

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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RCMP announces harassment suit settlement



Oct 06 2016

OTTAWA - RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson delivered an abject apology Thursday to hundreds of current and former female officers and employees who were subjected to alleged incidents of bullying, discrimination and harassment dating back 42 years.

Paulson made the apology as he announced a \$100 million settlement of two class-action lawsuits stemming from the harassment allegations, some of which date back to September 1974.

"To all the women, I stand humbly before you today and solemnly offer our sincere apology," an emotional Paulson told a news conference in Ottawa.

"You came to the RCMP wanting to personally contribute to your community and we failed you. We hurt you. For that, I am truly sorry."

Paulson said the settlements would provide financial compensation for the women and pave the way to end potential class-action lawsuits brought forward by former RCMP



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members Janet Merlo and Linda Gillis Davidson.

He said the government has provided a total of \$100 million to cover the cost of payouts.

Paulson was joined at the news conference by the plaintiffs, as well as Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale and Labour Minister MaryAnn Mihychuk.

"The impact this has had on those who have experienced this shameful conduct cannot - must not - be solely understood as an adverse workplace condition for which they must be compensated," Paulson said.

"For many of our women this harassment has hurt them mentally and physically. It has destroyed relationships and marriages, and even whole families have suffered as a result. Their very lives have been affected."

Merlo took the podium after Paulson was finished, calling it "a great day for the RCMP" and thanking the commissioner on behalf of the other female members represented in the lawsuits.

"They just wanted it to be a better place to work," Merlo said. "For them I'm really thankful that today finally arrived."

As she left the podium, she embraced Paulson, who wiped tears from his eyes as he sat back down.

"I love my flag, I love my country and I loved my job; I left way too early," added Davidson, who also extended her thanks to the commissioner.

"I will continue to stand up and right the wrongs if I can," she said. "We are, we were and we always will be your greatest asset."

Hundreds of former and serving female Mounties and civilian members have said they were victims of harassment, bullying and assault dating back to when women first joined the force.

The settlement likely marks the beginning of the end a difficult episode in the force's

history, one that has haunted Paulson's tenure as commissioner.

"Today's announcement ... closes the door on a deeply troubling and unfortunate period in the history of our national police force," Goodale said.

"It is an encouraging moment, demonstrating a deep desire on the part of all parties to move forward in a positive and constructive manner - starting immediately."

Though neither of the two class actions has been certified, the settlement agreements will be submitted to the courts, paving the way for approval. There will be a deadline for signing on to the actions, which means it is too early to tell how many members might be compensated.

Merlo, whose proposed class-action suit was filed in British Columbia, said she experienced many instances of sexual harassment that left her with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Davidson said she endured unwanted sexual advances and repeated harassment during her 27-year career, which included a stint with the prime minister's protective detail. Her lawsuit was filed in Ontario Superior Court.

The police force has streamlined the process for addressing conflict, giving supervisors more power to deal with disputes promptly, but some critics fear that has opened the door to abuses.

Goodale has already asked the RCMP watchdog to revisit the broad issue of bullying and harassment within the force.

The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP is looking at whether recommendations it made three years ago have been implemented.

data," the review committee report says.

Overall, the review committee was satisfied that CSIS acted in accordance with the law in 2015-16. But it issued several recommendations to make the spy service more accountable when examining data, tracking Canadian foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria, exchanging information with other agencies and using new powers to disrupt suspected terrorist plots.

CSIS argued that openly sourced and publicly available datasets were akin to the phone book, and therefore restrictions in the CSIS Act limiting collection to "strictly necessary" information did not apply.

However, the review committee looked at the full list of datasets held by CSIS and, in some cases, disagreed with the spy service's assessment that they were publicly available and therefore beyond the legal restriction.

As a result of the committee's intervention, CSIS finalized and implemented guidelines for acquiring bulk data and agreed to ensure it abides by the CSIS Act in collecting such information.

Sep 29 2016

SASKATOON - RCMP in Saskatchewan say they're doing what they can with the resources they have when it comes to patrolling and responding to calls in rural areas.

Mounties held a news conference in Saskatoon to try to ease public fears about the crime rate in rural Saskatchewan.

"We know that people are frustrated, that they feel vulnerable and violated when their property is stolen," Supt. Mike Gibbs, commander of the central district, said Thursday. "We understand that and don't want to minimize it."

"But our first priority will always be in responding to calls where people are in danger of being hurt or killed. We investigate every complaint we receive. But between our resourcing level, the volume and priority of calls, and the vast distances our members have to deal with, it can take some time to respond.

"If we're not getting to you, it's likely because we're responding to a higher priority call."

On Sept. 19, police said three masked suspects armed with handguns allegedly approached a farmhand in west-central Saskatchewan. Shortly after, there were media reports of farmers carrying firearms during harvest, and RCMP then urged people not to take the law into their own hands.

Gibbs said there has been an increase in complaints of property crime since last year, specifically in that west-central area. He could not provide any numbers.

But the Mountie said "carrying guns in anticipation of, or in preparation for a confrontation, is not safe for anyone."

The RCMP said as of Sept. 15, there were 11.5 vacancies out of 924 RCMP officers. There were also 20 positions where people were off for maternity leave, sick leave or suspension.

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

Sep 29 2016

OTTAWA - Canada's spy agency sifted through large troves of data for information of value until a federal watchdog raised questions about a lack of guidelines for such searches, a new report reveals.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service agreed to halt its acquisition of bulk datasets until it had a framework in place to govern the process of mining so-called "big data."

In its annual report tabled Thursday, the Security Intelligence Review Committee said CSIS used datasets to identify previously unknown individuals of interest by linking together types of information that have indicated "threat behaviour."

"They can be used to conduct indices checks by taking information already connected to a potential threat - such as an address, phone number or citizen identification number - and using it to search for 'hits' in the

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Gibbs said detachments are combining resources and have organized extended patrols to help address the rural crime issue.

"We adjust our patrols and try and do the best with what we have. I encourage people again not to take matters into their own hand because we don't want the Wild West. That's something that we're very concerned about."

He also said people could help by locking their homes and vehicles.

"While we might long for the days when didn't have to remove our keys from our vehicle or lock our fuel tanks, those days are unfortunately gone. What isn't gone is how we look after one another," said the superintendent.

"Keep an eye out for your own property and your neighbours, but do it within the boundaries of the law."

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Sep 30 2016

NEW YORK CITY - The city has agreed to spend more than \$6 million to buy cops 1,000 body cameras, the Daily News has learned.



The planned purchase, under terms of a mandate by the federal monitor for the NYPD, comes amid a nationwide push to outfit more law enforcement officers with body cams after a slew of shootings of unarmed black men by police.

The five-year, \$6,424,035 contract with Seattle-based Viewu LLC will provide "for the provision of a complete and comprehensive body camera system using a Cloud-based storage solution..." according to the City Record.

First Deputy Police Commissioner Benjamin Tucker recently told the Daily News that 54 vendors had bid on the project, a number that slowed the planned earlier rollout.

Now, Tucker said, the NYPD hopes to begin rolling out the cameras in 20 different precincts at the start of the new year, with police and Peter Zimroth, the monitor appointed by a federal judge, studying what impact the cameras have on police actions, as well as on complaints and lawsuits filed against officers.

Twenty other precincts without body cameras will be used as a comparison.

Federal Judge Shira Scheindlin in 2013 ruled that the NYPD's stop and frisk tactic was applied unconstitutionally because it increased police action in minority neighborhoods, stop-

ping "blacks and Hispanics who would not have been stopped if they were white."

She also named Zimroth the monitor to oversee several court-appointed changes, including the use of body cameras.

(New York Daily News)

Sep 30 2016

THUNDER BAY, Ont. - Police in Thunder Bay, Ont., say they are investigating allegations that racist comments posted on a local newspaper's Facebook page were made by members of the police service.

They say a reporter for APTN News provided investigators with a number of comments which appeared on the Chronicle-Journal's Facebook page regarding a letter to the editor by Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler.

Police say a number of specific comments posted on Sept. 17 and 18 are now the subject of a Police Services Act investigation by the TBPS Professional Standards Unit.

In a statement, the force said the comments are "not acceptable" and do not reflect the values of the Thunder Bay Police Service.

The statement added that the police service "would like to apologize to our indigenous community for the hurt these comments may cause."

It called the investigation into the comments "a top priority."

Sep 30 2016

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Police in Newfoundland and Labrador say several arrests and dozens of charges have dealt a serious blow to the Hells Angels trying to gain a foothold in the province.

RCMP laid 59 charges Thursday, including second-degree murder charges against Allan Potter and Daniel Leonard in connection with the death of Dale Porter in June 2014.

Police say Porter had no known links to the Vikings Motorcycle Club nor did he have any prior criminal activity.

Officers displayed drugs, weapons and motorcycles seized following raids on Vikings clubs in what was dubbed Project Bombard.

RCMP say the group's red and white insignia is an indication of its affiliation with the Hells Angels.

Insp. Holly Turton says eight members of the Vikings and two associates were arrested following the two-year investigation.

Potter was arrested in Ontario earlier this week.

Nov 30 2016

VANCOUVER - A B.C. Supreme Court justice has convicted a senior member of the Hells Angels of conspiring to import and traffic cocaine following an elaborate RCMP sting operation.

David Giles was one of five men on trial in Vancouver in connection with a 2012 undercover operation which saw investigators posing as organized criminals in meetings from

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According to a decision written by Justice Carol Ross, Giles told officers he thought were with a South American drug cartel that he was broke after fighting previous charges and trying to get back on his feet.

After many meetings in restaurants and hotels, the Kelowna man and an unindicted co-conspirator delivered \$4 million in exchange for what they believed would be 500 kilograms of cocaine.

But when the deal went down, Giles' men found themselves holding 199 kilos of fake cocaine and one kilo containing real cocaine and a tracking device. The drugs were placed in duffle bags inside a Martha Stewart box.

Two other men were acquitted of conspiracy to import and conspiracy to traffic cocaine, including full patch Hells Angel Bryan Oldham.

Oldham was found guilty of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking.

According to the ruling, Oldham showed off a Hells Angel tattoo at one of the meetings with an undercover officer, as a means of proving that he was a member of the biker gang.

The lengthy court decision provides some interesting insights into the worlds of both drug trafficking and biker gangs.

Giles unwittingly gave the officers information relating to criminal activities of Hells Angels members. He claimed that side businesses had to be brought to "three people in his room."

The undercover officers asked Giles to introduce them to other members of the gang who could vouch for him. But that proved to be difficult.

"Mr. Giles said he had had three very long meetings and approached a number of brothers to bring them to the table. They were not comfortable coming to the table, because of Canadian laws concerning conspiracy and organized crime," the ruling says.

"None of them wanted to meet the (undercover agents) because they did not know who they were. He said if he brought brothers to the table and something went wrong, it would be a conspiracy and they have learned their lesson."

At another point, one of the accused claimed his father had a friend who was "high up" in the "Osoyoos border" and could provide information for northbound assistance crossing into Canada."

Another biker gang member said "he had a system to disappear in the United States. He would cross the border and disappear. He would secure a fake ID through a lawyer connection who was an old family friend."

Even the logistics of the deal turned out to be complicated, as Giles delivered \$2 million in very damp bills.

An undercover officer asked why the money was so wet.

"Mr. Giles laughed and said that all the money was buried," the decision says. "A lid had broken, and rain got the money wet."

Giles was acquitted in 2008 of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking re-

lated to another major RCMP operation.

Giles and the others who were found guilty will be sentenced at a later date.
(CBC News)

Sep 30 2016

BROCKVILLE - Under the Ontario Provincial Police, local police services boards get a say on whom to hire as a detachment commander. But what happens if the OPP only gives them one choice?

That's the situation facing Grenville County, a non-choice that raised the eyebrows of Brockville's police board chairman this week as this city ponders a switch to the OPP.

North Grenville's police board is withdrawing from the process of replacing Grenville detachment commander Insp. Bill Bolton, who is retiring at the end of November, after the selection committee was given only one name to consider.

"Our board has taken the position that, as a result of what we consider circumvention of the Police Act, that we could add no value to this committee," North Grenville board vice-chairman Bruce Harrison said Friday.

Under Section 10 of the Police Services Act, local boards served by an OPP contract "participate in the selection" of a detachment commander.

Typically, the local board gets representation on a selection committee, to whom the OPP submits a shortlist of candidates.

"Any way you turn Webster's dictionary upside-down on this, one person is not involved in a 'selection process,'" said Harrison.

"There's no doubt in our mind that the candidate who is being presented is a fully qualified individual," added North Grenville police board chairman Don Sherritt.

"It's just us not having the ability to select."

Chief Supt. Chris Harkins, commander of the OPP's East Region, said the process outlined in Section 10 has not changed; it's just that, for an Inspector-level position, which the OPP always fills internally, there are not always many choices.

"We've selected one candidate who meets the needs," said Harkins.

"We look at who's available in the OPP at that level, who has the experience and the qualifications."

Harkins would not name the candidate, who is currently an inspector at a different detachment.

"It's not rare that we only have one candidate," he said, adding the OPP does not hire externally at that level.

There are four police boards represented on the selection committee, said Harkins, who suggested the North Grenville board would be better off participating in the process.

The selection committee can still refuse the single choice provided, added Harkins.

Brockville officials are now awaiting a proposal by the OPP, a costing that will start a debate on whether or not to replace Brockville's 184-year-old municipal police force with a provincial police service contract.
(Recorder and Times)

Sep 30 2016

MONTREAL - Montreal police are now in phase two of their body camera pilot project.

Over the next several weeks about 40 officers from three different stations will be equipped with them.

Thirty officers in the metro division who deal with vehicle traffic are already using them.

(CTV Montreal)

Sep 30 2016

VANCOUVER - When it comes to crafting Canada's plans to legalize marijuana, there's one group that seems to have a lot to say: young men who use pot.

That's who responded to the government's online consultation in droves, according to the vice-chair of Canada's marijuana task force, Dr. Mark Ware.

He broke down the numbers as part of his talk at the Vancouver Lift Cannabis Expo earlier this month, noting that particularly when it comes to age, the response was "interesting because this is not typically a group that is heavily engaged politically."

The online consultations were held between June 30 and Aug. 29. Ware told his audience there had been some 28,000 responses. Previously, the task force had pegged the number of responses higher - at 30,000.

According to the information provided by Ware:

- 80 per cent of respondents are cannabis users - either medical or non-medical.
- 73 per cent are male.
- 64 per cent are between 18 and 34 years of age.
- 15 per cent are parents.
- 11 per cent are academics.
- 8 per cent self-identified as activists.

The online survey allowed for up to 1,500-word, essay-style answers on a variety of questions, from where pot should be sold to how medical marijuana should work in a world where pot is legal.

A company has been hired to read and classify the barrage of responses, Ware said.

That summary will be just one way the task force is gathering information for its final report to the federal government. Ware said some 500 policy papers from organizations like the Canadian Medical Association have also been submitted. A spokesperson for the task force later clarified that when accounting for duplication, there were only 350 submissions.

Task force members have been travelling the country, conducting roundtable discussions with experts and visiting medical marijuana production facilities, and travelling south to learn from officials in Colorado and Washington, where marijuana is already legal.

Federal officials say the report will be considered as they craft proposed laws to deal with legalized marijuana, which are expected to come before Parliament next spring.
(CBC News)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 2016

Oct 01 2016

PEACE RIVER - Two quick-thinking RCMP officers rescued a man from the Peace River Saturday morning using the backseat of their police cruiser, which is designed to float.

The man was spotted in the river in downtown Peace River around 9 a.m.

Officers called at the man to get him to swim towards the shore but he was too disoriented to respond.

They had to step up the rescue once the man started falling below the water.

One officer ran to the cruiser and grabbed the backseat. He and a colleague then swam out to the man with the seat in tow.

"They were using it to try and get him to grab onto it so that he had something to keep him afloat," said Const. Stephanie Gratton, who said the back seats are made of foam so they can float.

The officers were able to pull the man to shore, where he was immediately treated and taken to hospital by EMS.

The extent and nature of his injuries is not known but the man was able to thank the officers for saving him.

Gratton says the reason why the man was in the river is still under investigation. (CBC News)

Oct 01 2016

VANCOUVER - Athletes of all kinds were invited to tackle sections of a gruelling Vancouver police fitness test Saturday as part of the force's rally to hire dozens of new officers by next spring.

VPD's inaugural POPAT (police officers' physical-abilities test) Relay Tournament brought about 160 participants to the Justice Institute of B.C. in New Westminster, where police scouted potential applicants for a recruiting class of 85 - more than double the normal size and part of VPD's biggest hiring blitz since 2008.

Teams of four to eight from organizations such as community-policing offices, Crossfit gyms and dragon boat clubs competed against VPD's ERT, dog squad and other crews as they tried to beat the test's four-minute, 15-second completion cutoff for getting hired.

They split laps of the POPAT's agility section, leaping, sprinting and climbing stairs before tackling the punishing push/pull machine and throwing themselves back and forth over the vault.

Detective Const. Michelle Neufeld said VPD's recruiting team opened its gymnasium and split up the test for the tournament so potential applicants could get a taste of the POPAT while being introduced to the teamwork and fitness necessary to become an officer.

"You say POPAT to any applicant, they get butterflies in their stomach," she said. "POPAT and fun do not go hand-in-hand because people get anxiety over it. It's a difficult fitness test."

Gosbee said the current hiring effort is

largely due to the department's need to prepare for attrition as officers retire. (Vancouver Sun)

Oct 01 2016

QUEBEC CITY - Drivers who text behind the wheel have gotten good at hiding the habit, so Quebec police have stepped up their spotting tactics with a bus that gives them a better view of bad behaviour.

Police and highway patrollers have hopped on board the new pilot project, which sees them scanning the roads from inside a large bus. They say the elevated view helps them catch drivers texting.

"We see a lot of people who have a cellphone at the wheel, to talk or text, on their

thigh," said Isabelle Gaudreau from Quebec traffic control.

"It's not the sort of thing we can see when we're in a patrol vehicle. But in the bus, we see it clearly."

While officers in the bus observe drivers from above, a dozen police cars follow behind to intercept those who've been flagged.

In addition to the use of cellphones while driving, the operation revealed other infringements of the Highway Safety Code.

"The seat belt also - it surprised us to see how much, especially drivers of heavy vehicles," said Gaudreau.

The pilot project began Tuesday and officials are already calling it a success - more than 70 tickets were handed out in just a few days in Quebec City and on the province's highways.

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SUNDAY OCTOBER 2, 2016

Oct 02 2016

MONTREAL - The Mohawk band council of Akwesasne has introduced what is considered the first indigenous legal system in Canada outside a federal framework.



While First Nations band councils have been passing and enforcing legislation on reserves across the country for decades, those bylaws are either tied to the Indian Act or within a self-governance agreement with the federal government.

What's special about the new court law passed by the council of Akwesasne - a reserve that straddles the Quebec, Ontario and New York state borders - is that it was drafted by the community and independently of Ottawa.

"We did it and our community is behind us," said Joyce King, director of justice in Akwesasne. "It's a historical moment. It's the first in Canada."

Justices and prosecutors must enforce 32 laws that cover civil matters including tobacco regulations, sanitation, elections, property and wildlife conservation. Criminal matters are still settled outside the territory, in federal or provincial courts.

Akwesasne's council decided to mix aspects of Canada's justice system with Mohawk values and principles such as considering the talents of the offending party and using them to benefit the community.

For example, if someone spraypaints graffiti on a school wall and the offender is a great lacrosse player, the law stipulates the person can be ordered to teach students how to play the sport.

"It's not just looking at penalizing," said Bonnie Cole, Akwesasne's sole permanent prosecutor. "That's old thinking - that's outside thinking."

"This law looks at the person, what offence they committed and how they can restore balance between the (offender), the victim, and the community as well."

Women also play a big role: the director, public prosecutor and the territory's two justices are women.

One major issue is whether Akwesasne law will be recognized by provincial and federal courts.

Ian McLeod, a spokesman with the federal Justice Department, confirmed that talks have begun between Ottawa and the Ontario and Quebec governments to draft a framework to recognize the new legal system but he cautioned "discussions are at the very early stages."

MONDAY OCTOBER 3, 2016

Oct 03 2016

WINNIPEG - A report says collisions and injuries during police pursuits in Winnipeg have increased year over year.

The report to Winnipeg's police board says there were 73 pursuits in 2015, 31 more than in 2014.

There were 29 crashes and 23 reported injuries, compared to 19 collisions and five people hurt in 2014.

In a majority of the cases, the fleeing suspects were in stolen vehicles.

The report says the increase may be attributed to a spike in stolen vehicles and more proactive policing.

Oct 03 2016

OTTAWA - Canadians will now be able to acquire naloxone nasal spray without a prescription, Health Canada says.

Health Minister Jane Philpott authorized the nasal spray, which works to temporarily reverse a potentially fatal opioid overdose, after an expedited review, the department said in a release on Monday.

The needle-free nasal spray is easy to administer and ensures that anyone can reverse an opioid overdose and save lives within a few minutes, said Dublin-based Adapt Pharma. The company intends to market the product in Canada.

Health Canada said more information on when the newly approved product will be available will be provided "in the near future."

Health Canada says the nasal spray's manufacturer can now take the steps needed to officially bring the product to market in Canada. Until then, the U.S.-approved product will continue to be available in Canada to avoid interruption in supply.

The interim order called the authorization "an emergency public health measure in response to the current opioid crisis."

(CBC News)

Oct 03 2016

HALIFAX - A gun amnesty campaign in Halifax saw 152 unwanted guns turned in to police for safe disposal in exchange for transit tickets.

The Fares for Firearms Gun Amnesty Campaign was held over a two week period last month.

Municipal officials say 123 long guns, 18 hand guns and 11 pellet guns were turned in by the public.

Given the number of firearms turned in, Halifax Transit says it has increased its offer of \$5,000 worth of transit tickets to \$12,800.

Participants who opted to take the ticket incentive will receive them in the mail over the coming weeks.

During last year's campaign, 194 guns were turned in.

Oct 03 2016

KINGSTON, Ont. - A chance meeting with his nephew didn't go well for a Kingston, Ont., man.

Police say the 63-year-old is facing charges after allegedly driving into the back of his nephew's car at a red light in Kingston.

They say a 46-year-old man was stopped at a light on Saturday evening when another vehicle struck him from behind.

When he got out of his vehicle to see what happened he found the driver of the other vehicle was his uncle.

Investigators say the older man was taken to a police station where a breath test indicated he was approximately two times over the legal limit.

He's charged with impaired driving and driving with excess blood alcohol.

Oct 03 2016

AMHERST, N.S. - An Amherst, N.S., town councillor and mayoral candidate has been reprimanded and suspended for 90 days by the town's board of police commissioners for using a racial slur.

Board vice-chairman Paul Calder says the decision regarding George Baker's membership on the police board passed by a vote of 3 to 2 during a meeting today.

Calder says options before the board included suspension, reprimand, removal from the board, or a combination of those actions.

He says the board found Baker breached the regulations in the Police Act in making "comments of a racial nature."

Baker came under scrutiny after admitting to town officials that he said, "I'm not your n---r" to workers at Bambino's Pizzeria while working a side job there in July.

Amherst town council decided it didn't have the authority to deal with allegations of misconduct and referred the matter to the town's board of police commissioners, a civil body that has a different code of conduct than council.

Oct 03 2016

BOSTON - A police chief who was honoured by the White House for his pioneering approach to heroin addiction was fired on Monday after the mayor accused him of misleading investigators looking into allegations of improper behaviour with two women.

Gloucester Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken said she lost confidence in police Chief Leonard Campanello after he destroyed cellphone evidence and took other steps to deceive investigators looking into the complaints. She said she made the decision to begin the termination process "with a heavy heart" but Campanello's actions during the investigation were "entirely unethical and unacceptable."

Campanello gained national recognition for launching the Angel program, which connected heroin addicts with drug treatment without arresting them. The program has

helped hundreds of drug addicts get into treatment and has been replicated in dozens of police departments across the country since its June 2015 launch.

Theken said Campanello erased the memory on his city-issued phone and suggested someone else in the police department had taken the phone without his permission and tampered with it. The city's special legal counsel, Lenny Kesten, said investigators later determined Campanello's statements were false and recovered more than 600 text messages between the chief and one of the women.

Oct 03 2016

JAMES BAY - A 19-year-old died Sunday night during an intervention with Chisasibi First Nations police in a Cree community in northern Quebec.

Police responded to a call around 9:45 p.m. that claimed a person was outside a home with a gun. Police attempted to negotiate with the man.

The Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes has called on the Sûreté du Québec to investigate. Investigators were expected to arrive mid-afternoon Monday. Chisasibi is a village on James Bay, about 1,400 kilometres north of Montreal.

Oct 03 2016

HAMILTON - Dan Kinsella has been named as Hamilton's new deputy police chief.



Kinsella's appointment was announced at Hamilton police headquarters Monday morning.

Kinsella was a superintendent with the service, overseeing the service's Pan Am security and the investigation into the murder of Tim Bosma, one of the service's largest homicide investigations ever.

Kinsella will move into the role vacated by Eric Girt, who was appointed chief earlier this year. He'll oversee community policing, investigative services and community mobilization, and will direct operations at the service's three patrol stations.

"We are committed to public safety, we are committed to their well-being and we're going to not only look after the crime that's going on in this city but those quality of life issues that contribute to overall discomfort," he said.

Police board chair Lloyd Ferguson touted Kinsella's passion for policing and the community, where he's an active volunteer.

Kinsella said one of his focuses will be

on helping younger officers find opportunities to do training and have different experiences to increase their policing skills.

(CBC News)

Oct 03 2016

More and more North Jersey towns are painting blue lines on their streets to show support for law enforcement.



"As a former law enforcement officer myself, I can't tell you how much the support of the community means," Emerson Councilman Brian Downing, a retired veteran Bergen County Sheriff's officer, told Daily Voice after a blue line was painted in his town.

Northvale Police Chief William Essmann called the blue line "particularly special because it's a very public and recognizable symbol of appreciation."

Dating back decades, the "thin blue line" is used throughout the U.S. and Canada to symbolize the thin line between chaos and order.

It's employed, as well, to commemorate fallen law enforcement officers and to represent the shared commitment of all of them to protecting the public.

Citizens have begun using it in curb strips outside their homes and stores, while towns have been painting lines down important thoroughfares to show police that they have their backs.

(Hackensack Daily Voice)

Oct 03 2016

EDMONDS, Wash. - After 18 years in law enforcement, Carl Orsi has consumed more than his share of coffee. It runs through his veins, much like his commitment to police officers everywhere.

Orsi and his wife Cheri moved to Edmonds when he retired from the Berkley, California Police Department. His career saw the start of the crack cocaine epidemic, the Rodney King riots, and more murders than he can remember. But it was what he watched from the safety of his living room this summer -- the ambush-style slaughter of five Dallas police officers at a Black Lives Matter rally -- that impacted him in a way he has never experienced before.

"The job is hard enough. Now you've got people targeting police officers just for the fact they wore a blue uniform," Orsi said.

Not long after the Dallas killings, Orsi decided to get into the coffee business. He founded Thin Blue Line Coffee, a reference to the "thin blue line" of police that protects people from criminals.

Proceeds from the sale of his coffee go to

Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), an organization that supports families of police killed in the line of duty.

"Once you're in the law enforcement family, you're in the family for good," said Orsi. "I just want to take care of family."

Orsi sees the venture as simply a way to support people who have lost a loved one. It's a cause he believes everyone can get behind regardless of color or politics.

"Because it doesn't just affect the officer. It affects the family, their teammates, the whole community."

Thin Blue Line Coffee is only available on-line, right now. Visit Orsi's ThinBlueLineCoffee.com for more information.

(KING News)

Oct 03 2016

A new emergency alert system that transmits messages directly to cellphones, whether people want the alerts or not, is in the works for Canada.

The alerts would be transmitted to cellphone users regardless of their wireless providers. A similar system has been in place in the United States for years.

Once a message is sent out, it would be received by every cellphone in a geographic area, said Marc Choma, spokesman for the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association.

The association represents wireless service providers and businesses that develop products for the wireless industry.

The emergency messages would be used to alert Canadians to serious concerns like dangerous storms and possible terror threats.

The system could use an emergency radio channel that is picked up by cellphones, and enables the system to reach people even if the servers that handle cellphone calls and text messages are overwhelmed.

"If there is going to be an emergency, the best way to reach people is with something that almost everybody has in their pocket right now, and that would be their cellphone," said Choma.

He said the alerts can also contain pictures and text.

This "cell broadcast system" has already been tested in the Durham Region of Ontario, according to Choma.

Public Safety Canada is working with the wireless industry to test the system. It's the federal department's mandate to keep Canadians safe from a long list of potential dangers, like crime, natural disasters and terrorism.

The Department of Public Safety said the wireless alert system pilot project will be completed in 2017. Choma said setting up the system could cost wireless providers about \$25 million. Despite the cost, he said, wireless carriers support adopting the system.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) launched a full public consultation on the emergency alerts in March.

(CBC News)

Oct 04 2016

SAINT JOHN'S - Saint John's deputy police chief has been cleared of any potential wrongdoing in connection with the investigation into Richard Oland's murder.



Saint John Police Chief John Bates asked the Halifax Regional Police in January to conduct the investigation.

While Dennis Oland was on trial last year for the second-degree murder of his father, one witness testified that McCloskey, then an inspector, asked him not to testify that McCloskey had been at the crime scene.

McCloskey himself denied the allegation when he took the stand.

Evidence presented during the trial suggested a number of problems with the investigation, including a failure to properly secure the crime scene, prompting the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners to ask the provincial police commission to conduct an inquiry.

Halifax Regional Police have concluded their eight-month investigation, which included consultation with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service, and cleared McCloskey of any criminal wrongdoing.

They say there was no evidence to support charges being laid against McCloskey.

The Oland family operates Moosehead Breweries -- the oldest independently owned brewery in Canada -- although Richard Oland left Moosehead in 1981.

Oland's body was discovered face down in a pool of blood in his Saint John office on July 7, 2011. He had suffered 45 blunt and sharp force blows to his head, neck and hands.

Dennis Oland was convicted of second-degree murder in December and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 10 years.

He is seeking release pending the appeal of his murder conviction.
(CTV News, CP)

Oct 04 2016

CALGARY - A police watchdog group is investigating after Calgary police fired shots during a traffic stop.

No one was injured this morning when police pulled over a truck.

Police say the male passenger of the truck

pushed the driver out of the vehicle, and moved into the driver's seat.

The man then positioned the truck close to officers and that's when shots were fired.

Police say the truck then took off at a high rate of speed.

Police say the vehicle was located in Cochrane, just west of Calgary, and a man was taken into custody a short time later.

One man was taken into custody a short time later.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is investigating, as are Calgary police.

Oct 04 2016

A Norfolk County OPP officer was sent to hospital after a cruiser was intentionally struck Saturday afternoon.

Police were called Saturday shortly after 3:30 p.m. by a motorist concerning a van in Simcoe.

The responding officer located and stopped the reported vehicle. During the traffic stop, the officer was assaulted and had returned to the cruiser. The vehicle reversed into the cruiser, causing extensive damage and injured the officer.

The vehicle then fled the scene at a high rate of speed. The driver was located and taken into custody on Sunday, Oct. 2 by Niagara Regional police.

The investigation is continuing and police say charges are pending.
(CTV Kitchener)

Oct 04 2016

ORILLIA, Ont. - A report says a the vast majority of the 1,507 deaths on provincial police-patrolled roads between 2011 and 2015 were preventable.

The OPP report says over the five-year period, inattentive driving was a factor in 408 deaths, speeding in 336 deaths, failure to wear a seat belt in 335 deaths, while alcohol and drugs contributed to 321 deaths.

Over the coming Thanksgiving long weekend, police say they plan to target those four main behaviours that continue to road deaths - alcohol and drugs, speed, inattentive driving and lack of seat belt use.

OPP deputy Commissioner Brad Blair says "a complete shift in attitude" is needed on the part of drivers who do not take those risky behaviours seriously.

And Blair says passengers also have a role to play by buckling up and dissuading drivers who engage in dangerous behaviour behind the wheel and jeopardize their safety.

Oct 04 2016

OTTAWA - MPs are calling for new research centre devoted to the mental health of first responders and other public safety officers grappling with the often disturbing toll of their jobs.

Estimates indicate that between 10 and 35 per cent of first responders - from paramedics to prison guards - will develop post-traumatic stress disorder, the House of Commons public safety committee says in a report tabled

Tuesday.

"The effects of PTSD can be pervasive," the report says. "They not only affect the individual but can also have an impact on co-workers, families and friends."

The committee urges setting up a Canadian Institute for Public Safety Officer Health Research that would collect data, devise a research strategy and generally recognize the particular challenges public safety officers face in their work.

The institute should be modelled on an existing one for military members and veterans, but operate separately, the MPs say.

They also recommend that the institute's research strategy include a comprehensive overview of the literature on use of medicinal marijuana to cope with stress injuries.

The committee also wants the new institute to work with Statistics Canada on a national mental health prevalence survey to gauge phenomena including repetitive trauma exposure.

In addition, the MPs suggest formation of an expert working group that would draft a national strategy on stress injuries including policies on prevention, screening, education, intervention and treatment.

"We need to take care of our public safety officers, because they take care of us," said Liberal MP and committee member Pam Damoff.

Much of the testimony was eye-opening and troubling, added NDP public safety Matthew Dube, but "there's a sense of hope as well."

The office of Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale had no immediate comment on the report.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has directed Goodale to work with the provinces and territories and Health Minister Jane Philpott on a co-ordinated national plan on post-traumatic stress disorder among emergency personnel.

More than 50 people took part in a ministerial roundtable on the subject at the University of Regina in January.

During seven meetings, the public safety committee heard from first responders, government officials, medical experts and non-profit organizations.

Its report says that while most public safety officers are provincial employees of fire, paramedic or police services, there is still a need for federal leadership and partnerships among all levels of government.

Damoff said committee members "heard repeatedly" that groups want a one-stop place where they could learn best practices, rather than each start from scratch themselves.

Oct 04 2016

VANCOUVER - These days, Tia Vandermeulen has the wheel deal on the menu for customers at Cats Socialhouse.

The popular Granville Island eatery now offers high-quality Abus Bordo folding locks for bicycle-riding customers to use while they stop for food.

"People love it," Vandermeulen said Monday following a collective effort at the island this summer to foil bike thieves. "They know their bike is safe and I find it is helping our business. If we didn't have the locks they would go elsewhere."

Cats Socialhouse is one of many businesses on Granville Island putting tougher measures to stop bike thieves. And the results are in.

Bike theft on the island is down 60 per cent from last year. And in August alone, bike theft was down 80 per cent. What was at least one stolen bike a day is now down to roughly one a week.

Besides businesses and restaurants offering free use of high-quality locks, Granville Island has had a free bike-valet service over the summer.

The anti-theft program, Operation Rudy, was created by CMHC-Granville Island, Project 529, the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver police, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST), the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and some island businesses.

The main focus of the initiative was to provide easy bicycle storage and registration, improve cyclists' security habits through information and loaner locks, apprehend bicycle thieves through the police's Bait Bike program and put more bike racks in the open to deter theft.

Sinead Stinson, coordinator of the valet program run by BEST, said having a secure place for people to store their bikes while they shop or eat on the island has been a big hit for those wanting to leave their cars at home. The bike valet had about 10,000 cyclists use the program.

"This is the first summer our statistics have gone down in 10 years," said Vancouver police Const. Rob Brunt.
(The Province)

Oct 04 2016

INUVIK - Inuvik's new RCMP detachment is not only bigger than the one it's replacing, but also greener and designed to withstand the warming of permafrost in the ground beneath it.

"It's been a long journey," says Emme Kanji, who has managed the project since 2012 for Edmonton-based IBI Architects. "This is the end of the day that we realize our vision."

The \$22-million structure replaces a detachment that was built in the late 1950s.

The design team looked to the surrounding landscape for inspiration. The curve of the facility's shape is "reminiscent" of the Mackenzie River winding through the delta, says Kanji.

The design of the building sits on thermopiles, which keeps the warming earth beneath the building cool.

Kanji says it's the first building in Canada to incorporate thermopiles in its structure. The use of thermopiles originated in Alaska and is commonplace in many permafrost regions there.

The changes inside and out are "surreal" for Staff Sergeant Kent Pike who worked in the old detachment for two years.

"You know the term night and day, that's an understatement," he said.

Pike says the old cell block, while up to code, looked right out of a old western movie. "They call them old cowboy bars... just straight bars which you could probably fit your arm out through but not escape."

Pike describes the rest of the old detachment as "a very big secure house"

"The old cell block, you'd come in the secure bay with the police vehicle, you had to encounter dealing with a prisoner and then go up a flight of 13 stairs."

The detachment has gone from seven cells to 12 and is more accessible for the disabled.

Kanji says the building has improved insulation, heating systems and sensor lighting.
(CBC News)

Oct 04 2016

SURREY - There has been a changing of the guard at the country's the largest RCMP detachment.



On Tuesday, Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner introduced Dwayne McDonald as the new Officer in Charge of Surrey RCMP.

"I am excited about this opportunity, for no other reason than I love being a police officer," said McDonald during the announcement.

Surrey continues to face serious crime-related issues including drug use and gang violence, despite efforts to improve the situation. McDonald said he intends to stay the course set by his predecessor, Assistant Commissioner Bill Fordy, continuing the detachment's youth and community engagement work. Fordy was recently promoted to Commander of RCMP's Lower Mainland District. This promotion means McDonald will be working directly under Fordy in his new position.

Over the last year Surrey RCMP has added almost 100 officers.

Hepner said her first priority for the new Officer in Charge are areas of the city that are "exacerbated" by issues of increased homelessness and mental health. McDonald's appointment comes after a lengthy selection process that Hepner and other city officials had a hand in.

Previously, McDonald had been heading up the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT), and began his career in Burnaby RCMP 21 years ago. He is a father of three and is a long-time youth hockey coach.

During his own childhood he grew up in

various areas of Surrey, and his own father works as a pastor in the city.

(Global News)

Oct 04 2016

CALGARY - A Calgary police detective who faced a lengthy list of allegations of misconduct under the Police Act won't have to face any penalties.

Former detective Terry Freiter retired before the conclusion of his internal disciplinary hearing and will still walk away with a full pension.

It's a policy loophole that has some members of CPS angry and frustrated.

Detective Freiter was facing 10 charges under the Police Act including; four counts of corrupt practice and four counts of insubordination. A hearing into those allegations began in December of last year but was delayed until October 27th.

After his retirement, on Saturday, Freiter is no longer bound by the Police Act, so he will not have to complete the hearing.

It's not the first time Freiter has been a part of an internal investigation.

When we first reported on the former detective almost a year ago, CTV News discovered that he was also alleged to have conducted outside investigative work for the private detective firm, Walton and Walton.

Internal police documents obtained by CTV News show he was also accused of 12 more breaches of the act for those dealings.

Two former and two current CPS officers are now facing criminal charges in connection with Walton and Walton but Freiter has not been charged.

Many of the officers CTV News spoke with were extremely upset that a cop facing a lengthy list of allegations of misconduct will walk away without facing punishment.

However, the chief says the retiring officer isn't to blame, rather, a lengthy hearing process and outdated police act are.

"I wouldn't ever sort of say, a bad apple walked away. I think in this case we had a process of allegations of misconduct, we had a process to say to bring that evidence forward, to put it to a hearing, to have it all heard.

"The fact that the resignation stopped the process is not on the officer as much as it is on the regulations before us," said Chaffin.

Freiter will collect his pension in full.

(CTV News)

Oct 04 2016

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service's Crime Scenes Investigations Unit has been in operation for a century and to mark the occasion, a special comic book was released.

Legacy of Heroes: Behold the Proof is the fourth issue of the EPS comic book series.

The comic takes the readers back in time to the year 1916 and shows how fingerprints became crucial evidence when solving crimes.

The plot features Horace Reynolds, who was hired by Edmonton police in 1916 to collect and catalogue finger prints. It explains fin-

gerprint patterns, technologies used to find and lift prints and the system police developed in the mid-1960s to compare unknown prints with prints of known criminals.

Police said just a few minutes after an automated computer database for fingerprints called AFIS was turned on for the first time, the EPS was able to identify fingerprints belonging to a kidnapper and rescued a young boy.

Copies of Legacy of Heroes: Behold the Proof are available at all EPS divisions and online on the EPS website.

(Global News)

Oct 04 2016

ORILLIA - A ride in a police cruiser could cost Pat Hehn her role as chair of the Orillia Police Services Board.

The issue regarding Hehn - an Orillia councillor who serves as a representative on the PSB - surrounds her trip to Brockville on September 27th to attend a police services board meeting.

She was invited to the meeting by the mayor of Brockville - who is chair of that city's police board - to talk about having the OPP in Orillia instead of a municipal police force.

Councillor Mason Ainsworth brought forward a motion to dismiss her from the board but it wasn't introduced in time to make Monday night's council agenda.

Ainsworth says the city has received complaints from Brockville officials about Hehn getting a lift to and from Orillia in an OPP cruiser being driven by an OPP officer.

He says Hehn may have overstepped her bounds as a result.

Ainsworth says it becomes an issue when other municipalities contacted the city to complain. He says it doesn't create an accountable government and makes the city look bad.

Hehn left after the council meeting concluded and was not available to comment on the motion.

(Bayshore Broadcasting)

Oct 04 2016

Concerns over the powerful opioid fentanyl have left some customs agents too afraid to screen certain packages.

With law enforcement officials believing fentanyl is produced at labs abroad, the concern is screening officers could come into contact with a more concentrated form of the drug as it enters Canada.

"What we're telling our officers at this time, from a health and safety point of view, is that if there's a package and they think there could be fentanyl, they shouldn't touch it. They shouldn't approach it," said Jean-Pierre Fortin, president of the Customs and Immigration Union.

Even small quantities of fentanyl can be extremely dangerous. Last month, the Vancouver Police Department announced it would be training and equipping its officers with Narcan, a powerful opiate antidote. At that press conference Acting Sergeant Brian Montague revealed three VPD officers have been hospi-

talized for fentanyl exposure while responding to overdoses, two of them overdosing.

When customs agents are concerned a package might contain fentanyl, they leave it for supervisors to deal with at Canada Post's international mail sorting facility at Vancouver International Airport.

Canada Post did not respond to questions from CTV News about how many packages are affected.

While there is currently a policy in place for how customs agents should deal with the fentanyl, Fortin said there's still a lack of tools or training available.

"The border is actually the first line of defence of this country, so obviously we need to be trained like the firefighters, like the police," he said. "We need to approach this so our officers have the right tools, right training and the right equipment."

(CTV News)

Oct 04 2016

CALGARY - Amid fears city police are racially profiling in their street stops, police say they'll more closely vet personal data they keep.

Civil liberties groups on Tuesday revealed that city police statistics show the number of stops made to gather personal information are skewed to parts of the city with more racial diversity and poverty, but less per capita crime.

Of particular concern were the number of stops resulting in checkup slips made in northeast Calgary's police District 5, said Kelly Ernst, president of the Rocky Mountain Civil Liberties Association (RMCLA).

"District 5 has the highest rate of visible minorities and the highest rate of checkup, but doesn't have the highest rate of crime," he said.

In District 3 - in the city's northwest and the portion of the northeast that is west of Deerfoot Trail - police made 21,024 such information stops from 2010 to 2015, compared to 35,360 in District 5, he noted.

"There's a higher rate of crime in District 3 and a lower rate of checkup, and we know there's a very low minority rate - why does that variability occur?" said Ernst, who noted the citywide numbers of such stops has been trending down over the years.

Citywide, there were 27,735 check slip reports filed in 2015 compared with 46,081 in 2010.

While the check slips used by police collect voluntary information on ethnic background, those numbers weren't released by the force. Ernst said his group was told they would be charged \$14,000 for the full release of information.

City police are sensitive to those concerns and starting later this month will begin subjecting such data to greater scrutiny, Chief Roger Chaffin told an audience at the University of Calgary.

A newly created intelligence evaluation unit consulting with civil liberties advocates will determine what information isn't relevant to investigations, with that data purged after a year, he said.

"We're trying to modernize our practises," said Chaffin, noting the controversy over Toronto police use of so-called carding.

"Toronto was a wake-up call, it caused us to review our entire program . . . let's look at it before we have our own crisis."

He also said city police will focus more on potential "bias" among officers that could lead to misconduct.

Even so, Chaffin rejected the notion that city police have been racially profiling in their check slip stops.

He said District 5 statistics were largely a product of fighting gang-related crime that's flared up several times in the past decade.

"It was creating a huge risk for everyone in those communities," said Chaffin.

"It's never been ethnically based, it's based on the features of that crime."

(Calgary Herald)

Oct 04 2016

Lacombe police Chief Steve Murray -- a 16-year veteran of the force on administrative leave for more than a month -- is retiring to address "health issues."



Murray's retirement is effective Oct. 7. Since his leave, all inquiries and messages for him have been forwarded to acting chief Lorne Blumhagen.

Jonathan Jacobson, chair of the Lacombe Police Commission, said prior to the retirement announcement that he could not disclose reasons for Murray's extended administrative leave.

He later said the commission, developing a strategy to recruit for a new chief, looks forward to "moving the service forward in meeting the goals and objectives of the commission and serving the community overall."

Lacombe council held an in-camera session on Sept. 26 about the chief's leave.

Murray offered a statement after it was announced he was retiring, saying he is "extremely proud of the accomplishments LPS has achieved over the past four years with the tremendous support of both the Lacombe Police Commission and city council, and some significant organizational change projects will come to fruition in the near future."

"With those changes in place, and with an experienced and energetic team at LPS, it is time for me to depart and focus on addressing personal health issues."

Murray has lived in Lacombe for 18 years and has served with the local police force since 1999. He rose to the rank of sergeant in 2011 and became chief in 2013.

(Edmonton Sun)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2016

Oct 05 2016

CALGARY - A unit that reviews police actions in Alberta is alleging that officers broke a man's ribs and caused his lung to collapse and lied about him resisting arrest.

Susan Hughson of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team announced Wednesday that three Calgary constables are facing criminal charges that include assault causing bodily harm.

Clayton Prince, 34, was chased by police after he ran away from a traffic stop on July 30. He was charged with resisting arrest and possession of marijuana.

ASIRT began investigating a month later when video from a police dashboard camera contradicted officer accounts of the arrest.

"After Mr. Prince had surrendered to police and was lying prone on the ground on his stomach, with his hands behind his head, it is alleged that the named officers committed an assault upon Mr. Prince, both before and after he was handcuffed," Hughson said at a news conference.

"Mr. Prince sustained broken ribs, a collapsed lung, a facial laceration and significant bruising."

Hughson said the assault continued after Prince, handcuffed by that time, was put in the back of a police vehicle, where an officer dug the point of a key into the man's neck "resulting in an injury that became infected and required additional treatment."

The charges against Prince, who agreed to have his name released by ASIRT, were stayed in September.

Hughson pointed out that Prince had not reported the assault nor made any complaint at the time her agency became involved. He had photographed his injuries, however, and, when asked, provided a statement to ASIRT that she called detailed and compelling.

Constables Mike Sandalack, Kevin Humfrey and James Othen each face a charge of assault causing bodily harm.

Othen and Humphrey also face charges of public mischief for allegedly making false statements.

Othen faces an additional charge of assault with a weapon - the key.

A fourth officer present that night was not charged and is to act as a witness. Hughson said that doesn't preclude his facing police disciplinary proceedings.

She urged people to remember that it was good police work that uncovered inconsistencies about the arrest.

"These alleged offences only came to light as a result of the diligence of members of (the Calgary Police Service) who, in the course of a review of the incident, came upon video evidence that potentially gave rise to significant and disturbing conduct, as well as inconsistencies with the earlier provided informa-

tion, and reported it to their supervisors."

All three officers were taken before a justice of the peace and released on their own recognizance with conditions.

Oct 05 2016

WINNIPEG - A driver says a Winnipeg police officer who died after their vehicles collided had swerved suddenly into the path of his gravel truck.

Robert Morgan says there was nothing he could have done to avoid the crash on Monday morning.

Manitoba RCMP have said the name of the deceased will not be released but multiple media reports have identified him as Const. Trent Milan, 42.

Last month, city police announced that Milan was facing 34 charges, including theft, drug possession and possession of prohibited weapons.

Deputy Chief Danny Smyth said the 18-year veteran officer was also facing charges of obstruction, sharing police information and possession for the purpose of trafficking drugs including cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy and marijuana.

Meanwhile, Morgan is at home recovering from the injuries he sustained.

His gravel truck wound up in the bush on the side of the road.

"He went from driving up to me and I just thought he was going to go past me and all of a sudden he was right in front of me," says Morgan. "There was no slow, gradual, cross over the line. He was in his lane to my lane within a second or two."

Morgan says he didn't have time to think, he simply reacted.

"I just turned into the bush, trying to keep my wheels on the ground," says Morgan. "My main concern was my truck. I didn't want to go over and be dead, too."

Morgan says his ribs are really sore and he's having trouble sleeping because of the pain.
(CJOB)

Oct 05 2016

VANCOUVER - Police officers are being urged to treat drug overdoses as medical emergencies rather than crime scenes-and in some cases not show up at all.

Many drug users and advocates say that fears over arrest and prosecution are the main reasons people don't call the police for help when someone has overdosed. And this has become an even more urgent matter as thousands of people across North America continue to overdose and die from highly potent opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil.

More than 30 American states have implemented Good Samaritan laws, which protect people at the scene of a drug overdose from being charged with crimes such as possession-but not necessarily from other criminal offences.

Canada is expected to follow suit in the coming months. If approved, Bill C-224 will

provide amnesty from drug possession charges to people calling 911 to report a drug overdose.

While drug policy experts praise the legislation, they also criticize it for not going far enough to protect overdose victims and bystanders from other criminal offences such as trafficking or violation of probation conditions. A coalition of 71 drug advocacy groups wrote an open letter in August saying that expanding the bill to include immunity from other criminal charges and outstanding warrants would "maximize the chances that people will call for emergency assistance." The letter cites a study that overdose witnesses in Ontario call emergency services only 46 percent of the time.

And in the meantime, police forces are using their discretion when it comes to overdose calls, and whether any charges are pursued.

In 2003, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) became the first in the country to implement a policy where officers do not show up at all to 911 overdose reports unless there are concerns about public safety, or someone has died. Typically only paramedics are sent.

Over the last six months, that practice has expanded to police forces across the province, including the RCMP.

VPD Deputy Chief Mike Serr, the chair of the drug abuse committee at the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police said that broadening the law beyond possession charges would be troubling for many forces. "To say you wouldn't charge someone in breach of, say, domestic violence conditions, I think that is somewhat dangerous," he explained.

"I think police across the country are using their discretion when it comes to pursuing drug possession charges [when responding to drug overdose calls], but to expand it would have to be subject to serious discussions."

(Vice Media)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 6, 2016

Oct 06 2016

CLARK'S HARBOUR, N.S. - Nova Scotia RCMP say a 24-year-old man wearing a clown mask has been arrested after witnesses reported that he grabbed at the clothing of a young boy.

Cpl. Jennifer Clarke says the boy was with a group of youths who were walking along School Street in Clark's Harbour in southwestern Nova Scotia Tuesday evening.

The suspect, who was not identified, is facing a charge of breaching a court order.

It is the latest in a series of incidents involving creepy clowns in Nova Scotia and across the continent.

Earlier this week, Halifax police confirmed they were investigating after a photo posted on social media appeared to show a clown standing outside a local high school.

Students at Halifax West High School advised staff of the photo posted to Instagram Tuesday morning.

WINNIPEG - School officials in Manitoba say Winnipeg police want every school in the city to adopt a new American lockdown program that advises students and staff to try to run and, as a last resort, fight for their lives.

It's called ALIC, which stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate and comes from the Akron, Ohio, company.

Darren Thomas of the Manitoba School Boards Association says police are running the proposal past school boards and have begun training teachers in a few schools,

He says the program is popular south of the border.

Current procedures involve getting all the school doors locked and having everyone in a secure place that can be locked as well, then staying away from doors and windows until the all-clear sounds.

There has been controversy over whether classroom doors should be lockable from inside - some fear students could lock out teachers.

Now, the practice is for a teacher to step into the hall long enough to lock the door from the outside and close it going back into the classroom. The brief exposure allows teachers to scan for stragglers outside classrooms.

"I think there's great merit in the run and/or hide strategy," he said. "I have some trouble with the fight component, especially when it comes to our younger students. I'd prefer them to stay in the secure method as long as possible."

Thomas said ALICE teaches students and staff to throw anything they can at the intruder to distract or disable him if their lives are on the line; adults and able-bodied students are instructed to tackle and subdue the assailant.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Oct 06 2016

OTTAWA - The RCMP will announce the settlement of major harassment claims today that could see hundreds of current and former female Mounties compensated tens of millions of dollars.

The national police force has agreed to settlement terms in prospective class-action lawsuits brought forward by former RCMP members Janet Merlo and Linda Davidson, said a senior official with knowledge of the cases.

Under the settlements, women would receive financial compensation "based on a scale" of the severity of harm they suffered, the source said.

The official spoke to on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the details publicly.

Though neither of the two class actions has been certified, the settlement agreements will be submitted to the courts, paving the way for approval.

There will be a deadline for signing on to the actions, which means it is too early to tell how many members might be compensated or the total payout.

But the official said tens of millions of dollars would likely eventually be distributed among hundreds of women who have put forward claims of harassment, bullying and assault.

Merlo, whose proposed class-action suit was filed in British Columbia, says she experienced many instances of sexual harassment that left her with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Davidson says she endured unwanted sexual advances and repeated harassment during her 27-year career, which included a stint with the prime minister's protective detail. Her lawsuit was filed in Ontario Superior Court.

The moves to be announced today could help end a difficult episode in the force's history, one that has haunted the tenure of RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson.

Merlo and Gillis are expected to take part in a news conference to announce the settlements this morning alongside Paulson and Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale.

Also in attendance will be Labour Minister MaryAnn Mihychuk, who recently said she is looking at whether changes to the Canada Labour Code are needed to ensure future harassment allegations are handled properly.

The police force has streamlined the process for addressing conflict, giving supervisors more power to deal with disputes promptly, but some critics fear that has opened the door to abuses.

Goodale has already asked the RCMP watchdog to revisit the broad issue of bullying and harassment within the force.

The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP is looking at whether recommendations it made three years ago have been implemented.

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PETERBOROUGH - Nearly 18 months ago, the Mayor of Peterborough was removed from the police services board following a decision by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. He appealed that ruling and is still waiting for results.

On April 22, 2015, the OCPC ordered Mayor Daryl Bennett be removed from the Peterborough Lakefield Police Services Board, which has since been disbanded and replaced by the Peterborough Police Services Board.

Mayor Bennett filed an appeal of the decision but the results have not yet been rendered. The Mayor was not available for comment.

The decision by the OCPC followed a inquiry into the mayor's behaviour on the board, which found him guilty of 11 allegations of misconduct. He had been suspended from the board since 2012 when the investigation into the allegations was made public.

The allegations against Mayor Bennett included the elected official reportedly attempting to negotiate the police budget directly with Police Chief Murray Rodd, as well as making disparaging comments about the Board, the Police Services Act and Chief Rodd.

Throughout the inquiry, Mayor Bennett's lawyer, Richard Taylor, argued the Mayor had the best interests of the City in mind at all times. In their decision, Commission members said that did not excuse the Mayor's conduct.

"While we do find that the Mayor takes his role as a mayor very seriously, this does not provide any acceptable explanation to his ceaseless undignified attacks of the board, the service and the chief..."

"Furthermore, it is not the Mayor's intent that is at issue but his conduct, which frankly put is inexcusable," the members wrote in their decision.

In a release issued the day after the decision was ordered, Taylor wrote the OCPC was attempting to censor Mayor Bennett.

"Mayor Bennett will not be silenced," he wrote.

"The case has cast light on aspects of police services board governance. It has also cast light on the OCPC and its role. Furthermore, it has cast new light and attention to proper civilian oversight of police services. All of those matters are worthy of public engagement and full and open public debate."

(Peterborough This Week)

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