation

of an RCMP grave marker.

An estimated 100 RCMP members are buried at various sites across P.E.I.
(CBC News)

May 30 2016

OTTAWA - Federal authorities were tight-lipped Monday about a report that Sikh terrorists run a training camp in British Columbia.

The Times of India reports that Indian intelligence agencies have alerted the Liberal government that pro-Khalistan extremists near Mission, B.C., plan to carry out strikes in Punjab.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale would say only that he doesn't comment on specific security allegations, and that the government follows closely any activity that could threaten the safety of Canadians.

If there is information that needs to be acted upon, Canadian police and security agencies respond, he added.

The Mounties said they were aware of the media report.

May 30 2016

WINNIPEG - Emergency calls are skyrocketing in Winnipeg and police are finding it hard to keep up.

Winnipeg police say they had more than 150 in the queue at one point this past weekend and 200 over the May long weekend.

Const. Rob Carver said police had to respond to several assaults this weekend and a false alarm that used up several units.

He says officers were also forced to sit with intoxicated people in hospital who were moved out of the Main Street Project because of a non-suspicious death that occurred at the facility.

Police board member Ross Eadie has been fighting for an increase to the police budget to ensure officers are there when needed most.
(CTV Winnipeg)

May 30 2016

MONTREAL - When the city of Montreal decided in March to cancel plans to host the 2017 World Police and Fire Games, it had already paid about \$6.2 million to the games organizers, according to a report in La Presse. The city is trying to recoup some of the money now that the games have been called off.

The city cancelled the games after Montreal's police and firefighters' unions had vowed to boycott them to protest against provincial legislation spearheaded in large part by Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre to reduce pension payments. They are also angry about the suspensions and firings of firefighters who participated in protests against pension reform.

According to La Presse, the city spent about \$6.2 million between 2011 and 2015 to host the games.

Scheduled to coincide with Montreal's 375th birthday celebrations, the games were expected to draw 10,000 athletes from 70



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countries, as well as their families, and bring in revenues of close to \$100 million to the city.

Several police unions and firefighters from around the world said they would also boycott the games, risking a financial loss for the city.

A spokesperson for the opposition Projet Montréal said the party had warned Coderre against making a \$4.8 million payment in 2015 after firefighters had threatened to boycott the games.

"Mayor Coderre has to assume responsibility for this," said city councillor Alain Vailancourt, Projet's spokesperson for sports and recreation. "We had warned the Coderre administration many times about this investment."

After Montreal pulled out of the games, the city of Toronto put in a bid to host the games in 2017. A final decision has not been made on whether Toronto will host the games. (Montreal Gazette)

TUESDAY
MAY 31, 2016

May 31 2016

CHATHAM, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog says an officer with the Chatham-Kent Police Service has been charged with sexual assault.

The Special Investigations Unit says the incident that led to the charges took place last August when a 23-year-old woman came across the officer.

The SIU says the officer drove the woman to a parking lot in his marked cruiser, where she was allegedly sexually assaulted.

Const. Kenneth Miller has been charged with both sexual assault and breach of trust.

He will appear in court in July.

May 31 2016

CALGARY - Calgary Police Chief Roger Chaffin says there is no simple answer to the rising number of domestic violence cases in the city.

Earlier this month police released statistics that show there was a 10 per cent increase in cases in 2015 compared to the previous year and a big jump in domestic assaults that involved weapons.

Police have linked the trend to the pressures caused by the economic downturn.

Chaffin says more police will not solve the problem.

He says the solution is to work with the community to encourage people to seek help if they don't feel safe in their homes.

Chaffin says most cases of domestic violence in Calgary are not reported and helping those people is a big challenge. (CHQR, CP)

May 31 2016

TORONTO - A judge ruled Tuesday that a man accused of stabbing soldiers at a military recruitment centre is unfit to stand trial - just hours after the RCMP laid terrorism charges against him.

The lawyer representing Ayanle Hassan Ali sent a statement saying the ruling was handed down following a two-month psychiatric evaluation.

Maureen Addie said her client was found to be "unfit to stand trial due to the ongoing psychotic symptoms of a major mental illness."

Judge Riun Shandler of the Ontario Court of Justice has ordered Ali to undergo 60 days of treatment in a bid to improve his condition and leave him able to stand trial.

If so, Ali faces a raft of charges, including the terrorism counts laid against him on Tuesday.

The RCMP has charged him with three counts of attempted murder, two counts of assault causing bodily harm, three counts of assault using a weapon and one count of carrying a weapon dangerous to the public, all for the benefit of a terrorist organization.

May 31 2016

NORTH BAY, Ont. - A North Bay, Ont., police officer has been charged with assault causing bodily harm after an investigation by the province's police watchdog.

The Special Investigations Unit says the alleged assault happened in March 2014.

They say a 40-year-old man was at a pub when an "altercation" broke out.

Investigators say the officer, Const. Christian Elia, involved himself and allegedly assaulted the man.

The SIU says Elia will appear in court on July 5.

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May 31 2016

VANCOUVER - The City of Vancouver is going to court in a bid to shut down medical marijuana stores that continue to operate illegally.

A statement from the city says injunctions were filed Tuesday to force the closure of 17 stores that have remained open without a business licence.

Vancouver developed regulations for marijuana dispensaries last year and began enforcing the rules this spring, handing out \$250-a-day fines to shops that flouted orders to close.

Enforcement officers have handed out almost 250 bylaw violation tickets so far, and 55 stores continue to operate despite being ordered to shut down.

Twenty-one other dispensaries are currently going through the permit process and the business licences for three compassion clubs are under review.

The first business licence for a retail medical marijuana store was granted earlier this month to a shop near the University of British Columbia.

May 31 2016

EDMONTON - The Alberta government is giving municipalities three years to devise plans for regional services such as roads and law enforcement.

Municipal Affairs Minister Danielle Larivee says a key focus of the Modernized Municipal Government Act is to help communities work and grow together.

It will make collaboration between Alberta municipalities mandatory and expand the mandates of regional boards in both Edmonton and Calgary.

She says the 1995 act led municipalities to compete with one another.

Larivee says the plan will also help split the burden of building new services due to expanding communities.

The minister says areas like Edmonton and Calgary already have a foundation for a system like this in place, but others do not.

(CHED)

May 31 2016

A Chatham-Kent police constable is facing sexual assault and breach of trust charges after an investigation by the Special Investigations Unit.

The SIU investigated an incident between Constable Kenneth Miller and a 23-year-old Chatham woman on August 23, 2015. Through the investigation SIU Director Tony Loparco found reasonable grounds to charge the officer with the criminal offences.

It's alleged the woman was driven in a marked cruiser to a parking lot in the Orange-wood Boulevard area and sexually assaulted.

The officer will appear before a Chatham court on July 5, 2016.

The Chatham-Kent Police Service says the service became aware of the allegations on August 26, 2015. They notified the SIU, who invoked their mandate and began an investigation. The officer was suspended on

August 27, 2015 at the start of the SIU investigation.

In addition to the criminal charges the officer will be charged under the Police Services Act with discreditable conduct. The Police Service Act charge will be heard before a hearing officer on June 6, 2016.

(Blackburn News)

May 31 2016

LETHBRIDGE - He was still in his teens when he put the police uniform on for the first time. Now, 36 years later - and an entire career served in Lethbridge - Deputy Chief Colin Catonio has hung up his uniform.

"It's still sinking in to some extent, a

little surreal. I understand that at one point, you'll finally realize: hey, you aren't going back to work any more."

Catonio started as a patrol officer in 1980. When looking back over more than three decades, there are several career highlights, but he said none compare to when it started.

Insp. Tom Ascroft has worked alongside Catonio for 29 years and said his knowledge and passion have been assets to the team.

He's been here a very long time and he's seen a lot of people come and go - a lot of chiefs come and go - it's going to be quite different without him."

Ten police chiefs came and went over Catonio's career. He himself served as interim chief.



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As for what he will miss the most: "The people, clearly the people."
(Global News)

May 31 2016

Children who have been abused, witnessed domestic abuse, or are dealing with other trauma have an ally in the newest member of the police force in Sherbrooke, Que.



Kanak is a mid-sized black Labrador. He's been trained to sit with children and provide comfort as they navigate every step of the judicial system.

Comfort dogs have existed in Canadian police forces since 2010, but according to the Sherbrooke police, Kanak is the first in Quebec.

Parents and children aren't forced to work with Kanak.

Investigators will ask parents first if their children are allergic, then they'll ask the children if they're interested in sitting with a dog.

Kanak is done his training, but has not started working with children yet. He will go on duty in a couple of months while he adjusts to his new surroundings.

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1, 2016

Jun 01 2016

OTTAWA - Health Canada is banning the powerful street drug W-18, which it says can be 100 times more potent than fentanyl.

The synthetic opioid is being added to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and classed as a restricted drug under federal regulations.

That means production, possession, importation or exportation and trafficking of the drug are now illegal.

The department says Canadian police have seized samples that were made to look like legitimate prescription tablets, such as oxycodone.

Jun 01 2016

BRAMPTON, Ont. - An Toronto-area police force says its Twitter account has been restored after being hacked and taken off-line for more than a day.

A representative from Peel Regional police says the account was hacked on Monday evening, and photos posted online showed

the account tweeting profanities and racial slurs on Monday night before it was suspended.

Const. George Tudos says it took more than a day for the account to be restored because the content that was posted when it was hacked had to be "cleaned up".

He says the force regained control of the account with the help of Twitter Canada.

Tudos says they're still not sure how the hack happened, but that an investigation is ongoing.

Representatives from Twitter did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Jun 01 2016

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. - A British Columbia pedophile convicted of producing online child pornography in Cambodia where he disguised his face with a swirl has been sentenced to five-and-a-half-years in prison.

But because of his time already served, a B.C. Supreme Court judge has ruled Christopher Neil's remaining sentence is just over 14 months, six months more time than the Crown had requested.

The 41-year-old man pleaded guilty in December to five child-sex crimes that took place in Cambodia, as well as Vancouver and Maple Ridge, B.C., spanning a 10-year period.

Judge John Harvey says the sentence reflects the gravity of the crimes and high moral culpability of Neil, noting that he not only victimized two young boys by manufacturing child pornography but harmed them again by posting videos online.

June 01 2016

WATERLOO REGION - The Waterloo Regional Police Services Board approved a revamped policy on street checks Wednesday that will ensure all police stops are reported publicly.

The police board unanimously approved the policy at a board meeting.

"We don't want any data hidden," said Police Chief Bryan Larkin said. "I want the community to hold me accountable and hold our organization accountable."

"There is no sense in hiding from this. We need to face it head on," he said.

Larkin referred to the policy as offering the 3Rs, meaning an officer will have to give a reason for the police stop, tell the person his or her rights and provide a receipt or document of the interaction.

The policy comes in light of a Record analysis which showed that black people in Waterloo Region were stopped by officers at a rate four times higher than their share of the local population.

The Record story showed that black people make up two per cent of the regional population but nine per cent of 62,350 people documented in street checks over the past decade. The controversial police practice is also known as carding.

Larkin said until The Record asked for the data, "we didn't track it."

The new policy makes it "mandatory for the chief to pay attention to this," he said.

"I'm a proponent of setting the record straight," he said.

BLUE LINE

Canada's Law Enforcement Information Specialists



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

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Larkin said the service does not allow its officers currently to arbitrarily stopping someone based on race.

But the new policy holds the service and the board accountable, said the chief.

"If a racialized group is overrepresented, I will provide answers," he said.

Larkin said he's spoken to local black leaders and plans to have more fulsome dialogue in the fall "to rethink how we manage our diverse populations."

Police say they stop people on streets to understand how people connect to each other, for example to help identify gang members, to support investigations, and when officers see behaviour they deem suspicious.

Larkin, who's been heading a provincial working group of police chiefs, will speak to 52 municipal police chiefs via a conference call Thursday to further discuss the policy.

The Liberal government has imposed tighter rules on street checks and has ordered more training for police officers across the province. New rules include officers telling people that they do not have to reveal their name during a street check.

Larkin said the province has provided little guidance on what the regulations should look like.

"We have been left to our own devices," he said.

(Waterloo Record)

Jun 01 2016

Offenders with mental health needs should not be in jail, a task force concluded Wednesday, as it recommended ways Ontario can put fewer people in pre-trial detention, particularly those with mental illness and addiction issues.

The task force was established to look at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre after overcrowding got so bad that inmates were reportedly forced to sleep on mattresses in the showers.

It issued a report with 42 recommendations and many are aimed at the correctional system province-wide.

"In appropriate circumstances, offenders with mental health needs should not be in correctional institutions due to the complexities associated with mental health issues and the limited ability of correctional facilities to provide appropriate care," said the report.

The report recommended the government develop a policy for police services to divert "low-risk individuals" away from pre-trial detention and designate classes of offences for which accused would presumptively be released from police stations.

The government should also implement more diversion programs - alternatives to criminal prosecution - for people with mental illness and addiction issues, the task force recommended. And the courts shouldn't impose bail conditions that are likely to criminalize the symptoms of a mental illness, it added.

Justices of the peace, who hear bail applications, should also be given more training on those matters, the task force recommended.

In the last decade, the percentage of male inmates admitted to the Ottawa detention centre with "substance alerts" on file rose from 25 to 40 in 2014-15, the report said. Given those numbers, the government should expand programs and support for addiction issues, the task force recommended.

The report also urged the government to transfer the delivery of health care in provincial correctional institutions to the Ministry of Health.

The task force recommended a "significant reduction" in the use of segregation at the Ottawa facility - nearly 80 per cent of the 130 inmates who responded to a survey for the task force said they had spent time in segregation - and noted some members wanted the practice abolished entirely.

Jun 01 2016

CALGARY - New research out of the University of Toronto suggests the growing number of police services testing or adopting the technology should wait before investing in a costly tool whose merits, researchers say, have yet to be proven.



"It's not a magic bullet," said Erick Laming, a University of Toronto PhD criminology student who is studying the efficacy of the cameras alongside PhD student Jihyun Kwon and criminologist Scot Wortley.

"This technology could be amazing, it could be awesome. But jumping the gun and doing it blindly is not the way to go," Laming said. "We have to slow down and look at it more comprehensively."

Presented this week at the Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences in Calgary, the U of T team's research involved a review of studies done to date on the effect of police body-worn cameras. Their findings suggest there has been little research proving the tool increases police accountability - perceived to be one of the biggest benefits of the camera.

For example, the best known and oft-cited body-worn camera study, out of Rialto, California showed a marked decline in both use-of-force incidents (down 60 per cent) and complaints about officers (down 88 per cent).

But the sample size was small - just 23 officers wore the cameras - and a closer review of the data shows both civilian complaints and use-of-force incidents were already on the decline; use of force incidents were already declining at nearly a rate of 20 per cent annually.

Another study out of Mesa, Arizona claims to have found a 75 per cent reduction in civilian complaints following the introduction of body-worn cameras, but the numbers are so small as to be virtually meaningless: complaints fell from four to one.

About one third of police departments in the United States already have body worn cameras, and in Canada, pilot studies have been launched or completed in Toronto, Edmonton, Thunder Bay, Calgary and Montreal.

The Toronto pilot project, which wrapped up last month, involved 100 officers from across the city. Since the project wrapped up April 1, the force has been drafting a report on the cameras that will provide recommendations on the future use by officers.

It's due to be presented to Toronto police chief Mark Saunders at the end of June, and to the Toronto police board soon after.

The report "will consider all aspects of the pilot project, including technology, procedures and training. Throughout the pilot, the Service has been gathering feedback from the community and the officers involved in the project. Their input will also be considered as part of the review," said a statement from Toronto police.

(Toronto Star)

Jun 01 2016

An Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) costing steering committee has been established for Espanola.

"As we look at policing options it will be really up to council to decide what level of service they want to provide," said Councillor Bill Foster, who sits on the committee. "The steering committee is to provide council with information to decide what service we would like to have."

(Mid-North Monitor)

Jun 01 2016

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has rebuffed fresh demands for a public inquiry into the unauthorized RCMP surveillance of two journalists.

"It's wholly unacceptable that this happened in Canada," Trudeau said in the House of Commons on Wednesday. "It was a mistake, it's been settled and we've learned from the situation."

The prime minister was responding to renewed pressure from NDP Leader Tom Mulcair for a formal inquiry into the August 2007 incident, in which undercover officers quietly tailed two reporters from La Presse over nine days.

In an exclusive report, CBC News last week cited an internal document showing the officers failed to get the permission of Bob Paulson, then acting assistant commissioner and now commissioner of the RCMP, to carry out the surveillance. Once they did ask for a green light, it was refused.

The document, with some parts censored, was obtained under the Access to Information Act.

The RCMP officers were trying to find

out who leaked to La Presse a sensitive government document referring to suspected terrorist Adil Charkaoui, alleging he had discussed blowing up a plane in 2000.

References to a possible RCMP surveillance operation emerged last fall from court documents in a separate case, but the CBC News report last week produced evidence confirming the unauthorized surveillance in fact took place.

Last week, La Presse's vice-president and deputy editor, Eric Trottier, wrote to Paulson also asking for a public inquiry to assure there will never be a repeat of the incident. The May 25 letter was also sent to Trudeau and Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, who is responsible for the RCMP.

Trottier's letter, obtained by CBC News, also noted Paulson had met with Joel-Denis Bellavance, one of the Ottawa journalists who was watched, on Dec. 3 last year in Ottawa to explain that the 2007 operation was never authorized.

But the missive said Paulson failed to mention at the meeting that in 2008 he did authorize surveillance of Bellavance for a limited period, though officers never carried it out.

Bellavance has said he was never aware of the 2007 surveillance, though had cut off contact with his source as a precaution. He said the RCMP has never contacted the source, who remains anonymous.

(CBC News)

Jun 01 2016

CALGARY - The executive director of Alberta's police watchdog says it's "heartbreaking" seeing families wait months, and sometimes years, for answers in a loved one's death.

But Susan Hughson, with the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, said she doesn't know what more can be done to speed up the amount of time it takes the oversight agency to conclude an investigation.

And in spite of a record number of annual files in 2015 and an increasing number of complex cases, Hughson said recent changes mean ASIRT's timelines are actually improving.

ASIRT is an oversight agency that investigates police incidents across the province, including allegations of police misconduct and the deaths of people who are in police custody, or people who die or are injured as a result of their interactions with police.

Hughson, a former Crown prosecutor, spoke to the Calgary police commission at a public meeting on Tuesday and said every one of the 351 files the agency has investigated since its first case in 2008 must go through a robust process.

"Part of the model requires every file to go through the civilian at the top and that's where we bottleneck," she said following a question about ASIRT's resources and increasing caseload.

"I'm very (aware of) the impact that a delay has on both the officers and the family members . . . We had a case that had predated me that had been outstanding for 19 months.

It was 19 months of hell for that officer."

Last year, ASIRT opened 78 files and Hughson said the agency is on pace to have at least that many again this year, a major increase from 2008 when ASIRT investigated 21 files.

"We are certainly seeing a lot more business," Gary Creasser, team commander for the south office at ASIRT, told the commission at Tuesday's meeting.

"We're seeing much more of those complex investigations and allegations that take a lot of time, a lot of resources to get through, to uncover the truth, which is why we do this."

The growing caseload means investigations can take months and even years to complete - the agency still has one file from 2013 that's open because it's awaiting Crown opinion.

Of 53 files in 2014, six are still open, and of the 78 cases in 2015, 46 remain open.

(Calgary Herald)



June 02 2016

INDIANAPOLIS - A 19-year-old Indianapolis man has been charged with killing three people over four days, and authorities say he was inspired by the horror movie "The Purge."

A witness told detectives that Jonathan Cruz told her he had been "purging" by shooting and robbing people, according to court documents filed Wednesday. Police said this referred to the 2013 and 2014 movies starring Ethan Hawke, in which during one night a year, all crime is legal. A third Purge movie is scheduled to be released in July.

Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry said the attacks "appeared to be 100 per cent random" and that he would consider seeking the death penalty.

"Just when you think you can't experience anything more inexplicable and shocking, as we frequently do, you are then confronted with circumstances that almost leave you at a loss for words," Curry said.

Cruz's initial court hearing on three murder counts and several felony charges is scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

Court documents say Cruz fatally shot Billy Boyd and Jay Higginbotham on May 12 and Jose Ruiz on May 15 during attacks on the city's east and north sides. He is also accused in the armed robbery of a man on May 14.

Curry said Cruz "went on a four-day, one-man purge." Detectives found a text message dated May 2 from Cruz saying "I Purge every night now."

Jun 02 2016

TORONTO - In a sign of the times, Chubb has brought its cyberbullying insurance to Canada.

The coverage for homeowners provides

up to \$60,000 to pay for a victim's expenses related to harassment and intimidation committed by computer, phone or mobile devices.

It suggests costs could include legal defence against wrongful termination or false arrest.

Costs could also include medical treatment for mental anguish or shock, security consultants and professional public relations services.

Chubb's coverage for victims of cyberbullying was introduced in the U.K. in December and has been offered in the United States since March.

The price of the Canadian insurance wasn't immediately available.

Jun 02 2016

BURNABY, B.C. - Burnaby RCMP plan to interview the registered owner of a suspect vehicle after a late-night collision injured a Mountie.

Insp. Bruce Anderson says the officer was in his unmarked cruiser at the side of Highway 1 in Burnaby, completing paperwork from an unrelated traffic stop.

Another vehicle rammed the rear of the cruiser at about 11:40 p.m. Wednesday.

Both vehicles were damaged and the officer suffered possible neck injuries.

Anderson says the Mountie was taken to hospital but his injuries are not considered serious.

The driver of the second car fled and has not yet been located.

(CKNW)

Jun 02 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police say more than 50 people have been arrested in Ontario and Quebec as part of a guns and gangs investigation.



A statement released by Toronto police reveals 42 search warrants were conducted by the Integrated Gun and Gang Task Force in the Greater Toronto Area in the early morning hours on Thursday and several more in Montreal with the help of its local police service.

A number of uniformed officers and members of the tactical unit were spotted outside a condominium complex in Toronto's Fort York neighbourhood as well as an apartment building on Dufferin Street and Liberty Street.

Police have released little information on the operation only to say that search warrants were executed across the Greater Toronto Area and Montreal as part of an investigation nicknamed "Project Sizzle."

Police say 10 Ontario police services were involved in the guns and gangs probe.

(Global News)