

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

AUGUST 12, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 33

## Executive Digest

Aug 04 2016

**CALGARY** - Calgary police now have a custom-built Freightliner that can serve as a mobile command centre in the event of another major disaster .

Page 2

Aug 08 2016

**OTTAWA** - On the same day Abdirahman Abdi was pronounced dead, OPS moved to hire a Somali-Canadian man who had failed a background check, prompting the civilian investigator in charge of vetting officers to resign

Page 5

Aug 09 2016

**HALIFAX** - A restaurateur has high praise for the Halifax police's subtle and low-key arrest of a Newfoundland man on the run from murder and arson charges.

Page 7

Aug 10 2016

**BALTIMORE** - Baltimore's police commissioner says biased law enforcement tactics won't be tolerated, adding that the department has already fired some officers who committed some of the violations found during a Justice Department investigation.

Page 9

Aug 11 2016

**OTTAWA** - An early-morning tip from FBI investigators triggered a "race against time" Wednesday as police scrambled to identify and locate a balaclava-wearing would-be suicide bomber.

Page 11

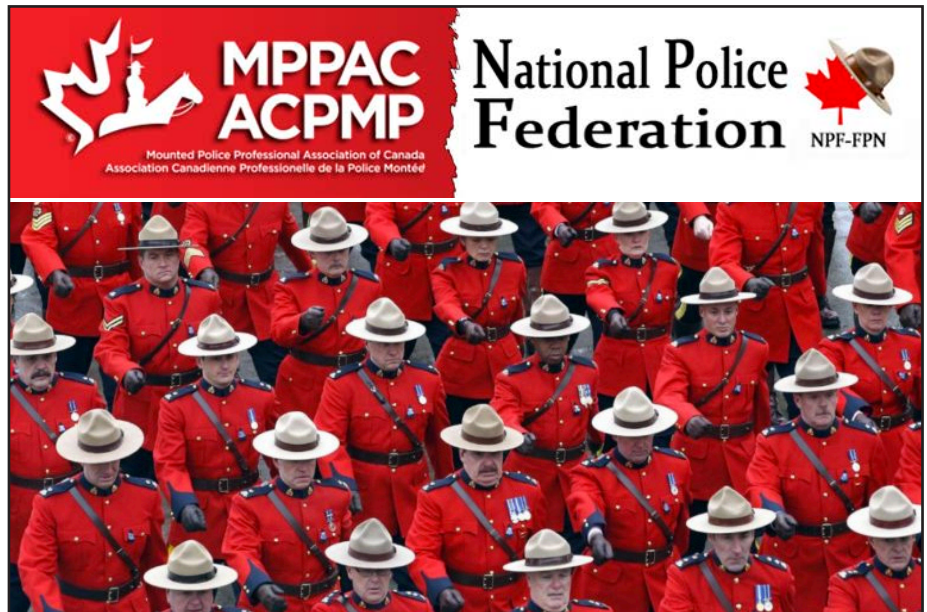
## BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK

52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100<sup>00</sup>

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

## Mountie management accused of favouritism



Aug 04 2016

**An employee association that's jockeying to become the Mounties' first-ever union has filed an unfair-labour-practices complaint against RCMP management, accusing it of interfering and favouring the group's main rival.**

The Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada (MPPAC) has filed the complaint with the Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board, alleging RCMP brass didn't take "adequate steps" to stop the association's main competitor, the

National Police Federation (NPF), from using the force's internal email system to recruit and sign up members.

The certification drive, the biggest in the public sector in decades, follows a landmark Supreme Court of Canada ruling last year that gave the RCMP the right to unionize.

The MPPAC and NPF are the two main contenders to form the union. The first to sign up 40 per cent of members can apply for certification.

The association alleges that allowing its rival, NPF, and the closely related Mounted



RCMP  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE

LE CENTRE DU  
PATRIMOINE  
DE LA GRC

**Make it your destination  
Make it your cause**

[www.rcmpheritagecentre.com](http://www.rcmpheritagecentre.com)

5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, SK Canada S4T 0P4

866-567-7267

Police Members Legal Fund to use the force's internal email system for mass emails without sanction during an organization drive showed management "is favouring one employee association over another, further interfering in the formation of an employee organization."

The complaint is a latest salvo in what many predicted would be a nasty and drawn-out unionization battle.

MPPAC lawyers had earlier sent several letters complaining about the emails and demanded that NFP and the legal fund be blocked from sending messages via the RCMP's email system.

With the complaint, the MPPAC wants an expedited hearing from the board, which oversees the certification process.

It is seeking an order that would forbid the NFP and the legal fund from using the RCMP's email system and block their addresses from the network.

It also wants the RCMP to retract the NFP and the legal fund's previous mass email messages as "inappropriate" and give the association the right to send emails to RCMP members across the country.

Associations seeking to be certified as bargaining agents are supposed to be free from employer control or influence so they can fairly represent their members. The MPPAC argues RCMP management showed its favouritism by letting the NFP to use the email system "with impunity" while MPPAC was not allowed.

The MPPAC is built on the remnants of the group that successfully led the legal battle to unionize.

The NFP, meanwhile, is a new group built on a strong core of the now dismantled staff relations representatives program, which represented Mounties on labour issues before the Supreme Court challenge.

The emails at the centre of the complaint came after RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson warned staff representatives last February not to interfere with the formation of an

employee association or "use any RCMP resources, facilities, computer systems or equipment" for that reason.

The first email was sent by Peter Merrifield, a former staff representative and now director of NFP in March shortly after the federation's creation. It solicited support for NFP and urged supporters to forward information about the new group to colleagues.



In May, the NFP sent another mass email seeking members' support and included a link for members to sign up.

In June, the legal fund sent an email to all its members seeking their personal emails and informing them they had to re-enroll with the fund now that the RCMP refused to collect fees for the fund in payroll deductions. The legal fund is a not-for-profit organization that operates independently from the RCMP. Some 16,500 members voluntarily joined the fund and kicked in fees from every pay cheque that the RCMP had agreed to collect for the fund.

That email particularly irked MPPAC because of the historic and "deep connections" between the NFP and legal fund that RCMP management knew about - including a loan from the legal fund to help finance the NFP's organizing drive.

MPPAC alleges the RCMP's inaction "constitutes serious interference in the formation of an employee organization," the complaint said.

Brian Sauve, the NFP's co-chair, called the complaint baseless. He said that any emails sent by NFP to RCMP colleagues at work came before the Public Service Labour Relations Act kicked in. He argued the MPPAC could have done the same thing.

The RCMP had no comment on the complaint by deadline.

In June, however, Paulson told a Senate committee that he decided to stop the voluntary payroll deductions for the legal fund to thwart a possible unfair labour practices complaint - especially when the fund gave the NFP a loan for its organizing drive. (Ottawa Citizen)

a vehicle like this after the 2013 flood that devastated the city, but there are additional uses, as well.

"It had to be multi-functional, capable of deploying in natural disasters and emergencies including floods and major fires, as well as large community gatherings and events, and it had to be fully functional for search and rescue situations," police said in a release.

"It also was designed to facilitate an incident command team in the event of prolonged, high-risk situations where space is required for police negotiators to operate if required."

MBF Industries of Florida built the mobile command centre along with a team of police service members.

City council approved \$1.3 million for the project in 2014 as part of its Flood Resiliency Program, and police said the total cost came in \$400,000 under budget. (CBC News)

Aug 04 2016

## **SURREY - As drug gang and gun violence continues in Surrey, city officials and Mounties have shortlisted three candidates to lead the country's largest RCMP detachment.**

Mayor Linda Hepner said Thursday that a new top officer is expected to be in place by Sept. 15 to take over from Asst. Commissioner Bill Fordy, who is now the Mountie in charge of the entire Lower Mainland region.

Hepner said three people have been shortlisted for the challenging job.

"We completed last week the panel interviews of potential candidates," she said in an interview.

The three finalists have been sent now for "psychometric testing," which involves assessing their personality profiles, critical thinking skills and leadership styles.

Hepner wouldn't identify those on the shortlist for the job to lead a force of 804 officers and 300 municipal employees. (Vancouver Sun)

Aug 04 2016

## **EDMONTON - A 25-year veteran of the Edmonton Police Service was sentenced Wednesday for selling steroids to other officers.**

The sentence for Darren French included a \$1,500 fine, probation and 240 hours community service. When charges were laid March 2015, French was relieved from duty without pay.

French pleaded guilty to two counts of trafficking a controlled substance in June. He admitted to repeatedly selling anabolic steroids Stanozolol and Methyl-1-Testosterone to fellow officers.

An ASIRT investigation was launched April of 2013 when the Edmonton Police Service learned one EPS police officer sold anabolic steroids to other officers of the police service between 2006 and 2010.

"This was an extremely complex and



**BLUE LINE NEWS WEEK** Celebrating 20 Years

ISSN 1704-3913  
Copyright 2016

Blue Line Magazine Inc. & The Canadian Press  
Permission to reprint may be obtained in advance from  
**Access Copyright**  
Phone 1-800-893-5777 Info@accesscopyright.ca

Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

Most information supplied in this publication is from newswire services. As such Blue Line Magazine does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of articles as supplied.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic database or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers. One Year Subscriptions are \$105<sup>99</sup> (GST Included). Paid subscribers may make up to four (4) copies of this publication for distribution within their organization.

GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner  
A/PUBLISHER: Tom Rataj - Tom@BlueLine.ca  
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca  
SUBSCRIPTIONS: at www.BlueLine.ca  
ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048

12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1  
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca

**THURSDAY**  
**AUGUST 4, 2016**

Aug 04 2016

**CALGARY - Calgary police now have a custom-built Freightliner that can serve as a mobile command centre in the event of another major disaster like the 2013 flood.**

The \$900,000 vehicle will be deployed this week and is capable of connecting to all existing police networks, including the direct downlink from HAWCS helicopters.

Police said they identified the need for



sensitive investigation that involved numerous witnesses, many of whom were police officers,” ASIRT said.

A second police officer also charged with selling steroids was ordered to stand trial.

Greg Lewis faces three counts of trafficking a controlled substance. He is suspended without pay.

As a result of the ASIRT investigation, six additional police officers were transferred out of their previous positions.

Edmonton police declined to provide information related to the employment history of the other members Thursday.

(Global News)

Aug 04 2016

**TORONTO - “I’ll be back,” he said, and he surely meant it. The Terminator made an appearance in Toronto on Wednesday night - and ended up in a gun scare.**



At about 10 p.m., a woman called police about a man who appeared to be holding a shot gun.

The woman reported she was taking out the trash when she saw what she thought was a very tall man, his face bloodied, looking tough in his black jacket.

She tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t answer. The strong, silent type, just like a certain action hero.

Police treated it as a “Priority 1 call.” Emergency fire services arrived with police, said Const. Allyson Douglas-Cook, a Toronto police spokeswoman.

After scouring the area, police found a still, silent man staring at a wall. They approached and determined the man was not human. It was an Arnold Schwarzenegger mannequin, dressed in full Terminator gear. The actor played the indestructible cyborg character in five movies and three video games.

Police got into the spirit, sending a message to their dispatch, saying “units arrive, fake gun, terminator statue,” said Const. Douglas-Cook, adding officers were most amused at the details the caller could give, all the while not noticing it was not a human she was describing.

“This incident is a reflection of the kind of demands Toronto police respond to every day. It is not uncommon where officers are left saying ‘wow’... Sometimes I wish I can write a book.”

No injuries were reported.

(Toronto Star)

## FRIDAY AUGUST 5, 2016

Aug 05 2016

**OTTAWA - In a judgment that should strengthen the federal government’s whistle-blowing regime, the Federal Court has rejected an RCMP argument that the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner had no jurisdiction to investigate wrongdoing involving the Ottawa Air Section of the force’s Air Services Branch.**

In December, 2014, then-integrity commissioner Mario Dion tabled a report in Parliament that concluded RCMP pilots based in Ottawa repeatedly flew aircraft carrying too many passengers and too much luggage. He also found that pilots had made false entries in their log-books to conceal the overweight flights.

At the time, the RCMP asked the Federal Court for an injunction blocking the release of the report pending the outcome of a judicial review of the commissioner’s jurisdiction to investigate an RCMP whistleblower’s 2013 disclosure of eight potential wrongdoings. But the court refused.

In a new judgment, the Federal Court has finally released its decision on the judicial review. Justice E. Susan Elliott sided firmly with the integrity commissioner, saying his interpretation of the 2007 legislation that created his office was reasonable.

Joe Friday, the current integrity com-

missioner, hailed the decision as “another step toward certainty in implementing and understanding the federal whistle-blowing regime — for us, for federal organizations and also for people coming forward with disclosures.

“I would certainly hope that any potential whistleblower reading this decision would feel greater confidence in our ability to do our job in pursuing disclosures,” Friday said, noting that it was the first time the courts had interpreted the relevant section of the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act.

The jurisdictional argument focused on a section of the act that restricts the commissioner’s ability to deal with a disclosure if “a person or body acting under another Act of Parliament” is dealing with the same subject matter.

The RCMP argued that the commissioner had no authority to investigate because Transport Canada was already looking into the issue under the Aeronautics Act. It sought an order quashing or setting aside the commissioner’s decision in the case.

But the commissioner argued that the restriction in the act should be read narrowly in light of its important goal of maintaining public confidence in the integrity of public servants and its requirement that a finding of wrongdoing must be reported to Parliament.

If the RCMP’s interpretation were correct, the commissioner argued, any federal department could pre-empt the accountability provisions of the act by conducting a general, non-binding review.

(Ottawa Citizen)

## PRICE? CHECK. DURABILITY? CHECK. WARRANTY? CHECKMATE.

We don’t provide the best warranty in the game because we have to – we do it because we can.

An unmatched combination of quality and durability means you can rest assured that you’re making the best decision when you make it a Mitsubishi.



Visit [mitsubishi-motors.ca/fleet](http://mitsubishi-motors.ca/fleet) for more information on how you can add a Mitsubishi to your fleet.



\*\* Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. See dealer or [mitsubishi-motors.ca](http://mitsubishi-motors.ca) for warranty terms, restrictions and details. Some conditions apply.



Visit your local dealer for details.



BUILT BETTER. BACKED BETTER.

Aug 05 2016

**EDMONTON - Edmonton police are asking for the public's help to find the owner of a drone that nearly hit the force's helicopter.**

Const. Brian Griffith of the Air 1 flight crew says it was responding to a call in the downtown area on July 8 when it had a near mid-air collision with a drone.

He says the unmanned aerial vehicle was a white quadcopter-style drone with red lights.

Police say it came within 18 metres of the police helicopter going in the opposite direction.

Griffith says two other smaller drones were seen in the same area about 30 minutes later.

He says it could have been disastrous if the helicopter and drone had collided, and crew members could have been killed.

Aug 05 2016

**LONDON, Ont. - Police in London, Ont., have issued a warning about drone safety after a Medevac helicopter reported a near miss with an unmanned aerial vehicle.**

They say the helicopter was flying about 365 metres above the ground when the incident occurred.

Police say the London International Airport reported the incident to police and has also filed a report with Nav Canada.

They are reminding drone users that flying the vehicles closer than nine kilometres from any aerodrome, and above 90 metres is prohibited.

Aug 05 2016

**CAMPBELL RIVER, Canada - A Vancouver Island judge has tossed out a search warrant for a suspected marijuana grow operation, deriding the police information used to obtain the warrant as "thin gruel."**

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Douglas Thompson says in a decision released Friday that the right to be protected from unreasonable search was denied for Mario Kurtakis of Tahsis, B.C., when police scoured his property for evidence of marijuana production and trafficking.

A warrant was issued after Mounties reported smelling marijuana in the man's truck, seeing a brick of peat moss in the vehicle, hearing what sounded like an industrial fan inside the home, and receiving reports from a source that marijuana was often smelled emanating from the property.

A trial was held last month into whether that evidence amounted to reasonable grounds for searching the home, and Thompson says it did not.

The judge says the information presented in Kurtakis' case does not provide a basis "for anything more than suspicion."

He says the peat moss could have been used to grow plants other than marijuana and the sound heard inside the home could have been a air conditioning unit or fan

cooling a room on a warm summer day.

Thompson also notes that the source reported smelling smoked marijuana instead of marijuana plants and says the smell of smoked marijuana is "hardly worthy of a mention as evidence of marijuana production."

"In my opinion an issuing justice making a decision on whether or not to issue a warrant in this marijuana production case would be making a serious error if he or she attached significant weight to the information that marijuana is often being smoked on the property," says the ruling.



**People from the crowd kept stopping Ukraine's new mountain bike patrol officers to chat and take pictures with them — even as Olympic athletes were being announced on a stage in Kiev.**



The veteran Calgary cop who'd just trained them says the excitement from the public and from the police was exactly what she'd wanted to see.

Just a week before, Sgt. Katrina O'Reilly said, those same officers were asking her if it was okay to shake civilians' hands while working — if she ever did while working back home.

So she told them: "If people want to shake my hand, I'm proud to shake theirs."

O'Reilly has been with the Calgary Police Service 20 years and has spent roughly 15 of those years on bikes — today she's sergeant for the Dist.1 mountain bike unit and the city-wide mountain bike coordinator.

She teaches the ins and outs of policing atop two wheels across Western Canada and in July she took an opportunity with Agriteam Canada Consulting to bring 50 of Ukraine's newest national officers up to speed.

"We've seen the success of bicycle patrol in Canada for a number of years now, from crime prevention to immediate, quick responses to the mobility," O'Reilly said.

"I think it also really brings value to their connection with their community."

"It's such a casual, approachable thing, in my experience anyway, and it was great to see their eagerness."

Connection with the community and coming off as casual and approachable is key to Ukraine's new cops, starting new

and trying to shed previously shady reputations.

Agriteam's work with the National Police of Ukraine to reach that goal was funded by the Canadian government — several Calgary officers have lent their expertise.

"Some of (my) course training included the fitness portion of it and talking to them about keeping their fitness up and how to remain hydrated ... a portion of the training included the crowd control side of things and how to work the parades, protests and rallies that occur in any community and how to do that in a professional manner," O'Reilly said.

Mountain bike policing is unique in its challenges, O'Reilly said, as well as in its advantages.

"When you're driving up in a patrol car you have a little more time to evaluate," O'Reilly said.

"When you're on a bike sometimes you roll up on things quite quickly ... you need to have an ability to be observant and use your bike to keep your bike between yourself and a person or situation that might be dangerous."

"Many of the towns in the Ukraine have a lot of pedestrian walkways and a lot of festivals and a lot of tourist areas (and) a bike patrol is really ideal for that."

(Calgary Sun)

Aug 07 2016

**TORONTO - Toronto police say an intoxicated man who got into a police cruiser thinking it was a cab has been arrested on an outstanding warrant.**

Const. Allyson Douglas-Cook says the officer stopped to get gas at a police station garage in Toronto's Liberty Village area Saturday night when the man climbed into the cruiser.

She says the man was arrested after the officer discovered he was wanted on a bench warrant.

Aug 07 2016

**RCMP and the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team are investigating a crash that left one man dead.**

The collision was between a truck and SUV, and happened Friday evening in Cold Lake, Alta.

RCMP say they were called to a 7-11 convenience store in the town for reports of a fight, where one man was drunk and had a knife.

That man left the scene and was driving on Highway 28 when another RCMP officer tried to stop him.

The driver did not stop, so the officer attempted to follow. He found the SUV in a ditch off of 16 Avenue a short time later.

The 36-year-old man, who is from Cold Lake, was pronounced dead on scene. His name is not being released.

A man, woman and three-year-old child in the truck were taken to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

(660 News)



**MONDAY**  
**AUGUST 8, 2016**

Aug 08 2016

**TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog has been called in to investigate what it describes as a "police-involved shooting" in downtown Toronto.**

The Special Investigations Unit says investigators are in the Yonge and Dundas area to probe the incident that took place early Monday.

A Toronto police spokeswoman says officers were originally called around 5:35 a.m. on reports of a stabbing, but declined to comment further citing the SIU investigation.

SIU spokesman Jason Gennaro says investigators are looking into how the stabbing and the shooting are related.

Gennaro says police arrived around 6 a.m. and there was a confrontation in which "several" shots were fired, injuring a 39-year-old man.

He says the man is currently in non-life-threatening condition after undergoing surgery. A 66-year-old man has been released from hospital after being treated for a stab wound.

Aug 08 2016

**FOX CREEK, Alta. - Alberta government investigators have cleared three Mounties who shot a murder suspect last summer.**

RCMP responded to reports of a suspect killing a man and a woman with a large butcher knife in June 2015 at an oil industry work camp near Fox Creek.

Investigators say the Mounties fired a total of 13 shots at the man when he refused to drop the knife and lunged at the officers.

Susan Hughson, executive director of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, says after reviewing the investigation there is no evidence that suggests the officers committed any offence.

"The evidence very clearly establishes that there are no reasonable grounds, or indeed reasonable suspicion, to believe that any of the officers committed an offence," Hughson said Monday in a release.

"This was undoubtedly a harrowing and horrific incident but, practically speaking, the officers' attendance and engagement of the man ended the incident before any civilian workers still present were injured or killed."

Aug 08 2016

**OTTAWA - On the same day Abdirahman Abdi was pronounced dead, Ottawa police moved to hire a Somali-Canadian man who had failed a background check, prompting the civilian investigator in charge of vetting officers to resign, Postmedia has learned.**

In a letter of resignation, obtained by Postmedia, sent by civilian background investigator Christina Benson, Benson alleged the applicant was an "unsuitable" police candidate and that

his hiring "is being done for political reasons to appease the Somali community."

Chief Charles Bordeleau told Postmedia he approved the hiring of 19 new officers during a previously scheduled meeting on July 26. Postmedia has learned that the approved list of candidates sent by the recruiting section did not initially include the applicant. All police candidates are presented to the chief, who is responsible for signing off on their hiring.

Bordeleau said that "all of the candidates had gone through the rigorous OPS selection process and I believe met the qualifications for employment with our service."

In an email to all officers sent Monday evening after Postmedia asked him for comment, the chief said two of the candidates that were made offers had "items in their

background checks" that he was asked to review. "I looked at the cases in their totality and established offers should be made to both individuals."

The applicant is active in the Somali community in Ottawa. Abdi's arrest and his subsequent death have rippled through the city and have resulted in community allegations of police brutality and racism.

Benson, a background investigator on the force for more than five years, alleged in her resignation letter that the service has "disregarded their own hiring standards."

Benson said it was with "great regret" that she "must resign," in a letter dated Aug. 4. Benson had conducted the background investigation on the applicant.

The decision was made to offer the job to the applicant on July 25, after the force

[@ChiefsGala](https://twitter.com/ChiefsGala)
[@ChiefsGala](https://www.instagram.com/ChiefsGala)
[facebook.com/Chiefs-Gala](https://www.facebook.com/Chiefs-Gala)

In support of

**2016 CHIEF'S GALA**  
 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2016  
 ALLSTREAM CENTRE  
 105 PRINCES' BLVD (EXHIBITION PLACE)  
 RECEPTION - 6:00 P.M. DINNER - 7:00 P.M.  
 ENTERTAINMENT | SILENT AUCTION

**- TICKETS -**  
 ORDER ONLINE: [WWW.CHIEFSGALA.COM](http://WWW.CHIEFSGALA.COM)  
 CALL: 416.808.7933  
 EMAIL: [CHIEFSGALA@TORONTOPOLICE.ON.CA](mailto:CHIEFSGALA@TORONTOPOLICE.ON.CA)

PLATINUM SPONSORS

GOLD SPONSORS

SILVER SPONSORS

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE - CALL (416) 808-7933

had previously sent him a rejection letter, according to sources, and Benson wasn't notified until the next day.

"I was shocked since I indicated in my report that the applicant was not recommended for the position of constable," Benson wrote in her resignation letter. "This was not a case of a candidate being borderline on the scale of hiring as is sometimes the case."

"The facts compiled during my thorough background investigation are worrisome," she continued in her letter. "This individual will be a poor representative of the Ottawa Police Service and a liability to the organization."

The investigator's report found that the applicant had a handful of speeding infractions, four licence suspensions and had attempted to get a new licence while his was suspended. Benson found 16 convictions under the Highway Traffic Act.

Benson also raised red flags regarding a 2013 incident where the applicant falsely phoned police, according to the report. Police found he had a history of negative behaviour when pulled over by police and that he had several different dates of birth on file.

Benson also found inconsistencies in the application. The applicant had said he was selected by the Somali government for a program, but the report found that a friend had actually been selected and that the friend asked the applicant to go in his place instead.

The application was, however, supported by multiple letters of recommendation from people already employed at the police force.

Benson's letter of resignation says: "I have lost faith in the integrity of the constable selection process."

"I cannot continue in good conscience and I refuse to compromise my own work ethic. I must stand by my own principles, ethics, and integrity."

When reached for comment, Benson said that resigning from her job was "the most difficult decision I have had to make in my professional career." She would not address the specifics of her resignation but said she stands by her letter of resignation.

The process did not fail, the decision makers did," she said.

Seventeen of the 19 offers extended by the police service have since been accepted.

Bordeleau flatly said that none of the offers was related to the events on July 24, when Abdi was arrested by police.

"Many members of our diverse communities have not traditionally seen policing as a viable career choice," Bordeleau said. "This is a barrier we need to overcome. We do so by outreach recruiting to diverse communities. We call on members of the community and our own sworn and civilian members to identify potential recruits."

There are currently eight other employees — five officers and three civilians — who identify as Somali-Canadian on the force.

Bordeleau said he would not be commenting on personnel matters.

(Ottawa Sun)

**TUESDAY**  
**AUGUST 9, 2016**

Aug 09 2016

### The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary is saying goodbye to former service dog Rugger, who died today, age 11.



A post on the RNC's Facebook page paid tribute to Rugger, who retired from RNC service three years ago for health reasons.

"Rugger, undoubtedly, saved dozens of lost people, made sure buildings were safe, found illegal drugs and helped arrest hundreds of 'bad guys,'" noted the post. "The specialized skills that Rugger possessed as a general duty (police service dog) contributed greatly to us keeping the people of Newfoundland and Labrador safe every day."

Rugger was Const. Kevin Morgan's partner and "best friend" for years, said the post.

"Rugger put his life on the line every day for Kevin, his fellow officers and the whole community," says the post. "Rugger, you will forever be a hero to us."

After his retirement, Rugger was adopted by a family on Newfoundland's west coast "who made sure Rugger lived out his final years in pure happiness," said the tribute.

(CBC News)

Aug 09 2016

### EDMONTON - An Edmonton police officer who broke an intoxicated man's eye socket while trying to remove him from a store was given a conditional discharge Tuesday.

The court ruling means Const. Sean Briegel, 32, will not receive a permanent criminal record for his conviction of assault causing bodily harm and will likely remain a city police officer.

Provincial court Judge Jim Wheatley rejected the Crown's call for a 30-to-45-day conditional sentence served in the community and said a discharge would not be contrary to the public interest.

"A balance must be struck between denunciation of Briegel's conduct and perhaps determining his career (he still has many internal reviews to come), and perhaps depriving the community of a fine police officer because of a momentary lapse of control," said Wheatley, noting the four-year officer received an "outpouring of support" from family, all levels of police and the community.

"All would have me believe that the act charged is so very remote from what Briegel is," Wheatley said. "There is no doubt in my mind that, save for the momentary lapse,

Briegel is a fine young person, a good policeman and a man with potential for leadership."

The judge also noted more than 50 uniformed officers were in court for Briegel's June 24 guilty plea and said he is sure they will consider their own future actions in light of the proceedings.

Wheatley ruled the severity of the victim's injury was an aggravating factor, as was his position of vulnerability at the time and the undermining of public confidence in the police.

However, he found Briegel's guilty plea to be a mitigating factor, as well as his good work record, the "incredible" support he received and the financial and emotional toll on him and his family.

Briegel was placed on 12 months probation and ordered to take counselling as directed, including anger management, and again complete of the police department's use of force protocol.

He must also perform 120 hours of community service which Wheatley said should be done in an inner-city or disadvantaged neighbourhood.

Briegel had been charged with aggravated assault for the March 8, 2014 incident but was allowed to plead guilty to a reduced charge.

(Edmonton Journal)

Aug 09 2016

### REGINA - A drunk driving charge will leave Saskatchewan without a deputy premier until a cabinet shuffle in a couple of weeks.

Don McMorris has stepped down from the post and his other cabinet positions after he was charged with impaired driving when he was pulled over by Mounties in a construction zone last week.

Premier Brad Wall says he's more than disappointed in McMorris, who was in charge of the province's liquor and gaming authority.

Wall says there is never a circumstance in which anyone can justify drinking and then getting behind the wheel of a car.

Wall says McMorris was driving a government car at the time, but doesn't know whether he was on government business.

Although McMorris has not been convicted, he says he is leaving the Saskatchewan Party caucus for now and will seek counselling.

His cabinet portfolios will be taken over by Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter.

Aug 09 2016

### WINNIPEG - The man who has been Manitoba's chief medical examiner since 1998 has retired.

Dr. Thambirajah Balachandra, who retired June 30, was involved in many high-profile cases, including ordering an inquest into the death of Brian Sinclair.

The double amputee died after waiting 34 hours at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre emergency room without treatment.

The probe resulted in a 200-page report



with 63 recommendations to improve Manitoba emergency rooms.

Dr. John Younes, a pathologist who has been the deputy chief medical examiner since 2013, has been named Manitoba's acting chief medical examiner.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Aug 09 2016

### HALIFAX - A restaurateur has high praise for the Halifax police's subtle and low-key arrest of a Newfoundland man on the run from murder and arson charges.

"They walked in, no one even noticed. Subtle, quiet, professional," John Carvalho, owner of the Bluenose II restaurant in downtown Halifax, said Tuesday.

Chesley John Lucas, 23, had been wanted on first-degree murder, unlawful confinement, robbery and arson, and described by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary as "armed and dangerous."

Carvalho said the suspect had "kept his head down" while eating the restaurant's big breakfast, the Mariner's Special, at about 11 a.m.

There were about 50 people in the restaurant, with the owner himself in the kitchen when two officers walked in and quietly told the suspect he was under arrest, handcuffed him and led him out.

"It was unreal. If I sat in the kitchen an extra minute and a half I probably wouldn't even have noticed they'd been here," he said. "A lot of people didn't notice, just the close tables nearby."

The tourists at the next table assumed he was wanted on a minor warrant, not a major crime, Carvalho said. "Little did they know what it was for."

Halifax police Const. Dianne Woodworth said the arrest was carried out by members of the High Risk Enforcement Action Team of the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division, with the assistance of patrol officers. Lucas is the fourth man arrested in the abduction and murder of 25-year-old Steven Miller in Conception Bay South.

Aug 09 2016

### CALGARY - People fleeing domestic violence in Alberta can now end their leases early without financial penalty.

Calgary MLA Deborah Drever put forward a private member's bill last fall that aims to break down one of the major hurdles for many fleeing abuse.

The legislation passed unanimously late last year and, following months of consultations, the amendments to the province's Residential Tenancies Act are now in effect.

In order to break a tenancy agreement early, people must present their landlords with a certificate showing they are at risk.

To get a certificate, they must give the Human Services Ministry an emergency protection order, peace bond or statement from a certified professional, like a doctor, nurse, social worker or psychologist.

The province estimates about 60 to 100 certificates may be issued a year.

Aug 09 2016

### CALGARY - RCMP have charged a Calgary man with importing a dangerous synthetic drug that can be 100 times more powerful than deadly fentanyl.

Police say Canada Border Services Agency staff seized a package containing one kilogram of carfentanil that came from China, enough for 50 million doses.

The synthetic opioid is used to sedate elephants and other large animals but has been showing up in heroin around the world.

RCMP say it is hard to imagine what this drug would do if even a small amount made its way to Canadian streets.

Joshua Wrenn, who is 24, is charged with importing a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

## WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10, 2016

Aug 10 2016

### A 73-year-old Florida woman taking part in a citizen police academy was shot multiple times and killed by a police officer during a "shoot/don't shoot" role-playing exercise Tuesday, authorities said.

Mary Knowlton volunteered for the demonstration and was assigned the role of "victim," according to a Charlotte Sun photographer who covered the event. The officer who shot her was playing the "bad guy," though it's unclear why the officer's gun contained live rounds or how and where Knowlton was shot.

Punta Gorda police Chief Tom Lewis called the shooting an accident and said the scenario occurred during an exercise in which authorities use simulated lethal force in a live scenario, according to WBBH-TV.

Knowlton, a mom, wife and career librarian, was originally from Minnesota but moved to Punta Gorda recently with her husband, The Washington Post reported.

She was taken to Lee Memorial Hospital and later pronounced dead.

"I am devastated for everyone involved in this unimaginable event. If you pray, please pray for Mary's family, and for the officers who were involved. Everyone involved in this accident is in a state of overwhelming shock and grief," Lewis said.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating the incident and the officer involved in the shooting has been placed on leave. The officer was not identified.

(Fox News)

Aug 10 2016

### VANCOUVER - Vancouver police have admitted to using a controversial mass surveillance device following a protracted back-and-forth battle with civil rights groups.

The department said it received help from the RCMP in using a so-called StingRay device during a 2007 investigation in an attempt to track down the cellphone of a person they believed had been abducted.

The admission comes after a protracted back-and-forth battle waged by both the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association and PIVOT Legal Society into whether the Vancouver police have ever used StingRay, an intelligence-gathering tool widely adopted in the United States.

StingRay mimics a cellular communications tower to trick all mobile devices within range to connect to it, giving police text and audio communication as well as the device's location.

Micheal Vonn of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association said it was only after a freedom-of-information request, direct questioning and the prospect of an inquiry by the province's privacy commissioner that the Vancouver police were willingly disclosed any information.

"This certainly raises a number of further questions," Vonn said.

"How, if they've actually used the RCMP's StingRay, could there be no documents: no memorandum of understanding with the RCMP, no policies and procedures, no communications, nothing. This seems deeply problematic."

Const. Brian Montague of the Vancouver police said in an email Wednesday that context is important in order to understand the role played by StingRay in investigations.

In the 2007 case, the device was used in "exigent circumstances" to investigate the disappearance of a person in a case that has since become a possible homicide, he said.

"It is disappointing to see the BCCLA failed to provide any context regarding that investigation, (and) continues their attempt at

## CANADA'S BEST DRESSED POLICE CAR

Categories include  
General Patrol - Special Duty - Community Relations - Law Enforcement



Deadline for submissions October 31, 2016

Put together a package describing the colouring scheme and unique, innovative or progressive concepts in equipment or design and email to  
[BestDressed@BlueLine.ca](mailto:BestDressed@BlueLine.ca)

public fear mongering,” he wrote.

Montague added that disclosing sensitive investigative techniques could compromise officers’ ability to fight crime.

Vonn said it’s likely the RCMP have offered similar StingRay services to other jurisdictions across Canada, but it’s difficult to know without the requirement for public transparency.

Public Safety Canada declined a request for an interview with the minister, but in an email statement it says sensitive investigative tools used by the RCMP are classified and that releasing details could harm the public, officer safety and the integrity of the justice system.

In a statement, RCMP spokeswoman Annie Delisle said the Mounties don’t generally comment on specific investigative methods, tools and techniques outside of court.

“The use of any investigative tools by the RCMP is governed by the Charter and subject to appropriate judicial processes,” the statement reads.

“By law, such court orders are limited, specific, and proportionate to the seriousness of the crime under investigation.”

Aug 10 2016

## **Two Saskatchewan Mounties are facing charges in separate incidents that happened months ago.**

RCMP say officers responded to a call about a male going through vehicles in Warman, east of Saskatoon, early on Feb. 24.

Two male youths were taken into custody and later investigators found there had been altercations shortly after the males were arrested.

Warman RCMP Cpl. Dean Flaman is charged with two counts of assault and is scheduled to appear on Sept. 14 in Saskatoon Provincial Court.

Flaman is currently suspended with pay.

Const. Khen Wilkins was charged this week with assault after police were called to a home in Meadow Lake on Dec. 14, 2015, following noise complaints.

Wilkins was off-duty at the time of the alleged assault.

He was released on conditions and is to appear in court on Sept. 26.

Mounties say Wilkins had been on administrative duty since Dec. 16 while an internal investigation was done, but is now on regular duty at the Meadow Lake detachment.

Aug 10 2016

## **WINNIPEG - New court documents filed in a civil lawsuit say an RCMP weapon used in the shooting of a Winnipeg teen girl was stolen from an RCMP vehicle after a man or men broke into an officer's home.**

Calli Vanderaa, 16, was shot with the stolen weapon outside a convenience store in the early morning hours of Oct. 24, 2015.

In February 2016, Vanderaa launched a lawsuit against the officer who stored the gun, and the RCMP.

Documents filed by the defendants say the gun had been properly stored in the officer’s vehicle, which was parked outside his home.

They say the thief or thieves illegally stole the weapon and other police equipment from a locked box inside the vehicle and used the gun to shoot the teenage girl.

Vanderaa’s suit contends she suffered life-threatening and major injuries as a result of the bullet striking her, injuring her leg, lung, spleen and colon.

Two men were arrested and charged in the shooting.  
(CTV Winnipeg)

Aug 10 2016

## **WINNIPEG - A new report on the Winnipeg Police Air1 program shows the city's police helicopter is spending more time in the air.**



The 2015 annual report on the helicopter, officially known as the Winnipeg Police Service Flight Operations Unit, was made public Monday.

According to the document, the Air1 helicopter spent just over 1,000 hours in the air, attended 2,161 incidents and was instrumental in the apprehension or identification of 347 people, 112 of whom were taken into police custody.

It also cost the province \$1.8 million, an increase of around \$600,000 since 2011.

The report follows the announcement by the province earlier this year of an outside review of the Air1 program and comments from Winnipeg’s outgoing police Chief Devon Clunis calling rising police costs “not sustainable.”

The copter, which the WPS bought for \$3.5 million in 2010, has also been subject to public criticism in light of recent budget discussions, with some arguing money would be better spent elsewhere in the force. Also facing opposition is the \$343,000 armoured vehicle police unveiled this spring.

No one at the Winnipeg Police Service was made available for comment Wednesday.

The helicopter’s 1,007 hours in the air come as an increase over 2014’s 901 flight hours and exceed 2013’s flight hours, previously the longest at 986.

The 2,161 incidents the helicopter responded to are also an increase over 2014’s 2091 incidents attended, although much lower than the previous high of 2,793, also in 2013.

The EC120B was publicly unveiled in December 2010. Operating costs are covered by the province.

“The government is still considering its options in relation to the completion of the review,” said a spokeswoman for Manitoba Justice in response to a Free Press request for comment.

The spokeswoman did not provide a timeline for the review, but provincial officials predicted it would be completed by the end of the year at the time of its announcement in January.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Aug 10 2016

## **OTTAWA - With controversy swirling around him, members of the Ottawa police have lost faith in their leader, Chief Charles Bordeleau. That's the allegation coming from Ottawa Police Association president Matt Skof.**

“(Bordeleau) has lost the confidence of the members,” Skof told the Sun on Wednesday.

The timing really couldn’t be worse for Bordeleau, who’s already under fire from some corners over other matters.

“It’s sad we’re at this stage, but the members have been expressing an extreme disappointment to me with the executive leadership. I’ve made my comments very clear about (the chair Eli El-Chantiry) but this is the first time we’ve said this about the chief.

“This is the members saying it to me. My issue is with the lack of oversight. We don’t have a process to hold anyone accountable. And so, the members have completely lost faith in him.”

Skof said the police services board chose to renew Bordeleau’s contract, and he believes that was done at the will of the mayor.

“He completely controls things. That’s my belief. . . . He doesn’t sit on the police services board, but his influence has been very clear since he’s been in office.”

Watson did not respond to the Sun’s request for an interview.

Skof’s comments come on the heels of a decision released Wednesday from the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, clearing Bordeleau of any misconduct pertaining to another court case involving his father-in-law.

According to the commission: “The evidence supports a finding that Chief Bordeleau did not engage in misconduct. Chief Bordeleau did not attempt to use his position to influence the outcome of the Highway Traffic Act matter nor to communicate with the prosecutors. . . . The withdrawal of the charge happened because the civilian witness did not attend and there was no reasonable prospect of conviction.”

The commission has advised the board that the matter is now complete.

(Ottawa Sun)

Aug 10 2016

## **An RCMP officer has been arrested after allegedly using the federal police force's databanks to search for the owner of a license plate, and passed the information on to non-officers.**

Kevin Beauvais-Benoit, 33, from St-Rémi was posted in Saskatchewan when the



crime was said to have occurred. Between 2014 and 2015, Beauvais-Benoit accessed the national databank without authorization to find the identity of a license plate owner.

The RCMP claims that he then passed this information to two individuals he knew: Benoit Robert, 32, of St-Michel-de-Napierville, and Dominic Boyer, 34, of St-Rémi. Robert and Boyer then allegedly used this information to go to the place of residence of the person Beauvais-Benoit had identified, and intimidated that person.

"As police officers, we all have access to those databanks, but we cannot use it for ourselves," said RCMP Constable Eriq Gasse. "We can use them any time when we are doing an investigation, when we have a reason to do it... but if I wanted to check a plate number for a friend of mine, this is absolutely not (allowed)."

Beauvais-Benoit has been charged with criminal harassment, breach of trust, unauthorized use of a CPIC computer terminal and data and releasing information to an unauthorized third party.

Beauvais-Benoit has been with the force for less than two years. He was transferred back to Quebec in 2016, and is currently suspended without pay. All three men will appear in court in September.

(Montreal Gazette)

Aug 10 2016

**BALTIMORE - Baltimore's police commissioner says biased law enforcement tactics won't be tolerated, adding that the department has already fired some officers who committed some of the most egregious violations found during a Justice Department investigation.**



The 164-page report criticizes city police, saying officers unconstitutionally discriminate against African Americans, use excessive force and aren't equipped with the tools needed to effectively police.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Commissioner Kevin Davis and Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta discussed the report at a press conference at City Hall Wednesday morning.

Gupta said the report was commissioned a month after Freddie Gray's death in 2015.

During the investigation, officials talked to Baltimore residents and reviewed hundreds of thousands of pages of data to determine that the department engaged in a pattern of unconstitutional enforcement, of which the city's African American communities

"bore the brunt."

These racially-biased practices have eroded trust and compromised effective policing, Gupta said. While the Justice Department recognized the hard work and challenges faced by officers on a daily basis, Gupta said the police department's practices need improved training, technology and staffing.

Commissioner Kevin Davis stressed that the report isn't an indictment on all city police officers, just the bad behavior of a small few.

(ABC News)

Aug 10 2016

**ST. CATHARINES - A 33-year-old Niagara mother at the centre of a major Internet child sexual abuse investigation is accused of exploiting her daughters for her own gain, including making her four-year-old available to be sexually assaulted by others.**

Niagara Regional Police said Wednesday the woman sexually assaulted both of her daughters with a weapon and supplied sexually explicit photos of them for personal benefit.

She was one of six people arrested on 77 charges after a nine-month investigation by the NRP into alleged sexual abuse and Internet exploitation of young children, plus attempted murder.

NRP Insp. Jim Prinsen said six children aged four to 17 were identified and rescued.

"We are all grateful for the hard work of everyone involved ensuring six children were able to be rescued," Prinsen said at a news conference at police headquarters in St. Catharines.

"Moving forward from this difficult ordeal will not happen overnight for the victims. The ripple effects of these crimes, as well as the investigation, has left a significant impact on everyone involved."

Prinsen said some of the children had been victimized and others were actively being targeted as future victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

The investigation began because of a stabbing.

In November, the NRP's criminal investigation branch was probing the aggravated assault of a 38-year-old Niagara man.

A 30-year-old male has been charged with attempted murder in the case. The 33-year-old mother was also involved in the investigation and later charged with attempted murder.

During the stabbing investigation, officers heard allegations about the possible sexual assault of a young child. Detectives from the child abuse unit and Internet child exploitation unit were brought on board.

Police Chief Jeff McGuire said the investigation was called Project Iceberg because once detectives delved into the investigation, it was clear what they were seeing was just the tip of the iceberg. The investigation grew in scope and detectives discovered there was

more than one child at risk.

More than 60 electronic devices were seized for forensic examination, including computers, cellphones, memory cards, gaming consoles, laptops, tablets, iPods, cameras, CDs and DVDs.

The investigation drew in more than a dozen units within the NRP as well as assistance from Toronto Police Service's sex crimes-child exploitation section, which arrested one of the suspects.

In total, the woman was charged along with four men from Niagara and one from Toronto.

(St. Catharines Standard)

Aug 10 2016

**HAMILTON - The chair of Hamilton's police board says he will ask for a review of the service's policy on personal use of social media by officers.**

The Spectator had to file a Freedom of Information application to get a copy of the policy on how police officers should use social media after a Freelton man complained about alleged anti-Muslim tweets and Facebook posts by a local constable.

The complaint against Const. Brad Lawrie, who has not responded to requests for comment, is under investigation by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director.

Hamilton police's eight-page policy deals mostly with on-duty email and Internet use from its own computers. But a section labelled "safety and security" specifies off-duty officers should not post anything "that discredits the reputation of the Hamilton Police service" or contravenes its code of conduct and other policies.

It also warns members not to post personal details that could jeopardize the safety of themselves or coworkers.

Finally, it points out the Hamilton Police crest is trademarked and should not be posted online without permission.

Those three paragraphs are "pretty general in nature" and it might be time for an update, said Coun. Lloyd Ferguson, who chairs the Hamilton Police Services board. "It basically says 'don't do anything to embarrass us,'" he said. "I think there's probably an interest in making the rules and reasons more clear."

Ferguson said he would bring up the idea of a review at an upcoming board meeting.

The Vancouver Police Department — which posts a redacted copy of its entire 684-page policies and procedures manual online — offers advice on everything from how officers should identify themselves online to avoiding "geo-tagging" of posted photos.

Toronto police also post a public guideline which states "Consider everything you do online to be in the public realm. Assume that everything you do, no matter how inconsequential or obscure, will be seen by the public, the media and the Chief."

Aug 11 2016

**OTTAWA - Before proceeding with its pot-legalization agenda next spring, the Liberal government is promising to tackle the issue of drug-impaired driving, which bureaucrats say could spike considerably if marijuana becomes legal.**

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould was warned by officials in January of the risks, a classified briefing document obtained by shows.

"The legalization of marijuana could lead to a significant increase in drug-impaired driving cases," the memorandum reads.

Bureaucrats say there is limited data as only two jurisdictions in the United States have legalized marijuana: Colorado and Washington.

"For example, in Colorado, in the year following marijuana legalization, there was a 32 per cent increase in marijuana-related traffic deaths," the memo reads.

Liberal MP Bill Blair, a former Toronto police chief and now parliamentary secretary to Wilson-Raybould, says the issue is already a serious problem in Canada and that legalization could lead to more cases.

"That's why it's so important to do the work upfront to educate Canadians and to provide law enforcement and the justice system with the tools they need to control that illegal behaviour on our roadways," said the Toronto MP, who is the Liberals' point man on marijuana legalization.

"We recognize its urgency."

The Liberal government has promised to table a bill on legislating cannabis in the spring of 2017 - a timetable deemed far too ambitious by the Opposition, which would rather see the government slow down the process rather than expose Canadians to risks.

In Washington and Colorado, the legal limit is five nanograms of THC per millilitre of blood. In Nevada and Ohio, the legal limit is lower - two nanograms per millilitre. Other states have opted for zero tolerance.

"There will be the discussion about what's safe," Blair said. "And that discussion will range from a total prohibition - so no use of drugs in driving - to determining a safe level."

Blair said any such changes to the Criminal Code could come before tabling legislation in 2017.

In 2013, 97 per cent of accidents in Canada relating to impaired driving were alcohol related. The other three per cent were linked to drug consumption.

The briefing document to Wilson-Raybould suggests the drug-impaired numbers are under-reported because it's more difficult for police to detect.

In Quebec, provincial police say they are satisfied with the current system - a patrol officer arrests someone who is believed to be

intoxicated and another officer, trained in drug recognition, does a more extensive test.

Daniel Thibaudeau, a Quebec police spokesman, said between 2011 and 2014, 781 arrests were made for drug-impaired driving involving all types of substances.

Aug 11 2016

**OTTAWA - Canada's top judge is urging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to hurry up and fill the soon-to-be empty seat at the Supreme Court.**



Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin said it is taking too long to name a replacement for Justice Thomas Cromwell, who retires next month.

As a way to make the process more transparent, the Liberal government announced last week that a new non-partisan advisory board will choose potential new judges to sit on the high court.

"I understand that process is important, but it is also essential that the current vacancy be filled so that the Supreme Court of Canada can discharge its responsibilities in the session to come in the best possible fashion," McLachlin said Thursday in an address to the annual legal conference of the Canadian Bar Association.

"The Court needs — and the Canadian people are entitled to — a full complement of nine judges to decide the complex and important questions before it," she said.

"I would be less than frank if I did not say that I am concerned about the length of time it has taken to fill this vacancy," said McLachlin, but she added that she remains hopeful she will have a new colleague on the bench early this fall.

McLachlin said she is also concerned about the other 44 judicial positions nationwide the federal government has yet to fill.

"There is something deeply wrong with a hiring scheme that repeatedly proves itself incapable of foreseeing, preparing for and filling vacancies as they arise," she said.

"The perpetual crisis of judicial vacancies in Canada is an avoidable problem that needs to be tackled and solved. Without a full complement of judges, and an efficient system for anticipating and filling vacancies, delay will continue to be a feature of our justice system," she said.

McLachlin said the vacancies can restrict access to justice, which she said should be a top priority to ensure the public does not lose confidence in the system.

Aug 11 2016

**CHARLOTTETOWN - A former RCMP constable has been charged with 12 weapons offences after more than 70 firearms were seized from his Prince Edward Island home.**

Forty-three-year-old Jeffrey Rae Gillis is scheduled for an appearance in provincial court in Charlottetown on Monday.

The Nova Scotia Serious Incident Response Team says in a news release it started investigating in February after Charlottetown police discovered firearms at Gillis's home in Charlottetown.

The agency says police were responding to an alleged off-duty incident at Gillis's home when weapons were located.

Ron MacDonald, director of the response team, released a report Thursday noting that charges against Gillis include unlawful storage of firearms, possession of firearms obtained by an offence, and unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

Gillis is also charged with five counts of filing false reports with a peace officer about the destruction of firearms.

Aug 11 2016

**PENTICTON, B.C. - Crown lawyers must decide if charges should be laid against a Penticton RCMP officer involved in a collision that killed a young boy in the Okanagan city last September.**

The chief civilian director of British Columbia's Independent Investigations Office has forwarded paperwork to the Crown following a nearly year-long review.

Five-year-old James McIntosh died on Sept. 15, 2015, as he rode his bike across a busy Penticton intersection with his father and brother by his side.

McIntosh was hit by a pickup truck driven by the off-duty RCMP officer who was making a right turn through the crosswalk.

The director does not make a recommendation on whether charges should be approved.

Instead, the IIO report is sent to Crown to consider if an officer may have committed an offence.

Aug 11 2016

**PENTICTON, B.C. - A retired RCMP officer who murdered his wife in their home in British Columbia's south Okanagan has lost a last chance to appeal his conviction.**

Keith Wiens applied for permission to the Supreme Court of Canada to overturn his second-degree murder conviction based on technicalities related to his argument of self-defence.

The court dismissed that application on Aug. 4. The high court does not publish reasons for its decisions on leaves to appeal.

Wiens' common-law wife, Lynn Kalmring, died Aug. 16, 2011, when she was shot once in the face in the bedroom of the couple's Penticton home.

Although he admitted at trial that he shot her, Wiens, now 61, argued he did so because the 55-year-old Kalmring was in a



rage and had armed herself with a knife following an argument.

The trial heard the knife was easily removed from Kalmring's hand approximately 10 hours after she died, leading the Crown to suggest it was placed there by Wiens after her death to bolster his claim of self-defence.

That theory was supported by the testimony of Dr. William Currie, a pathologist who told the jury that if Kalmring was shot while holding the knife, it would have either fallen from her hand or had to have been pried from her grasp.

A jury convicted him in July 2013.

A copy of the Crown's response to Wiens' arguments was obtained by The Penticton Herald and shows Wiens wanted to challenge Currie's qualifications to provide that crucial evidence.

He also accused the Crown of misleading the jury by suggesting Currie was a forensic, rather than a general pathologist, and wanted to introduce new evidence consisting of notes obtained from the BC Coroners Service.

But the Crown replied that there were no mistakes made with Currie's credentials, and even if there had been, the time to argue such "fact-driven" issues was at trial, not in the Supreme Court of Canada, where the focus tends towards issues of national importance.

An earlier bid by Wiens to have his conviction overturned in the B.C. Court of Appeal was denied in January.

He is currently serving life in prison with no hope of parole for 13 years, although he has launched a separate appeal of his sentence.

Wiens worked for 26 years as a Mountie before retiring in 2001 as a corporal at the Summerland detachment.

(Penticton Herald)

Aug 11 2016

### **OTTAWA - An early-morning tip from FBI investigators triggered a "race against time" Wednesday as police scrambled to identify and locate a balaclava-wearing would-be suicide bomber they feared was on the verge of killing innocent Canadians.**

Within three hours, they felt they had found their man: Aaron Driver, 24, a known terrorist sympathizer who was living in the southwestern Ontario town of Strathroy, Ont., under court-imposed conditions.

The tip included a screen shot of a video of Driver, 24, and a warning that he was planning to detonate a homemade explosive device in an urban centre during morning or afternoon rush hour, said RCMP deputy commissioner Mike Cabana.

"It was a race against time," Cabana told a news conference Thursday in Ottawa. "We had no other information, other than the existence of a threat that could impact Canadians."

The warning was Canada-wide and made no mention of a specific city, said RCMP assistant commissioner Jennifer Strachan, who praised investigators for identifying Driver quickly enough to prevent him from carrying out the attack.

Several hours later, as the afternoon rush hour was ramping up, RCMP confronted the

suspect as he fled the house into the back seat of a waiting taxi, where an improvised explosive device suddenly detonated, injuring the cab driver.

Driver himself was killed in the fracas, either by the explosion or police gunfire, Strachan said.

"If he had gotten out of that residence before we got there, the scenario would have ended a lot differently."

In the video, aired during the news conference, a masked Driver addresses the camera directly as he rails against western "enemies of Islam" and warns that the only solution would be the "spilling of your blood."

Cabana also said Thursday that the ongoing investigation has led police to a "secondary location" in the city of London, Ont., not far from Strathroy, where Driver had been living with his sister.

Driver had been under a court order not to associate with any terrorist organization, among other restrictions.

Transit agencies in Toronto say they warned of a security threat before Wednesday's deadly confrontation, as were National Defence personnel in Ottawa.

In February, Driver's lawyer and the Crown agreed to a peace bond stating there are "reasonable grounds to fear that he may participate, contribute directly or indirectly in the activity of a terrorist group."

The RCMP, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and other police and security agencies were also involved in the operation.

On Thursday morning, a spokesman for the Toronto Transit Commission said the agency was made aware of a terror threat investigation early the previous day, but noted that it had no specifics attached.

Brad Ross said that as a precaution a "vigilance notice" was issued to all staff encouraging them to say something if they saw something of concern. He said such notices are commonly issued after security incidents around the world or if the TTC is advised of threats closer to home.

He added the information the TTC was given Wednesday was "very general about a credible threat that was being investigated by police but it had no location, it didn't even say a city as far as I know."

A spokeswoman for Metrolinx, the Ontario government agency which runs the Greater Toronto Area's regional transit lines, says it was also advised of a security threat.

Anne Marie Aikins says the agency raised its level of vigilance and worked closely with national, provincial and local forces in response.

In tiny Strathroy, a neighbour of Driver's said he couldn't recall ever seeing the man around town. But he said Wednesday's incident - and the discovery that a terror suspect lived only a stone's throw away - hit "a little too close to home."

"For me, having two kids and my wife and a possible terrorist ... sympathizer down the street, it's kind of ... it's a little crazy."

Neighbours reported hearing a loud explosion and gunshots during the police operation, which included swat teams, a bomb squad, the RCMP and Canada's military

special operations forces.

Last year, federal authorities were so suspicious Driver might have ties to a terrorist group that he bounced in and out of jails and courtrooms for months, all without any actual charges ever being laid - and he had no criminal record at the time.

In June 2015, Driver was first picked up in Winnipeg. Published reports at the time suggested Driver posted messages on social media that praised terrorist activities, including the attack on Parliament Hill in October 2014 by Michael Zehaf Bibeau.

Amarnath Amarasingam, a post-doctoral fellow at Dalhousie University who studies radicalization and terrorism, maintained in 2015 that Driver posted for several months on social media about disliking Canada and about a desire to move overseas.

## **BLUE LINKS**

### **Advertisers Directory**

**Learn more about these Canadian  
Law Enforcement suppliers at  
[www.BlueLine.ca](http://www.BlueLine.ca)**

247Security Inc.  
911 Gear  
Accident Support Services Int'  
American Military University  
Artcal Graphics  
Blue Line  
Central Michigan University  
Colt Canada  
Commissionaires  
Cornerstone Mediation  
Dalhousie University  
Fisher Space Pen  
Ford Fleet  
Georgian College  
Gray Jay Leather  
Heroes Are Human  
Humber College  
IPA  
MD Charlton Co.  
Mechanix Wear  
Missing Children  
Mitsubishi  
Momentum Watch  
MPPAC  
Osgoode Professional Devel.  
Panasonic  
P & R Infrared  
Pride in Service  
Priority Dispatch  
Smith & Wesson  
Target Sports  
Teel Technologies Canada  
Toronto Police Chief's Gala  
Travers Communications  
Triform  
Valley Pacific Investigations  
William Scully Ltd.  
Wolverine Supplies  
Wolverine Worldwide / Bates  
Zoll Medical