

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

March 22, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 12

Executive Digest

Mar 14 2013

The RCMP plans to reduce the number of districts in New Brunswick to three from 11 over the next year and the number of detachments may also be cut.

Page 2

Mar 15 2013

MONTREAL - The head of Montreal's police union says an apparent dispute between the City's general manager and the chief of police is a case of political interference.

Page 3

Mar 18 2013

CALGARY- After spending an estimated \$80 million and several years trying to develop a shared information database for Alberta's police forces, the provincial government has scrapped the project.

Page 4

Mar 20 2013

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Newfoundland and Labrador government has reached a tentative contract agreement with unionized members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

Page 7

Mar 20 2013

OTTAWA - Audits of the First Nations Policing Program found a number of cases in which officers' personnel files were missing proof they had completed basic training, did not have criminal records and were actually Canadian citizens.

Page 8

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Crime rate fell **while** justice price tag climbed



Mar 20 2013

OTTAWA - Per capita spending on criminal justice - including federal and provincial jails, court costs and policing - has climbed 23 per cent over the last decade even as Canada's crime rate fell 23 per cent, says a new study by the Parliamentary Budget Office.

The report, a first-of-its kind, comprehensive look at criminal justice costs over time, put the price tag at \$20.3 billion in 2011-12.

The authors looked at direct public spending on policing, courts and corrections, including parole. They excluded costs such as victims

compensation, private security and non-criminal matters such as family, environmental and competition law.

Almost \$15 billion of the total last year, or 73 per cent, was carried by the provinces and municipalities.

"It is important to note that in Canada, the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction to make criminal law, unlike the United States where each state has this power," the study states.

"With regards to the enforcement of criminal law, it is the responsibility of the provinces and territories."

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The Conservative government has been on a seven-year push to increase sentences and introduce new laws, citing its own internal study that claims crime costs victims \$100 billion a year in Canada.

In January, Public Safety Minister Vic Toews warned a policing conference in Ottawa that rising police costs cannot be maintained.

"A decade ago, the average Canadian readily accepted, almost without question, steady increases in police budgets," Toews told the conference in a prepared speech.

"Today, however, there are increasing calls to demonstrate the value of the investments that all governments make in public services, including policing."

The PBO report released Wednesday shows a direct correlation between Prime Minister Stephen Harper taking office in 2006 and a jump in criminal justice spending, both in Ottawa and elsewhere.

Crime rates, meanwhile, have been on a steady decline since 2003 - a trend the PBO says it included in the report "for illustrative purposes only."

"This paper is not policy advice," state the authors.

The report is the last to be released under the watch of Kevin Page, Parliament's first fiscal watchdog whose eventful five-year term ends Monday.

Provincial security and court costs, as well as federal corrections costs all climbed by more than 40 per cent between 2002 and 2012, while federal security costs rose 53 per cent, according to the study.

Policing costs were "relatively flat" before beginning a steady climb in 2007, the same year corrections costs reversed course and began trending up. Court costs - including judges, prosecutors, legal aid and youth justice - had been decreasing but began rising again in 2006, although they still haven't reached 2002 levels.

Court costs shifted toward the provinces and territories and off Ottawa over the study period.

In 2002, the federal government carried 32 per cent of criminal court costs, but that had fallen to 22 per cent by 2012. The provincial share, meanwhile rose 10 points to 78 per cent.

Provincial incarceration rates were also on the rise, while federal rates actually fell, says the report.



Mar 14 2013

WINNIPEG - A career criminal walks into a drugstore with a mask over his face and demands cash from the clerk while claiming he's armed with a gun.

It's the textbook definition of a robbery, but is it a crime that involved the use, or attempted use, of violence?

Manitoba's Court of Appeal said "no" in a ruling that has thwarted attempts by justice officials to seek a severe sanction against a chronic thief.

John Steele was convicted of robbery, disguise with intent and breaching a probation order for the 2010 incident at a Portage Avenue store.

The Crown wanted to pursue long-term offender or dangerous offender status against Steele based on his lengthy criminal record, but the trial judge refused, saying the robbery didn't involve the use or attempted use of violence as required by the legislation.

The high court said not every robbery should automatically be deemed to involve the use or attempted use of violence.

Chief Justice Richard Scott said he doesn't doubt the store clerk's evidence she was "real scared" during the robbery, which lasted just under a minute. The attacker had a hoodie over his face and hands in his pocket while claiming to be armed.

"In the Crown's submission, it makes no difference that the accused in this instance did not actually produce the gun. The clear message was that a robbery was intended and there would be resort to violence if necessary," Scott summarized.

But the Appeal Court agreed with defence lawyer David Soper, who argued that "every robbery, by its very definition, includes at least a threat of violence. If not, it is simply a theft."

It also said the issue has been clouded by the fact "there has been no definitive judicial determination of the meaning of "violence" or "threats of violence" as it pertains to robbery in the Criminal Code.

Instead, they relied on a handful of similar cases and rulings in other provinces such as Saskatchewan and Ontario to uphold the trial judge's original decision.

"As the threat of violence was not associated with either any imminent danger to another person or any, even minimal, overt physical act directed to another person, I am not

prepared to say that the trial judge erred in law," Scott wrote.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Mar 14 2013

The RCMP plans to reduce the number of districts in New Brunswick to three from 11 over the next year and the number of detachments may also be cut.



rcmp-grc.gc.ca

But the public should notice no changes in service or response times, says Assistant Commissioner Wayne Lang.

"The measure of the effectiveness of a police force is not how many detachments they have or whether ... we even have a detachment in your community. The measure should be the impact that we're having in crime in your community," he said.

"Are we reducing crime in your community? Are we preventing crime in your community? And in fact we're encouraging our members to get out of their detachments and be visible and engaged in the communities."

Cost is the driving force behind the restructuring, following a review of core services, said Lang, who announced his retirement on Wednesday.

His departure later this spring has nothing to do with the coming changes, he said.

"We had to take into consideration the existing infrastructure. Detachments may have been located at different places had we started from a completely fresh slate," Lang said.

"We have an aging and rusting infrastructure in New Brunswick. We have about 56 detachments, which we maintain is too many to support in the long-term."

The number of offices is one of the highest per capita in the country, he said. Nova Scotia, for example, has only 37.

As a result, some of the RCMP's buildings across New Brunswick may be decommissioned, but those decisions will be made in consultation with municipal and provincial officials, said Lang.

The new structure will allow the RCMP to maximize its budget and operational efficiencies by redistributing resources and reducing administration costs, he said.

One of the changes will include some front-line members being assigned to specialized crime reduction teams, said Lang.

They will work closely with crime analysts, allowing frontline officers to focus on priority calls and proactive policing activities, such as targeted drug and traffic enforcement, he said.

The RCMP's last restructuring was in the

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mid-1990s and much has changed since then with respect to society, crime, technology and policing, said Lang.
(CBC News)

FRIDAY MARCH 15, 2013

Mar 15 2013

TORONTO - Police in Toronto say it's the first time they've laid sex tourism charges. Police say a 78-year-old Toronto man is facing numerous charges in a child pornography investigation.

Investigators say they received permission from the Attorney General to lay charges for offences allegedly committed while the accused was in Cuba.

James McTurk is charged with making child pornography, six counts of sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, and committing an indecent act.

Last June, investigators alleged McTurk was in possession of child pornography at his home and laid charges of possession, accessing and importing child pornography.

McTurk is scheduled to appear in court on Monday.

Mar 15 2013

MONTREAL - Police wasted little time Friday cracking down on an annual protest that has a history of getting rowdy, deploying charging squads of helmeted officers, cops on horseback and pepper spray to corral demonstrators.

Montreal police, who have been dealing with regular protests since student unrest last year, usually let peaceful marches proceed even if they have been declared illegal under municipal bylaws.

On Friday, police massed platoons of officers around their downtown headquarters - which was the target of the annual rally against police brutality - and had made their first arrest before the march even began.

"We sent up a message right at the beginning," said Cmdr. Ian Lafreniere of the Montreal police at a late evening news conference after the march. "They haven't shared a route, they haven't shared their itinerary, they refuse to give us a location where they were heading. That's the reason we made a stop to that."

At the march, officers piled on one protester to catcalls from the crowd and quickly hustled him away. Once the march was declared illegal, other protesters were scooped from the mob and police tightened their cordon.

They stopped people and rooted through their bags and backpacks.

Wedge formations were used to split the crowd into smaller groups and steer them off into side streets. Pockets were quickly dispersed and some areas were blocked off as people were herded along or rounded up.

By the end of the evening, more than 200 people had been detained and given \$637 fines for violating municipal bylaws and 12 others

had been arrested for criminal acts including possession of incendiary materials, assault on a police officer, mischief and making threats.

Two groups of those detained had been rounded up in mass arrests in the city's downtown, said Lafreniere. He also said a number of people were arrested before the protest on a variety of charges.

At least six people - four demonstrators and two police officers - were injured. None of the injuries is life-threatening. One police officer got kicked in the face, Lafreniere said.

One police vehicle was vandalized during the march and two store windows were damaged.

Police also seized a number of items such as golf balls and knives, Lafreniere said.

Demonstrators have gathered in Montreal for the last 17 years to protest against police - and 15 of those marches have seen violence.

Montreal police were aided by officers from the Quebec provincial police and nearby Laval. Observers were also on hand from police forces in nearby Longueuil as well as Toronto, Ottawa, Gatineau, London and the Peel Regional Police Service in Ontario to learn from the Montreal force's now-frequent experience in dealing with rowdy protests.

"They don't get the kind of protests we do here," one Montreal officer joked.

Mar 15 2013

MONTREAL - The head of Montreal's police union says an apparent dispute between the City's general manager and the chief of police is a case of political interference.

But Montreal's executive committee member responsible for public security, Christian Dubois, has accused the police union of leaking stories about political interference over scheduling frustrations.

In an article on Friday, La Presse reported the City's general manager, Guy Hébert, was manoeuvring to have the chief of police, Marc Parent, removed.

La Presse reported Hébert's attempts came after Parent asked the city's comptroller to investigate the awarding of a \$42 million contract.

The investigation reportedly looked into a contract related to the City's public security communication system.

According to La Presse, Motorola Solutions complained to Hébert that the City rejected its bid for the contract because of favouritism.

On Friday, police union president Yves Francoeur said he believes the City's management was trying to replace Parent with someone who is more supportive of the city's administration.

Francoeur is now calling on City Hall executives to remove Hébert from his job as general manager.

The allegations follow recent controversy surrounding the City's decision to end a pilot project that allowed police officers to work three days a week with extended hours. The decision led to tension when Mayor Michael Applebaum said the police union's president

gave him an ultimatum to extend the project.
(CBC News)

Mar 15 2013

RCMP in Nunavut have trained detachment commanders to offer firearms safety courses in communities, many of which haven't had any such training available in years.

No central organization has organized gun safety training in the territory in years, and few courses have been available to the public outside of Iqaluit.

RCMP Cpl. Lorne Morrison was one of the detachment commanders who got the training last fall. He's planning three firearms safety courses in Igloolik, Nunavut, next month - two for the public and one for women only.

"The response has been phenomenal," Morrison said.

"We've had so many people coming up to us, asking, 'When is the gun course? When is the gun course?' The people here they really do want to know how to store their guns safely and they really do want to know how to make it safer for their kids. Nobody wants to see an accident with a young child, so everyone's been on board and it's been a really great program."

Cpl. Yvonne Niego with the RCMP in Iqaluit. She said times are changing, and there's a big demand for firearms safety training.

"We don't have as many full-time hunters, sustenance hunters as we did in the past, and you need to practise safety regularly to be able to stay completely safe, so I think there's a huge demand for the course."

Niego said offering the courses is outside of the mandate of individual police officers, but, she said it does fulfil the bigger mandate of keeping communities safe.

Niego has been visiting communities, going door-to-door handing out trigger locks and talking about gun safety. So far, she's been in four communities.

Niego said she's also heard a lot of confusion about licences.

"That's been the biggest issue is the licensing," she said. "Most Nunavummiut want to abide by the law, it's just difficult to."

RCMP have been helping Nunavummiut apply for and renew firearms licences. Until May 16, people can renew their possession-only firearms licences for free.

All gun owners in Canada must hold a firearms possession or possession-and-acquisition licence. Most Canadians must first pass a gun safety course. However, aboriginal people can be exempt from that requirement.

(CBC News)

SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2013

Mar 17 2013

LONDON, Ont. - Police in London, Ont., say there was none of last year's rowdiness during Saturday's St. Patrick's Day festivities.

Const. Ken Steeves says officers were

called to a handful of parties but that things were generally “pretty quiet” and no arrests were made.

Authorities planned carefully for this year’s celebrations after a drunken St. Patrick’s Day riot last year left a residential neighbourhood looking like a war zone.

Almost 70 people were arrested and more 170 charges were laid.

Police Chief Brad Duncan has said the force is taking a zero-tolerance approach to unruly parties.

Mar 17 2013

VANCOUVER - Delta police are investigating a pitbull attack after two dogs charged and injured two officers and a police dog Saturday night.

Police spokeswoman Const. Lisa Coupar says the officers were on routine patrol in Delta when they were suddenly attacked by two pitbulls.

One officer was able to fend off a dog by hitting it with his baton, but his partner was unable to stop the second dog from biting his hand.

Coupar says after several attempts to defend himself and the police dog from the attack, the police officer was forced to shoot the pitbull.

She says police don’t know if the attack was unintentional or if the pitbulls were deliberately released by their owners.

Two people have been arrested for attempting to obstruct the investigation into the dog attacks.

Police say one officer has been treated for a bite wound and possible broken bones, while the other officer sustained only minor injuries.

MONDAY
MARCH 18, 2013

Mar 18 2013

MASCOUCHE, Que. - There was an exchange of gunfire after police tracked down two inmates who staged a dramatic helicopter escape from prison, police said Monday.



globaltvcalgary.com

The two Quebec inmates, who have been found, could face attempted murder charges.

Provincial police spokesman Benoit Richard said the gun shots rang out at a rural cabin where the fugitives had been tracked down the previous day. He said the men opened fire on police, and the officers fired back, but

nobody was injured.

Richard told a news conference that two men and two accomplices are scheduled to appear in court in St-Jerome this afternoon.

The two men staged their dramatic daylight jailbreak on Sunday when they climbed a rope into a hovering helicopter.

Their freedom was shortlived as police moved swiftly to track them down at the cabin.

Just before 8:30 p.m. E.T., about six hours after the escape, police confirmed they had arrested Benjamin Hudon-Barbeau and two other suspects.

Much of the action took place in Chertsey, Que., about 50 kilometres north of the jail in Saint-Jerome from where the inmates escaped.

Officers had blocked off the main road in Chertsey, not far from the village of St-Marguerite, and were pulling over cars Sunday night.

Earlier Sunday, authorities said 36-year-old Hudon-Barbeau and 33-year-old Provencal had broken out of the jail by clambering up a rope into a waiting helicopter.

“The suspects just took the rope in their hands and started fleeing,” Richard recalled the jail’s warden saying.

Police had tracked down the helicopter about 85 kilometres away in Mont-Tremblant, but only the chopper’s pilot was still at the scene.

The pilot was taken to an area hospital where investigators were expected to speak with him.

Richard said the pilot was treated for shock and is considered an important witness in the case. Reports said police believe the pilot was coerced into participating in the escape.

Yves Galarneau, the correctional services manager who oversees the St-Jerome jail said he’d never seen anything like Sunday’s dramatic escape in more than three decades on the job.

Mar 18 2013

VANCOUVER - B.C. Attorney General Shirley Bond says significant changes to the province’s Family Law Act come into play today, affecting anyone dealing with divorce, separation and family violence.



theprovince.com

Bond says a major change adds teeth to restraining orders, formerly enforced through the civil justice system.

Under the revised Act, protection orders are covered by the criminal code, which Bond says permits timely, effective, potentially lifesaving enforcement, because police can step in very quickly.

(CHNL)

Mar 18 2013

TORONTO - The Special Investigations Unit has been called in to probe the shooting death of a young man in north-end Toronto Sunday night.

The agency says a man in his 20s was shot after Toronto police were called to make an arrest, reportedly near a fast food outlet near the corner of Keele St. and Wilson Ave.

The SIU says there was an “altercation between police and a man” and the man suffered a gunshot wound a short time later.

The unidentified man was pronounced dead in Toronto’s Sunnybrook Hospital.

The SIU has assigned five investigators and two forensic investigators to probe the circumstances of this incident.

Mar 18 2013

CALGARY- After spending an estimated \$80 million and several years trying to develop a shared information database for Alberta’s police forces, the provincial government has scrapped the project.



calgarysun.com

In theory, the Alberta Police Integrated Information Initiative — known as API3 — was supposed give law enforcement agencies from across the province a much greater ability to instantly share information and intelligence.

In reality, API3’s original \$65-million price tag ballooned to nearly \$80 million as the project missed repeated deadlines and the police departments involved disagreed over its design.

Considering API3’s purpose was to share information among all the province’s police forces, it no longer made sense to continue in the face of “opposition” from some of them, Solicitor General Jonathan Denis said.

“I didn’t feel it was a good use of taxpayers’ dollars, especially in a time of restraint,” said Denis.

Denis declined to say which agencies opposed the project, but multiple sources said the Edmonton Police Service delivered a damaging blow when it pulled out of API3 in early 2012.

Edmonton police didn’t comment when asked about API3 on Friday, but senior officers from Medicine Hat and Lethbridge Regional police admitted their departments had serious qualms about the project.

Medicine Hat and Lethbridge were slated at different times to be the first police departments to switch to API3 — but both balked as the “go live” date approached over concerns the system wasn’t ready.

“They were nowhere near where they

needed to be," Medicine Hat Chief Andy McGrogan said.

McGrogan and Lethbridge Insp. Jeff Cove stressed their departments wanted to stay involved in API3, but they were unwilling to use the system until it was closer to completion.

"We have never said we wouldn't participate in the project," Cove said.

"The product wasn't ready to be rolled out, in our view."

When former solicitor general Harvey Cernaiko announced the creation of API3 in 2006, he touted it as a leap forward in how police collect and share intelligence.

Information about criminal convictions, pending charges and warrants has long been shared nationally through the Canadian Police Information Centre database, but police in Alberta had no easy means of sharing other kinds of intelligence they gathered and kept in their own records systems. API3 was supposed to allow police departments to share information about unproven allegations, investigative theories, gang affiliations and accomplices.

Proponents said the added information in API3 would enhance officer safety and allow police to keep closer tabs on the movements and activities of organized crime groups.

For example, a Calgary police officer who pulled over a motorist for a routine violation would have been able to quickly find out if they had a gang member or murder suspect from Edmonton on their hands.

That knowledge could have given the Calgary officer an opportunity to take added precautions, and could have provided Edmonton police with intelligence about their suspect's movements between the two cities.

"The whole notion of this thing made perfect sense," McGrogan said.

"We all lose because this didn't work out."

So the question is: why didn't it work out?

One thing various sources agreed on is it proved impossible to find consensus among the group. Police departments that invested millions of dollars and thousands of hours training officers on their own records management systems were reluctant to abandon them in favour of another, said one source involved in the project who spoke on condition of anonymity. Instead, one agency would try to convince the others to adopt its methods or technology. Another source said the RCMP was a reluctant participant from the beginning, saying the national police force was guarded about giving its local counterparts in Alberta access to its records.

"They put up roadblock after roadblock," the source said.

An RCMP spokeswoman wouldn't comment on that claim, saying only the force is studying what impact API3's demise will have on its operations in Alberta.

While each force's intelligence-gathering abilities and records systems remain intact, API3's demise means they still aren't connected.

"It's up to the policing community to come up with a workaround," Cove said.

During API3's development, the province spent an estimated \$50 million on capital —

including a secure data centre in an Edmonton building that houses a central server.

Denis said the government is exploring another use for the server. A source said the Alberta Sheriffs Branch is one possible user. Additional sources said hardware and software developed for API3 may find a home with the Calgary Police Service, which is looking for a replacement for its aging records management system.

Although API3 didn't succeed, Cove said Alberta's police forces should keep trying to find better ways to share intelligence.

(Calgary Herald)

Mar 18 2013

VANCOUVER - The B.C. Court of Appeal has put off a review of a provincial law

that imposed stiff penalties, including immediate roadside suspensions, on drivers suspected of being impaired.

The case was expected to be heard this week, but the three-judge appeal panel complained of procedural errors as they adjourned the hearing.

Several plaintiffs challenged the province's impaired driving legislation, which was overhauled in September 2010 to impose new penalties on drivers with blood-alcohol levels of higher than .05 per cent - below the Criminal Code threshold of .08.

A B.C. Supreme Court judge later concluded the law violated the charter because it didn't provide a way for them to challenge the result of a roadside breath test, prompting the



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provincial government to bring back a revised version last year.

A three-day hearing was set to begin in the B.C. Court of Appeal this week, but the judges say the case couldn't proceed because there were still aspects of the previous case that had yet to be dealt with.

Justice Catherine Ryan was clearly frustrated as she adjourned the hearing and scheduled a case management conference to sort of the procedural problems.

Mar 18 2013

OTTAWA - Public Safety Minister Vic Toews says illegal immigrants take advantage of Canadian taxpayers - not the other way around.



ctvnews.ca

The federal government is being heavily criticized for its approval of a reality TV show focusing on Canada's border security after camera crews filmed the arrest of several men in Vancouver last week.

But Toews isn't backing away from the plan, telling the House of Commons that illegal immigrants cost law-abiding taxpayers millions of dollars each year and thousands of jobs.

Federal access to information documents show that Toews approved a demo reel by Force Four Entertainment and also allowed Canada Border Services Agency to enter into talks for a full series of programs for broadcast in Canada.

Mar 18 2013

MONTREAL - Montreal has lost another city manager, the latest in a string to leave its scandal-plagued municipal government under unusual circumstances.

Guy Hebert, who held the role as the city's top unelected employee, was asked to leave today by Mayor Michael Applebaum.

The mayor said the functionary acted inappropriately in an ongoing power struggle with the city's police chief and, had he stayed on, the climate at city hall would have been "unbearable."

A report in Montreal La Presse newspaper said last week that the police force was investigating the awarding of a telecommunications contract in which Hebert's office was involved - and, at the same time, he was working to get the police chief fired.

Hebert has denied seeking the police chief's resignation but, according to Applebaum, he apparently admitted in a meeting today that he carried their dispute "too far."

Since 2006, four straight city managers have quit while embroiled in controversy or over reasons that were never publicly explained.

Mar 18 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief has accepted apologies from a youth case worker and a lawyer who alleged officers didn't properly treat an alleged sexual assault victim.



edmontonsun.ca

In February, caseworker Mark Cherrington and lawyer Parminder Johal both spoke publicly to the media and online about the treatment of a young woman who was taken into custody on outstanding warrants on Feb. 17.

The woman alleged she told police she had been sexually assaulted, but says she was taken to a cell in the remand centre instead of a hospital.

Cherrington vented through the media, Twitter and his blog that she should have been brought to hospital right away.

Cherrington now says it appears that allegation is unsubstantiated.

The 18-year-old woman was in custody at the Edmonton Remand Centre just before 4



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Previous: Winnipeg Police Service, Manitoba Hydro

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Instructor:
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

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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*

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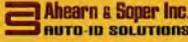
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a.m. Monday, but police say she didn't report the alleged sexual assault until 11:30 p.m. that same day.

She was then taken to hospital and a sexual assault investigation was started.

"In retrospect I should have taken steps to confirm that information before I spoke publicly about it," Cherrington wrote on his blog entry.

Johal echoed Cherrington's apology, saying she had believed at the time that the woman had reported the sexual assault to police at the time of arrest.

"The criticisms I made regarding the steps police took in this investigation were largely based on this belief and therefore were premature."

Police chief Rod Knecht said police reviewed the incident.

He said a review was carried out into the incident, where officials spoke to the officers involved, and looked at their notes and the evidence.

"The lesson to be learned here is that when we go forward with something that we have all the facts,"

(CTV Edmonton)

TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2013

Mar 19 2013

QUEBEC - The mandate of the commission looking into corruption in Quebec's construction industry is being extended by 18 months.

Justice Minister Bertrand St-Arnaud says the deadline for the final report will be April 2015.

The original deadline for commission president France Charbonneau to table the report was October 2013.

Charbonneau asked for the extension two weeks ago, partly because the commission is running way behind schedule in terms of hearing witnesses.

St-Arnaud told a news conference in Quebec City today the government wants to see an interim report by the end of January 2014.

If the final report is tabled in April 2015, the commission's work will have lasted 42 months.

Mar 19 2013

CALGARY - A judge says Calgary police had no other option but to use lethal force to stop a dangerous car thief back in 2009.

Provincial court Judge Sharon Van de Veen has made no recommendations in her report following a fatality inquiry into the shooting death of Travis Oakes.

The 33-year-old man had been under surveillance for several hours by the police auto theft unit when officers cornered him in a car wash.

Court heard officers had joked earlier in the night about shooting Oakes so they could be done, but that they often use black

humour to alleviate stress on the job.

Oakes repeatedly tried to ram his way out of the car wash and a senior officer fired four bullets at his windshield, striking Oakes once in the head.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, more commonly known as ASIRT, also investigated and determined the officer who killed Oakes should not be charged.

Mar 19 2013

HALIFAX - Halifax Regional Police say a long-time officer who was awarded a national medal for his work this year is stepping down.

Supt. Stephen Sykes will retire March 31 after 39 years as a police officer in the Halifax area.

Sykes began his career with the now-defunct Dartmouth Police Department before joining the Halifax Regional Police.

Most recently, Sykes led the force's criminal investigation division.

Earlier this year, the force says Sykes was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for his contributions to policing and the community.

Mar 19 2013

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. - An officer with the police department in New Westminster, B.C., has resigned over an investigation into the improper use of police data.

Police Chief Dave Jones says no special severance package was offered to the officer, whose name has not been released.

He says the department will still complete an investigation in the case, but any penalty against the officer couldn't be enforced unless he seeks work with another police department.

Earlier this month, the New Westminster Police issued a statement saying the officer was under investigation for allegedly misusing information obtained from a police computer database.

The officer wasn't on duty at the time of the incident and was suspended with pay when the investigation began.

Police have not revealed the nature of the information that was allegedly accessed by the officer.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 20, 2013

Mar 20 2013

BURLINGTON, Ont. - Five men have been arrested after what police are calling a "sophisticated break-in" at a Burlington bank.

Halton Regional Police say officers were dispatched to a Toronto Dominion/Canada Trust financial institution on Monday just before 1 a.m. after an alarm went off.

Police arrived to find the facility's exterior doors secure but found five men hiding nearby after a search of the area.

Police say bank officials then confirmed that their vault had been broken into despite an elaborate range of security measures that were in place.

Evidence found at the scene to allegedly help with the break-in included an acetylene oxygen tank, concrete cutting saws, repelling equipment, ladders and lighting equipment.

Police say the break-in's degree of sophistication is "unrivalled," and investigators are trying to figure out if the accused may be responsible for other incidents.

Fourty-four-year old John Hickey, 48-year-old Alexander Papić, 31-year-old Aldo Simoni, 36-year-old Mentor Vishjay and 32-year-old Besim Rugova are all facing charges of break, enter and commit, and possession of break-in instruments.

Mar 20 2013

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Newfoundland and Labrador government has reached a tentative contract agreement with unionized members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

Tim Buckle, president of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Association, says the union is recommending acceptance of the four-year deal.

The association represents 380 non-commissioned ranks of the police force, including constables, sergeants and staff sergeants.

They have been without a contract since June 2012.

The provincial government declined to release details of the agreement, as did Buckle, who said the association is waiting until the results of a ratification vote expected in the next few weeks.

The deal is the first in the government's round of negotiations this year with public sector employees as it grapples with an anticipated deficit.

Mar 20 2013

MONTREAL - The Montreal police are investigating an alleged computer hack that leaked a number of confidential SPVM files, including names and pictures of undercover agents.

The information was published by "hactivist" group, Anonymous, and was shared on Facebook and Twitter late Tuesday.

"The purpose of the people doing that is to put pressure and to intimidate police officers," Constable Raphaël Bergeron said. "We're taking it seriously."

This is the third cyber attack on the Montreal police in less than a year.

In mid-February, as the Quebec government's tuition summit was approaching, the names, job titles and telephone numbers of hundreds of police officers, including managers, had been posted to a website.

(Global News)

Mar 20 2013

VERNON, B.C. - A 52-year-old North Okanagan man can thank a cool-headed RCMP officer for waiting an extra split second, possibly saving the man's life.

Mounties were responding to reports of a domestic assault in Vernon, B.C., on Monday when they spotted the man using a hammer to smash the windows of a car.

An officer ordered the man to drop the weapon but instead, the suspect turned on the Mountie and began to advance in what police describe as a threatening way.

An RCMP release says the officer drew his gun but held his fire as the man, still brandishing the hammer, turned away.

That's when the officer switched to pepper spray and took the suspect into custody.

The man is expected to face charges of uttering threats and assault.

(CKFR, CKIZ)

Mar 20 2013

OTTAWA - Audits of the First Nations Policing Program found a number of cases in which officers' personnel files were missing proof they had completed basic training, did not have criminal records and were actually Canadian citizens.

Investigators also found apparent violations of aboriginal communities' policing agreements with the federal government.

The documents come to light following a recent decision by the governing Conservatives to renew the soon-to-expire program for another five years. The findings of the audits raise questions about the level of oversight in the \$122-million-a-year program.

The federal government pays about half the cost of policing close to 400 First Nations and Inuit communities across Canada, while the provinces and territories pay for the rest. The program, which started in 1991, covers the cost of about 1,250 officers, who serve more than 338,000 people.

Public Safety Canada hired Toronto-based firm Ernst and Young to audit several of the government's policing agreements with First Nations and Inuit communities. The Canadian Press recently obtained those documents under the Access to Information Act.

Twelve audits were done between 2009 and 2012. While they covered just a fraction of the 163 policing agreements with First Nations and Inuit communities, the fact that Ernst and Young investigators consistently found the same kinds of problems in different parts of the country hints at a broader problem.

The auditors' biggest gripe was missing paperwork.

Personnel files in several of the communities lacked documentation to show officers had done their basic police training, were Canadian citizens, held valid drivers' licences or were trained to use firearms, pepper spray, batons and other weapons.

"Other than noting the social insurance number of the employee, no evidence of Canadian citizenship was on file," one audit said.

"Three employee files did not have evidence of the completion of basic police patrol program or special constable training program."

The First Nation later provided auditors with proof of the officers' training, as well as photocopies of Indian status cards for three officers and one passport. Other communities found

some or all of the missing documents after the auditors pointed out they were missing.

Background checks were another problem.

Two of the audited First Nations communities failed to vet members of their police boards by doing criminal-record checks and verifying their education and credentials.

As well, all nine members of one police oversight board were elected officials, such as chiefs or councillors, which ran afoul of their policing agreement.

"The current structure is not in compliance with the agreement," the audit said.

Public Safety is drawing up a new agreement to allow elected officials to serve on the board, it added.

Investigators also found "a lack of review and sign-off" on work done by the financial controller, who signs cheques and handles payroll, and "inconsistencies" on time sheets.

Mar 20 2013

MONTREAL - Quebec's corruption inquiry has heard that illegal political financing happened beyond the world of provincial politics and also permeated the federal level.

The issue was briefly raised today at the inquiry, was vaguely addressed, and was immediately dropped.

An engineering executive was describing how he used fake-billing schemes to funnel cash from his company to parties as illegal provincial contributions.

Then, when asked whether he used that practice to contribute to federal parties, Rosaire Sauriol, the vice-president of Dessau Inc., responded, "Yes."

And that was it. There were no more details about which parties might have received the cash, how much they received, and when they received it.

The mandate of Quebec's corruption inquiry does not extend to the federal level - so any questions about politics beyond the province are deemed out-of-bounds.

Mar 20 2013

OTTAWA - Canada is losing the battle against money laundering and terrorist financing, according to a new Senate Committee report.

Money laundering in Canada in 2011 was estimated to be worth between \$5 billion and \$15 billion, and 287 cases of terrorist financing were uncovered between 2007 and 2011.

The Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce came to their conclusion after a year-long review of Canada's mechanisms for combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

The committee found Canada's policies to be lagging behind the criminals they are supposed to be catching.

"I feel that currently we are not getting full value for our efforts, given the time, money and other resources that are being allocated to this problem," said Senator Celine Hervieux-Payette, Deputy Chair of the Committee.

It recommended that a supervisory body, led by the Department of Finance, be established to keep a closer eye on Canada's anti-

money laundering and terrorist financing regime. This body would update Parliament annually in regards to its investigations, prosecutions and spending.

Financial institutions must currently report transactions exceeding \$10,000. The committee recommended that this threshold be eliminated for international electronic transfers. Funding of terrorism is often done with multiple deposits of smaller sums of money.

The committee also suggested that this body could funnel seized money into a special fund used to finance anti-laundering efforts, effectively using the launderers' money against them.

Mar 20 2013

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. - Two Niagara regional police officers are facing assault charges in connection with an incident last month.

Ontario's Special Investigations Unit notified Chief Jeffrey McGuire of the charges on Wednesday.

The SIU says it determined that Jonathan Hughes, 23, went to the Niagara Falls detachment about a ticketing matter on Feb. 6 at about 10 p.m.

There was an interaction between the officers and Hughes, and Hughes was injured.

Const. John Garner faces one charge of assault and Sgt. Patrick McGilly faces one charge of assault causing bodily harm.

Both officers will appear in court on May 8.

(CKTB)

Mar 20 2013

A Federal Court judge issued a sharp rebuke against the RCMP for inept handling of internal complaints with a system so incapable of dealing with simple matters that it taints morale in the federal force.

The criticism comes in a ruling on a strange grievance pressed by a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer passed over for promotion amid rumours his gun was stolen by prostitutes who traded it for cocaine.

Staff Sergeant Walter Boogaard, 49, who has served on missions in some of the world's hotspots, asked the court to settle his complaint, but instead his case drew wholesale judicial criticism of the force's grievance procedure.

"The RCMP and its members have the worst of both worlds: a procedure that truncates procedural fairness in the name of efficiency and workplace harmony, but provides neither," Justice Donald Rennie declared.

Staff Sgt. Boogaard's case, the judge wrote in his decision released Wednesday, "paints a very dim picture of what is to be an effective and quick process for the resolution of workplace disputes."

He said the slowness has already been intolerable — "and no decision is on the horizon," he wrote.

"Grievance decisions left outstanding allow issues to fester, bring uncertainty to the workplace together with ineffectiveness and inefficiency."

Staff Sgt. Boogaard is program manager of the RCMP's international peacekeeping op-

erations branch, based in Ottawa, and has served in Afghanistan, South Sudan and Darfur.

In 2004, he was placed on a candidate list for the rank of inspector. He met the officer in charge of the list, Inspector Mike Gaudet, and was pleased with his positive response, court heard. When they met again, however, he felt the reception was chilly.

Of the 146 candidates on the list, 122 were later promoted.

Staff Sgt. Boogaard made an Access to Information request about his case and received documents suggesting why.

In 2001 in Toronto, he had faced an internal discipline proceeding during which he admitted to improper storage of a firearm. He left his service pistol in an unmarked police car when he stopped for coffee and returned to find the gun missing, said his lawyer, Paul Champ.

Toronto police found the pistol with two prostitutes, who were trying to trade it for cocaine. The sex workers were interviewed by investigators.

"The matter concerning the prostitutes was considered and discounted," wrote Rose Gallo, the RCMP lawyer prosecuting the discipline case.

Staff Sgt. Boogaard was punished with five days of unpaid suspension. He has an unblemished record before and since, said Mr. Champ.

But rumours of the incident spread, turning his serious mistake into a tawdry scandal, the lawyer said.

By May 2005, the rumours reached the man in charge of promotions, court heard. Insp. Gaudet asked Superintendent John Reid, who had chaired the disciplinary committee, about the case; Supt. Reid said there may have been more to it than was in the official record, court heard.

In response, Staff Sgt. Boogaard filed a workplace harassment complaint against Supt. Reid, alleging he "discredited and damaged his career" by inappropriate speculation.

It was not until late 2011 the complaint was dealt with — and dismissed.

RCMP brass said Supt. Reid merely "confirmed that he had also heard the rumours" and that was "not sufficient to constitute harassment."

Unsatisfied, the sergeant filed an internal appeal of the decision and also appealed to the Federal Court.

While his internal appeal remains unanswered, the court issued its ruling with stern words for the RCMP, both for making a flawed decision and for its lethargy in dealing with the appeal.

"The decision dismisses the complaint on irrelevant considerations," Judge Rennie wrote.

"Supt. Reid held a special role and it was reasonable for Insp. Gaudet to conclude that if Supt. Reid thought there was smoke, there was probably fire.

"The existence of the prior rumour is an irrelevant distraction to the central issue, namely whether Staff Sgt. Boogaard's interests had been affected, a point which is never addressed."

Despite the message to the RCMP, the judge did not have the power to force it to promote Staff Sgt. Boogaard and dismissed

his application.

Mr. Champ said it remains a moral victory.

"[Staff Sgt. Boogaard] is hopeful the strong language from the court will have some positive impact on the RCMP and how they address grievances ... Hopefully this judgment will be a warning shot for the RCMP that they really do need to clean up their grievance system if they are going to have an effective workforce."

Phone calls and an email to the RCMP were not returned by deadline.

(National Post)

THURSDAY MARCH 21, 2013

Mar 21 2013

TORONTO - Closing arguments are scheduled for today in the trial of a man who killed a Toronto police officer with a snow plow.

Richard Kachkar, 44, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and his lawyers are urging the jury to find him not criminally responsible - a finding that means he had a mental disorder and couldn't appreciate what he was doing.

The judge has told the jury that there is "no doubt" Kachkar was driving the stolen plow on Jan. 12, 2011, when it hit and killed Sgt. Ryan Russell, 35, but what is at issue is Kachkar's mental state.

Three psychiatrists testified that they believe Kachkar was psychotic at the time he killed Russell.

The Crown is trying to prove Kachkar meant to kill Russell and should be found guilty of first-degree murder.

Kachkar's trial has heard that as he drove the stolen snow plow wildly around the streets of Toronto that morning for two hours he was yelling about the Taliban, Chinese technology and microchips in his body.

Mar 21 2013

GUELPH, Ont. - Thousands of mourners, many of them police officers, gathered in Guelph, Ont., Thursday to pay tribute to a policewoman killed in the line of duty last week.

Const. Jennifer Kovach, 26, died a week ago today when her cruiser crossed the centre line and collided with a Guelph Transit bus.

She was responding to another officer's call for assistance at the time.

Church bells tolled as residents watched a police procession march solemnly through the city's downtown toward the Sleeman Centre, where a public funeral is being held.

Const. Scott Grover, Kovach's supervisor for the past two and a half years, asked those gathered to "mourn the loss and celebrate the life" of an officer he called "a hero in life, not in death."

Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, who was among the thousands who packed the arena, said Kovach was an inspiration.

"When a police officer dies in the line of duty it affects us all. Jennifer represented the virtues we admire most as a province and a nation, the virtues of duty and courage," said David Onley.

"Jennifer's commitment to duty and courage enabled her to embrace her oath as an officer in life and in death."

Matt Jotham, president of the Guelph Police Association, said Kovach's death has weighed heavily on the force.

"We all know each other, we have two detachments but we're a close-knit police service. It's been difficult," he said.

Many mourners wore a memorial pin inscribed with the slain constable's name and badge number, 72.

Guelph's police chief has described Kovach as a vibrant and dynamic woman who fulfilled her childhood dream of becoming a police officer.

She was the daughter of Gloria Kovach, a longtime city councillor and former president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Police Association of Ontario said the constable made the ultimate sacrifice to keep her community and coworkers safe.

"We celebrate her life and her commitment to the community and profession she served," the association's president, Dave McFadden, said in a statement.

Flags across the province were flown at half mast.

**GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS
and we'll keep giving our best**

BLUE LINE

CANADA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION SPECIALISTS



Blue Line Magazine has been the information source for Canadian law enforcement for 25 years. Our first rookie readers have now reached retirement eligibility so we decided to give our readership an opportunity to tell us what they think of the magazine and how it may have helped them. We will dedicate space in our December issue for these letters and stories.

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