

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | December 2, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 49

Executive Digest

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AURORA, Ont. - Police in the Toronto area have taken down a car theft ring that peddled luxury vehicles across the country and around the world.

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OTTAWA - The findings from traffic stop race data collected by the Ottawa Police Service for two years "are alarming and are consistent with racial profiling," according to a Ontario Human Rights Commission report released Tuesday.

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QUEBEC - Photo radar machines are to remain on Quebec roads despite a recent court ruling that rejected evidence obtained from one, the provincial government said Wednesday.

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OTTAWA - The Canadian government is moving to control six chemicals used to make the deadly opioid fentanyl in an effort to contain the growing overdose death toll.

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ov 30 2016

ST. CATHARINES - After 35 years with the local police force, Joe Matthews is hanging up his hat. The deputy chief's retirement, effective Jan. 31, was announced by Niagara Regional Police Friday.

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TORONTO - Ontario is announcing plans to hire more judges, Crown attorneys, duty counsel and court staff to try to shorten the time it takes for criminal cases to get to trial.

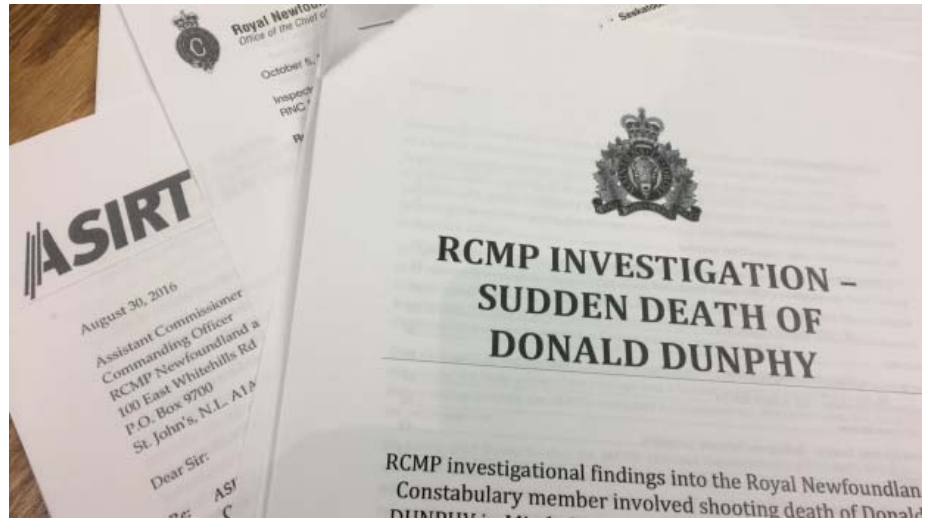
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Report clears officer but questions remain



Nov 28 2016

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A deadly confrontation between a troubled Newfoundland man and the police officer who gunned him down at home could have been avoided, says a report released Monday.

Retired judge David Riche, named by the Mounties to oversee their investigation of the killing on RCMP turf, also raises questions about a rifle found in the home of Don Dunphy and whether he fired more shots than needed.

"The shots to the head were not necessary to render him incapable of causing any harm," says his 23-page report released by a public inquiry into the shooting on Easter Sunday 2015.

"Why (Const. Joe) Smyth continued firing, especially the last shot which was very close to Dunphy's head and Dunphy was not moving, makes me wonder why this was done.

"Smyth says he was on automatic because that comes out of their (police) training."

Smyth, a member of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary who served on then-premier Paul Davis's security detail, fired four shots at Dunphy. Pathology reports found that any one of three wounds, two to Dunphy's head and one to the left side of his body, would have been fatal.

Smyth went alone in an unmarked SUV to Dunphy's home in Mitchell's Brook, about 80 kilometres southwest of St. John's, after

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The image shows a blue and silver trophy for the "Blue Line Police Leadership Award". The trophy has a circular emblem on top with the text "Prix de leadership de la police" and "BLUE LINE Police Leadership Award". The background is a dark blue gradient with white and yellow text.



Don Dunphy

RNC officer Joe Smyth

Davis's staff reported potentially threatening comments on social media.

Riche's report along with those of the RCMP, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, Saskatoon police and a decision by the RNC chief were released Monday.

The retired provincial Supreme Court justice was named as an RCMP observer to ease concerns about police investigating each other. The province has no civilian-led oversight team.

The RCMP concluded Smyth used appropriate force in the circumstances. It found no charges were warranted in an investigation reviewed by the independent, civilian-led Alberta Serious Incident Response Team.

Susan Hughson, director of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, found "some minor shortcomings," but none brought the overall probe into question. Hughson also emphasized her team's role as reviewer, not investigator.

However, Riche said in his report that the matter "could have been handled differently."

"Smyth made the mistake of taking this matter on and deciding that he did not want assistance from anyone and that he would do it alone."

The RCMP report says Smyth assessed

any risk as low after contacting local police and neighbours.

According to Smyth's statement, Dunphy suddenly raised a .22-calibre rifle from the right side of his chair about 15 minutes into their conversation in Dunphy's living room. The interview had become increasingly heated when Dunphy called Smyth a "puppet" of the government after Smyth refused to sit down, noting garbage and some bugs on the floor.

An RCMP timeline says at about 2:13 p.m. Smyth yelled "no, no, no, no" and fired his pistol twice toward the "centre mass of Dunphy." It says Dunphy tracked Smyth with the rifle as the officer fled the livingroom, and that Smyth shot him twice in the head as he went.

The rifle fell to the floor, says the timeline. Smyth checked Dunphy at 2:15 p.m. but found no sign of breathing, then checked for subsequent threats in the home. Twelve minutes later, he called RCMP to report shots fired and request paramedics at 2:27 p.m.

Smyth stayed inside for another 15 minutes, "does a tentative clearing of residence" and another check on Dunphy, says the timeline. He then "regains composure" and gets a drink of water from his vehicle.

RCMP arrived on the scene at 2:55 p.m.

With no witnesses, RCMP relied on forensic analysis from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the RCMP forensic identification section, and an external review by Bulletproof Forensic Consulting.

They "led to no evidence that disputes the statements of Const. Smyth," says the RCMP report. "There is no evidence to support any criminal charges in this matter."

Nor were there fingerprints on the "old and worn" rifle later found at Dunphy's feet, it says.

"There was no glossy finish on the wooden stock and grip of the rifle and the metal parts had corroded so that they were rusted and pitted. None of the surfaces of the rifle were receptive to the deposition of fingerprints."

The Mounties had earlier refused to release their full report, saying they did not wish to taint the inquiry process.

Dunphy was a reclusive injured worker who aired his frustrations with workers' compensation on social media.

Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Chief Bill Janes told a news conference Monday that Smyth is a respected officer who continues to work in traffic operations.

opioids, the force announced Friday following meetings this week.

Fentanyl and other opioids pose a grave threat to community safety in Canada, said Paulson, who described the meetings as "an important step forward" in a co-ordinated approach to the problem of fentanyl.

Discussions to formalize joint investigations will begin next week, the RCMP added.

In a joint statement Friday, B.C. Public Safety Minister Mike Morris and Health Minister Terry Lake said they are pleased with the RCMP's plans to work with the Chinese ministry.

"We believe that by collaborating with our international and federal partners, enforcement will ultimately be stronger across all our provincial and international borders," the ministers said.

Nov 24 2016

CALGARY - The head of a unit that investigates police says a Calgary officer was justified in shooting a man last year who was chased after he spat on the ground at an anti-racism rally.

A Calgary police service officer shot Morgan Thompson twice on March 21, 2015, in an alley shortly after he taunted demonstrators.

Thompson is now permanently disabled and confined to a wheelchair.

Susan Hughson with the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says investigators determined that the man had struck the officer in the head and confronted him with a metal pipe before the police officer opened fire.

She says the man clearly presented a risk of grievous bodily harm to the officer and the police use of lethal force was reasonable.

The Calgary Police Service says neither the officer nor Thompson will face any charges.

Nov 24 2016

CALGARY - Calgary police officers have shot and either killed or injured more civilians than officers in any other Canadian city in 2016, according to statistics gathered by CBC News.

Here's a breakdown of officer-involved shootings in various Canadian cities:

Calgary	10	(5 fatal)
Toronto	6	(3 fatal)
Vancouver	2	(1 fatal)

With 10 officer-involved shootings - including five fatalities - so far this year, Calgary police say they are reviewing their policies and training.

"I'm very pleased they are going to be looking at it to see if there are things that could be done differently or could be done better," said Susan Hughson, executive director of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT).

Toronto - which has more than double Calgary's population - has seen the next highest number of officer-involved shootings, with six total. Three of those involved injuries and three were fatalities.

BLUE LINE NEWS WEEK Celebrating 20 Years

ISSN 1704-3913
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THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 24, 2016

Nov 24 2016

OTTAWA - The Mounties have reached an agreement with China to try and halt the transpacific flow of fentanyl into Canada.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson and Chen Zhimin, the vice-minister of China's public security ministry, have agreed to boost efforts to disrupt the flow of the drug and other

Montreal police could not say how many officer-involved shootings have taken place in the city this year because they do “not keep statistics on shootings.”

A search of news stories from that city shows three Montreal police officers shot citizens in 2016, one fatally.

“It’s a question we talk about almost daily,” said Supt. James Hardy. “We’re looking at doing different training so there’s a whole number of pieces in play here.”

Four of Calgary’s shootings in 2016 were related to stolen vehicles.

Hughson says even when an officer does not face criminal charges following a shooting, that doesn’t mean that it was the best way to deal with the situation.

“There’s a difference between an unlawful act and one that could have been done better.”

(CBC News)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2016

Nov 25 2016

MONTREAL - The Montreal police department filed a single petty cash expense claim of \$524,937.50 in October, nearly doubling its petty cash expenditures for the year in one shot.

The entry, which gives no explanation of what the cash was to be used for, shows the payment was authorized Oct. 14 by a member of the police force whose rank is not known. It was on the same day that an assistant police chief authorized another \$25,102 “petty cash” expense. Both entries turned up during the past two weeks in public city records.

The money in both cases is identified as having been taken from a police petty cash fund labelled “Petite Caisse Enquête VDM” (“City of Montreal investigation petty cash”).

The police department has refused to answer the Montreal Gazette’s questions about how half a million dollars in “petty cash” has been spent since last week.

Communications Commander Marie-Claude Dandenault, who is in charge of the Montreal police communications section, contacted La Presse to give the police department’s explanation about the expense.

Dandenault told the newspaper that the expense was exceptional but was handled according to rules.

The \$524,937.50 expense adds to the more than \$1 million in expenses the Montreal Gazette revealed three weeks ago were authorized by members of the police department from two “petty cash” funds that only began to appear in city records two years ago.

The first of 105 expenditures from the “City of Montreal investigation petty cash” that were found in city records earlier this month was dated January 2015.

In all, the police department’s expenses from that petty cash fund since January 2015 tallied about \$550,000 before the latest

\$524,937.50 and \$25,102 claims.

The Montreal police have also authorized payments of about \$280,000 since the fall of 2014 using a second “petty cash” label - “Petite Caisse SPVM” (“Petty cash Montreal police department”).

None of the entries labelled “petty cash” showed how the money was being used.

Other police departments in Canada have far smaller petty cash funds and label investigation expenses as such.

The Vancouver Police Department, for example, which has 1,716 employees, including 1,327 officers, as of 2013, said it spent \$13,950 on petty cash in 2015.

“They are intended to be used for low value, incidental items of \$100 or less,” a Vancouver police department spokesperson said. “As you know, we are a large department with many sections. Not all sections have a petty cash fund.”

(National Post)

Nov 25 2016

AURORA, Ont. - Police in the Toronto area have taken down a car theft ring that peddled luxury vehicles across the country and around the world.

They say 23 people have been arrested and \$5 million in high-end vehicles, drugs and cash has been recovered as a result.

York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe says the organized criminal operation began with a “warm-up theft” of a car left running

in a driveway and grew into a complex multimillion-dollar operation.

He says the investigation also involved residential break-ins where the alleged thieves would steal keys, then drive away with the vehicles.

Jolliffe says hundreds of vehicles were allegedly stolen and sold around the world.

Police say the investigation is ongoing and they expect to lay more charges in the future.

The 23 people arrested face 137 charges.

Nov 25 2016

WINNIPEG - Manitoba is launching a public awareness campaign in response to a growing number of overdose deaths related to fentanyl.

Health Minister Kelvin Goertzen says there has been a significant increase in the number of deaths linked to the powerful opioid in the past few years.

He says the social media campaign will focus on the fact that fentanyl puts both drug users and others at risk.

At the same time, Goertzen says the government is developing a program to distribute the antidote naloxone to high-risk injection opioids users across the province.

In the past month, there have been at least seven suspected overdoses in Winnipeg linked to fentanyl - a drug 100 times more powerful than heroin.

The latest campaign will be funded through the Federal Proceeds of Crime Fund.

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BRANT COUNTY, Ont. - Provincial police say a woman is facing charges after she allegedly drove three times the speed limit and threw hot tea at an officer in Brant County, Ont.

Police say they made a traffic stop after a car was recorded travelling more than 120 kilometres per hour in a 40 km/h zone.

During the stop, the woman allegedly threw a full cup of hot tea in a police officer's face.

They say the incident happened last week, in the middle of the afternoon.

Police say they've charged Veronica Ferguson, 48, of Norfolk County, with racing and assaulting police.

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog has charged an officer with assault after a man was injured during the course of an arrest.

The Special Investigations Unit says the officer was dispatched to arrest a man in Parry Sound, Ont., in June.

The unit says that while the officer was arresting the man, there was an "interaction" and the man was injured, and required treatment.

The SIU says Const. Brandon Catcher is charged with assault causing bodily harm.

He's scheduled to appear in court next month.

CALGARY - Calgary police have started using daytime running lights on every patrol vehicle.



The policy change means officers will no longer be able to stealthily drive with their lights off behind suspects at night, but only for the next few months.

Until recently, the headlights in Calgary police cars did not automatically come on when the engine was started.

Unlike every other vehicle legally sold in Canada that has daytime running lights, CPS officers had to actually switch on the lights if they wanted them on during the day. And that meant they could drive without any headlights at night too.

A citizen recently asked the police why the vehicles don't have a legal exemption allowing them to operate without daytime running lights.

Insp. Scott Boyd, who commands the Calgary Police Service's (CPS) education and training section, said they looked into it. The conclusion was that the police should apply for an exemption.

However, he rejected the notion that the police were operating outside the law.

"That's not the case at all, no," said Boyd. "There's legislation that allows us to - in certain circumstances - disobey the rules of the road in the execution of our duties, like running a red light or speeding."

But he said CPS has decided to seek an exemption from the province on the daytime running lights requirement.

It sounds easy, but there's a process.

First, all 450 vehicles had to be hooked up to a computer to turn on the daytime running lights so they're synched with the ignition.

Now each vehicle will need a special switch that gives officers the ability to turn off the headlights as needed - day or night. They'll also have to be trained on when to use

that switch.

Then, CPS will apply to the province for the exemption and show that it has taken measures for the correct operation of running its vehicles without having the lights on whenever they are on the road.

Boyd said the cost of installing the switch will be about \$16,000 and the work should be done in a few months.

Until then, it means officers can't turn off their headlights unless they switch off the engine. Boyd said it means officers won't have the option to "run dark" in the performance of their duties.

"There's other tactics that we'll have to employ around here in that interim and it is far from ideal, certainly," said Boyd. "But we're prepared to adapt accordingly to overcome this little hurdle."

(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 award recipient will be recognized in the April 2017 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at a presentation held in conjunction with Blue Line Expo, Tuesday May 30, 2017.

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2016

Nov 26 2016

NIPIGON, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating a fatal shooting in Nipigon.

The Special Investigations Unit says OPP officers were called to a local residence Saturday evening where they had an "interaction" with a man.

The SIU says one of the officers fired his weapon, striking the man, who was later pronounced dead in hospital.

Seven investigators have been assigned to the case.

Nov 26 2016

A B.C. drug producer known as Beeker says underground chemists are steps ahead of the police when it comes to the movement of illicit drugs on the streets.

Beeker is the subject of a new documentary, *Unstoppable: The Fentanyl Epidemic*, in which he opens up about the big business behind the drug.

He says police are far behind when it comes to tracking drugs throughout the province, and he says many local chemists are synthesizing drugs with materials ordered from China.

"I'm smarter than they are ... all of us chemists are smarter than the police, and we're gonna stay ahead of them," he coldly tells filmmaker Robert Osborne. "And if they find out one of the ones we are making, we'll make a different one - and this will go on forever."

Recent news does seem to prove him right: even deadlier opioids have already hit the streets in Vancouver. Carfentanil has turned up in several instances, according to Vancouver police - and it's 100 times more potent than fentanyl.

"Fentanyl is soon to be obsolete. It's just not going to be out there because there's much more profitable drugs - it doesn't matter about better or safer - much more profitable drugs and molecules are on the way," Beeker says in the film.

"They're in the mail right now."

Beeker's ominous words echo throughout the upcoming film, which will air Dec. 1 on CBC Television.

Another person featured is RCMP Cpl. Eric Boechler of B.C.'s Clandestine Lab Enforcement and Response Team. Boechler has had several run-ins with the notorious drug producer, and admits that his words are frustrating.

"I know Beeker - I've been involved in an operation where he's been arrested," he told host Gloria Macarenko on CBC's *BC Almanac*.

"He's someone we definitely keep tabs on because we do know that, likely, he's going to get back into it."

In his role with the enforcement and response team, Boechler is at the forefront of B.C.'s opioid epidemic, which has claimed more than 600 lives. He says it's an uphill

battle as different compounds hit the streets.

"Unfortunately, it's bigger or worse every month. We're being deployed more and more than we ever have before to incidents across the province. We are seeing stronger, more potent analogs beyond what just fentanyl is ... more potent and dangerous compounds [are] coming out all the time."

Boechler says the RCMP is working to the best of its abilities.

"There's always emerging trends coming out. We are playing catch-up all the time, we're trying to get in front of whatever new compound may be coming out. Get it regulated as soon as we can, and prevent it from being put out on the street."

(CBC News)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Nov 27 2016

VAUGHAN, Ont. - Ontario Provincial Police say an 11-year-old boy has been returned to his parents after leading officers on a chase on a major highway north of Toronto.

Sgt. Kerry Schmidt says police got a call late Saturday night about a vehicle that was "all over the road" on Highway 400 in Vaughan, Ont.

Schmidt says officers caught up with the vehicle as it left the northbound highway to



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head southbound, and when they did pull it over the driver took off.

After more officers arrived, Schmidt says they were able to bring the car - which accelerated to more than 120 km/h at one point - to a stop without a collision.

When officers got the driver out of the vehicle Schmidt says he was "shockingly, an 11-year-old kid."

Schmidt says the boy had been playing the "Grand Theft Auto" video game at home and "wanted to see what it was like to drive a car."

"Here we have an influence of a video game making kids try things without their parents' knowledge or consent," Schmidt said Sunday. "An absolute tragedy waiting to happen."

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2016

Nov 28 2016

OTTAWA - The federal government says will make it easier for religious and cultural groups to get financial help to improve security in and around their buildings.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says the government plans to ease application requirements and expand the list of eligible projects available for schools, community centres and places of worship.

The \$1 million a year program funds up to half of project costs to a maximum of \$100,000.

The changes take effect Dec. 1.

Goodale says the changes are a result of concerns raised to MPs and a recent spate of hate crimes in Canada, including in Ottawa, where Jewish and Muslim community centres and places of worship were targeted with graffiti.

Nov 28 2016

EDMONTON - New collision reporting software is saving time and headaches for police and motorists.

Alberta Transportation and the Edmonton Police Service officially rolled out eCruiser on Monday, a program specifically developed for police vehicle computers to facilitate fully electronic collision reporting.

Police spokesperson Clair Seyler said the main drive behind creating the software was cutting out paperwork and administrative duties for officers.

"Responding to a collision can take all day, for one collision. So this will be a lot quicker," she said.

EPS became the first city in Western Canada to use mobile collision reporting when it launched the pilot project in June. Calgary police plan to log on by the end of the year.

Previously, officers would have to handwrite every form, meticulously taking down each driver's information. With eCruiser, an auto-fill function takes care of that information as soon as the officer types in a

licence plate number.

With less time spent filling out forms, officers are more free to respond to other calls.

The process should be less painful for drivers as well, as they now have quick access to online collision reports.

"Now they can go online and access as many copies as they like. If they lose their copy they can get another one, they can forward it to their insurance company - it just makes it very simple for those involved in the collision," Seyler said.

Terry Wallace, executive director of driver programs for Alberta Transportation, noted the program is also simplifying provincial collision data collection. "We get the data faster and cleaner," he said.

(Metro)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2016

Nov 29 2016

FORT SASKATCHEWAN - When he walks each day into his new office at the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP detachment, one of the first things Insp. Christopher Culhane sees is the red Métis sash hanging from his wardrobe.

A cherished gift from his mother, it's a symbol of pride in his heritage.

One that can be traced all the way back Gabriel Dumont, a key figure in Canadian history who fought for Métis rights in the 19th century.

"He was a proud Métis leader and a proud Métis person who defended the rights of his people at the time," Culhane said.

Culhane's perspective as an Indigenous person is something else he thinks will help him lead a detachment in a region with a fast growing Aboriginal population.

Building trust with all communities will be a major priority.

"I'm hoping I bring a different lens to it, a different approach," said Culhane, who took over the Fort Saskatchewan detachment, northeast of Edmonton, on Nov. 14.

"I hope people can identify with me and feel comfortable being around me."

More than a century ago, Dumont was well-known for leading Métis warriors in battles against the North West Mounted Police.

Culhane, whose policing career spans 21 years, with stops in British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Alberta, is confident his famous ancestor would take pride in this latest posting.

(CBC News)

Nov 29 2016

REGINA - Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall is creating a government committee to look at rising property crime rates and police presence in rural areas.

The committee will also focus on an increase in guns, gang activity and drugs such

as fentanyl in urban centres.

Wall says people around the province have been voicing concern and he's asked the new committee to look at causes and make recommendations on what can be done to reduce crime.

The committee is to consult with municipalities, police agencies and other organizations to determine the major issues and what can be done to better address them.

It will make recommendations to the justice minister, cabinet and government caucus.

There is no immediate word on when the six Saskatchewan Party MLAs on the committee are to report back.

Nov 29 2016

KENSINGTON, P.E.I. - A Prince Edward Island police department is threatening to impose the Nickelback treatment on anyone who drinks and drives.

The Kensington Police Service shared a social media post over the weekend promising to force any drunk drivers it arrests to listen to the Alberta band while in the back seat of a cruiser.

"We figure if you are foolish enough to get behind the wheel after drinking, then a little Chad Kroeger and the boys is the perfect gift for you," Const. Robb Hartlen says on Facebook, alongside a photo of the band's breakthrough album, Silver Side Up, in what appears to be cassette form.

"So please, let's not ruin a perfectly good unopened copy of Nickelback. You don't drink and drive and we won't make you listen to it."

The post created two kinds of controversy among commenters: Those offended the police service was making a joke about drunk driving, and Nickelback fans annoyed the band was the butt of the joke.

The force said the jokes were being made in service of something it takes very seriously, and also insisted: "We actually like them too ... We are just having a little bit of fun."

Nov 29 2016

CALGARY - A Crown prosecutor from Edmonton will handle the case of a former Calgary police officer who faces 11 criminal code charges that include kidnapping and obstruction of justice.

Denis McHugh, who is 35, is also charged with break and enter, breach of the peace, two counts of fraudulently obtaining a computer service and five counts of breach of trust.

McHugh resigned his position as constable earlier this month after eight years on the job. The matter has been set over until Dec. 9.

Police say a man and a woman came forward in January alleging two cases of harassment.

An investigation revealed that the woman had been stopped in a Calgary parking lot in July 2015 for traffic violations and her vehicle was towed.

An officer drove the woman home, but she alleges she was confined in the back of a locked police vehicle for 3 1/2 hours.

The same police officer allegedly met the

woman and her boyfriend six months later in front of their home, told the man to wait in his car and followed the woman into her house without permission.

The investigation also found the officer was using Calgary Police Service databases to obtain information about the complainants.

McHugh wasn't in court when the case came up on Tuesday.

Nov 29 2016

TORONTO - A new elders council that will offer advice to Ontario's attorney general should help make the justice system more responsive to the aboriginal population, the provincial government said Tuesday.

In announcing the council, Indigenous Relations Minister David Zimmer acknowledged the long-standing concern about the over-representation of indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system.

"We are working closely with indigenous people on new approaches that are culturally appropriate and respect traditional practices," Zimmer said in a statement. "The work of the elders council is critical to those efforts as part of the journey of reconciliation."

A key issue for the new council, which includes 13 elders from across the province, is the application of the so-called Gladue principles in sentencing aboriginal offenders. Arising out of a Supreme Court of Canada decision in 1999, courts are supposed to consider the special circumstances native Canadians find themselves in and try to avoid incarcerating them where possible.

The provincial government has been hosting a three-day Gladue summit in Thunder Bay, Ont., as it seeks to address the over-representation of indigenous people in the justice system.

The province has already promised to spend another \$13.3 million over three years to expand a federal-provincial program that funds Gladue report writers who serve 18 areas of the province.

Nov 29 2016

SAULT STE MARIE, Ont. - Ontario's Special Investigations Unit says it will not lay charges against a Sault Ste. Marie police officer who punched a suspect during an arrest, causing a chain of injuries that required a medically induced coma.

The SIU says officers were called to a home to investigate a domestic situation in the evening of March 26.

The SIU says the officers saw broken glass and blood on the floor, several crushed beer cans and a 54-year-old man who appeared to be intoxicated.

The agency says the officers found the man was in breach of recognizance that barred him from drinking, and told him he was under arrest.

It says the man ignored instructions to stand up, turn around and put his hands behind his back, and struggled as one of the of-

ficers pushed him against the couch and tried to handcuff him.

The SIU says the officer warned the man not to struggle and then delivered a single punch to the man's left side when the warning went unheeded.

Nov 29 2016

CROSSFIELD, Alta. - RCMP in southern Alberta have arrested a suspect after someone tried to break into a bank by driving a large tanker truck into it.

Mounties from the Airdrie rural detachment were called to Crossfield, north of Calgary, about an attempted robbery.

They met the suspect tanker truck on the highway, but it failed to stop for them.

A police pursuit went through two towns before the truck continued northbound in the southbound lanes of the main highway between Edmonton and Calgary.

The vehicle, which turned out to be stolen, eventually crashed into a field and the driver was nabbed after a brief foot chase.

Charges are pending and RCMP say they believe the man may be a suspect in other crimes.

Nov 29 2016

CALGARY - Calgary's police chief says a 27-year-old woman who was shot and killed by a police officer on Tuesday was known to police.

Roger Chaffin says officers were called to a home in the city's southwest at about 2:30 a.m. to check out a welfare call.

Police say a woman was seen banging on nearby cars and the front door of an apartment in the area.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, which looks into police actions, says the woman was carrying two knives, one in each hand.

It says there was a confrontation between police and the woman, and one of the officers shot at her.

Calgary police say the officer has been on the force for one year.

She was in life-threatening condition when she was taken to hospital, where she died.

Chaffin said he believes the officer who fired acted appropriately.

"The members involved in this incident have my full and complete support," said Chaffin. "From the information I am given, I am firmly of the belief that this member acted appropriately to protect herself, her partner and members of the public."

Chaffin said police are seeing a lot of crime and erratic behaviour tied to drugs.

"So much of the crime we're experiencing has to do with the presence of methamphetamine, the presence of opioids in the city and then... the motives for crimes around those drugs," he said.

"Heavy, heavy addiction, without the right kind of treatments, that forces people into crime to support that drug can be a big problem."

Chaffin said a proposal has also been put forward for an independent review of the

shootings involving Calgary police officers. (CTV Calgary)

Nov 29 2016

VANCOUVER - For the first time police in Vancouver have linked a fatal overdose to the highly toxic drug carfentanil.

Officials say a drug sample was seized from an East Vancouver home, where a 39-year-old man died on Nov. 17, and sent to Health Canada for analysis.

Police and the provincial coroner's service say the sample has tested positive for carfentanil, a manufactured drug that is much more potent than the opioid fentanyl and is used commercially as general anesthetic for large animals like elephants.

Last month, a nine-month-old boy in Manitoba was rushed to hospital after being exposed to carfentanil, which is so powerful that just a few grains can be fatal for adults.

The coroner's service says post-mortem testing for carfentanil will not be available in the province until next month, so it can't say whether the drug led to the man's death.

"This is the first confirmed death linked to carfentanil in Vancouver," Sgt. Randy Fincham says in a statement. "Unfortunately, we suspect this death won't be the last."

There were 622 illicit drug deaths in B.C. between January and October this year and fentanyl was involved in more than 60 per cent of those overdoses.

Nov 29 2016

OTTAWA - The findings from traffic stop race data collected by the Ottawa Police Service for two years "are alarming and are consistent with racial profiling," according to a Ontario Human Rights Commission report released Tuesday.



The commission is calling on Ottawa police, the city's police services board and the provincial government to monitor "human rights behaviour and activity" on a permanent basis. In particular, the commission wants police to continue and expand its race data collection.

A York University research team examined 81,902 traffic stops involving Ottawa residents from 2013 to 2015 where officers recorded their perception of the driver's race, as well as their gender, age range, the reason they were pulled over and whether the stop resulted in charges.

The study stemmed from a human rights complaint filed by Chad Aiken, a young black man who alleged he was discriminated against

by Ottawa police when he was stopped while driving a Mercedes Benz. As part of the settlement, Ottawa police agreed that its officers would collect race-based data on traffic stops for two years beginning in 2013.

The researchers found that Middle Eastern and black drivers were far more likely to be stopped by Ottawa police than other drivers. The results for young men aged 16 to 24 were even more stark: young black men were stopped 8.3 times more often than drivers at large, while young Middle Eastern men were stopped 12 times more often.

While Chief Charles Bordeleau has admitted racial profiling “can exist” in policing and society at large, he has always argued that the data does not prove racial profiling in practice.

But the commission isn’t buying that.

While it’s true that the analysis of the traffic stop data was not designed to prove “causation,” according to the commission’s report, nor can the traffic stop data results “be easily explained by other factors.”

The commission’s report explains that the racial profiling cannot generally be proven through a study alone. But it points out that courts and tribunals recognize that racial profiling “can rarely be identified by direct evidence; it will more often be proven by circumstantial evidence and inference.”

And in the Ottawa police study, the commission found “the high disproportionalities found in this report are strong circumstantial evidence of the existence of some form of racial profiling.”

The commission is concerned that because the Ottawa Police Service “has been reluctant to acknowledge that the data is consistent with racial profiling,” the force will spend more effort debating the revelations in the report instead of identifying and eliminating “discriminatory police practices that are likely causing them.”

The police services board agreed that the police, and other stakeholders, would take six months to develop a plan to deal with the high incidence of racialized drivers being stopped.

The commission has its own ideas. It’s calling for a number of measures, including:

- For the police services board to mandate the permanent collection of stop data for both vehicles and pedestrians, as well as all searches, arrests, use-of-force incidents and immigrations status checks.
- That all data be standardized and publicly reported.
- For the Ottawa police to make sure its complaint procedures are accessible to members of racialized community groups and Indigenous peoples, including youth.
- For the police services board to establish an independent monitoring committee to review the force’s compliance with its police on racial profiling. (The Ottawa police policy officially prohibits “pretext stops,” although the commission questioned whether there is a police culture that allows those sorts of stops in practice.)
- For the provincial government to establish independent, arms-length and public monitoring of police services and their police service boards related to systemic discrimination.

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2016

Nov 30 2016

STRATHROY CARADOC, Ont. - Police in southwestern Ontario say an investigation has found RCMP were justified in fatally shooting a terrorist sympathizer in a confrontation earlier this year.



Aaron Driver died during a confrontation with RCMP in Strathroy, Ont., in August, after making a martyrdom video that suggested he was planning to detonate a homemade bomb in a Canadian urban centre.

Driver had been under a court order not to associate with any terrorist organizations or to use a computer or cellphone, but he wasn’t under continuous surveillance despite concern he might participate or contribute to the activity of a terrorist group.

Canadian authorities were tipped off about Driver’s activities by the FBI and confronted him hours later.

The OPP Criminal Investigation Branch and the Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service conducted an investigation into the shooting of Driver to determine if the use of force in the incident was legally justified.

Strathroy-Caradoc police say the investigation concluded the use of lethal force was justified and therefore non-culpable.

The force says an independent review of the investigation by Crown prosecutors upheld the probe’s conclusion.

Nov 30 2016

REGINA - Police in Saskatchewan are getting another tool to help them nab speeders, distracted drivers and impaired drivers

Some 32 automated licence plate readers are being installed in RCMP patrol vehicles starting this week.

Saskatchewan Government Insurance has funded a total of 47 automated licence readers in the province so far.

The new readers are to be used in a pilot project focused on problem roadways and intersections in central and southeastern Saskatchewan.

(CKRM, CP)

Nov 30 2016

QUEBEC - Photo radar machines are to remain on Quebec roads despite a recent court ruling that rejected evidence obtained from one, the provincial government said Wednesday.



Quebec court Judge Serge Cimon, in a decision released Monday, cleared a woman from having to pay a traffic ticket she received after a radar machine clocked her speeding.

The judge said the photo radar evidence was hearsay and inadmissible in court because provincial police didn’t personally witness the woman allegedly breaking the law or check to see if the machine was functioning properly.

“The prosecutor can consider this as formal notice that the evidence used in the prosecution of fixed photo radar cases is based on insufficient evidence,” he wrote.

It is unclear how this decision could affect future cases involving people contesting speeding tickets obtained in connection to photo radar machines.

The woman in the case got out of a \$1,160 ticket for allegedly going 140 km/h in a 70 km/h zone.

Transport Minister Laurent Lessard told reporters at the legislature Wednesday that photo radars are useful in assuring security on the province’s roads and highways.

Justice Minister Stephanie Vallee wasn’t prepared to say whether the court decision would be appealed.

She reminded reporters that the law allowing the permanent installation of photo radar and red light camera technology was endorsed by the provincial legislature in 2012.

Plans to expand the program were announced in 2015.

Nov 30 2016

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - The Abbotsford Police Department says it has found no evidence of wrongdoing by an individual at the RCMP detachment in Kelowna, B.C..

Officers from Abbotsford conducted an investigation after a complaint was made in early September.

No other information about the matter has been provided.

Const. Ian MacDonald of Abbotsford police says the investigation, which was launched at the request of the Mounties, has concluded and “did not find evidence that a criminal offence was committed.”

Senior RCMP officials did not say who requested the Kelowna investigation and would not comment on the basis of the allegations.

RCMP confirmed at the time that former detachment commander Nick Romanchuk took a leave from his post in early September and announced his retirement Sept. 26.

Nov 30 2016

VICTORIA - BC's police-complaint commissioner has granted a third extension for an RCMP investigation of Victoria's suspended police chief.



Stan Lowe says the investigation into Frank Elsner was supposed to have been completed by Wednesday but it will now have to be done by Jan. 26.

Elsner already apologized for sending messages through social media to the wife of one of his officers, but the police complaint commissioner later ordered a probe into 10 misconduct allegations arising from the original allegation.

None of the allegations has been proven against Elsner.

RCMP Chief Supt. Sean Bourrie says 66 interviews have been done so far and electronic devices and servers at the Victoria Police Department have been examined.

Bourrie says more time is needed because seven additional witnesses must be interviewed and a previous witness who has spoken with investigators has provided new information, requiring a follow-up interview with Elsner.

Lowe says that while investigations involving alleged misconduct by municipal officers must be completed within six months after they begin, the Elsner matter involves a significant body of evidence.

The commissioner says he acknowledges that the ongoing investigation impacts the operations of the Victoria Police Department and there is a public interest in resolving such matters in a timely way.

Nov 30 2016

OTTAWA - The Canadian government is moving to control six chemicals used to make the deadly opioid fentanyl in an effort to contain the growing overdose death toll.

Health Canada announced Wednesday that the new regulations will take place immediately because of the urgency of the fentanyl crisis, resulting in hundreds of fatalities across the country this year.

Health Minister Jane Philpott says regulating some of the precursors used to make the synthetic drug is among a range of steps the government is taking.

Philpott says its actions will also help police intervene in the movement of the chemi-

cals used to make the illicit substance.

Philpott says the government is moving quickly to reduce the supply of illicit fentanyl.

Nov 30 2016 Police in Ontario are taking a bold step in the fight against the "deadly threat to public health and safety" from fentanyl, by joining forces with the Chief Coroner for Ontario for a two-day training symposium in Toronto for more than 450 officers.

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and Dr. Dirk Huyer will lead the symposium, focused on combatting a spike in deaths believed to be caused by the illegal acquisition, sale, abuse and misuse of the deadly pain medication.

"While not as extreme as in other areas of Canada, particularly British Columbia, Ontario is seeing an increase in fentanyl deaths," Dr. Huyer said in a statement.

"It is my hope that through the collaborative efforts of our governments, public health, law enforcement, and front-line healthcare workers, we will soon begin to see a reversal in this alarming trend."

Preliminary data showed 543 people lost their lives in opioid-related deaths in 2015 and fentanyl was a direct cause for 165, up from 154 last year and 86 in 2010, according to the Chief Coroner's office.

Officers and border security agents will be trained on the "health and public safety challenges" posed by fentanyl, which Toronto Police Supt. Ron Taverner said is "critical to ensuring our people's safety."

"Our officers need to understand the dangers of fentanyl not only to themselves, but the people they serve," he said. "We want them to be in a position where their personal safety is guarded when it comes to fentanyl and that they can also help save lives."

(Global News)

Nov 30 2016

VICTORIA - A panel that examined 100 domestic-violence deaths in British Columbia says few victims tell anyone what's happening in their lives before they are killed and even professionals may not know how to they can help.



The group of experts ranging from police and a former judge to agencies involved in family services and aboriginal health looked at 75 separate incidents between 2010 and 2015.

Its three recommendations, to be implemented by December 2017, are contained in a report released by the BC Coroners Service.

The report says the overwhelming burden of intimate-partner violence is borne by women, mostly between the ages of 20 and 59, and that their children may endure life-long consequences from exposure to family violence.

The death-review panel is calling for more public awareness about intimate-partner violence and a review by the Justice Ministry to determine the merits of early case management by a single judge in family and criminal cases.

The panel says the Provincial Domestic Violence Office should also enhance access to data so it can be shared between service agencies to support victims and their children.

Nov 30 2016

ST. CATHARINES - After 35 years with the local police force, Joe Matthews is hanging up his hat.



The deputy chief's retirement, effective Jan. 31, was announced by Niagara Regional Police Friday.

"It's a bit of a bittersweet feeling," Matthews says of his decision to depart after more than three decades of serving the community.

With completion of the new headquarters under his belt, he feels it's the right time for him to say goodbye - though he doesn't expect it will be easy.

"I've been very fortunate in my career. I still love getting up and going to work every morning," he says. "I'm going to miss an awful lot of things, mainly the relationships and the challenges of the everyday work."

"The wonderful thing about policing as a career is you sort of never know what the day is going to bring when you get up in the morning because there are so many different twists and turns."

Matthews, who turns 59 in December, began his policing career with the NRP as an auxiliary constable in 1978. He was sworn in as a constable three years later.

He has served in a number of areas, including uniform patrol, executive services, the major crime unit, and the criminal investigation, youth and operational services branches of the police force.

He considers himself blessed to have had "several careers within in a career" in his many roles with the NRP, including the position of deputy chief that he's held since 2009.

Matthews spent the majority of his career as a detective and said the biggest challenge throughout the years was “keeping up with the changing times,” particularly with the complexity of investigations.

Criminal investigations that once took one to two hours to complete have “increased probably tenfold,” he says, due to technological changes, demand on disclosure and development of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

“My career started before the Charter of Rights was enshrined, so an awful lot of change,” Matthews says.

A new deputy chief has yet to be named. The police board is expected to determine over the next few weeks the process it will follow to find a replacement.

(CBC News)

Nov 30 2016

Quebec Crown prosecutors have announced that they will not lay any charges following a police intervention which left a police officer and a First Nations man dead.



In a news release the Crown said it had reviewed a report prepared by provincial police and concluded that the Lac-Simon police force, which serves an Algonquin community about 500 kilometres northwest of Montreal, did not commit any criminal acts during the incident.

On February 13 two Lac-Simon officers were responding to a call made at 10:20 p.m. which said shots had been fired.

Thierry LeRoux, 26, and his partner arrived at the scene and entered a house. They were told there was a man, Joseph Anthony Raymond-Papatie, in the basement of the home and that he was suicidal but had no gun, it had been taken away from him and left at a neighbour's.

LeRoux walked down the stairs into the basement to speak to Raymond-Papatie and that is when his partner heard two shots. After trying to reach LeRoux over the radio, his partner looked down the stairs and saw him lying flat on his stomach without any sign of life. The partner then left the home to call back up.

Left alone in the home Raymond-Papatie, 22, went on his Facebook page to post that he had just killed a police officer. He then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide.

LeRoux had been a member of the Lac-Simon aboriginal police force for only six months.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1, 2016

Dec 01 2016

TORONTO - Ontario is announcing plans to hire more judges, Crown attorneys, duty counsel and court staff to try to shorten the time it takes for criminal cases to get to trial.

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi is also announcing that a bail verification and supervision program will be extended so that fewer low-risk accused are held in custody pending trial.

And as part of bail reforms, the government is launching a program to provide “bail beds” - supervised housing for accused people who may not have otherwise been granted bail because they have no fixed address - starting with a location in Thunder Bay.

The hiring announcement comes in the wake of a Supreme Court of Canada ruling last July that a reasonable delay to trial is 18 months for provincial cases and 30 months for cases before the superior court.

The Ontario Crown Attorneys Association recently estimated about 6,000 criminal cases could be stayed or withdrawn in the wake of the ruling.

Naqvi is announcing today that 13 more provincial judges will be appointed, and Ontario will hire 32 more assistant Crown attorneys, 16 duty counsel and 26 court staff.

Dec 01 2016

HALIFAX - A police probe has been launched into the nursing home death of a 79-year-old Halifax-area man, as his wife alleges he was pushed by another resident with severe dementia, fell and died several days later.

RCMP Cpl. Jennifer Clarke confirmed that Gordon Birchell died at the Ivy Meadows home on Oct. 29 and that police have opened a suspicious death investigation, but declined to provide any details on what occurred.

Joan Birchell, Gordon's wife, said in an interview that she was told by a staff member that Birchell was pushed on Oct. 24 at the home in the Halifax suburb of Beaver Bank by a female resident with severe dementia.

The 79-year-old woman says her husband was hospitalized and returned to the home, where he later died.

A spokeswoman for the privately owned home, operated by the Halifax-based Stevens Group, said an investigation is underway and declined further comment.

The medical examiner, Dr. Matthew Bowes, said in an email that his office is still investigating the cause of death, while a Health Department spokeswoman said an investigation has been opened under its Protection of Persons in Care legislation into the incident.

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DISPATCHES

PROMOTIONS RETIREMENTS RECOGNITION

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