

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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QUEBEC CITY - Quebec's Public Security Minister says he is thinking about forcing police officers to wear their standard uniforms.

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Only one major city in Canada - Halifax - staffs a police force that is as racially diverse as its community, CBC News has found.

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Canada's drunk-driving death rate worst among wealthy countries



Jul 12 2016

Despite years of public messaging about the dangers of drinking and driving, Canada ranks No. 1 among 19 wealthy countries for percentage of roadway deaths linked to alcohol impairment, according to a new study.

The finding by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control should serve as a warning to lawmakers that new strategies are needed to combat impaired driving, which remains the top criminal cause of death in Canada, safety

advocates say.

"The CDC does the best studies; their information is undebatable," said Andy Murie, CEO of MADD Canada. "It's a wake-up call. We need to do more."

The study found that while fewer people were dying from motor vehicle crashes in Canada (the crash death rate in 2013 was 5.4 per 100,000 people, a drop of 43 per cent from 2000), the proportion of deaths linked to alcohol impairment was 34 per cent, higher than any of the other countries in the survey.



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The United States came in next at 31 per cent, followed by Australia (30 per cent), and France (29 per cent). Countries with the lowest percentage of fatal crashes tied to alcohol were Israel (3.2 per cent), Japan (6.2 per cent), and Austria (6.8 per cent).

Murie said one measure that would go a long way to reducing impaired-driving deaths is random roadside breath tests. MADD Canada estimates the introduction of mandatory screening on roadways, which already exists in several European countries and Australia, would have a major deterrent effect - reducing impaired-driving fatalities by 20 per cent.

Random breath testing by police, however, is an "extraordinary" measure that would have to pass Charter scrutiny and requires "compelling" justification, said Micheal Vonn, policy director for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association.

Canadians are guaranteed protection from unreasonable search and seizure, so such a measure would require proof that existing strategies to combat impaired driving are not working and that mandatory screenings make a difference, she said.

Conservative MP Steven Blaney, the former public safety minister, introduced a private member's bill earlier this year, Bill C-226, that includes a provision allowing for mandatory roadside screening. The bill also would impose a mandatory minimum sentence of five years for impaired driving causing death (something MADD Canada is less enthused about).

The bill has gone through second reading in Ottawa and is scheduled to undergo review by a parliamentary committee in the fall.

A Justice Canada spokesman said Monday the government is committed to exploring ways to address impaired driving but does not support Bill C-226's proposal for mandatory minimum penalties.

Whatever form the bill takes, victims' families say it is clear existing measures are inadequate.

"The law needs to change. This is long overdue," Grace Pesa said following the bill's introduction. The Calgary mother lost her 20-year-old son, Francis, on New Year's Day 2014 when a Dodge Ram crossed the centre line and crashed into his BMW.

Murie said MADD Canada would also like to see all provinces finally adopt administrative penalties related to impaired driving.

Currently, it is a Criminal Code offence to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of over 0.08. Every province, except Quebec, has introduced supplementary laws that allow police to impound vehicles, suspend licences and apply other administrative sanctions against drivers whose blood alcohol levels don't quite reach the criminal threshold, but fall in the "warning" range of 0.05 to 0.08.

Asked if he would like to see the criminal threshold of 0.08 reduced to 0.05, as has happened in several European countries, Murie said it's not something MADD Canada is publicly pushing for at the moment - the political will isn't quite there yet.

Indeed, when the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board released a report in 2013 calling for all states to lower the threshold for drunk driving to 0.05, the American Beverage Institute called the recommendation "ludicrous" because it would unfairly target moderate drinkers and "criminalize perfectly responsible behaviour."

Police agencies, meanwhile, have been trying to combat impaired driving through a mix of enforcement and sharing of personal stories from officers who've witnessed the aftermath of fatal accidents.

On the RCMP website, Cpl. Janet Leblanc of Nova Scotia wrote about two buddies who had gone drinking at a bar and then were later involved in separate collisions. One survived and the other did not.

"I will always remember the pain on this man's face when I had to tell him about his friend, and I would love to know if this tragic event has prevented him from drinking and driving again," Leblanc wrote. "Because if this sad event couldn't stop someone from drinking and driving, what could?"

(National Post)

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould said in a statement the goal is to help eligible, non-violent offenders break the cycle of drug use and offences.

Jun 07 2016

MONTREAL - The Montreal police force is looking to acquire 52 more Tasers, Radio-Canada has learned.

Chief Philippe Pichet says the force made the decision as a result of recommendations from the coroner's inquest into the death of 41-year-old Alain Magloire, a mentally ill homeless man who was fatally shot during a confrontation with police in 2014.

"We intend to increase the number of devices available on the ground," Pichet told Radio-Canada. "We analyzed how many we can give, who we will give them to and how to deploy them in the field."

It is not known when the new weapons will be put into service.

Magloire was wielding a hammer and acting aggressively near Montreal's central bus station on Berri Street before he was shot.

In his report, which was made public in March, the coroner said Montreal police had 75 Tasers at their disposal but only 33 were available to officers at any given time - the others were being repaired or were at the armoury.

The report stated Toronto police have 600, Ottawa police have nearly 400, Vancouver police 200 and Calgary police 168.

Malouin also decried the fact the officers who responded to the Magloire call didn't have Tasers and had to ask for one once they got to the scene. The coroner said police would then have had two opportunities to tase Magloire.

Pichet said he wants to increase the number of Tasers available in neighbourhood police stations.

(CBC News)

Jul 07 2016

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Taxi Association is partnering with Vancouver Police to provide more eyes on the street to report crime.

Taxi drivers, managers, and dispatchers will receive training to become part of the Taxi Watch program that helps them report suspicious activity directly to police.

The program will launch July 19th, according to Carolyn Bauer, spokesperson for the Vancouver Taxi Association.

The top four crimes taxi drivers see are as follows, according Bauer, are distribution of drugs using a taxi, car accidents, assaults and impaired driving.

"You're going to see approximately 2,000 drivers and managers learn about safety, observing it, reporting suspicious activity, any crime they may encounter in their day to day business," said Bauer.

But taxi drivers are not only passive bystanders, they can help in emergency situations as well, she said.

"The public needs to remember that they can flag us down if there is an emergency," she said.



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THURSDAY
JULY 7, 2016

Jul 07 2016

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The federal government has announced \$30,000 for a study to assess whether a drug treatment court would cut addiction crime in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Such courts in other provinces are similar to mental health and domestic violence courts.

They offer alternatives to jail time while aiming to reduce crimes motivated by drug abuse.

Those measures include judicial supervision, addiction treatment, case management and social services.

"If someone is in an emergency situation, of course we're going to take them. That's what the drivers are trained on."

(Metro)

Jul 07 2016

EDMONTON - The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is investigating the case of a man who fell and hit his head after he was jolted by a police Taser.

Edmonton police were called on June 20 to a weapons complaint, ASIRT said in a statement.

The suspect had a knife and ran away from police. Officers chased the man on foot.

During a confrontation, officers deployed a Taser and the man fell backwards and hit his head on the pavement.

The suspect was taken into custody, and a short time later was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening head injuries.

ASIRT said the investigation will focus on whether use of the Taser was warranted.

(CBC News)

FRIDAY
JULY 8, 2016

Jul 08 2016

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada, citing a culture of complacency in the justice system, has adopted a new framework for determining whether a criminal trial has been unreasonably delayed.

In a 5-4 decision today, the high court says the old means of determining whether a person's constitutional right to a timely trial had been infringed was too complex and problematic.

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms says any person charged with an offence has the right to be tried within a reasonable time.

Under the new framework, an unreasonable delay would be presumed should proceedings - from charge to conclusion of a trial - exceed 18 months in provincial court, or 30 months in a superior court.

The Supreme Court made the potentially groundbreaking ruling in deciding that the drug convictions of a British Columbia man must be set aside.

In a dissenting opinion, a minority of the court calls the new framework for gauging delays unwarranted and unwise, saying it could lead to thousands of prosecutions being tossed out.

Jul 08 2016

EDMONTON - Police say a bid by two suspects to ambush an armoured truck in Edmonton ended in death for one of the bandits when he was shot by one of the vehicle's two guards.

A second suspect who fled is still being sought after the attempted holdup early Friday morning of a GardaWorld vehicle at a TD Canada Trust outlet near a southeast

shopping mall.

Scott Pattison, a police spokesman, said the suspects - both males - unleashed pepper spray on the guards, but their tactic didn't work.

"One of the guards was able to discharge and kill one of the fleeing suspects," said Pattison.

The suspect died at the scene. His identity has not been released.

The guards were treated for the effects of the spray, but neither suffered any other injuries.

Pattison said there are lots of bushes around the financial outlet, which the suspects tried to use to their advantage.

"It appears as though they were taking cover and that provided the element of surprise, potentially."

Jul 08 2016

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A judge says he acquitted an RCMP officer of perjury and obstruction of justice because he believed the Mountie was an honest witness who did not lie to get a search warrant.

Const. Shawn Greene was acquitted last month of charges stemming from statements he made in a 2011 information-to-obtain (ITO) application for a warrant to search a truck during a drug investigation.

An informant had told Greene about a trucker in the Harbour Grace, N.L., area, who was allegedly moving marijuana and cocaine. But the officer was accused of lying in

the ITO about the extent of surveillance of the trucker and the timing of a licence plate search, as well as intentionally not mentioning the man's request for legal counsel.

Greene was charged after a Halifax Regional Police investigation. But Judge Donald Burrage of the provincial Supreme Court said in a written ruling this week outlining his reasons for the acquittal that Greene offered reasonable explanations when he took the stand in his own defence.

"I accept Constable Greene's evidence that he did not intend to mislead, or otherwise obstruct, pervert, or defeat the course of justice," Burrage wrote. "I found Constable Greene to be a most credible witness, who was both forthright and honest in his testimony."

Greene has worked in Nova Scotia's Richmond County since 2012.

Jul 08 2016

TORONTO - In the wake of the deadly shooting in Dallas, Toronto's police chief has sent an email to his force expressing concern.

Chief Mark Saunders stresses that officers must take all necessary precautions to protect themselves.

He goes on to say that he will provide them with the best and safest tools and training to give them protection.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings says authorities believe a 25-year-old suspect in the attack that killed five police officers and wounded seven others was the lone attacker.

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Police killed the suspect, Micah Xavier Johnson, using a robot-delivered bomb after they say negotiations with him failed.

Two civilians also were wounded.

"It is beyond our comprehension," Saunders said of the Dallas incident. "Our condolences are with the families of those officers killed and injured."

"I understand how concerning the events in Dallas are, and I know you will continue to take all necessary precautions," he said in the email.

(CFRB)

Jul 08 2016

DALLAS - Robots have apparently chalked up a new first — a deadly one.



Police rigged a bomb-disposal robot to kill an armed suspect in the Dallas police shooting, what appears to be the first time U.S. police have used a robot for lethal purposes.

Police have been using such robots for decades for bomb disposal and in hostage standoffs and fires.

While there doesn't appear to be any hard data on the subject, security experts and law enforcement officials said they couldn't think of another incident where police have done this.

Such robots are often just a mechanical arm mounted onto a vehicle and equipped with a video camera and two-way audio communications, according to William Flanagan, a retired deputy police chief from New York's Nassau County who now does law enforcement and technology consulting. Many models used by police are about the size of a backpack.

Flanagan speculated that police in Dallas probably equipped their robot with a low-powered explosive - possibly one similar to what bomb squads use to blow up suspicious packages - that would only disable what's closest to it.

Dallas police didn't respond to a request for further information.

(CBS News/AP)

SATURDAY JULY 9, 2016

Jul 09 2016

CALGARY - Calgary Police are responding to video of an arrest circulating on social media.

The video appears to have been taken Friday night outside a bar showing three Calgary police officers taking down a man.

Police say the man refused to cooperate with officers investigating an incident of road

rage against a pedestrian.

They say the video shows only a small portion of their interaction with the man.

The man has been ticketed for stunting after driving in an unsafe manner along the roadway and was released following his arrest.

Jul 09 2016

JONQUIERE, Que. - Quebec's police watchdog says a man who was shot during a standoff involving police in Jonquiere has died in hospital.

The bureau of independent investigations has now taken over the investigation into Saturday's incident and will review how Quebec provincial police handled the matter.

Provincial police Sgt. Jean Tremblay says a man barricaded himself in a residence Friday night.

Tremblay says police broke into the home Saturday afternoon and officers fired at the suspect, who was in possession of what appeared to be a homemade explosive device.

Police say they believe the 27-year-old robbed a pharmacy Friday evening.

SUNDAY JULY 10, 2016

Jul 10 2016

EDMONTON - Det. Chris Hayduk's job is to act as "quarterback" to the city's highest-risk offenders.

As part of the Edmonton Police Service's behavioural assessment unit, he helps monitor 25 to 35 of the most prolific offenders living in the capital, a group of people who have completed their full sentences but are deemed most likely to reoffend and cause significant harm to the community if they do. They are placed under conditions and are supervised by police for up to two years. That court order can be extended.

These are predominantly men who have committed violent acts such as murder and sexual offences against adults and children. In his four years in the unit, Hayduk says he has only ever monitored two women. The oldest person under his radar was 78.

There are 40 high-risk offenders living in Edmonton and 19 in Calgary, according to lists on the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General website. Hayduk said not all those people are being monitored by his unit. The number fluctuates as people move in-and-out of jail and around the country. For example, one man on the list, Michael Stanley, is currently in prison in the United States.

Hayduk is one of three detectives in the unit who regularly meet with these offenders, delving into their lives and monitoring any concerning behaviour they may exhibit during meetings at the police station, and visits to their homes and workplaces.

"We often act like a quarterback in a file, in the sense that we see risk factors evolve, we look at what other resources we need to get involved ... they might be intervention or

prevention techniques, referrals," he said.

"We want to make their life as stable as possible because the more stable they are, the less likely they are to offend."

The unit tries to "short-circuit" an offenders' crime cycle by making sure they're abiding by their conditions, attempting to stop them before they escalate and make another victim.

Almost every one of the people under supervision will end up back in jail at some point for breaching conditions of their peace bond, Hayduk said. Anecdotally, he estimated a third will make changes and won't commit the same sort of serious violent or sexual offence as they did before.

The trouble is that a lot of these offenders don't have the skill-set or stability to keep them out of jail, he said. There are supports in the community, but it's very difficult for highly anti-social people with serious criminal records to access them, he said.

"Our people are pretty entrenched in their criminal lifestyles, so it's something that's a pattern of behaviour that they've exhibited since they were children. ... They've got what they needed by being that way, so it's very difficult to break it.

That's why the constant monitoring and management matters in the sense that we can short-circuit those as they happen and involve treatment along the way. There's a chance that we can have some successes with reducing the type of behaviours they have."

(Edmonton Journal)

Jul 10 2016

TORONTO - Canadians suspected of driving while high could be required to submit to a roadside saliva test that identifies the use of marijuana, cocaine and opioids.



An oral fluid test is one of the suggestions from a discussion paper released on June 30 by the Task Force on Marijuana Legalization and Regulation.

"We'll scream blue bloody murder if it's not in place before legalization," MADD Canada CEO Andrew Murie said.

"Because we already have a problem," he added. "It's well acknowledged we have a problem with young people, so we really need this to be in place before legalization."

While the task force is looking at the oral fluid test — a roadside saliva swab — for the detection of marijuana use, the test can also reveal the presence of other drugs such as cocaine, ecstasy, opioids and amphetamine.

"In contrast to alcohol, there is currently no roadside breathalyzer-type test to detect impairment with marijuana," the task force discussion paper says. "However, roadside oral fluid tests are being used in other juris-

dictions that can detect the presence of marijuana in oral fluid, which can be suggestive of recent use. This is an active area of Canadian and international research.”

A State Farm Insurance survey of Canadian attitudes toward marijuana use and driving raised some red flags in the spring.

One-quarter of people polled didn’t believe or know that pot-impaired driving can be as bad as drunk driving.

The majority of people polled thought the justice system was unprepared to deal with the fallout of legalizing marijuana.

“Right now, the police only have a limited behavioural test they use,” Murie said. “There’s very few officers trained to do this. And basically the public knows that and they feel fairly confident that they can — especially young people — smoke pot and drive.”

“They also perceive that they’re safer driving under the influence of marijuana than alcohol.”

While it’s true that the impairment is different than that in booze-fuelled motoring — which tends to encourage speeding — it’s no less dangerous, he said.

A driver who’s high tends to drive far too slowly and make very wide motions, including turns, Murie said.

“They think they’re normal but it’s very exaggerated,” he said. “Alcohol gives you that Superman-type of mentality, with drugs they’re very cautious. But you know what, they crash all the time.”

Coroners investigating traffic fatalities find dead drivers are more likely to have drugs in their system than alcohol — a “scary” 40% more, Murie said.

Yet only about 2.6% of all criminal impaired charges laid across the country last year were for drugs — proof that reforms are required, he insisted.

Beginning on Oct. 2, police in Ontario will be able to issue escalating roadside driving suspensions of three, seven or 30 days if the officer has a “reasonable belief” that the driver is impaired by drugs.

(Toronto Sun)

Jul 10 2016

OTTAWA - As Canada’s Mounties prepare to choose their first-ever union, two rival factions are warring over the propriety of a loan one side received to finance its organizing drive.

The debate is casting a shadow over the historic public-sector organizing drive, set in motion by a Supreme Court of Canada decision, and considered the biggest in 50 years.

At the centre of the dispute is the RCMP’s multimillion-dollar legal fund, which took the unusual step of approving a loan — of undisclosed value — to one of the groups vying to become the force’s first bargaining agent.

The loan dispute throws a spotlight on the differences that have divided the force for nearly 20 years on how to manage labour relations — a division that paved the way for a landmark top court ruling giving

the RCMP the right to unionize.

The battle lines are drawn, with the association built on the remnants of the group that successfully led the legal battle to unionize on one side. On the other is a new group built on a strong core of former staff relations representatives who lost their jobs with the Supreme Court decision.

In between is the legal fund, also a player in the Supreme Court case, which intervened to keep the status quo.

At stake are the 17,700 regular members, many overworked, working in 700 detachments across the country, including isolated posts, who some say are barely aware of the costly ground war for their votes.

Rae Banwarie, president of the Mounted

Police Professional Association of Canada, says he has “grave concerns” that the RCMP legal fund has given the rival National Police Federation a loan to help fund its organizing drive.

“The legal fund is not a bank. That was not the purpose of the money in the fund,” said Banwarie, a 19-year RCMP veteran based in the Vancouver area. “That money is not their money and has never been their money. That is members’ money.”

“We have serious concerns about this. We are going to deal with it and the fallout might not be pretty.”

Brian Sauve, co-chair of the National Police Federation, called Banwarie’s allegations “mudslinging” and part of the MP-

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PAC's strategy to win support by tarnishing the competition.

Sauve said the loan, approved back in May, was carefully vetted and approved by lawyers and the boards representing both the NPF and the Mounted Police Legal Fund.

"They are throwing mud against the wall because they have nothing else to throw, and seeing if they have something that sticks," Sauve said.

"Are they accusing a whole bunch of cops of absconding with people's money? Really? That's getting into dangerous territory, if you ask me."

The Mounted Police Members' Legal Fund is a not-for-profit organization that operates separately from the RCMP. It was created in 1998 to represent the interests of members in legal and policy disputes with the government and the RCMP. Its mandate includes "action taken collectively or individually which affect the dignity or welfare of a member."

It worked closely with the staff relations representatives, the program born out of members' discontent with pay and working conditions in the 1970s when they couldn't marry, women couldn't join, and there was no overtime. The staff representatives typically sat on the legal fund's board.

The legal fund has about 16,500 members, who until recently paid for the fund by voluntarily kicking in \$4 from every paycheque, which the RCMP agreed to deduct from payroll for them.

With questions swirling around the loan, the legal fund recently posted a statement on its website in the name of transparency to "dispel rumours" and explain its decision to loan money to the NFP.

In the statement, the fund said it sought a legal opinion, which concluded that a loan to an employee association seeking to be a bargaining agent falls "within the purposes of the legal fund."

"This was not done on a whim or a favour, and would never be. That is members' money," said Roy Hill, the fund's assistant secretary and treasurer.

"When the application for funding came, they were not treated any different than any other members applying for funding. This was unusual ... so we got a legal opinion to see if this was within the objects of the legal fund because, if not, we wouldn't have touched it with a 10-foot pole."

The statement also said the directors of the NFP are neither on the executive, nor are they directors of the legal fund. It also pointedly noted that "no other organization seeking to be the bargaining agent for members of the force has made application to the legal funding seeking a loan."

"I could understand if MPPAC made an application to legal fund and we said no and then we gave one to NFP ... but that's not the case," said Hill.

There's been much speculation about the size of the loan, but Hill said the legal fund has never revealed the size of any funding application it approves.

(Ottawa Citizen)

MONDAY
JULY 11, 2016

Jul 11 2016

OTTAWA - Most rank-and-file RCMP officers don't believe Canada's national police force will survive without unionization but they have firm ideas about what they want and expect from a new unionized workplace.

A report on a major consultation of rank-and-file RCMP found they have "intense and emotional" feelings about the force. Their chief frustration is management who they mistrust and feel doesn't listen to them and their top concerns revolve around wages and benefits, working conditions and protection against "unfair or arbitrary treatment."

Alain Jolicoeur, a former senior bureaucrat who led the consultation, recently told a Senate committee that he was taken aback by the "intensity of feelings" among the pro-union and anti-union forces but more favoured unionization than were against.

"There are more members who want change than there are members who are comfortable with the status quo," said the report. "For every member who thinks that unionization represents the end of the RCMP, there are two or three others who think that the organization cannot survive without it."

The government initiated the consultation to get the views of RCMP on a new labour regime after a Supreme Court of Canada ruling gave members the right to form a union. The responses were supposed to shape Bill C-7, the Liberal legislation to unionize the RCMP that was rewritten by the Senate and sent back to the House of Commons where it awaits MPs when they return in the fall.

The report noted the response was unusually high, with 9,000 people answering the survey and 650 attending town hall sessions across the country.

The most revealing responses came from an open-ended question on the future of labour relations, which the report said was like "release valve" relieving built-up pressure with responses from 8,500 people who filled 600 pages with comments.

The report said those against unionization felt it was bad and would be a "major blow" for the force while those who supported it felt it couldn't happen soon enough and "management and government are trying to roadblock it."

"Unionization represents either something very bad to some respondents or something essential to others," said the report.

The report concluded the responses also indicated a "serious morale challenge" and a profound distrust and disconnect between police on the ground and RCMP brass.

Members felt they were not listened to by management and they cited "shameful lack of resources on the ground," including staff, money and equipment. They felt the

promotion system was unfair; condemned the force's inability to deal with poor performers and improper governance.

Nearly 80 per cent of respondents said labour relations had "a lot" or "great importance" to them, but they want a regime designed specifically for the RCMP. About 65 per cent want a bargaining agent that only represents RCMP.

About 62 per cent want a single national bargaining unit over regional units for fear of being lumped in a bargaining units with public servants. They felt a national bargaining unit would provide a stronger "one voice" that would give them more bargaining clout at the negotiating table.

RCMP feel strongly that they are unique from other public servants and want that differentiation in their union. About 76 per cent agreed they could be "conflicts of loyalties" if their union represented non-police workforces.

A big fear is that they won't have the leverage to negotiate the increases they need to keep pace with other forces and Treasury Board will want to keep them in line with the rest of the public service.

About 80 per cent wanted their wages and benefits, in the event of impasse, to be determined by arbitrators with police experience rather than being "dragged by broad public service and fiscal considerations."

(Ottawa Citizen)

Jul 11 2016

MARKHAM, Ont. - A Toronto man is facing a court date after allegedly being found drunk behind the wheel — in a police station parking lot.

York Regional Police say an officer walking through the Markham, Ont., lot on Saturday evening noticed a man sleeping in the driver's seat of a van.

They say the officer approached the vehicle to check on the man's well-being and noticed a strong smell of alcohol as well as an open case of beer.

After waking up the driver and speaking with him, police say it became apparent to the officer that the man was under the influence and had no idea that he was in a police parking lot.

The 34-year-old man is charged with one count of impaired operation of a motor vehicle and his licence has been suspended.

Jul 11 2016

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - A judge in Kelowna declined to consider the presence of fentanyl an aggravating factor in handing down a sentence for trafficking the highly potent and potentially deadly synthetic opioid, saying it's up to Canadian lawmakers to dictate how the drug should be handled by the courts.

Matthew Hickson was handed a 28-month prison sentence on Monday after pleading guilty to two counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking - one for cocaine, the other for fentanyl.

The Crown had been seeking a four-year prison sentence, citing lengthy terms of incarceration for fentanyl dealers in Ontario and entering into evidence reports about the serious and sometimes deadly implications of fentanyl use.

Justice Hope Hyslop of the B.C. Supreme Court said cocaine and fentanyl, both considered Schedule 1 controlled substances under Canadian law, should be treated the same in court.

"Until Parliament legislates otherwise, I will make no distinction in sentencing Mr. Hickson," she said.

(Kamloops This Week)

Jul 11 2016

TORONTO - The Ontario Human Rights Commission will not be allowed to participate in a Toronto Police Service disciplinary tribunal for two officers charged with misconduct in the 2011 arrest of four black teens.

The OHRC made a motion for leave to intervene in the tribunal to ensure that the issue of racial profiling would be addressed, according to a Monday release, but their motion was denied on "jurisdictional grounds."

The OHRC said the denial of the motion "illustrates the fact that the Ontario police complaints system cannot be relied upon to address racial profiling and is not sufficient to restore public trust."

The tribunal will examine charges of unlawful or unnecessary exercise of authority and discreditable conduct against Const. Adam Lourenco and Const. Scharnil Pais, who arrested four boys who were on their way to a tutoring session in the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood of Toronto.

Toronto Community Housing security cameras captured footage of the incident showing the teens being arrested at gunpoint. The footage also shows one of the boys being punched and pulled to the ground by an officer, according to the OHRC.

Charges laid against the boys were later withdrawn. The Ontario Office of the Independent Police Review Director found charges against the officers were warranted under Ontario's Police Services Act, noting that the teens "were not misbehaving in any manner."

OHRC Chief Commissioner Renu Mandhane said her organization wanted to offer expertise on racial profiling in the tribunal, and she is concerned that the police prosecutor will not adequately raise the issue.

In the ruling denying the OHRC's motion, Toronto police Supt. Peter Lennox said he "(sees) no reason to doubt that the prosecution will not be fulsome," and he is confident the hearing officer will consider all testimony and evidence "with respect to racial profiling, discrimination, or other rights violations, if there are any."

The OHRC also wants an independent provincial body to be established to monitor police services and hold them accountable for racial profiling. Mandhane said police forces across Ontario don't adequately track information about race in stops or arrests.

Jul 11 2016

VANCOUVER - Police forces in British Columbia are looking into equipping officers with an overdose-reversing drug to help combat a worsening public-health crisis, but their union head says many officers still have hesitations about the initiative.

Departments in Vancouver and Abbotsford are considering having front-line officers carry the intranasal version of naloxone, which can counter the effects of an opioid overdose within minutes. Some firefighters in Vancouver and Surrey began carrying the injectable form of the drug early this year, and advocates have called for police to carry it as well.

Tom Stamatakis, president of the Vancouver Police Union, as well as head of the British Columbia and Canadian police associations, said officers aren't trained to provide medical assistance, and discussions will need to take place about the appropriateness of such a change. He also noted that officers who provide the drug to someone who dies would be subject to investigation by the province's police watchdog.

"I would have a lot of questions around any initiative like that, about the risk and potential liability for police officers," Mr. Stamatakis said. "I would be concerned about police officers undertaking any activity that exposes them to more risk."

Naloxone is currently available only as an injection, though Health Canada has fast-tracked an easier-to-use nasal spray version, which is expected to be available soon.

Very few police officers in Canada currently carry naloxone.

Scott Pattison, spokesman for the Edmonton Police Service, said officers there began carrying the drug "after recognizing the extreme dangers associated to fentanyl and the potential for our officers to come into contact with the lethal drug."

Unlike paramedics and firefighters, police officers in B.C. are subject to investigation by the province's Independent Investigations Office, or IIO, in any instance where a person they interact with dies or is seriously harmed.

Mr. Stamatakis pointed to two recent incidents - on Salt Spring Island and in Abbotsford - in which police officers were investigated after performing CPR on people who later died. In those cases, the IIO found that the officers were not involved in any wrongdoing, and it released jurisdiction in two and 10 days, respectively.

Vancouver police spokesman Constable Brian Montague said the department had safety concerns about administering the injectable naloxone but is open to the nasal spray version. He also acknowledged the hesitation some officers might feel about getting involved and subjecting themselves to the possibility of being investigated.

"The IIO is someone we're going to have a conversation with to see how scenarios might play out," he said. "To be investigated for trying to do the right thing can be stressful, even if it's only for a few days."

(Globe and Mail)

Jul 11 2016

EDMONTON - When Dan Murray signed up to be an Edmonton police officer in July 1971, Pierre Trudeau was Canada's prime minister.

The world has changed a lot in the 45 years since then, but Const. Murray is still with the Edmonton Police Service. He works out of downtown division and has the distinction of being known as "Reg. #1."

On Monday, dozens of uniformed and plainclothes members and support staff gathered in the atrium at the downtown headquarters to recognize Murray's accomplishment.

Murray was piped in by the Edmonton Police band, and then sat in the front row surrounded by his wife and four daughters and members of EPS administration.

"Well, I was quite taken aback," Murray said after the ceremony. "Usually I can catch on to a lot of things that happen around here, however the secret has been kept well by these folks - there's going to be repercussions later."

Murray joined the Edmonton Police Service on July 19, 1971.

He was asked why at age 65 he's still coming to work.

"My wife, she won't allow me to retire unless I have something else to do," he said. "This is all I've ever known since I came out of school, and I enjoy doing the job. It's fun."

During his time as a police officer, Murray has worked in numerous divisions, from patrol to special investigations to undercover drug work back when he first started. Now he spends most of his days at the front counter, listening to people's complaints or helping the general public however he can.

Many of Murray's current and former colleagues can't picture him doing anything else.

"He's always got a smile on his face, he's always a happy-go-lucky individual, no matter what the circumstances are and who he's dealing with," said Bob Walsh, who represents the Edmonton Police Association.

Murray said as long as his health allows him to work, he won't even think about retiring.

"It's not got to the point where he's said 'I'm pulling the plug,'" his wife said. "He just takes a break and he's good."

(CBC News)

Jul 11 2016

GUELPH - On July 11, 2016, a member of the Guelph Police traffic division was operating radar on Gordon Street in the area of the Springfield Golf Course.

Gordon Street at this location is a 70 km/h zone and with no artificial lighting on this stretch of roadway. It is in total darkness in the absence of traffic.

At 10:21 p.m. the officer observed what appeared to be a bicycle light south of his location and that light appeared to be moving in a northbound direction.

As the object approached the location of the parked police vehicle, the shape of a motor vehicle became identifiable and it was evident that it was travelling well in excess of the speed limit.

The officer activated the radar unit and obtained a speed reading of 108 km/h in the 70 km/h zone. As the motor vehicle passed the officer, it was noted that it had no working exterior lights (including headlights and tail lights).

The officer stopped the vehicle and found the driver to be wearing a L.E.D. "headlamp" on his forehead.

A 35-year-old Guelph man has been charged with speeding and operate unsafe vehicle under the Highway Traffic Act.

(Guelph Police)

TUESDAY JULY 12, 2016

Jul 12 2016

HALIFAX - A 28-year-old man accused of killing an off-duty police officer and disposing of her body near a Halifax bridge will be committed to stand trial.



A preliminary hearing is underway for Christopher Calvin Garnier on charges that he committed second-degree murder and interfered with a dead body in the death of Truro officer Catherine Campbell last September.

A publication ban has been placed upon all evidence discussed at the preliminary hearing, which is set for four days.

Garnier, a Halifax resident, was charged after the 36-year-old Campbell's remains were found last September 16th near the base of an overpass leading to a Halifax bridge.

Campbell also served as a volunteer firefighter for 10 years in her hometown of Stellarton.

During her funeral over 100 police officers and firefighters lined the main street of her hometown as her coffin was brought to the Presbyterian church.

Jul 12 2016

HAMILTON - A 41-year-old Hamilton police officer convicted earlier this year of perjury and two counts of obstruction of justice has resigned from the force.

Robert Hansen's resignation takes effect on Aug. 5.

Hansen, who encouraged a source to plant a gun at the home of a suspect, was convicted in January and sentenced last month to five years in prison.

He is appealing both the conviction and the sentence.

After Hansen was sentenced he was suspended without pay by the police service.

He is facing a Police Act charge of insubordination that is scheduled to be dealt with on Aug. 23.

(CHML)

Jul 12 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's privacy commissioner is no longer taking legal action against Toronto police over the sharing of attempted suicide-related information with U.S. border services.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's office says it has withdrawn its case because the force has developed new procedures to better protect people's privacy.

It says the new measures restrict the disclosure of attempted suicide-related information to American border services through an RCMP database, while allowing "time-limited" public safety disclosures to police in Canada.

The measures also provide affected individuals with a right to seek early removal of their information from the Canadian Police Information Centre database.

The privacy commissioner's office had filed an application for judicial review with an Ontario court in 2014, asking for an order to stop the broad disclosure of suicide-related information to U.S. agencies through the database.

The issue had come under the national spotlight after an Ontario woman went public in 2013 with her story of being turned away by a U.S. customs agent at Toronto's Pearson airport because she had been hospitalized in June 2012 for clinical depression.

Jul 12 2016

TORONTO - Ontario spent more than \$44 million preparing for a correctional strike that never happened, the Canadian Press has learned.

The Liberal government has publicly said it spent \$8.5 million on training and renovating spaces in the province's jails in the event that managers had to run the facilities on a 24-hour basis during a strike.

But an itemized list of strike preparation expenditures requested by through the Freedom of Information Act shows the estimated total is actually \$44,380,472.45.

Nearly \$32 million of that was spent on one-time expenses, including accommodations for managers and private security.

Less than a third of the total was spent on items that were ultimately repurposed for regular use in correctional facilities, such as \$3.2 million worth of food and beverages, \$1.1 million for beds, mattresses and partitions, \$866,000 in medical supplies and equipment, and \$776,000 in safety and security equipment.

A three-year deal reached Jan. 9 with 6,000 correctional and probation officers averted a threatened strike, but by that time correctional managers and managers from across the public service had already been brought in to the jails.

Jul 12 2016

LAC LA BICHE, Alta. - Alberta Mounties are warning the public that two suspects who shot at police are on the loose and may be armed and dangerous.

Sgt. Jack Poitras says Lac La Biche RCMP spotted a vehicle believed to have been involved with several armed robberies were travelling from Wandering River towards Lac La Biche in a dark pickup truck on Monday afternoon.

Within a few minutes of following the pickup, RCMP say the occupants of the vehicle fired a single shot at the RCMP officer's vehicle, striking the windshield.

The officer was not injured.

Two of the four people in the vehicle were taken into custody about 20 kilometres northeast of Lac La Biche.

Poitras says the other two have not been located and a rifle used to shoot at the cruiser has not been found.

Jul 12 2016

The police officers were eating at an restaurant in Pennsylvania when the couple walked in.



Jesse Meyers, a server at the restaurant, tried to seat the couple at a table near the officers, according to WTAE. But the couple refused to sit there.

"A table goes to sit down and the guy looks over at one of the police officers and was like, 'Nah, I don't want to sit here,'" Meyers said. "So they got moved completely opposite, away from the police officers."

Officer Chuck Thomas said it was obvious to them that the couple didn't want to sit near police officers.

"I looked over and said, 'It's okay sir. You won't have to worry about it, we won't hurt you,'" Thomas said. "He looked at me hard again and said he's not sitting here and walked away."

But rather than react with irritation or hate, the officers decided an act of kindness would accomplish more. Thomas and another officer at the table decided to pay their bill.

It was \$28.50, and the officers also left a \$10 tip, according to WTAE.

"Sir, your check was paid for by the police officers that you didn't want to sit next to," the officers wrote on the check. "Thank you for your support."

Thomas said he wanted the couple to know that even if they had bad experiences with police in the past, he was there to protect them and not hurt them.

"Essentially the whole goal of it was to let him know that we're not here to hurt you,

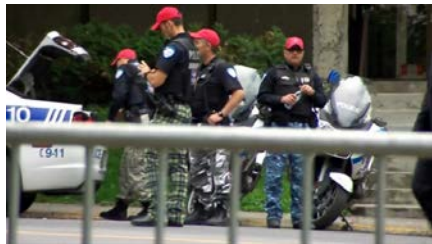
we're not here for that," Thomas said. "We're here for you. We work for the public. And we just want to better the relationship between the community and the police."

The officers said they got a smile and a thank you from the couple as they left.

(Charlotte Observer)

Jul 12 2016

QUEBEC CITY - Quebec's Public Security Minister says he is thinking about forcing police officers to wear their standard uniforms.



Martin Coiteux says he's being patient with police officers, but that his patience may soon run out.

"I allowed them the time to think about the situation, I think they received signals from citizens, I think they received signals from judges, I think they should understand the situation. There's still some time to go, but it's not going to be infinite," Coiteux said.

His comments come a day after a union representing peace officers agreed to suspend their protest and stop wearing camouflage pants in hopes of advancing talks between the two parties.

Coiteux said the union's decision was responsible and a gesture of goodwill.

Coiteux was also reacting to the news that a municipal court judge threw out a \$1,200 fine for a Laval man who was pulled over by a police officer wearing camouflage pants.

Marc-Olivier Caron, 29, was caught on radar last July driving 71 km/h. The speed limit is 50 km/h.

The police officer, Nathalie Dagenais, was on the street corner but then moved into the street as Caron approached. She motioned at him to pull over, but Caron said she wasn't wearing what qualifies as expected police-officer attire.

"Camo pants, yellow [vest] ... It wasn't written anywhere [that she was a police officer]," he explained during an interview on CBC Montreal's Daybreak.

Caron said he slowed down, thinking Dagenais would continue walking. He didn't stop completely because there were people following him, he said.

But Dagenais said he didn't slow down and she had to move "at the last second," according to the court decision. She then got into her cruiser and pulled Caron over.

She gave him two tickets - one for speeding and the other for dangerous driving. Caron contested the second charge.

Last month, the judge sided with Caron, saying she believed he slowed down and as such the officer had ample time to get out of the way if she thought her life was in danger.

The judge also decided it was reasonable for Caron to act the way he did because he didn't recognize the woman in the road was a police officer.

Montreal lawyer Avi Levy said he believes there may be more cases like Caron's if police keep wearing their protest uniforms.

"While they're wearing the pants, it leads to confusion and it led to a valid defence," he said.

Officers started wearing the camouflage pants and red baseball caps in 2014 after the government proposed changes to municipal employees' pension contributions.

The proposed changes became law in December of that year.

(CBC News)

Jul 12 2016

OTTAWA - An Ottawa police officer said peer pressure and a desire to boost his statistics led him to write false traffic warnings, according to an agreed statement of facts at a disciplinary hearing.

The Professional Standards Section has recommended an 18-month demotion for Const. Edward Ellis, after he admitted to 42 instances of misconduct in 2015. A decision on his penalty is expected in September.

Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau confirmed in March that an internal investigation was launched after 11 officers were accused of falsely boosting the number of warning tickets handed out in the force's record management system. Two officers, including Ellis, were suspended pending the investigation, while nine more were placed on administrative duty.

In June, Const. Bernard Covic was demoted for seven months after admitting to falsifying four traffic warnings. The demotion from first-class to second-class constable comes with a pay cut of \$9,600. He was among the nine officers reassigned but has returned to his position, according to Ottawa police. Read the decision here.

Ellis was suspended in the fall of 2015, after a fellow officer discovered the driver's copies and associated payment slips for six tickets in Ellis's cruiser.

Over the course of an investigation, the Professional Standards Section found 42 instances of misconduct, including eight instances in which he failed to notify the driver of an offence, and 34 instances in which he issued warnings without any evidence to support the offence, according to the agreed statement of facts.

(CBC News)

Jul 12 2016

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg police board will be seeking annual reports on how often the police service's new armoured vehicle is being used and under what circumstances.

The new vehicle, known as ARV1, was first deployed near the end of last week at a call in the North End.

"At our discretion the board can request

for more reporting as is necessary but we're going to start with an annual report," said police board chair and city councillor Scott Gillingham.

Police have agreed to provide the police board with that information.

Some police departments across Canada readily disclose how often their armoured vehicles are used.

The Calgary Police Service uses theirs between 30-35 times per month, on average.

While Medicine Hat, with a population of just over 60,000 has used theirs four times in the last year.

However, other police departments, like Edmonton's, Hamilton's and York Region's, wouldn't share any details about how their armoured vehicles are deployed.

The Winnipeg Police Service is still in the initial stages of planning how they will keep the public informed about ARV1 deployments but say they're committed to keeping the public up to date.

"We're eager to talk to the media and the public about the purchase of this vehicle and how it's going to make us dealing with volatile situations in the best way possible," said Constable Michalsyhyn.

The board hasn't decided on when they want the first ARV1 report to be submitted.

(Global News)

Jul 12 2016

OTTAWA - An Ottawa police officer has been found not guilty of misconduct charges laid by a civilian watchdog after his two co-accused officers were already previously acquitted in a case the police union say should never have led to disciplinary charges.

Det. Emmanuel Svidran was acquitted Monday of two counts of neglect of duty under the Police Services Act laid by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director, a civilian police oversight agency.

The OIPRD alleged that Svidran and two other officers Const. Katherine Plomp and Sgt. Wayne Wilson mishandled evidence in a married couple's arrest for fighting with neighbours. Plomp and Wilson were acquitted of neglect of duty in April.

Bruno Kraljevic filed several complaints against police after he and his wife, Branka Kraljevic, were arrested for an altercation with three neighbours in July 2013. Branka was convicted of aggravated assault for stabbing one of the men.

Ottawa police found no grounds for disciplinary charges against the officers, but a subsequent investigation by OIPRD found what it believed to be evidence of policy breaches, yet none of the charges it laid in this case has resulted in a conviction.

Svidran was charged with neglect of duty for failing to review images stored on Branka's camera or have Bruno's injuries further photographed and for also failing to complete a form for all the items police seized.

Svidran's hearing found that no pictures of the actual assault existed on the camera. Svidran testified that he would've needed a

warrant to view images on an assault suspect's camera and he could not swear the information to obtain the warrant when he didn't believe that any pictures of the assault existed. Hearing officer Supt. Don Sweet said he didn't believe that an officer wouldn't think that it's possible photos existed, but even still, said that the behaviour isn't misconduct.

Svidran admitted it was a mistake that he didn't complete the form necessary for the seized items but Sweet also found that such a mistake didn't meet the threshold of neglecting his duties as a police officer.

Police union president Matt Skof said the union expected Svidran to be acquitted of the charges and that "given the poor quality of the investigation and the expenses incurred" that the union is reviewing the file and will likely seek to recoup their legal costs.

(Ottawa Citizen)

WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 2016

Jul 13 2016

WASHINGTON - With the Dallas shootings, 26 police officers have died in the line of duty so far this year, a substantial jump over the 18 officers who had died at this point in 2015, according the statistics from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.



Nick Breul, director of research for the memorial fund and a former Washington, D.C., police officer, said that the number of surprise attacks targeting and killing police officers also has increased.

"As we see increases, it becomes very concerning, particularly when you see increases in the cases of the nature of Dallas," Breul said.

"Certainly there is a climate now — and the Dallas case indicates that there is a climate now — that certainly should have police on guard," he added.

A black Army veteran, Lakeem Keon Scott, targeted police in a shooting Thursday along a highway in Bristol, Tenn., authorities said. One woman was killed and three other people were injured, including a white officer. Scott was charged Tuesday with one count of first-degree murder and seven counts of attempted first-degree murder.

"Preliminarily, the investigation reveals Scott targeted individuals and officers after being troubled by recent incidents involving African Americans and law enforcement officers," authorities from the

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said in a statement.

An officer in the St. Louis suburb of Ballwin, Mo., was shot from behind and critically injured during a traffic stop while he was walking back to his patrol car Friday, the day after the Dallas shooting.

"A direct attack on an officer like this is not common. It was a very open and very blatant ambush," said Officer Benjamin Granda of the St. Louis County Police Department. The officer is white and the suspected shooter is black, but Granda declined to speculate about whether the attack had racial overtones.

The same day in Valdosta, Ga., a shooter lured an officer to his house with a 911 call and then opened fire, authorities said. The man, a recovering drug addict, said he "wanted the police to shoot him as he wanted to die," according to a Georgia Bureau of Investigation news release. Both the shooter and the officer survived bullet wounds, authorities said.

Also Friday in Georgia, another officer on patrol became a target when a motorist pulled up and fired at him in Roswell, north of Atlanta. The officer was not injured, and a suspect was taken into custody. But authorities have not commented on the gunman's motives.

The violence continued after the weekend when two court bailiffs, both former policemen, were shot and killed by an inmate inside the Berrien County Courthouse in Michigan. A sheriff's deputy in the courthouse was wounded, and the gunman was later shot and killed.

Kim Fowler, a former law enforcement officer who knew both the slain bailiffs, said that growing violence is a danger to police, but officers try not to dwell on the risks when they are doing their job.

"They can't sit around thinking about it, and they don't," he said. "All you can do is try your best to prepare. You can't stop doing your normal activities or your everyday police work in taking care of the public."

(LA Times)

Jul 13 2016

TORONTO - Police violated the rights of a woman convicted of a drug offence by arbitrarily detaining her and failing to advise her of her right to a lawyer, Ontario's top court ruled Wednesday.

As a result, the court quashed the conviction against Angel Daley, who was arrested in Sarnia, Ont., after finding that the fentanyl she was carrying should be excluded as evidence.

"The nature of the state conduct in this case militates in favour of exclusion," the Appeal Court ruled. "These were not minor or inadvertent breaches."

The incident arose in April 2014 when a Money Mart store alerted police that Daley was trying to pawn jewellery he thought might have been stolen based on photographs in a flyer he had seen. Officers de-

tained her in the store for about 40 minutes without advising her of her right to counsel.

During the detention, police searched Daley's car. An officer found a purse with a knife and arrested her for having a prohibited weapon. He then searched her and found seven fentanyl patches in her jacket pocket. Daley was charged with possession of fentanyl for the purpose of trafficking.

Superior Court Justice Russell Raikes convicted Daley her last September - despite finding police had clearly acted unconstitutionally by failing to advise her of her right to a lawyer, and that there was "no excuse for it."

Overall, however, Raikes found police conduct to have been reasonable. The 40-minute detention, he found, was not arbitrary because the officers were busy trying to compare the pieces of jewelry to the flyer pictures.

The Appeal Court, however, disagreed with Raikes' conclusion because the number of jewellery pieces was never discussed at trial, and the flyer was not introduced into evidence. As a result, the appellate court found, the detention and failure to advise her of her right to counsel was in fact arbitrary.

In quashing the conviction, the Appeal Court found no extenuating circumstances to explain or mitigate the seriousness of the officers' conduct.

"Overall, the police conduct in this case demonstrated a disregard for well-established Charter rights," the court ruled. "The arbitrary detention was not fleeting."

The court noted the broader society interest in prosecuting people who have drugs for trafficking purposes, especially a dangerous one such as fentanyl. Excluding the evidence, therefore, defeats the truth seeking function of the justice system, the court said.

Nevertheless, when all factors are weighed, the Appeal Court concluded that admitting the drug evidence would bring the administration of justice into disrepute given the serious breach of Daley's rights.

"Given its exclusion, the conviction cannot stand," the court decided.

Jul 13 2016

TERREBONE, Que. - A Montreal-area city was forced to close some offices Wednesday after a visit from about 100 police officers who were staging raids in a crackdown by the province's anti-corruption unit.

The officers targeted about 10 different locations, including Terrebonne city hall and the residence of Mayor Jean-Marc Robitaille.

The anti-corruption agency also searched four other homes and four businesses.

A spokeswoman for the unit said the raids were in connection with the awarding of public contracts.

No arrests were made.

In a statement, the city's administration said it was fully co-operating with investigators.

Jul 14 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's securities watchdog has launched its whistleblower program, a first in Canada, in an effort to root out accounting fraud, insider trading and market manipulation.

Under the program, the Ontario Securities Commission offers rewards of up to \$5 million for tips that lead to successful prosecution.

The OSC originally planned to cap payments to \$1.5 million, but it raised that after experts suggested that was too little to compensate senior executives who risk losing high-paying jobs and being blacklisted from their industries.

Payouts are still capped at \$1.5 million unless the securities regulator is able to collect at least \$10 million in sanctions related to a 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.

The program also includes protections for those who come forward, such as confidentiality and anti-retaliation measures.

Jul 14 2016

THUNDER BAY - The union representing Nishnawbe Aski Police Service staff has applied for conciliation in an ongoing contact dispute with the police force. The move comes after almost 95 per cent of members voted in favor of a strike mandate.



Sharon DeSousa, Ontario Regional Executive Vice-President for the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), said the union expects to meet with the conciliator within three weeks.

"Our members are very clear where they stand," she said. "With the strike vote behind them, they've made their voice heard."

NAPS employs more than 130 police officers and about 40 civilian members. It's the largest First Nations police force in Canada, and is in charge of policing more than 30 communities in Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory.

The big issues for the union, DeSousa said, are wages — PSAC wants NAPS officers' wages to fall more in line with those of OPP officers — and health and safety.

"What we've seen, systematically, is the under-funding of First Nations communities, as well as policing," she said. "They're funded provincially and federally. Having said that, our members are in isolated communities, and oftentimes they're the only officer there. Backup is another two hours to four hours away."

That leads to extreme stress on officers, DeSousa said.

A news release provided by NAN states that at any given time, "18 per cent of NAPS officers are off-duty, often for stress-leave."

When reached Wednesday, Mike Metatawabin, chair of the NAPS board, declined an interview, referring questions to a media release issued by NAN on Tuesday night.

In that release, NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler stated, "It is extremely disappointing that Canada and Ontario have continually failed to come to the table and address the long-standing funding issues for NAPS while, at the same time, we have been making progress on a legislative framework for First Nations policing."

Metatawabin also said the board is considering its next steps.

DeSousa said the NAPS force is not deemed an essential service, but what that means should a strike happen is unclear.

"This is the first time we've ever gone ahead and considered a strike," she said.

(CBC News)

Jul 14 2016

Only one major city in Canada - Halifax - staffs a police force that is as racially diverse as its community, CBC News has found.

All other major law enforcement agencies across the country fail to reflect their communities' diversity among their ranks, leaving large swaths of visible minorities and Indigenous populations without representation.

- While 57 per cent of Peel region, outside Toronto, is diverse, its police force has only 19 per cent non-white officers.
- 54 per cent of Vancouverites are from minority groups, whereas 22 per cent of its police force match that profile.
- For York region, also neighbouring Toronto, that ratio is 44 per cent for the population, but 17 per cent for the police force.
- In Edmonton, 35 per cent of its citizens are visible minorities or Indigenous, yet those groups are represented in less than 10 per cent of its police force.
- In Nunavut, 12 per cent of the police force is Aboriginal, but the territory is almost 90 per cent Indigenous.

In May, CBC News surveyed all major police forces in Canada in order to establish a national snapshot of the racial diversity of key law enforcement agencies.

These figures were then compared to the demographic makeup of the public for each community using the results of the 2011 National Household Survey to calculate the disparity between the racial profiles of police

and general populations.

The head of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police says these numbers alone are not reason for concern.

"I'd say we are just on a learning curve right now," said Clive Weighill, who is also chief of the Saskatoon Police Service, which fared relatively well in the analysis.

"I think we've made a lot of progress. If you would compare policing to private corporations or other civic or municipal corporations, I think you'd see our numbers are drastically ahead of most people," he said.

Weighill says that, although there are recruiting challenges such as language barriers and historic distrust of police in some communities, "every service that I know of has a recruiting plan to bring diversity into the service because we all recognize how important it is."

He added that the Saskatoon force has full-time Indigenous recruiter on staff.

The survey results showed that some of the country's least racially diverse police forces were also among those that most closely represented their communities in terms of the percentage point gap.

Police in Quebec City and Sherbrooke reported having a combined total of 12 Indigenous and visible minority officers out of a total of nearly 900. However, because the small amount of diversity in their communities, police in those cities closely mirrored the population in terms of percentage point.

The Toronto Police Service says one of the key impediments to achieving better representation is that the rate of officer turnover has been outpaced by the rapidly changing community.

"In 2000 we were at about nine per cent visible minority. We're now at about 24 per cent," says Mark Pugash, director of corporate communications for the force.

"People who join tend to stay for 30 years, or in other cases 35 years or longer. So there's not a great turnover. We've also had hiring freezes for a number of years in recent times."

Pugash says that when Toronto police hire, they have focused on recruiting Somali Canadians, and have also been successful in debunking certain myths about policing through a program that teams up youths with officers.

The CBC News survey found that Halifax Regional Police was the only force to match or surpass the racial diversity of its community, with Hamilton close behind. The Halifax chief says conflicts in the early 1990s led the force to re-evaluate its recruiting methods.

"We started some very targeted recruitment where we wanted to get members of the African Nova-Scotian community here," said Jean-Michel Blais. "We're now working very closely with the Muslim community."

"The most important thing is diversity of thought. We want to be able to encourage the best decision making possible," he said.

(CBC News)

TORONTO - Police forces across Canada are warning of the risks involved in playing augmented reality games such as Pokemon Go as reports mount of people getting injured or landing in trouble as they play the wildly popular game.

The cellphone-based game sends players into the real world to search for digital monsters known as Pokemon, who appear on screen when users hold up their iPhones or Android devices in various locations at various times.

Police forces, however, are worried about the game luring people into potentially dangerous situations and are cautioning players to use their common sense.

In Quebec City, police said two officers suffered minor injuries when a car they observed driving strangely reversed into their cruiser in a parking lot.

"The driver said 'I'm sorry, I was playing Pokemon Go,'" said Const. Nancy Roussel, who said police are calling on players to be aware of their surroundings.

"Be careful, watch out, even if you are in a car, on your feet or on a bicycle, be careful and watch where you're going, please."

Every time the Pokemon Go app is opened, a warning from game maker Niantic pops up, telling players to be aware of their surroundings. Players must also agree to fine print saying they cannot enter private property without permission.

Despite warnings, people playing the game have wandered into private yards, driveways, cemeteries and, in one U.S. case, even an off-limits police parking lot in search of the app's cartoon monsters.

In Vancouver, police have observed the game's colourful digital characters inside their own headquarters and have cautioned city residents over what they termed the "the Pokemon Go invasion."

"Are you about to step into traffic? Are you going to crash into someone or something? You could end more than just your game," they said. "It is very easy for any stranger to know your gathering spots. Make sure you go with a group, and that younger kids tell parents or another adult where they're going."

Some police forces have also been employing the hashtag #DontCatchAndDrive as players roam community streets.

In Ontario, provincial police have put out a short video on Twitter in response to the "potential risk and harm" they are seeing related to the game.

"People are getting injured, people in the U.S. are having their cellphones stolen when they show up at given locations where Pokemon are supposed to be in hiding," said Sgt. Dave Rektor.

Jul 14 2016

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - Police in Prince Albert, Sask. say gang and drug activity has led to a significant increase in gun seizures.

So far this year, officers have seized 52 firearms, including five this month alone, compared to 19 for the same period last year.

Police Chief Troy Cooper says several of

the guns have no serial numbers, or are untraceable.

He says most of the weapons are shotguns and hunting rifles which have had their barrels cut back to make them easier to conceal.

The hike in seizures started last September.

Cooper says as a result, his officers are acting with greater caution during traffic stops and while making arrests, not just in cases where they suspect guns are present.

(CJLR, CJWW)

Jul 14 2016

VANCOUVER - British Columbia's highest court has upheld the conviction of an RCMP constable found guilty of perjury following the death of Robert Dziekanski.

The British Columbia Court of Appeal says the trial judge made no error in assessing the evidence against Kwesi Millington.

Millington was sentenced to 30-months in prison for testimony he gave to the Braidwood inquiry examining the October 2007 death of Dziekanski, who was jolted multiple times with a Taser at Vancouver's airport.

Millington and former corporal Benjamin (Monty) Robinson were found guilty of colluding to make up testimony about the police actions.

Robinson was sentenced last July to two years less a day, one year of probation and 240 hours of community for perjury.

Jul 14 2016

OTTAWA - An Ontario judge has acquitted an Ottawa police officer charged with impaired driving, and chastised the RCMP officers who pulled her over for their "atrocious" and "disturbing" note taking.

In May 2014 RCMP Const. Gary Lee pulled Marie Josee Seguin over on Hwy. 417 for erratic driving. Seguin, off duty, was later charged with impaired driving and failing to provide a breath sample.

Sequin argued the stop and her detention were unlawful. She argued the RCMP does not have the authority to stop drivers on Highway 417, nor is there a bilateral agreement between the RCMP and Ottawa police for that stretch of road.

In his ruling Justice Allan Letourneau said he believed Lee pulled Seguin over because he feared for the public's safety but characterized Lee as "a very poor witness," and scolded all four responding RCMP officers for their "atrocious" note taking. Lee admitted he would grade his own notes that day with an "F."

The judge chastised Lee for filing his general report more than 15 hours after the incident. When pressed about why he omitted certain details in his notes, Lee said he didn't remember them until he testified.

For example, he wrote that Seguin fumbled to find her ID, but failed to mention that the licence was behind other documents in her wallet.

"The extent of the failure of all four officers to comply with their own force's note taking requirements is astounding and dis-

turbing," wrote Letourneau.

"Contemporaneous and comprehensive notes are especially important in drinking and driving cases where often there is no independent evidence available to corroborate the testimony of police officers."

The judge questioned if Seguin was in fact inebriated when "no other witness testified that she was very drunk."

Sequin told the responding officers she had three drinks but they didn't ask her when and over what time period, the ruling says.

"She did not stagger, stumble, stray or wave while walking with him back to his cruiser," Letourneau wrote, dismissing the refusal charge. He did rule that both the stop and investigative detention were lawful.

(CBC News)

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