

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY  February 22, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 8

Executive Digest

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VANCOUVER - Metro Vancouver would be better served by a regional police force, the Vancouver police board agreed Tuesday, embracing a key recommendation of Wally Oppal's Missing Women Commission of Inquiry report.

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Police squads bracing for personnel cuts after federal program expires



Feb 18 2013

ottawacitizen.com

MONTREAL - The windup of a federal program that was aimed at putting more cops on the street is threatening anti-gang squads, aboriginal police and could stretch existing police resources across the country, law enforcement officials say.

The Police Officer Recruitment Fund was set up in 2008 with the aim of adding 2,500 more police officers in Canada.

The federal government budgeted \$400 million for the fund as part of its tough-on-crime agenda.

Provinces were given the responsibility of deciding how to spend the money and the

two most populous ones got the biggest share, with \$156 million going to Ontario and \$92.3 million to Quebec.

In Quebec, several regional organized-crime squads were set up as well as Project Eclipse, a Montreal city police unit originally targeting street gangs which has since had its mandate widened to focus on organized crime. The force's cyber-crime squad has also been beefed up.

That eclipse squad is one of the units fighting a renewal of mob violence linked to a power struggle in the Montreal Mafia.

Now its future is in doubt, as the program ends in March.

Montreal police chief Marc Parent said in



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an interview the force is trying to keep the funds flowing.

"We're still working on it with the federal minister to make sure we can have a good discussion about the reality we have in Montreal," he said. "We still are positive that we can find a solution about that.

"I'm still optimistic."

In Alberta, \$42.4 million from the fund allowed for the hiring of 83 officers to bolster the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team, which has targeted gangs, drugs and child exploitation throughout the province since 2006.

However, Michelle Davio, a spokeswoman for the provincial Justice and Solicitor General Department, said funding for the 83 positions will extend to the 2014-15 budget year because of when it began to be allocated.

The federal government had little to say when asked about the program.

Julie Carmichael, a spokeswoman for Public Safety Minister Vic Toews, responded in an email that reaffirmed the government's commitment to cracking down on gangs.

"We were pleased to make a significant one-time investment in the provinces and territories to help them bolster their police forces and ensure they had the tools to crack down on gun, gang and drug crime," she said in an email.

"We will continue to crack down on gangs and organized crime across the country through tough measures, like our new sentences for gun crimes associated with organized crime, including drive-by shootings."

But Chief Stephen Tanner, who is president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, was less upbeat in an interview and predicted difficult consequences ahead as the funding ends.

He pointed particularly to shortfalls in aboriginal policing, where 11 officers will likely be cut from the Nishnawabe-Aski Police Service, which is one of North America's largest indigenous police departments.

"That's critical for them," said Tanner, who is also chief of the Halton Regional Police Service.

The service employs about 150 police officers.

Tanner pointed out the Nishnawabe-Aski force, which is spread out across 34 communities, polices some of the most impoverished small towns in Ontario's far north.

"They may have to withdraw their services from one or two small communities," Tanner said.

"If they have to do that, the Ontario Provincial Police may be forced to go in to police those communities."

That would place further strain on the OPP at a time when it's looking at cutting 125 officers, he said. He added that the force is already under the number required.

Tanner said that pulling about \$1 million in police salary from the aboriginal force could actually end up costing \$2 million to \$3 million if the OPP has to take over.

"Fiscally, it doesn't make sense."

When the funding was announced in 2008, the Ontario government said \$78 million would go toward hiring 125 OPP officers, \$58 million would help municipal police hire up to 164 officers and \$20 million would be used to fund 40 new police officers for First Nations police services.

The Ontario government said at the time that it would continue to lobby Ottawa to make the funding permanent, saying it still fell short of what was needed.

Tanner said police budgets are already tight in Canada.

He noted that the OPP, Toronto Police Service and a number of other forces won't be sending recruits to the police academy class scheduled for May because of belt-tightening.

Asked later about the effect on aboriginal policing, Carmichael's reply in another email repeated almost word-for-word the government's stand concerning the effects on anti-gang squads.

"Our Government is committed to cracking down on crime across the country," she wrote.

"We were pleased to make a significant one-time investment to provinces and territories to help them bolster their police forces and ensure they had the tools they need to crack down on crime. We have enacted over 30 measures aimed at keeping our streets and communities safe and will continue to take action to strengthen Canada's justice system."

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Feb 14 2013

OTTAWA - The RCMP must take "swift and effective action" on complaints of workplace bullying and harassment to restore the shaken confidence of both members and the public, says the watchdog that oversees the national police force.

In a report Thursday, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP recommended fundamental changes to the way in which internal grievances about harassment are handled by the Mounties.

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

The commission said its investigation did not point to a systemic problem of sexual harassment within the police force, despite intense publicity about difficulties and grievances.

However, the report said the simple perception of a pattern of poor treatment of employees is enough to rattle public confidence and tarnish the force's reputation.

In their own report, focusing on women in the RCMP, the Mounties said Thursday they would examine the commission's recommendations and implement them "as appropriate."

"Harassment has no place in the RCMP," the force said, pledging "zero tolerance" and outlining steps taken to date.

The Mounties also signalled a desire for a broad "reconciliation campaign" to heal rifts with employees who have suffered harassment.

"I'd like to get this all behind us," RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson said in an interview.

The commission's investigation - which included a statistical review, interviews with members and public submissions - found the RCMP was "probably no better nor no worse than most other large organizations" on the issue of harassment, said Ian McPhail, interim chairman of the complaints body.

"The fact is, of course, that - as our national police force - it's got to be better," he said in an interview. "And harassment of any sort is just not acceptable."

Several female RCMP officers have come forward with complaints since Cpl. Catherine Galliford went public in 2011 with allegations of harassment within the force in British Columbia.

Men have also complained of abusive behaviour and intimidation.

The investigation found that from February 2005 through mid-November 2011, 718 harassment complaints were filed by employees, representing 2.5 per cent of all staff.

Ninety per cent of the complaints involved allegations of bullying, while four per cent concerned sexual harassment.

Just under half of complainants were male, 44 per cent female and seven per cent unknown.

But the report cautions that it was difficult to measure the scope of the issue and recommends the RCMP implement a national system of data collection to capture all incidences of workplace conflict, including harassment.

The complaints commission says harassment can have profound effects on the victimized employee, from feelings of fear and humiliation to mental breakdown and even post-traumatic stress.

"I felt completely alone and I felt like a failure," one unnamed RCMP officer told the complaints commission.

"I could not believe that my RCMP was treating me in such a callous and disrespectful

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manner when I had always worked so hard to do my duty and to better the organization.”

Said another: “My launching a complaint against a commissioned officer of the RCMP has met with devastating results for me and my career in the RCMP.”

McPhail said his “heart goes out” to RCMP members who pay such a heavy price.

“People who join the RCMP by and large do so out of a strong sense of idealism, and to do something for the country,” he said. “And it’s tragic when that’s the result.”

The commission found the complex system for dealing with complaints meant some took as long as four years to process.

“That’s clearly unacceptable. No one can fairly be expected to have their lives and their careers on hold for up to four years while a complaint is resolved,” McPhail said.

“People see that sort of thing happening and even if they have a legitimate complaint, they’re not going to step forward.”

Many told the commission the current process for handling harassment complaints within the RCMP lacked independence, with some charging that the final decision-maker displayed bias or a conflict of interest in that they were “protecting their own.”

The commission recommends centralized monitoring and co-ordination of all RCMP decisions with respect to harassment to ensure consistency. It also says those responsible for dealing with harassment allegations should report directly to a senior executive - such as the RCMP’s professional integrity officer - outside the force’s divisional chain-of-command structures.

In addition, there should be “clearly defined” standards for those who investigate harassment complaints, appropriate training, and greater input from both the complainant and the respondent.

Finally, the commission recommends that an outside body hear appeals from dissatisfied complainants.

In its report, Gender and Respect, the RCMP said Thursday it had already taken some steps toward changing the way it addresses harassment, including:

- Centralized administration of oversight and administration of cases;
- Increased nationwide harassment training;
- Efforts to meet Treasury Board Secretariat timeline standards of 12 months from receipt of a complaint to determination of whether it is founded.

However, the Mounties say their hands are somewhat tied pending passage of legislation before Parliament that would give the RCMP commissioner authority to establish a process for the investigation and resolution of harassment complaints.

The bill introduced last year by Public Safety Minister Vic Toews would also arm a revamped public complaints commission with powers to monitor how the force is dealing with harassment.

McPhail said the bill would open the door for the RCMP to adopt the blueprint outlined by the complaints commission.

“Legislation does not in and of itself solve problems,” he said. “But it enables the people involved to solve those problems. And certainly the minister and the commissioner have made it quite clear that this is an important priority for both of them.”

Paulson said he wants harassment allegations dealt with at the earliest possible opportunity.

“The point is to get to a position where we can resolve these things in the first instance at the lowest possible level.”

Paulson said he also understands the need for independence in probing claims. “I get that, in certain circumstances, members who are feeling harassed may not have a high degree of comfort in raising that with the person that’s harassing them.”

The RCMP noted Thursday that there are ongoing lawsuits against the force as a result of alleged behaviour by members, including one brought by women seeking certification as a class action.

The force says it is working with counsel to assess and, where appropriate, expeditiously resolve outstanding cases.

“The RCMP stands little to gain by denying the obvious - and it will not do so,” the force’s report says. “As long as these cases dominate the public discourse they will undermine public confidence in our institution and consume effort. Where wrong has been committed, it will be made right.”

However, it added that rewarding claims that lack merit would hinder the force’s desire to initiate a broad “once-and-for-all” reconciliation campaign with past and present employees who were genuinely harassed.

“We must push past this risk and work with the government to implement such an approach.”

Paulson said this might take the form of a general apology, or perhaps specific overtures to individuals.

“I think, frankly, most people are interested in a recognition that, OK, this happened to me,” he said.

“I’m looking at options and alternatives, and inviting advice.”

Feb 14 2013

DUNCAN, B.C. - An RCMP officer has been found guilty of aggravated assault for shooting a man in the shoulder during a traffic stop on Vancouver Island.

Const. David Pompeo had testified that William Gillespie emerged from his vehicle in a zombie-like state on Sept. 18, 2000.

Pompeo said he wasn’t sure if the man was high on drugs, planning to attack or thinking nothing at all before he shot him.

The trial heard last summer that Pompeo and his partner were driving an unmarked pickup truck when they pulled Gillespie over for suspicion of driving while prohibited.

Gillespie praised the judge’s ruling on Thursday.

“I’m very pleased that the judge did not believe Const. Pompeo’s version of the events of Sept. 18, 2009, and that his life was never in

any real danger behind his steel door and his bullet-proof vest on,” he said outside court.

“Now I don’t think there will be a shoot-first policy. People across Canada should be pleased that the courts are not going to look the other way on police use of excessive force and trigger-happy police officers.”

RCMP officials who were at provincial court in Duncan, B.C., for the decision said they will be reviewing Judge Josiah Wood’s ruling before making any comment.

The court heard that after seeing the lights of Pompeo’s ghost car, Gillespie pulled his sedan into a friend’s Chemainus, B.C., driveway and stopped with a skid.

Pompeo told court during the trial that Gillespie got out of his vehicle without being told to do so and made blatant movements and gestures, making him believe the man was armed.

The officer testified Gillespie ignored his commands at gunpoint, but Gillespie said he was ordered out of the car and complied fully with Pompeo’s instructions.

“He was blatantly ignoring my commands to comply while he was advancing at gunpoint,” Pompeo told the trial. “I was under the impression that he was retrieving the means with which to cause me bodily harm, or worse.”
(CJSU)

Feb 14 2013

SPRUCE GROVE, Alta. - A Mountie is in hospital with serious injuries to his legs following a crash on an icy road west of Edmonton.



edmontonjournal.com

RCMP say Const. Marcus Hirschfield, 35, had just responded to an accident and was returning to the Stony Plain detachment when he was hit by a pickup truck on Thursday morning.

The driver of the truck lost control on some ice and slid into the front of the police cruiser, about 10 kilometres south of Spruce Grove.

Firefighters used the Jaws of Life to free the Mountie, who was alert and talking.

“Our fellow is about a five-year member, he’s attached to Stony Plain/Spruce Grove detachment,” said Sgt. Brian Tophan. “He was trapped in the vehicle for about an hour; our local fire department rescue crew out of Stony Place/Spruce Grove got him out.”

He was air-lifted to hospital in Edmonton with a broken pelvis, femur and ankle and had to undergo surgery.

The driver of the truck also suffered non-life threatening injuries and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Road conditions are believed to have been a factor in the crash, as area roads remain slick from Wednesday's drifting snow and strong winds.

(Global Edmonton)

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2013

Feb 15 2013

OTTAWA - The Canadian researcher involved in compiling a damning report against the RCMP is criticizing Prime Minister Stephen Harper for not taking the issue seriously.



bullfax.com

The report from Human Rights Watch, released earlier this week, accuses the Mounties of abusing aboriginal women and girls in northern BC, and also includes an allegation of rape.

Harper reacted coolly, telling victims to just "get on" with reporting the abuse.

Researcher Samer Muscati says Harper missed the whole point - that aboriginal women and girls are often too traumatized to co-operate with police.

He says the comments don't address the core issue - the lack of security that prevents indigenous women and girls from filing complaints of police abuse.

Muscati says the Human Rights Watch tried to brief Harper and three members of his cabinet in advance of the report's release, but they were rebuffed.

Feb 15 2013

HALIFAX - The arrest of a man who suffered a broken elbow during a physical confrontation with an RCMP officer is being investigated by Nova Scotia's police watchdog.

The Serious Incident Response Team says the Mounties responded to a complaint at about 1 p.m. on Thursday from a convenience store in Boylston about a man with a wooden club who had allegedly caused damage in the store and left with stolen property.

It says after the confrontation on the side of the road, the man was handcuffed and placed in a police vehicle.

He was later taken to hospital in Antigonish, where he was diagnosed with a fractured left elbow.

Feb 15 2013

A patrol program that was popular in the 1990s is making a comeback on the slopes

at Lake Louise.

Eight ski trained RCMP officers are now patrolling the slopes at Lake Louise and officers say they'll have a presence at the resort on weekends throughout the ski season.

Corporal Jeff Campbell has worn the uniform for 17 years. Now he's wearing it on his day off at Lake Louise and his snow board is the newest piece of gear in his arsenal.

"We're on the hill not because of any incident that was pre-existing or anything like that, we're simply up here to increase the enjoyment and the family atmosphere at Lake Louise mountain resort," said Campbell.

Campbell and seven other officers have been taking to the slopes on Friday's, Saturday's, Sunday's and long weekends since mid-December.

(CTV News)

Feb 15 2013

OTTAWA - An RCMP officer facing several assault and sex-related charges related to a child abuse investigation in the Ottawa area will remain in custody for at least several more days.

The 41-year-old man arrested Tuesday made a brief court appearance Friday where he was remanded in custody to next week. The man's wife has also been charged.

The couple cannot be identified as the court imposed a sweeping publication ban. Police are calling it one of the worst cases of child abuse they have ever seen.

Police told CTV News a young boy was allegedly shackled and handcuffed in the basement of an Ottawa home for months. By



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Following an organizational redesign, which has realigned responsibilities for Operations and Support under two Deputy Chiefs, the NRPS is now seeking a Deputy to complete the Service's leadership team. As a key member of this team, the new Deputy will support the Chief and his colleague in inspiring the trust and confidence of the Service and of the community, in maintaining and improving the quality of life and level of safety within the Niagara Region.

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Wednesday morning, the boy was being treated in hospital.

Police say the man has been charged with three counts of aggravated assault, three counts of assault with a weapon, one count of aggravated sexual assault, one count of failing to provide the necessities of life and one count of forcible confinement.

His 34-year-old wife was charged with three counts of aggravated assault, two counts of assault with a weapon, one count of failing to provide the necessities of life and one count of forcible confinement.

Sources say the investigation was launched after an 11-year-old child was found outdoors in a residential neighbourhood.

"At Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario we are told they were absolutely shocked by the condition of the child," CTV Ottawa anchor Graham Richardson told News Channel.

A man who lives in the neighbourhood where the alleged abuse took place said he saw a young boy from his window on Tuesday, trying to open the outside water tap of his house, and assumed he was a trespasser.

"I gave him water," said Wilson Wong, who described the boy as resembling a "little old man" with sunken cheeks.

After getting water, the boy walked away. Wong said he's had trouble sleeping ever since.

"Now I realize I should have done something," he said.

Due to the publication ban, it's unclear how the police were notified, but Richardson said it's possible neighbours contacted authorities.

Police visited the home, Richardson said, and they saw "some things that caused them grave concern."

Sources have said it appears the case involves more than one child.

The charged officer, who has not been on active duty since 2011, lasted worked in the RCMP's counterterrorism unit.

"It is just a terrible set of circumstances," RCMP commissioner Bob Paulson told CTV's Mercedes Stephenson. He declined to comment further as the case is before the courts.

The woman charged was also expected in court Friday.
(CTV News)

Feb 15 2013

OTTAWA - Police have high hopes a new forensic database could help crack some cold cases.

Next month, the RCMP will expand its fingerprint database to include palm prints. Palms contain just as much unique identifying information as people's fingertips and police say they find palm prints at up to 30 per cent of all crime scenes.

Supt. Alain Bouchard, director of the RCMP's integrated forensic identification services in Ottawa, says police often lift palm prints from ledges, doorknobs, patio doors, paper and weapons such as knives or bats.

Lifting his hands up to his face, Bouchard demonstrates why it's so common to find impressions from the sides of people's palms on windows, "I find them very often at break

and enters, what we call the writer's palm, when people are actually looking inside the residence to see if anybody's home."

While analysts can map all the creases, islands and lines of someone's palm, the prints' usefulness have been limited by technology. Canadian police have been able to upload, search and match fingerprints through a computerized criminal fingerprint database for decades, but up until now, there has been no similar way to match palm prints.

"Previous years we had no way of searching palm prints. As you can just imagine, if you were to send palm prints here it would just be sitting in a box. If we wanted to identify a palm print we needed basically a suspect. Someone would come to me and say, 'I think its Joe and

here's Joe's palm print' and we'd do a comparison at my desk."

That will change next month when 26 police services across Canada will be able to submit and search for palm prints. The database will be small at first, only containing fresh prints scanned in from people who have just been charged with a crime. But the RCMP is encouraging police to send in palm impressions found at old crime scenes.

The Mounties alone will begin re-processing thousands of palm prints linked to cold cases across Canada, starting with unsolved murders.

Halton Regional Police's Det. Dave Banks knows which old print he'll be submitting to the new database, a palm impression linked to



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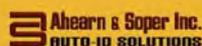
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the unsolved murder of Paavo Paul Henttonen.

"I have a palm print from that particular case from the vehicle that was used in that particular homicide and recovered from the inside surface of the door."

Henttonen was stabbed to death inside his home in Georgetown, Ont., in 2002.

"With the new RCMP database involving palms we're hopeful that once this crime scene impression gets put into the database that any new people getting arrested or re-arrested and their palm prints taken and put into that database, we'll get a match on it," he said.

(CBC News)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2013

Feb 17 2013

TORONTO - A pair of Toronto police officers are being credited for helping save a newborn who had been declared dead.

It happened after the mother went into labour while walking to a hospital on Sunday morning and gave birth on the sidewalk in freezing cold weather.

Paramedics rushed the mother and baby girl to hospital, where the child was declared dead.

Police, who were standing over the baby until the coroner arrived, noticed the sheet covering it's body move.

They found a pulse and alerted doctors.

The baby is in hospital in stable condition.

(AM640, CFRB)

MONDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2013

Feb 18 2013

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. - A Peterborough man has been charged with mischief after police say he repeatedly phoned 911 about his broken toilet.

Police say a man kept calling on Sunday even after being told it wasn't a real emergency.

Someone did finally respond, but it wasn't a plumber.

Instead, officers went to a home and charged the resident.

Fifty-three-year-old Ian Thomson is charged with mischief.

Police allege that alcohol may have been a factor in the incident.

(CKGM)

Feb 18 2013

TORONTO - A Toronto hospital says it's launching an investigation after a newborn baby was mistakenly declared dead.

The close call came at Humber River Hospital in Toronto's west end on Sunday.

The girl's mother went into labour while walking to the hospital, gave birth on the sidewalk and had to be rushed to Humber for treatment.

The child was declared dead, but police standing by the infant while waiting for the coroner to arrive eventually saw the baby

was still moving.

Humber says its chief of emergency medicine and head of pediatrics will be reviewing all procedures applied in the case.

Humber says the baby is currently in care at SickKids hospital.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Feb 19 2013

BRUSSELS, Belgium - Eight masked gunmen made a hole in a security fence at Brussels' international airport, drove onto the tarmac and snatched some \$50 million worth of diamonds from the hold

of a Swiss-bound plane without firing a shot, authorities said Tuesday.

The gang used two black cars in their daring raid late Monday, grabbed the cache of stones and sped off into the darkness, said Anja Bijmens, spokeswoman for the Brussels prosecutor's office.

"They tried to pass themselves off as police officers," Bijmens said. They reportedly wore outfits which resembled dark police clothing and both cars had blue lights on top, she said.

Police found one burnt-out vehicle close to the airport later Monday night and said they were still looking for clues.

The heist was estimated at some \$50 million in diamonds, said Caroline De Wolf of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre.



TRAINING

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Kevin Byrnes - A Detective with a major GTA police service, an author and facilitator, he has conducted interviews for many police agencies, the FBI and Interpol.

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Tom Hart - Retired from Durham Regional Police Service, he is now President of Canadian Critical Incident Inc.

Investigative Strategies

April 23rd 9:00 - 4:00

Instructor:

Dave Perry - Retired Toronto homicide detective and CEO of Investigative Solutions Network

Coping with Secondary Traumatic Stress

April 24, 9:00 - 4:00

Instructor:

Stephanie M. Conn - Registered Clinical Counsellor, Conn Counselling and Consulting and Blue Line Magazine columnist - *Holding the Line*

Economic Crimes:

Detection & Investigation (Project Mouse and Project Kite)

April 24th, 9:00 - 4:00

Instructors:

PROJECT MOUSE:

Police Constable Timothy Trotter,
Toronto Police Service - 14 Division

Detective Constable Michael Kelly,
Toronto Police Service - Financial Crimes Unit

BLANCHARD CASE:

Larry Levasseur CFI, CPP
Senior Investigator at MTS Allstream
Previous: Winnipeg Police Service, Manitoba Hydro

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“What we are talking about is obviously a gigantic sum,” De Wolf said.

An airport spokesman said the robbers made a hole in the perimeter fence and drove up to the Swiss passenger plane, which was ready to leave. The robbers got out of the car, flashed machine-guns at pilots and security transport workers before taking the loot from the hold, which was accessed from outside.

Without firing a shot they drove off through the same hole in the fence, completing the spectacular theft within barely five minutes, Bijmens said.

Airport spokesman Jan Van Der Cruisje could not explain how the area could be so vulnerable to theft. “We abide by the most stringent rules,” he said.

Feb 19 2013

INNISFAIL, Alta. - The RCMP are looking for help to name some recruits who haven't even been born yet.

Young Canadians 16 and under are invited to submit suggestions for 10 German shepherd puppies expected soon at the RCMP's police dog training school at Innisfail, Alta.

The names must serve for either a male or female pup, can have no more than nine letters and must be one or two syllables.

They must also start with the letter F.

Contestants must print their name, age, address, telephone number and the suggested name on a postcard and mail it to the training centre by March 22.

The Mounties are reminding participants that the names must be fitting for a dog in police service.

Feb 19 2013

MONTREAL - Last week, Montreal's police department database was hacked and information about officers posted on the Internet.

Hundreds of names, positions and telephone numbers of employees and managers have been circulating on the web since Feb. 9, accompanied by a warning signed by “The People”:

“This is a warning to withhold violence during the Education Summit ... disobey your orders, find the dignity to know the difference between right and wrong, and the courage to act on that. We are only asking that you open your eyes to the injustice you commit, the corruption you enable and the name you are defending.”

According to a report in Quebec newspaper La Presse, the cyber attack is being investigated by the Montreal police (SPVM), the Sûreté du Québec and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). However, none of those organizations would confirm that an investigation was underway or that an attack had taken place.

Martin Desrochers, Director of Communications for the Montreal's police union, the Fraternité des policiers et policières de Montréal had no official comment on Tuesday.

But the union's president, Yves Francoeur told La Presse that he was concerned.

“We already knew that our computer system was archaic,” he said. “If they had access to SPVM data, it means that they also had access

to personal addresses. This endangers families and children.”

This is not the first time that the Montreal police has been targeted. Last spring, a group calling itself Anonymous Quebec claimed responsibility for a wave of cyber attacks in reaction to the adoption of the controversial Bill 78 passed by the former provincial Liberal government.

In May 2012, hackers disabled more than a dozen websites, including those of Quebec's Education Department and Department of Public Safety, the Quebec Liberal party and the Montreal police force.

The cyber attacks also extended to Formula One car-race spectators, who had personal information published online.

In June 2012, six people - including three minors - were arrested and charged in connection with the attacks that paralyzed Quebec websites.

Those charged appeared via videoconference before a judge at Montreal's courthouse on June 19. At that time, police said in a statement that “... they take this kind of crime very seriously.”

“They will use every means at their disposal to find the authors. These people expose themselves to criminal charges, regardless of whatever intention prompted their action.”

(Global, Canadian Press)

Feb 19 2013

QUEBEC - The Quebec government has tabled its own gun-registry legislation.

Today's move comes after Ottawa scrapped its long-gun registry last year.

If Quebec's bill becomes law, owners of non-restricted firearms will have to obtain a certificate for each one.

Quebec and Ottawa are fighting over the fate of the data that the province contributed to the federal registry.

Quebec Superior Court ordered last September that the data on Quebec guns be preserved and turned over to the province.

The federal government is appealing that ruling and a hearing is scheduled for March.

Feb 19 2013

MONTREAL - A Montreal police officer who gained notoriety under the moniker “Officer 728” has been ordered to stay out of trouble for one year and undergo psychiatric treatment.

Const. Stefanie Trudeau has been suspended with pay since Oct. 2, after viral videos surfaced of her allegedly roughing people.

She has also been ordered to stay away from any offices or members of the Montreal police force and cannot possess any firearms.

Among the reasons for the peace order was that a Montreal police officer described feeling threatened by her.

Trudeau appeared handcuffed in a Montreal courtroom today, after being arrested. But she was released after signing the promise to keep the peace and agreeing to the 15-day psychiatric evaluation to be carried out at a Sherbrooke hospital.

She first rose to Internet fame as the officer who pepper-sprayed apparently

harmless bystanders during Quebec's student protests last year. Then, months later, she allegedly roughed up a man, putting him in a headlock and dragging him down the stairs, when he questioned why she was arresting his friend for drinking a beer next to their apartment door.

Feb 19 2013

MONTREAL - Montreal's city hall was locked down while being swept by police Tuesday in one of numerous raids conducted across the city that had even the newly installed mayor being questioned.



ctvnews.ca

The province's anti-corruption squad said it was carrying out nine raids at the seat of the municipal government, in Old Montreal, and six other ones in different borough offices.

A news report said the new mayor, Michael Applebaum, and the man he recently replaced, Gerald Tremblay, were both among 25 people questioned by police. Spokespeople at the police squad and city hall did not confirm, or deny, that report.

Applebaum added some details later, at a 9:15 p.m. news scrum outside city hall. He confirmed meeting with police but said he was not a target of the probe - only a participant.

“I'm not under investigation,” Applebaum said.

“I'm there to work with the police.”

He did not elaborate on reports that the raids were related to the 2009 campaign financing of Union Montreal - the long-ruling, now-crumbling municipal party Applebaum recently abandoned. He said he wanted to avoid revealing details that might hamper the investigation.

But the mayor did say: “I ran a clean campaign. I raised money legally.”

He also sought to downplay Tuesday's events, calling it “normal” that so many officers would be involved in a probe of this kind and that he would speak with them.

These latest raids were part of a two-year-old investigation related to fraud, breach of trust, and falsified documents in Quebec.

A number of arrests have already been made in connection with construction corruption, which is also the subject of an ongoing public inquiry.

A note went out to city employees explaining the situation.

“Due to exceptional circumstances, we are asking you to leave your work stations and to immediately exit Montreal city hall,” said the email.

“This order stands until further notice.”

Feb 20 2013

VANCOUVER - Metro Vancouver would be better served by a regional police force, the Vancouver police board agreed Tuesday, embracing a key recommendation of Wally Oppal's Missing Women Commission of Inquiry report.

"The board supports a regional policing model as a more effective and efficient way to deliver policing services in the Lower Mainland," says a report by board member Wade Grant, which was passed unanimously at Tuesday's police board meeting.

Board members also endorsed Oppal's suggestion that the proposed oversight body for a future Greater Vancouver police force put a top priority on communicating well with residents.

Oppal's critical report said the Vancouver police board did a poor job of receiving input from the community and acting on it between 1997 and 2002.

There were 65 recommendations in Oppal's hefty report, four of them directed at police boards.

Oppal suggested that to make boards independent of municipal and provincial politics, mayors no longer serve as their chairs, but instead become nonvoting members.

It is a recommendation that Oppal, a former Appeal Court justice, first made in 1994 in an earlier report on policing, and it was echoed in a recent study of police boards by B.C.'s Justice Institute.

The Vancouver board recognizes "the inherent conflict" of having the mayor as chair, Grant's report said, but also noted it provides a "valuable link" with the city.

The board stopped short of taking a position, instead suggesting further discussion on the topic.

Grant's report backed Oppal's recommendation that more native people and marginalized citizens sit on police boards, but argued this can't be achieved "to the level desired" without expanding the board. Right now it consists of six citizens plus the chair.

Grant's report also endorsed Oppal's call for boards to receive more provincial funding to better gather and analyze their own information, so they are less reliant on the police forces they are overseeing.

Five cities in Metro Vancouver - Vancouver, Delta, New Westminster, West Vancouver and Port Moody - have municipal police forces. The rest are served by the RCMP.

The West Vancouver police department has come out against a regional police force, but the police board plans to discuss Oppal's other recommendations at its next meeting Feb. 28.

Delta's police chief and mayor said last month they opposed regionalized policing, arguing it only benefits major cities, not small ones.

They expressed support, though, for the "bulk" of Oppal's other recommendations.

Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu said in a report last month that his department would endorse all policing-related recommendations made by Oppal, including the creation of a regional police force.

(Vancouver Sun)

Feb 20 2013

WINNIPEG - RCMP say an inmate who died at the Headingley Correctional Institution outside Winnipeg was a former police officer who was serving time for sexual assault.

Police say the body of Richard Dow was found Tuesday morning inside his cell.

An autopsy has determined he died of natural causes and no criminal activity is suspected.

Dow, 58, ran a modelling business while also serving on the Winnipeg police force years ago.

He was sentenced in September to 16 months in jail after pleading guilty to 11 counts of sexual assault and one charge of simple assault.

The victims ranged in age from 17 years old to 23 years old and were assaulted during photo shoots.

Feb 20 2013

TORONTO - Ontario's highest court has signalled that the right of police officers to look through someone's phone depends on whether there's a password.

The Court of Appeal for Ontario says it's all right for police to have a cursory look through the phone upon arrest if it's not password protected, but if it is, investigators should get a search warrant.

The court's ruling comes in the case of a man who appealed his robbery conviction, arguing that police breached his charter rights by looking through his phone after his arrest.

Kevin Fearon was arrested in July 2009, after a jewelry stall at a flea market in Toronto was robbed, and police found pictures of a gun and cash as well as a text message about jewelry on his phone.

The Appeal Court denied his appeal, saying that police were allowed to look through Fearon's phone "in a cursory fashion" to see if there was evidence relevant to the crime, but after that they should have stopped to get a search warrant.

The court says if the phone had been password protected or otherwise locked to anyone other than its owner, "it would not have been appropriate" to look through the phone without a search warrant.

The Appeal Court judges referenced a decision in a murder case in which the judge did not allow evidence from a personal electronic device because it "functioned as a mini-computer," which has a high expectation of privacy. The contents of that device were only extracted by a police officer using specialized equipment in that case, the Appeal Court judges noted.

"There was no suggestion in this case that this particular cell phone functioned as a 'mini-computer' nor that its contents were not 'immediately visible to the eye,' the court

said in its ruling, released Wednesday.

"Rather, because the phone was not password protected, the photos and the text message were readily available to other users."

The court, though, declined to create a specific new rule for all cellphone searches.

"It may be that some future case will produce a factual matrix that will lead the court to carve out a cellphone exception to the law," the ruling said. "To put it in the modern vernacular: 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.'"

Feb 20 2013

NEW YORK - An emergency call comes in about a possible bomb in lower Manhattan and an alert pops up on computer screens at the New York Police Department, instantly showing officers an interactive map of the neighbourhood, footage from nearby security cameras, whether there are high radiation levels and whether any other threats have been made against the city.

In a click, police know exactly what they're getting into.

Such a hypothetical scenario may seem like something out of a futuristic crime drama, but the technology is real, developed in a partnership between America's largest police department and Microsoft Corp., and the latest version has been quietly in use for about a year.

The Domain Awareness System, known as the dashboard, gives easy access to the police department's voluminous arrest records, telephone calls, more than 3,000 security cameras citywide, license plate readers and portable radiation detectors. This is all public data - not additional surveillance.

Right now, it is used only in NYPD offices, mostly in the counterterrorism unit. Eventually, the system could supply crime-fighting information in real time to officers on laptops in their squad cars and on mobile devices while they walk the beat.

"It works incredibly well," said Jessica Tisch, director of planning and policy for the counterterrorism unit.

For example, officers used the system during a deadly shooting outside the Empire State Building in August. Dozens of emergency telephone calls were coming in, and it initially looked like an attack staged by several gunmen. But officers mapped the information and pulled up cameras within 500 feet (150 metres) of the reported shots to determine there was only one shooter.

The venture began in 2009 when the NYPD approached Microsoft about building software to help mine data for the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative, a network of private and public cameras and other tools monitored by the department's counterterrorism bureau.

Development cost the department between \$30 million and \$40 million, officials said.

"Usually, you purchase software that you try to work with, but we wanted this to be something that really worked well for us, so we set about creating it with them," said Richard Daddario, the NYPD's deputy commissioner for counterterrorism.

Officers were involved throughout the process with the programmers, offering advice on what they need during an emergency.

"It was created by cops for cops," Tisch said. "We thought a lot about what information we want up close and personal, and what needs to be a click away. It's all baked in there."

The system uses hundreds of thousands of pieces of information.

Security camera footage can be rewound five minutes so that officers can see suspects

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2013

Feb 21 2013

WINNIPEG - Newly revealed documents show police overtime ate up nearly all the money gleaned from a city-ordered special traffic-enforcement project in Winnipeg aimed at collecting an extra \$1 million in fines.

Dozens of officers, called in from other units, logged 627 overtime shifts between June and November last year to help the central traffic unit issue extra tickets under Project Drive.

WiseUp Winnipeg traffic activist Todd Dube, who obtained the documents under freedom of information laws, says the overtime bill came to almost \$860,000.

Dube says the numbers also don't reflect future overtime costs because the officers may have to go to traffic court to defend tickets they issued.

Staff Sgt. Rob Riffel, a Winnipeg police traffic unit spokesman, says officers hit the target of the program.

But Mike Sutherland, president of the Winnipeg Police Association, says he takes exception to policing being a revenue-generating exercise.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Feb 21 2013

WINNIPEG - An aboriginal man who falsely accused Winnipeg police of taking him on a so-called starlight tour has apologized.



theloop.ca

Evan Maud says he is sorry for making up the story and for harming the reputation of two police officers.

Maud did not say why he made up the story, and left a news conference without taking questions from reporters.

The union that represents Winnipeg police members says it accepts the apology.

In 2010, Maud said police drove him to the

city's outskirts and left him alone in freezing temperatures, but his story quickly unravelled as Winnipeg Transit surveillance showed he was on a bus at the time.

Maud's apology is part of a restorative justice program that will allow him to avoid a conviction on public mischief.

Feb 21 2013

MONTREAL - The Quebec government says its language watchdog was a little too aggressive in chasing after an Italian restaurant for excessive use of Italian on its menu.

The agency recently visited the Montreal eatery after receiving a citizen's complaint, and it agreed that certain words on the menu needed to be switched to French.

Among them: "pasta," "calamari" and "bottiglia" (which means "bottle" in Italian). They did leave the word "pizza" alone.

The case created an uproar in social media - in both English and French. A number of Italian Quebecers, meanwhile, joked about how they would never relinquish their right to eat pasta.

The incident also encouraged other business owners to go public with their disputes with the OQLF.

One included a British-style fish and chips restaurant that said it was being forced to lose the "fish and chips," and another was a different Italian restaurant that was told to change its sign to translate "ristorante."

Feb 21 2013

VANCOUVER - Transit police are once again coming under scrutiny, this time by Metro Vancouver mayors who question whether the costly two-tiered police force is justified.



cbc.ca

The mayors' council on regional transportation asked TransLink's independent

commissioner Wednesday for a comparative review of the costs and services of the Transit police compared with local forces to determine if there are any potential cost savings for TransLink.

The move comes as TransLink faces rising transit policing costs at the same time it wrestles with a projected \$30-million shortfall in both 2013 and 2014 because mayors have refused to raise property taxes for transit expansion.

Delta Mayor Lois Jackson said she sought the report to "illustrate the magnitude" of the Transit police, which has both security guards and "full-fledged gun-toting police officers" responsible for safety and security around the region's SkyTrain and transit hubs.

"I'd like to know what service is being used and if it is even required," Jackson said, noting she would like to see how it compares with costs and benefits of police work done in Delta or other Metro municipalities. "How many severe incidents have taken place where you need a uniformed police officer?"

The 167-member Transit police — the first of its kind in Canada — came into operation in 2005, primarily to respond to public concerns about security and fare evasion, mainly related to SkyTrain.

But the force, with an annual budget of \$27 million, has come under fire, as its costs continue to rise by an average of about seven per cent year. TransLink also plans to start its new faregate and Compass card system later this year, which is expected to help address fare evasion on the system.

In an independent report by the University of the Fraser Valley, Darryl Plecas, of the Centre for Public Safety & Criminal Justice Research, said Transit police are contributing to reducing crime by identifying and arresting serious and prolific offenders.

In 2011, the report noted, Transit police arrested 606 offenders for 747 outstanding warrants. The majority of the arrests were the result of fare checks, with the balance due to responding to crime and disorder situations on and around the system.

The report refers to the fact that, for the most part, the individuals arrested were "highly recidivist, serious, chronic offenders who were at large in the community."

(Global)

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