

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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JULY 22, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 30

## Executive Digest

Jul 14 2016

**TORONTO** - Toronto is one step closer to becoming the first place in Canada where anyone can text 911 operators instead of calling them.

Page 3

Jul 17 2016

With an unprecedented police strike looming, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler has issued an ultimatum to the province - improve the funding model for the policing service or don't continue it at all.

Page 5

Jul 19 2016

**VANCOUVER** - Plans to put Tasers in the hands of 300 trained officers by the end of 2016 are behind schedule, but the Vancouver Police Department expects to reach that goal sometime in 2017.

Page 10

Jul 21 2016

**OTTAWA** - The Supreme Court of Canada says judges can ban convicted sexual predators from using the Internet.

Page 12

Jul 21 2016

The national inquiry into Canada's missing and murdered indigenous women will not have the authority to make findings of police misconduct or compel law-enforcement agencies to reopen cold cases, according to a draft of the terms of reference.

Page 13

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## Crime index rises for 1st time in 12 years



Jul 20 2016

**OTTAWA** - A "notable" uptick in police-reported crime in Alberta contributed to the first increase in the national rate in 12 years, Statistics Canada says.

The national Crime Severity Index (CSI), which measures the volume and severity of police-reported crime, jumped five per cent from 2014 to 2015, the federal agency said Wednesday.

An 18 per cent increase in Alberta, com-

bined with smaller increases in British Columbia, Ontario and Saskatchewan, contributed to push the CSI up.

In all, eight out of 13 provinces and territories reported an increase in the CSI by the end of last year.

Calgary had the highest increase in the crime rate of all cities, at 25 per cent, followed by Moncton, N.B., at 21 per cent and the Abbotsford-Mission area in B.C. at 15 per cent.

"Since the inception of the CSI in 1998, there have only been three other occasions



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when a provincial increase of 10 per cent or more was seen," Statistics Canada said in a release.

The traditional police-reported crime rate, which measures the volume of police-reported crime relative to population size, rose by three per cent nationally.

A gain in the national non-violent CSI was partly the result of an increase in property crime, "most notably in Alberta," the agency said.

Alberta's uptick was primarily due to an increase in incidents of breaking and entering, theft of \$5,000 or under, and motor vehicle theft.

Those crimes also helped pushed up the CSI rates in New Brunswick by 13 per cent, in Saskatchewan by 10 per cent and in the Northwest Territories by 10 per cent.

Twenty of Canada's 33 census metropolitan areas reported increased CSI rates. A 29 per cent surge in Calgary was the biggest, followed by a 20 per cent increase in Moncton, a 16 per cent increase in Victoria, a 16 per cent increase in Edmonton and a 14 per cent increase in Abbotsford-Mission.

The two cities with the highest CSIs in 2015 were Saskatoon, at 112.5, and Regina, at 107.6.

Statistics Canada says to calculate the CSI, each violation is assigned a weight based on its incarceration rate and the average length of prison sentence handed down by the courts.

Weighted offences are added up and divided by the population. The CSI is then standardized to a numerical value of 100 based on data from the year 2006. "In other words, all CSI values are relative to the Canada-level CSI for 2006," the agency says.

Western provinces all reported CSIs and crime rates in 2015 that were higher than the national average, with Saskatchewan continuing to record both the highest CSI, at 135.8, and crime rate, at 11,178 incidents per 100,000 people.

Across the country, the rates of most Criminal Code offences were up in 2015, with 1.9 million incidents (excluding traffic) reported by police, about 70,000 more than in 2014.

Rates for some violent offences increased, including:

Attempted murder: 22 per cent. Firearms offences: 22 per cent. Homicide: 15 per cent. Robbery: 5 per cent. Sexual assault: 4 per cent.

The rates for all types of property crimes also rose:

Fraud: 15 per cent. Possession of stolen property: 13 per cent. Identity fraud: 9 per cent. Vehicle theft: 6 per cent. Breaking and entering: 4 per cent.

(CBC News)

*Here is a look at the percentage change in the rate by province in 2015 from the previous year.*

Canada: 3  
Newfoundland and Labrador: 4  
Prince Edward Island: -12  
Nova Scotia: -9  
New Brunswick: 10  
Quebec: -3  
Ontario: 0  
Manitoba: 5  
Saskatchewan: 6  
Alberta: 12  
British Columbia: 3  
Yukon: 0  
Northwest Territories: 1  
Nunavut: 4

**THURSDAY  
JULY 14, 2016**

Jul 14 2016

**FREDERICKSBURG, Va. - A 911 dispatch center in Virginia is under investigation after a man died despite making a 911 call.**

CBS affiliate WTVR reports the dispatcher dismissed it as a "butt dial" when the caller failed to respond and there was no suspicious noise.

WJLA-TV reports that 56-year-old Robert Paulus died of heart disease in late April in his Fredericksburg apartment. According to Robert Paulus's son, Michael Paulus, his father called 911 hours before his death.

In the 18-second call to Fredericksburg City Dispatch, the dispatcher tried three times to make contact with Robert Paulus. After hearing nothing but an unidentifiable sound, the call was labeled a pocket call, where no call back is required.

Hours later, Robert Paulus was found dead.

Fredericksburg Police Department spokeswoman Sarah Kirkpatrick says the handling of the call "was an oversight." Fredericksburg police are investigating the

incident, which could change 911 policies.

WTVR reports FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly suggested in 2014 that 50 per cent of 911 calls were the result of pocket or butt dialing.

"If my anecdotal experiences are remotely accurate, it would mean that approximately 84 million 911 calls a year are pocket dials," he added. "This is a huge waste of resources ... and increases the risk that legitimate 911 calls — and first responders — will be delayed."

In Virginia, many dispatcher will attempt to call back if there is no response on the other end of a 911 call, reports WTVR. It is not clear what the protocol in Fredericksburg is for this situation.

(CBS News)

Jul 14 2016

**TORONTO - Toronto police say millions of dollars in drugs, property and cash, along with weapons, have been seized in an investigation into an alleged drug smuggling operation with links to the United States.**

They say the seven-month investigation has led to the arrests of 27 people on criminal organization and drug trafficking charges.

Cocaine, marijuana, crystal meth, opium, ketamine and fentanyl - 283 kilograms in total - were seized, along with 103 kilograms of cutting agents for cocaine.

Investigators also seized eight firearms, including a Tec 9 machine pistol, an SKS rifle, a Springfield 40-calibre handgun and two 12 gauge shotguns, along with 418 rounds of ammunition.

Assets such as bank accounts, money counters and condominiums, worth almost \$3.4 million, which police allege were proceeds of crime, and \$2.4 million in cash were also seized.

The investigation, dubbed Project Beyond, involved Toronto police, York Regional Police and the Canada Border Services Agency.

Supt. Gord Sneddon said Thursday that the alleged criminal organization's reach extended beyond Ontario.

"Their range of influence has spread to the United States," Sneddon said. "We worked with the Drug Enforcement Administration, particularly in New York State, and we have had some success."

The unnamed organization was sophisticated and it compromised members of various ethnic groups, Sneddon said.

"The one common denominator is the desire to make money from the misery of other people," he said.

Jul 14 2016

**OTTAWA - The RCMP will launch a new national effort to eliminate sexual misconduct in the workplace after an internal review criticized the police force's response to an "egregious" case involving nudity and harassment.**

The review concluded the RCMP's initial investigations into behaviour at the Canadian Police College were "fraught with missed opportunities" to effectively deal

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with the misconduct, protect the victims and witnesses and heal the workplace.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson accepted a special steering committee's 28 recommendations based on the findings, and he apologized to those who experienced distress over the episode.

Paulson has been wrestling for years with problems of bullying and harassment within the national police force by introducing a "respectful workplace" course, setting up employee advisory committees, encouraging settlement of complaints at the earliest opportunity and promoting more women to senior posts.

Earlier this year, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale expressed outrage to Paulson when allegations surfaced about unwanted sexual touching, bullying and rampant nudity in the explosives training unit of the RCMP-administered police college in Ottawa.

In February, a former employee of the explosives unit wrote to Paulson about the behaviour of two colleagues. The member alleged that Staff Sgt. Bruno Solesme and civilian member Marco Calandrini had repeatedly engaged in sexual misconduct and harassment from approximately June 2012 through December 2013, said the review report, made public Thursday.

The member was frustrated that despite the allegations, Solesme and Calandrini were allowed to return to work in the explosives field, with minimal repercussions.

Two years before the allegations were pointed out to Paulson, various internal investigations had been initiated into the events.

The latest review, ordered by the commissioner, found that incidents of nudity and unwelcome touching had occurred at the explosives unit. However, the incidents were not immediately reported by the victims for a variety of reasons, including "discomfort and fear."

"This type of behaviour in the workplace is unacceptable, regardless of the intention, and must be eradicated from the workplace," said the review report.

Prompt reporting of sexual misconduct in the workplace must be encouraged so that it can be addressed immediately with an appropriate response, the report added.

The more than two dozen recommendations flowing from the report addressed issues including human resource management, accountability and communication practices in the RCMP.

Paulson has committed to providing Goodale with a "comprehensive action plan" within 30 days on implementing the recommendations.

In a 2013 report, the watchdog over the RCMP said the force must take swift and effective action on complaints of bullying and harassment to reassure both members and the public.

The force said Thursday it must continue to strengthen and promote workplace wellness, ensure RCMP employees are safe from harassment and give them confidence in the internal processes to deal with misconduct.

Jul 14 2016

### **WINNIPEG - An inquest into the death of a Winnipeg teen who died after being shocked by a Taser has concluded officers used the appropriate amount of force during the incident.**

Provincial court judge Timothy Killeen released his report on the inquest Thursday.

Michael Langan, 17, died in July of 2008 after an encounter with police in an alleyway.

Police said they were looking for a robbery suspect when they came across Langan, who had a knife and refused to put it down.

An officer used a Taser to stun the teen, who was taken to hospital in critical condition and later died.

The report said Langan died from cardiac arrest as a result of exertion and stress.

During the inquest, Const. Ryan Naismith said Langan gave him no choice but to use the Taser, adding he was sure Langan was about to attack him.

Naismith had been an on-duty officer for about seven months at the time of the incident.

(CTV Winnipeg)

Jul 14 2016

### **TORONTO - Toronto is one step closer to becoming the first place in Canada where anyone can text 911 operators instead of calling them.**

City council voted Thursday to ask the Toronto Police Services Board to consider allowing 911 texts.

Coun. Norm Kelly, who tabled the motion

in council, said in a written statement that he was delighted by the vote's outcome, adding that it reinforced Toronto as a leader of technological innovation in Canada.

Many parts of Canada, including Toronto and 500 other Ontario communities, offer 911 texting for people with hearing or speech impairments.

Nowhere in Canada, however, is 911 texting available to the general population.

In the United States, more than 650 of the country's 6,000 emergency call centres accept 911 text messages.

**FRIDAY**  
**JULY 15, 2016**

Jul 15 2016

### **The majority of Canadians view their police forces favourably, but confidence erodes when members of visible minorities are polled, according to a new survey from Angus Reid.**

When asked if they have trust in the police and justice system, Canadians said "yes" about most institutions, with only the criminal courts failing to reach a majority of support. Sixty-eight per cent of white people expressed confidence in police while 58 per cent of members of visible minorities did so.

Support for the police and justice system appears to be growing, with a small increase from 2014 and a near-spike from the lows of



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2012, when none of the institutions broke 40 per cent support.

Quebec led the way in all categories, with support often more than 10 percentage points higher than in other provinces. Atlantic Canada and British Columbia had the lowest levels of trust.

The survey of 1,505 residents from across the country comes at a time of greater scrutiny of policing. The results hinted at the frustrations: Of those surveyed, 58 per cent of members of visible minorities trusted the institutions, 10 percentage points lower than white respondents.

While there is a discrepancy between whites and members of visible minorities in Canada, the results are magnified in the United States, where the summer has seen racial tensions simmer in wake of two recent shootings of black men by police. Only 39 per cent of members of visible minorities express confidence in the police, compared with 62 per cent of white residents, a Gallup poll found.

Despite the largely positive Canadian results, the Angus Reid survey also highlighted troubling data about the challenges facing members of visible minorities in the country.

Over a 10-year period, the black inmate population in Canada has surged 60 per cent. In Toronto, where black people make up less than 10 per cent of the population, 41 per cent of youth in child welfare services are black. In Vancouver, close to 60 per cent of people in poverty are members of visible minorities; in Toronto, it's 62 per cent.

The poll is accurate to within three percentage points 19 times out of 20.  
(Globe and Mail)

Jul 15 2016

**BRAMPTON - A Toronto-area police force has reminded its officers of a directive regarding the proper search and handling of religious items after a court dismissed a drunk driving charge against a Sikh man whose turban fell off his head during the arrest.**

Charges of impaired operation and excess blood alcohol against Sardul Singh were dismissed because Peel Regional Police officers did not return his turban after it fell while he was being placed in a cruiser.

Ontario Court Justice Jill Copeland, in a decision released last month, wrote that the failure to return Singh's turban while he was in custody constituted a Charter breach.

Copeland ruled that the breach of the defendant's right to freedom of religion by police was a serious one, and that Singh's breath sample evidence should be excluded because its admission into evidence would bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

In a statement Friday, Peel Chief Jennifer Evans says she ordered a review of the decision and the officer's actions after Singh was detained at RIDE check on Dec. 10, 2014.

Evans says Peel Regional Police have had a directive in place since 2012 regarding the proper search and handling of religious

items and a training bulletin has been issued internally to remind officers of this and other directives.

Jul 15 2016

**VANCOUVER - Charges against a real estate agent stemming from a marijuana grow-op raid in Burnaby, B.C., have been stayed after it took nearly six years for the case to go to trial.**

A British Columbia Supreme Court judge has ruled that Maurizio Mastronardi's charter right to be tried within a reasonable amount of time was violated.

A decision issued Thursday says Mastronardi and four others were arrested in 2011 after RCMP executed a search warrant at a home where he was the registered owner.

All five people arrested, including Mastronardi, were charged with theft of electricity and unlawful possession and production of a controlled substance, namely cannabis.

Justice Nigel Kent describes the case as "relatively straightforward," but Mastronardi's trial was pushed back repeatedly and rescheduled for a sixth time for five days in October.

Kent accepted Mastronardi's claim that the lengthy proceedings caused him depression and anxiety, and the judge took into account a recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling that found three years was too long to wait for a trial.

Jul 15 2016

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog agency says no charges are reasonable in the death of man last year while under guard at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre awaiting deportation.**

The Special Investigations Unit says Ontario Provincial Police and Peterborough Police Service officers were guarding the 39-year-old refugee claimant who suffered from significant mental health issues, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

On the night of June 10, 2015, two officers, five nurses, and three security guards entered the "isolation room" where the man, who had been smearing his feces on the bed, his face, his forehead, and his arms was being held to sedate him.

Early the next morning, the officers and four nurses entered the room in order to clean the room and the man awoke, ate some feces and threw it about the room, and the officers restrained the man to prevent him from throwing anything else.

While being restrained, the SIU says the man kicked, hit, and grabbed at the nurses who were attempting to clean him and his bedding - he suddenly stopped moving and resuscitation efforts failed.

SIU director Tony Loparco says neither officer did anything that could reasonably satisfy the essential offence element of causation, and there was no medical evidence of any obstruction of the man's airway, nor was there any evidence of pressure having been exerted on his neck or chest.

Jul 15 2016

**WINNIPEG - An investigation into the death of a man on Manitoba's Peguis First Nation last year has found no evidence of any wrongdoing on the part of RCMP officers.**

The Independent Investigation Unit, which investigates all police-involved deaths, led the investigation into the incident on Sept. 5, 2015.

RCMP officers responded after receiving a call about two people injured by a lone man shooting a gun from a vehicle in a ditch.

Witnesses would later tell investigators that they heard gunshots followed by the sound of a vehicle hitting the ditch.

One witness who had contact with the suspect described him as "out of it," under the influence of something, and visibly angry.

The man eventually shot himself inside his vehicle, and an autopsy found traces of cocaine in the man's blood.

(CTV Winnipeg)

Jul 15 2016

**VANCOUVER - Black Lives Matter Vancouver is asking the Vancouver Police Department to voluntarily withdraw its float from the upcoming Pride Parade as a "show of solidarity and understanding."**

The open letter issued by the activist group on Friday comes weeks after its Toronto counterparts halted the city's parade until organizers signed off on a list of demands including banning police floats from future marches.

The Vancouver chapter says it stands with Black Lives Matter Toronto in its discontent with police marching in the parade.

But it says it will not take part in the Pride Parade, by participation or protest, as an act of solidarity with other Black Lives Matter chapters and because it feels the event "no longer represents community action, resistance and revolution."

It says having Vancouver police on the ground to perform a civil service is understandable, but having officers participate on a float is "inappropriate and insulting" to those who made Pride celebrations possible.

Instead, the group proposes a public service float, including police officers, firefighters, paramedics and others, to replace the police-only float.

**SATURDAY**  
**JULY 16, 2016**

Jul 16 2016

**CALGARY - Following several incidents that had Calgary police under a microscope - including a shooting Friday that left one man dead - the head of the police union says he's concerned about the public's perception of the city's officers.**

"I have a personal concern and there is a personal concern amongst my members," said Howard Burns, president of the Calgary Police Association.



"But really this comes down to perception, and that's why you're seeing such a wide variance in comments."

Officers are faced with dynamic situations all the time, sometimes cases of life or death, and there are people don't understand the nature of the work they do, Burns said, adding: "Policing is a tough job and sometimes it involves violence."

Friday's shooting as well as two videos capturing police making arrests have polarized Calgarians, some who staunchly stand by the officers and others who accuse them of using excessive force.

In the most recent incident, police shot and killed a break-in suspect Friday night at the SoBow condominium parkade at 17A Street and Inglewood Park S.E.

Police said a resident of the condo building caught four people prowling vehicles and called officers. One member opened fire on a stolen vehicle, killing the driver. The three other occupants were arrested and are facing charges.

Police Chief Roger Chaffin said he stands by the officer, and so does Burns.

"It's unfortunate when these things happen. You can appreciate police don't create these incidents, but it's our job to deal with them," Burns said.

"Matters like this are avoidable as long as the people involved co-operate with police. When you fight or try to outrun police, you take risks. And our people act accordingly with the threat level they're facing."

Burns said the officer who opened fire is a male veteran officer with at least eight years with the service and he's doing as well as can be expected.

"Being involved in these emotionally charged events takes a toll on the member, takes a toll on their family," he said, adding the officer will be on administrative leave for 30 days.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is investigating.

Just days earlier, police were forced to respond to a widely shared video that showed a man being punched during an arrest at Stampede Park.

Earlier in the month, on July 8th, a 20-second video uploaded to Instagram showed the final moments of an altercation on a sidewalk in the Beltline community, an incident currently being reviewed both internally and by ASIRT.

The recent events have spurred a group to organize a rally for Sunday, aimed at "drawing awareness to the rising number of incidents involving police brutality and excessive force."

Burns cautioned the public to make judgments based on short video s, which don't paint an entire picture or provide context.

He added he doesn't believe policing has changed "one bit," but it's a shift in technology, where nearly everyone has a cellphone that can take videos that has affected the public's discussion on policing.

He said once officer body worn cameras are put back into play, "we'll be producing those multiple angles ourselves, and it's always nice to have the best evidence available."

Burns said he will await ASIRT's findings, but hopes the investigations won't drag on too long.

(Calgary Herald)

**SUNDAY**  
**JULY 17, 2016**

Jul 17 2016

**With an unprecedented police strike looming, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler has issued an ultimatum to the province - improve the funding model for the policing service or don't continue it at all.**

The Nishnawbe-Aki Nation Police Service (NAPS) voted almost unanimously to strike last week, with 95% of its 134 officers in favour of walking off the job if working conditions in the communities they patrol are not improved.

The strike vote took place on July 11 and 12 after officers rejected a collective bargaining offer from their managing board that denied them a wage increase.

Officials cite unsafe working conditions, chronic underfunding from the government and lack of support staff as the main issues plaguing a policing system that was "destined to fail" from its inception.

Grand Chief Fiddler said that while he supports his officers, he is not willing to continue to operate under a program-based

model of policing any longer if the current conditions are not rectified.

"I don't blame the officers; it's been very difficult over the past 22 years to make this work and under the existing programs and policies, and the fact that NAPS has operated, from day one, under a flawed system, that is not sustainable anymore," he said.

"Ideally, we want to see the strike averted, that both Ontario and Canada come to the table immediately and address these concerns; obviously, that's our goal and objective. But, the other thing that I have informed both Ontario and Canada, as the Chief of the NAN I'm not prepared to sign another policing agreement that is program-based and one that continues to pose a threat and a danger to our communities and our officers."

NAPS was formed in 1994 through a joint agreement between the governments of Canada, Ontario, and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

The service is funded almost equally by both the federal and provincial governments and was established to bring culturally appropriate policing to the Nishnawbe-Aski communities.

It is not deemed as an essential service under the Police Service Act, operating instead as a program that falls under the Ontario Labour Relations Act, which gives officers the legal right to strike.

They are currently awaiting a meeting with the conciliation officer in early August to attempt to come to an agreement.

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If not, a no board report will be filed, and the officers will be in a legal position to strike as soon as two weeks later.

NAPS officers service 35 First Nation communities, covering two-thirds of Ontario, from Thunder Bay to Hudson's Bay.

It is the largest First Nations police service in Canada and the second largest in North America.

(Timmins Press)

Jul 17 2016

### **An Alberta RCMP officer is facing charges in relation to an alleged misuse of a government credit card.**

Slave Lake Detachment Cpl. Roy Auger was charged June 13 with one count of fraud under \$5,000 and one count of theft under \$5,000 in connection to credit card misuse that took place between 2013-15 in Elk Point.

Auger has been suspended from duty and will remain off duty until the criminal charges against him have been resolved, a release from the RCMP said.

The RCMP says his duty status will be reviewed at a later date. A code of conduct investigation is also being done and will resume when the criminal court process ends.

Auger's next court appearance is scheduled for Aug. 4 in Elk Point.

(Edmonton Journal)

**MONDAY**  
**JULY 18, 2016**

Jul 18 2016

**BATON ROUGE - The black-clad man in Baton Rouge, La., barely bothered to conceal that he was heavily armed and looking for trouble, rounding corners in a ready-to-fire-stance, pointing a rifle and prompting a 911 call of "a dude with a rifle," behaving ominously. He ignored the easiest prey, the scores of civilians around him, hunting only people in uniform - methodically, mercilessly, even as they lay wounded on the pavement.**



Over the course of just a few chaotic minutes on Sunday morning, Gavin Long, acting alone and apparently calling on his military training, ran from building to building, turning a busy commercial street in Baton Rouge into a battleground stretching some 400 yards. In a scene that officials described in detail for the first time at a news conference on Monday, after piecing it together

from multiple video recordings and witness accounts, Mr. Long, 29, killed three law enforcement officers and wounded several others before a police sniper fatally shot him.

Col. Michael D. Edmonson, the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, several times described the gunman as "moving tactically" from place to place, looking for targets and choosing vantage points. Watching the videos, he said, "is chilling in the sheer brutality of the shooter."

The videos show that at least twice before the shooting began, Mr. Long tried to approach an officer but failed, the officer apparently leaving the scene without knowing the lethal danger he was in, officials said. And they captured moments of heroism, including a sheriff's deputy running to try to help a fallen officer and being killed.

"They ran towards danger in order to protect the public. They ran towards danger in order to render aid to fellow officers," an emotional Gov. John Bel Edwards said. "This was a diabolical attack on the very fabric of society, and that is not hyperbole. That is not an overstatement."

Before 9 a.m. on Sunday, Mr. Long drove up Airline Highway, a six-lane road lined with strip malls, big-box stores and car dealers, headed north — the direction of the Baton Rouge Police Department headquarters, less than a mile away. Whether it was his first pass or he had been circling, looking for opportunities, is unclear.

A Baton Rouge patrol car sat next to a Mobil station and B-Quik convenience store, and the gunman pulled off the road one building away, beside the Hair Crown Beauty Supply store. Colonel Edmonson said Mr. Long got out of his car, crept along the front of the store and approached the police car with his gun drawn — but there was no one in the vehicle.

He went back to his own car and kept driving and, just past the gas station, spotted another officer vacuuming out a patrol car at Benny's Car Wash. Just past the carwash, Mr. Long pulled into the driveway of Fitness Expo, an exercise equipment store, and parked behind it. He approached the carwash, but by then, the officer using the vacuum had driven off, Colonel Edmonson said.

From then on, officials said, the gunman remained on foot, carrying an Israeli-made IWI Tavor rifle and a Springfield XD semi-automatic pistol, and leaving another rifle behind in his car. He ran behind several buildings, working his way south, back to where he had pulled over the first time.

By then, officers had started arriving in response to the 911 call. Mr. Long found three Baton Rouge officers standing on a driveway next to the beauty supply store and shot them all, one fatally. One of the wounded officers dragged himself around a corner, into a parking lot behind the building, and the gunman followed to finish him off.

A sheriff's deputy, Brad Garafola, was in that parking lot and had taken shelter behind a Dumpster when he heard the shooting, but when he saw the wounded officer,

he ran out to help. When the gunman rounded the corner, he and the deputy fired at each other repeatedly, and Mr. Long killed both the deputy and the wounded officer.

"My deputy went down fighting," said Sheriff Sid J. Gautreaux III of East Baton Rouge Parish. "He returned fire to the very end. He was laying in a prone position returning fire. You can actually see on the video the bullets hitting the concrete around him."

Officials did not say which officer died on the driveway and which one in the parking lot, but the two Baton Rouge officers killed were identified as Montrell L. Jackson and Matthew Gerald.

After that shootout, Mr. Long retraced his steps, running behind the buildings back to the parking lot where he had left his car. There, Cpl. Nick Tullier of the Sheriff's Department was sitting in his car, sending in information about the Malibu, and Mr. Long fired on him.

"He was shot in the head and the stomach and has extensive damage," Sheriff Gautreaux said. He is in critical condition, and "there's a machine helping him breathe."

The attacker also shot Sgt. Bruce Simmons of the Sheriff's Department, who was on foot farther away, shattering a bone in his upper arm. "He is going to his second surgery this evening; it will be one of many," the sheriff said.

Mr. Long was still moving toward the two wounded deputies, and no doubt would have killed them both, officials said, when a Baton Rouge SWAT team sniper shot him dead from more than 100 yards away.

(New York Times)

Jul 18 2016

**HALIFAX - Halifax has selected the Commissionaires Nova Scotia to provide security-related services for Halifax Regional Police (HRP), including front desk security, summons serving, CPIC transcription and court administration.**

The three-year contract began on May 24, 2016 and features an option to renew for two additional years. Commissionaires have deployed a total of 35 permanent personnel to HRP.

"This contract is indicative of the confidence the Halifax Regional Police has in our professional security team, and the high level of our customer service," said Bruce Belliveau, CEO Commissionaires Nova Scotia.

"It was back in 1962 that Commissionaires were first hired to check parking meters in Halifax, and we've been working together continuously since 1974. We're very excited about continuing this successful partnership for years to come."

"We're pleased to continue our relationship with Commissionaires Nova Scotia," said Chief Jean-Michel (JM) Blais, Halifax Regional Police. "Their experience and dedication enhance our ability to provide exceptional service to our community."

(CNW)



**ST. CATHARINES - The driver of a truck whose raised box slammed into Skyway Bridge two summers ago has been sentenced to one year in jail for dangerous driving.**



Justice Fred Camppling called Rai's failure to lower the box of his truck before driving on the QEW "shocking and frightening."

Camppling didn't accept an argument that Rai was disadvantaged by outmoded safety mechanisms on his truck.

That is like a motorist who backs up over a child and says a camera would have prevented such a tragedy, he said.

"Oh, it's not my fault. I didn't have a backup camera."

Rai was the operator of the truck and should have been responsible for the box mechanism, Camppling added.

"And you grossly failed to do that."

The 36-year-old Brampton man is also banned from driving for three years. He must pay a victim surcharge of \$200.

The July 31, 2014 Skyway crash sent three motorists to hospital with minor injuries, caused \$1.2 million in damage to the bridge and snarled traffic during the Civic Holiday weekend.

The fallout could have been much worse, Camppling said.

Rai was convicted of impaired driving in 2008. Breathalyzer readings taken after the Skyway crash were collected after the three-hour window allowable under the Criminal Code, making that evidence inadmissible.

However, the judge noted he would consider that an OPP officer had detected an odour of alcohol on Rai and that a bottle of booze was found next to his driver's seat.

"It's my view that you are a continuing danger on the road," he said, rejecting Locke's request for a conditional sentence that could involve community service.

(Hamilton Spectator)

Jul 18 2016

**BALTIMORE - A judge further hollowed out the case against six police officers charged in the death of a young black man, delivering a third consecutive acquittal and ruling once again that prosecutors failed to prove officers intentionally hurt Freddie Gray.**

In acquitting Lt. Brian Rice, the highest ranking officer charged, Baltimore Circuit Judge Barry Williams was unequivocal in his ruling Monday. He told prosecutors they

failed to establish that Rice was aware of his duty to buckle Gray into a seat belt, and more importantly, that he deliberately breached his duty in order to put Gray in danger.

"There are a number of possibilities this court could entertain, some that are innocent and some that are not," Williams said. "However, the burden of proof rests with the state, and the court's imaginings do not serve as a substitute for evidence."

Gray was arrested in April 2015 when he ran from police in a high-crime area. He was handcuffed and shackled but left unbuckled in the back of a police van and suffered a critical neck injury. Gray's name became a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement, fueling outrage nationwide over the treatment of black people by

the criminal justice system and prompting the worst rioting in the city in decades.

The U.S. Justice Department launched a patterns and practice investigation into allegations of widespread abuse and unlawful arrests by the Baltimore Police Department.

Rice was cleared of manslaughter, reckless endangerment and misconduct in office. Earlier this year, officers Edward Nero and Caesar Goodson, the van driver who was facing a murder charge, were also found not guilty. Officer William Porter's trial ended in a hung jury in December and his retrial is scheduled for September. The last two officers have trials this month and in October.

(AP)

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**Turkey's Interior Ministry has fired nearly 9,000 police officers, bureaucrats and others and detained thousands of suspected plotters following a foiled coup against the government, Turkey's state-run news agency reported Monday.**

The state-run Anadolu news agency said a total of 8,777 employees attached to the ministry were dismissed, including 30 governors, 52 civil service inspectors and 16 legal advisers.

Other media reports said police and military police officers and coast guards were also removed from duty. The government has blamed Friday's failed coup - which it says killed 208 government supporters and 24 plotters - on backers of a U.S.-based Muslim cleric who has become President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's chief opponent.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said a total of 7,543 people had been detained since Friday, including 6,030 military personnel.

Though government officials offered reassurances that life has returned to normal, warplanes patrolled Turkey's skies overnight in a sign that authorities feared that the threat was not yet over.

(AP)

Jul 18 2016

**EDMONTON - As deadly encounters increase tension between police and visible minorities in the United States, some Edmonton officers hope a summer program will help First Nations teens see them as friends, not foes.**



At the Oskayak Police Academy, 25 teens scramble through obstacles courses, construct and decorate traditional drums and rattles, and tramp through the brush picking plants with medicinal properties.

"The thing that surprised me is, (police are) human beings, too. They strap on the belt and they go out to work and they don't know exactly what's going to happen," said 14-year-old Theron Auigbelle.

For three summers, organizers have brought teens and police together for two weeks of cultural and policing activities. A partnership between several organizations, Oskayak was created to mend relations by giving First Nations youth and police a glimpse into each other's lives. The teens earn three high school credits for completing the program.

"A lot of our aboriginal community members, there's a stigma. A lot of bridges have been broken. There's no trust between our people and police," said Kari Thomason, a street outreach and street prostitution

program co-ordinator with the Metis Child and Family Services Society. She's been involved with Oskayak from the get-go.

Some children's first encounter with police may be when they arrest a family member, she said. After they get to know officers in the program, teens may go home and tell their friends and family the police aren't all that bad, she said.

Police, meanwhile, benefit from getting to know the kids, hearing their stories, and learning that many want to live productive lives.

Dispelling stereotypes would improve relationships between minorities and police, Auigbelle said.

"(People think) that we live on welfare. That we don't pay taxes. We're just drunks," he said.

This year, while teens were at the academy hearing about diversity of police work from Edmonton Police Service officers, police in the U.S. gunned down two black men, sparking protests across North America. Shooters also took aim at police, killing five officers in Dallas and three in Baton Rouge.

Teens in the Oskayak program had a chance to think critically about police shootings.

"One of our youth said, 'What did they do to bring it on?' It's not always the police at fault. The mentality is already there. The seeds are planted. (He said), 'We can't always blame those that are there to protect us, but we can't always blame those that are victims as well,'" Thomason said.

(Edmonton Sun)

Jul 18 2016

**EDMONTON - An Edmonton police officer will be docked \$3,150 in pay - an equivalent of 70 hours - after crashing an unmarked car into a civilian van in 2014.**

Const. Ashlee Jean Shepansky was responding to a high priority call Oct. 8 when the accident happened.

The eight-year veteran reportedly was doing 2-1/2 times the posted speed limit on her way to the scene, had not engaged sirens and was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, a police disciplinary hearing heard Monday.

Shepansky pleaded guilty to a dangerous driving charge in court Jan. 12, 2016, and was handed a suspended sentence with an absolute discharge.

Presenting counsel Teresa Magee argued the 29-year-old had accepted fault for the crash, but had nevertheless endangered lives.

"The membership needs to be aware there will be serious repercussions for the manner in which they operate police vehicles which place the public at serious risk," Magee said.

Retired RCMP chief superintendent Fred Kamins, who presided over the hearing, said it was a case of poor decision-making.

"You are of no help to any of the officers that were calling for assistance the day of this incident, in fact you compounded what was already a very busy time for the police service," Kamins said.

Shepansky will be docked five hours per pay period.

(Edmonton Journal)

**TUESDAY**  
**JULY 19, 2016**

Jul 19 2016

**CALGARY - Parole board documents say a man accused of killing a Calgary mother and daughter had a 20-year criminal history but didn't pose a threat to society when he was granted full parole in 2010.**

Edward Delten Downey is facing two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Sara Baillie and her five-year-old daughter Taliyah Marsman.

The 34-year-old waitress was found dead in her home on July 11th and an Amber Alert was issued the next morning for the little girl, whose body was found in a rural area just east of Calgary.

None of the charges against him has been proven in court.

His previous convictions include possession of a credit card obtained by crime, possession of a restricted weapon, drug trafficking and possession of a firearm.

The parole board said Downey had lived a criminally entrenched lifestyle despite a positive upbringing.

Police have said Downey knew both Baillie and her daughter but have not talked about the nature of their relationship.

Jul 19 2016

**WINNIPEG - The deputy police chief says officers who responded to a woman wearing a face mask and brandishing a gun at one of Winnipeg's busiest intersections showed great restraint.**

Gord Perrier says a 17-year-old was taken into custody, but things "could have ended very differently."

He says the woman removed her mask, put the gun to her head and dropped to the ground when police arrived at Portage Avenue and Main Street.

Perrier says she was tackled as she walked away from officers with the gun in her hand.

He says the firearm turned out to be a replica, and although no one was hurt, he called what happened "extremely volatile."

The teenager is facing numerous charges including possession of a weapon and public mischief.

Jul 19 2016

**HALIFAX - Halifax regional council deferred a decision on Tuesday on who will take over writing parking tickets across the municipality starting this fall.**

Halifax Regional Municipality declined to renew its contract with the current contractor, Independent Security Services Atlantic (ISSA), after controversy with the company's performance. Three of that company's employees - who've since been fired - were charged last fall with writing fake parking tickets.



Municipal staff had recommended granting the new contract to G4S for its bid of \$840,048, taxes in, but the will among councillors was to look at two other proposals, from ISSA and Commissionaires Nova Scotia.

"For those of us who are in the urban core, where I think a lot of the parking enforcement happens, there have been ongoing issues and difficulties with how parking enforcement has worked," Coun. Jennifer Watts said during the meeting.

She noted that the Commissionaires scored the best of any proponent in nearly every category of staff's ranking. But they also had the highest bid, at \$1,049,935.

"You get what you pay for," Watts said.

Council directed staff to review all proponents, and make another recommendation. (Metro)

Jul 19 2016

**EDMONTON - Two Edmonton police officers accused of beating a man during an arrest six years ago have been cleared of any wrongdoing in a disciplinary hearing.**

Const. Jack Redlick and Const. Jason Kemp were charged with unlawful or unnecessary exercise of authority in relation to the February 2010 arrest of Kazimierz Kozina, who was being investigated for drug trafficking.

Kozina testified he attempted to co-operate during the arrest, but didn't get a chance. He said he was struck and kicked repeatedly while lying on the sidewalk, and someone jumped on his back with their knees. Kozina suffered a fractured orbital bone as a result.

Const. Craig Offin was also charged, but was excused from the hearing because he submitted his resignation before it began.

Retired Court of Queen's Bench justice Melvyn A. Binder wrote in his 32-page decision, obtained Tuesday by Postmedia News, that "a reasonable person standing in the shoes of Csts. Redlick and Kemp would have reacted as they did and viewed the entire force ... employed by them appropriate in the circumstances."

While the photographs showing Kozina's injuries might suggest to an ordinary person that he "got the heck beat out of him ... a picture can be deceiving without the necessary words required to describe how the injuries occurred," Binder wrote.

Binder said he rejected Kozina's evidence that he did not resist arrest during the incident.

Derek Huff, a constable who resigned in 2013 because of discord between him and the two accused, testified he witnessed Kozina being beaten during the arrest. Huff and his partner reported what happened to their supervisor and voiced concerns about a pattern of use of force on other occasions, but they were advised the use of force was justified in this case, and, according to Huff, were told to "basically get over it."

Binder said he found Huff's testimony unreliable where it conflicted with the evidence of eight other officers who were also there that night.

In January, Huff was charged with uttering threats against Redlick and Kemp.

(Edmonton Journal)

Jul 19 2016

**RED DEER, Alta. - A Mountie who was found guilty of assault for using excessive force during an arrest has now been given a conditional discharge.**

Const. Eric Pomerleau had been convicted for his actions during the arrest and processing of a man suspected of impaired driving in Red Deer, Alta., in 2012.

Surveillance footage showed the pair having an argument before the man was eventually taken to the ground and punched four times by Pomerleau.

At Tuesday's sentencing hearing in Red Deer court, Pomerleau's defence lawyer argued that he is a good husband and father, has suffered psychologically since the incident and has been a dedicated public servant for much of his life even before joining the RCMP.

He also told court that Pomerleau has suffered great embarrassment from the publicity of his case and that this incident was out of character for his client.

The judge agreed, saying that while a crime committed by a police officer is more grave than one committed by a member of the public, the offence in question was minor in comparison to other assault-by-officer incidents.

The judge said the public is better off with Pomerleau serving them without the burden of a criminal record in his way, though he will have to deal with the conviction remaining on his RCMP file.

In addition to the conditional discharge, Pomerleau was also put on probation for one year and ordered to carry out 50 hours of community service.

Pomerleau, who is now stationed in Brooks, Alta., was acquitted last month on assault-related charges in a separate incident in August 2012.

In that case, he was accused of pepper spraying a teen who was in custody, then forcing him to the ground and punching him. (CHUB)

Jul 19 2016

**BROCKVILLE - Brockville contravened the Municipal Act during one portion of a March closed-door meeting with Ontario Provincial Police officials about the ongoing OPP costing, the Ontario Ombudsman's office has concluded.**

A report made public Tuesday, signed by Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dubé, concludes that, while the city did not break any rules by seeking information from OPP officials at the closed-door March 7 meeting, council's contact committee did contravene the act when it told staff to approach a third party firm for an audit of the eventual costing.

"This discussion and direction to staff advanced the committee's business and decision-making and did not fall within the 'education and training' exception, or any exception, to

the Municipal Act's open meeting requirements," notes the Ombudsman's report.

The Ombudsman also takes issue with the city's procedural bylaw, considering it out of date, and recommends the city do more to report back after in camera meetings.

And while going in camera for the education and training portion was not illegal, the report still questions the need to do so.

The local group Citizens Offering Police Support (COPS) filed the complaint to the Ombudsman shortly after the March meeting.

Brockville is awaiting a cost analysis, or costing, from the OPP to determine whether to replace the Brockville Police Service with an OPP service contract.


(Brockville Recorder and Times)

Jul 19 2016

**A B.C. RCMP conduct hearing, which had been scheduled for Monday, was postponed for the fourth time leaving the former Osoyoos Mountie in his fourth year of paid suspension awaiting the rescheduled date.**

Const. Amit Goyal, who last served with the Osoyoos RCMP detachment, has been suspended with pay since at least June 2013. His hearing was originally set for 2015 before being rescheduled repeatedly, and as of Tuesday, the RCMP conduct hearing schedule website showed Goyal's hearing was set to begin in Federal Court in Vancouver on Monday, July 25, 2016.

But Staff Sgt. Julie Gagnon, with the RCMP National Communication Service



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in Ottawa, confirmed Tuesday that Goyal's hearing had been adjourned again until Sept. 13, 2016. Goyal remains suspended with pay, she said.

"Every effort is made for adjudication board hearings to be scheduled in a timely manner," Gagnon wrote in an email. "However, these hearings are formal, court-like processes. Much like judicial proceedings, hearing dates, times and locations are subject to change for any number of reasons."

Goyal faces five allegations under the 1988 RCMP Regulations, according to the RCMP hearing schedule. The allegations include three counts under Section 39, which prohibits members from engaging in "any disgraceful and disorderly act or conduct," and two counts of Section 45 (b), which says a member must not "knowingly or wilfully make a false, misleading or inaccurate statement or report" to a superior officer about an investigation.

Goyal also faces a civil lawsuit, filed in B.C. Supreme Court last year by former Osoyoos resident Steve Condon. In the suit, Condon claimed he suffered harassment and left Osoyoos because of Goyal and the RCMP.

Condon's claims were denied in a response filed by the B.C. Minister of Justice last October. According to court filings, the dispute between Goyal and Condon involved a 2012 incident in which two cars were reported stolen from the officer's home and later found torched.

According to the RCMP's annual rates of pay listed online, the salary for RCMP constables ranges from \$50,674 to \$82,108. Constables are eligible for pay increases at certain intervals (including six, 12 and 24 months), and based on recommendations from superiors.

On Tuesday, RCMP spokespeople in B.C. and Ottawa were unable to respond before deadline about whether an RCMP officer on a multi-year paid suspension would be eligible to receive salary increases while awaiting a conduct hearing.

(Vancouver Sun)

Jul 19 2016

**VANCOUVER - Plans to put Tasers in the hands of 300 trained officers by the end of 2016 are behind schedule, but the Vancouver Police Department expects to reach that goal sometime in 2017.**

That's according to a one-year update on use-of-force recommendations - prepared for the Vancouver Police Board this week - that were developed following a VPD review of two Ontario reports on how to best deal with individuals living with mental illness.

Of the nine recommendations, one called for expanded deployment of Tasers to front-line officers, with a goal of 200 operators at the end of 2015, and 100 more this year.

The report to the board says the VPD brought in more CEWs (conducted energy weapons) at the end of 2015, but haven't been able to train officers in their usage as

efficiently as hoped, citing scheduling challenges.

"Training has continued through the spring and into the summer of 2016, and there are 183 front-line personnel trained in the use of the CEW today," said the report.

"Projections have the year-end CEW deployment at 213 front-line police officers."

The 300-officer target should be reached next year, said the report, adding that 150 more officers have been trained to use bean-bag-round shotguns.

"When combined with CEW operators, one out of every two front-line police officers possess less-lethal capabilities in the field."

Following up on another recommendation, the VPD has completed a Mental Health Strategy that was endorsed by the board last month and should be publicly available before the end of July.

The review also recommended that past experience dealing with persons with mental illness should be taken into consideration when assessing candidates to become police officers. The report said the recruiting questionnaire and interview process was changed to reflect that in mid-2015.

Meanwhile, front-line civilian personnel are now being trained in the Mental Health First Aid program developed by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, while officers continue to receive more comprehensive, provincially-mandated training, according to the report.

(24 Hours Vancouver)

## WEDNESDAY JULY 20, 2016

Jul 20 2016

**Halton Regional Police Service Deputy Chief Nishan Duraiappah has accepted the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Technology Champion of the Year Award.**



The award, which was presented July 19 during NOBLE's annual training conference awards luncheon in Washington D.C., was sponsored by the Harris Corporation and recognizes an individual who is a strong advocate of technology that benefits law enforcement and public safety.

"I'm appreciative of this acknowledgement from NOBLE. The real credit goes to the officers and civilians of Halton Police who do the work, which has resulted in our profile being showcased internationally.

Technology and innovation are an important vehicle for our staff to do their job's better," said Duraiappah.

"Good equipment, good information, improved decision making allows us to police better, and thereby improves community safety. Our vision is to be the leader in community safety and policing excellence and I'm proud to see this being achieved."

Some of the work that the Halton Regional Police Service has championed includes LTE mobile workstations in each vehicle, police Apps in iTunes/Google, the testing of smart mobile devices for officers to conduct electronic note taking in the field and piloting of in-car cameras.

Halton police has also established a unique Police Analytics Unit, which has gained international recognition.

"There are many elements to improved community safety and well-being. Technology and innovation are critical components of this equation and cannot be overlooked," said Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner in a press release.

"The success of policing, and keeping Halton safe, is rooted in our ability to enhance our services to help officers and civilians on the front line, support staff, police management and its leaders. We have made a purposeful decision to seek opportunities to enhance our staff's decision-making through innovative initiatives and technology. In the end, it is the work of our front line staff that makes Halton such a great community."

(Oakville Beaver)

Jul 20 2016

**TORONTO - A civilian employee of the Toronto police force has been charged over allegations she searched the police database for unofficial purposes.**

Police say the alleged searches took place in February and September 2014.

Erin Maranan, 28, of Thornhill, Ont., is charged with two counts of breach of trust.

She is due in court Aug. 26.

Police say Maranan has been working as a temporary clerk with the force for three years.

Jul 20 2016

**CHATHAM - Police in an Ontario community are reviewing their policy of requiring women to remove their bras while in custody, after coming under fire from a judge who admonished the force for the practice.**

But as courts and critics decry the policy as discriminatory and even harmful, at least one other force in the country - Vancouver police - has a similar practice in place.

The issue recently came to the fore in the southwestern Ontario community of Chatham, where a judge highlighted the policy while tossing out an impaired driving case against a woman who had to remove her bra before a breathalyzer test in custody.

Chatham-Kent Police Chief Gary Conn has since explained that his force's bra-removal policy is based on safety concerns.

"In this particular case, our primary



concern was safety and the taking of clothing which could be used as ligatures for self-harm or strangulation," Conn said in a statement.

"It appears that other police services within Ontario are assessing the removal of a bra for a person in custody on a 'case by case' basis. Based on this, we (CKPS) are comparing our policy/procedures to other services, keeping an open mind to the amendment of said policy/procedures to be more in line with other services."

The Chatham case isn't the first time a court has taken issue with a broad bra-removal policy - in 2013 a judge found York Regional Police violated a woman's rights with the practice, prompting the force north of Toronto to change its ways.

A number of other police forces, including those in Toronto, Halifax and Calgary, as well as Ontario Provincial Police, do not require all women in custody to remove their bras unless there is a case-specific safety concern.

Police in Vancouver, however, ask anyone arrested who is wearing a bra to remove the undergarment, citing safety concerns for the person and anyone else who is in custody.

"If that person refused, the bra would be removed by jail staff of the appropriate gender," said Sgt. Randy Fincham.

Chatham-Kent police noted that the force's policies around searching people in custody was approved by a Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services audit in 2011.

But a spokesman for the ministry said the policy that was audited did not specify the removal of a specific type of clothing, including undergarments.

Jul 20 2016

**TORONTO - A Toronto police officer is now facing a total of 10 charges in connection with a high-profile case where four officers are accused of planting heroin on a car dashboard, then providing false testimony in court.**

Const. Benjamin Elliot, 33, a police officer with nine years on the force, has been charged with one additional count of perjury and two more counts of obstruct justice for conduct an Ontario judge called "egregiously wrongful."

Elliot was already facing seven perjury and obstruct justice charges.

The initial charges were laid in January, when Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders announced Elliot and three other police officers - two of them experienced major-crimes investigators - were together facing a total of 17 criminal charges.

Const. Jeffrey Tout, Det.-Const. Fraser Douglas and Const. Michael Taylor are the other officers charged in the case.

An investigation into the officers' conduct was triggered after Superior Court Justice Edward Morgan concluded in September 2015 that the officers had planted heroin in Nguyen Son Tran's car to justify a search, then "colluded" in their testimony in court.

Morgan said Tout, Douglas, Elliott and

Taylor each presented a different version of the events during a traffic stop in January 2014, when Tran was pulled over for allegedly running a red light near Broadview Ave. and Gerrard St. E.

The officers said Tran, in his mid-50s, had loose heroin powder on the dashboard of his Toyota, which led to a search of the car and the discovery of 11 grams of heroin. But none of them could explain why Tran had loose heroin in the car, or why he didn't wipe it away when he was pulled over.

Morgan ruled that the heroin on the dashboard was put there by police, and not actually left there by Tran. The search that subsequently uncovered 11 grams of heroin tucked away behind Tran's steering column was therefore not authorized.

Morgan tossed the drugs as evidence and stayed the drug charges against Tran.

The four officers are all suspended with pay. (Toronto Star)

Jul 20 2016

**ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has a message for American politicians: It's not the RNC they're looking for.**



The police force has been deluged with political messages on Twitter because of a shared acronym with the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, which this week officially made Donald Trump its presidential candidate.

"We've had to block some users because it does get out of control. Our news feed is just basically completely bogged down with Republican National Convention," said Const. Geoff Higdon, a spokesman who handles the force's Twitter feed.

"People have been tweeting to us for years ... any time they're dissatisfied with something Trump has done or said, especially in the last year."

The convention's official tweets come from the Republican National Committee, which organized the Cleveland gathering and also shares the acronym, but it tweets as @gop.

But for users who try the "RNC" handle, the Newfoundland force is the first "RNC" that comes up, and it has led to confusion - and humour.

Early Wednesday, American actor and comedian Orlando Jones joked about the overlap to his 142,000 followers: "#OverheardAtRNC - 'Wait, this isn't the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Convention?' @RNC-PoliceNL."

"Really what it's doing is forcing us to read every single tweet, which there's hun-

dreds of them and they're not related to us," said Higdon.

The force tweets as @RNC-policeNL, but added the word "police" to its Twitter identifier after people began directing their Trump scorn, and appreciation, to the force's feed.

"We actually changed our user name three months ago to include police in brackets to curb the tweets. I reply to them and say we're not the RNC you're looking for," said Higdon.

The constabulary has been tweeting back: "We have nothing to do with ?realDonaldTrump. We're a Canadian police service in Newfoundland and Labrador."

It added the hashtag 'CanadaEh,' prompting one Twitter user to post a picture of Trump wearing a constabulary hat.

Higdon noted Newfoundland's RNC dates back to 1729, and is the oldest police service in North America: "This RNC's been around longer than the other RNC."

He said ultimately, a sense of humour is the force's best defence against a confused twitterverse.

"At the end of the day, there's not much we can do to curb many of these tweets ... other than suck it up and have a bit of fun with it."

Jul 20 2016

**TORONTO - A man who hid drugs in his rectum had his trafficking conviction overturned Wednesday because police detained him for 43 hours waiting for him to defecate before taking him to a justice of the peace.**

In throwing out the conviction, Ontario's highest court also criticized officers for how they treated Jeffrey Poirier during their "bedpan vigil search."

"I do not accept that the officers were acting in good faith," the Appeal Court ruled. "The manner in which the search was carried out was a flagrant breach of the appellant's rights."

Court records show informants told police that Poirier, of Sarnia, Ont., was an addict and dealer who hid drugs in his body cavity. Police obtained a general search warrant allowing them to detain him until he had a bowel movement.

After his arrest in December 2012, Poirier spent 22 hours handcuffed to the bars of his cell above his head. Police then put oven mitts over his hands, which they duct-taped together, while he continued to be handcuffed. He also underwent severe withdrawal symptoms.

The special cell he was in had no running water or toilet so police could monitor his excretions when he needed a bathroom.

Poirier eliminated three packages of drugs containing crystal methamphetamine and heroin in the first 24 hours. Six hours later, he excreted a fourth and final package. The following morning, he was taken before a justice of the peace.

In September 2014, Ontario Superior Court Judge John Desotti rejected Poirier's arguments to exclude the drugs as evidence because his rights had been violated. Desotti convicted him of possession for the purpose

of trafficking and sentenced him to 10 years.

On appeal, Poirier argued the search warrant did not authorize his lengthy detention, that the warrant and police violated the Criminal Code by not taking him before a justice of the peace in a reasonable time - at the most within 24 hours - and that they violated his rights.

The Appeal Court, ruling on the issue for the first time, decided a general warrant can authorize a bedpan-vigil search even though it requires a person be detained - but there are limits.

"The warrant was invalid because its language purported to authorize detaining the appellant indefinitely without bringing him before a justice of the peace," the court found.

The Appeal Court also rejected prosecution arguments the search was incidental to Poirier's arrest and done reasonably.

Among other things, the Appeal Court found police disregarded Poirier's personal dignity.

For one thing, the initial strip search was done while he was completely naked, was not in private area, and was video recorded.

For another, he was unnecessarily chained to the bars of his cell.

Police also did nothing to ease his withdrawal symptoms, and essentially ignored the possibility the drug packages in his rectum could burst, posing a serious health risk.

"The manner in which the search was carried out was not proportionate to the crime alleged and the circumstances," the court said.

"In the circumstances, the administration of justice would be brought into disrepute if the drugs were admitted into evidence."

Jul 20 2016

### **The provincial bureau of independent investigations is investigating the shooting of a man in St-Édouard-de-Napierville by Quebec police Wednesday.**

The Sûreté du Québec's emergency response team was involved in a police operation there and were arresting an unknown number of people when they were confronted with an armed man, according to the Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes (BEI).

The man was injured after shots were fired, the BEI said in a statement.

Eight independent investigators were assigned to the case, to be carried out along with a parallel investigation by Montreal police.

The BEI investigators were to arrive on the scene Wednesday morning. They would not confirm the reason behind the intervention.

St-Édouard-de-Napierville is in the Montérégie region south of Montreal.  
(Montreal Gazette)

Jul 20 2016

### **HALIFAX - Halifax police are under fire for describing three unknown cab drivers suspected in a recent string of alleged sexual assaults as "Middle Eastern."**

Critics say the vague description lacks accuracy and, as a result, amounts to stereotyping and discrimination.

The president of the Toronto-based Canadian Arab Institute says the millions of people

from the 17 countries within the region represent disparate backgrounds, which means their physical appearances vary widely.

Raja Khouri says people from the Middle East can be black, white or somewhere in between, saying the description - in the context of a criminal case - perpetuates hurtful, prejudicial notions.

Const. Amit Parasram, diversity officer for Halifax Regional Police, says the "Middle Eastern" description was given to investigators by each of the three young, female victims.

Still, the officer concedes the term is based on stereotypes, and he says the police force is willing to talk about using other forms of description.

Halifax immigration lawyer Lee Cohen says police could avoid stereotypes by describing specific physical traits rather than speculating about origins.

Jul 20 2016

### **TORONTO - A Toronto police officer who had been accused of beating up a man during an arrest in the city six years ago has been found not guilty.**

Const. Christian Dobbs had pleaded not guilty to assault in relation to the April 2010 incident.

The charge was laid against the officer after an investigation by the province's police watchdog into the beating of Raymond Costain.

The trial heard that Costain suffered head injuries that included black eyes, a bloody nose and abrasion on his forehead.

Justice Bonnie Croll says while Costain's arrest was legal, she had to decide whether the force used by Dobbs was excessive.

She says while there's no question that police cruiser video of the incident is "shocking," it only shows half the picture and she is left with a reasonable doubt on whether the force used by Dobbs was excessive.

Jul 20 2016

### **PONOKA, Alta. - A judge in Alberta has convicted a man of stunting after he was pulled over by police for driving his car with a sign with an expletive aimed at former prime minister Stephen Harper.**

Robert Wells of Edmonton was driving home from British Columbia when he was pulled over in August 2015 by an RCMP officer near Ponoka, Alta., and told to remove the sign.

He refused, saying it was a political statement and he had a right to have it in his window.

Judge B.D. Rosborough wrote in his ruling that the handmade "F--k Harper" sign didn't amount to stunting itself, stating that it didn't amount to a dangerous trick or manoeuvre.

But Rosborough said he believed testimony that Wells was deliberately slowing down and cutting in front of traffic on Highway 2 so that people would see his sign.

The judge said Wells was interfering with the orderly progress of other vehicles on the highway, which he said met the criteria for stunting.

**THURSDAY**  
**JULY 21, 2016**

Jul 21 2016

### **HALIFAX - An independent agency is investigating whether Halifax police used excessive force on a man who suffered a punctured ear drum after being taken into custody last month.**

The Serious Incident Response Team says it is looking into the arrest of a 46-year-old man at about 1:50 a.m. on June 3 while police responded to a noise complaint.

At the time, police say the man approached them, began yelling at officers and was arrested on North Street for breach of the peace.

Police say they referred the matter to the independent watchdog on Monday after medical records showed he had a punctured ear drum and a possible broken jaw.

Jul 21 2016

### **OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada says judges can ban convicted sexual predators from using the Internet.**

The issue arose in 2009 in the case of a British Columbia man who pleaded guilty in an incest and child pornography case involving a victim under the age of 16.

There is a court-ordered publication ban on information identifying the victim.

The trial judge originally banned the man for seven years from using a computer to communicate with children under 16, but at the time there was no specific Criminal Code provision that explicitly banned Internet use.

After the man was convicted, the Conservative government introduced the Safe Streets and Communities Act, which did create a such a penalty.

On the man's appeal, the B.C. Court of Appeal used the 2012 law to impose a broad Internet ban and the high court today upheld the retroactive application.

Jul 21 2016

### **OTTAWA - Ottawa's "extraordinary level" of homicides and "unusual number of shootings" is expected to lead to a \$2-million overtime deficit for the Ottawa Police Services.**

According to the second-quarter financial status report to be tabled at Monday's Ottawa Police Services Board, a higher-than-usual number of investigation-intensive homicide cases are driving up overtime costs.

Earlier this month, Montreal teen Tarique Leger was shot dead on a Lowertown residential street, making him Ottawa's ninth homicide.

"This is an extraordinary level in such a short time frame for the city, which usually experiences 10 to 12 homicides over 12 months," according to the report written by Debra Frazier, the police service's director general.

"Ottawa is also experiencing an unusual number of shootings," the report continues, citing 33 shootings in the first six months of 2016.

Investigating the shootings, as well as filling in for four vacant positions, are



pushing up overtime costs, as are street protests.

"For example the emergency service unit is experiencing a noticeable increase in overtime usage as the warmer months generally lead to an increase in demonstrations," said the report.

The plan to sell vehicle accident reports isn't going too well, either.

When the police services set up a system to sell collision reports - fees range from \$200 up to \$2,260 for a collision reconstruction report - they expected they'd be able to sell 55 per cent of the reports they produced.

"To date, the actual figure has been closer to 15 per cent," reads the report.

That means police will be taking in \$800,000 less than it expected.

Despite a number of challenges, the police service is still expecting to balance its \$308-million budget for 2016, according to the report.

One area that's over-performing is paid duty, which appears to be bringing in more than \$1 million this year due to supervision work related to light-rail construction.

City council recently wrote to the province to ask for permission to hire less-expensive civilians to supervise construction sites and events such as parades.

If council's plan succeeds, the police force could lose a significant source of revenue.  
(CBC News)

Jul 21 2016

**The national inquiry into Canada's missing and murdered indigenous women will not have the authority to make findings of police misconduct or compel law-enforcement agencies to reopen cold cases, according to a draft of the terms of reference.**

The nine-page document, which the federal government circulated to the provinces and territories for review, says five people will be appointed to the commission, with one individual named chief commissioner.

Sources have told The Globe that the following individuals are on the draft list: B.C. provincial court judge Marion Buller; former Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) president Michèle Audette, who lost her bid to represent the Liberals in a Quebec riding in last fall's federal election; Qajaq Robinson, a Nunavut-born civil litigation lawyer who speaks Inuktitut; Marilyn Poitras, a Métis law professor at the University of Saskatchewan; and a First Nations lawyer who served on the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

Judge Buller, who became B.C.'s first female First Nations judge in 1994, is said to be a contender to lead the commission.

Ottawa's self-imposed timeline for the launch of the inquiry has been pushed back on several occasions while the provinces and territories study the proposed terms of reference.

The draft document, which is not dated and is watermarked "sensitive and confidential," says the commissioners will investigate and report on "systemic causes of violence against indigenous women and girls in Canada, including underlying social, economic, cultural, institutional and historical causes." The commission, which is mandated to pro-

duce interim and final reports, is directed to establish regional advisory bodies comprised of victims' families and survivors of violence.

The Liberal government has so far committed \$40-million over two years to conduct the inquiry into Canada's more than 1,181 missing and murdered indigenous women. Sources said Ottawa intends to dedicate further funding to help victims' relatives navigate the police complaints process if they question the quality of an investigation.

The national inquiry will inevitably review policing - a key reason Ottawa is getting the provinces and territories to sign on to the terms of reference is to ensure matters outside federal jurisdiction, notably child welfare and provincial and municipal policing, are deemed to be squarely within the inquiry's scope.

However, the draft terms of reference do not explicitly mandate the inquiry to delve into policing policies or practices. The document does not give the commission the power to compel police forces to reopen cold cases, pursue particular investigative avenues or probe an officer's alleged misconduct. There is no mention of the creation of an independent civilian body that would review specific investigations or police conduct - something NWAC called for in its preinquiry report to the federal government.

Instead, the draft mandate authorizes the commission to pass along to the "appropriate authorities" any information that may be used in the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offence. It also says commissioners can provide authorities with information they believe relates to misconduct. The commission is not authorized to make findings or recommendations of civil or criminal liability.  
(Globe and Mail)

Jul 21 2016

**MONTREAL - Montreal police say they have arrested a fifth member of the force as part of an internal investigation.**

The unidentified officer has been suspended without pay but has not been charged.

Four other officers were arrested July 7, with two facing various charges including perjury, attempting to obstruct justice, soliciting and obtaining sexual services.

Police say all five arrests are linked to the same investigation.

The probe began in December after irregularities were noticed with regard to the control of informants.

Jul 21 2016

**OTTAWA - Police in Ottawa are urging Pokemon Go players to be aware of their surroundings after a man and a woman playing the wildly popular game were targeted in an attempted robbery.**

Police say a 24-year-old woman and a 23-year-old man were using their phones to play the augmented-reality game in the area of Ottawa city hall around 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The game, which uses GPS and mapping capabilities, encourages people to roam their communities in search of digital monsters known as Pokemon, which appear when players hold up their phones in various loca-

tions at various times.

Ottawa police say two suspects approached the players and one of them grabbed the man's phone and fled. They say the man ran after the suspect to an area where the suspect was arrested by military police, who turned him over to Ottawa police.

Meanwhile, police say the second suspect "accosted" the woman, tried to take her phone and a struggle took place, after which the suspect fled empty handed. Police say that suspect was also arrested by military police nearby a short time later.

Police say a 17-year-old Ottawa youth is charged with theft under \$5,000 and breach of recognizance, and a 19-year-old man, Mohamed Ouedraogo, is charged with a single count of robbery.

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