

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community

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Executive Digest

Oct 13 2016

SASKATOON - Police officers in Saskatoon will soon have a registry they can turn to which provides information about individuals whose behaviour may pose a risk to themselves or others due to a medical, mental or physical condition.

Page 2

Oct 14 2016

HALIFAX - The federal government's plan to legalize marijuana has some provincial politicians raising concerns about the impact on road safety.

Page 4

Oct 16 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberals are moving towards changing the controversial mandatory victim surcharge brought in by the previous Conservative government, with the federal justice minister expected to introduce related amendments to the Criminal Code this week.

Page 5

Oct 17 2016

The RCMP in Manitoba is trying an unorthodox strategy to solve a 30-year-old cold case - tweeting as the victim.

Page 5

Oct 17 2016

The president of America's largest police management organization on Monday issued a formal apology to the nation's minority population "for the actions of the past and the role that our profession has played in society's historical mistreatment of communities of color."

Page 7

RCMP reconsidering Auxiliary options



Oct 18 2016

VICTORIA - After considerable backlash, Mountie headquarters in Ottawa is taking another look at its decision to pull auxiliary officers away from the sharp end of policing.

The force is asking municipalities for their opinion on three options for the auxiliary program, one of which would let them go back to doing much of what they did before.

Auxiliaries - trained volunteers - have been part of the RCMP in B.C. for half a century. About 700 of them are scattered around 67 detachments in the province. Mostly they do community work - traffic control at the parade, crime-prevention stuff with local residents, that sort of thing.

Some auxiliaries could also, until recently, be found closer to the front lines. Working in uniform but without firearms, they would

accompany regular members on patrol. For municipal governments, auxiliaries also provided a (cheap) way to mitigate the Mounties' chronic understaffing problems.

For some volunteers, the front-line role was, frankly, the part of the job that kept them stimulated. It could also be a stepping stone to full-time police work, a way for prospective cops and their employers to take each other for a test drive.

The change blindsided communities that worried the new rules would hurt events - parades, fairs - that rely on the volunteers. In Alberta, Postmedia News reported that the policy change left hundreds of willing auxiliaries sitting on their hands while the RCMP flew in regular members from as far away as Newfoundland to direct traffic and ferry officials during the Fort McMurray fires.



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Now, municipalities are being asked for their thoughts on three options.

The first option is the status quo: auxiliaries would remain uniformed peace officers, but not do ride-alongs or patrols.

The second would restrict them to a community role only - crime-prevention, safety education - and take away their peace-officer status and dress them in civilian uniforms.

The third option offers three tiers of duties, each with its own training requirements.

Those in the first tier would do the community job described in option two. Those in the second tier would also do traffic- and crowd-control duties, go on foot and bike patrols, and have peace-officer status, wearing a police uniform.

Those in tier three would also ride in cars with regular members and work at traffic stops, that sort of thing, though with a midnight curfew.

Even as the RCMP auxiliaries have been pulled back, their municipal counterparts, known as reserves, continue to go on ride-alongs with regular members in Victoria and Saanich.

(Victoria Times Colonist)

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Celebrating 20 Years

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 13, 2016

Oct 13 2016

CALGARY - The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says a 76-year-old man who was shot by Calgary police earlier this week had also suffered a cut to his neck and at least three stab wounds.

The agency released the new details Thursday about the chaotic and bloody scene officers encountered Tuesday at a home in Calgary's south end.

ASIRT says a 21-year-old man covered in blood came out the front door and told officers a family member had attacked him.

The younger man was carrying a knife in one hand and a cellphone in the other, which he dropped when police told him to.

Inside a detached garage, officers found a running table saw and an unoccupied vehicle with its engine running and a hose between the exhaust and the back passenger window.

ASIRT says a man with a wound to the left side of his neck appeared from the opposite corner of the garage holding a large butcher knife, and then there was a confrontation and an officer shot him.

Oct 13 2016

WINNIPEG- The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba is looking into allegations of inappropriate conduct by an officer with the Dakota Ojibway Police Service.

The unit says it won't give any other information as the matter is in the earliest stages of the investigation.

It is also investigating the death of a man at the Winnipeg Remand Centre on Wednesday.

The man - the unit won't give the age - was taken into custody by Winnipeg police and there was a struggle during processing at the remand centre, resulting in the person becoming unresponsive.

The man was taken by ambulance to Health Sciences Centre and pronounced dead.

Oct 13 2016

SASKATOON - Police officers in Saskatoon will soon have a registry they can turn to which provides information about individuals whose behaviour may pose a risk to themselves or others due to a medical, mental or physical condition.

The Vulnerable Person Registry will be operated in partnership with Autism Services Saskatoon.

Const. Dennis Hudec, who oversaw the creation of the registry, says he and his wife, Danita, have a seven-year-old daughter on the autism spectrum.

He says the registry allows for critical information to be submitted about a vulnerable

person, including pictures which can be put out on social media to help find missing people.

Danita Hudec says it will also specify if those on the registry prefer to deal with men or women, and whether or not they like physical contact.

Depending on the program's success, police may want to include other vulnerable persons, possibly those with Alzheimer's disease or a mental illness.

(CJWW, CKOM)

Oct 13 2016

OTTAWA - Ottawa police say cocaine seized this summer contained fentanyl, the first time they've confirmed the presence of the potentially deadly opioid mixed in other street drugs.

The cocaine sample, seized by a patrol officer in early July 2016, was sent to Health Canada for analysis.

It is the first Health Canada certificate of analysis confirming fentanyl's presence in another street drug, police said.

In August Health Canada put forth a proposal to ban six chemicals used in the production of fentanyl, following the lead of a bill with the same aim put before the Senate by current Senator and former Ottawa police chief Vern White.

The public comment period for that proposal ended earlier this month.

(CBC News)

Oct 13 2016

ORILLIA - The man leading Orillia OPP pleaded guilty to discreditable conduct earlier this year after becoming "inappropriately" involved in a police investigation.

Insp. Pat Morris entered the guilty plea under the police service's code of conduct during an April disciplinary hearing before OPP Supt. Greg Walton for his involvement in a case last summer after a young driver threw a bottle out of his window at a passing motorcyclist.

"Inspector Morris knew or reasonably ought to have known his actions were discreditable," Walton wrote in the disciplinary report obtained by the Packet & Times.

"After reviewing all of the evidence and considering the submissions, I accept the joint penalty position and order Inspector Morris to forfeit 50 hours."

Morris declined to discuss the matter when contacted Thursday.

During the tribunal, Walton heard Morris took an active role in an ongoing criminal investigation involving an unidentified youth he knew.

In his decision, Walton noted since Morris pleaded guilty, the main issue revolved around determining the appropriateness of the proposed joint sanction.

"I am not concerned about Inspector Morris' ability to reform; I do not anticipate behaviour of a similar nature in the future," Walton said in the report. "I view this as an

isolated incident and I found his apology to be completely genuine.”

But Walton said he found the evidence clear and convincing that Morris committed serious misconduct.

(Orillia Packet)

Oct 13 2016

OTTAWA - Ottawa police have issued more than \$1 million in fines for distracted driving with more than two months still to go in the year, but they say it doesn't seem to have stopped people from picking up their phones or engaging in similar illegal behaviour.

“We're at a loss as to what else we can do, except the enforcement that we've been doing,” said Sgt. Mark Gatien of the traffic enforcement unit.

“Every day we go out to do a blitz, they're rampant. They're there right in front of us. If they're paying attention, they see us standing on the side of the road, but they're so focused on what they're doing, they don't see what's going on,” he said.

In Ottawa, one traffic officer alone has handed out \$302,330 worth of citations for cell phone use.

Gatien, a 32-year veteran of the police service, was at a loss to suggest how to reduce the number of people killed in distracted driving crashes.

“They need to go to what we see. We see the carnage. I've been into an accident where the cell phone is embedded in the windshield, jammed in between. So there's no doubt they had it up high when they hit.”

(CBC News)

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 14, 2016

Oct 14 2016

HALIFAX - Canada's justice minister says she's poised to appoint a number of new judges to the bench following criticism from Alberta, where a first-degree murder charge was stayed because of an unreasonable delay in getting an accused to trial.

Jody Wilson-Raybould made the commitment today at the conclusion of a meeting in Halifax with her provincial and territorial counterparts.

Raybould says she plans to announce more appointments in the “near future,” saying the federal government is reviewing the appointment process and the rate of vacancies in every jurisdiction.

Speaking after the meeting, Alberta Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley said it was troubling to see the family of a victim denied justice, and she pointed out that the province has the country's lowest number of superior court justices on a per capita basis.

Ganley says the problem has been in the making for decades, but she stressed that both levels of government “understand the urgency

of the issue.”

A jury trial was to begin next week in Edmonton for a 29-year-old accused of fatally stabbing a fellow inmate in August 2011, but a judge with the provincial Court of Queen's Bench stayed the murder charge last Friday, citing a 62-month delay.

Oct 14 2016

CALGARY - Calgary's police chief said after viewing a video of three Calgary police officers assaulting a man in handcuffs, red flags about integrity in the organization were raised for him.

Heading into his second year as the city's police chief, Roger Chaffin said he's hoping to address the issue of officer integrity and nip and future problems in the bud.

“It's a very short , but what I see there makes me very uncomfortable,” he said. “I didn't like what I saw and I couldn't justify what I saw.”

Chaffin said integrity is something he's talked about on a broader level with members of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP).

“We did some ethics research nationally,” he said. “We looked at where integrity starts to fall apart in policing. What happens to ethics and professionalism over time?”

The chief said you could see very clearly in Canada that the highest level of accountability for an officer, where they feel the strongest sense of integrity, is when they start in recruit classes.

“That's when they feel very empowered by

what they're doing, their trust in the organization and their trust in each other,” he said.

But Chaffin said this confidence begins to dip after a year or two.

“By years five and six their ideas of integrity have fallen off the map-they've really gotten very low,” he said.

“You have these new employees who are dealing with the difference between what they thought it was going to be like and what they're dealing with.”

Chaffin said in the case where the officers were charged following the video, he feels badly the new recruit was put into that situation with senior officers. He said it's situations like that one that corrupt a new recruit's idea of policing.

“When he experiences or sees something like that and they're not met with the same attention to integrity, how do you think they're going to feel?” he said. “It erodes at your own sense of confidence and the confidence you have in your peers.”

Chaffin said he can overlay this trending dip in confidence in policing with their training map.

“We have less opportunities to engage our employees and at the same time they're starting to challenge their own sense of integrity,” he said.

“It does raise over time as they get more senior, but I think the newer employees are the ones I want to pay attention to and what their oath of allegiance really means-what it means to be an officer.”

(Metro)



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Oct 14 2016

HALIFAX - The federal government's plan to legalize marijuana has some provincial politicians raising concerns about the impact on road safety.



Three provincial justice ministers made a point of highlighting the issue today at the conclusion of a meeting in Halifax between federal Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould and her provincial and territorial counterparts.

Ontario Attorney General Yasir Naqvi was the first to bring it up during a news conference, saying the province is also keen to ensure there are measures in place to protect youth and focus on harm reduction.

British Columbia Public Safety Minister Mike Morris followed up with similar comments, saying road safety was a "paramount concern."

Diana Whalen, Nova Scotia's justice minister, says the impact on citizens' health was her top priority but she, too, cited road safety as a concern, saying the issue is important for policing.

Raybould reminded her colleagues that a federal task force is expected to submit recommendations next month, and she confirmed that Ottawa is sticking to its plan to table legislation next spring.

Oct 14 2016

OTTAWA - Two Ottawa police officers have been criminally charged with unsafe storage of a firearm following off-duty incidents during a May weekend in Kingston.

Const. Christian Nungisa, 33, was suspended in May after he reported his personal vehicle with his force-issued gun inside of it stolen from a hotel parking in Kingston.

Police believe Nungisa later found his car but then failed to notify Kingston police that the car had not been stolen.

Kingston police later spotted what they believed to be Nungisa's stolen vehicle with Nungisa inside it.

When Nungisa returned to Ottawa, police believed his gun was stored with a friend rather than being placed into his locker.

Police believe fellow officer Const. Ahmad Hafizi, 39, was with Nungisa in Kingston and complicit in the events that unfolded, prompting his suspension.

On Friday, Ottawa police announced both officers have been charged with unsafe storage of a firearm. Hafizi is also facing a charge of transferring a firearm without authority and obstructing a peace officer.

Both officers remain suspended from duty and the force's professional standards section has launched an internal probe into the matter. (Ottawa Citizen)

Oct 14 2016

The Ontario government announced nine new OPP detachments will be built, including new buildings in Orillia and West Parry Sound.

The current detachments are at the end of their useful lifespan.

"The new facilities are replacing structures that have exceeded their useful life, and will fully support modern police operations to ensure the safety of our communities and the people who live in them," said David Oraziotti, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

In addition to Orillia and West Parry Sound, new detachments will also be located in Fort Frances, Hawkesbury, Huron County, Manitoulin Island, Marathon, Moosonee and Port Credit.

"These modern up-to-date facilities will enhance the service OPP officers and civilian staff provide to these communities," said OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes in a press release.

The new detachments do not mean an expansion in police services.

"The new buildings are intended to provide modern, adequately sized detachments for the current level of policing with flexibility for future expansion if necessary," said Hawkes.

Infrastructure Ontario will be responsible for identifying and preparing sites for the planned development and managing the facility design and construction process. (CTV Barrie)

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 15, 2016

Oct 15 2016

KELOWNA, B.C.-The pilot in a fatal plane crash that killed former Alberta premier Jim Prentice has been identified as a retired RCMP officer.

A statement released on behalf of the family of Jim Kruk says the 62-year-old resident of Airdrie had been a pilot since 1976, and pursued aviation further in 2007 after a full career with the Mounties.

"Jim is dearly missed by his family and his lifelong friends in the Air Cadets, RCMP and aviation communities. Jim was a professional's professional, meticulous and methodical in all his accomplishments," read the statement from friend and neighbour, Kevin Moore.

The Cessna jet was en route from Kelowna, B.C. to the Springbank airport, near Calgary, when it went down shortly after takeoff late Thursday.

Two others on board in addition to Prentice and Kruk were also killed.

The Transportation Safety Board said the plane disappeared from radar shortly after it took off and investigators are looking for clues on the cause of the crash.

Kruk leaves behind a wife and two sons, aged 19 and 17.

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Moore said all were involved with Air Cadets in Airdrie, north of Calgary.

"His oldest son is a licensed pilot as well at this point, and the younger son is in the process for that as well. They are an aviation family," Moore said by phone on Saturday.

TSB spokesman Bill Yearwood said the aircraft, which was built in 1974, was completely destroyed and there was a fire after the crash. The board said the plane went down in an area east of Wood Lake and there were no emergency calls or signals from the aircraft before the crash.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 16, 2016

Oct 16 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberals are moving towards changing the controversial mandatory victim surcharge brought in by the previous Conservative government, with the federal justice minister expected to introduce related amendments to the Criminal Code this week.

The coming changes are part of sweeping reforms to the criminal justice system - expected to include an overhaul of the tough-on-crime agenda.

Valerie Gervais, a spokeswoman for Wilson-Raybould, provided no details, but those who have been watching the issue closely are expecting the amendments to restore at least some degree of discretion to judges.

MONDAY OCTOBER 17, 2016

Oct 17 2016

HALIFAX - Police are looking for a violent thief with a taste for trousers.

They say two men approached two other men in downtown Halifax (around Prince and Argyle streets) just after midnight and began punching them.

Investigators say one of the assailants demanded that one of the victims hand over his pants, however, the two fled the scene without the trousers.

A 26-year-old man was arrested in the area a short time later and is due in court, but the second suspect remains at large.

Paramedics treated the two victims for minor injuries.

Oct 17 2016

The RCMP in Manitoba is trying an unorthodox strategy to solve a 30-year-old cold case - tweeting as the victim.

Kerrie Ann Brown was 15 when she walked out of a party in Thompson, Man., never to be seen again.

Police say she was raped, murdered, and dumped by the side of a horseback-riding trail in October 1986.

The RCMP has issued a series of tweets written from Kerrie's point of view and hashtagged with her name.

The tweets chronicle her last day alive, dropping references to her favourite school subjects, her favourite of her brother's endearing quirks, and the last meal she ate with her family.

The tweets call on anyone with information on Kerrie's death to come forward.

"There's silence, but someone knows. Come forward. Stop being cowards. How are you able to keep what you did to me hidden," asks one of the tweets. "What you did to me that night destroyed my family & friends. I didn't do anything wrong. I was a happy 15-year-old girl."

The RCMP did not immediately respond to request for comment on the approach.

Oct 17 2016

TORONTO - Ontario is changing regulations to make the use of segregation in its jails and correctional facilities "a measure of last resort" and cutting in half the amount of time inmates can be kept in isolation.

Correctional Services Minister David Orazietti says segregation should be used under the least restrictive conditions possible while still maintaining inmate and staff safety.

There will also be a limit of 15 consecutive days in disciplinary segregation, down from the current maximum of 30 consecutive days.

Orazietti says the loss of all privileges in disciplinary segregation will be eliminated and replaced with alternative sanctions and increased incentives for inmates to maintain good behaviour.

The province also wants a weekly segregation review committee created at each institution to conduct case reviews of all inmates in segregation.

Orazietti will also appoint an independent external reviewer to further examine the use of segregation and advise the government on how to reduce the number of people held in segregation and how to improve conditions for them.

Oct 17 2016

CALGARY - Alberta's Justice Minister says work needs to be done fast - and on all fronts - to combat the use of fentanyl.

Kathleen Ganley spoke to reporters at the start of a national conference on the deadly drug in Calgary.

Ganley says fentanyl is posing a significant challenge across the country and it's critical for all agencies work together to combat the opioid.

But she says it's not necessary for Alberta to follow the lead of British Columbia and declare a public health emergency.

B.C.'s chief health officer declared a public health emergency earlier this year, after an alarming number of fentanyl overdose deaths in the province.

Ganley says declaring a health emergency should be reserved for when there's an outbreak of a communicable disease because police get increased powers, such as the right to enter homes without a search warrant.

"None of those powers will assist us in this," she said.

"It's much more helpful, I think, to continue assuring that we can address that demand side in addition to the supply side" of the fentanyl market, she said.

There were 159 fentanyl-related deaths in Alberta in the first six months of this year, compared with 139 over the same time period last year.

(CFFR)

Oct 17 2016

Officials with the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service say they're welcoming the ratification of a new labour deal between NAPS officers and the police services board, which includes salary increases and improvements to officer safety.

The agreement was reached in September, but officers needed to ratify the terms before it became official.

Union local president Jason Storkson said he can't divulge the percentage of officers that favoured the deal, but said it was a "clear majority."

According to Storkson, officers will receive a 10.3 per cent raise in the contract, which, along with a previously awarded 1.5 per cent salary increase, will bring NAPS officers in line with a 11.8 per cent raise awarded by a federal arbitrator a couple of years ago.

That decision was later found to be not binding, as NAPS is a provincial program, Storkson said.

In addition to pay, the union said that commitments have been made to ensure officers will be safer on the job.

That means hiring more police, so that by 2018 no one will be working alone in a community, as well as improvements to the communication systems used by officers.

"That's come a long way," Storkson said of the move away from obsolete radio technology towards cellular and satellite phones.

Promises were also made related to fixing up detachments that NAPS officers work out of, he added, but said that those pledges weren't part of the collective agreement.

The contract runs until March 31, 2018.

(CBC News)

Oct 17 2016

OTTAWA - A fourth Ottawa police officer has pleaded guilty to misconduct after an internal probe into widespread faked traffic warnings at the force.

Const. Clinton Danson, a west division officer employed by the force since 2009, pleaded guilty to discreditable conduct in September of this year. Last week, he was sentenced to a four-month demotion to second-

class constable.

Between May and July 2015, Danson failed to deliver to drivers a total of five warnings that he issued in the police system. The warnings ought to have been delivered to three different drivers on three different dates. In all of the cases, other legitimate warnings were delivered to the drivers.

Danson has no previous discipline on record.

Danson's conduct was flagged as part of a force-wide audit in provincial offence notices issued to drivers. Two whistleblowing traffic officers, neither of whom have been implicated in the probe, became increasingly suspicious of how Const. Edward Ellis was skyrocketing to the top of the traffic squad's internal stats. One of those officers found undelivered warnings in Ellis's cruiser and took them to the chain of command, sparking an audit of all traffic warnings issued by police.

What resulted was nearly a year-long probe by internal investigators into systemic "ghost warnings" or "phantom tickets" - faked no-fee tickets that are used mostly as a method of driver deterrence and education. The investigation has brought about two officer suspensions and has sent nine officers to desk duty.

The probe into the ghost warnings has, so far, resulted in five officers being charged. Four have pleaded guilty.

(Ottawa Sun)

Oct 17 2016

Quebec's Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes (BEI) will investigate an August car crash involving a Gatineau police car after an 81-year-old man who was injured in the collision died on Monday.

According to the BEI, a Gatineau police officer was responding to a call on Aug. 25 when the police cruiser collided with a car driven by the 81-year-old.

The man was hospitalized with minor injuries for several days after the collision, and then transferred to a respite care centre, where he died on Monday, the bureau said in a statement.

The BEI, the new provincial agency established this summer, conducts independent investigations when a person is killed, suffers serious injuries, or is shot by an officer during an intervention or while in police custody.

The Gatineau incident is the bureau's 14th investigation since launching in June.

(Montreal Gazette)

Oct 17 2016

WASHINGTON - The head of the FBI is pushing back against allegations that police have been gunning down black men at historic rates.

In weekend remarks at the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, FBI Director James Comey called for better statistics about police encounters that leave people dead and reiterated his concern about the "Ferguson effect" making officers' jobs more difficult.

"As a country, we simply haven't bothered to collect the data, to gather the information," Comey said. "And in the absence of information, we have anecdotes, we have videos, we have good people believing something terrible is going on. In a nation of almost a million law enforcement officers and tens of millions of police encounters each year, a small group of videos serve as proof of an epidemic."

"We must have a national database about our use of deadly force," he added. "With accurate information, we can all get better."

The federal government does not keep statistics about how many people are killed in police interactions, much to the dismay of activists and journalists. However, the FBI has launched a pilot program to begin collecting the data from police departments starting in 2017.

According to Comey, firm data about the number of people killed by police would help to restore the frayed relationships between police departments and minority communities, some of whom have been confronted with a steady stream of news stories about unarmed black men being killed by police.

"That is the narrative. It is a narrative driven by video images of real misconduct, possible misconduct, and perceived misconduct," Comey said.

"That sense by good people that the police are doing terrible things has real costs," he added, in a reference to the Ferguson effect. The alleged phenomenon, over which Comey

has previously clashed with President Obama, claims that the proliferation of stories about police killing unarmed black men has turned communities against police officers and made them more hesitant to do aggressive police work. In turn, critics say, that leads to greater crime.

"The leaders we need know that this narrative makes it hard to gain our footing. It makes it hard for us to help people," Comey said.

"The leaders we need ask questions: Do my officers get out of their car at midnight to ask a group of kids what their business is on a street corner? Do they stop the car with tinted windows that just ran a stop sign in a high-crime neighborhood?" he asked.

"Or, as you have told me, do they first ask themselves, 'Could this get me famous or dead?' And the answer changes policing and changes neighborhoods."

(The Hill)

Oct 17 2016

KINGSTON - An Algonquin College student from Ottawa is one of three people charged with slapping a Kingston police horse in separate incidents during Queen's University homecoming events on Saturday, and now faces stiff penalties under a new law aimed at protecting law enforcement animals.

Kingston police say all three incidents happened within an hour of each other between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. ET.



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The three - a female Queen's student, the male Algonquin student and another man from the Cobourg, Ont., area, are each facing a charge of injuring a law enforcement animal.

The charge falls under an amendment to the Criminal Code known as "Quanto's Law," named after an Edmonton police dog stabbed to death by a suspect in 2013.

The law, which was enacted in July 2015, is aimed at better protecting police and military service animals by holding accountable those who kill or injure them, and replaces punishments available under broader animal cruelty laws.

Anyone convicted of killing a police animal now faces up to five years in prison, while injuring animals can net up to 18 months in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000.

A brief video making the rounds on social media shows a young woman approaching a police horse from the side and touching or slapping the animal's hip. The horse then kicks the woman, who falls to the ground before running back across the street holding a hand to her face.

(CBC News)

Oct 17 2016

The president of America's largest police management organization on Monday issued a formal apology to the nation's minority population "for the actions of the past and the role that our profession has played in society's historical mistreatment of communities of color."



Terrence M. Cunningham, the chief of police in Wellesley, Mass., delivered his remarks at the convention in San Diego of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, whose membership includes 23,000 police officials in the United States. The statement was issued on behalf of the IACP.

Cunningham's comments are an acknowledgement of police departments' past role in exacerbating tensions and a way to move forward and improve community relations nationwide.

"Events over the past several years," Cunningham said, "have caused many to question the actions of our officers and has tragically undermined the trust that the public must and should have in their police departments..."

The history of the law enforcement profession is replete with examples of bravery, self-sacrifice, and service to the community. At its core, policing is a noble profession."

Cunningham added, "At the same time, it is also clear that the history of policing has also had darker periods." He cited laws enacted by state and federal governments which "have required police officers to perform many unpalatable tasks..."

While this is no longer the case, this dark side of our shared history has created a multigenerational - almost inherited - mistrust between many communities of color and their law enforcement agencies."

Cunningham continued, "While we obviously cannot change the past, it is clear that we must change the future... For our part, the first step is for law enforcement and the IACP to acknowledge and apologize for the actions of the past and the role that our profession has played in society's historical mistreatment of communities of color."

He concluded, "It is my hope that, by working together, we can break this historic cycle of mistrust and build a better and safer future for us all."

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2016

Oct 18 2016

WINNIPEG - Nine people have been arrested and 11 others are wanted in a series of break-ins and thefts in Western Canada.

Winnipeg police say over the last year, vehicles, blank passports, two RCMP uniforms and many other items were stolen from homes and businesses.

Insp. Barry Kostchuk says more than 140 charges are pending and \$300,000 worth of stolen property has been recovered.

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The investigation started in Winnipeg and police say it led them to suspects who were also active in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Two people were arrested in Calgary last month after two Mountie uniforms and police equipment were found in a home.

Kostchuk says there is no sign of gang involvement, but the group was semi-organized.

"Most of them are known to each other and would communicate and share information regarding property, and go out and either search out property or sell property," he said at a news conference Tuesday.

Oct 18 2016

TORONTO - Police say 32 people have been charged with 78 offences in a six-day co-ordinated investigation into human trafficking across Canada.

More than 390 officers from 53 Canadian police services, plus the FBI in the United States, directly engaged with people suspected of working in the sex trade, potentially against their will.

Most of the arrests in Operation Northern Spotlight occurred in Ontario where 25 people were charged with 67 offences.

Outside of Ontario, 17 police services and several RCMP municipal detachments across Canada participated in the investigation.

Charges laid during the investigation include trafficking in persons under 18, procure sexual services under 18, exercising control, making child pornography, and distributing child pornography.

Investigators say they were also able to ensure the safety of 16 people who had been working in the sex trade as a minor or against their will, including numerous people 16 and under.

Oct 18 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The province's Special Investigations Unit says a York regional police officer who pursued a speeding vehicle that crashed into a ditch, killing the driver, will not face criminal charges.

The Special Investigations Unit says its investigation included a detailed collision reconstruction analysis, a review of the in-camera video from the officer's cruiser, and video captured by cameras in the area of the incident.

SIU director Tony Loparco says the officer did "absolutely nothing" to contribute to the cause of the collision and maintained a substantial distance, which is evident on the in-car camera video.

Accident reconstruction analysis concluded that the man failed to negotiate a left curve before his vehicle travelled approximately 70 metres across two opposite lanes of traffic and then struck a utility pole, the SIU said.

This launched the car into the air, after which it slammed into a dirt embankment in a ditch and the man, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the vehicle.

Oct 18 2016

VICTORIA - A charge of child luring has been approved against a British Columbia RCMP officer connected to video taken during a sting by a vigilante group this summer.

Const. Dario Devic is accused of communicating for sexual reasons with someone he believed was younger than 16.

Devic originally faced charges of luring and breach of trust by a public officer, but a formal charge assessment has been completed by the Criminal Justice Branch and has determined the breach of trust charge does not meet the required standard.

The single charge of luring a child will proceed and Devic is expected to appear in provincial court in Surrey on Oct. 19.

Devic was arrested in Surrey on Sept. 9 after a group that calls itself Surrey Creep Catchers livestreamed a sting where its members gathered to confront a man who they alleged was planning to meet an underage girl.

Devic's lawyer, Rishi Gill, has said his client will vigorously defend himself and is eager to have the matter dealt with before the court.

Oct 18 2016

EDMONTON - Police in Alberta say they have identified two organized crime rings responsible for ATM thefts and other offences that include firearms trafficking.

Seven people have been arrested and are facing 101 charges.

Officers with the provincial ALERT joint police agency say they began their investigation in May after the two groups were identified.

They say one group was operating out of the town of Rimbey and the other was in both Edmonton and Saddle Lake Cree Nation.

Police say the groups committed six brazen thefts of ATM machines.

They say it's part of a bigger problem in the province, where more than 130 bank machines in dozens of communities have been targeted this year.

"The impact of these offences extends far beyond the monetary loss of an ATM," said Staff Sgt. Dave Knibbs.

"These offenders have left a trail of destruction in rural communities and have shaken residents' sense of safety."

Oct 18 2016

OTTAWA - Just three months after the successful launch of the "No More Ransom" project, law enforcement agencies from a further 13 countries have signed up to fight ransomware together with the private sector.

The new members are: the United Kingdom, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. Further law enforcement agencies and private sector organisations are expected to join the programme in the coming

months. Their collaboration will result in more free decryption tools becoming available, helping even more victims to decrypt their devices and unlock their information, and damaging the cybercriminals where it hurts the most: their wallets.

"No More Ransom" was launched on 25 July 2016, by the Dutch National Police, Europol, Intel Security and Kaspersky Lab, introducing a new level of cooperation between law enforcement and the private sector to fight ransomware together. The aim of the online portal is to provide a helpful resource for victims of ransomware. Users can find information on what ransomware is, how it works and, most importantly, how to protect themselves.

During the first two months, more than 2,500 people have successfully managed to decrypt their data without having to pay the criminals, using the main decryption tools on the platform (CoinVault, WildFire and Shade). This has deprived cybercriminals of an estimated \$1+ million in ransoms.

The more law enforcement agencies and private sector partners work together, the more decryption tools can be created and made available. Currently, five decryption tools are listed on the website.

As a second step, the project will welcome new companies from the private sector, after a very high level of interest and countless requests received.

(Kaspersky Lab)

Oct 18 2016

LANGLEY, B.C. - Police say a 27-year-old man has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of a "well-established" member of the Hells Angels in Langley, B.C.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team says Jason Wallace was arrested during a road-side stop in Surrey on Monday and that he remains in custody.

IHIT says that while investigators are learning some information about what took place before the homicide that is believed to have been targeted, the motive is unclear.

Police say witnesses are believed to have left the homicide scene on Sunday before officers arrived.

Cpl. Meghan Foster says that despite the quick arrest and charge approval, there is still much work to be done in the investigation.

She says police are continuing to deal with evidence and are encouraging anyone who has any information to come forward.

Oct 18 2016

When Matthew Doane arrived at a bridge about 50 feet (15 metres) above the North Saskatchewan River after calls of a suicidal youth, he knew he had to act quickly.

Several people had tried desperately to get a hold of the 12-year-old girl through the guardrails, but without success.

The Rocky Mountain House RCMP constable crawled to the unsecured side of the

bridge and used his body to protect the girl, preventing her from falling or jumping, possibly, to her death.

Along with civilians and the local fire department, they potentially saved the girl's young life.

That was back in March of 2014.

Const. Doane's actions, along with other officers, were honoured at the RCMP Commendation Awards at a private ceremony in Calgary on Tuesday.

"I am so honoured to be here today to recognize the inspirational efforts our employees have made," Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan said.

Doane is now posted at the Didsbury RCMP detachment.

In early June 2010, an armed man showed up at the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) office in Calgary looking to speak with Andrew Johnson, an RCMP sergeant at the time.

The man pulled a knife and stabbed Johnson several times.

A severely-injured Johnson did what he could to get the knife from the man but was unable to do so.

Calgary police Sgt. Gary Creasser heard what was happening and risked his own life to intervene, becoming injured while trying to get the weapon from the suspect.

Calgary police Det. David Keagan also jumped in to help, after having a receptionist call 911. The attack ended after the man was taken into custody with the help of other ASIRT members.

The Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP said these officers are role models.

"From dedicating their lives to serving the citizens of our nation to risking their lives to save others, I am so very proud of these employees and their contribution to the safety and security of Canadians," Ryan said.

The ceremony also recognized 33 RCMP employees with long service awards.

(CBC News)

Oct 18 2016

CALGARY - The eagerly anticipated body-worn cameras ordered by Calgary cops under a \$1.3 million, three-year contract have proven unreliable in the field after the initial units, worth about \$800 each retail, were issued to officers for real-world testing.

With CPS preparing for a possible legal fight in recovering that money from the camera supplier, Safety Innovations, exactly what went wrong is being kept vague - but last February, Postmedia reported glitches in the microphone buttons causing interference over the entire network.

The combination camera/microphones, which were expected to be fully in use by early 2017 - making Calgary the first major police organization in Canada to implement body-worn cameras service-wide - are now considered ill-suited for police work and cannot be used.

Police officials are trying to get their

money back.

And they are shopping around again, with a Request For Information issued last week, seeking "the capture of digital assets through the use of Body worn Cameras and vehicle mounted In-Car Digital Video."

After that, there's the arduous task of choosing a suitable system and finding the right supplier, then testing the units, and finally ordering them and training officers once they arrive.

With the last attempt to equip the force with cameras taking more than three years, this is obviously not a quick fix.

(Calgary Sun)

Oct 18 2016

OTTAWA - A constable with the Ottawa police tactical unit has been suspended following a fight that broke out inside police headquarters last Thursday, and sources within the force are blaming a staffing shortage for tension within the specialized team's ranks.

Two members of the force's SWAT team were bloodied in the punch-up on Oct. 13, which followed an argument over scheduling and overtime, police sources told CBC News.

There were no serious injuries, but Const. Wayne Hollet has been suspended with pay following an altercation with another tactical officer.

Ottawa police media relations staff would only confirm that an officer has been suspended. A general email notifying all officers of the suspension went out one day after the incident.

Both Hollet and the other officer have been on the tactical squad for more than five years and have more than a decade of policing experience.

Hollet's case is being investigated by the professional standards branch for misconduct under the Police Services Act. Staffing pressures are being blamed for the latest flare-up.

Sources with knowledge of the incident said the two officers started arguing after Hollet was asked why he wasn't available to do overtime for a special operation last Thursday.

Although emergency operations, such as an active shooting, require mandatory participation by tactical members, planned operations do not.

CBC News has learned that in the days leading up to the fist fight, the tactical unit was unable to call up enough officers to carry out three separate search warrants for drugs and child pornography. The operations were postponed.

Sources tell CBC that recently some shifts have been staffed with half that number because of annual leave, training courses and injuries.

The tactical unit should have about 28 officers, including a staff sergeant. Currently there are two officers in the unit who have been assigned to other duties after suffering injuries on the job, as well as three vacancies that haven't been filled for months.

(CBC News)



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.

The 2017 recipient will be recognized in the April 2017 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at a gala presentation banquet held on the evening of April 27, 2017.

Details and application forms at www.blueline.ca/leadership

Applications for 2017 must be received by February 12, 2017 and emailed to leadership@blueline.ca

Oct 19 2016

Transport Canada is proposing that anyone flying a drone bigger than a tiny toy should have to register their devices, pass a knowledge test and pay for liability insurance, CBC News has learned.



Through an access to information request, CBC obtained the proposed regulatory framework for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that were sent to Transport Minister Marc Garneau in April 2016.

The department is proposing that anyone operating a drone weighing more than 250 grams, including recreational users, should fall under more rigorous regulations expected to be introduced in 2017.

"The proposed floor for very small UAVs is intended to minimize the risks to persons, based on the speed and potential lethality," the briefing note says. It adds that even "very small" drones can travel quickly and impart so much energy upon impact that there is a 30 per cent "likelihood of lethality."

Transport Canada staff began looking into regulations for drones in 2010. Since then, the industry has boomed, prompting safety concerns.

"We need to regulate that to make sure that we don't have a disaster," said Aaron McCrorie, Transport Canada's director general of civil aviation, in an interview. "The recreational users are going to have to meet more stringent safety requirements now."

McCrorie has seen a dramatic increase not only in the number of people buying drones, but also the number of users flying them dangerously close to airplanes and buildings.

Transport Canada is also considering age restrictions for drone users, as exists for pilots. The department is proposing a minimum age of 14 to operate a very small drone and a minimum of 16 to operate a drone heavier than one kilogram, according to a briefing note from April.

The government also plans to stop regulating based on recreational versus commercial use. The new model is based on how much potential risk a drone could cause based on its weight and where it's flown, according to Transport Canada.

(CBC News)

Oct 19 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's Attorney General says he intends to look into developing a better support system for jurors in the province.

Yasir Naqvi says he's concerned when he hears personal stories of jurors who have experienced trauma as a result of performing their civic duty.

He says he'll reach out to the judiciary and other partners in the justice system for a conversation on measures that can be put in place.

Naqvi's comments come as the Ontario Court of Appeal is set to hear a case next month of a woman who claims she developed post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of being a juror at the trial of Michael Rafferty.

Rafferty was convicted in May 2012 of kidnapping, sexual assault and first-degree murder in the death of eight-year-old Victoria Stafford, of Woodstock, Ont.

The juror, who cannot be named, says she was brought face-to-face with Rafferty's horrific crimes, suffered psychological injury as a result and is seeking compensation as a victim of crime.

Oct 19 2016

A police officer who has epilepsy says two high-profile arrests in Edmonton are further proof seizure training should be mandatory for police officers in Canada.

Marcel Allen, a constable with the Ottawa police service, says he has woken up in handcuffs three times after having seizures on the job, and was Tasered in front of his children while off-duty near Parliament Hill in 2008.

Allen said when he read about two Edmonton men with epilepsy who were arrested and then charged for behaviour while displaying symptoms from epileptic seizures, he could relate.

"It's very hard to explain," he said, as he tried to describe the feeling of coming back to consciousness from a seizure and finding himself in police custody.

"There is that disorientation, the uneasiness, the fatigue. And then you're trying to figure out exactly what you're doing here."

Allen was never charged, but he said every time a seizure landed him in handcuffs, he was further inspired to develop a training program for Canadian police.

Called "Recognition and Response to People Having Seizures," the program is accredited by the Canadian Epilepsy Alliance and published on the Canadian Police Knowledge Network website.

Allen believes the module should be required training for officers across the country.

"We don't want to have a contentious relationship here," he said. "But with all these things that are going on right now, we're on a powder keg just waiting to happen."

He said he was particularly shocked to hear about the case of Neil Ryley, whose family called an ambulance for help when Ryley displayed aggressive episodes during

or after a seizure.

Ryley claims that several officers arrived instead and beat him in his bedroom before the ambulance arrived.

The Edmonton Epilepsy Association provided an older seizure training video to the local police service eight years ago, but spokesperson Cheryl Sheppard said officers have not been able to locate it.

"It's frustrating that they have access to it, but they don't use it and they deny even having it," Ryley said. "Because there's lots of people that have epilepsy. And I think they should be concerned about what can happen."

There are roughly 300,000 people in Canada who have epilepsy. A 2011 national survey found only four per cent of respondents reported their medication allowed them to live seizure-free.


(CBC News)

Oct 19 2016

Former Nunavut justice minister Paul Okalik wants the territory to terminate its contract with the Ottawa Police Service and start its own civilian police oversight group, saying a sergeant's racist comments show the southern police force "cannot be trusted."

Right now, the Ottawa Police Service is contracted to conduct independent, external reviews of the Nunavut RCMP for cases involving potential police wrongdoing.

Okalik says that shouldn't happen anymore.



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"In our own territory, we represent the majority," Okalik told CBC News. "And to have a police force, investigate our own police, with those views, is very troubling."

Late last month, celebrated Inuk artist Annie Pootoogook was found dead in Ottawa.

A few days later, Sgt. Chris Hrnchiar commented on an Ottawa Citizen article about her death, saying "much of the Aboriginal population in Canada is just satisfied being alcohol or drug abusers."

The incident sparked widespread condemnation from the Inuit community both in Ottawa and across the Arctic, who were concerned that Ottawa police Chief Charles Bordeleau didn't initially call the remarks racist.

Okalik says Nunavut "held Ottawa police in good regard up until this latest event," but the comments were so inflammatory that action must be taken.

"I would like to see that we have a civilian body to investigate the force," he said. "It would be independent."

"It would not be shrouded in a cloud, where senior members of that force actually have racist views towards Aboriginal people." (CBC News)

Oct 19 2016

TORONTO - A civilian police employee is facing 22 new charges for alleged unauthorized use of the Toronto police database.

Investigators say the 28-year-old temporary clerk with the force's forensic identification service was charged in July with two counts of breach of trust.

It was alleged that Erin Maranan of Thornhill, Ont., made searches of the police database in February 2014 and September 2014 that were not for official police business.

As a result of further investigation, police say Maranan was charged Wednesday with an additional 20 counts of breach of trust, and single counts of perjury and personation.

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2016

Oct 20 2016

A Niagara Regional Police officer is facing an assault charge after the provincial police watchdog investigated how a man was injured during an arrest back in August.

The charge stems from an incident on Aug. 16, when police were called to a drug store in Niagara Falls about an assault complaint.

The Special Investigations Unit says a police officer located a man behind a business on Thorold Stone Road and arrested him.

"There was an interaction between the man and the officer, which resulted in serious injuries to the man," an SIU news release reads.

The SIU did not specify how the man was

injured. "In consideration of the fair trial interests of the accused, the SIU will make no further comment," the statement says.

A Niagara police sergeant has been charged with assault causing bodily harm. (CBC News)

Oct 20 2016

SAINT JOHN, N.B. - A Toronto-area couple has been arrested in a daring New Brunswick diamond theft that has been connected to a series of similar heists nationwide.

The Saint John Police Force said 70-year-old Grigori Zaharov and 44-year-old Natalia Feldman of Vaughan, Ont., are facing theft-related charges.

They are currently being held by the York Regional Police Service, and will be returned to New Brunswick to answer charges.

The Saint John force says the pair "are suspects in numerous other jurisdictions for similar incidents," and multiple police agencies are working "to determine the entirety of their actions."

The pair were sought in an Oct. 7 theft at W. Smith and Co. Fine Jewellers in Saint John.

The store's owner said thieves presented themselves as a couple arguing over how many carats to buy, and then switched a \$10,000 diamond with a fake while the salesperson was distracted.

Oct 20 2016

ST. JOHN'S - The Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal has ordered a new trial for a 32-year-old St. John's man who was previously acquitted of a number of weapons charges.

John Peter Richard Squires was freed in late March 2015 after Judge David Orr ruled that the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary violated his Charter rights during his arrest and the search of his vehicle was unlawful.

Squires did plead guilty to breaching court conditions and was sentenced to time served.

The case dates back to July 31, 2014, when police received a report of a man with a gun. Const. Brendon McGuire responded and was told the man had a rifle or a shotgun. McGuire called for backup, turned on his emergency lights and drew his firearm.

Squires was in the driver's seat of a Pontiac Torrent with the window down when McGuire approached. McGuire said he ordered Squires to put his hands out through the window and not move.

Squires was taken out of the car, put on the ground and handcuffed when backup arrived at the scene. During a search of the vehicle, McGuire said he spotted a black gym bag with a gun barrel sticking out underneath. The barrel turned out to be a sawed-off shotgun.

In the gym bag, McGuire said he found two shotgun shells. He also found a knife in the console between the front seats of the car.

In March 2015, Squires went to trial facing a number of weapons charges, including possessing a firearm in a motor vehicle, possessing a loaded prohibited or restricted firearm, carelessly using a firearm or

ammunition and tampering with a serial number on a firearm.

All those charges were withdrawn after Justice Orr ruled Squires's charter rights had been violated and the weapons could not be used as evidence at trial.

The Crown appealed that decision holding that Orr erred in his application of the law, and the matter was heard at the appeal court last December.

In a decision rendered October 17, four of five justices that heard the appeal agreed that the trial judge erred in the initial ruling and that the evidence should not have been excluded.

The appeal court ruling did not include when a new trial might proceed. (CBC News)

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