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Report calls for Toronto Police to be transformed



Jun 16 2016

TORONTO - A report aimed at saving millions at the Toronto Police Service suggests doing away with six police divisions, disbanding TAVIS and all owing officers to operate in cruisers without a partner in select circumstances.

The report from the Transformational Task Force was released during a technical briefing with members of the media Thursday.

Among the recommendations, the task

force recommends that the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS) should be disbanded by the end of the summer following a substantial cut to the unit’s provincial funding (from \$5 million to \$2.6 million) that took effect in January.

The report says the deployment of TAVIS officers “had unintended impacts on communities, especially on communities, especially among racialized youth who felt unfairly targeted.”

The report also recommends the service should lose 450 uniformed officers through



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attrition and implement a three-year freeze on hiring and non-essential promotions.

As well, the report recommends merging or shutting down six divisions as a way to save money on property taxes.

Under the proposal, 54 Division would close shop in 2017, merging with 55 Division. Then in 2018, 12, 13, 33, 53, and 41 divisions would be shut down.

The president of the police union said he isn't pleased with what's being proposed and warned it could have devastating consequences.

"It seems to be a very conflicting report. They are talking about improved, enhanced policing in communities and having these collaborations while at the same time saying 'How are we going to start this up? We are going to reduce the size of the service,'" Toronto Police Association President Mike McCormack told CP24 on Thursday. "It is absolutely ridiculous."

McCormack said that his members are open to seeking out efficiencies that will allow the TPS to trim its \$1 billion budget but he said public safety must be paramount.

The problem, he said, is that by cutting units like TAVIS and reducing the number of officers on the street public safety will be negatively affected.

"We are about not only protecting our members' rights but we are about public safety and we are going to look at it from a public safety lens," he said.

The report suggests Toronto Police administrators negotiate away the provision in the collective agreement with the Toronto Police Association that requires two officers in each patrol cruiser.

Using risk analysis, the report says single officer cruisers would be used in situations where being alone would not compromise officers' safety, the report says.

The report also calls for the disbanding of the transit patrol unit, dedicated to patrolling TTC subways and stations, and uploading the service's program for city-run beaches and school crossing programs for the city to manage.

The report calls on the province to allow security guards at area shopping malls train to become special constables. This move would save about 5,500 hours of police labour each year.

The recommendations are expected to be tabled at Friday's meeting of the Toronto Police Services Board.

Public consultations would likely then be held before any of the proposal are implemented.

Speaking with CP24 about the report on Wednesday, Mayor John Tory said it has the potential to be transformational.

"It achieves things people said we couldn't do, or we wouldn't do, or in some cases they said we shouldn't do," he said. "I think they are things that are in the public interest - they will make for a safer city, they will make for a better policed city, they will make for the more efficient deployment of police services, and they'll make for the beginnings of a restoration of trust."

The task force says Toronto's current model of policing is outdated, with the city "still working on the same model from 1957."

The task force, struck by Tory earlier this year, was told to come up with recommendations to modernize the city's police force with an eye on making it more efficient and cost-effective.

The report focuses on five key areas, making recommendations intended to improve the police service's partnership with its communities as well as making the force fiscally responsible.

The primary focus is on safe communities, including embedding officers in communities and interacting with residents more. The report recommends using data to focus on communities where the biggest issues are.

The report recommends changing from a primary to a priority response model, making more efforts to prioritize calls and using a civilian workforce for non-emergency responsibilities like lifeguarding, crossing guards and transit support.

It also suggests the public needs better access to police services, lifting the current police boundaries and replacing them with officers embedded in Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods, where they can better partner with social service agencies and other support services.

Police need to go back to the job of policing, the report recommends.

Currently, Toronto police officers are being used for a variety of tasks that don't really require police. Officers act as lifeguards at pools, crossing guards at intersections, back-up security on TTC buses and subways, even standing guard over high-traffic construction areas.

Uniformed police should not perform these duties unless there is a realistic threat to public safety, the report states.

By 2017, the city will take over the life guard and crossing guard programs, and the city will also take over any parking enforcement duties currently undertaken by police. Bylaw enforcement and court services can be handled by security guards or city officials.

(CTV News, City TV)

Toronto police Transformational Task Force proposals include:

- Creating an "innovation hub" to allow for ongoing professional improvement.
- Collaboration with academia to "further the professionalization of policing."
- Developing an alternate or shared delivery of court services and parking enforcement, and background screening.
- Transitioning officers from using mobile work stations in patrol vehicles to carrying smart devices, with improved technological capabilities.
- A phased-in redesign of the divisional map, starting with amalgamating midtown Toronto's 54 and 55 Divisions. Between now and when it issues a final report, the task force will explore "similar options" for Divisions 12, 13, 33, 52 and 53.
- A "carefully managed" moratorium on hiring and promotions for officers and civilians over the next three years. The current complement of 5,200 uniformed officers would be reduced to 4,750 in three years. Civilian employees would be reduced to 1,850 from 2,220. On average, between 100 and 150 TPS employees retire or resign each year.
- Designing a more rigorous and performance management and evaluation process.
- The development of a 911 cost recovery fee that would recoup the costs of providing these services to all land and wireless telephone users.
- Overhauling paid duty so that off-duty officers are used in situations only where their "skills, authorities and training" are necessary.
- A "comprehensive culture change and human resources strategy." The final report, expected this fall, will explore this more deeply.
- Reviewing the nighttime two-officer-per-car policy, mirroring the approach taken by other leading police services.



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WEDNESDAY
JUNE 8, 2016

Jun 08 2016

WATERLOO - In just over a year, Const. David Chen has amassed nearly 4,000 followers on a social media site.



It's not Twitter or Facebook, but a merger of both of them - Weibo, the Chinese version of Twitter but with added features and without the 140-character restriction associated with tweets.

The Waterloo Regional Police officer created the account on the popular Chinese social media site last year after getting the green light from Police Chief Bryan Larkin as a means to educate local Chinese newcomers about Canadian laws and promote a wider understanding on how police operate.

It's the only police Weibo account in Canada, said the 29-year-old Chen, who speaks and writes in Mandarin.

"It's a hub for Canadian Chinese residents and international students to ask questions," he said.

"We are building a bridge from the police service to a culturally-specific social media community," said Chen, who was hired as a police officer in 2011.

Chen uses the hashtag: CanadianPolice-tips and to date has had 2.6 million views on his hashtag.

Chen said he tries to post daily and often multiple posts a week - all in Mandarin - about various aspects of Canadian law including domestic violence, traffic violations and how bylaws works.

"A lot of them simply don't understand the law," he said.

Campus police at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University send him posters on campaigns at the schools and he translates the information and posts it to the police Weibo site.

He also posts on other topics such as warning residents about phone and computer scams and how Crime Stoppers works as well as topics on mental health with links to local associations and groups.

"I've received tons and tons of thank you's," he said.

Chen said he also posts information and pictures related to local police events such as the recent open houses at the detachments. The open house at headquarters attracted 4,964 views. A recent post on the police dog Chase hard at work garnered 148 shares.

That's because he is followed by the Chinese police who repost his posts. The criminal

investigation unit of the Chinese police has 40 million followers.

Chen said the Chinese police use Weibo extensively to post videos on crime prevention from how to avoid being defrauded to driving safely.

"It's an excellent example of policing on social media. We need to do something similar," he said.

Chen said he's passionate about reaching out to the Chinese community especially the international students who struggle with understanding Canadian norms. He knows how hard it can be to assimilate.

"I'm still trying to assimilate," he said. "I don't know much about hockey and baseball and those are big conversation starters."

Plus, he wants to encourage a better understanding of policing and to push it as a viable career option.

(Waterloo Record)

Jun 08 2016

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs says it has received "numerous emails and phone calls" from Indigenous women complaining about how they have been treated by police.

The assembly, which advocates for First Nations in the province, passed a motion Tuesday to have Grand Chief Derek Nepinak meet with RCMP, the Winnipeg Police Service, the Winnipeg Police Board and Indigenous groups to discuss complaints "from women who reported violence including domestic violence situations."

The motion, which was approved by the assembly's executive council of chiefs, also calls on the AMC to revisit an existing memorandum of understanding it has with the RCMP and include Winnipeg police in those talks.

"Previously AMC and the RCMP had a memorandum of understanding to establish a process to enhance relations and to facilitate an improved police service delivery to all First Nation citizens in Manitoba. I believe it is time that we renew the MOU between the RCMP but also include the WPS," Nepinak said in a news release Wednesday.

"We need to provide an outlet for people to bring their concerns of mistreatment forward to build confidence and accountability of police services."

The motion also recommends developing a process for bringing concerns and issues to all of Manitoba's police authorities, as well as creating information brochures and workshops to help the public know their rights.

"We need to step up and do something. We have heard too many times on reserve and in urban centres that the police treat First Nations differently," Swan Lake Chief Francine Meeches, who chairs the assembly's First Nations women committee, stated in the release.

"As leaders in our communities, and with many members who live in the city, we need to help protect them and ensure that the Winnipeg Police Service and RCMP are accountable."

(CBC News)

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THURSDAY
JUNE 9, 2016

Jun 09 2016

LOS ANGELES - The LAPD's black and whites are going green.



The police department has announced that it is adding 100 BMW i3 electric cars to its fleet in through a three-year lease deal worth \$1.4 million.

The cars have been tested by the LAPD against the likes of the Tesla Model S P85D, which was considered as a patrol and pursuit vehicle. Officials liked the performance of the Tesla, but balked at its price, which is around \$90,000.

The battery-powered i3 starts at \$43,395 has an EPA rated range of 81 miles per charge, but BMW says that will increase in the 2017 model to around 114 miles. A range-extended version is also available with a two-cylinder gasoline-powered motor that generates electricity when the battery runs down, but for now the LAPD is going with the all-electric models and will only deploy them only for non-emergency and community outreach purposes as it further evaluates their usefulness to the force. The compact i3's rear-opening coach doors and tight back seats don't exactly lend themselves to picking up perps.

The LAPD says that it plans to add more electric cars to its fleet in the coming months. (Fox News)

Jun 09 2016

VANCOUVER - Vancouver city staff want councillors to okay a \$1-million grant for a mental health hub at St. Paul's Hospital that could relieve the strain on police officers and emergency room resources.

The proposed hub would be used for rapid psychiatric and substance abuse care and could divert about 5,000 people a year from the emergency department, according to a staff report slated for council next week.

If councillors approve in principle the cash, it would go toward the hub's capital costs. The Vancouver Police and St. Paul's Hospital foundations will need to chip in another \$2.5 million and Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health would cover the operating costs, according to the report.

It would be a big health investment for the city, but it's one that Coun. Kerry Jang said could save police time and resources and improve care for patients.

"When somebody is picked up on men-

tal health issues by the police, (officers) can actually go there and drop them off and then leave and go back to duty," said Jang, who is also a professor of psychology at the University of B.C.

That's a big change from the current setup, which has officers waiting in the emergency department with such patients until they can be seen by a physician. Those police waiting times now average about 80 minutes per visit, according to the staff report. The hub could drop waits to just 20 minutes and save a projected 4,500-4,800 officer hours each year, staff say.

About one-third of all police calls in Vancouver involve one or more people suffering from an apparent mental health issue, according to a 2008 VPD report. That report, and a 2010 followup paper, recommended an urgent response centre and medium-term care options.

If council approves the staff recommendation and all parties partner as planned, the hub could open this fiscal year, staff say. (Vancouver Sun)

Jun 09 2016

VANCOUVER - British Columbia's chief coroner says drug overdoses have become the leading cause of unnatural death in the province, outpacing fatalities from vehicle crashes.

A new report identifies 308 illicit drug overdose deaths from January through May of this year, compared with 176 deaths in the same period last year.

Chief Coroner Lisa Lapointe says that overdose deaths could amount to 750 people by the end of 2016 if the trend continues.

There were 300 fatalities from motor vehicle incidents in the province in 2015.

The coroner's report shows fentanyl was involved in 56 per cent of deaths in the first four months of this year but just five per cent of deaths were linked to the drug in 2012.

B.C.'s public health officer declared a health emergency in April due to the soaring numbers of drug-related deaths in the province.

Jun 09 2016

Move over sniffer dogs, people who witnessed a crime are able to identify criminals by their smell. Police lineups normally rely on sight, but nose-witnesses can be just as reliable as eye-witnesses, new research published in Frontiers in Psychology has found.

"Police often use human eye-witnesses, and even ear-witnesses, in lineups but, to date, there have not been any human nose-witnesses," explained Professor Mats Olsson, experimental psychologist at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden; "We wanted to see if humans can identify criminals by their body odor."

Dogs have been used to identify criminals through body odor identification in court, but it is commonly thought that the human sense of smell is inferior to that of other mammals. However, research shows that humans have the ability to distinguish individuals by their

unique body odor. Our olfactory sense is often associated with emotional processing and is directly linked to the areas of the brain associated with emotion and memory; the hippocampus and the amygdala.

To find out more about human odor memory following stressful events, Olsson and his team investigated how well we identify body odor in a forensic setup. In their first study, participants watched videos of people committing violent crimes, accompanied by a body odor that they were told belonged to the perpetrator.

They also watched neutral videos, with a similar setup. Then they identified the criminal's body odor from a lineup of five different men's odors, showing correct identification in almost 70% of cases. "It worked beyond my expectation," explained Olsson; "Most interestingly - participants were far better at remembering and identifying the body odor involved in the emotional setting."

Olsson has tested the limits of our nose-witness ability. The team conducted the same experiment but varied the lineup size - three, five and eight body odors, and the time between observing the videos and undertaking the lineup - 15 minutes up to one week. In lineups of up to eight body odors, participants were still able to distinguish the criminal.

The accuracy of their identification did reduce with the larger lineup size, which is in line with studies on eye and ear-witnesses. The results also show that the ability to distinguish the criminal's body odor is significantly impaired if the lineup is conducted after one week of having smelt the offender's body odor.

There is ongoing research into how the memory of a crime scene can be affected by emotion. This is largely focused on visual memory as visual lineups are the common method of criminal identification.

"Our work shows that we can distinguish a culprit's body odor with some certainty," concluded Olsson; "This could be useful in criminal cases where the victim was in close contact with the assailant but did not see them and so cannot visually identify them."

(eurekalert)

FRIDAY
JUNE 10, 2016

Jun 10 2016

TORONTO - Police authorities are turning to the Supreme Court of Canada in hopes of squelching two class-action lawsuits arising out of the G20 summit six years ago before any trial on their merits.

The application for leave to appeal has angered the two lead plaintiffs in the case, who argue they were among hundreds of people wrongfully arrested or detained six years ago.

The plaintiffs, Sherry Good and Tommy Taylor, are calling on the Toronto Police Services Board to explain its action.

In its notice to the country's highest court, the board essentially repeats grounds

already rejected by two courts, including the Ontario Court of Appeal, namely that claims of wrongful arrest and detention should be treated individually rather than as a class proceeding.

"By their nature, (they) require examination of the grounds existing in respect of each individual subject to arrest," the notice states.

In addition, the board questions whether the changes in how the class actions were formulated "creates unfairness, procedural prejudice and conflict in the jurisprudence."

Board Chairman Andy Pringle did not immediately respond to a request for comment and a spokeswoman said it was unlikely he would because the matter was before the courts.

In April, Ontario's Appeal Court gave the green light to the class actions, saying the remedies the plaintiffs want - a declaration that class members' charter rights were violated and an award of damages - would be "stronger instruments of behaviour modification" than the non-binding recommendations that flowed from various investigations into how police behaved.

Jun 10 2016

VANCOUVER - A Mountie who responded the night a Polish immigrant died at Vancouver's airport has filed a lawsuit against the RCMP alleging negligence and harassment.

Const. Bill Bentley has filed a notice of civil claim in B.C. Supreme Court naming the Attorney General of Canada and B.C.'s Ministry of Justice as defendants.

Bentley was one of four officers who confronted Robert Dziekanski at the airport in October 2007, when the man was stunned with a Taser and died.

The court documents allege the RCMP mismanaged information in the case, creating public perception of wrongdoing by the officers, and that Bentley was made a "scapegoat" for public criticism.

All four officers were charged with perjury for allegedly colluding and giving false testimony at a subsequent public inquiry into Dziekanski's death, and Bentley was found not guilty.

Allegations in the documents have not been proven in court and statements of defence have not been filed.

Jun 10 2016

EDMONTON - An Edmonton police officer accused of selling steroids has been ordered to stand trial following a preliminary hearing.

Det. Greg Lewis, 35, is slated to appear July 22 in Court of Queen's Bench on to set a trial date on three charges of trafficking in a controlled substance.

Lewis had been charged with five counts of trafficking steroids, but two of the charges were withdrawn by the Crown.

According to court documents, the three existing charges relate to a time frame of 2007 to 2013 and involve Stanozolol, testosterone and a third steroid believed to be commonly known as Halovar.

The three-day preliminary hearing ended Wednesday. There is a publication ban on all of the evidence heard in the hearing.

A second officer, Const. Darren French, who was charged following the same investigation, is slated to appear in court June 23 on three charges.

Lewis and French, a 25-year member, were arrested in March following an investigation by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, or ASIRT, that began in 2013.

Lewis remains suspended without pay and French is no longer a member of the Edmonton Police Service.

The ASIRT investigation revealed at least 30 officers used steroids the past several years.

Sgt. Adam Toma and Const. Keith

Yaremchuk were disciplined as a result of lying about steroid use to ASIRT investigators.

Toma, a 10-year Edmonton police veteran, was demoted for two years after pleading guilty at a March 27, 2015, police disciplinary hearing to discreditable conduct and deceit for using steroids, and failing to admit it.

Yaremchuk, who was assigned to the tactical unit between August 2009 and March 2015, was also demoted for two years, after pleading guilty at an April 1, 2015, police disciplinary hearing to discreditable conduct and deceit.

At the May Edmonton Police Commission meeting, a report from the city police Professional Standards Branch says that 56 files were created as a result of the ASIRT investigation and most of the files have been



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concluded, with 13 of the complaints resulting in discipline to members, ranging from reprimands to reduction in rank.

(Edmonton Sun)

Jun 10 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton's downtown will soon be a little greener after the groundbreaking ceremony for a new park to be named after Edmonton's first aboriginal police officer.



Alex Decoteau Park commemorates the man who joined the Edmonton Police Service in 1908. Decoteau served in the Canadian military during World War 1, but died in Belgium in 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele.

Decoteau also competed in the 1912 Olympics in track and field, and served in the Canadian military during World War I.

(CBC News)

Jun 10 2016

VANCOUVER - After months of neither confirming nor denying its use of "Stingray", the Vancouver Police Department has finally come clean on the controversial mass-surveillance device.

This comes as court documents reveal more details about the RCMP's use of information gained from Stingray that has alarmed privacy advocates, who say Mounties have been using Stingray increasingly for day-to-day policing, and keeping the data on innocent bystanders.

The VPD has been in neither "confirm or deny" mode to questions from journalists and activists, until now.

In a statement released to CKNW, the VPD says it "does not have, nor have we ever had a device commonly referred to "Stingray"."

The Stingray device mimics a cell phone tower to trick devices to connect to it, allowing it to record communications.

(iNews 880)

SATURDAY
JUNE 11 2016

Jun 11 2016

The province's Special Investigations Unit has been called in after a collision involving an Ontario Provincial Police cruiser Friday night sent one man to hospital with serious injuries.

At around 9 p.m., a cruiser collided with another driver in Johnstown, Ont., according to the OPP's Grenville detachment.

The driver of the "civilian vehicle" was

taken to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries, the OPP said.

The officer was also taken to hospital with minor injuries and released, said police.

Johnstown is about 90 kilometres south of Ottawa.

(CBC News)

Jun 11 2016

Toronto Police Services has no plans to discipline any officers involved in the fatal shooting of Andrew Loku last July, despite concerns raised by the province's Special Investigations Unit that one of them tried to download surveillance video of the crime scene.

Chief Mark Saunders's internal review of the third-party investigation into his officers' conduct on July 5, 2015, when they encountered Loku - wielding a hammer in the hallway of an apartment building - found that no one breached the police regulations or the credibility of the SIU's probe.

The unnamed officer's attempt to download video footage from the hallway camera "was appropriate scene management and evidence preservation," says the internal review, led by the force's professional standards unit.

The SIU found that the video had not been tampered with, the review notes.

But the SIU still chastised the officer involved in allegedly trying to download surveillance video that captured the fatal police shooting of the father of five.

"I have not as yet heard an adequate explanation for such conduct," SIU director Tony Loparco wrote in his report to Ontario's attorney general in March. "This case is another example in which the post-incident conduct of some TPS officers threatened to publicly compromise the credibility of the SIU's investigation."

The province has announced it will conduct a public inquest into Loku's death.

(CBC News)

Jun 11 2016

CALGARY - What's the best way to roll out the welcome mat for new Canadians?

The Calgary police are hoping it's YouTube videos.

They are done in six languages: Arabic, English, Punjabi, Somali, Spanish and Tagalog.

The idea is to reach out to immigrants who come from places where police interaction can be unpleasant.

"We sometimes hear of new Canadians who have not had good interactions with the police in the country they came from or do not know what to expect from police in Canada," Sgt. Gareth Joels explains.

"Our goal is to give them a warm welcome and let them know that the police in Calgary are here to help if they run into trouble."

Joels, with the diversity resource unit, says if there is a demand for other languages they will make more videos.

(CBC News)

Jun 11 2016

The Remington Arms Company, America's oldest gun maker, said it would use social media and talk-radio to help publicize its offer to replace the triggers in millions of allegedly defective rifles exposed in a 2010 CNBC documentary.



The company has hired a former Obama campaign manager to help get the word out. But Remington continued to deny the guns were defective.

It was the latest development in a nationwide proposed class action settlement involving Remington's popular Model 700 bolt-action rifle and a dozen other Remington firearms with similar designs.

Multiple lawsuits have alleged a decades-long cover-up by the company of an alleged design defect that allowed the guns to fire without the trigger being pulled. As CNBC reported in the 2010 investigation "Remington Under Fire," the lawsuits linked the trigger design to dozens of deaths and hundreds of serious injuries.

Remington has contended the guns were safe, and blamed all the accidents on user error. But in 2014, after decades of fighting the lawsuits, the company agreed to replace the triggers free of charge on millions of guns. The company said it wanted to put the allegations behind it, and avoid more costly litigation.

The agreement covers some 7.5 million guns, including Remington models 700, Seven, Sportsman 78, 673, 710, 715, 770, 600, 660, XP-100, 721, 722, and 725, produced since 1948.

The trigger replacement plan was scheduled for final approval in late 2015. But in December, the federal judge overseeing the class action case, Ortrie D. Smith in Kansas City, Missouri, ordered the company and plaintiffs' lawyers to come up with a better plan to notify the public about the settlement.

The deal would allow Remington to continue to deny any defect in the guns, although some of the language in Friday's agreement appeared to have been toned down from prior versions of the settlement.

Among the models eligible only for a voucher was the Model 600, even though the company instituted a recall for the guns in 1979 that remained in effect today.

The joint filing, which said the parties worked "diligently" to develop the new plan, asked the judge to schedule a hearing to clear the way for final approval.

(CNBC)

SUNDAY JUNE 12, 2016

Jun 12 2016

OTTAWA - Canada's border agency is pulling the plug on the controversial reality TV program "Border Security" after the federal privacy commissioner found the agency violated the rights of a construction worker filmed during a raid in Vancouver.

Privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien recently informed the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, which spearheaded a complaint on behalf of Oscar Mata Duran, that the Canada Border Services Agency breached the Privacy Act by allowing production company Force Four to film the agency's examination of the migrant labourer.

"As a matter of principle, it is our view that federal government institutions cannot contract out of their obligations under the Act," says the commissioner's 26-page report of findings.

In light of the well-founded complaint, Therrien's office recommended the border agency end its participation in the television program, which the agency agreed to do.

Agency spokeswoman Esme Bailey confirmed that "Border Security: Canada's Front Line" would not return for a fourth season.

The commissioner also urged the agency to carry out a formal privacy impact assessment before embarking on any significant future initiative involving the use of personal information.

"Border Security" began airing on the National Geographic Channel in 2012, chronicling encounters between border officers and the public. The unscripted series was seen by millions of Canadians and has aired in dozens of other countries.

The border agency saw the show as a means of informing Canadians and international audiences about its activities.

MONDAY JUNE 13, 2016

Jun 13 2016

VICTORIA - British Columbia's representative for children and youth is calling for an inquest into the police-involved shooting death of a young Victoria man.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond says the family of 20-year-old Rhett Mutch faced many difficulties because of his mental health challenges.

She says the mental health system must be held responsible for his treatment.

Mutch was shot and killed by Victoria police in November 2014 after his mother called 911 saying her son had broken into her house and was threatening to harm himself with a knife.

The Independent Investigations Office has cleared officers who shot Mutch when he suddenly advanced with a knife as they tried to arrest him.

Turpel-Lafond says that while she understands police are not responsible, law enforcement could learn from the tragedy and that an inquest could force the mental health system to recognize its role in the death.

(CFAX)

Jun 13 2016

LEDUC, Alta. - An Alberta RCMP officer has been found guilty of one count of assault and acquitted of a second.

On Monday, a judge in Leduc, Alta., found Const. Eric Pomerleau not guilty of guilty of assault when he pepper-sprayed a teen who was in custody, then forced him to the ground and punched him in August 2012 in Red Deer.

Last week, an Edmonton judge ruled that Pomerleau was guilty of assault for using excessive force when he arrested a man suspected of impaired driving and brought him in for processing in Red Deer in December 2012.

Surveillance footage showed Pomerleau having an argument with the man after he refused to sign some documents.

The man was eventually taken to the ground and punched three or four times.

Pomerleau, who turns 31 this month, will be sentenced in Red Deer court on July 19.

(CHUB)

Jun 13 2016

HALIFAX - A new federally funded clinic for both retired and serving members of the Canadian Forces and RCMP has opened in Halifax.

The Nova Scotia Operational Stress Injury clinic opened in November in downtown Dartmouth but recently moved to its permanent location in Burnside.

The clinic specializes in treating anxiety disorders, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. It will assess, diagnose and treat active members of the armed forces, veterans, as well as active and retired RCMP personnel.

The clinic requires clients to produce referral from either the RCMP, Canadian Armed Forces Health Services or Veterans Affairs.

After that, they're contacted within 48 hours and triaged over the phone.

Eventually, eligible clients will be assigned a primary clinician and their treatment will begin.

Derek Leduc, manager of the clinic, said it currently has 50 clients.

"We're adding a couple each week and we're continuing to expand," he said.

The new OSI clinic in Burnside is one of two in the Maritimes - the other is in Fredericton - and is one of 11 across Canada.

"It's going to go a long way to help people struggling with mental health and service-related injuries," Hehr said.

(CBC News)

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.

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

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

Submit your material by email to:
Grads@BlueLine.ca

Jun 13 2016

LILLOOET, B.C. - A British Columbia Mountie has been charged with theft after guns and other items were allegedly taken from an evidence locker.

A statement from the RCMP says an internal audit and review of the Lillooet, B.C., detachment's evidence locker was done in February 2015.

The review found evidence that exhibits which were supposed to be destroyed may have been improperly processed or handled.

The information was forwarded to Crown counsel, and a sergeant with the detachment has been charged with four counts of breach of trust and four counts of theft.

The statement says the charges related to two firearms, growing nutrients and a generator, and incidents between May 2010 and July 2012.

The officer is currently suspended with pay and is scheduled to appear in Lillooet Provincial Court on Tuesday.

Lillooet is a community of about 2,300 people located 170 kilometres west of Kamloops, B.C.

Jun 13 2016

Alberta paid out at least \$2.3 million in claims to residents of High River as a direct result of damage caused by the RCMP, with the average payout per home totalling \$1,573, an ex-Mountie has discovered.

Some of the damage left behind in the search of private homes was far greater, including a number of repair bills in excess of \$10,000, a handful over \$20,000, and one whopper ringing in at \$63,001.

RCMP officers kicked in the doors of more than half of High River's 4,000 homes, says Dennis Young, a former National Firearms Association director, seizing 609 firearms from 105 homes in the aftermath of the 2013 flood.

"They shouldn't have been inside the homes at all, not even one," says Dennis Young.

"In all, 2,210 homes were left damaged by the RCMP, and they should not have gone into those homes in the first place. People's rights were violated, and that not only upsets me as a former member, I've heard from many RCMP veterans who are upset as well."

Young obtained the list after making a Freedom of Information request. Mounties insisted they did nothing wrong, while excusing the gun seizures under special police provisions for natural disasters, which allows officers to enter homes to check on welfare and remove loose firearms in plain view.

But Young's long fight for information previously revealed Mounties were still kicking in doors and seizing guns from private homes two weeks after the Highwood River had receded and imminent danger was past, and many of the guns seized by the cops were hidden away and carefully stored, in full compliance with the federal Firearms Act.

The RCMP's own Civilian Review and Complaints Commission condemned the

High River gun grab as unlawful last year, blaming the rotten decision on poor leadership, lack of guidance and failure to communicate with the public.

The damage the RCMP caused to the public trust through unlawful searches and seizures, and violation of privacy, isn't something money will fix.

Jane White and her husband Donald are among the thousands left with a small cheque for some of the damages, and hardly any respect for the people who were supposed to protect the town during the flood, not use rising water as an excuse to ignore the law.

"They paid for the door, but they didn't pay for the mud they left all over the carpet, which was new at the time," said Jane, who also reported mud on her bed, jewellery boxes and closet, and was paid about \$1,400 for her troubles.

As well, there were scrapes and gouges left in the wall when Mounties removed a locked gun safe containing 11 registered weapons from their Hampton Hills home.

(Calgary Sun)

TUESDAY
JUNE 14, 2016

Jun 14 2016

SMITHS FALLS, Ont. - An Ontario woman is accused of donning a wig and glasses to impersonate her own mother so she could take a driving test on her behalf.

Police in Smiths Falls, Ont., say the test took place on June 9 at the local Ministry of Transportation office.

The driving instructor allegedly grew suspicious of the 39-year-old woman, who was claiming to be 73, and called police.

They say an investigation revealed the woman had dressed herself to resemble her mother.

Police say she was trying to pass the test on her mom's behalf.

The woman, whose name was not released, has been charged with adult personation with intent.

Jun 14 2016

BROCKTON, Ont. - Police and firefighters were called in after a heated discussion over the shape of the Earth reached fiery levels in eastern Ontario.

Police in Brockville say they were called to St. Lawrence Park on Monday after an intense argument between family members.

They say a woman who insisted the Earth was flat was locking horns with her boyfriend's father, who argued it is round.

Investigators say the 56-year-old man grew so enraged that he started throwing things into their camp fire, including a propane cylinder.

Firefighters were called to put out the flames.

Police say the man took off and will face

a mischief charge.

They say "neither party would change their views."

(CFRA)

Jun 14 2016

OTTAWA - Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says the federal government rejects the idea of allowing hunters to use the same type of military-style assault rifle involved in a mass shooting in Florida.



Last month, Conservative MP Bob Zimmer presented a petition to Parliament on behalf of the Lawful Firearm Owners of Canada that calls for the classification of the AR-15 rifle to be changed from restricted to non-restricted.

The petition, launched by a man who says Canadian hunters want to be able to use the popular semi-automatic rifle, was signed by more than 25,000 people, mainly from Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

Goodale says the Liberal government will present a formal written reply to the petition, but he made it clear there is no intention of changing the weapon's classification.

"The position of the government of Canada is that this judgment needs to be left in the hands of the professionals in the police authorities, who are by far in the best position to make these judgment calls based upon their expertise," Goodale said in Ottawa on Tuesday.

"The request has been made to change the classification, but our position is 'no', that the existing classification will remain."

Marc Bennett, the man from Corner Brook, N.L., who launched the petition, was not immediately available for comment.

The AR-15 is a civilian model of the M16 rifle used by the U.S. army. One of the top-selling rifles in the U.S., the AR-15's variations are used by some military and police forces around the world.

In the petition, Bennett said the federal government changed the rifle's classification to restricted in the mid 1990s purely because of the way it looks. The petition said the AR-15 isn't more dangerous or different than thousands of other firearms in Canada.

"The rifle is the most versatile hunting rifle in the world," the petition reads.

"The Armalite Rifle - 15 was in fact legal to hunt with before the 1990s firearm classification changes and we hunters would like that opportunity restored."

Zimmer, the MP for Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies in British Columbia, did not respond to requests for comment.

VANCOUVER - Health Canada has taken a step back from claims that W-18 is a synthetic opioid that is 100 times more powerful than fentanyl, now acknowledging more research is needed.

The department issued a statement Tuesday clarifying its position on the drug after experts questioned widely circulated assertions about its potency and classification.

Health Canada said it referred to W-18 as a synthetic opioid to align with multiple sources, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Abuse, and because the limited scientific information available compared it to morphine.

However, doubts about this classification have been raised recently by a number of "credible sources," the department said.

"It has been noted that, at present, while the only publicly available scientific report compares W-18 and related compounds to opioids, it does not determine whether or not W-18 binds to opioid receptors in the body," it said.

"The department is aware of ongoing studies to determine the mode of action of W-18 and will continue to assess new information as it becomes available."

Canada recently made it illegal to produce, possess, import, export or traffic W-18 after the substance was identified during several drug seizures. In a June 1 news release, Health Canada said W-18 "can be 100 times stronger than fentanyl."

But the inventor of W-18, Ed Knaus, has pointed out that he and other researchers who developed the drug never compared its potency to fentanyl.

Health Canada said on Tuesday that the only publicly available report on W-18 is the 1984 patent application, which included a study that used mice to test the pain-relieving activity of the compound. The results were compared to several other drugs, including aspirin and morphine.

The research found it takes 10,000 times more morphine than W-18 to produce the same analgesic effect in mice.

Fentanyl is 100 times stronger than morphine. Therefore, if the research results are interpreted to mean W-18 is 10,000 times stronger than morphine, that would make the drug 100 times stronger than fentanyl.

However, Bryan Roth, a pharmacologist at the University of North Carolina, has said the study results don't necessarily mean W-18 is 10,000 times more dangerous than morphine. He is conducting his own research on W-18.

On Tuesday, Health Canada noted the limitations of the research but said the available data suggests a "potentially severe risk for harm to individuals."

"In addition, the lack of data ... could lead users to rely on self-reported experiences and other information from user web forums, which may be inaccurate."

Health Canada emphasized that it is not currently known whether overdose-reversing

agent naloxone would be effective for someone who had taken W-18.

However, administering naloxone would not hurt the person, and 911 should also be called for emergency medical assistance, it said.

Jun 14 2016

NANAIMO, B.C. - A civilian-led oversight agency has deployed investigators to Nanaimo, B.C., after a man was shot and killed by RCMP.

The Independent Investigations Office says the Vancouver Island detachment reported that officers responded to a call about a man carrying a knife Tuesday morning and police became involved in an encounter with him.

The IIO says police fired shots and the man was transported to hospital but did not survive.

Any witnesses are being asked to call the agency with information.

Details about the deceased, including his name, will be made public by the BC Coroners Service.

Jun 14 2016

OTTAWA - RCMP members could soon have the clear right to negotiate key issues such as discipline, harassment and equipment purchases following Senate committee changes to a government bill.



Rank-and-file Mounties had been concerned such issues would be off-limits when members sit down with management to work out their first contract.

Last year, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the right of RCMP officers to collective bargaining and gave the government time to usher in legislation for a new labour-relations regime.

Some senators, including former Mountie Larry Campbell, said the government's bill gave too much power to the RCMP commissioner by excluding from negotiation topics such as transfers and appointments, appraisals, probation, member conduct, demotions and dismissals.

The committee unanimously axed the exclusions Tuesday, while making it clear nothing in the legislation dilutes the existing "human resources management powers" of the commissioner. Other changes assert the grievance rights of members.

The two Liberal ministers behind the bill reacted cautiously to the committee changes, which now go to third reading in the Senate. If approved, the amended legislation would return to the House of Commons for consideration.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale will review the amendments and follow the broader debate on the bill in the Senate, said Scott Bardsley, a spokesman for the minister.

Treasury Board President Scott Brison is also waiting to see what senators do. "We look forward to hearing from them."

The changes follow RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson's testimony earlier this week that the exclusions in the bill were aimed at ensuring management had the flexibility to swiftly make decisions on things like recruiting, training, promotion, conduct and discipline.

"The concern is that matters of significant public interest cannot wait the time it takes to resolve them through grievance arbitration," he said Monday.

But Paulson noted the RCMP has long had joint committees that allowed members and staff relations representatives to discuss pay and benefits, use of force, equipment purchases and conduct - a positive dynamic he hoped would continue under the new regime.

Jun 14 2016

EDMONTON - Officials with Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams say a drug supply including 2,000 fentanyl pills has been seized as part of a massive drug investigation, and three people have been charged.

The ALERT investigation started in May and investigators received information that a vehicle was coming back to Edmonton from the B.C. lower mainland, containing a large shipment of drugs.

Investigators found the vehicle on June 3, and three Edmonton homes were searched.

In addition to the pills, investigators also seized marijuana, cocaine, body armour, a Taser, ammunition and \$26,000 cash proceeds of crime.

(CTV Edmonton)

Jun 14 2016

TORONTO - Three Toronto police officers are accused of sexually assaulting a female colleague in a downtown hotel room while she was too intoxicated to consent and slipping in and out of consciousness, according to new details in a court document released Tuesday.

The statements of the complainant and others to investigators are summarized in a September 2015 Information To Obtain (ITO) used to obtain warrants for DNA samples of the three officers. None of the allegations has been proven in court.

The ITO was placed under a temporary publication ban that was lifted Tuesday by Superior Court Justice Faye McWatt.

Leslie Nyznik, Sameer Kara and Joshua Cabero, all officers at 51 Division, were charged with sexual assault and gang sexual assault on Feb. 19, 2015. They will be pleading not guilty, according to their lawyers.

The DNA samples of two men were found in the processing of a rape kit, according to

the ITO. The warrants were obtained after the officers declined to provide voluntary DNA samples. The results of the DNA analysis cannot be reported due to a publication ban. (Toronto Star)

Jun 14 2016

FORT MCMURRAY - The wildfire that forced the evacuation of nearly 90,000 people and destroyed thousands of structures in and near the City of Fort McMurray was likely caused by humans, RCMP said Tuesday.

Investigators are asking for public tips about what may have sparked the blaze that was first spotted by forestry officials on May 1, about 15 kilometres southwest of Fort McMurray. Lightning has been ruled out as a probable cause.

Mounties are hoping to speak with anyone who may have been in the Horse River trail system area between April 29 and May 5, as these people could have information that would assist the investigation.

RCMP said they are working alongside provincial wildfire officials to investigate the fire.

As the investigation into the cause of the devastating wildfire continues, local RCMP have been adjusting to life after the fire.

Wood Buffalo RCMP Cpl. George Cameron said Tuesday local detachment members returned to Fort McMurray about two weeks ago, after taking a mandated break.

During the evacuation and the days that followed, Cameron said local officers worked nearly non-stop, catching a few hours of sleep in their cruisers. In Cameron's case, he slept in a jail cell because there was nowhere else to go.

After taking a two-week break to recover, Cameron said when he and his fellow officers first returned ahead of the public re-entry, things were "very eerie".

"Our members were doing constant rolling patrols of neighbourhoods and stuff, and it was like something out of *The Walking Dead* ... like on a Friday afternoon, there's not a car on the streets," Cameron said, speaking at the Timberlea RCMP detachment.

As waves of residents began making their way home, Cameron said calls to police to report run-of-the-mill crime has been a strange kind of comfort.

"It's nice to see, in a way ... just the normal calls that we'd been answering before the fires," Cameron said. "That's an indication to me that people are starting to get back in their old routine."

Beyond that, Cameron said there's been a bit of extra work to do at the behest of the emergency operations centre because the provincial state of emergency remains in effect. A handful of remaining RCMP officers from other jurisdictions are helping man checkpoints at neighbourhoods with significant damage.

The municipality is also crawling with private security guards, who are stationed around cordoned off burned structures and neighbourhoods. The Regional Municipality

of Wood Buffalo confirmed Tuesday that four security firms have been hired - G4S, Garda, Great Plains Security and Taws Security. (Edmonton Journal)

Jun 14 2016

VANCOUVER - A new Vancouver police policy considers the culture and religion of people officers are searching.



The policy covers First Nation medicine bags, Muslim burqa, hijab, niqab or covering veils, Sikh turbans and kirpans, and Jewish phylactery or tefillin boxes.

"These items may pose unique considerations for members when balancing the need to ensure safety, enforce the law and conduct criminal investigations with preserving the person's dignity and respecting the sanctity of their culture," the policy said, adding that officers are to use their own discretion at each scene to ensure their safety.

The new policy suggests officers allow First Nations people being searched to open their own medicine bags for examination whenever possible, and allow aboriginal people to keep their medicine bags while in custody. The bags often contain stones, herbs and other objects, and are intended to only be handled by their owners or a First Nations elder.

"Many aboriginal cultures prescribe that women in particular should not touch the contents of a medicine bag due to the belief that women are far more spiritually powerful than men, and even simply viewing the contents of a bag will alter their efficacy," the policy reads.

"Therefore, members should make efforts to have a male officer preside over the examination of the medicine bag."

Covering veils should only be unveiled to close family. The policy suggests that female officers conduct searches, in private.

Searches involving Sikh turbans and kirpans - a religious sword - should be done in a private location, and turbans should be given back to the arrested person while being transported to police custody, the policy says.

Kirpans will not be allowed to be kept by anyone arrested, however.

Jewish phylacteries or tefillins are boxes containing parchment prayer scrolls, attached to the forearm and forehead. The policy suggests that care be taken to make sure the boxes and scrolls aren't damaged, and those searched should be allowed to keep their boxes afterwards.

Additionally, some Jewish women may wear veils or wigs to cover their hair. The policy suggests searches be done in private,

by a female officer, and the covering should be returned to the women, even while in custody.

Two other policies are being proposed to the Vancouver Police Board on Thursday, including a policy on how to interact with transgender people, and a policy on how to interact with those without immigration status.

(24 Hours Vancouver)

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 15, 2016

Jun 15 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberal government is introducing legislation aimed at saving on social-benefit payments, better tracking the movement of suspected fugitives and terrorists, and identifying people who remain in Canada past visa-expiration dates.

Under the 2011 perimeter security pact, Canada and the United States agreed to set up co-ordinated systems to track the entry and exit information of travellers.

For the moment, the tracking system involves exchanging entry information collected from people at the land border - so that data on entry to one country serves as a record of exit from the other.

The first two phases of the program have been limited to foreign nationals and permanent residents of Canada and the U.S., but not citizens of either country.

The initiative will be expanded to include information-sharing on all travellers crossing the land border.

In addition, Canada plans to begin collecting information on people leaving by plane - something the United States already does - by requiring airlines to submit passenger manifest data for outbound international flights.

Federal officials have been trying to satisfy privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien's office that personal information will be properly collected, used and disclosed under the program.

Jun 15 2016

VICTORIA - The British Columbia government has bought a former seniors care facility in downtown Victoria and plans to turn it into 140 housing units for the homeless.

The purchase comes as the province heads to B.C. Supreme Court later this month in its second attempt to evict the 80 to 100 people who have been camping on the grounds of the Victoria courthouse since last year.

B.C. paid \$11.2 million for the former care facility which will be ready for tenants next month.

Housing Minister Rich Coleman says the new building has enough space for the homeless camp residents who are living in unsafe conditions in tarp-covered tents beside the courthouse.

Coleman says the province has already provided more than 190 spaces for Victoria's homeless since last October, including shelter and living units at a former youth jail, community centre and seniors care facility.

In April, the chief justice of the B.C. Supreme Court refused to grant the province an interim injunction to evict the campers, ruling the government didn't prove it would suffer irreparable harm if an injunction wasn't granted.

Jun 15 2016

VANCOUVER - The British Columbia Coroners Service has revealed a tragic portrait of children and youth who died in collisions and is calling for safer street design to prevent future deaths.

The service has issued a report with recommendations for the province after reviewing the deaths of 81 young pedestrians, skateboarders and cyclists between 2005 and 2014.

The report says 15 to 18-year-olds were most likely to die in road-related crashes, and of 29 in that age range who were tested for toxicology, 23 tested positive for alcohol or marijuana.

More than one-third had involvement with the Children's Ministry within 12 months of their deaths, which the coroner says is consistent with research findings in other jurisdictions.

The service also found nearly half of the children aged one to four died in driveway incidents where, for example, a child runs behind a parent's vehicle as it is backing up.

The report recommends B.C. approach road design with a focus on safety, increase traffic safety knowledge for children and youth, and promote the adoption of legislation for vehicle sensors and cameras.

Jun 15 2016

CALGARY - Current and former members of the Calgary Police Service are facing a bevy of charges after a two-year anti-corruption investigation.

Police say a woman came to them in August 2014 with allegations that she was being harassed by people she believed were hired by her former husband.

It's alleged that Kenneth Carter hired former officer Stephen Walton, who was working in security, to follow his ex-wife and report on her activity.

Walton faces charges of criminal harassment, bribery of officers, improper storage of a firearm and perjury, while Carter is charged with criminal harassment and perjury.

Police say that Walton allegedly hired three members of the police service, who have also been charged.

The suspension status of two, Bryan Morton and Bradford McNish, are under review. A third, Anthony Braile, was dismissed and relieved of duty without pay on an unrelated matter earlier this year.

Walton's wife, Heather, a former civilian member of the police service, has also been charged.

Deputy police chief Ray Robitaille alleges the officers involved made hundreds of inquiries in police databases to gain private information about the woman.

"The database is monitored all the time, so you cannot access that database without leaving a fingerprint," said Robitaille.

All of the accused have been released on bail, with the condition that they not communicate with the alleged victim.

The Professional Standards Section will investigate once the criminal process wraps up.

Jun 15 2016

MONTREAL - The Quebec government needs to explain how its new long-gun registry law will affect aboriginal people, says a prominent native leader.

First Nations communities across the province weren't consulted before the law was tabled, said Konrad Sioui, grand chief of the Wendake Huron community near Quebec City.

He added that leaders aren't sure how a provincial law on firearms will affect existing treaties or be enforced on their territories.

Members of the Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador are holding a conference in Quebec City this week and Sioui said leaders are expecting answers from Public Security Minister Martin Coiteux at a scheduled meeting Thursday.

Quebec's national assembly passed legislation last week creating a provincial long-gun registry, which forces owners of shotguns and rifles to register their weapon with the government.

Sioui said he wasn't surprised but was "disappointed" Quebec acted unilaterally.

"Even the Supreme Court of Canada was extremely clear - in at least two cases - that federal and provincial governments need to do their best to consult with First Nations and to ensure that the application of laws (affecting us) is acceptable," he said. "All that was left out."

Jun 15 2016

OTTAWA - The RCMP watchdog has launched a review of how well the Mounties learned the lessons of the Maher Arar torture affair.

The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP will examine issues ranging from the sharing of sensitive information with foreign governments to the detention of Canadians in overseas prisons.

It marks the review commission's first known foray into the RCMP's national security operations since legislative changes gave it new muscle to probe Mountie intelligence efforts.

"The intent of the review is to foster public confidence in the RCMP's national security activities by providing an independent, external examination of an operational area that may not otherwise be subject to outside scrutiny," says a notice posted on the commission's website.

Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian, was detained in New York in September 2002 and soon after deported by U.S. authorities - winding up in a grave-like cell in Damascus.

Under torture, the Ottawa telecommunications engineer gave false confessions to Syrian military intelligence officers about supposed collaboration with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

A federal inquiry led by Justice Dennis O'Connor concluded that faulty information the RCMP passed to the United States very likely led to Arar's year-long ordeal.

O'Connor's initial report made 23 recommendations - including many aimed at the RCMP - on training, oversight and information sharing. The RCMP has spelled out the various steps taken to address the recommendations.

The review commission will look at the RCMP's centralization and co-ordination of national security operations, national security training, domestic and foreign information sharing, border lookout flags and the detention of Canadians abroad.

It wants to ensure RCMP activities follow legislation, regulations and ministerial direction.

Jun 15 2016

TORONTO - The senior police officer who ordered mass detentions and arrests at the G20 summit in Toronto six years ago has been reprimanded and will lose 30 paid days.

Supt. David (Mark) Fenton was sentenced today.

A police tribunal convicted him last year of exceeding his authority and discreditable conduct.

The 28-year officer was in charge when hundreds of people were detained illegally during the tumultuous weekend summit.

Those detained or arrested had asked for the officer to be fired.

The prosecution wanted a year-long demotion, while the defence had asked for a reprimand or the docking of vacation pay.

"He was motivated by fear," said retired justice John Hamilton, who oversaw the misconduct tribunal.

"The fear did not justify the actions taken but it was relevant to Fenton's motivation... the protection of property, the public and the G20 delegates."

Fenton, in full dress uniform, did not immediately say anything after Hamilton announced the sentence.

Fenton's conduct was "condoned by his superiors," who were well aware of what he was doing, Hamilton said in sentencing. In fact, Hamilton noted, he was later commended by then police chief, Bill Blair.

"His misconduct occurred under the noses of his superiors," Hamilton said. "He should have been stopped by his superiors. That never happened."

In his earlier 150-page decision, Hamilton convicted Fenton after finding the officer had no reasonable grounds to order the detentions, in one case just minutes after coming

on shift. Hamilton also said Fenton's testimony was not credible.

During sentencing arguments earlier this year, lawyers for the complainants said Fenton, 56, had shown no remorse and had tried to blame everyone other than himself for the trampling of civil liberties. They said he deserved to be fired for upending the Constitution and turning the downtown core into a police state.

"Dismissal would be inappropriate," Hamilton said, saying his long exemplary career should not be judged for two mistakes made over a trying weekend.

Jun 15 2016

The Yukon RCMP officer who was captured on video making a violent arrest last year in Whitehorse did nothing wrong and will not be charged, according to investigators.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was called in as an impartial third party to investigate after the video was posted online in April 2015. The video quickly went viral, prompting public outrage and accusations of police brutality.

In the video, an RCMP officer holds a man on the ground in someone's kitchen, while several angry voices are heard off-camera.

"I'm doing nothing," the man says while he's held on the ground. "Why are you hitting me?" he asks, before the officer appears to punch him in the head. The officer then forces the man onto his stomach and handcuffs him.

"The video is very difficult to watch," says a statement from ASIRT, released Tuesday. "It clearly depicts violent acts that would be disturbing to any reasonable person."

"That having been said, one must be careful not to allow the natural and almost instinctive reaction to the video to have a disproportionate influence on the necessary objective and unbiased assessment of the facts."

According to ASIRT, the video depicts only a portion of the encounter between the officer and Josh Skookum, the First Nations man arrested.

Investigators reviewed all events leading up to the arrest, and determined that the officer's use of force was warranted.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY
JUNE 16, 2016

Jun 16 2016

CORNWALL, Ont. - Police say they have seized close to 1,950 kilograms of contraband tobacco strewn on the shore of the St. Lawrence River but have yet to find who is responsible for dumping it there.

The Cornwall Regional Task Force, which monitors the border, says it found the tobacco on June 2 after spotting two boats travelling east along the river at high speed.

It says the boats and their occupants fled before police arrived at the site in Riviere-Beaudette, a Quebec municipality bordering Ontario.

Investigators are asking anyone with information to come forward.

The task force is a partnership between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario Provincial Police and the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

Jun 16 2016

WATERLOO REGION - A Waterloo Regional Police officer faces a charge of sexual assault after he was on course at the Ontario Police College more than a year ago.

Det. Const. Zachary Gent will appear in a St. Thomas court in July on the charge of sexual assault against a complainant who was also at the Aylmer college.

The charge was laid by the Special Investigations Unit. In a media release, the Special Investigations Unit said the incident took place in April 2015, but would not say if the complaint is an officer or a civilian.

Jason Gennaro of the unit said he could not comment any further on the matter.

"The matter is now before the courts. In consideration of the fair trial interests of the accused, the SIU will make no further comment," the release said.

Staff Sgt. Mike Haffner said police were notified of the allegations on April 12, 2016. The officer was suspended with pay on April 15 after an internal investigation and the matter was given over to the Special Investigations Unit, he said.

Gent, a 10-year veteran of the Waterloo police, was commended in May 2012 for preventing a man from jumping off an expressway bridge.

(Waterloo Record)

Jun 16 2016

RCMP say a 36-year-old man has been charged with multiple offences after allegedly almost running over a police officer in northwest Alberta last week.

On June 8, Mounties said they were called to investigate an impaired driving complaint when an officer spotted the vehicle in question.

Police allege the driver turned his vehicle around and crashed into the officer's vehicle. When the officer got out of his vehicle, RCMP allege the suspect drove at him.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was called in to investigate because the officer shot at the driver when he allegedly didn't stop after colliding with the police vehicle.

The RCMP officer was able to jump out of the way of the oncoming vehicle and was not injured in the collision.

Nashon Jaron Osborne was later arrested and charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, flight from police, driving while disqualified, assault on a peace officer with a weapon, and mischief.

He is scheduled to make his first court

appearance in Grande Prairie Provincial Court on June 29.

(Global News)

Jun 16 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's securities watchdog says July 14 is the launch date for its whistleblower program, which will pay up to \$5 million for insider information about accounting fraud, insider trading and market manipulation.

The Ontario Securities Commission's whistleblower program - the first in Canada to pay for tips - will include protections for those who come forward, such as confidentiality and anti-retaliation measures.

The OSC originally planned to cap payments to tipsters at \$1.5 million, but increased the upper limit after experts suggested that was too little to compensate senior executives who risk losing lucrative jobs and being blacklisted from their industries.

Payouts would still be capped at \$1.5 million unless the securities regulator is able to collect at least \$10 million in sanctions related to the case. In such cases, the whistleblower would receive between five and 15 per cent of the sanctions collected, up to a maximum of \$5 million.

In the United States, whistleblowers can receive a 10 to 30 per cent payout, with no cap on the total payment amount, but only if the securities regulator is able to collect the money that it's owed.

The OSC also announced Thursday the Chief of the Office of the Whistleblower will be Kelly Gorman, who has been deputy director of enforcement for the provincial agency.

Jun 16 2016

SAINT JOHN, N.B. - A Saint John, N.B., courthouse has done away with Courtroom 13 after complaints that it felt unlucky.

People had raised concerns about the number since the Saint John Law Courts opened three years ago, Don Higgins, regional director of court services in Saint John, said Thursday.

Officials quickly took down the sign, but it was still known as Courtroom 13 on dockets and other official documents.

Now, though, a new sign has gone up declaring it Courtroom 14.

"People only come here once or twice in their lives, so we're hoping to make it easier. We didn't do any investigation or analysis to see how many people it impacted. It was an easy fix," said Higgins.

"I'm not a superstitious person by nature, but if there's anything you can do to remove these distractions..."

Jun 16 2016

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's prosecution service has released its position on prosecuting health care professionals involved in a physician-assisted death.

The director of the prosecution service says no physician or member of a health-care

team involved in an assisted death will be prosecuted, as long as the death falls within the scope of a 2015 Supreme Court of Canada ruling on the issue.

Martin Herschorn issued the directive to Crown attorneys across the province today, and it remains in effect until the federal government passes its legislation.

Herschorn says the prosecution service consulted with police before releasing the directive.

It falls in line with those issued by other provinces earlier this month, including Alberta, British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Senate has sent the federal government's controversial bill on assisted dying back to the House of Commons with a major amendment that removes a key clause stating that only those who are near death should qualify for medical help to end their lives.

Jun 16 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police officers are so concerned about the changes proposed in an upcoming report that there's already talk of job action, said the head of the Toronto Police Association.



A task force, struck by Mayor John Tory to modernize the police force and reduce its budget, is poised to make a series of recommendations, including closing six stations across the city and not hiring any officers for three years, according to details leaked by senior police officials.

Mike McCormack, President of the Toronto Police Association, said chief among his concerns about the details of the new report is how the force will operate with 350 fewer officers by 2017. He said officers are already frustrated by not having enough personnel to do proactive police work.

"They're stressed by the workload," McCormack told CBC's Metro Morning on Thursday.

McCormack said rank and file officers don't have a problem with finding efficiencies within the force, but won't do anything that jeopardizes public safety just to cut costs. The officers will read the finalized report - an interim version will be tabled at the police services board on Friday - and after that will decide whether some form of job action is necessary.

"Whether or not a job action is required, we'll look at it and we'll decide what the appropriate action is," he said.

For now, McCormack said officers are in a "wait and see" mode and said he's eager to see the data that backs up the task force's proposals.

Tory struck the task force in February

after the police budget topped \$1 billion for the first time ever, sparking criticism from many in the city.

(CBC News)

Jun 16 2016

REGINA - A panel reviewing domestic violence deaths in Saskatchewan is to begin looking at cases next month.

The provincial government says there will be a pilot review of three to five cases this summer, with an interim report expected later this year.

The panel will then begin a formal review of all domestic violence deaths in Saskatchewan between 2005 and 2014.

A final report and recommendations is to be released by the fall of 2017.

Justice Minister Gordon Wyant says the goal is to identify common themes and patterns, and to make recommendations to help the province address domestic violence.

Statistics Canada says Saskatchewan has the highest police-reported family violence rates of all the provinces.

"By understanding the root of these tragic incidents, we will be better equipped to prevent them from happening again and again in our province," Wyant said Thursday.

The panel will include the chief coroner, a domestic violence worker, social services and police.

The government says the panel will only review closed domestic violence death cases. It will not reopen or reinvestigate cases, question investigative techniques or comment on decisions made by judicial bodies.

Jun 16 2016

A Calgary police officer has been charged and his service dog is being sent back to the U.S. after it bit and injured a 12-year-old boy in Aspen Hills in March.

CPS "has determined that it is in the best interest of the dog and community to return the animal to the originating broker in the United States," police said in a statement, despite it testing above standards on socialization and obedience tests.

The officer - who still faces an internal police investigation - has now been charged with four bylaw infractions.

The dog — a Belgian Malinois called Marco - broke free from its handler's fenced backyard in Aspen Hills on March 30 and came across three children playing on the street. When 12-year-old Ali Hassan ran from the dog, it chased him to his home and bit him on the leg, causing puncture wounds.

The handler has been charged with one count of an animal running at large and one count of an animal attacking a person and causing severe injury in relation to biting Hassan.

The boy's injury was the result of a "severe bite" that rated a five on the Dunbar dog bite scale, said Calgary's chief bylaw officer, Alvin Murray. Six is death, he noted.

During their investigation, bylaw officers discovered that the handler's pet dog, a Doberman, had escaped with Marco once before, on March 11. He faces two more counts

of dog at large in relation to that case.

A mandatory court appearance is required in all serious aggressive dog incidents, and a judge can impose fines of up to \$10,000 for each charge.

Following the incident, Marco was immediately removed from service and secured at the CPS kennels, police said.

The handler remains in the canine unit, but will face a review under the Police Act once the bylaw matters have been concluded, police said.

Calgary police said the force takes "full responsibility" for the incident, explaining that service dogs require a high level of socialization when they are off duty, and live in residential neighbourhoods as part of the bonding with their handlers.

(CBC News)

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