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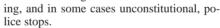
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Toronto policy designed to restrict police activity

Nov. 17.2016

TORONTO - The Toronto Police board has adopted a revised carding policy its authors claim goes beyond the minimum requirements set out by the province's new "street checks" regulations, but that critics say won't stop the harmful legacy of the controversial police practice.

In a scene that has become familiar in the yearslong battle against carding, community members addressed the police board inside Toronto police headquarters Thursday. Chief among their concerns: that police will still be allowed access to historic carding data, reaping the benefits of damag-



While the board's new policy creates a highly restrictive system to access personal information gathered in past carding interactions, critics have a simpler solution.

Delete it.

"I consider this information to be the stolen property of the people of the city of Toronto," Toronto carding activist and freelance journalist Desmond Cole told the board. "Despite the fact that the police may find it inconvenient to have to give up this information now, the true inconvenience and harm is what has been done to the community."

Carding, also known as street checks, is the police practice of stopping, questioning and documenting people not suspected of a crime. It has disproportionately targeted racialized people, particularly young black and brown

men. Their personal details, such as name, address, height, weight and more are added to an investigative database.

Following a bitter carding battle between Toronto's board and then-police chief Bill Blair, the Ontario government stepped in last year to

ernment stepped in last year to establish province-wide carding regulations aimed at eliminating arbitrary, discriminatory police stops.

Released in March, the regulations contain new, rights-based requirements, including that officers must issue a receipt at the completion of a carding interaction including their name, badge number and information about making a complaint.

Those regulations come into effect January 1, 2017 — creating a looming deadline by



Desmond Cole Chief Mark Saunders





In view of record breaking street shootings Saunders called carding a valuable investigative tool but wishes to reduce random stops.

which Ontario police services and boards must establish policies, procedures and training programs.

The retention of historic carding data is among the most complex issues with which police boards must now grapple. Amid calls to purge all the data, there's the complicated matter of the legal requirements to retain it.

Both the Toronto police board and the service are being sued in relation to carding; at last count, there were 15 human rights cases or civil suits regarding carding.

Generally, once a lawsuit has been filed the party being sued cannot destroy records connected to the claim, meaning neither the Toronto police board nor service can delete certain carding data.

Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders told reporters Thursday the litigation issue is a "huge" consideration when it comes to data retention.

"Right now, we are liable if we eliminate things. People are saying we did (carding) wrong. We've admitted we did it wrong in certain instances, and now to remove that evidence? We might as well start signing the checks," he said.

Frank Addario, the Toronto lawyer hired to write the board's carding policy, said it would be impossible to sift out properly collected information from wrongful carding



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stops — meaning the choice was between keeping all of the old data or none of it.

The new policy passed by the board establishes a system whereby historic information will be retained, but access would be highly restricted. Approval would have to come from the chief, and only be granted when there is a significant public interest or to comply with a legal requirement.

The chief would then publicly report on the requests to access data, the number of approvals and rationale and whether the historical data had served a purpose. The board would then strike a review panel to oversee the chief's reports.

"Those measures, I propose, will allow the board to monitor and control how and when old and bad carding data is used," Addario told the board Thursday.

In a statement, Toronto Mayor John Tory said that while he advocated for the deletion of historic carding data, he believes the proposed policy "appropriately restricts access to this data and increases accountability and transparency around its use."

Stating the new policy must be "a living document," Toronto city councillor and police board member Shelley Carroll passed a motion to have the chief city solicitor report annually to police headquarters on the status of ongoing carding litigation.

"We may find in the judicial decisions that we have a reason to amend the retention policy with respect to that old data," she told reporters following the board meeting. "Everyone would love to destroy it."

Another fundamental concern raised by critics is that the efficacy of carding has still not been demonstrated by police — despite frequent police claims to the importance of carding to solving crime.

"I remain concerned by the fact that we're developing a policy without evidence of the need for it, or its effectiveness," said Anthony Morgan, a Toronto-based community advocate and lawyer. "The question is, what is this really for?"

In that spirit, the board retained criminologist Anthony Doob, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, to research the effectiveness generally and the viability of carrying out research specifically on carding's utility in Toronto.

The carding policy approved by the board Thursday comes after years of bitter debate between the police board and former police chief Bill Blair.

In April, 2014, amid fierce criticism of carding and declining public trust, the Toronto police board passed what many rights advocates considered a progressive policy with sufficient civil rights safeguards. Among them was an outright ban on carding for "unspecified future investigations" or because of an "unsupported suspicion."

But the policy gathered dust as Blair refused to write procedures to implement it. After months of debate, a watered down carding policy was passed in April 2015.

Soon after taking over from Blair, Saunders called carding a valuable investigative tool, but said Toronto police needed to end "random" stops.

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Nov 17 2016

OTTAWA - Efforts by Canada's antimoney laundering agency to pinpoint illicit dealings of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and other extremist organizations helped spark an increase in intelligence disclosures to police and spies last year.



The Ottawa-based Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, known as Fintrac, passed along 483 pieces of intelligence related to terrorist financing in 2015-16, a 43 per cent increase over the previous year.

The centre tries to zero in on cash linked to terrorism, money laundering and other crimes by sifting through millions of pieces of information annually from banks, insurance companies, securities dealers, money service businesses, real estate brokers, casinos and others.

The centre's annual report, tabled today in Parliament, says Fintrac contributed to international efforts to weaken ISIL's financing capabilities.

The financial sleuthing agency also focused on ISIL's affiliates, particularly in relation to how these groups may be attempting to exploit Canada's financial system.

Overall, Fintrac disclosed 1,655 pieces of intelligence to police and security agencies last year, up from 1,260 in 2014-15.

Nov 17 2016

EDMONTON - Alberta Justice says it's appealing after a judge threw out a first-degree murder charge that took more than five years to get to trial.

Lance Regan was accused of stabbing to death fellow inmate Mason Tex Montgrand at Edmonton Institution in August 2011.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Stephen Hillier stayed the charge in early October.

He found Regan's constitutional right to be tried in a reasonable time had been violated.

Hillier cited a Supreme Court ruling over the summer, known as the Jordan decision, that spells out what constitutes an excessive delay.

Under the Jordan framework, the top court said an unreasonable delay should be found in cases that take 18 months in provincial court or 30 months in a superior court to get to trial from the time an accused is charged.

A York Regional Police officer has been convicted of sexually assaulting a woman during a traffic stop in Richmond Hill.

Const. Young Min Von Seefried, 33, was convicted of one count of sexual assault on Thursday. He has not vet been sentenced.

The charge stems from a Jan. 4, 2015 traffic stop when the officer pulled over a 21-year-old woman. The victim filed a complaint with Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, which resulted in a criminal charge laid in June of 2015.

"It is extremely disappointing to have one of our officers charged and convicted criminally," said York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe in a news release.

"It is by no means a reflection on the hardworking men and women of York Regional Police."

Von Seefried has been with the police force since 2006.

He will continue to be suspended with pay until the court proceedings are concluded, the police force said. Von Seefried is also being investigated by the force's Professional Standards Bureau.

Nov 17 2016

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Surgeon General issued a call to action on Thursday to end what he said was a public health crisis of drug and alcohol addiction that is both underappreciated and undertreated.

Dr. Vivek Murthy issued the first-ever Surgeon General's report on substance abuse and said he hopes it will galvanize work on the issue the way a similar report 50 years ago sparked decades of effort to combat smoking.

U.S. deaths from drug overdoses hit a record in 2014, increasing 6.5 per cent to 47,055, propelled by prescription painkiller and heroin abuse, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The most important thing is, we have to change attitudes towards addiction and get people into treatment," Murthy said in an interview. "Addiction is a disease of the brain," he added, "not a character flaw."

In 2015 more than 27 million people in the United States reported using illegal drugs or misusing prescription drugs. More than 66 million people, or nearly a quarter of all adolescents and adults, reported binge drinking within the previous month.

The goal is to increase access to existing treatment programs, which Murthy said have been shown to reduce the risk of relapse, while at the same time expand new and more effective programs.

Murthy stressed the importance of intervening early through school programs to discourage early access to alcohol. If a person has their first drink before the age of 15, their likelihood of developing an alcohol problem is four times greater than if the first drink is taken after the age of 21, Murthy said. (Thomson Reuters)

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 18, 2016

Nov 18 2016

Ontario provincial police say the number of pedestrians killed in crashes is the highest in eight years.

Police say 30 pedestrians have died on OPP-patrolled roads so far this year, compared with 25 in all of last year.

It's the highest pedestrian death toll since 2007, when 37 people were killed over the course of the year.

Nov 18 2016

WINNIPEG - The firefighters union in Winnipeg has launched an ad campaign in an effort get the word out about a deadly fentanyl crisis in the city.

For the next two months, a 30-second spot will run on television, radio and in movie theatres at an overall cost of \$50,000.

Alex Forrest, president of the United Firefighters of Winnipeg, says part of the motive for firefighters to put their own money into ads is simple self-preservation.

He says three grains of carfentanil – fentanyl's much stronger cousin – are enough to kill someone.

Reports from Manitoba's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner show the number of deaths linked to fentanyl nearly doubled in the last two years.

Manitoba Health Minister Kelvin Goertzen is in Ottawa attending an opioid summit Friday and Saturday on the national fentanyl crisis. (Winnipeg Free Press)

Nov 18 2016

EDMONTON - A judge in an Edmonton fatality inquiry is recommending police call for emergency medical help as soon as they spot symptoms of what's known as excited delirium syndrome in someone they're trying to get under control.

The recommendation from provincial court Judge Lloyd Malin is contained in his report from last year's inquiry into the death of Simon Chung.

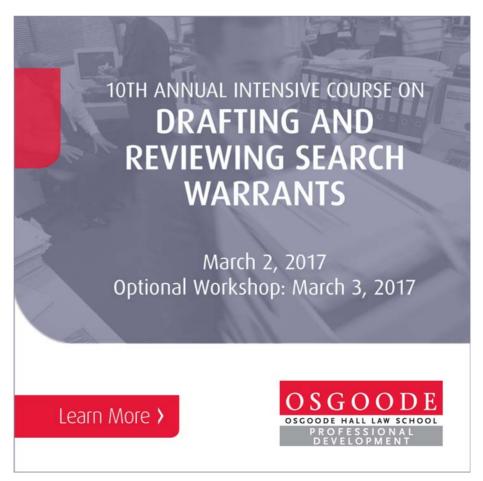
The 39-year-old man was high on methamphetamine when Edmonton police hit him twice with a Taser electronic stun gun.

The inquiry heard that two officers saw Chung push someone to the ground when they encountered him at a central-area location one night in October 2013.

Both officers knew he was involved with drugs and when they confronted him, one of them believed Chung was in a state of excited delirium.

Chung was Tasered twice when he fought attempts to control him, and he stopped breathing soon after paramedics arrived.

He was taken to hospital but was later declared brain dead and died about a week



after the confrontation.

Tests showed there was enough methamphetamine in his system to cause excited delirium and kill him.

The inquiry also heard that research indicates there's only a rare chance – perhaps as little as two per cent – that someone showing signs of the syndrome will die following the use of force to restrain them.

Malin says that while the use of force did not cause Chung's death, police procedures for dealing with excited delirium should be widened to include officers' interactions with everyone – not just those that deal with the use of force.

He acknowledges in his report that to ensure the safety of emergency responders, police restraint measures, including the use of force, might be required before medical intervention is attempted. (CBC, CP, Online Out)

Nov 18 2016

TORONTO - A police officer's demand for a breath sample from a motorist who smelled of alcohol but otherwise showed no signs of being drunk was reasonable and constitutional, Ontario's top court ruled Friday.

The decision, contrary to findings from two lower courts that acquitted him, means Andrew Schouten will now have to face a new trial on a charge of drunk driving.

"It is not necessary that a person show signs of impairment to found a basis for making a roadside breath demand," the Court of Appeal said. "All that is required is that the police officer making the demand has reasonable grounds to suspect that a person has alcohol in their body."

The case arose when the officer smelled alcohol on Schouten's breath during a routine traffic stop near Brockville, Ont., on an evening in June 2013. The driver admitted to having been drinking - but said his last drink had been 10 hours earlier although he couldn't provide details as to how much or what he had drunk

The officer then asked for the breath sample. Schouten failed and was arrested. Further tests at the police station showed him to be well over the legal limit.

Nov 18 2016

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Man. - An investigation is underway after a robbery suspect was attacked by a RCMP dog during an arrest in Manitoba.

The province's Independent Investigation Unit has been called in to review the arrest, which happened on Wednesday in Portage la Prairie.

The unit says RCMP were called to a report of an armed robbery and found three suspects when they arrived.

One of the suspects fled and was tracked down by a police dog.

The investigation unit says the dog bit the man on the leg and he required surgery for his injuries.

Nov 18 2016

HALIFAX - A Halifax police officer who was demoted for using unnecessary force during a traffic stop has won his appeal and the complaint against him has been dismissed.

Matthew MacGillivray, a former sergeant and 12-year police veteran, was demoted to constable in January after a Halifax Regional Police disciplinary officer found that he had used unnecessary force and engaged in discreditable conduct when he stopped Graham Labonte and Angela Acorn of Belle River, P.E.I.

But in a decision dated Friday, the Nova Scotia Police Review Board overruled that decision, saying that a lawful arrest was made following a reasonable perception of real danger.

During his appeal hearing, MacGillivray said he acted out of concern for his safety during the routine traffic stop that spiralled into an angry videotaped confrontation with the P.E.I. couple, who were on their way to a medical appointment.

Halifax Regional Police said in a statement that MacGillivray's sergeant rank has been reinstated, effective immediately.

Nov 18 2016

VAL D'OR, Que. - Just because no provincial police officers in Val d'Or, Que., are facing criminal charges, doesn't mean the women who accused them of abuse aren't telling the truth, Crown officials said Friday.

There wasn't enough evidence to lay charges against any of the provincial police officers accused of sexually assaulting women in the mining town, 530 kilometres northwest of Montreal, according to Quebec prosecutors.

Instead, Crown officials said two retired officers would be charged with offences dating back more than 20 years, which occurred hundreds of kilometres away in Schefferville., Que., in the remote northeast part of the province

"We have to be clear," said Mathieu Locas, with Quebec's Crown prosecutor's office. "The fact that charges are not being laid doesn't mean the event didn't take place. The burden of proof on the Crown is very high and we have to show that these suspects are guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

Montreal police were brought in to Val d'Or, Que., in order to investigate reports that aboriginal women alleged they were assaulted by officers sometime before April 4.

The investigation looked at 38 cases involving 35 officers, including six who are retired and one who is dead.

Twenty-eight people had come forward with accusations against police; 21 of them were women

Crown officials said they had enough evidence to charge retired provincial police officer Alain Juneau with sexual assault and assault, allegedly committed between 1992-94 in Schefferville.

The second officer charged is Jean-Luc

Vollant, a retired officer with Schefferville's native police force. He is charged with three counts including rape and sexual assault, between 1980-86, also in Schefferville.

Both men were released on conditions and are scheduled to appear in court in January.

First Nations leaders in the community of Val d'Or and around Quebec said they are unsatisfied with the results of the investigation.

The mayor of Val d'Or, Pierre Corbeil, has also called for a independent inquiry to look into the allegations of abuse.

Nov 18 2016

VANCOUVER - A look at how up to date the provinces have kept the statistics around opioid overdose deaths, including those linked to fentanyl:

British Columbia: October 2016

In the first 10 months of 2016, there were 622 unintentional overdose deaths from illicit drugs in British Columbia. Of those deaths that occurred before October, 332 were linked to fentanyl.

Alberta: October 2016

From the beginning of 2016 to Oct. 27, 338 Albertans died from an apparent drug overdose related to an opioid. Fentanyl was involved in 193 of them.

Saskatchewan: September 2016, incomplete

Saskatchewan reported a total of 15 opioid overdoses in the first nine months of 2016, including two accidental deaths involving fentanyl. However, those numbers exclude deaths that are still under investigation. 2015 saw far greater numbers, with 21 fentanyl-related deaths out of 76 opioid fatalities.

Manitoba: unclear

A government spokeswoman said Manitoba's health department has no mechanism in place to track overdoses. She said the province's medical examiner's office reports there are about 150 overdoses a year and that some of those deaths are caused by opioids, including fentanyl. The medical examiner's office did not reply to a request for more information.

Ontario: 2015, preliminary numbers

Ontario released its preliminary overdose numbers for 2015 a few weeks ago, but a department spokeswoman said the tally won't be finalized until sometime in 2017. Last year saw 529 opioid deaths across the province and 162 of those were related to fentanyl.

Quebec: unknown

Quebec did not reply to repeated requests for data.

New Brunswick: 2015

New Brunswick reported seven instances in 2015 where opioids were the direct cause of death, as well as 10 cases where opioids were detected alongside other substances. The province didn't break out the number of deaths where fentanyl was discovered. The 2016 figures were not readily available.

Prince Edward Island: 2014

The most recent data available for Prince Edward Island are for 2014, when there were four opioid-related deaths.

Nova Scotia:

Opioid statistics aren't readily available in Nova Scotia, though the province's chief medical officer reported late last month that at least 70 people died of opioid-related overdoses in the first eight months of 2016.

Newfoundland and Labrador: 2015

There were 20 drug-related accidental deaths in 2015. Eighteen of those tested positive for opioids, five of which contained fentanyl.

Nov 18 2016

VICTORIA - The Criminal Justice Branch says three RCMP officers will not be charged after a suspect in Surrey, B.C., suffered a broken hip that required surgery.

The branch says police were called to a basement suite in on Feb. 28, 2015, after reports that a tenant was "trashing" the unit.

A statement from the branch says Mounties found an apparently intoxicated man who was naked, bleeding and swearing in a room littered with broken glass and furniture.

The branch says the man initially complied with police and agreed to leave the residence, but then began pushing the officers who had to take him to the ground so he could be restrained.

The statement says suspect's nose and forehead were cut after his head hit the ground, but an injury to his right hip wasn't immediately obvious though it was later determined that he needed surgery.

Potential charges of assault were considered, but the branch says the available evidence does not meet the standards to approve any charges.

Nov 18 201

CALGARY - A veteran Calgary police officer has been found not guilty by a jury of breach of trust by a public official and unauthorized use of a computer.

Det. Gerard Brand had been accused of using police databases for profit.

Investigators alleged he dug up names, addresses and phone numbers of nearly a dozen people and handed that information to

a financial company that was trying to track down clients who owed money.

But Brand, who acted as his own lawyer in the case, testified he only used police databases for investigative purposes.

He also told court he had gotten permission from the Calgary Police Service to begin a side job as a mortgage broker.

The allegations dated back to a period between March 2010 and August 2011.

"I'm feeling relieved and vindicated," Brand told reporters outside the courtroom on Friday. "It's been hell, it's been almost five years since this started."

(CTV Calgary)

Nov 18 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police have held the line on salaries this year by shelving plans to hire new cadets and freezing the hiring of any new civilian staff, but Chief Mark Saunders says public safety will not be sacrificed.

The Toronto Police Services Board received a report Thursday that revised the 2016 operating budget upwards by \$1.3 million to a record \$1.0047 billion. The difference took into account salary and benefit increases negotiated by the union representing senior officers

But the report from Saunders projected the year-end budget would likely come in \$8.9 million lower due to an across-the-board hiring freeze, estimating the actual total would come in at \$995.9 million.

Employee salaries for both uniformed officers and civilian clerical staff represent the bulk of the Toronto Police Service's expenses. Almost 90 per cent of the budget, in fact, relates to salaries.

Saunders said the hiring moratorium is related to the work of the Transformational Task Force on modernizing the police service

"We've had a moratorium on hiring at this point iin time, but that's going to continue until we find out what the right number should look like. There are a whole lot of moving parts to the Transformational Task Force," he said.

The task force was formed earlier this year after the police budget topped \$1 billion for the first time. It has identified \$100 million in cost reductions and potential savings by 2019.

With an estimated 300 fewer officers needed, new hires are on indefinite hold.

Police had approval to hire 146 new cadets this year, but after hiring 15 in April the service scrapped plans to hire any more. That resulted in savings of \$2.3 million, .

But the report warned that a moratorium on filling civilian vacancies could pose problems and "will expose the Service to significant risk in terms of errors and non-compliance with procedures and legislation."

There is also the issue of stress on remaining staff needed to do more work. Saunders's report noted that workers have had to work more overtime to cover the workload.



SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 19, 2016

Nov 19 2016

Almost one in five Albertans would consider driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs if it was only for a short distance on a quiet road, a new poll finds.

What's more troubling is that number, from an exclusive Mainstreet/Postmedia poll released Saturday, is lowballing the problem of impaired driving in the province.

If not for the survey's social desirability bias, in which self-identifying respondents tend to lean toward an answer that is more socially acceptable or refused to actually admit to risky behaviour like drunk driving, Mainstreet Research president Quito Maggi said the 18 per cent figure could be much higher.

The poll found nine per cent of Albertans said they had driven under the influence of alcohol and of those, 61 per cent said that it had occurred in the past five years.

It also found that 13 per cent of Edmontonians said they have been a passenger in a car when the driver was under the influence of alcohol.

In Calgary, it was 11 per cent.

Even though young men are more likely to engage in risky behaviour, the poll found the gender split for impaired driving in Alberta was eight per cent for both men and women.

Between 2009 and 2013, 444 people were killed in Alberta and 6,649 people were injured in alcohol-related collisions. During that period, the Alberta government estimated one in five drivers involved in fatal collisions had been drinking.

Earlier this year, a study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control found Canada was the top ranked of 19 wealthy countries for percentage of road deaths linked to alcohol impairment.

The proportion of deaths linked to alcohol impairment was 34 per cent. The United States was ranked second at 31 per cent, with Australia third at 30 per cent. (Calgary Sun)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2016

Nov 21 2016

LUNENBURG, N.S. - An independent agency says police used appropriate force when they Tasered a man who they were trying to apprehend over complaints he was blaring music from his business in Nova Scotia.

The Serious Incident Response Team looked at the events of last April 15, when RCMP officers tried to take the 53-year-old man into custody under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act while he was at his restaurant in Lunenburg County.

Police say the man resisted, causing them to use a stun gun, which the team deemed a reasonable use of force.

Police say he was acting strangely, didn't co-operate, had reported seeing Stormtroopers in police uniforms and told 911 he was a veteran in crisis and needed help.

Nov 21 2016

Four policemen have been shot in 24 hours across the US in the latest in a series of attacks on law enforcement.



One officer was shot dead in San Antonio, Texas, and another shot in the face in St Louis, Missouri; he is expected to survive.

At least two of Sunday's attacks were ambushes. Two other officers were shot elsewhere in Missouri and Florida.

The attacks revived memories of deadly ambushes against police in Texas and Louisiana in July.

Fifty-seven US law enforcement officers have been fatally shot this year, a 68% percent increase from the same period in 2015.

The attacks came less than five months after a gunman killed five officers in Dallas, Texas, in the deadliest day for US law enforcement since the 9/11 attacks.

Earlier this month, two officers in the Des Moines, Iowa, area were shot dead in ambushes as they sat in their patrol cars.
(BBC News)

Nov 21 2016

OTTAWA - A suspended RCMP counter-terrorism officer has been found guilty of the severe abuse of his son.

The 44-year-old man, who cannot be identified, was found guilty of two counts of aggravated assault, sexual assault causing bodily harm, unlawful confinement, assault, failing to provide the necessaries of life and a range of firearms offences.

He was charged after his emaciated 11-year-old son was found by a neighbour.

The boy's stepmother was also found guilty of assault and failing to provide the necessaries of life.

Justice Robert Maranger said he didn't believe the father's argument that he was suffering from post traumatic stress disorder at the time he inflicted the abuse.

The boy had been chained in the family basement and had been burned with a barbecue lighter.

In delivering his verdict, Maranger de-

scribed the abuse as "disturbing."

"This was a very difficult trial," he said.
"That a parent would do the things that were done to (this boy) is gut-wrenching."

The judge also commended the boy for being able to testify on his own behalf, despite the abuse.

Nov 21 2016

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia says it will expand its restorative justice program to include adult offenders.

Justice Minister Diana Whalen says the program has been shown to be an effective option for victims and offenders and it will now be offered across the province.

The Justice Department says the expansion follows successful pilots that began in 2011 in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, the Municipality of East Hants and Colchester County.

Whalen says restorative justice requires offenders to take responsibility for their actions and holds them accountable to the community and their victims.

The restorative justice expansion will replace the Adult Diversion Program.

Nov 21 2016

CALGARY - A Calgary police officer has been demoted and had his salary slashed following a CPS disciplinary hearing into the 2015 high-profile mishandling of a police firearm and investigative materials.

In April 2015, the CPS Guns and Gangs Unit was appointed to locate a missing police-issue firearm after an officer stopped into Schanks Sports Grill, returning later to find his vehicle had been broken into.

The weapon, which police said at the time had been brought home for cleaning, was stolen. CPS said the C8 was in a secure, hard-cover case alongside two magazines of ammunition

Two weeks after the gun was stolen, Metro reported it has been located and while police were still seeking a suspect, the officer remained suspended with pay.

According to the written decision from an early November 2016 disciplinary hearing, Cst. Stephan Baker pleaded guilty to one count of improper use of a firearm, one count of insubordination and one count of discreditable conduct.

In the incident, several of the officer's notebooks were also taken. In his testimony, Baker agreed the notebooks should have been in storage as they contained investigative information, including the personal information of victims and witnesses.

Ultimately Baker was found guilty on all counts, and demoted from first class constable to third class constable-resulting in a total loss of pay of \$21,857.44 over two years.

Baker can regain his third-class designation within two years and have his record expunged in five years, provided there are no other disciplinary infractions.

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 22, 2016

Nov 22 2016

QUEBEC - The Quebec government isn't rejecting calls for an independent, provincial inquiry into relations between indigenous people and police, Premier Philippe Couillard said Tuesday.



Despite being careful not to commit to anything, Couillard signalled for the first time since news broke in 2015 that women in a northern town accused police of abuse, that his government was open to launching an inquiry.

"I did not say that we are closing the door to anything," he told reporters. "Nor am I announcing anything to you right now."

Shortly after meeting with the chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, Ghislain Picard, Couillard said his government needs to find "concrete and practical" answers to the concerns of native leaders

Couillard's government has been under pressure from the opposition and native groups to open an independent inquiry after native women in Val d'Or, Que. accused six provincial police officers of abuse.

An investigation into the allegations by the Montreal police did not result in any charges against the six officers stationed in the town, located 530 kilometres northwest of Montreal.

Nov 22 2016

HALIFAX - A 22-year-old Halifax man was sentenced to 10 years in jail today for plotting to kill shoppers at a mall food court with rifles and gas bombs.

Randall Steven Shepherd pleaded guilty in Nova Scotia Supreme Court to conspiracy to commit murder.

The Crown alleged that Shepherd and two others had planned to attack the Halifax Shopping Centre on Valentine's Day in 2015.

In his ruling, Justice Patrick Duncan said it was difficult to imagine a crime more damaging to a community's sense of peace and security.

But, he added that he considered Shepherd was not the main conspirator in the case.

Lindsay Kantha Souvannarath of Geneva, Illinois, still faces charges in the plot, while another Halifax teenager alleged to be involved in the plot shot himself in the head in his home as police investigated.

Court heard that Shepherd had planned to kill himself before the attack and while he wasn't the main plotter, he was aware of the plan and participated in the conspiracy.

An agreed statement of facts says he planned to provide six bottles for Molotov cocktail bombs.

It also says Shepherd had indicated the shooting would be worth it if at least one person from his high school was killed.

Nov 22 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's Special Investigations Unit says there are no

reasonable grounds to lay charges against a Peel Region officer who shot and injured a 26-year-old man in Mississauga, Ont., last year.

The SIU says the officer acted in self defence after the man threatened to kill the officer while wearing an apparent explosive device.

The SIU says in November 2015 the 26-year-old man called 911 and said he was wearing a suicide belt and planned to blow himself up because "his people" were being killed in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It says the man was wearing a makeshift imitation explosive device involving a hair per and cord.

The SIU says two officers arrived to find the man walking towards the squad car yell-



ing he was going to blow them up.

The officers retreated behind the car and one officer fired five shots at the man, which left him with injuries to his abdomen, thigh and scrotum.

Nov 22 2016

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police are warning drug users to be cautious following the seizure of an opioid that is used to tranquilize elephants and believed to be 100 times more powerful than fentanyl.

Police said two samples of a drug seized in September have been confirmed by Health Canada to contain trace amounts of carfentanil.

The drug was believed to be heroin when it was confiscated from a man reported to be carrying a firearm in the city's Downtown Eastside, police said.

"It's the first time we've seen it in Vancouver in any of the seizures we've done," Sgt. Brian Montague said Tuesday.

The drug has been seen elsewhere in Canada, including Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario

Alberta's medical examiner reported last month that carfentanil was detected in the bodies of two men in their 30s.

Mounties in that province have said they seized a cache of carfentanil last summer and that it had the potential to create 50 million lethal doses.

Nov 22 2016

WINNIPEG - The president of the Winnipeg Police Association says fentanyl isn't just a risk to drug users, it's also a risk to first responders.

Maurice Sabourin says one Winnipeg police officer has already been accidentally exposed to the deadly drug "through absorption through the skin."

He says fentanyl is making their job more dangerous and complex, while putting time pressures on officers responding to calls.

Sabourin's comments came Tuesday after Mayor Brian Bowman announced details of the city's budget, which will include a budget for police services of \$288 million - a 1.3 per cent increase from last year.

Fire and paramedic services will get a four per cent increase to \$199 million.

Sabourin says he's concerned about the small increase for the police budget.

"Our calls for service are through the roof," he says. "Our duties and responsibilities become that much more complex and dangerous. The fentanyl epidemic that we're seeing right now is an additional draw on our members."

Sabourin says the strain on the members comes with the time officers take when going on those calls and the additional precautions they have to take.

He says there will be related expenses, including money for protective equipment and supplies of Narcan. (CTV Winnipeg)

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 23, 2016

Nov 23 2016

MONTREAL - A group following up on the work of Quebec's Charbonneau Commission says the government isn't doing enough to put the corruption inquiry's recommendations into effect.

The watchdog group made up of academics as well as current and former politicians says just 15 recommendations out of 60 have been implemented since the inquiry tabled its report last year.

Nine other recommendations have been partially put in force and the government has failed to act on 36 others.

While the government has moved on some issues like tightening political party financing, it has failed in other respects.

The group says a proposed independent public procurement authority tasked with overseeing public contracts lacks the independence, powers and tools necessary to act properly and would only look at contracts valued at more than \$100,000.

The group also says a proposed bill covering the protection for whistle-blowers doesn't go far enough.

Nov 23 2016

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - A woman in southern Alberta is accused of injuring two police officers and damaging three police cruisers while trying to evade being arrested.

Lethbridge police say a woman fled from police Tuesday in a stolen car, causing a multivehicle collision on a busy road.

The injured officers were treated in hospital for minor injuries and released.

Other drivers involved in the collisions were not hurt.

Alyssa Krushel of Lethbridge faces charges including assault of a peace officer with a weapon, resisting police, dangerous driving and other offences.

Krushel is being held in custody and is to appear in court Nov. 25.

Nov 23 2016

CALGARY - An investigative unit says a man who died after being shot by Calgary police was ramming their vehicles.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says the 49-year-old man was driving what police believed was a stolen pickup truck when he stopped in the parking lot of a shopping mall.

ASIRT says the driver went into a business and officers attempted to position their vehicles to box in the truck.

When he returned, the man managed to jump back into the truck and started ramming the police vehicles.

ASIRT says that's when two officers fired their service weapons.

The man was rushed to hospital in critical condition and later died.

An uninjured female passenger in the truck was arrested.

Police have said no officers were injured. It's the ninth officer-involved shooting in Calgary in 2016. Four have been fatal.



THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 24, 2016

Nov 24 2016

BALGONIE, Sask. - Some homeowners east of Regina who want to muzzle noise from RCMP assault rifle training at a nearby gun range have been told the Mounties are willing to lock and load a solution to their problem.

People who live in Stone Pointe Estates are complaining about pops and bangs they've been hearing since last year when officers started training with carbines at the Regina Wildlife Federation range while their own facility is upgraded.

The property owners unloaded their grievances with police, the federation and municipal officials at a meeting yesterday in Balgonie.

RCMP officials told them they're willing to cut training at the federation's range from 21 weeks to 14 weeks, only train from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and no longer use it during July and August.

As well, only members of the training depot in Regina will be allowed to use the range this year.

The Rural Municipality of Edenwold will discuss the offer with the RCMP before sending it to the community, prior to another meeting.

The RCMP said training at the site is essential because their ranges in Regina aren't big enough for some guns.

Kim McIvor, the RM's chief administrative officer, said the Mounties have informed them they intend to sign a contract to use the federation's range again next year before their own one is ready in 2018.

(CJME, CTV Regina)

Nov. 24, 2016

OTTAWA - Canada's network of women's shelters and transitional homes lacks a full picture of who is fleeing, the support they need and where the gaps are in the system.



Minister of the Status of Women, Patty Hajdu

In an attempt to start collecting data nationally so that smart funding decisions can be made, the federal Status of Women's office will spend \$1,045,000 to track information so they can start gathering statistics and plugging the holes where help is needed, the Star has learned.

The money will be used by the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition

Houses, a national forum of 350 homes that help protect women who are victims of violence. The network formed in 2012 to act as a unified voice for women's shelters.

The data collection is one of many steps needed to stop gender-based violence — a barrier to the full equality of women in Canadian society.

Minister of the Status of Women, Patty Hajdu, is expected to make the funding announcement on Thursday at Interval House in Toronto. Hajdu is the former executive director at Shelter House in Thunder Bay.

The Thursday event was timed to occur on the eve of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence — a 16-day campaign supported by Ottawa that urges Canadians to examine the role sexism and violence plays in our culture.

The campaign begins this Friday on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It includes the Dec. 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women — a day created to remember the 14 women who died at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal after a gunman who said he hated feminists, opened fire in a classroom in 1989. The 16-day campaign ends on International Human Rights Day on December 10.

Women will never achieve full gender equality in society as long as violence against women continues, Hajdu said in a release.

Shelters offer women and their children a way out of abusive relationships. Funds are needed to paint an accurate, national profile of shelters, that gives current and reliable information on capacity, which shelter offers what service, and details regarding funding, staffing and infrastructure.

"One of our main objectives is to ensure women and children have a safe place to go. This will allow shelters to understand what the needs are – data tracking needs to be done in order to make further funding decisions," said a spokesperson from the minister's office.

The data will also be used to help form the anticipated gender-based violence strategy in 2017. Gender-based violence is the use and abuse of power and control over another person based on their gender.

Status of Women Canada says that young women aged 15-24 are most at risk of experiencing violence and that indigenous women are twice as likely as indigenous men to experience violence.



Nov 24 2016

WINNIPEG - Manitoba RCMP officers are now carrying naloxone kits to deal with the increase in opioid drug use.

Chief Supt. Mark Fisher says carrying the antidote was an important safety measure, even though Manitoba RCMP have not yet responded to any medical emergencies involving the opioid.

In the past month, there have been at least seven suspected overdoses in Winnipeg linked to fentanyl - a drug used as a painkiller for terminally ill cancer patients and 100 times more powerful than heroin.

Just over 1,000 antidote kits have been distributed so far to RCMP officers in the province.

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