

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Police body camera study released



Sep 15 2016

**TORONTO - Toronto police are asking for approval to outfit all frontline officers with body-worn cameras, despite reporting major issues after analyzing its year-long pilot project.**

The request to the police board comes despite the steep cost of the proposed program, which the report estimates would reach \$85 million over 10 years.

The vast majority of that money would go to storing the videos, according to Insp. Michael Barsky, the operational lead on the pilot project.

Both Mayor John Tory and Chief Mark Saunders said one of the main concerns was the amount of time officers spent dealing with the videos after their shifts an average of 39 minutes and up to two hours per shift for some officers.



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"This is clearly a major, major devotion of police resources to just managing video information and unless you spent a lot more money on a lot more police officers this is going to take away from policing in the community," Tory said.

"So these are the kinds of things we're going to have to take a very careful look at, but I am in favour of having cameras subject to resolving a lot of these issues."

Some of those issues include serious battery problems that only allowed use of the cameras for three-to-five hours per shift and the majority of officers work 10-hour shifts, Barsky said.

There was also hope that the body cameras would have a positive effect on police officers by decreasing use-of-force incidents, but there was little effect, according to the report.

But it noted officers surveyed said they felt they lost their use of discretion, which led to an increase in arrests and a decrease in warnings.

Saunders said technology has changed so quickly since they began looking into body cameras two years ago that many of these problems could be resolved.

"I think at the end of the day when we take the time necessary to get the right product that will give us the best results, I think it's going to be a win not just for law enforcement but the public as well," Saunders said.

Police forces have two general options for data storage: a cloud-based server hosted by a third party, usually off site, or local storage essentially giant hard drives that police forces own and operate themselves.

Toronto police used their own hard drives, which is the single biggest cost in the program, Barsky said.

The force, he said, opted for in-house storage because it wanted complete control over data for security reasons. There were also concerns that the U.S. Patriot Act allows American authorities to access data that is

stored in their country.

Despite the negatives, Barsky said it provides police with the best possible evidence that can be used in court.

Surveys conducted by Toronto police showed 95 per cent of the public and 85 per cent of officers support the use of the cameras.

Tory said he was disappointed the board didn't receive the report until an hour before the meeting, so it will be discussed more completely at a meeting next month.

Forces across the country are grappling with body cameras.

What happens in Toronto could determine the situation in the rest of the province.

Ontario's police forces — save for a small force in Amherstburg that has already outfitted all 16 of its frontline officers with cameras — are watching Toronto following a directive from the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, which is supported by the Ministry of the Attorney General, Barsky previously told The Canadian Press.

In Calgary, police had begun rolling out cameras to its front line officers after purchasing 1,100 cameras from a Utah-based company. But they had to test 150 cameras after discovering a problem with the built-in microphone.

In Vancouver, police have opted out of the body camera game for now, citing the high cost of storage as a significant barrier.

Montreal police are currently undergoing their own pilot project for two dozen officers to examine its potential use.

However, Section 230 was found unconstitutional in 1990 by the Supreme Court.

The revised definition of murder states the killing must be intended to be murder, which the Crown was unable to prove against Vader.

"The Supreme Court's been very clear," said Sankoff.

"You must have an intention to cause death to be guilty of murder. There's no finding that Vader ever intended to cause death."

Thomas allowed a camera into his court for the verdict, a first for Alberta. Livestream broadcasts of his judgment allowed Sankoff and other legal experts to monitor the argument in real time.

Although Section 230 has not been in force for 26 years, it's never been repealed and still remains in the Criminal Code. Sankoff suggests Thomas simply erred.

"It's very easy to get things wrong, because, you know, you forget. (The section) is sitting there."

Sankoff said the error leaves the verdict wide open to appeal — something Vader's lawyer has already said he intends to do.

"If they bring an appeal on this, I think it's slam dunk."

Vader could still be convicted of manslaughter.

The situation exemplifies a problem legal scholars often identify to politicians, Sankoff said. Old, antiquated laws are rarely repealed and sit there on the books.

"There are anywhere from 30 to 50 crimes that, if you open up the Criminal Code, are still there. Parliament never gets around to repealing those, even though we ask them to."

Sankoff said Section 230 has been wrongly used in trials before, but only in instructions to a jury. He said he's not aware of it being used before in a judgment.

What happens next is unclear.

The Alberta Court of Appeal could sort out the matter. Sankoff said there's also a provision where the Crown and defence lawyers could ask the judge to reconsider his verdict, a highly technical legal process that could take months.

Sep 15 2016

**CALGARY - Legal experts are urging greater diversity on the bench as three Alberta judges face scrutiny for remarks they made during sexual assault trials.**

The most high-profile case centres on Judge Robin Camp, who asked a complainant why she didn't keep her knees together and referred her as "the accused" during the 2014 trial, a mistake he repeated at a Canadian Judicial Council hearing last week before quickly correcting himself.

University of British Columbia law professor Emma Cunliffe said the woman in the Camp case — like many who come into contact with the justice system — suffered "compound vulnerabilities" that the judge should have understood.

For instance, the 19-year-old woman whom Camp chided is indigenous and was homeless at the time of her alleged rape.

**THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016**

Sep 15 2016

**EDMONTON - At least one legal scholar says a judicial oversight may invalidate the verdict that found an Alberta man guilty of second-degree murder.**

Travis Vader was convicted Thursday in the deaths of seniors Lyle and Marie McCann, a case that has bedevilled police, haunted the victim's family and fascinated the public since the McCann's burned-out RV was found in 2010.

But Peter Sankoff, a University of Alberta law professor who specializes in legal issues around the criminal trial process, said Thursday that Alberta Queen's Bench Justice Denny Thomas used an invalid section of the Criminal Code in his decision.

"I'm pretty confident that the ruling can't stand," he said.

Sankoff points out that Thomas used Section 230 of the Criminal Code in his written judgement convicting Vader. Thomas refers explicitly to that section in finding Vader guilty of second-degree murder.

"When (Thomas) relies on Section 230 to convict, he can't do that. Section 230 doesn't exist."

That section allows for a murder verdict if a wrongful death occurs during the commission of another crime, such as robbery.

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"The judiciary is not very diverse and unfortunately it became less diverse in the last 10 to 15 years," said Cunliffe.

Alison Gray, a Bennett Jones lawyer who was co-counsel on the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund intervention in the Camp inquiry, said it's important that marginalized groups are represented in the legal profession.

But she said judges should also be educating themselves on issues outside their own life experience.

"I don't think that we have a bunch of judges that don't have empathy or don't have compassion. I just think that they're coming from a position where they don't understand necessarily the experience of a sexual assault complainant or they don't understand the experience of a homeless person," said Gray, who called Camp's comments "out of the norm."

Kathleen Mahoney, a University of Calgary law professor, has long pressed for compulsory education on gender, race and other sensitive topics judges are likely encounter in their courtrooms.

"You can't take for granted that judges are going to be sensitive to context as much as they should be," she said. "So often you rely on myths and stereotypes to help you understand what another person's shoes feel like when you put them on."

Camp has apologized for remarks and his legal team argued that he had an "education problem, not a character problem" and that he has since endeavoured to learn about the issue. His lawyers also argued that outdated attitudes in the judiciary won't be eliminated by firing Camp to make an example of him.

Though Camp was a provincial judge when he acquitted the man, he has since been appointed to the federal bench, which means he is subject to a Canadian Judicial Council disciplinary inquiry.

Public hearings wrapped up earlier this week. The five-member panel is to report to the council, which will then make a recommendation to the federal justice minister as to whether Camp is fit to keep his job.

Meanwhile, reviews are happening behind closed doors into how two other Alberta provincial judges handled recent sexual assault cases.

Ron Hewitt, executive director of the Provincial Court of Alberta, declined to elaborate on the reviews being done by provincial Chief Judge Terrence Matchett.

One case centres on Justice Pat McIlhargey's June 2015 acquittal of a 16-year-old boy accused of raping a 13-year-old girl in a park.

Last month, in ordering a new trial, a Court of Queen's Bench judge said McIlhargey allowed "unexplained myths and stereotypes to enter his assessment of the complainant's credibility."

McIlhargey wrote in his decision that on the day of the incident "she did not scream, she did not run for help. She ran to the Co-op and called her friend and told her she could not meet her friend. At no point did she ever

mention this to a friend, no complaint to a friend."

The trial judge also noted that the aunt with whom the girl was living "did not notice any change in her demeanour."

In the other case, Judge Michael Savaryn acquitted a 15-year-old boy who grabbed the breasts and buttocks of a girl, also 15, in a high school hallway and tried to kiss her.

"In fairness to the accused, the complainant tried so hard to laugh it all off that I do not believe she was successful in communicating her discomfort," Savaryn wrote in his decision.

In July, the acquittal was overturned by a higher court judge. The boy was convicted and awaits sentencing.

In her decision overturning the acquittal, Justice J.E. Topolniski wrote: "Consent means 'Yes.' The word 'No' does not mean 'Yes.' The word 'No' coupled with fending off an attacker with a water bottle does not mean 'Yes.' There is nothing ambiguous about it."

Sep 15 2016

**VANCOUVER - A man who shot and seriously wounded a former employer before confronting police in two separate Vancouver shootouts has pleaded guilty to three counts of attempted murder and two firearms charges.**

Gerald Battersby appeared in B.C. Supreme Court on Thursday in connection to the 2014 shootings in the city's Yaletown area and outside Science World.

Battersby was facing six counts of attempted murder and four firearms offences and had earlier pleaded not guilty.

Police have said a man who'd been shot was left fighting for his life outside a coffee shop where two plain-clothes officers exchanged gunfire with a suspect, who escaped on a bike along the city's seawall.

One of the officers commandeered a bike and followed and another shootout erupted outside Science World, with dozens of officers surrounding the man, who was hospitalized for serious gunshot wounds.

Police credited several Good Samaritans and a retired doctor who'd worked as an emergency room physician for helping the man shot outside the coffee shop.

(News1130; The Canadian Press)

Sep 15 2016

**GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB. - A suspect or suspects are being sought after a shooting at a shopping mall in Grande Prairie, Alta., that may have left two people injured.**

The shooting took place late Thursday afternoon by the east doors going into the Prairie Mall's food court.

RCMP aren't saying much so far, but witnesses have described a flurry of activity.

Jeannette LaFlamme was in the north end of the mall waiting for an appointment.

"All of a sudden, there were people coming in droves on the north end of the mall essentially, not running out of the mall

but getting out of the mall as fast as they could," she told radio station CJXX.

"We had one person come and tell the store to close up shop because two people had been shot at the food court."

Barb Verhaegag had just gone into the mall with her son.

"We heard what sounded like, and was later confirmed by other witnesses, to be a gunshot in the food court," says Verhaegag. "We looked around and all the stores were panicky, closing their doors."

Verhaegag praised RCMP for their quick response, saying there were a half-dozen police vehicles on scene by the time she and her son left the mall.

(CJXX)

Sep 15 2016

**WASHINGTON - The FBI has imposed new restrictions on its agents' ability to masquerade as reporters following an uproar over the impersonation of an Associated Press journalist, but the agency has stopped short of ruling out the practice as news organizations had wanted.**

An inspector general report released Thursday said the FBI recently instituted new policies requiring top-level approval before agents can pose as journalists, calling the changes an "important improvement" over past practices. But it also said the impersonation was permissible under policies in place at the time and suggested that there may still be undercover operations in which the tactic

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could be appropriate to use.

The AP and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press sued the FBI last year after it emerged that the bureau had impersonated an AP journalist to send a bogus news article that was booby-trapped with surveillance software. The ruse, in 2007, resulted in the trial and conviction of a teenage bomb hoaxter in Washington State.

A 2014 news article in the Seattle Times, based on records obtained by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, exposed details about the undercover operation. The impersonation stirred immediate outrage among the news media and First Amendment advocates, and the Justice Department's inspector general opened an investigation into the practice.

In a letter to then-Attorney General Eric Holder, the AP called it "improper and inconsistent with a free press for government personnel to masquerade as The Associated Press or any other news organization." The AP argued such impersonations by law enforcement would intimidate sources who might otherwise speak freely to journalists and erode the AP's ability to gather news.

Paul Colford, AP vice-president and director of media relations, said in a statement Thursday that the news co-operative was "deeply disappointed with the inspector general's findings, which effectively condone the FBI's impersonation of an AP journalist in 2007. Such action compromises the ability of a free press to gather the news safely and effectively and raises serious constitutional concerns."

"Once again, AP calls on the government to refrain from any activities involving the impersonation of the news media, and we demand to be heard in the development of any policies addressing such conduct," he added.

FBI Director James Comey defended the tactic in a 2014 New York Times opinion piece as "proper and appropriate," and said that while it would still be permissible today, it would likely need additional levels of approval.

The inspector general looked into whether the tactic was appropriate under policies in place at the time and whether it would require higher levels of approval if conducted today.

As the inspector general was finalizing its report this tear on the undercover operation, the FBI tightened its policies to permit agents to pose as journalists only after approval by headquarters leadership, according to Thursday's report. Those restrictions, the inspector general said, represent "an important and appropriate addition" to other Justice Department policies meant to protect journalists' First Amendment rights.

Under an interim policy that took effect in June, agents may impersonate journalists only if it is done as part of an undercover operation and only after authorization from a special committee at headquarters and the FBI's deputy director, after consultation from the deputy attorney general. The inspector general recommended that the FBI update its general undercover policy guide to incorporate that new directive.

But the inspector general, an independent watchdog office within the Justice

Department, also concluded that the 2007 operation did not violate FBI undercover policies at the time.

Those policies, which the IG called "less than clear," did not require agents to seek special approval before impersonating a journalist and did not prohibit them from doing so unless there was a "significant risk" that a third party would develop a confidential relationship with the undercover FBI employee.

The FBI had not expected to have a drawn-out or confidential relationship with the teenage suspect, but once that happened, agents should have considered whether higher-level approval was needed, the report said.

It said the suspect at one point wrote the undercover agent to "leave me alone." The agent responded that he wasn't actually trying to

learn the teenager's identity and that "I would rather not know who you are as writers are not allowed to reveal their sources."

That assurance was an "implied promise of confidentiality" and created a risk that the teenager believed that he was entering a confidential relationship with the agent, according to the IG report. It said investigators did not adequately consider whether that communication should have required additional approval.

The communication continued, and the teenager opened a follow-up email from the agent that contained the hidden software. The computer program helped agents identify his actual location.

"We highlight this — that is, how the plan actually unfolded — not because it proves the agents' advance assessment of

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the plan was wrong, but to demonstrate the plan's inherent unpredictability and of the potential need to reassess the necessary approval requirements," the report states.  
(The Associated Press)

Sep 15 2016

### Officers with the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service have reached a tentative agreement with their employer.

The union representing officers, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), said the deal was reached after two days of meetings with a conciliator. Those meetings were scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Without a deal, the union would have been in a legal strike or lock-out position as of Friday morning.

"I am very proud of our bargaining team for all their work and to the officers who stood strong and lobbied their provincial and federal political representatives to fund First Nations policing effectively," said Sharon DeSouza, the union's Regional Executive Vice President for Ontario.

Nishnawbe Aski Police serve 35 First Nations in the most northern parts of Ontario. It's funded through the First Nations Policing Program. An auditor general's report in 2014 found the program is not adequately funded and not working as intended.

Officers still need to ratify the agreement. The union said ratification meetings will be set up in the coming days. Details of the deal haven't been made public.

One of the major issues included having at least two officers stationed in each NAPS served community.

Another issue was upgrades to the telecommunication systems used by officers.  
(CBC News)

**FRIDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2016**

Sep 16 2016

**WINNIPEG - Lab tests are being done on samples taken from hundreds of drug doses seized in Winnipeg this week to determine whether a dangerous opioid 100 times more powerful than fentanyl has arrived in the city.**

Police say officers discovered upwards of 1,500 doses at a west-end hotel on Monday that they suspect is carfentanil — a drug used on elephants.

A 37-year-old Winnipeg man is facing several drug-related charges, including trafficking.

Police have also issued a bulletin stating that carfentanil can easily cause overdose death or long-term health problems.

The bulletin urges drug users to contact Street Connections, the mobile public health service run by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, which gives out free kits with the overdose antidote naloxone.

The bulletin notes police took the un-

sual step to warn the public before the test results came back because carfentanil is so dangerous.

"If you are using heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil or any other similar drug, it is important you have a naloxone overdose prevention kit with you at all times. Because carfentanil is so toxic, you may need several doses of naloxone to reverse an overdose," the warning stated.

Shelley Marshall, a nurse clinician at Street Connections, noted that even touching carfentanil can be deadly.

"It would kill a police officer if he or she put their hands in it, and it's being absorbed through the skin. It's an occupational hazard busting labs and taking in dealers," she said. "We thought oxycontin was bad. Then we

had fentanyl and now we have carfentanil."

The overdose kits are part of a new program launched last December. Nurses at Street Connections pack two doses per kit of naloxone.

"The medication itself is about \$7 a dose. If you get carfentanil you might need two doses to reverse the overdose," Marshall said.

As police put out the warning, front line staff at Street Connections were still getting the word about the dangers of fentanyl, its derivatives and the kits that can reverse overdoses.

"We need more sites. There's a couple of pharmacies thinking of getting up and running and selling naloxone," said Marshall.

"We don't even have provincial funding

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for our program. What costs a lot is human resources, training someone on how to take a history. The kits themselves are not that expensive, about \$35 a kit, but nursing hours are expensive and our nurses are extremely busy.”

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Sep 16 2016

### **TORONTO - A Toronto police officer is expected to survive after being struck by a car on Friday morning.**

Const. Craig Brister says the officer was on duty and riding his motorcycle in the downtown core at the time of the collision.

Brister says a vehicle struck the officer, resulting in undisclosed injuries.

The officer was rushed to hospital where he was stabilized.

Brister says the officer's injuries are not life-threatening.

Police have not released the officer's name or laid any charges, and Brister says the investigation is ongoing.

Sep 16 2016

### **WASHINGTON - The Associated Press and two other news organizations sued the FBI on Friday to learn who the government paid and how much it spent to hack into an iPhone in its investigation into last year's San Bernardino, California, massacre.**

The lawsuit seeks records about the FBI's contract with an unidentified vendor who provided a tool to unlock the phone belonging to Syed Rizwan Farook, who with his wife killed 14 people at a holiday gathering of county workers in December 2015.

Gannett Co., which owns USA Today, and Vice Media LLC joined the complaint with the AP, seeking to learn more about the mysterious transaction that cut short a legal dispute in which the government sought to force Apple Inc. to unlock the phone.

“Understanding the amount that the FBI deemed appropriate to spend on the tool, as well as the identity and reputation of the vendor it did business with, is essential for the public to provide effective oversight of government functions and help guard against potential improprieties,” said the suit, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

In rejecting earlier requests to divulge the information, the government said revealing the records could affect “enforcement proceedings,” but did not elaborate.

The case stems from the FBI's announcement in March that it had purchased a tool to unlock the iPhone, aborting the court fight with Apple that had in turn triggered a debate about the proper balance between electronic privacy and national security.

The FBI for weeks had maintained that only Apple could help it unlock the phone. At the Justice Department's request, a magistrate judge in February directed Apple to create software that would bypass security features on the phone so that the FBI could

get into the device and scour it for potential evidence. Apple contested the order, saying the FBI's demand set a dangerous precedent and could undercut security protections for its customers.

The two sides were headed for a court showdown when Justice Department officials revealed that a party outside the U.S. government brought it a potential solution to unlock the phone. The FBI said a week later it successfully unlocked the phone using the tool. The suit cites media reports as saying investigators did not find any links to foreign extremist groups.

The FBI would not say how much the solution cost or reveal how it worked. It also refused to share the information with Apple, which had expressed concern that circumventing its security protections could compromise its products.

The suit by the media organizations argues that there was no legal basis to withhold the information and challenges the adequacy of the FBI's search for relevant records. It also said the public has a right to know whether the vendor has adequate security measures, is a proper recipient of government funds and will act only in the public interest.

It was the third suit the AP has filed against the Obama administration under the Freedom of Information Act.

Sep 16 2016

### **TORONTO - The Special Investigation Unit says a Toronto police officer has been charged with sexual assault.**

The police watchdog agency says the alleged incident involving a 28-year-old woman occurred in September 2008.

Director Tony Loparco says the incident was brought to the SIU's attention in January.

Const. Vincent Bonazza is facing one count of sexual assault and is to appear in court on Oct. 26.

(The Canadian Press)

Sep 16 2016

### **WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg police officer has been arrested on dozens of criminal charges following a year-long internal investigation.**

Deputy Chief Danny Smyth said Const. Trent Milan, who is 42, is facing 34 charges including theft, drug possession and possession of prohibited weapons.

The 18-year veteran officer is also facing charges of obstruction and sharing police information, Smyth said.

“This is a dark chapter for the Winnipeg Police Service, full stop,” Smyth told reporters Friday. “Incidents like this are rare. We hope the public understands the actions of one member does not represent our commitment to the community. The Winnipeg Police Service does not tolerate this kind of conduct.”

The investigation began when “irregularities” came to light regarding how property, evidence, cash and police information were being handled, Smyth said. Professional standards investigators went back to 2010

when Milan was part of the street crime unit.

The officer is charged with 15 counts of possessing a prohibited weapon and with the possession of drugs including cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy and marijuana for the purposes of trafficking.

Smyth refused to elaborate on what exactly led to the charges saying the investigation is still ongoing.

The investigation has spawned a “gamut” of emotions, Smyth said.

“My emotions have run from disbelief to anger to disappointment to resolve and now here today to actually some relief that we have brought this member essentially to justice,” Smyth said.

“We recognize the actions of this one member are inexcusable.”

Milan has been released on a promise to appear in court and is on administrative leave while the investigation continues, Smyth said.

Once the investigation has wrapped up, Smyth said it will be up to the police chief to determine whether Milan will remain on the force.

Sep 16 2016

### **Ottawa police will be equipping officers with body cameras as part of a pilot project, essentially reversing its position on the issue, the force confirmed on Friday.**

In March of this year, the Ottawa Police Service said it was no longer looking into the possibility of outfitting officers with body cameras, and would instead focus on other priorities.

Spokesman Const. Marc Soucy said the force will be reviewing a Toronto police report filed Thursday on its own pilot project into body cameras but that there's no timeline for Ottawa's pilot yet.

The Toronto police report found that although the technology didn't meet officers' complete needs, body cameras “do provide the unbiased, independent account of police/community interactions, as expected,” according to a Toronto police statement.

Toronto police are now seeking permission to open the bidding process for the contract to supply body cameras to the entire force.

Soucy said Ottawa police Chief Charles Bordeleau might discuss the issue during his verbal report at the Sept. 26 Ottawa Police Services Board meeting.

(CBC News)

Sep 16 2016

### **VANCOUVER - The lawyer for a British Columbia RCMP officer charged with luring after a sting by a vigilante group says his client will vigorously defend himself.**

Rishi Gill says Const. Dario Devic is eager to have the matter dealt with before the court.

Gill confirms Devic faces a luring charge and one of breach of trust, allegations that will come before a judge again next month.

Last week the RCMP announced they arrested an officer after a group that calls itself Surrey Creep Catchers livestreamed a sting where its members gathered to confront a man who they alleged was going to meet an underage girl.

Police have not identified the officer, saying only that he has been removed from duty and was released from custody last weekend with conditions.

Creep Catchers is a loose collection of organizations across Canada that tout themselves as being dedicated to exposing and publicly shaming people they claim are child sexual predators.

Their members pose online as minors before meeting in person to film and berate their targets.

The RCMP have warned citizen groups against confronting alleged child predators, and said doing so could put people in danger and obstruct official police investigations.

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

Sep 18 2016

**CALGARY - A Calgary police officer is listed in stable condition after he was severely injured during a struggle with a suspect.**

The incident occurred yesterday afternoon at the Marlborough shopping mall in northeast Calgary.

Acting police chief Trevor Daroux says a suspect attacked the officer with a "large bladed weapon" after police responded to reports of a fight at a nearby light rapid transit station.

Daroux says the suspect confronted the officer after running into the mall.

He says the officer first used his Taser, but it was ineffective so he discharged his service firearm.

It was unclear last night whether the suspect, who police say is known to them, was hit by a bullet.

Daroux would only say that the officer and suspect were both in hospital in stable condition.

The province's police watchdog, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, is investigating the incident.

Sep 18 2016

**TORONTO - Forcing journalists to act as investigators for police would undermine the critical role news outlets play in a free society, a coalition of media organizations argue in documents filed with Ontario's top court.**

Journalists, the group argues, must be able to gather news by communicating with citizens who are in an adversarial relationship with the state.

"If journalists or media organizations are too easily conscripted into serving as the de facto 'investigative arm of the police,' they will be unable to perform their vital societal role," they say. "Important stories will go untold."

The filings with the Court of Appeal come in support of a coalition request to intervene in a case involving an RCMP demand for Vice Media to turn over materials related to a terrorism investigation. The information is related to stories journalist Ben Makuch wrote about accused terrorist Farah Shirdon.

Vice has refused the demand and is appealing a ruling from Superior Court Justice Ian MacDonnell in March that they must do so. The appeal is to be heard in February, with the media coalition set to make its case for intervention on Oct. 27.

The coalition includes news organizations such as the CBC and Aboriginal People's Television Network, as well as advocacy groups such as Canadian Journalists for Free Expression and Reporters Without Borders.

In seeking leave to intervene, they say the issue at hand is far reaching and raises constitutional questions of public importance.

Journalists, they argue, should be able to communicate with sources and conduct their work within a zone of privacy, without fear of being compelled to produce information or documents to law enforcement authorities.

In a supporting affidavit, Duncan Pike with the free expression group said the Supreme Court has made it clear a judge must be particularly careful in granting police or government requests to force media to produce materials.

"Production orders targeting the media will always have a chilling effect," Pike states. "A production order against the media should not be granted simply because it

might be useful or convenient."

RCMP have charged the Toronto-born Shirdon in absentia with several offences, including leaving Canada to participate in the activity of a terrorist group, taking part in the activity of the Islamic State terrorist group, and threatening Canada and the United States. Police and government lawyers argue the information is crucial to the ongoing investigation of Shirdon.

In its separate application for leave to intervene, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association says it wants to focus primarily on court orders sealing or banning from publication the materials police relied on to obtain the production order against Vice.

"The open-court principle is a fundamental principle of the Canadian justice system," the association argues.

The Crown opposes the intervention applications but has yet to file its materials.

Sep 18 2016

**ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - She was finishing her last college exams, the Christmas season stretching before her, when she went out for a Saturday night in downtown St. John's with friends.**

What should have been a celebration ended with a horrific sex attack at knife point that left the young woman known only as Jane Doe traumatized, bleeding and crying for help.

She is now suing the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, alleging police failed to properly warn the public that a predator was stalking young women.



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Her lawyer, Allison Conway, says her client, then 23, had no idea that four other women and a 15-year-old girl had been assaulted in previous months while walking downtown alone late at night or in early morning.

"She's a prudent individual," Conway said in an interview.

"She had arranged a ride home with her mother. She thought ahead. And she was completely unaware that there was someone out there who had already attacked five people."

Thirty years after a precedent-setting lawsuit in Toronto over the police force's failure to warn women of the so-called Balcony Rapist, the lawsuit raises some similar issues.

A woman attacked by Paul Callow in the summer of 1986 won \$220,000 in a 1998 court judgment that found investigators were negligent.

Allan Hutchinson, a professor at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, said the Ontario decision could have a "persuasive effect" in Newfoundland.

It set out that, in special circumstances, police may owe a duty to warn a particular group at risk, he said.

"They could have put notices up, which is not very difficult for the police to do. And the police were criticized in this Toronto case because they put capturing the guy ahead of warning women about future assaults."

In St. John's, Jane Doe was the last of six alleged assaults involving Sofyan Boalag, 37, between September and December of 2012. One of the women refused to testify.

Doe filed a statement of claim in provincial Supreme Court last January that says all of the attacks took place in a similar part of the city, and involved people with similar characteristics — five young women and one teenage girl.

"The defendant failed to take reasonable steps, or any steps, to perform its duties of care to the plaintiff, including the duty to warn the plaintiff as a member of an identifiable group at risk," it says.

Doe wants unspecified general and special damages for "irreparable psychological harm" and loss of opportunity, physical pain and "continuous distress caused by memories of the assault."

Conway said helping ensure better warnings in future is even more important for her client than compensation.

Boalag, an Algerian who faces deportation if released, was convicted last month of three counts of sexual assault with a weapon, robbery and several other counts, including choking Doe until she passed out. He has not yet been sentenced.

According to the judge's ruling in the criminal case, Boalag was arrested after a struggle with three officers on the evening of Dec. 10, 2012 — the day after Doe was attacked.

Three days earlier on Dec. 7, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) had issued a media release warning of "an unidentified offender who may be responsible for one or more sexual assaults in the downtown and centre city area."

It cautioned women walking alone after

dark may be at greater risk and should take precautions.

They also asked anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers.

The force issued another media release on Dec. 9 with details of the attack on Doe.

Both the RNC and a spokeswoman for the Justice Department declined to comment as the matter is before the courts. No statement of defence has been filed and the claims have not been proven.

"The RNC takes its responsibility to notify the public of potential harm seriously," said a statement from Chief William Jones.

At issue is whether police adequately notified potential victims at the time, Conway said.

"The question for us is whether or not these warnings, if they existed, were sufficient to discharge the duty that's established as per the Jane Doe Metropolitan Toronto case."

Hutchinson said the Jane Doe in that case has since spoken publicly about how the cash settlement was secondary. What she really wanted was for the public and police to change attitudes and step up response around sexual assaults, including more support for survivors.

## MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Sep 19 2016

**KINGSTON, ON - Police say a man being investigated for impaired driving showed officers his Costco card when asked for his driver's licence.**



Investigators say a witness called police in Kingston, Ont., around midnight on Sunday after a pickup truck crashed into a car while parking and the driver then stumbled away from the scene, using nearby walls for support.

Officers located a man standing at a nearby corner and say the witness identified him as the person who left the pickup.

When asked for his driver's licence, they say the man first pulled a Costco card from his wallet, then his firearms licence, before finally locating the required identification.

Police say the 42-year-old Hamilton man was charged with impaired driving after breath tests indicated his blood-alcohol level was approximately two times over the legal limit.

The man's driver's licence has been automatically suspended for 90 days and his vehicle was seized and impounded for seven days.

Sep 19 2016

**CALGARY, AB - Calgary police have charged two men in separate incidents over the weekend where officers fired their weapons at suspects.**

A gun was fired on Saturday afternoon when police tried to stop a vehicle at the Blackfoot Truck Stop in the southeast.

About an hour later, an officer chased a suspect who allegedly had a machete through Marlborough Mall in northeast Calgary.

An officer was severely injured before he shot the suspect.

In the mall incident, 24-year-old Antonio Bautista faces charges of aggravated assault, assaulting a peace officer, possession of a dangerous weapon and other offences related to probation and outstanding warrants.

Dakota Casey, who is 23, is charged with assault of a peace officer, assault with a weapon, criminal hit and run and a number of other counts in the truck stop incident.

Police say officers tried to stop a man in a vehicle, but the man fled and that's when one officer fired at the vehicle.

Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is investigating both incidents. (CFFR)

Sep 19 2016

**CHICAGO - The Chicago Police Department launched mandatory training designed to help officers de-escalate conflicts, including situations involving the use of force and mental health issues, officials said Monday.**

The program, which Superintendent Eddie Johnson discussed at an evening news conference, is among several department reforms following the fatal shooting of teenager Laquan McDonald, who was shot 16 times by police. The department, which is undergoing a U.S. Department of Justice investigation, will expand the use of body cameras, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel has pitched a new police accountability system. He's expected to give a speech on policing and crime this week.

The de-escalation training at the Chicago Police Academy, which is in its second week, was developed with a panel of national policing and mental health experts. It uses live scenarios and exercises to help officers better assess how to respond to complex and tense situations. Some of the tactics include using slower and calmer approaches when possible.

During a news conference, Johnson said the training is designed to teach officers how to avoid the use of deadly force whenever possible.

"That's how we build trust," he added. "By letting the public know we are doing everything we can to resolve conflicts peacefully."

All of about 12,500 sworn officers will undergo the two-day training within about a year, which includes drills to test their reactions and judgment, according to The Chicago Tribune.

Sgt. Larry Snelling, a lead instructor in de-escalation, said trainers will draw on real-life examples of police who ended up using force.

In discussing the training, Snelling

mentioned the December 2015 shootings of 19-year-old Quintonio LeGrier and 55-year-old Bettie Jones. Officer Robert Rialmo was responding to a 911 call for help when he fatally shot LeGrier, claiming the student was coming at him with a bat. The shooting of Jones has been called an accident. Rialmo has not been charged in the shootings.

"If we're not Monday morning quarterbacking, we're not getting better," Snelling said.

Some community leaders were skeptical of the impact without other improvements, particularly in impoverished neighbourhoods that've experienced more violence.

"What would really help would be escalating resources in blighted communities," said the Rev. Gregory Livingston with the Coalition for a New Chicago. "If you don't escalate the resources, all the de-escalation training in the world will not make a difference."

Over the weekend, the police department announced that it will expand the use of body cameras to include all officers on patrol by 2018, which follows a 2015 pilot program with the cameras.

Emanuel's administration has proposed a new system to investigate police-involved shootings, officer complaints and department practices, which City Council members are considering. It includes creating a new agency and deputy inspector general position. Emanuel's speech is slated for Thursday evening.

McDonald, a black 17-year-old, was fatally shot in 2014 by a white police officer, who's since been charged with murder. Graphic squad-car video of the shooting was released last year, prompting citywide protests, police leadership changes and the federal probe.

Sep 19 2016

**TORONTO - The Toronto police service has issued a request for information (RFI) from anyone interested in running all or some of the parking enforcement units, which has a \$47-million gross operating budget for 2016.**

Parking officers are "obviously watching this with some caution," said Mike McCormack, president of the Toronto Police Association, the union that represents all 394 police parking enforcement officers. "So they're very concerned."

Toronto Police spokesman Meaghan Gray said the RFI doesn't commit the force to changing anything.

"It allows us to determine what options are available to us if we decided to go forward with that process," she said.

"It won't make a difference to us if somebody sends us a proposal that is less money, but if they're not able to provide the same services that are currently provided, then that's going to be a concern for us," Gray added.

McCormack says keeping parking enforcement in the hands of police employees is the best option.

"We believe that if you were to put a place like the parking enforcement unit in the hands of a private corporation, which is

profit-driven and shareholder-driven, then you're going to have people issuing parking tickets for profit, not for traffic purposes," McCormack said.

The city and Toronto Police share responsibilities in parking enforcement. The RFI, which has an Oct. 7 deadline, only affects the police portion of the service.

An interim task-force report this year looking at modernizing the police force recommended assessing alternatives to the current parking-enforcement model.

Last year, the unit responded to more than 148,000 parking-related calls and issued around 1.97 million tickets.

The same interim report also suggested the police look at different ways of delivering the lifeguard and school crossing guard programs.

**TUESDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

Sep 20 2016

**HALIFAX - The editor of a Halifax gossip and satire magazine is tentatively scheduled to be tried for allegedly violating a publication ban in the case of a man charged with murdering a female police officer.**

Frank Magazine's managing editor, Andrew Douglas, briefly appeared today in Halifax provincial court for the setting of the Dec. 15 court date.

Judge Gregory Lenehan said the date

## 2017 POLICE LEADERSHIP AWARD



The Police Leadership Award recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies "Leadership as an Activity not a Position," and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organizational and community perspective.

This award is open to active Canadian police officers below the rank of senior officer who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to service through deeds resulting in a measurable benefit to their peers, service and community.

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could be changed, and that the lawyers would discuss the date again before it is confirmed.

The Frank article that drew the police charges was based on a document concerning Catherine Campbell, a 36-year-old Truro police officer.

The document was placed before the court as the preliminary hearing into the second-degree murder charges against Christopher Calvin Garnier was starting.

Police have said Campbell went missing after meeting a man at a bar in Halifax, and that her body was found near an overpass that leads to a harbour bridge.

Douglas has repeatedly said his story about Campbell was researched, written and published ahead of the publication ban and that this is a valid defence against the publication ban accusation.

However, Crown lawyer Catherine Cogswell has said out court that prosecutors feel there is a reasonable probability of conviction.

(The Canadian Press)

Sep 20 2016

### **PUNNICHY, Sask. - Two men are facing several weapons charges after a standoff with police on a Saskatchewan First Nation.**

Punnichy RCMP say they got a call early Sunday morning about threats and firearms at a residence on the Kawacatoose First Nation.

Officers found some suspects at a different residence on the First Nation and tried to take them into custody, but they refused to leave the house.

Police called in more officers, including a crisis negotiator, and say it was resolved without incident a few hours later.

Seven adults were taken into custody and two men from Regina were charged.

Michael David Blueeyes, who is 25, is due in court on Friday while Ricky Charles Longman, who is 24, has a court date of Nov. 8.

Sep 20 2016

### **HALIFAX - A Halifax police officer is challenging his demotion after he was involved in a routine traffic stop last year that degenerated into a ugly confrontation with a P.E.I. couple headed for a medical appointment.**

Const. Matthew MacGillivray, a former police sergeant, was demoted in January after a Halifax Regional Police disciplinary officer found he had used unnecessary force and engaged in discreditable conduct.

MacGillivray has launched an appeal before the Nova Scotia Police Review Board, which entered its second day of hearings Tuesday.

Insp. Lindsay Hernden, a divisional commander, told the hearing MacGillivray failed to properly communicate or use de-escalation techniques during the incident, which was partially captured on a cellphone camera.

MacGillivray has yet to testify.

In a lawsuit filed this month against Halifax Regional Police, Angela Acorn and

Graham Labonte of Belle River, P.E.I., say they were en route to an appointment near Halifax last September when they say they spotted a police SUV driving erratically.

"While the plaintiffs' vehicle was passing the police vehicle, Ms. Acorn gestured to Sgt. MacGillivray (to ask) if he was OK," the lawsuit says. "Sgt. MacGillivray did not respond."

The lawsuit says the couple's vehicle was subsequently pulled over by MacGillivray, who they say was standing behind their vehicle when he started asking the driver, Labonte, a series of questions.

Labonte asked the officer to step closer and identify himself because he couldn't hear him, but MacGillivray "became loud, aggressive and started yelling at him," the lawsuit says, adding that Acorn got out of the car to determine "if the police officer was in distress."

At that point, MacGillivray told her she would be arrested if she failed to get back into the car.

"Ms. Acorn ... started walking back to the plaintiffs' vehicle when suddenly and without warning Sgt. MacGillivray grabbed Ms. Acorn from behind, pushed her over the trunk, handcuffed her and advised that she was under arrest," the lawsuit says.

The couple's statement of claim alleges that MacGillivray was careless and negligent, and that he failed to use reasonable force when he allegedly assaulted and injured both of them.

None of the allegations has been proven in court.

On Tuesday, a three-member police board panel was shown a 20-second video that features MacGillivray, in uniform, standing behind a visibly upset Acorn, whose hands are behind her back.

As the scene unfolds, MacGillivray points at Labonte, who is operating the camera, and yells, "You are both under arrest!"

Acorn then screams: "You better fucking calm down! Calm down!"

From behind the camera, Labonte yells, "I want your name."

MacGillivray says his name and rank, then pulls off his name tag and throws it in front of Acorn.

"You can have it, take it!" the officer says as he moves backward, pulling Acorn towards a guardrail.

The video ends abruptly.

At no time did Acorn or Labonte act aggressively or resist arrest, the lawsuit says. They later filed a complaint against the officer. Hernden, in charge of officers on the Halifax peninsula, testified Tuesday that MacGillivray's actions only made matters worse.

"There were opportunities where he could have successfully de-escalated," Hernden told the hearing.

"What was missed here was the opportunity to take advantage of those moments ... Instead, it escalated to the point where a firearm was almost used."

Hernden said that at one point, MacGillivray placed his hand on his holster and was in the process of releasing one of its restraints.

The P.E.I. couple did not pose a threat to the officer, Hernden said, noting that Labonte was holding his cellphone while videotaping and making a 911 call, and Acorn had already been restrained with handcuffs.

MacGillivray's only attempt at communication during the routine traffic stop was "screaming orders," Hernden said.

"This is not about something more serious, where they might bail into their car and take off," he said.

When asked about the length of time that had transpired during the incident — about 2.5 minutes — Hernden said there was more than enough time to use de-escalation techniques.

"It's a remarkable amount of time to change the outcome."

The couple's lawsuit also names MacGillivray and the Halifax Regional Municipality.

## **WEDNESDAY** **SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**

Sep 21 2016

### **OTTAWA -The federal labour minister is looking at whether Canada Labour Code reforms are needed to address harassment issues within the RCMP after hearing from a disgruntled female Mountie.**

MaryAnn Mihychuk asked for a briefing from Public Safety officials after receiving a message from an RCMP member who alleged the Mounties had failed to "adequately address her complaints" of sexual harassment through internal procedures, an internal government memo reveals.

Mihychuk and her officials wanted to know more about the RCMP's policies, procedures and guidelines to gauge the need for possible amendments to Part 2 of the Canada Labour Code, intended to protect employees from violence in the workplace.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale received a copy of the unidentified Mountie's email as well as messages and letters from 17 other people, including current and former RCMP members, detailing their experiences of workplace and sexual harassment within the police force, the memo adds.

The Canadian Press obtained a declassified version of the heavily censored February memo under the Access to Information Act.

The RCMP has been grappling for years with complaints from women and men about bullying and harassment.

Just two months ago, the national police force said it would launch a new effort to eliminate sexual misconduct in the workplace after an internal review criticized its response to an "egregious" case involving nudity and harassment at the RCMP-administered police college.

In response to questions about Mihychuk's concerns, Employment and Social Development Canada officials said the minister was working with Status of Women

Minister Patty Hajdu to ensure the safety of workers under federal jurisdiction.

"Violence and sexual harassment are unacceptable in the workplace, and in any environment."

Employment and Social Development Canada consults with Public Safety whenever needed in order to provide Mihychuk with comprehensive and current briefings, the officials added.

The RCMP did not respond to questions about the government memo.

Scott Bardsley, a spokesman for Goodale, said the minister has taken a number of steps on harassment in the RCMP.

They include appointing a former auditor general to review the RCMP's response to lawsuits from four members of the force alleging harassment.

As a special adviser, Sheila Fraser will provide recommendations on the policies and procedures the national police force pursued after Catherine Galliford, Alice Fox, Atoya Montague and Susan Gastaldo filed legal proceedings against the RCMP.

In addition, Goodale has told the RCMP he expects comprehensive, transparent investigations, serious disciplinary measures, support for victims and concrete action to end toxic workplace behaviour.

He has also asked the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP to look at whether recommendations it made three years ago on harassment have been implemented.

In a 2013 report, the watchdog said the force must take swift and effective action on complaints of harassment and intimidation to restore the shaken confidence of both members and the public.

It called for a more independent process, strict timelines for responding to accusations and force-wide training on the issue.

Since then, new legislation has revamped the way such cases are handled within the force and training has also been stepped up.

The Mounties have pledged zero tolerance for harassment.

Sep 21 2016

**TORONTO - A criminal defence lawyer who once worked on one of the biggest marijuana cases in Canadian history has been identified as the man wounded in a shooting in an upscale Toronto neighbourhood.**

Peter Schilling, who witnessed the attack Tuesday afternoon, says J. Randall Barrs was shot near his law office in the Yorkville neighbourhood.

The incident is now being investigated by Ontario's police watchdog, which says it was called in because the gunman was shot by a plainclothes officer who intervened.

The 66-year-old lawyer, who is now in hospital recovering from gunshot wounds to his legs, says on his website that he has defended clients in several murder and drug cases.

In one high-profile case, Barrs represented farmers who ran a marijuana grow-op in

a former Molson brewery in Barrie, Ont. — one of the largest such busts in the country to this day. The men were sentenced to two to five years behind bars.

Schilling, a surgical consultant whose office has been next to Barrs' for more than two decades, says he watched the incident unfold through a second-floor window.

(The Canadian Press)

Sep 21 2016

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Two Toronto police officers who shot a mentally unstable woman armed with a meat cleaver several times after she threatened to harm her young son and paramedics last November won't be facing charges.**

Ontario's police watchdog agency says several people, including the 45-year-old woman, had called 911, and paramedics who responded left after the woman ran at them brandishing the knife.

The Special Investigations Unit says two officers arrived and the woman ignored several demands that she drop the knife over a period of about a minute before she rushed at them.

Unknown to the two officers, another officer with a Taser had positioned himself behind them and he deployed his weapon around the same time as the officers fired their guns, injuring her in the abdomen, pelvis and right arm.

The SIU says the young boy did not witness the shooting as he had left the house through another exit during the standoff.

Acting SIU director Joseph Martino says the evidence "reasonably establishes" that the shooting and the conducted energy weapon discharge fell within the definition of self-defence under the Criminal Code.

"While the woman was clearly not of sound mind at the time on the day in question, she clearly represented a real and present danger to herself and others," Martino said Wednesday in a release.

Martino noted that the woman recognized her faltering capacities and attempted to seek help for herself and protection for those around her when she called 911 and asked for an ambulance.

"Regrettably, by the time of the paramedics' arrival, her mental condition had taken a turn for the worse and she attacked the very people who were there to help her," he said.

The SIU is an arm's length agency that investigates reports involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

Sep 21 2016

**EDMONTON - Police have charged a self-proclaimed Freeman on the Land with carrying out a "paper terrorism" campaign against a peace officer who issued him a speeding ticket.**

Allen Boisjoli, 45, of Vegreville, Alta., faces a charge of intimidating a justice official and is to appear in an Edmonton courtroom Nov. 7.

Police say they have charged Boisjoli and other Freeman with intimidation before, but it's the first time the charge has been laid in Canada strictly dealing with unlawful paperwork.

Freemen, who don't recognize government or authority, often use the tactic of overwhelming courts with documents to try to have charges against them dismissed or withdrawn, said Det. Rae Gerrard.

"They use a plethora of documents which really mean absolutely nothing," Gerrard said Wednesday.

"They're just cutting and pasting from all over the Internet, from laws all over the world. They put them together into hundreds and hundreds of pages of documents and flood the courts with this."

The term "paper terrorism" has been used by the courts in previous cases to describe a misuse of legal processes.

Boisjoli was pulled over by the Beaver County officer near Tofield, about 70 kilometres east of Edmonton, in May 2015. Boisjoli posted a YouTube video of his friendly-yet-stubborn interaction with the officer, in which Boisjoli said speeding isn't a crime.

He never paid the ticket and a judge convicted him when he failed to show up and fight it in court, said Gerrard.

It's alleged that Boisjoli filed various false documents against the peace officer over three months, including a personal lien on the officer's property, claiming an award of \$225,000 for being detained and issued the ticket.

Gerrard said Boisjoli has a history of similar behaviour. He was previously convicted of intimidation and sentenced to 13 months in jail in 2013.

The officer added that Boisjoli is also part of several other groups claiming self-sovereignty. An online profile lists Boisjoli as founder of Judicial Watch and the Sovereign Coalition of Exempt Natural Entities.

Members of the Freeman-on-the-Land movement commonly claim they do not require a driver's licence, assert their rights to have weapons for self-protection and squat in unoccupied homes.

In 2013, a Freeman took over a Calgary duplex and claimed it as his embassy. After the landlady struggled for two years to get the man out, police arrested him on outstanding warrants in Quebec.

The Law Society of British Columbia and B.C. Notaries have issued several warnings about Freeman and estimated the group could number as many as 30,000 in Canada. The FBI considers the movement a domestic terror threat in the United States.

Sep 21 2016

**VANCOUVER - British Columbia is bombarding the province with thousands of overdose-reversing naloxone kits as part of its all-out assault against a drug crisis that has already killed 488 people this year.**

Health Minister Terry Lake announced during an update on the opioid crisis on

Wednesday that 13,000 life-saving kits have been distributed across B.C. to sites such as hospitals, jails, and health centres, and so far 2,100 have been reportedly used.

The number of deaths involving illicit opioids decreased to 49 in August from 55 in July, but 488 people have died in B.C. so far this year while 505 deaths were reported in all of 2015, Lake said.

“(August) marks the first month of 2016 where the number was reduced over the equivalent month in 2015 but we are very, very cautious about what that means,” Health Minister Terry Lake told a news conference. “We need more data, more time to see if there’s a trend happening.”

Over 11,000 people have received training to administer naloxone, which is available at over 300 sites in B.C. including emergency rooms, three jails and one prison, he said.

“All ambulance crews and 46 fire departments are now carrying naloxone,” he said, adding the B.C. Centre for Disease Control is expanding its take-home naloxone program and the province expects to reach its goal of opening 500 new addiction treatment beds by 2017.

The opioid fentanyl still involves 60 per cent of fatalities among people who often don’t know they’re taking it, the province’s Chief Coroner Lisa Lapointe said.

She said 264 people have died from January to the end of August as a result of taking fentanyl with another drug, mostly cocaine, up from 82 deaths a year ago.

“It’s encouraging to see so many people recognizing that the number of illicit drug deaths in this province is truly a crisis and we must all work together to try and reduce that toll, which is predominantly affecting young people and people who should have many more years of life ahead of them,” she said.

British Columbia has been the epicentre of opioid deaths in Canada, and the province declared a public health emergency in April, after which the coroner’s service began releasing monthly statistics on overdose deaths.

In June, Premier Christy Clark announced a joint task force on overdose response.

“It’s a massive effort,” Lake said, adding overdose deaths involving fentanyl have hit communities across North America.

“So people have been reaching out to British Columbia to learn about what we’re doing,” he said.

Earlier Wednesday, the chief medical health officer of Vancouver Coastal Health said the city could see as many as four new supervised-injection sites by early next year.

Dr. Patricia Daly said the authority is applying to Health Canada to expand the number of harm-reduction sites in its area, where there are currently two such facilities. Insite, in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, was North America’s first supervised injection site.

Daly said it’s impossible to give a timeline for when the sites would open, but she hoped they will be up and running by early next year.

Applying to offer safe-injection services became especially difficult after the previous federal government passed a law in early 2015, adding several prohibitive regulations.

Sept 21 2016

### **SURREY, B.C - The Independent Investigations Office is looking into an incident stemming from the Vancouver police takedown this week of three suspects wanted in connection with a double-homicide.**

Police arrested the three, Sept. 19, shortly after they crashed into a vehicle on East Eighth Avenue in New Westminster.

During the arrests, an innocent man attempted to flee the scene after his automobile was hit by the suspect vehicle, according to acting VPD Sgt. Brian Montague.

He was bitten by a police service dog and is now in a local hospital with serious injuries.

“We apologize that someone from the public had to get caught up in something like that,” said Montague, who also said police would be reaching out to the family.

Montague didn’t directly defend the incident but said it arose out of the chaotic nature of the takedown, which involved rescuing a person who was allegedly kidnapped by the suspects.

“We’re dealing with armed people who are potentially alleged to have committed murders, who have a kidnap victim in their vehicle, and we had to act very quickly,” he said.

The IIO says it will determine whether any officer committed an offence as a result of the injuries the man suffered and will be interviewing involved officers and witnesses.

## **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

Sep 22 2016

### **MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The Special Investigations Unit says no charges will be laid against four Toronto police officers in the death of a man arrested after a drug-fuelled drive through several backyards.**

The police watchdog agency says officers responded to several calls early on July 1, 2015, reporting a vehicle being driven through backyards, causing significant damage.

After 30-minute search, officers located a man - agitated and bleeding profusely from a head wound and believed to be the driver — who threw a rock and a wooden stake at police before losing his balance and falling in a garden.

The SIU says the 33-year-old man was handcuffed following a struggle with four officers but was unresponsive and paramedics’ efforts at resuscitation were unsuccessful.

SIU director Tony Loparco says an autopsy determined the man — who had a history of anabolic steroid use and had taken cocaine and tamoxifen — died of a cardiac arrest indicative of cocaine intoxication.

The SIU is an arm’s length agency that investigates reports involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

“After reviewing the post-mortem report, I am satisfied the man died as a result of a cardiac arrest set into motion by his abuse of illegal drugs,” Loparco said Thursday in a release.

“His highly erratic and dangerous driving, apparent disassociated state, aggressive behaviour and other physical symptoms are all indicative of having consumed a significant quantity of cocaine.”

Loparco said the man was a large and powerful individual who had consumed cocaine, and was both combative and non-compliant.

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