

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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TORONTO - For six years, he served as Chief of the largest municipal police service in the country.

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Doctors call for under-21 pot ban



Sep 07 2016

OTTAWA - Canada’s doctors are calling for strict limits on legalized pot smoking, saying the minimum age should be 21 and amounts and potency of products sold to those under 25 should be tightly controlled, the Star has learned.

In a brief for a federal task force studying the legalization of marijuana, the Canadian Medical Association does not support or oppose legalization, but makes a range of go-slow recommendations. It urges more

money be spent on research, medical and social services for addictions treatment, a ban on home cultivation, a ban on smoking non-medical marijuana in public places, and pilot projects before a full national rollout of legalized marijuana.

Several of its concerns will find high-profile support from Canada’s police chiefs.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police is recommending in a private submission to the task force a uniform minimum legal pot-smoking age across Canada, leaving the age designation to health professionals. The



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police chiefs also oppose home cultivation, and say a lot more money needs to be spent on training officers and developing an efficient and effective roadside drug impairment detection device.

The police chiefs' submission, like the CMA's, raises big red flags for the Liberal government as it inches closer toward overhauling Canada's drug laws.

The CMA says "ideally" the minimum pot-smoking age should be 25. It says scientific evidence shows the brain is still developing up to and beyond 25 years.

But the physicians' association acknowledges that is likely unrealistic.

Dr. Jeff Blackmer, who headed the CMA's policy formulation group, said in an interview that the experience of other jurisdictions that have already loosened pot laws and "the reality in terms of the implementation of this type of regime" led the doctors to settle on 21 years of age as the minimum.

"It's trying to find that balance between what the scientific evidence says and what is sort of the art of the possible," he said.

Even now, as marijuana use remains illegal, its use among youth aged 15 to 24 is double that of the general population, the CMA says.

Under a legalized system, those aged 25 and older are likely to share with their underage friends and so the physicians' group is calling for regulations that would mandate lower maximum purchase levels and lower THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the active ingredient) levels in product sold to those under 25.

Blackmer said public health concerns must be at the heart of any new legal regime because data shows nine per cent of marijuana smokers will go on to develop a dependence at some point — a figure that rises to 17 per cent when an individual starts using in adolescence.

The police chiefs association won't publicly release its submission over concerns some of the content would give organized

crime a blueprint to work around.

In an exclusive interview with the Star, Gatineau Police Chief Mario Harel, CACP president, said a big concern for police leaders is law enforcement's "capacity" to deal with drug-impaired driving.

"We have to be frank, it's actually a problem — driving under the influence of different drugs and marijuana is one of them," said Harel. He said police across Canada anticipate a "big surcharge of work" when a new regime is in place.

Police now use a standard sobriety test to detect a drugged driver. Simple roadside testing devices — akin to roadside breathalyzers used to detect alcohol impairment — are still in development and haven't been approved under Canadian law for police use.

"We need those tools to be efficient on the side of the road so we can process people rapidly to shorten the time that their liberty is limited on the side of the road. You don't want to be an hour and a half on the side of the road to do those sobriety tests," he said.

The other issue is that training is costly. Officers certified as drug recognition experts must be specially trained — in the United States — an expensive exercise, said Harel. Quebec and Vancouver are working on training programs, and the CACP says proper police training should be certified and anchored in Canada.

Harel said the CACP — which in 2013 supported a decriminalization or "ticketing" option for simple possession of marijuana — will also not take a position for or against legalization but said it will work with the government to ensure public safety.

"We're not policy-makers. We're there to apply the law. We're there to ensure the safety of the community and if the community decided that it was okay to legalize marijuana — well, our job is to apply the law, and to ensure the safety of the public."

The police chiefs' written brief is to be submitted shortly. Meanwhile, the deadline for Canadians to provide opinions to the federal task force passed last week.

The task force received nearly 30,000 submissions, via an online consultation page, emails, or written briefs.

Now it's up to the nine members appointed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to make sense of the morass and to report by the end of November.

The briefs have not been publicly posted on the federal government's website.

Canada's pharmacists recommend the federal government should designate local drugstores as the best option to manage and dispense medical marijuana. They didn't endorse any particular option for recreational pot, but are concerned about the lack of clinical oversight of medical pot in a relaxed regime. There are some 9,750 community pharmacies in Canada along with 285 hospital pharmacies.

The CMA opposes the idea of having pharmacies distribute medical marijuana, saying it "could lend it credibility as a pharmaceutical medication, whereas placing it in

liquor stores would send the message that it needs strict and formal controls."

(Toronto Star)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

Sep 01 2016

DELTA, B.C. - A British Columbia police chief says it's a miracle that no one died after nine people overdosed within a 20-minute period on what are believed to be drugs laced with fentanyl.

Emergency crews responded to a series of calls Thursday morning from four locations in Delta, where recreational drug users thought they were using cocaine.

Delta police chief Neil Dubord says first responders used the overdose-reversing drug naloxone and that one man had to be revived after going into cardiac arrest.

In an online video, Dubord says every time people use drugs for fun they're pulling the trigger in a dangerous game of Russian roulette.

The overdoses come less than a day after Vancouver Coastal Health Authority released data showing the vast majority of street drugs that have been inspected at its supervised injection site, Insite, contain fentanyl.

Statistics show the number of deaths in B.C. between Jan. 1 and June 30 where fentanyl was detected has leapt to 238, a 250-per-cent increase over the same period last year.

Statistics show the number of deaths in B.C. between Jan. 1 and June 30 where fentanyl was detected has leapt to 238, a 250-per-cent increase over the same time span in 2015.

Western Canada has borne the brunt of the country's fentanyl crisis, but earlier this week a coalition of Ontario police and community groups warned of a worsening situation in that province with record levels of "bootleg" fentanyl seizures and the emergence of various synthetic varieties of the drug.

Sep 01 2016

VICTORIA - Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps says the city's police board agrees with a court petition by suspended chief Frank Elsner and believes an investigation into his conduct by the province's police complaint commissioner should be quashed.

Chief Elsner was suspended earlier this year, after the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner revealed it had ordered its third investigation into his conduct. Those investigations are ongoing.

He publicly apologized last December for sending inappropriate online messages to another officer's wife. The content of the messages has not been revealed.

The chief filed a petition in B.C. Supreme Court in March and said the first investigation — which focuses on his Twitter messages and conduct during an internal probe — should be quashed.

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK Celebrating 20 Years

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The petition argued the commissioner does not have the authority to order an external investigation for conduct that has already been investigated internally.

The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board announced on Thursday that Chief Elsner's petition will be heard in November.

Ms. Helps said the board's view that the first investigation ordered by the police-complaint commissioner should be quashed is not about backing Chief Elsner, but about supporting the board's interpretation of British Columbia's Police Act.

"It's less about the content of the investigation and more about the process. We followed the Police Act and we think the Police Act should be upheld, and we think that the way we proceeded did that."

Ms. Helps and Barbara Desjardins, the mayor of Esquimalt and police board co-chair, have been criticized for initially telling reporters that the chief was not being investigated internally. The investigation had actually just wrapped up. Critics have argued that the board's response was misleading, but Ms. Helps has said it was limited in what it could reveal about a personnel issue.

Ms. Desjardins's affidavit said once the internal investigation concluded, she and Ms. Helps determined that a letter of reprimand would be placed in Chief Elsner's personnel file.

Ms. Helps said Thursday that the board's view is one of principle. "What the board wants to see resolved is what is the ambit of the OPCC in relation to this provision of the Police Act, where there's an internal investigation that's already been concluded," she said.

The mayor said she is curious to see "whether the OPCC can indeed, according to a judge, say, 'Okay, well that happened, but it doesn't matter, we're going to do another process anyway.'"

"That's really what's at stake," she said, "not the content of the initial disciplinary finding."

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner declined to comment on the mayor's remarks and has yet to file its response to Chief Elsner's court petition. Ms. Helps and Ms. Desjardins are also listed along with the OPCC as respondents in the case, though the police board itself is not.

The parties are to return to court on Sept. 30, when Chief Elsner will apply to seal the content of the Twitter messages and the internal investigation report. His petition is to be heard over four days in mid-November by B.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson.

The first two investigations ordered by the police complaint commissioner, Stan Lowe, are scheduled to conclude by Sept. 16. The third is set for late October. The second investigation ordered by the police complaint commissioner focuses on allegations of workplace harassment.

The third investigation will examine whether Chief Elsner tried to influence investigations into his conduct by attempting to procure a false statement from a potential

witness. Mr. Lowe has said the investigation will also examine whether the chief tried to delete e-mails from a department archive.

The allegations, which have not been proven, are being investigated by members of the RCMP and the Vancouver Police Department.

Chief Elsner took over the Victoria department in January, 2014, after four years as police chief in Sudbury. His online biography said he had more than 30 years of experience, including time with the RCMP and the Ontario Provincial Police.

(Globe and Mail)

Sep 01 2016

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department is partnering with the Children of the Street Society to educate kids about sexting and to help them understand the emotional and psychological consequences.

It is an expansion of a 2015 pilot project.

The VPD's youth justice programs coordinator Amy Powter says the program is necessary, as sexting is a fairly significant issue for youths aged 12 to 17.

The program recruits teens who have reported being victimized, those "caught" sexting, or anyone else referred by the school liaison officer.

Small groups of around six young people have conversations around topics like legal and social consequences, healthy relationships and safety.

"We don't share personal stories, and

keep the groups quite small," Powter says. "We have open, honest conversations about what's going on in youth culture."

Girls and boys are separated, Powter explains, as sexting affects them in different ways.

But Powter says the boys — during a pilot project — were just as open as the girls about how sexting affects them.

"That was good for me to hear, because I had some preconceived notions of the boys demanding these photos and pressuring the girls, and that really wasn't the case."

Parents also attend the workshops, but they are separated into a different room where they learn about sexting, youth culture, and how to talk to their kids about setting boundaries.

(CBC News)

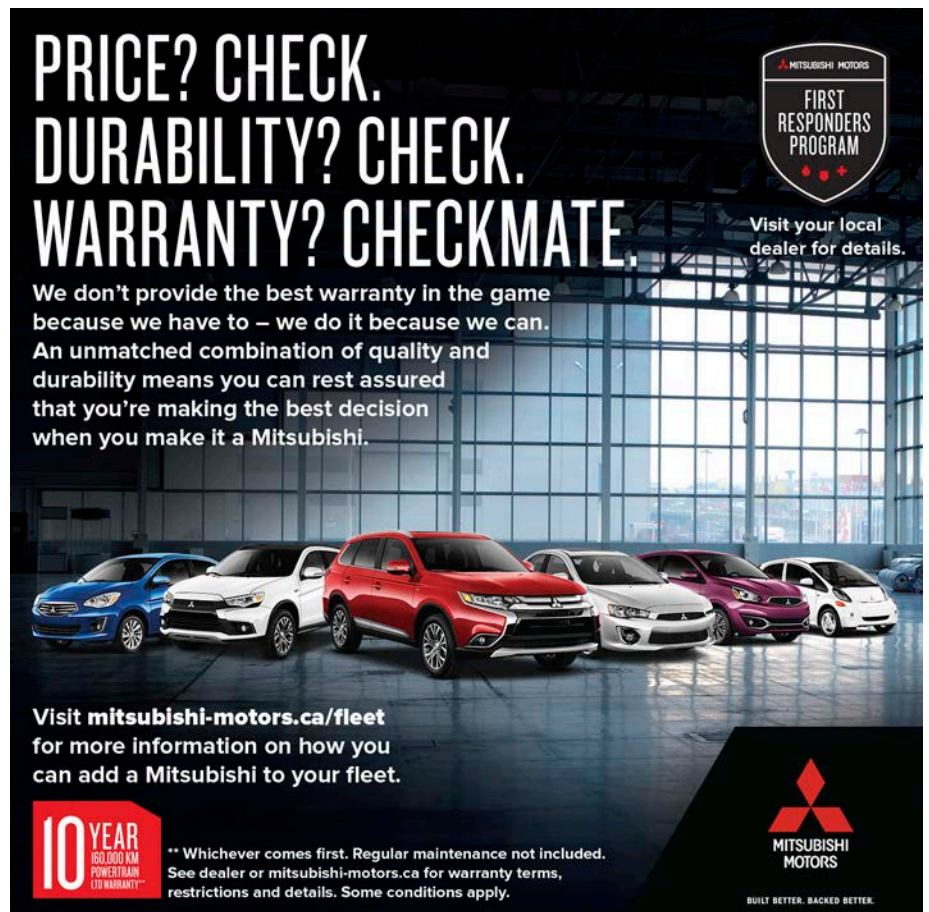
Sep 01 2016

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police have deployed a permanent traffic enforcement team to patrol for "reckless" road behaviour from those who aren't behind the wheel — such as cyclists, pedestrians and skateboarders.

Acting Sgt. Brian Montague said the Targeted Enforcement Team began operating on July 6 and has already written 300 tickets - issuing the same number of warnings.

Temporary enforcement blitzes have been conducted in the past on pedestrians and cyclists, but the new team will be a permanent fixture.

"The majority of traffic complaints aren't about drivers, they're about cyclists and



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pedestrians. These are officers that are going to, through education and enforcement, deal with some of those problems, especially some of the individuals we deal with over and over again," Montague said.

"It's a cyclist who rides on the road, up on the sidewalk, back on the road, across multiple lanes of traffic, through red lights - it's not hard to find cyclists that ride like that. And it unfortunately paints all cyclists, it gives them a bad name."

For pedestrians, Montague said they are looking for jaywalkers.

While non-vehicle road users who break the rules are more likely to hurt themselves, Montague said the department wants to crack down on these offences due to how they aggravate other road users into stupid behaviour.

"Which leads to road rage, which sometimes leads to threats, physical assaults, damage to vehicles. It can escalate quite quickly when it comes to road rage," he said.

"We see road rage all the time — it's prompted by drivers, cyclists and pedestrians that aren't following the rules, aren't courteous, and think they're more important than anyone else."

The officers, who will be working on foot and on bicycles, are expected to target traffic hotspots. As part of their duties, they'll also be on the lookout for engineering-related issues that could cause road conflict.

"Poorly designed areas that have been referred to the city for attention ... Maybe it's as simple as having the city trim a tree for better visibility. It might not always be the cyclists' fault," Montague said.

(24 Hours Vancouver)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

Sep 02 2016

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Service (CPS) said it's very cognizant of concerns expressed by members in the 2015 Calgary Police Commission (CPC) internal employee survey and has taken steps towards improvement.

On Wednesday, Metro reported on a survey conducted into member satisfaction showing that roughly half (49 per cent) of respondents disagreed that morale at CPS was 'good', an increase of 12 per cent over a similar 2014 survey.

Supt. Nina Vaughan said the service has addressed the results by initially finding out what drove the declines in many of the force's satisfaction rankings.

"First thing we did was present all of these results to our senior leaders and talk about ways to improve engagement and help them understand what that means so they knew where the areas of concern were for our employees," she said.

Vaughan said leadership and workload were among the factors impacting morale.

One of the ways Vaughan said CPS re-

sponded by beefing up frontline staffing, adding 48 officers to the frontline and redeploying 43 officers back to the frontline from other positions.

The superintendent said a new policy has also been instituted around tenure and how much time officers have to work on the frontlines before they can specialize.

Officers must now work on the frontlines for five years before transfer to a specialty area. There's also now a tenure policy that rotates people through specialty areas more frequently to give frontline officers greater access to opportunities.

"We're bringing the expertise from those areas back to the street," Vaughan said.

In addition, Vaughan said the service is addressing leadership concerns. The survey showed that 50 per cent of respondents disagreed that actions and directions of senior leaders indicated that CPS cared about employees — an increase of 10 per cent over 2014 numbers.

"We have an entire leadership training program that has three different levels that employees can go through," she said. "Leadership is evolving in terms of what people want in a leader and so we're always trying to make sure that those leadership development opportunities exist and that they're relevant and timely."

(Metro Calgary)

Sep 02 2016

WINNIPEG - Police in Winnipeg have been cleared in the suicide of a man who was suspected of killing his wife.

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba says officers acted appropriately when they tried to pull over Kevin Runke south of the city last November.

Runke was wanted for questioning after his wife, Camille, was killed three days earlier near her workplace.

Runke's car veered off into a wooded area while police were following him.

After calling for backup, officers found Runke dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound in his car.

The police watchdog concluded Runke shot himself while driving and police were not to blame.

Sep 02 2016

QUEBEC CITY - A high-ranking official with Quebec's provincial police force has been suspended from his job as a director and assigned to administrative tasks as a result of an investigation by the province's anti-corruption squad, UPAC.

Jean Cowan is director of the Sûreté du Québec's eastern district and his suspension was confirmed by the force's communications department.

The eastern district consists of Quebec City, Chaudière-Appalaches, Lower St. Lawrence and the Gaspé-Magdalen Islands regions.

Cowan was working at the SQ's deputy director general's office and was based in Quebec City.

"He was a high-ranking director," former SQ officer François Doré said. "He had a very important position in the Sûreté du Québec."

Doré said Cowan was one of the SQ's most experienced officers.

The SQ referred all inquiries on the suspension to UPAC, but UPAC spokeswoman Anne-Frédéric Laurence said there is nothing the unit can say about the investigation at this point.

"We need to let the investigators do their work," she said.

(CBC News)

Sep 02 2016

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Mass. - State police in Chattanooga, Tennessee, have been known to patrol in a tractor-trailer so they can sit up high and spot drivers texting behind the wheel.

In Bethesda, Maryland, a police officer disguised himself as a homeless man, stood near a busy intersection and radioed ahead to officers down the road about texting drivers. In two hours last October, police gave out 56 tickets.

And in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, south of Boston, an officer regularly tools around town on his bicycle, pedals up to drivers at stoplights and hands them \$105 tickets.

Texting while driving in the U.S. is not just a dangerous habit, but also an infuriatingly widespread one, practiced both brazenly and surreptitiously by so many motorists that police are being forced to get creative — and still can't seem to make much headway.

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"It's everyone, kids, older people — everyone. When I stop someone, they say, 'You're right. I know it's dangerous, but I heard my phone go off and I had to look at it,'" said West Bridgewater Officer Matthew Monteiro.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates nearly 3,500 people were killed in crashes involving distracted drivers in the mainland U.S. and Puerto Rico in 2015, up from almost 3,200 in 2014. The number of deaths in which cellphones were the distraction rose from 406 in 2014 to 476 in 2015.

But many safety advocates say crashes involving cellphones are vastly underreported because police are forced to rely on what they are told by drivers, many of whom aren't going to admit they were using their phones.

Forty-six states have laws against texting while driving that typically also ban sending or reading email, using apps or engaging in other internet activity. Fourteen states bar drivers from using hand-held cellphones for any activity, including talking.

Sep 02 2016

OTTAWA - Ottawa police have a new set of eyes on the road — one that can register 5,000 licence plates an hour.



Last week, police rolled out their first cruiser equipped with Automatic Licence Plate Recognition. The infrared camera mounted on top of the cruiser registers a license plate every second, feeds it into a database and then flags illegal drivers.

The 6-month pilot project is using the technology to target everything from suspended drivers to suspects.

"We were out for an hour and we caught two suspended drivers, one of whom was uninsured and had a validation marker which expired in 2015," Sgt. Robert Cairns of the Ottawa Police Service told CTV Ottawa during a test drive.

"It specifically looked for suspended drivers under the Highway Traffic Act. It will look for disqualified drivers under the criminal code. It will also notify us of wanted persons."

Ottawa police said that licence plate information will be deleted immediately if it doesn't show up in their data base. But if the radar flags the licence plate, it will stay in the system for five years.

The technology has been used by the OPP but Ottawa hopes to have more cruisers of their own after this pilot project. The cameras cost \$40,000 and are funded through Ottawa's safer roads program.

"This will produce revenue however the sole primary reason this was purchased or acquired by the Ottawa police service was road safety," said Cairns.

(CTV News)

Sep 02 2016

The number of restricted guns in Canada shot up 9.5 per cent last year, bringing the number of restricted firearms registered across the country to its highest point in more than a decade.

Since 2004, the number of restricted firearms such as semi-automatic rifles and handguns in Canada has doubled.

According to the latest report of Canada's Commissioner of Firearms, there were 795,854 restricted firearms registered to Canadian owners in 2015 compared with 384,888 in 2004.

The sharpest increase in 2015 was in Ontario, where the number of restricted firearms rose 14.8 per cent to 294,838. Ontario had nearly twice as many restricted guns as Alberta, where the total rose 7.9 per cent to 162,403. Ontario has about 12.8 million residents, to Alberta's 3.6 million.

The third largest number of restricted firearms was in British Columbia, where a 6.2 per cent rise brought the number to 144,725.

Increases in other provinces varied across the country:

- Newfoundland and Labrador: 11 per cent
- Nova Scotia: 4.5 per cent
- Prince Edward Island: 4.3 per cent
- New Brunswick: 5.7 per cent
- Quebec: 7.7 per cent
- Manitoba: 3.4 per cent
- Saskatchewan: 6.9 per cent
- Yukon: 7 per cent
- Northwest Territories: 5.9 per cent
- Nunavut: 11.5 per cent

The number of prohibited firearms in Canada declined by 1.78 per cent.

(CBC News)

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

Sep 03 2016

LLOYDMINSTER - Lloydminster RCMP hopes it has reversed a spike in crime with the arrest of one man.

"We are confident in saying we will see a decrease in our auto thefts, fuel-related thefts and break and enters," said Const. Grant Kirzinger with the Lloydminster RCMP.

An upswing in thefts of vehicles and break and enters to businesses in August was first brought to the attention of officers through high-level data analysis and information from the forensic identification section.

With this sophisticated analysis, investigators were able to close 24 investigations with the arrest of one Lloydminster man, who is accused of being in possession of three stolen cars as well as stolen licence plates and fuel.

Bradley Ham, 50, was arrested in Lloydminster on Aug. 25 and faces 27 charges including break and enter, possession of property obtained by crime, theft and driving while disqualified.

"Nobody likes to be a victim, so whenever we are able to find solutions and answers for them it's definitely rewarding," said Kirzinger.

This arrest is a success story of data-driven policing, without which Kirzinger said investigators would not have been able to link



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many of these open files together.

"It really allows us to take our investigation that extra step further to find the information we need to find the individual responsible," Kirzinger said.

The suspect had already been a part of Lloydminster RCMP's prolific offender program, where police work proactively with repeat offenders who drive high volumes of police calls in an effort to curb crime before it happens.

Officers are able to identify individuals considered prolific offenders by analyzing crime data.

"Our goal is to get individuals out of the crime cycle," said Kirzinger. "Everybody commits crime for a reason, whether it's a way of life, money, if it's motivated by addiction. Our goal inside of the prolific offender program is to sit down with these individuals, find out what it is that's driving that, and try to help them get out of that pattern."

Edmonton police have seen the benefits of this kind of policing through their own Heavy Users of Service program.

In the first pilot of the program, police used data analysis to identify 50 individuals who often run afoul of the law for complex reasons, including chronic poverty, addiction or issues related to mental health.

By partnering 15 individuals with teams from social services agencies, officers were able to see those calls for service drop significantly.

In one case alone, a man who once generated 186 interactions with police officers in 2013 interacted with police on only 15 occasions in 2015, with an officer acknowledging five of those latest interactions were positive.

In a recent interview with media, Edmonton police chief Rod Knecht said Edmonton police are looking to build a real-time crime centre that would further support intelligence-led policing.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

Sep 04 2016

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg Police are looking for a missing Taser they believe was stolen during a confrontation between officers and a group blocking their way to help an injured man.

Police say two officers were in the process of breaking up a fight and helping a critically injured man early on Saturday morning when they were attacked.

One of the officers used his Taser during the struggle and ended up dropping the device. They could not locate the weapon when they returned later.

Const. Jay Murray called the situation "very alarming."

He said officers faced an "unruly" crowd of about 100 people when they tried to help the man.

"Most of the time you trust that the crowd will be respectful and acknowledge

that someone is hurt and needs first aid," he said.

Police warn that the device could be inadvertently set off in someone's pocket due to a build-up of static electricity.

No arrests have been made in connection with the fight.

(CTV News)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2016

Sep 05 2016

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg Police Service currently expects a \$6.5-million budget shortfall this year, triggering a call for the city to better control some labour costs.

A second-quarter financial update reveals rising salary and pension costs and a revenue decline are key factors fuelling the shortfall. The projection also takes place during a year when city council had required police to find \$1.45 million of savings after the budget process wound up.

"It's always a concern when you see the gap growing ... It is a big gap to close but I'll be looking forward to the third-quarter report," said Coun. Scott Gillingham.

Much of the shortfall can be blamed on a \$3.7-million cost hike to the city's portion of police pensions, after an actuarial analysis unexpectedly determined these were underfunded.

Salary costs are currently up 7.1% this year, due to collective agreement increases.

Gillingham said the report shows a need for the city to focus on salary and pension pressures, since salary costs make up 83.35% of the 2016 police budget and that share is expected to grow in the future.

"This round of collective bargaining needs to address overtime as pension earnings and the rate of salary increases over the past few years," said Gillingham.

The councillor also believes the city should set target outcomes for the next round of collective agreement negotiations, which are set to begin in late fall. He hopes that could trigger an outcome the cash-strapped city can better afford.

Gillingham stressed his comments on union negotiations reflect his role as city councillor and not as chair of the Winnipeg Police Board, since that board doesn't negotiate collective agreements.

The Winnipeg Police Association union, however, argues the city created the pension woes when it drew out surpluses worth millions of dollars from the fund years ago.

President Moe Sabourin said his union is always willing to negotiate but the city's budget demands can't come at the cost of fair compensation for its members.

"We know citizens want to be safe and the job is very dangerous and we deserve fair compensation for that," said Sabourin.

Meanwhile, a decline in photo traffic enforcement revenues is blamed as a key driver

of a \$3.75-million police revenue drop from the first six months of 2015.

But some budget relief is expected once other government grants are paid out. Police overtime costs are also down 6.4% so far and a fall recruit class has been deferred.

The report cautions, however, that the current overtime tab doesn't account for service-call increases that tend to occur during the summer.

Winnipeg Police could not immediately be reached for comment about the report this weekend.

(Winnipeg Sun)

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

Sep 06 2016

ORILLIA, Ont. - Provincial police say the data is preliminary, but they're calling the Labour Day long weekend the deadliest in OPP-patrolled jurisdictions in 20 years.

They report 12 road fatalities — including four in one collision in northeastern Ontario — one marine fatality and one off-road vehicle death during the long weekend.

OPP say they conducted a distracted driving campaign over the long weekend and used social media to call on all road users, particularly passengers, to become part of the solution in reducing the distracted driving-related road deaths.

In spite of these efforts, officers laid close to 800 distracted or inattentive driving charges against motorists during the Labour Day weekend.

It says the campaign brings the total number of distracted driving charges laid to date this year to more than 8,800.

Sep 06 2016

BOSTON - Boston's police commissioner squared off in court Tuesday with the leader of the city's largest police union over a plan to have 100 officers wear body cameras, as lawyers for each side accused the other of having "unclean hands" in a long-simmering dispute over police accountability.

A pilot program was scheduled to start last week. But after no officers volunteered, Commissioner William Evans ordered 100 officers to wear the cameras. That prompted the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association to ask a judge to issue an injunction to halt the program until a new agreement can be negotiated.

Union President Patrick Rose testified Tuesday that the city violated its agreement with the union when Evans assigned officers to what was supposed to be an all-volunteer program. Rose acknowledged that he told members not to volunteer for the program before the union had reached an agreement with the city. But he insisted that once the agreement was reached, he encouraged officers to volunteer.

"We know we're going to have cameras on ... all I ever looked for was an agreement that took care of the things we wanted to take care of," Rose said.

Kay Hodge, a lawyer for the city, suggested that the union deliberately failed to encourage its members to volunteer for the program.

"We believe the union is here with unclean hands," she said.

Union attorney Susan Horwitz used the same phrase when referring to the city. "Talk about unclean hands," she said, referring to the decision by Evans to order officers to wear cameras.

Evans said he wants the program to begin next week and believes it's within his authority as police commissioner to order officers to wear the cameras. He said renegotiating with the union and soliciting volunteers at this point "will only further delay the start of the program."

Judge Douglas Wilkins did not immediately rule on the union's injunction request.

Sep 06 2016

SAANICH - Parents have been known to breathe a sigh of relief when school gets back in session, but these moms went maybe a bit too far with the puffing.



A Vancouver Island mother pulled over for speeding in a school zone Tuesday morning admitted she'd shared a joint with the other moms in the car, telling police they were celebrating getting the kids out of their hair after a long summer.

When the officer smelled smoke emanating from the car near Marigold Elementary and Spectrum Secondary in Saanich, she readily fessed up to smoking some pot with the other women before getting behind the wheel.

"As soon as she rolled down the window it was pretty evident that the people in that car, or the driver herself, had been smoking a joint prior to being stopped," Sgt. John Price told CTV Vancouver Island.

"She did admit to smoking a joint, and tried to excuse it away by saying her and some of the other moms this morning had a celebratory joint, celebrating that the kids were back in school."

She was not cited for impaired driving after a drug recognition expert said she wasn't stoned enough to warrant charges, but police warned it's still illegal to drive while high.

Police have stepped up enforcement in school zones across the province as classes resume this week.

(Vancouver Sun)

Sep 06 2016

CALGARY - A Calgary school bus driver was handed a \$185 ticket Tuesday morning for speeding through a playground zone.

Sgt. Paul Stacey of the Calgary police traffic division said the driver, who was believed to be transporting a busload of kindergarten students, was driving 52 km/h in the 30 km/h zone.

"Their No. 1 priority, of course, is the transportation of the kids, and where do you have to be the most careful? In the playground zones and, especially, around the schools," he said.

Stacey said officers were monitoring the speed of drivers in the playground zone when the driver was ticketed.

He noted two school bus drivers were

also handed tickets in playground zones last year during the first week of school.

(Calgary Herald)

Sep 06 2016

Suspected gang members shot down a helicopter in a clash with police in restive western Mexico on Tuesday, killing four people, the governor of the state of Michoacan said.

Silvano Aureoles said on Twitter that the operation took place near the violent city of Apatzingan, in Michoacan, and was aimed at detaining "leaders of criminal cells". It was not immediately clear which gang was responsible.

"During the operation, an official helicopter which was supporting the patrol in

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area of difficult access was shot down," he said. "We lament the death of the pilot, three police officers and a police officer who was injured."

Last year, members of the Jalisco New Generation cartel, which operates in Michoacan and in the neighboring state of Jalisco, shot down an army helicopter, killing six soldiers.

Michoacan has one of the highest murder rates in Mexico after being overrun with drug gangs and armed vigilante groups. (Reuters)

Sep 06 2016

OTTAWA - The RCMP will not launch any further criminal investigations into the remaining Senate expense files, officially closing the book on one of this decade's biggest political scandals without a conviction.

Sources say the Mounties have reviewed 30 cases of current and former senators which were flagged by Auditor General Michael Ferguson in his June, 2015, report and decided none warrant a criminal investigation.

The decision comes after Senator Mike Duffy, the only member of the Senate whose case made it to trial, was exonerated last April on 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery relating to his Senate spending. He has since returned to work.

A source close to the RCMP files cited lack of evidence and said it was no longer in the public interest to pursue investigations.

The Mounties also shut down their nearly three-year investigation into Senator Pamela Wallin in May without laying charges, and fraud and breach of trust charges against Senator Patrick Brazeau were withdrawn in July. Both are now back in the Senate.

Mr. Ferguson's comprehensive audit, which spanned two years and flagged nearly \$1-million in expenses, named nine current or former senators whose files were referred to the RCMP, as well as 21 with questionable spending. But the Mounties took a look at all 30 of them to determine which investigations, if any, to pursue. (Globe and Mail)

Sep 06 2016

WAWA - Provincial police say they expect to lay charges in connection with a fatal single vehicle collision near Wawa, Ont. Monday morning.

Four male passengers were killed when a vehicle struck a rock cut along Highway 17 near Catfish Lake and then burst into flames. The driver was taken to hospital with minor injuries and has since been released, according to the OPP.

On Tuesday, police spokesperson Const. Levis Brousseau told CBC News all four of the victims are from Manitoba, but their names still haven't been released.

Brousseau confirmed that alcohol was not a factor in the crash, and police are still investigating the cause. (CBC News)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

Sep 07 2016

WINNIPEG - Sexual exploitation charges have been laid against a man who Winnipeg police say had an intimate relationship with an underage girl while he was an RCMP officer.

Police say the former Mountie met the girl while he was on duty in April 2014.

The two then had an intimate relationship, which lasted until August 2014.

The Professional Standards Unit investigated and determined there were grounds for charges to be laid.

The 33-year-old man turned himself in to police on Tuesday.

His name will not be released to protect the identity of the alleged victim.

The man was a member of the RCMP for six years before resigning in May. (CJOB)

Sep 07 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton is the second city to join a United Nations initiative to make cities safer for women.

Mayor Don Iveson has announced Edmonton will partner with the province, women's groups and other organizations to try to address and prevent sexual violence.

He says the city is taking action so women and girls feel safe and live free of violence.

Edmonton joins Winnipeg and more than 20 other cities around the world, including New Delhi, Cairo and Kigali, Rwanda.

The UN program - launched in 2010 - has led to the inclusion of women's safety audits in urban planning in some of the cities and the banning of sexual harassment in public places in others.

Sep 07 2016

KAWARTHA LAKES - The City of Peterborough has decided the Peterborough Police Service will not provide policing services to the City of Kawartha Lakes.

At Tuesday's (Sept. 6) committee of the whole meeting, Peterborough councillors voted to let the City of Kawartha Lakes know Peterborough will not be providing an expression of interest to police their municipality.

City of Kawartha Lakes CAO Ron Taylor wrote to Peterborough city staff last month explaining Kawartha Lakes council's direction to seek expressions of interest and to start the process to consider a City-wide police service model.

In June, Kawartha Lakes council approved a motion to invite several police services to provide "an expression of interest" in policing the municipality.

The Kawartha Lakes Police Services Board, the OPP, Durham Regional Police Services Board and Peterborough Police Services were asked to consider a city-wide police service model.

The Kawartha Lakes Police Service, consisting of 40 officers and 20 civilians, provides service in Lindsay and the former Ops Township. The City of Kawartha Lakes OPP detachment, with 62 officers and eight civilians provides services to rural and isolated portions of the municipality and to smaller urban centres such as Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Omemee and Woodville.

(Kawartha Lakes This Week)

Sep 07 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police cruisers are getting a drastic makeover. The police service confirmed to CityNews the entire fleet is being renewed.



Some of the new-look squad cars are already on active duty.

While there are roof lights, the markings on those cars are stealth-like. The writing "Toronto Police," the TPS logo and the service's motto "to serve & protect" are decal in a dark colour that blends into the vehicle.

Toronto Police spokesperson Mark Pugash said a final decision on the design has not been made.

"The final product will not look like that," he told CityNews. "The cars currently on the road are not a reflection of the final design."

The new cruisers will be a stark contrast to the ones being phased out — which are bright white with a blue and red stripe across the side.

Toronto Police said there is no additional cost to the public but Pugash wouldn't answer why the service is making the change.

There has been no word on how many cars are currently in service or when the entire fleet will be changed.

"Sooner rather than later," Pugash said on the timeline.

According to a tweet by Coun. Norm Kelly, the entire TPS fleet will be dark grey going forward.

Toronto Police won't confirm the information on the vehicle's colour in the Ward 40 councillor's tweet but Pugash said "they will not be white."

Up until the early 1960s Toronto Police cruisers were all unmarked and were various colours. They were then painted bright yellow. Those cars were replaced in 1986 with the white ones.

(City News)

Sep 07 2016

It took nearly a year, but Mounties in Stettler, Alta., say they got their Santa.

Police announced Wednesday they had made an arrest in relation to the robbery of Wares Jewelers last Christmas Eve.

The unusual crime saw the culprit,

dressed in a full Kris Kringle costume, walk into the retailer, pull out a gun, demand precious gems and then take off in a Hummer.

The suspect then ditched the massive SUV for an older model truck and fled, but not before the truck was caught by a security camera, police said.

Mounties released images of both getaway vehicles in late December and put out a public plea for help in locating the bad Santa.

A 31-year-old man from Medicine Hat now faces numerous charges. He is due in court on Sept. 22.

Stettler is about 220 kilometres northeast of Calgary.

(CBC News)

Sep 07 2016

Vacancies within the RCMP's rural Saskatchewan detachments may be far higher than top brass say.

Speaking on John Gormley Live Wednesday morning, Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada Media Liaison Rob Creasser said the staffing situation is far more desperate.

He noted in conversations with members of 'F' Division, it's been suggested the vacancy rate could be as high as 25 per cent.

According to several members who have contacted CKOM, the understaffing has resulted in constant on-call shifts and long response times when covering large areas.

A letter to the newsroom from one member claimed that on Aug. 19, there was only one officer patrolling the regional municipalities surrounding Saskatoon.

"Many people have no idea how desperate things are in the RCMP right now," Creasser said. "I believe the RCMP is at risk of absolutely imploding unless we get a handle on this, and we do it soon."

In an interview with Gormley last week, Supt. Kris Vibe said the official vacancy rate in the force was four per cent.

He noted this doesn't include officers on leave, desk duty, disability, or on maternity leave.

For those absences, there is a five-member relief team that can be deployed based on need.

But Creasser, a former mountie himself, said the version provided by Vibe is the "company line."

He said even though women have been allowed in the RCMP since 1974, there's still no policy on filling vacancies for when female members go on maternity leave.

Asked why this has been allowed to continue, Creasser said the threat of discipline for members has prevented them from speaking out.

"It's in the RCMP code of conduct," he said. "If you come out and publicly criticize the organization or government, you could be disciplined up to and including dismissal."

Creasser added there's been a lack of accountability, beginning with the practice of management acting as staff representatives, a practice that was deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada last year.

There have also been years where the

RCMP has returned money to the federal government, dollars that haven't been used to fill vacancies.

He said it's up to Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale to ensure the money is being spent correctly.

"When he was in opposition he was very critical of the Harper government," Creasser said.

"He has the ability to make sure contracts are filled, and if they're not filled, hold somebody accountable for that."

He says the problem has gone unsolved for too long, and needs to be addressed now.

"We have a huge uphill battle," he said. "And the only way we can change that is by informing the public about our workplace."

"And it's not a pretty picture."

(CKOM)

Sep 07 2016

The idea of sharing equipment and services between police in Hamilton and Niagara is off to a rocky start — but that hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of board chairs for the project.

Last month there was some hope the state-of-the-art forensic lab at the new Niagara Regional Police headquarters in Niagara Falls could be used by both services, but Hamilton's police services board went in the other direction.

Following a unanimous vote at its most recent meeting, the Hamilton board decided to construct its own investigative services building. The board asked Hamilton city council for permission to borrow \$14 million of the \$24-million cost. A committee will consider the request Sept. 21.

"Sharing forensic services wasn't a great idea," Hamilton Police Services Board chair Lloyd Ferguson said. "You need it when you need it - and it is continuously used."

"Driving from Hamilton down to Stanley Avenue didn't make a lot of sense, so our board approved a forensic hub, called the Investigative Services Building."

Similarly, Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire threw some cold water on the idea of sharing an armoured truck - or what police call a tactical rescue vehicle. Niagara doesn't have one. Hamilton does.

Niagara police have asked for their own in the 2017 capital budget. It would cost about \$300,000.

Niagara police board chair Bob Gale is on record as being concerned about the impact on the police budget.

"We have talked about sharing one with Hamilton or with Buffalo if we need it," Gale said. "We will have to ask the chief to show us where he has needed it in the past."

"It isn't just the cost of the equipment. There is also training. There is also maintenance."

Ferguson said the concept of sharing services isn't dead.

The Hamilton police board passed a resolution (at the same meeting when they voted to build its own forensics complex) directing their chief, the deputy chief, the chair and vice-

chair meet with their counterparts in Niagara to explore sharing services and equipment.

The belief is sharing can help the services address gaps and save money by pooling skills and procuring equipment together.

Ferguson said there is already a fair bit of sharing going on between Hamilton and Niagara.

He said Niagara has borrowed the armoured truck on occasion.

"They called up and asked for it, and we sent it down," Ferguson said.

"I'm told Niagara has some wiretapping equipment that's very new. We either have to get that equipment ourselves or outsource it. We will explore that further when we meet."

"In talking to the Niagara chair, another example is the use of our mounted unit. We have six horses. We could trundle them down if there was a search-and-rescue or a ceremonial event and they needed them."

Ferguson said a date for a meeting hadn't been set.

"We are trying to line up our schedules," he said. "We have eight very busy people. The administrators are working it out."

Gale said he would probably want a larger contingent at the meeting.

"I feel we need elected officials at the meeting," Gale said. "It's the taxpayer's money. We probably watch it better than the police and appointed officials. It's not always the case, but more often than not it is."

"They tend to want to build up their force as much as possible. That's natural, but we have to start sharing some of these things."

"We can't afford some of this stuff. That's why we need some elected councillors at the meeting. I can't just have police and some appointed officials."

(St. Catharines Standard)

Sep 07 2016

VANCOUVER - A British Columbia couple found guilty of masterminding a terrorist plot but then freed when a judge ruled they had been entrapped by police are still a danger to the public, a Crown lawyer says.

John Nuttall and Amanda Korody appeared via video from Victoria at a Vancouver provincial court hearing on Wednesday called to consider if they should be restricted under a peace bond while their case is under appeal.

Crown counsel argued throughout the pair's lengthy criminal trial that Nuttall and Korody embraced violent extremism and repeatedly spoke about killing and maiming members of the public who didn't share their world view.

Crown lawyer Sharon Steele said the pair continue to pose a threat to the public despite their guilty verdicts being reversed. She said the conditions of the bond have yet to be finalized, but Korody's lawyer Mark Jette said they will likely resemble the bail terms now in place.

Those conditions stop Nuttall and Korody from visiting the B.C. legislature, the Canadian Forces Base in Esquimalt and any synagogue or Jewish school. They are also forbidden from having weapons and must report

regularly to a bail supervisor.

They were found guilty last year of scheming to blow up the provincial legislature in 2013, but a judge overturned the finding earlier this year, ruling that the RCMP had manipulated the pair into carrying out the bomb plot.

Speaking outside the courthouse about the peace bond application, defence lawyers said they disagreed that the provincial court had the authority to canvas an issue they believed had already been settled during the criminal trial and entrapment proceedings in B.C. Supreme Court.

"The very questions that the peace bond application is meant to address have already been answered by the judge in the trial decision," Nuttall's lawyer Marilyn Sandford said, referencing Justice Catherine Bruce's judgment from June 2015.

The peace bond hearings are scheduled to resume Jan. 5.

(Vancouver Sun)

Sep 07 2016

VANCOUVER - Tom Stamatakis, president of the Vancouver Police Union, is defending the police after Richard Rosenthal, director of the Independent Investigations Office (IIO), criticized police officers for being uncooperative.

Rosenthal, the first director of the civilian-led police oversight agency, is stepping down from the position this week.

Under his tenure, the IIO has been criticized for taking too long to complete investigations.

"We've been having challenges of late including the failure of police officers to provide us with reports from officers who are engaging in actual use of deadly force ... officers have not cooperated by being interviewed in a timely fashion, and we've had some issues where there's been some union interference," Rosenthal told the CBC's The Early Edition yesterday.

He also called on the provincial government to create official procedures for police interaction with the IIO, such as parameters around when and if officers can review video of incidents before being interviewed by IIO investigators.

On The Early Edition today, Vancouver Police Union President Tom Stamatakis disagreed with Rosenthal's comments, saying in most cases, police officers are cooperating and want to cooperate.

He argued the IIO's investigations take long because the group is disorganized.

"He's casting police in a negative light, and undeservedly so," he said.

"I think they should get their own house in order before they start to criticize police officers who are doing an excellent job in often difficult circumstances."

Stamatakis said the IIO had taken an adversarial stance with investigations, and officers were finding it difficult to work with the organization.

He argued the delays in completing investigations undermined public confidence in the police.

"Confidence is at an all-time low, and that's unfortunate because that's not in anyone's interest."

(CBC News)

Sep 07 2016

EDMONTON - After an Edmonton judge blamed federal Crown prosecutors and the Edmonton Police Service for an "extreme delay" that led to charges against an alleged drug dealer being set aside, Edmonton police argued Wednesday they need to balance their officers' privacy against their duty to disclose.

"There is a balancing that has to take place between the disclosure of police disciplinary records and the privacy interests of police officers in those employment records," Edmonton police spokesperson Patricia Thenu said in a brief written statement, adding she could not comment on specific cases.

"We strive to make the correct decision in each and every case in accordance with the guidance provided by the Supreme Court of Canada."

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Dawn Pentelchuk stayed charges against Stephen Lam, 34, as it would have been 55 months between when Lam was first charged and when his trial could have been completed, calling the delay a "clearly unreasonable" breach of his Charter right to trial within a reasonable time.

Lam was facing multiple charges, including possession of cocaine, ecstasy and marijuana for the purposes of trafficking.

Pentelchuk accused the Crown of taking a "complacent attitude" towards disclosing police disciplinary reports that had been requested by the defence, after three police officers in Lam's case were facing either disciplinary proceedings or criminal charges related to alleged steroid trafficking.

Pentelchuk said Crown prosecutors "inexplicably failed" to provide the required disclosure.

The judge said Edmonton police "did the Crown no favours" by providing inaccurate information, and - unlike other Canadian jurisdictions - has not adopted a comprehensive protocol for handing over police documents to the Crown.

These issues, coupled with delays caused by a lack of government resources needed to keep up with the current caseload in Alberta's justice system, contributed to the unacceptable delay in Lam's case, Pentelchuk said.

(Edmonton Journal)

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016**

Sep 08 2016

The recent deaths of two female cyclists in collisions with dump trucks just days apart in Montreal and Ottawa has renewed calls for Transport Canada to make side guards mandatory on heavy trucks.

Transport Canada has not recommended

the safety feature for large, heavy trucks, arguing in a 2015 report that there was "little verifiable evidence of the effectiveness of side guards." That report has not been made public.

But municipal politicians, feeling pressure from cycling advocates and other constituents to act, are asking the government to reconsider their stance.

On Wednesday, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson wrote a letter to federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau, calling on the government to make it mandatory for large trucks to have side guards - even though city staff recommended against it earlier this year.

The move comes a week after death of Nusrat Jahan, a 23 year-old student who was pinned under the back wheel of a construction truck in downtown Ottawa.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities will also vote on a motion next week to call on Transport Canada to consider mandating side guards.

The most recent collision data from Transport Canada shows that 950 "vulnerable road users" were killed in collisions with large trucks and tractor trailers between 2000 and 2013. The number of fatalities includes 617 pedestrians, 191 motorcyclists and 150 bicyclists.

Side guards are metal bars or panels mounted on the flanks of large trucks to prevent a person from falling into the gap between the front and back wheels during a collision.

Transport Canada researchers looked at studies from the U.S. and abroad, and analysed a sample of more than 80 Canadian fatalities, and concluded there was "little verifiable evidence of the effectiveness of side guards," the agency's media advisor Natasha Gauthier said in an email.

Gauthier said the research shows three quarters of fatal collisions between heavy trucks, and pedestrians and cyclists, happen in front of the vehicle, while only 22 per cent of the fatal collisions happened on the side.

(CBC News)

Sep 08 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberal government will launch the public phase of its long-awaited national security review Thursday with the release of a discussion paper.

The government has promised to repeal what it calls the problematic elements of omnibus security legislation, known as Bill C-51, ushered in by the previous Conservative government.

The Liberals also plan to introduce new measures they say will do a better job of balancing collective security with rights and freedoms.

Among other things, the government has pledged to ensure all Canadian Security Intelligence Service warrants respect the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

This could roll back new provisions allowing CSIS to disrupt terror plots through tactics that breach the charter as long as a judge approves.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale has said the government is open to an expansive revamp of national security legislation

and policy, not just the handful of promised changes.

Goodale and Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould are slated to discuss the consultation at a news conference Thursday in Edmonton.

They will release a discussion paper as well as a lengthy background document outlining national security issues.

Sep 08 2016

A Durham police officer for six months co-owned a medical marijuana company that is not licensed and offers consumers pot brownies and other products the government says are illegal to sell.

And veteran Const. Phil Edgar, who once received a commendation for numerous marijuana busts, did it with the blessing of his police force.

After the Star began asking questions, Edgar said he "stepped back" from the marijuana company - Living On Inc. - and is weighing whether he wants to continue a career of policing or branch into the budding medical weed business.

Durham Regional Police Service refused to answer questions about whether it was appropriate for an active police officer to be involved in this kind of business, and why it approved Edgar's request to co-own the medical marijuana company.

Living On is a medical marijuana company headquartered on First Nations land in Port Perry. It does not have a licence from Health Canada to sell medical pot.

Its website advertises various kinds of edible marijuana products - pot brownies, gummies, a weed-infused chocolate hazelnut spread called "Chrontella" - that are illegal to sell in Canada because the government says they pose a risk of overdose or unintentional ingestion by children.

"From my view everything Living On was doing was ethical and legal. If we're helping people, and it's all ethical and legal, then I have no problem with it," Edgar said in an interview.

According to a police board document, the Durham force received a legal opinion "that it would be required to approve" Edgar's ownership of a "marijuana dispensary."

Edgar joined Living On in December 2015 and said he filed a secondary employment request with the force around the same time.

The force said it would not discuss the issue of Edgar's request.

Until recently, Living On's website stated that the company is "licensed by Health Canada to sell and distribute marijuana for medical purposes." It has since dropped the claim from its website.

"Dispensaries and other sellers of marijuana who are not licensed under the current law are illegal," a Health Canada spokeswoman said in a statement.

Living On's website requires customers to have a medical marijuana prescription and a membership before they can begin shopping.

While the company lists edibles and

other items on its website, Living On does not actually sell medical marijuana products, said one of its co-owners, Kris Khan. Instead, he said it currently just refers customers to other companies that are actually licensed by the government to sell medical marijuana.

"We're not selling," Khan said, adding that they don't take any cut for referrals.

However, Green Penguin Delights, a B.C. company that produces edibles, told the Star that it supplies marijuana products to Living On.

Const. Edgar said his role with the company was promotional and he had nothing to do with day-to-day operations.

The officer co-owned the marijuana company with Khan and Rennie Goose.

The focus of the company, said co-owner Khan, is on developing tamper-proof vending machines that patients can use to safely buy their medical marijuana, something they could license to other companies.

Edgar said he left the company as of July 1 to avoid the unnecessary attention it was garnering from the media and others in the force.

"I have to do some serious soul searching to decide: do I stay in the policing industry or do I want to branch out into businesses like this?" he said.

(Toronto Star)

Sep 08 2016

TORONTO - For six years, he served as Chief of the largest municipal police service in the country.



Bill McCormack has died at the age of 83. He was born in 1933 and came to Canada in 1950, after serving in WWII with the British Merchant Navy.

Before making his way up the ranks to Chief, he served on the homicide squad at Toronto Police.

McCormack had five children, four of whom later became police officers. His son, Mike McCormack still serves as the head of the Toronto Police union.

He received a Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2002 and a Diamond Jubilee medal in 2013.

(CFRB)

Sep 08 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberal government says it wants to hear from Canadians about revamping national security legislation.

The government opened an online consultation today soliciting feedback on everything from preventing attacks to ensuring

intelligence agencies are accountable.

The government has promised to repeal what it calls the problematic elements of omnibus security legislation, known as Bill C-51, ushered in by the previous Conservative government.

The Liberals also plan to introduce new measures they say will do a better job of balancing collective security with rights and freedoms.

Among other things, the government has pledged to ensure all Canadian Security Intelligence Service warrants respect the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The consultation, which can be found at canada.ca/national-security-consultation, runs until Dec. 1.

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