

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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TORONTO - His fist punched toward the sky, as if in triumph, when Nolan Russell got to ride the horse named for the father he never got to know.

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OTTAWA - A unionization drive by two competing factions seeking to represent Canada's Mounties is getting underway in earnest after the Senate approved big changes to a government bill to allow the first-ever RCMP union.

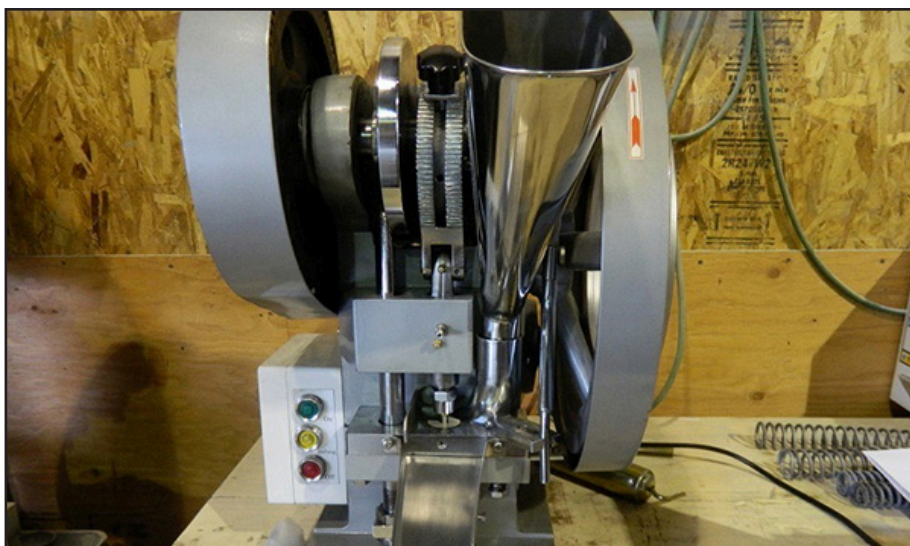
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Police call for pill press crackdown



Jun 18 2016

VICTORIA - Police are treating the fentanyl crisis as if it's an outbreak of disease, says a Victoria police drug expert.

"Police departments are now working cooperatively like never before with paramedics, with firefighters, with the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, with emergency-room physicians, with epidemiologists," Staff Sgt. Conor King said at a workshop this week teaching first responders how to handle the deadly narcotic and its victims safely.

"We're looking at this situation and responding to it in a way that we would deal

with an outbreak of a disease. Law enforcement is working hand-in-hand with the medical community because so many citizens are dying so rapidly."

The two-day workshop, sponsored by the Justice Institute of B.C. and the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, was held to train police, paramedics, firefighters, correctional officers, CBSA agents and Transport Canada staff in how to deal with fentanyl.

It was also an opportunity for the law-enforcement community to call on Health Canada to regulate pill presses, which can churn out as many as 18,000 counterfeit Oxycontin tablets laced with fentanyl in an hour.



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Pill presses can be bought online and shipped in from overseas, said King.

"They can be tracked. And we're well aware of who takes receipt of these pill presses, but currently there's no way that the police can stop them. We're working on changing the laws surrounding the importation of pill presses."

There's no legitimate reason for someone to have a pill press, King said. The sole reason pill presses are being imported is for the production of counterfeit Oxycontin pills, which typically contain fentanyl.

"The proliferation of those pills on the street is responsible for a great number of fatal overdoses," King said.

The counterfeit pills are being sold across North America, but particularly in Victoria, Vancouver, other parts of B.C. and Alberta.

"Every day, heroin users buy what they think is going to be something usable, and it turns out to be a lethal or extremely dangerous dose of pill that contains fentanyl, not heroin, not oxycodone. They are basically tricked into buying something that has a high fatality rate."

Regulating pill presses would stop at least one part of street-level distribution, King said.

RCMP Cpl. Eric Boechler, a member of the federal clandestine-lab enforcement and response team, believes regulating the pill presses on a provincial and federal level could have a huge impact.

"The pill presses are pumping out pharmaceutical-grade tablets that are directly mimicking what a drug user would assume is a pharmaceutical pill," he said.

Federal Health Minister Jane Philpott and department officials are looking into the issue of pill presses as part of a comprehensive approach to combat prescription drug and opioid use, said a statement from her office.

Last week, the B.C. Coroners Service said there were 308 overdose deaths in the

province in the first four months of this year, compared with 175 for the same period last year, a 75 per cent increase.

If the trend continues, more than 700 people will die from drug overdoses this year.

But the synthetic opioid also poses a lethal danger to police and other first responders. There have been close calls across North America, King said.

"Because fentanyl is so lethal at such small doses and the powder form can be disturbed or moved or projected up into the atmosphere, a first responder who walks into a fentanyl laboratory could inadvertently breathe in some of the fentanyl or be exposed to it through mucus membranes.

"A very small dose - two milligrams - is considered lethal and could cause death to the first responder very quickly and easily."

Officers deal with high-risk environments all the time. Methamphetamine and ecstasy labs are extremely dangerous, Boechler said, but fentanyl has upped the ante.

"It's such a dangerous compound. We have to take specific actions to manage those risks." (Victoria Times Colonist)

THURSDAY JUNE 16, 2016

Jun 16 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberal government is moving to create a multi-party committee of parliamentarians — bound forever to secrecy — to serve as another set of eyes on federal intelligence activities.

Legislation tabled Thursday would authorize the security-cleared committee of seven MPs and two senators to scrutinize the intelligence work of more than a dozen agencies. A maximum of four MPs from the governing party could be members.

The goal is to ensure security and intelligence organizations are effective while protecting Canadian values, rights and freedoms, said Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale.

All of Canada's major allies - including the United States, Britain and France - have such committees.

The Canadian committee would have a high degree of independence, power to delve into any national security matter and access to classified government information. However, ministers could withhold information from the members if handing it over would harm national security.

In addition, a minister would have authority to halt a review of an ongoing operation if the scrutiny would be damaging.

Jun 16 2016

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department has issued a new policy for interacting with transgender people after it was rebuked by the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal over its treatment of a trans woman.

The department says the policy was created with respectful criteria for the identification of

trans people and its officers will receive training around the new procedures.

The changes come after the tribunal awarded Angela Dawson \$15,000 for injuries to her dignity, feelings and self-respect after officers referred to her by her legal name, Jeffrey, and a male pronoun and refused to allow her post-surgery care while she spent a night in jail.

A 17-minute video entitled "Walk With Me," outlining the difficulties many trans people go through in daily life, was developed by the department and will be shown to all VPD employees.

The department's director of planning, research and audit, Drazen Manojlovic, says the policy strikes a balance between officers' legal responsibilities to verify identities, while being respectful of a trans person's right to be referred to by the name and gender they have chosen.

Jun 16 2016

NIAGARA FALLS - The finish line is in sight for the new Niagara Regional Police headquarters. The \$65-million project has a substantial completion date of June 30. While behind schedule, it would still allow the NRP to be moved in and completely operational by Labour Day.



The new building will replace two existing facilities, the NRP headquarters and the Niagara Falls detachment.

"It has been a 16-year journey for me personally and for many others as well," Deputy Chief Joe Matthews said. "It will be very satisfying when it finally opens.

"My first involvement in discussions about what would become this facility occurred when I was a sergeant. That was in the year 2000."

Once substantial completion is achieved, the Region will officially sign off and take full ownership of the 210,000-square-foot complex, which is being built on eight acres near the existing OPP station at the Stanley Avenue and Hwy. 420 intersection.

It will be home to about 600 of the NRP's 1,100 uniform and civilian members.

Training for lab equipment and detention security systems was scheduled for mid-June.

The new complex is one of the biggest single building projects the Region has undertaken. It is being built by Carillion Canada Inc.

The original schedule, detailed years ago, was to have the building complete, and staff moved to the by the end of November 2015.

(St. Catharines Standard)

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VANCOUVER - In the midst of what's been called a public health emergency, Vancouver police want to make it known they do not attend most calls involving overdoses.

Const. Brian Montague, media relations officer, delivered the message on CBC Radio One's The Early Edition.

"If you pick up the phone and ask for an ambulance, you're going to get an ambulance and you're not going to get a police officer unless one is needed," he said.

Montague said police typically only attend overdose-related calls if there is a threat to safety or a death has occurred.

By adopting this strategy, he said the agency hopes drug users won't ever be too afraid of getting into trouble when they call 911.

"We're not just getting calls from hard core drug users. We're getting calls from 16 and 17 year olds who are experimenting with drugs," he said.

The B.C. Coroner's office indicated, from January to the end of May of this year, there have already been 308 deaths directly related to drug overdoses.

To curb the escalating number of people who are dying, Vancouver Coastal Health recently applied for five additional supervised injection sites - a strategy Montague says police support but don't believe is the only solution.

"We have people overdosing around the corner and down the street," said Montague referring to the supervised injection sites Insite in the Downtown Eastside.

"Because the drug is so powerful, the addiction is so strong, that they can't wait or won't wait to walk a block to do that injection."

When officers do come across someone who is overdosing, they are not able to reverse the overdose by injecting the drug naloxone, which is administered by other first responders like paramedics and fire fighters.

Montague said there are concerns that it could be "hazardous" to officers since they are not health professionals.

He says the agency has written a letter asking Health Canada to expedite the nasal spray version of the drug.

(CBC News)

Jun 16 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht expects controversy and "some pain" when the department announces its plan to save \$27 million over the next three years.

For the first year, the organization has found ways to shave millions of dollars by making small changes that add up, Knecht said, such as keeping vehicles in operation longer, cutting both overtime and the number of leadership meetings.

But to save that last couple of million, Knecht said, the "public is going to feel the impact."

Knecht wouldn't hint at what's to come, but said police are looking at where they can

use civilian staff instead of officers and outsource jobs. For example, the province recently approved allowing sheriffs to transport prisoners, putting 10 more police officers back on the streets and saving the police service \$400,000, he said.

"There will be some changes and the public should rightfully ask questions. But we can't be all things to all people all the time and still have increased calls for service, and no increase in budget.

That's just the reality of the situation," he said.

City council approved the Edmonton Police Service's three-year operating budget in December, with an increase of \$39.2 million, \$36.1 million short of what police originally requested.

Police have consulted extensively with the public and employees to see what services are most important.

People said traffic enforcement and an enhanced community presence of police were most important. People also requested an expansion to the service's online reporting system for minor crimes.

Edmonton police employees support the idea of alternative service delivery methods, such as through civilians, outsourcing or tiered policing, and cutting redundant community programs.

"In some way, shape or form, some Edmontonians will find them controversial. We're trying to lessen the impact," Knecht said.

(Edmonton Journal)

Jun 16 2016

Charges have been laid following RCMP's fraud and theft investigation targeting former senior executive members of the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA) and their business associates.

The investigation, which started in the fall of 2014, centred on allegations that top union leaders worked with others to set up companies to provide services to the union's membership but failed to disclose their financial interests in those companies.

On Thursday, the RCMP stated in a news release that five people have been charged with fraud over \$5,000 and laundering the proceeds of crime. They include Karl Walsh, 52, of West Gwillimbury; James Christie, 48, of Midland; Martin Bain, 50 of Oro-Medonte Township; Andrew McKay, 54, of Toronto; and Francis Chantiam, 60, of New Jersey.

After the allegations became public in early 2015, it resulted in the departures of Christie, the association's president; Bain, the vice-president; and Walsh, the chief administrative officer. All three men, sworn officers with the OPP, were also suspended with pay from the force.

New documents filed in an Ontario court in March by RCMP Sgt. Gordon Aristotle said that there were reasonable grounds to believe Bain, Christie and Walsh had committed theft, breach of trust, fraud and money laundering.

Three of their business associates, Toronto lawyer Andrew McKay, Klara Kozak and Noel Chantiam, were believed to have committed

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money laundering and fraud, Aristotle wrote.

None of the accusations have been proven in court.

"Because it's before the courts, I'm not going to provide comment on the allegations or charges," said current OPPA president Rob Jamieson. "It's never good when you have criminal charges laid against those who are entrusted into positions of authority and responsibility."

According to the most recent court filings, a plan was developed in 2014 to defraud the OPPA for "personal financial benefit through deceit of the OPPA board of directors and the OPPA membership."

It is alleged that McKay and Chantiam provided the legal and business expertise to establish the new companies, while Christie, Bain and Walsh "used their positions of influence" within the union to secure business relationships with those companies.

One company that was set up was Leximco/First Response Travel. Kozak would serve as its "face," but all six would have a financial interest in the company, the court documents allege.

OPPA staff were notified that Leximco/First Response would become the exclusive travel and accommodation service provider of the OPPA at a cost of approximately \$400,000 a year.

A second company was called PIN Consulting Group Inc. McKay would serve as its "face," but everyone, except Kozak, would have a financial interest in it, the court documents state. The company would provide a wide range of services related to travel, real estate and investments for a monthly fee of \$5,000.

It is alleged this monthly fee was used by Christie, Walsh and Bain to subsidize their financial contribution for the purchase of shares in the travel company.

"All current directors of the OPPA board have been interviewed by investigators," Aristotle wrote. "None were ever advised that Walsh, Bain and Christie had a beneficial interest in PIN or Leximco/First Response."

This, according to the board, was a "serious conflict of interest," Aristotle wrote.

According to the court records, the RCMP investigation — triggered in October 2014 when two OPPA whistleblowers came forward alleging criminal activity — has involved the review of numerous emails, text messages, bank statements, wire transfers and cheque stubs, as well as many witness interviews.

According to Jamieson, the OPPA has already undergone changes to guard against any potential future fraudulent activity but he wouldn't provide details.

"I will say that we've enacted reforms to the way the OPPA operates," he said. "We've created more accountability to protect OPPA finances, and we've turned the page on a dark chapter in our history."

The OPPA represents more than 6,200 uniformed and 3,600 civilian members.

The accused will make their initial court appearance at Old City Hall Courts in Toronto on July 18.

The OPPA office is located in Barrie
(Orillia Packet, CP)

FRIDAY
JUNE 17, 2016

Jun 17 2016

CALGARY - Family of a 12-year-old boy attacked by a police dog in his own home are calling for a review of the practice of allowing the animals to live with their handlers.

"They're of the view the relevant authorities - the police, bylaw, department of justice — should take a review of keeping these dogs in the community," lawyer Barry Steinfeld told the Calgary Eyeopener.

"If they are to remain in the community, I think very rigorous standards and inspections have to be made of the dog handler's premises to ensure the dogs cannot get out."

Ali Hassan was playing outside his family's home March 30 when a police dog, a three-year-old Belgian Malinois named Marco, escaped from a nearby yard.

Ali ran away and the dog gave chase.

"The dog chased him into the home," said Steinfeld.

"Ali tried to shut the kitchen door that opened into the garage on the dog. The dog forced its way in and attacked Ali in the kitchen in front of his mother, siblings and elderly grandparents who were there visiting."

Ali was bitten in the leg, suffering what bylaw officials rated as a five on the Dunbar dog bite scale, where six is death.

The handler is facing four charges, including allowing a dog to run at large and another of an animal attacking a person and causing severe injury.

The officer is also facing two charges from a separate, previous incident that saw his pet Doberman and Marco escape from their yard and run at large March 11.

Supt. Blair White told reporters Marco has since been sent back to the American kennel where police got him, and he will likely be redeployed to another police agency.

The handler remains with the canine unit performing patrol duties, and White said he will be assigned another dog.

This was the third time a police dog has gotten away from its handler while off duty, said White.

(CBC News)

Jun 17 2016

VANCOUVER - Former Vancouver police chief Jim Chu said he will "vigorously defend" himself in a disciplinary hearing ordered by the Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner over a letter Chu wrote recommending a discredited police officer be fired.

On Friday, The Vancouver Sun received a copy of an interim report by retired judge Ian Pitfield, working for the commissioner, who said there appears to be enough evidence to support an allegation of misconduct against Chu because material in the letter was wrong or inaccurate.

The complaint was filed by the parents

of Const. Christopher Charters, who Chu had wanted fired over what he said was a long pattern of poor decision-making and work performance, including an unauthorized car chase and subsequent false statements made to investigators.

Chu filed a letter in 2014 with the adjudicator, William Smart, another retired judge, that roundly criticized Charters' performance and said he should not be a police officer. Smart found Charters guilty of two counts of deceit and neglect of duty, but disagreed that he should be fired. Instead, he suspended Charters for 40 days. Charters has since left the police force.

After Smart's ruling, Charters' parents alleged to the police complaints commissioner that Chu had acted discredibly by making statements in his letter to Smart that they believed were not balanced, fair, accurate or complete. Smart, in his ruling against Charters, also said that while any opinion and evidence from a chief constable is expected to be balanced, fair, complete and accurate, Chu's letter "failed to meet those expectations."

However, he also noted that the letter was prepared by others in the department and that his criticism was not directed at Chu personally.

The commission asked the RCMP to conduct a review of how Chu's letter was prepared. Their report indicated that while the letter Chu filed was the product of a collaborative process within the department, the chief ultimately was responsible for signing it. It also noted that the head of the Vancouver Police Union, Const. Tom Stamatakis, had also warned Chu after seeing a draft of the letter that the language and tenor of his statements were unfair and biased. Chu had disagreed, but did change some wording in the final letter.

In his ruling, Pitfield said the case should go to a disciplinary hearing unless it can be resolved at a pre-hearing conference. He said the disciplinary or corrective measure being considered is a written reprimand. However, it is unclear what effect that might have since Chu retired from the police department in 2015 after 36 years of service. He was hired by the Aquilini Investment Group as a vice-president.

Chu said he's not going to accept an offer of a pre-hearing conference, and will instead strongly fight to be cleared.

"I retired from the VPD last year with a spotless record," he told The Vancouver Sun. "The decision of Mr Pitfield is based on his assessment of the documents put before him, and is very much a preliminary ruling. He has offered me a quick, cheap and informal way to finish this matter at a pre-hearing conference. I am not going to accept that offer, even though it would be much simpler to do so, because I know I did the right thing."

Chu said he wrote the letter arguing for dismissal of Charters because he felt the officer was not a credit to the police force.

(Vancouver Sun)

OWEN SOUND - A new partnership announced Friday is being touted as vital for its potential to save time in situations when every second counts.



The Owen Sound Police Service is teaming up with MedicAlert Foundation Canada to deliver the MedicAlert Connect Protect program, where police officers through their dispatch service are given immediate access to information about MedicAlert subscribers.

"In an emergency seconds really do matter," Owen Sound police Staff Sgt. Mike Daze said at a launch of the program at the Owen Sound police station on Friday. "It can make a difference in life or death or how we get that person safely home."

At Friday's event, Owen Sound police chief Bill Sornberger signed a memorandum of understanding with MedicAlert Foundation Canada president Robert Ridge so that the organization can provide police with the information they gather from subscribers. There is no cost to the Owen Sound police.

In the past, when dealing with a MedicAlert subscriber, police would have to call the MedicAlert hotline to garner information about someone they were dealing with. Under the Connect Protect program, police simply radio police dispatch and either identify the patient or provide their MedicAlert ID, and they have immediate access to the subscriber's photo, identity and emergency and medical information.

An example of where the service could be valuable is it could give police instant access to a photo of someone with dementia who may be lost and wandering, Daze said.

Sornberger said during Friday's event he hopes to see the program expanded to include other police services in the area.

Ridge said the program has been around for a couple of years, with the Owen Sound police service one of the first services in Ontario to get onboard.

(Owen Sound Sun Times)

After years of delays, Quebec's independent bureau to investigate shootings, serious injuries and deaths involving police officers is set to launch June 27.

The Bureau of Independent Investigations will include 18 investigators - 11 former police officers and seven civilians with relevant backgrounds like criminology and law.

Part of the reason it took so long to get off the ground is because the bureau's director, former Crown prosecutor Madeleine Giauque, wanted to make sure staff was properly trained.

This includes training that will help it investigate allegations of sexual assault against police. That decision came on the heels of allegations of abuse against police in Val-d'Or last year.

Giauque thinks the bureau will help restore the public's faith in the justice system. Its primary goal is to investigate firearm use by police.

"It could be an injury to the pinky finger," Giauque said. "As soon as a firearm is used by police we will investigate."

Civilians will be able to prompt an investigation. They would need to make a complaint to the police force involved, and depending on the nature of the injury, the police chief would decide whether or not to call the public security minister and have the

minister launch the investigation through the bureau.

The bureau is already drawing criticism since complaints that are considered frivolous can be discarded.

The League of Rights and Liberties, a local humanitarian group, has spoken out against the bureau giving itself the right to decide what it considers a frivolous allegation.

Even though the bureau has yet to begin its activities, the Liberal government recently tabled a bill that would expand its powers.

If the bill goes through, the bureau won't need to wait for the public security minister to decide which incidents should be investigated and for how long.

(CBC News)



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TORONTO - A Toronto man who escaped Tim Bosma's grisly fate cheered Friday when he learned of the first-degree murder convictions of his two killers and described himself as "lucky" for having spooked them with his military background.

Igor Tumanenko, a former Israeli soldier by way of the Soviet Union, became an integral part of the police investigation into the disappearance of Bosma on May 6, 2013 because he went on a test drive with Dellen Millard and Mark Smich just a day earlier.

On Friday, a 12-member jury found both men guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Bosma, whose remains were burned beyond recognition in an incinerator dubbed "The Eliminator" on Millard's farm near Waterloo, Ont.

"Opa!" Tumanenko told . "I'm feeling lucky man, lucky, lucky, lucky, lucky."

Without Tumanenko's information, the intense investigation into Bosma's disappearance likely would have taken far longer. The two men contacted Tumanenko about the Dodge Ram truck — similar to Bosma's — that he'd advertised online.

One of the lead detectives on the case testified during the trial that they'd found Tumanenko because he was contacted by the same Toronto-area phone number as Bosma had been.

Tumanenko testified seeing the word "ambition" tattooed on the taller man's wrist "where a watch would be" and that the "shorter guy" in the back was "quiet as a fish."

That tattoo led police directly to hone in on Millard, and days later Tumanenko identified Smich in a photo lineup.

Now, he said he celebrates a new birthday. Every May 5, he celebrates his "rebirth" with his wife and children. His outlook has changed since he found out Bosma was killed a day later by the same two men who were in his truck.

"When it's too bad in life and it's complicated, just remember it's life, I'm still alive, and God bless," Tumanenko said.

"I'm truly sorry for the Tim Bosma family, the guy went for nothing. Tim Bosma is always in my prayers. I'm telling you, I could have been there."

He didn't know the test drive would turn out to be such a life-changing moment since it was so banal. But when he told the two men about his past in the Israeli army, it seemed to "change the temperature" inside the truck.

In court, Tumanenko told the men he was familiar with the truck's diesel engine from his days in the army.

"There was a pause when he sit in driver seat," Tumanenko said, referring to Millard, who was behind the wheel of his truck nearing Highway 407, just north of Toronto.

"Shorter guy (in the back) asked 'What did you do in Israel army?'" Tumanenko told court. "I look at him and said: 'You don't want to know what I did there.'"

That's when the dynamic changed in the

truck, he told court. When the test drive ended, Millard said the price was a little over his budget, Tumanenko testified, and the pair left.

"The plan was to target and kill Igor if the conditions were right, but he was too much to handle," the Crown attorney told the jury in his closing arguments. "It would have been Igor, but he was too much at 6'4, 220 pounds and too much military."

Jun 17 2016

VICTORIA - Investigators looking into allegations of misconduct by Victoria's embattled police chief have been given more time to complete their work.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner has extended the timeline for a series of investigations involving Chief Frank Elsner, who is accused of sending inappropriate Twitter messages to the wife of one of his officers.

The reviews were scheduled to be done by Saturday, but investigators asked for more time and now have a new deadline of Sept. 16.

Elsner stepped aside from his duties last December pending the results of two investigations into his conduct, but was suspended in April after yet another investigation was announced.

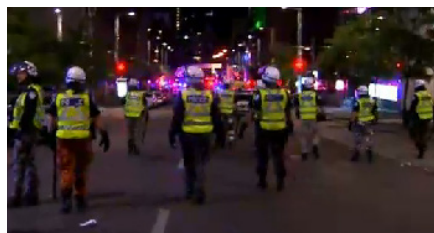
The third investigation was launched when new information surfaced containing allegations of false statements and the deletion of data, with deputy police complaint commissioner Rollie Woods saying Elsner faces 11 allegations of misconduct.

The allegations have not been tested in court.

SATURDAY JUNE 18, 2016

Jun 18 2016

MONTREAL - Six Montreal police officers were slightly injured and several buildings damaged after violence broke out near an outdoor music festival.



Police say it began at around 11:30 p.m. Friday when a group of people started throwing traffic cones and bricks at nearby buildings.

Anti-riot police were called in to handle the incident, which took place downtown outside the popular FrancoFolies festival.

Two men were arrested and are expected to face charges including armed assault, mischief and obstructing police.

Several businesses, vehicles and Montreal police headquarters were vandalized.

Jun 18 2016

HAMILTON - Police in southern Ontario say they've charged 10 people with drugs and weapons offences and seized more than \$100,000 cash and a large quantity of drugs after executing multiple search warrants.

Police say they executed 11 warrants on Friday in the Halton and Hamilton area.

They say they seized eight kilograms of cocaine and 63 kilograms of dry marijuana, along with other drugs, a loaded handgun, a replica handgun and two ballistic vests.

Halton Regional Police say the investigation, called "Project Skyway", took more than six months.

SUNDAY JUNE 19, 2016

Jun 19 2016

CALGARY - Alberta's police watchdog faces steadily climbing case volumes, longer investigation times and no clear solution on how to fix its challenges.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) recently got a budget bump-up of almost \$500,000, but ASIRT's executive director Susan Hughson said it's not the number of staff holding things up, but rather it's the bottleneck at the top.

ASIRT investigates when police actions in the province result in severe injury or death, or when officers are otherwise accused of misconduct.

At the end of every investigation, Hughson reviews the details herself and signs off.

Last year, ASIRT's caseload jumped to 78 from an annual average of 32.5, and Hughson said this year is shaping up just as busy if not even busier.

"I don't know what the solution is," she said.

"I think from the public confidence in policing standpoint, or the ASIRT standpoint, there is something to be said for the same person being consistent all the way through all the files and accountable for all of them.

"The more people you involve in the decision making, the more potential there is for inconsistent approaches or other issues."

ASIRT investigations currently can take a year or more to finish up.

By the numbers:

- In 2015, ASIRT was tasked with 78 files, 46 of which remain open
- In 2014, there were 53 files and six remain open
- One 2013 file also remains open
- Prior to 2015 the annual average number of files was 32.5
- Since ASIRT opened its doors in 2008 it has been tasked with 351 files

(Calgary Sun)

Jun 20 2016

TORONTO - Toronto Police Services will meet with residents over the next three months about a "transformational" report that calls for a hiring freeze and a chance to modernize the force, Police Chief Mark Saunders said Monday.

In speaking on CBC's Metro Morning Monday, Saunders and police board chairman Andy Pringle promised that there would be safeguards in place to make sure that the 24 recommendations suggested by the task force would come to fruition.

Mayor John Tory has already come out in support of those recommendations, which include \$100 million in reductions to Toronto Police Service's operating budget over the next three years. Roughly \$60 million of that would actually come from a hiring freeze and a moratorium on promotions between officers' ranks.

The report suggests that could result in 350 fewer officers by next year.

Tory also echoed the report's call to modernize the police force, particularly the targeted anti-violence strategy unit.

Saunders said that he believed his officers support the idea of modernizing the force.

"If it's smart, the buy-in is easy - and this is a very smart report," Saunders said.

And Saunders said he believes that both municipal politicians and the police board now have a better relationship with the police, which will push all parties to adopt the final report when it's presented in January.

The recommendations come out of the task force created by Tory earlier this year, made up of six officers and six members of the public.

After more public consultation, a final report will be published in December and go to the police board for a vote in the New Year.

(CBC News)

Jun 20 2016

VANCOUVER - A man found guilty of killing a Delta, B.C., police officer is back out on parole.

Elery Long was granted full parole for the second time in March 2015 after spending years behind bars for killing Staff Sgt. Ron McKay in 1974.

Long claimed the sawed-off shotgun he was carrying accidentally went off when he shoved the weapon into the officer's chest.

His parole was suspended in April after a confrontation with a woman led to an assault charge.

The woman alleged Long punched her in the arm, but Long insisted he and the woman accidentally bumped into each other as they came around a corner at the same time.

Parole board documents show the charge against the 71-year-old was stayed in May and the parole suspension was lifted.

Jun 20 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - A male motorcyclist has died after colliding with a Peel Region Police cruiser in Mississauga.

Police say the accident happened early Sunday evening.

Investigators say the 41 year old motorcycle rider, whose name hasn't been released, died at the scene.

The officer driving the cruiser was not injured.

No other details have been released, however, the Special Investigations Unit— Ontario's police watchdog - has been called in.

Jun 20 2016

BROCKVILLE - Even if Brockville taxpayers wanted to foot the bill for a stand-alone Ontario Provincial Police detachment, the provincial force would not oblige.

Officials at the provincial force's municipal policing bureau confirmed this Monday as Brockville's OPP costing process resumed.

The OPP brass also explained Brockville police officers, should the city opt for an OPP contract, would join the Leeds County detachment and not be limited solely to Brockville's boundaries.

"We don't designate anyone as provincial or municipal," said Staff Sgt. Liane Spong, of the force's municipal policing bureau.

Rather, the city officers would become detachment cops and could be called out of the city on incidents, to be replaced, if need be, by Leeds officers.

"We look at it as an ebb and flow of what's happening," said Spong. "It's not a 'here's your line and you stay.'"

Brockville is currently one of four municipalities in the "first group" to see their costings resumed, said Sgt. Gilbert Cadieux, of the municipal policing bureau. The others are Deep River, Orangeville and Midland.

Before the moratorium, there was talk of Brockville being given two costing options: One for a stand-alone detachment covering the city alone and another for an integrated detachment with Leeds.

The OPP officials now say the stand-alone model is no longer on the table, as it would not be cost-effective.

(Brockville Recorder and Times)

Jun 20 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The province's police watchdog says a Sarnia, Ont., constable is facing an assault charge arising from an incident in which a girl was injured.

The Special Investigations Unit says Sarnia police responded to a disturbance call on May 12 and there was an interaction between an officer and a 16-year-old girl.

The SIU says the girl was taken to hospital, where she was treated for a broken arm.

SIU director Tony Loparco says investigators found reasonable grounds to believe the police officer committed a criminal offence.

Const. Anthony Vennetilli is facing a charge of assault cause bodily harm, and is to appear in court in Sarnia on Aug. 2.

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 21 2016

Quebec provincial police have launched a criminal investigation into a high-ranking Montreal police officer.

Radio-Canada has identified the officer as Costa Labos, chief-inspector of internal affairs.

Neither Montreal police nor the Surete du Quebec are commenting on the case.

Montreal police Cmdr. Marie-Claude Dandenault would only say that when allegations are made against an officer, a committee is charged with looking into the case and deciding whether the officer should be suspended.

Labos has not been charged and it's unclear whether he remains in his post.

(CBC News)

Jun 21 2016

WINDSOR, Ont. - A 47-year-old man is dead and three police officers who tried to rescue him from a house fire in Windsor, Ont., are recovering after treatment for smoke inhalation.

Fire prevention officer John Lee says the officers who attempted to rescue the man have been released from hospital and are "doing well."

Fire officials say two people were known to be in the house, but the man who died was the only person home at the time of the blaze early Tuesday morning.

Lee says there were reports of an explosion, but he believes that may have been aerosol cans in the garage.

The incident is still under investigation, but isn't being treated as suspicious. The cause was unknown Tuesday afternoon.

The Special Investigations Unit, which probes deaths involving police, says police had a "brief interaction" with the man and is looking into the incident.

(BlackburnNews.com)

Jun 21 2016

STIRLING-RAWDON, Ont. - An eastern Ontario police officer is recovering after accidentally shooting himself.

Stirling-Rawdon Township Police Chief Dario Cecchin says the officer had been participating in a pistol requalification session at a firearms range Tuesday.

Cecchin says the officer was disassembling the weapon to clean it after returning to the police station in the community northwest of Belleville when the pistol discharged one round into his hand. The bullet also went through an exterior wall.

The officer was taken to hospital for treatment of what Cecchin describes as a non-critical injury.

No one else was injured, and the Belleville Police Service is investigating the incident on behalf of Stirling-Rawdon Police.

(CJOJ)

Jun 21 2016

VANCOUVER - A B.C. man who is alleged to have created a revenge website aimed at destroying his ex-wife's reputation has been charged with criminal harassment and a firearms offence.

Patrick Fox remains in custody after an indictment was sworn against last Friday and he is expected to appear in provincial court in Vancouver today.

Earlier this year, B.C. Crown lawyers ruled a criminal harassment charge could not be laid against Fox, because of a lack of evidence that Desiree Capuano, his ex-wife, had an "objective basis to fear for her safety."

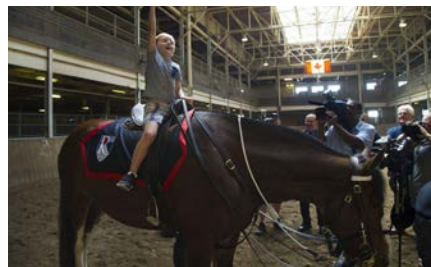
In an interview in February, Fox said he would never physically harm Capuano, but confirmed he created the website to cause "as much damage to her reputation and life as possible."

After charges were declined in February, B.C. Justice Minister Suzanne Anton said authorities could take another look at the case if further evidence surfaced.

The indictment says Fox is alleged to have criminally harassed Capuano between January 2015 and May 2016 and that he is alleged to have possessed a prohibited firearm between May 26 and June 17 of this year.

Jun 21 2016

TORONTO - His fist punched toward the sky, as if in triumph, when Nolan Russell got to ride the horse named for the father he never got to know.



The 7-year-old boy was among those attending a Tuesday afternoon event at the Horse Palace at Exhibition Place, home of the Toronto police mounted unit, where the city's newest equine cop was rechristened "Russell" in honour of a fallen comrade.

In the early hours of a snowy winter day in January 2011, police Sgt. Ryan Russell was struck and killed by a stolen, runaway snowplow. Twelve thousand officers marched with his hearse on the day of his funeral. The 35-year-old veteran of the Toronto police guns and gangs unit was noted as a rising star on the force.

More than five years later, with a horse-in-training in need of a new name, mounted unit Staff Sgt. Graham Queen figured it would be a fitting tribute to name the new purebred Clydesdale after the late officer.

He added that Christine, Russell's widow, and his father, Glenn - a retired police officer - were very touched by the naming ceremony.

"It brings up memories for them," he said. Russell, who roamed the barn Tuesday

with the Russell family crest embroidered on his pad cover, is now halfway through his yearlong training program. Graham described the Clydesdale as "gentle and kind" and predicted the horse will hit the streets of the city in the coming months.

Chief Mark Saunders spoke at Tuesday's event, as well as Russell's father, Glenn. But the first ride of the newly named horse went to Nolan, who was just a toddler when his father was killed.

"He lost his dad when he was only 2, so he doesn't remember him too well," Graham said, "but this will be a fitting way to memorialize."

(Toronto Star)

Jun 21 2016

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg policing institution shuts its doors at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

The Public Safety Building, whose construction began in 1965, will be permanently closed. All operations and staff will have been transferred to its new location at 266 Graham Avenue.

The date and time of the official closure were announced Tuesday at a police press conference.

"Will I miss it? I have some very good memories here," said police spokesman, Const. Rob Carver.

But he said he stopped feeling nostalgic the minute he saw their new offices on Graham.

Only about 20 staff were still in the Public Safety Building on Tuesday, mostly administrative personnel and all on the main floor.

Members of the public were lined up getting criminal record checks, and one person wanted to know how much he owed for a speeding ticket. He had been caught speeding on a red-light camera, but had washed his pants with the ticket in one of his pockets.

About 1,300 members of the police force will be working out of the new Graham building. They have been transferring over the past seven months.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Jun 21 2016

Shelburne Ontario Police are here to stay.

At Shelburne Town Council on Monday, some members of council, and Mayor Ken Bennington voted against the motion to pursue an OPP costing.

The issue came forward because building a brand new police building was not affordable for the next two years.

After gathering facts, a sub-committee put together a report that it would cost roughly \$4 million.

Knowing this information council debated on pursuing an OPP detachment but the negatives outweighed the positives.

It would have taken two years to implement the OPP costing and it would take two years before Shelburne could afford to upgrade their facilities.

(Bayshore Broadcasting)

TORONTO - Toronto police have launched a new website aimed at showing their positive work with the public.



The website, called 'How We Do It TPS', features videos of officers participating in community events, interviews with members of the public, spotlights on veteran officers and statistics about seized weapons and arrests in the city.

Speaking with CP24 on Tuesday, Chief Mark Saunders said the website is meant to foster a better understanding of "what the return of investment is with the work officers do."

"It's a way to see what we are... the complete story. There isn't another forum for that, it's always one-dimensional," Saunders said.

"This way you get to see the real in-depth, great work that we do day-to-day. And not by our uniforms but from some tremendous civilians as well."

One portion of the site is dedicated to community outreach and programs, while another reviews a tally of gun seizures, arrests and 911 calls received.

"It's really good to see this other side because there's always one side that tends to be seen all the time," Saunders said. "This shows a fuller dimension of the Toronto police service. I'm excited, it's overdue."

(CTV Toronto)

Jun 21 2016

Alberta RCMP seized nearly 53 pounds of crystallized MDMA after a drug-detection dog smelled controlled substances during a traffic stop in Banff last week.

Calgarian Stefan Lelic, 22, was originally stopped for speeding as he drove east on Hwy. 1 on June 14.

But after the Parks Canada dog was deployed, RCMP officers found the MDMA, the active ingredient in ecstasy, in addition to eight grams of marijuana and \$3,900 in Canadian currency.

The street value of everything seized is about \$1,431,000, RCMP said.

Lelic is now charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000.

After a court hearing Monday, he was released on \$20,000 cash bail.

Lelic's next court appearance will be on July 20.

(Calgary Sun)

Jun 21 2016

OTTAWA - A unionization drive by two competing factions seeking to represent Canada's Mounties is getting underway in earnest after the Senate approved big changes to a government bill to allow the first-ever RCMP union.

By a voice vote, senators overwhelmingly approved Tuesday an amended version of Bill C-7 and threw it back to the Commons to accept or reject. That won't happen until the fall because MPs have adjourned for the summer recess.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale's bill was rewritten by a Senate committee last week to broaden the scope of bargaining talks, to allow a wider range of grievances to go before an arbitrator or a public service labour relations board, and to ensure a secret ballot whenever a bargaining agent finally stands up to be certified.

The summer-long pause now gives the two national groups vying to become that bargaining agent a few more months to persuade MPs — especially those on the government side — to accept the changes.

More important, it gives them more time to mobilize an estimated 16,700 Mounties to join an association — something that many frontline members appear hesitant to do. To date, only a few thousand have done so.

Some Mounties have contacted the Toronto Star expressing reluctance to trust any group. They requested their names not be published because it is a disciplinary offence under RCMP rules for a member to speak to the media without management permission.

Brian Sauvé, co-founder and spokesman for one of those groups — the National Police Federation — said in an interview Tuesday that the NPF has so far signed up about 2,300 members. He acknowledged it has been slow-going — a fact he chalks up to logistical, geographical and cultural challenges with a policing force spread across the country.

"Cops are by nature suspicious of anything," he said.

The rival group, Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada, will not divulge its numbers signed up to date "based on the legal counsel we have received," said spokesman Rob Creasser.

Last year, the MPPAC represented about 2,000 Mounties when it was the umbrella for three provincial associations: the Mounted Police Associations of Ontario, B.C. and Quebec, which at the Supreme Court of Canada successfully won the right to collective bargaining for all Mounties.

Since that time, its Ontario group, the MPAO, has broken away and opted to join forces with the National Police Federation, led by several former elected representatives with the RCMP's now-defunct staff relations representative program, Sauvé among them.

The MPPAC is made up of the remain-

ing British Columbia members.

The Mounted Police Association of Quebec is biding its time to see which emerges as the lead association.

Paul Dupuis, head of the MPAQ, said in an earlier interview that with 900 Mounties in Quebec, it is one of the largest groups to organize but made clear he is not interested in seeing francophone members being swallowed up by another national group. Instead, Dupuis hopes to work within some kind of coalition with "whichever one comes out of the rest of Canada."

Sauvé said he agrees with Conservative MP Jim Eglinski, a retired Mountie, who told the Commons a majority of RCMP officers "probably don't want to associate or have never even considered what that would look like, and so really haven't learned about it."

He added it is all complicated because Mounties must get up to speed on their unionization choices "on their own time." There is no instruction or advice coming from RCMP headquarters, which cannot interfere in the process.

RCMP officers are scattered in more than 700 detachments, across Canada and internationally. The groups seeking to certify must build their own database of names, emails and addresses, as RCMP management did not supply that information, citing concerns any participation could be called an unfair labour practice.

Bill C-7 anticipates just one national policing organization as the RCMP's bargaining representative. But the government missed the deadline to enact RCMP-specific legislation this spring.

Until it passes into law, the Public Service Labour Relations Act now applies to the RCMP. That allows certification under a two-step process that includes secret ballot vote, for now. (The Liberal government has proposed other changes to that process in a separate, as-yet-unpassed bill).

(Toronto Star)

Jun 21 2016

RCMP officers, working with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Laval police, seized just over eight grams of W-18.

RCMP Corporal François Gagnon said this is the first seizure of the drug in Canada. It was sent by mail from China and addressed to the Laval home of Ryan Challenger, 39. The package was intercepted by the CBSA and turned over to police.

"We have seized some pills before, but never the pure substance itself," Gagnon said.

He added that the small quantity taken had the potential to produce 100,000 pills.

Challenger was arrested last Tuesday and faces charges of importing a drug without a licence under the Food and Drugs Act, breach of recognizance; and possibly criminal negligence.

W-18 is a well-known drug in Western Canada, but is becoming popular in Quebec.

(Montreal Gazette)

Jun 22 2016

The trailblazing Mountie who made history in 1990 as the first RCMP officer allowed to wear a turban is once again blazing new paths. But this time, Insp. Baltej Singh Dhillon's focus is inward.



The civil rights pioneer is the first RCMP officer to become a certified yoga instructor, offering mindfulness meditation courses to the force's B.C. 'E' Division as part of its mental health strategy.

"We've been at it now for a year," Dhillon told Metro in a phone interview. "We've had about 500 members and staff come to the classes."

The 49-year-old force veteran - who oversaw B.C.'s intelligence unit until becoming Officer In Charge of Operational Readiness and Response in March - said the type of yoga he's certified to teach, Kundalini Yoga, has a strong emphasis on meditation practices.

"We spend a lot of time working on our physical health, but oftentimes we neglect our mental health," he explained. "There are a lot of studies done that show meditation and mindfulness are great tools towards being resilient in our mental health."

But teaching officer's yoga and meditation isn't just about improving self-care in the force.

By becoming "more in tune with yourself" and "more present" in the unpredictable situations officers find themselves in, he said, mindfulness also improves officers' abilities on duty, he said.

"The most difficult thing we have to do as police officers is being present when there's so much going on. When adrenaline kicks in, that immediately eliminates a number of our capacities mentally and physically ... Meditation and mindfulness gives us that little extra awareness."

He insisted he's not the first teacher to bring yoga to the RCMP, but believes he may be the first police officer to do so. Even 10 years ago, when he started practising yoga off-duty to cope with "a variety of job-related stressors," the idea of getting cops onto a yoga mat en masse was unimaginable.

"You wouldn't say the word yoga or meditation!" he said with a laugh. "There were all kinds of flags it would conjure up,

and ties to religion or dogma.

"But it's really a practice to manage our mental health and let go of many of the stressors that can manifest as high blood pressure, disease, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder."

(Metro Vancouver)

Jun 22 2016

TORONTO - Toronto's police chief says the force "regrets" raids more than 35 years ago that explicitly targeted the city's gay community.

Mark Saunders addressed a series of raids of Toronto bathhouses in 1981 that saw officers barging into four bathhouses, where they rounded up the people inside.

Saunders says the February 1981 event was dramatic because of its "destructiveness."

Nearly 300 people were arrested and charged with owning or being found in a common bawdy house.

More than 90 per cent of the charges were dropped in years to come, and the raids galvanized Toronto's LGBTQ community to fight for their rights and find a political voice.

Jun 22 2016

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg Police Service has taken possession of its new armoured vehicle, a \$343,000 addition to its crime-fighting arsenal.

Police say it will be used during potential high-risk incidents to give protection to officers and partners such as the Tactical Emergency Medical Support Unit.

Deputy chief Gord Perrier says the safety of the public and the well-being of officers is something the service takes very seriously.

He says the vehicle will give them "an advantage in diffusing dangerous situations in the safest way possible."

The vehicle can also transport TEMS members into a danger zone to give first aid and allow members to better communicate in an armed and barricaded situation.

The vehicle was approved for purchase last year.

(CTV Winnipeg)

Jun 22 2016

OTTAWA - A former CFL player is now the second Ottawa police officer to admit to falsifying traffic warnings.

A visibly upset Const. Brad Tierney, a 25-year veteran officer, pleaded guilty Wednesday to two counts of discreditable conduct and one count of insubordination under the Police Services Act in exchange for the police prosecution's dropping of a deceit charge. The prosecution also dropped a deceit charge in exchange for Const. Bernard Covic's guilty plea for similar offences earlier this month.

Both officers were charged in an ongoing internal probe of "ghost warnings" or fake traffic warnings issued by officers to real people.

Between June and September of 2015, Tierney issued five traffic warnings but failed

to give them to the motorists he issued them against. Between April and September in the same year, Tierney issued 15 warnings with "no sufficient evidence" to warrant them. Tierney also failed to make duty notes for 154 provincial offence notices he issued in that same period.

Tierney issued warnings for offences such as littering on a highway, not signing a permit in ink, not surrendering insurance, having a licence plate not fully visible and, at times, didn't even discuss the warnings with the drivers before issuing them, suggesting the intent wasn't to warn drivers to rectify their behaviours.

Inconsistencies in the warnings Tierney issued appeared as part of an internal audit of all warnings issued by Ottawa police, which was prompted by the discovery of a stack of undelivered warnings that were issued by an officer who has since been suspended.

To date, only Covic and Tierney have been charged with any misconduct. Seven other officers remain on desk duty and two others are suspended.

Both the police prosecution and the defence jointly asked that Tierney be demoted for a year. The prosecution noted Covic's seven-month demotion, handed down just last week.

"It is not acceptable when a police officer misrepresents the truth," prosecutor Insp. Steve Bell said.

Tierney has no previous history of discipline and has a "record of good performance," Bell said.

Before being hired by Ottawa police in 1991, Tierney played in the CFL for the Ottawa Rough Riders. He will be sentenced on July 11.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Jun 22 2016

An external investigation has determined that a Nunavut RCMP office did not use excessive force in an incident — captured on video — that appears to show the officer hitting a naked prisoner in the head in an RCMP cell.

Eetooloo Ejetsiak's lawyer entered the video as evidence in court in February 2015 and later provided the video to CBC.

"The independent investigation in this case concluded that the member involved was acting within the scope of his duties and did not exceed the use of force necessary to control an aggressive and assaultive prisoner," states an RCMP release.

"Police work is inherently challenging and police officers, while well trained, often have to make quick decisions based on the situations they are faced with," states the release.

The investigation was referred to the Ottawa Police Service in order to maintain impartiality.

The principal officer who was being investigated has since moved to another detachment.

(CBC News)

Jun 23 2016

HALIFAX - Police in Halifax say an internal audit of drug evidence revealed serious problems with record keeping and continuity.

The audit took place between June and November of 2015 after a Halifax Regional Police officer was charged with theft in connection with evidence from a drug investigation.

In a statement today, police say the audit found 90 per cent of the drug exhibits in one vault weren't where they were supposed to be, while 55 per cent of the evidence in the money vault wasn't where records indicated.

After a followup in May, 52 per cent of the drug exhibits in the original vault still couldn't be found and 32 per cent of the money evidence was still missing.

Police say the audit also found that policy was not being followed, training for drug unit members needs to be standardized and the drug vaults need to be modernized.

Police say in a statement that no court cases have been affected due to evidence that couldn't be located - and a top priority now is to find the missing or incorrectly logged evidence.

Jun 23 2016

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has dismissed an appeal from an Alberta man who was convicted of sexual assault after police ordered him to swab his own genitals for evidence of the victim's DNA.

Ali Hassan Saeed was arrested and charged in 2011 after a complaint from a 15-year-old.

While he was in custody, police had him swab his penis for DNA and matched it to the victim.

The trial judge ruled the request an illegal search, but said the results were admissible because the police did not act in bad faith and society has a high interest in seeing justice in cases of sexual assault.

Saeed was convicted of sexual assault causing bodily harm and unlawful touching for a sexual purpose and the Alberta Court of Appeal upheld the ruling.

The Supreme Court in its judgment, said the evidence was properly admitted, leaving the verdict intact.

Writing for the majority, Justice Michael Moldaver said the power of search upon arrest has a long pedigree and is an invaluable investigative tool.

He said the swab did constitute a significant intrusion against the privacy rights of the accused, but the police acted properly.

"I conclude that the police had reasonable grounds to conduct the swab and that in carrying it out, they took reasonable steps to respect Mr. Saeed's privacy," he wrote.

Saeed's charter rights were not breached, he concluded.

Jun 23 2016

The OPP's newest marine vessel is being named after retired commissioner Chris Lewis, who led the force from 2010 to 2014.



"This is a fitting tribute to former Commissioner Lewis, who dedicated his career to safeguarding our communities," said David Oraziotti, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, in a news release.

A native of Sault Ste. Marie, Lewis was the first commissioner to be born and raised in Northern Ontario.

He joined the OPP in 1978 and amassed a wealth of policing experience before becoming the OPP's thirteenth commissioner.

At 38 feet in length, the "Chris D. Lewis" is the largest vessel in the OPP marine fleet and forms part of the Essex County OPP Marine Program.

"This impressive craft has characteristics that allow her to exceed our requirements for all of her duties. The same can be said for Chris Lewis and his contributions to the OPP during his 35-year career," said Commissioner Hawkes.

The custom-made purpose-built vessel was constructed by Kanter Marine in St. Thomas. The boat is currently in service, patrolling more than 1,600 square kilometres of waterways that include western Lake Erie, the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and several smaller rivers.

The vessel and its OPP crew serve alongside a number of Canadian and American law enforcement and border security partners. The boat is one of 130 OPP marine vessels that patrol more than 94,000 square kilometres of navigable waterways in Ontario.

Hawkes and Lewis formally dedicated the vessel into service in Leamington on Thursday.

Jun 23 2016

FREDERICTON - The Fredericton Police Force has spent more than \$1.35 million on disciplinary actions, including salaries for suspended officers and legal fees, in the past decade, CBC News has learned.

The information, obtained through a request under the Right to Information Act, shows the force paid \$875,586.77 in wages to officers who were suspended with pay since 2007.

Municipal and regional forces in New Brunswick cannot suspend an officer without pay.

The Fredericton police also spent \$476,685.03 on legal fees relating to ar-

bitration hearings, settlement conferences and Police Act investigations in the same period.

The two most recent calendar years - 2014 and 2015 - saw the largest combined totals of disciplinary spending and suspension pay.

The force paid \$154,530.56 in suspension salaries in 2014, and \$264,904.84 in 2015.

Legal costs in the same two years were \$135,732 and \$88,727 respectively.

Much of that money was spent on the two high profile cases of former Const. Cherie Campbell and former Const. Jeff Smiley.

Both were fired within the past seven months, following arbitration hearings. Both terminations are now also under judicial reviews.

Two other Fredericton Police officers are currently suspended with pay.

The new information comes as the Police Act review process begins in Fredericton this week.

There are 31 proposed reforms to the New Brunswick Police Act. They include the ability to be able to suspend officers without pay.

(CBC News)

Jun 23 2016

BALTIMORE -- A judge acquitted a police driver of all charges on Thursday in the death of 25-year-old arrestee Freddie Gray, whose broken neck on the way to the station set off Baltimore's worst riots in decades.

Six officers were charged in Gray's death, but only Officer Caesar Goodson was accused of "depraved heart" murder. Gray was fatally injured after officers bound his hands and feet and Goodson left him unprotected by a seat belt that prosecutors say would have kept him from slamming into the van's metal walls.

Baltimore Circuit Judge Barry Williams also found Goodson not guilty of manslaughter, assault, misconduct in office, and reckless endangerment after five days of testimony in the non-jury trial.

Williams said the state failed to show that Goodson knew he'd harm Gray by leaving him unbuckled, or that he was aware of the injury.

"The state failed to prove the defendant knew or should have known that Mr. Gray needed medical care," the judge said.

"Unlike in a shooting or a stabbing, or a car accident, this injury manifests itself internally," Williams said, citing conflicting testimony from medical experts. "If the doctors weren't clear, how would a person without medical training know?"

The judge also said the state failed to prove Goodson gave Gray a "rough ride."

"The state had a duty to show the defendant corruptly failed in his duty, not just

that he made a mistake,” the judge said.

The acquittal of Goodson, 46, is perhaps the most significant blow to State Attorney Marilyn Mosby’s efforts to hold police accountable for Gray’s death.

Last month, the same judge acquitted Officer Edward Nero of misdemeanour charges, and in December, he declared a mistrial after a jury failed to agree on manslaughter and other charges against Officer William Porter.

Porter faces a retrial in September, and three other officers have yet to be tried.

Goodson’s acquittal may impact the remaining cases. Officer Garrett Miller and Lt. Brian Rice are scheduled to stand trial in July on charges of assault, reckless endangerment and misconduct in office; Rice also faces a manslaughter charge.

All the officers but Goodson have filed defamation lawsuits against Mosby and Maj. Sam Cogen of the sheriff’s office, who signed the charging documents. The officers claim the criminal charges amounted to false and damaging information.

(AP)

Jun 23 2016

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer has been charged in connection with a 19-year-old man’s death in High Park in February.

The special investigations unit says a man sought the officer’s assistance at about 2 p.m. that day, with regards to another man’s suicide attempt.

The suicidal 19-year-old man was pronounced dead at 3:30 p.m.

Constable Kyle Upjohn is now facing a charge of criminal negligence causing death, and failing to provide the necessities of life.

(CFRB)

Jun 23

2016 EDMONTON - A routine traffic stop resulted in the arrest of a man with 63 outstanding warrants Tuesday morning, Edmonton police said.

A West Division police officer detected that the suspect’s Chrysler 300 displayed an incorrect Alberta license plate. The suspect attempted to elude police by providing two false names, but the officer was able to identify him as 26-year-old Marcus Hatcher.

Hatcher is now facing 12 new identity theft-related criminal charges.

Police discovered that Hatcher allegedly purchased the Chrysler 300 through a dealership under an assumed identity.

Other recovered items have been connected to a number of thefts from vehicles.

(CTV Edmonton)

Jun 23 2016

A \$438 million radio communication system for first responders will go into operation on July 1st.

Sheriffs in the province will use the

system as will EMS and RCMP. But it is voluntary and Calgary Police have opted out.

Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley was asked how Calgary taxpayers will accept spending half a billion dollars on a new radio system when CPS will not be using it.

“We’re certainly in discussions with them about coming on to the system in some point. But essentially this is a service the province is providing to municipalities and agencies and they are free to use that system if they would like and if they wouldn’t like they may have reasons for that.”

The new system, AFFRCS or Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System allows first responders to communicate through a network of hundreds of radio towers to help co-ordinate a joint response to emergency scenes.

Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley says the system was tested and used during the recent Fort McMurray wildfire.

Besides the cost to set up the radio system, Ganley says it will cost \$17 million a year to maintain and operate the hundreds of radio towers.

(iNews 880)

Jun 23 2016

VANCOUVER - Video of one of the worst parking jobs in human history has helped police nab a teenage driver suspected in a Vancouver hit and run accident.



Vancouver police were called to an accident June 16. VPD spokesperson Const. Brian Montague says a white Porsche Cayenne SUV had struck a parked vehicle and fled the scene.

“We didn’t have a whole lot to go on in the hit-and-run investigation ... but a few days later we received a video which really helped us connect the dots,” he said.

The video, which appears to have been shot by a neighbour and has since been posted to YouTube, Facebook and Reddit, shows the driver of the suspect vehicle struggling mightily to pull into a garage. The front passenger tire is already shredded and bent as the driver awkwardly angles the SUV into the garage, scraping the driver’s side along the entrance.

“Thanks to the video we have identified the driver and the vehicle,” said Montague.

The 16-year-old boy behind the wheel

of the Porsche didn’t have a driver’s licence.

“He panicked at the accident and took off,” said Montague.

Montague says if the teen had stayed at the scene he likely would have just been given a \$276 ticket for driving without a licence.

“Because he didn’t stick around, he ended up being charged with a host of motor vehicle infractions including having no licence, hit and run, and driving without due care,” he said. “He also completely ruined that garage and did additional damage to the vehicle. Whether insurance will cover any of that is highly doubtful.”

(National Post)

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