

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

April 26, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 17

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## RCMP learn lessons from stand-off



Colin MacLean / The Canadian Press

Apr 18 2013

**ST. JOHN'S, N.L.** - Mounties heard glass smash and people shout "Go Leo, go Leo" but commanders clung to the belief that Leo Crockwell was still barricaded in his Newfoundland home long after he'd fled a standoff, says a newly released report.

The review by Halifax Regional Police blames communication gaps, false assumptions and misunderstood roles for Crockwell's embarrassing and potentially deadly escape after a weeklong siege in Bay Bulls, N.L.

Crockwell, considered armed and dangerous, slipped undetected out a side window with two guns the night of Dec. 10, 2010. He was arrested the next day without incident about 18 kilometres away after the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary was tipped by a couple who'd given him a ride.

Right up to Crockwell's arrest, the RCMP incident commander was so convinced Crockwell was still in the house that plainclothes Mounties who ultimately arrested him weren't given additional backup, says the report.

On the night Crockwell bolted, RCMP officers with reinforcements from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P.E.I. had been working in shifts for six days as he refused to negotiate and at times fired at them.

Officers wrestled with a high-pressure water hose just before Crockwell's escape as they pumped thousands of litres into the house in an effort to flush him out. The tactic had left the house only partially surrounded.

Incident commanders took no apparent action when officers radioed that night that they heard "stuff breaking on the green side of



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Leo Crockwell said to be delusional

the building,” says the report obtained under Access to Information laws.

“Approximately eight minutes after the ‘movement’ communication, (officers) reported ... that civilians located behind their position were yelling out: ‘Go Leo, go Leo.’ The (incident commanders) acknowledged this communication and a patrol unit was dispatched to investigate the matter. They later reported that the civilians had moved on.”

At least one officer on duty that night told the review team that sounds of glass smashing were reported to Incident Command “but the review team could find no record of this communication.”

Sounds of falling debris inside the house were apparently mistaken for Crockwell’s presence, says the report.

An otherwise “textbook” handling of an extraordinarily long standoff could have ended differently if not for such communication gaps, the report concludes.

“The primary concern that arises from this situation was the failure of Incident Command to recognize the potential implications of the previously mentioned communications given the fact that the very purpose (of the operation) ... was to eject the subject from the residence.”

Moreover, a fundamental best practice of incident response wasn’t followed, says the report. Ideally, the police emergency response team leader, the head negotiator and incident

commanders are in constant communication at a single command post as events unfold, it says.

“One area of concern identified during the review was that this practise was not regularly adhered to.”

Instead, incident commanders alternated between the Bay Bulls Town Hall command post and a mobile command post used during tactical operations. At various times during the week, officers used tear gas, pepper spray, noise grenades, a battering ram and ultimately the water hose as they tried to force Crockwell out.

The review team in particular found that the absence from the central command post of the emergency response team leader - who was often out helping short-staffed officers - “may have inadvertently impacted the outcome of this incident” as communications the night Crockwell fled weren’t given proper weight.

The Mounties declined to release the full report when its findings were first made public in July 2011, citing security concerns.

“It’s really quite boring,” Sgt. Boyd Merrill said at the time.

Merrill highlighted the review team’s praise for how officers handled themselves under intensely stressful conditions. He also focused on how the RCMP emergency response team had just eight members at the time of the standoff when its full strength is 12, and on the use of two command posts that “negatively impacted this incident.”

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Marc Coulombe said Thursday that the force asked Halifax police to review its actions and accepted the entire review report. The RCMP has since expanded the capacity of its emergency response team, he said in an email.

It has also trained more incident commanders and is working on a new agreement with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary that would see its separate emergency response teams co-operate, Coulombe said.

The Crockwell standoff cost more than \$444,000, according to documents released under Access to Information. It started when a neighbour phoned police after Crockwell’s sister said he had held a gun to her neck.

Crockwell, now 58, was convicted last June on five of six charges including assault with a weapon and careless use of a firearm. He was sentenced to four years in prison.

ASIRT says police had boxed the car in at an intersection in Fort McMurray in February 2012 and ordered the driver to get out.

He instead tried to smash his way out of the barricade and drove toward a Mountie.

That’s when two other officers each fired from their service weapons - one round struck the driver and the other round lodged in the vehicle.

A passenger in the car was able to stop it and the driver was taken to hospital.

The complete file on the ASIRT investigation was reviewed by Alberta Justice and the Crown decided against any charges.

ASIRT reviews events or complaints that involve serious injury or death that may have resulted from the actions of a police officer.

The RCMP says it will now do its own review.

Apr 18 2013

**WINNIPEG - A young man who apologized in February for falsely accusing two police officers of taking him on a so-called starlight tour has been arrested and charged with breaching probation.**



Evan Maud, 22, was charged with public mischief for making up the story but agreed that in exchange for having the charge dropped, he would apologize and take part in a justice diversion program.

In return, police agreed not to pursue a civil lawsuit against him.

Winnipeg police and native leaders said at the time they hoped the apology would help improve the sometimes-bitter relationship between officers on the beat and aboriginal residents in the inner city.

Starlight tour is the name given to a quick way for officers to handle suspected troublemakers by dropping them off far from home rather than following through with an official arrest.

(CTV Winnipeg)

Apr 18 2013

**Senior Mounties have acknowledged in an internal disciplinary ruling that a young female Royal Canadian Mounted Police constable was so “alienated” by her fellow officers after coming forward about being sexually harassed by another constable that she was compelled to transfer from Saskatchewan to another province.**

An internal disciplinary board ruling, dated in Ottawa and released this week, said the victim’s transfer “was a cure, but it must have been a bitter pill to swallow, as none of this was her fault.”

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ISSN 1704-3913  
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Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada’s top level law enforcement personnel.

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**THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 18, 2013**

Apr 18 2013

**CALGARY - Two northern Alberta RCMP officers who shot and seriously injured a suspect during a stolen car investigation will not face criminal charges.**

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, known as ASIRT, says the officers were justified in shooting at the driver, who turned out to be 16 years old.



The victim told a May 2012 disciplinary board that the internal process by which members of the national police force bring forward harassment complaints is broken.

"My entire experience of bringing allegations of harassment/ sexual harassment forward leaves me disappointed and disillusioned, but I am determined that for change to come in the force, it must come from within," she wrote in a moving victim-impact statement.

"My experience has been that the process protects those causing the conflict and dishonour to the force, in that it allows victims to continue being harassed by those individuals. There is also a tendency, as was my case, for management to pass judgment that the persons who come forward with such complaints, are troublemakers," she said.

She noted in her submission to the RCMP disciplinary board that she felt compelled to take a transfer out of Saskatchewan to "advance in this culture of harassment (sexual and workplace).

"As I reflect back on my time at (two RCMP detachments), I remain unconvinced that the root causes of the problems have been dealt with," she said in a victim-impact statement filed in June.

(StarPhoenix)

Apr 18 2013

### **OTTAWA - The Canadian Psychiatric Association says the Conservative government's tough new rules for offenders found not criminally responsible will actually increase public risk while being a "substantial drain" on public resources.**

The association, which consulted with the Canadian Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, spent more than two months examining the government legislation before weighing in with an assessment.

Their critique boils down to the legislation being unnecessary, counter-productive and costly, and that it may be vulnerable to a challenge under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the changes in early February during an emotional news conference in Vancouver where he cited a horrific case in which a mentally ill father killed his three children.

The law would create a new high-risk category that would hold mentally ill offenders longer without a formal review and make it far more difficult for them to leave psychiatric facilities, even under escort.

"The government is confident that the proposed reforms are reasonable and necessary to protect public safety and ensure public confidence in our justice system," Julie DiMambro, a spokeswoman for Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, said Thursday in a email.

Mentally ill offenders "will continue to receive treatment and have their cases overseen by independent courts and review boards."

But the Canadian Psychiatric Association

said it believes it is "highly likely" the new law will prompt the mentally ill to keep quiet about their problems and simply serve their time, only to emerge from prison untreated and five or six times more likely to reoffend.

## **FRIDAY APRIL 19, 2013**

Apr 19 2013

### **ST. THOMAS - St. Thomas police deputy chief Darryl James Pinnell will take over as chief in June, the St. Thomas Police Services Board announced Friday.**



Current police chief Bill Lynch is set to retire on May 31st after 35 years of service, 15 of those as chief of police.

Pinnell has been with the St. Thomas Police Service since late 1988 and will take on the position after Lynch's retirement.

The board has also selected Insp. Jeffery Bruce Driedger to take over as deputy. He has been with the force for almost 29 years.

In a statement, David Warden, chairman of the St. Thomas Police Services Board said, the board believes the men "will effectively serve the members of the St. Thomas Police Service and the community of St. Thomas."

The board says a comprehensive selection process, which involved the assistance of two consultants, was conducted over the past several months to reach the decision.

(CTV News)

Apr 19 2013

### **SURREY, B.C. - The cookie crumbled the wrong way for a pair of thieves when a home invasion led police in Surrey, B.C., to thousands of cookies believed to be laced with marijuana.**

The RCMP say a 22-year-old man interrupted two intruders in his home on Thursday and was struck on the head with a crowbar.

Despite the attack, the victim managed to fight off his assailants, who escaped.

The investigation led police to another home where they discovered an amount of marijuana and 8,000 cookies, thought to be laced with pot.

Now police say two women in the second home, along with the man assaulted in the original attack, are facing drug charges.

The Mounties are still searching for the two men behind the home invasion.

Apr 19 2013

### **MONTREAL - A 22-year-old man was arrested by Longueuil police Thursday night after a corner store was robbed by a man with a knife.**

The man, a resident of Saint Hubert, may have thought that by changing his clothes like Superman in a phone booth, he could make a clean getaway, but thanks to an eagle-eyed witness, that was not the case.

Police got a call that a robbery had taken place at a convenience store on Norbert St. in Longueuil. The robber had a knife and took lottery tickets and cigarettes. After he left the scene a witness saw him go between two apartment buildings and change his clothes.

The witness was able to give a fresh description of the man's outerwear to police. With this information, police caught up with the man as he was ambling down Chambly Blvd. He offered no resistance when arrested and had the weapon and the stolen items on his person. The investigation is ongoing.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 19 2013

### **ST-JEROME, Que. - A 9-1-1 operator has been suspended after she allegedly monitored police databases and leaked information to drug dealers.**

The woman was a civilian employee at a police station in St. Jerome, Que., about 50 km northwest of Montreal.

She has been suspended with pay but has not yet been charged in a bust that netted 30 suspects in February.

She's one of two police employees who are suspected of having ties to a drug ring. The other worker has also been suspended.

It's the third major mole case to hit a Quebec police force in the last 15 months.

A police officer in Sherbrooke was suspended last month for allegedly leaking information to a Hells Angels-linked group.

In January 2012, Montreal police Sgt.-Det. Ian Davidson committed suicide after allegedly approaching the mafia to sell a list of 2,000 informants and undercover agents for \$1 million.

(QMI Agency)

Apr 19 2013

### **TORONTO - Three G20 protesters who settled an assault lawsuit out of court with Toronto police said Thursday they feel justice has been served.**



Anna Grychtchenko, Nikos Kapetaneas, and Caitlin Morgan had each filed \$25,000 law suits against police, claiming they were assaulted while peacefully protesting at

Queen's Park on June 26, 2010.

Their settlement means their complaints will never be heard inside a courtroom, but the three held a news conference outside Toronto Police headquarters Thursday afternoon to talk about their experience.

Grychtchenko claimed she sustained facial injuries from police during the protest. She was also detained at the Eastern Avenue detention centre before being released without charges.

Kapetaneas – shown being kicked by a police officer in a gas mask in a now infamous Toronto Star picture – said the lawsuit was about holding authorities to account for their actions.

For their part, Toronto police said the settlement does not mean they feel officers were at fault.

“We settle where we think it’s the right thing to do, but there is no admission of liability,” Toronto police spokesperson Mark Pugash told CTV News Thursday.

“There’s a difference between what people ask for and what they get,” he said. “The settlement is confidential and I just caution people against assuming that what they asked for is what they received in the settlement.”  
(CTV News)

Apr 19 2013

**OTTAWA - As the RCMP recognizes its 850 9-1-1 dispatchers as part of National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, some front line operators can't help but point out the irony as Parliament debates a plan to dump them from the force.**

A sometimes overlooked part of Bill C-42, the RCMP accountability act which focuses on fixing internal disciplinary and grievance processes in the wake of sexual harassment and gender disparity issues in the workforce, is a plan to create two classes of employees — RCMP officers and federal public servants.

It means a third class, civilian members of the RCMP which includes dispatchers and about 3,150 scientists working in crime detection labs, information technology specialists who assist with computer-based investigations and others who work closely with law enforcement, will no longer be part of the RCMP.

Instead, they will join the approximately 6,000 administrative staff that support the RCMP as federal public servants. It’s not entirely clear what this will mean for wages, benefits, job security and tenure, though this is a concern. The real issue, however, is pride.

One dispatcher, who preferred to remain anonymous, described the job as the critical “link” between the public and police and the “lifeline for members on the road.” The dispatcher believes the job is “central to the core functions of the RCMP” and the thought of no longer being a member of the national force was simply “scary.”

Staff Sgt. Abe Townsend, a staff relations representative who champions labour issues on behalf of all members, said civilian staff are

“uniquely RCMP” in that they are hired and accountable under the same legislation as police.

“They come to us with education and experience and they choose to be members of the RCMP and they choose to dedicate their life to policing,” he said.

“Many take pride in the fact that they are part of the national police force . . . In my experience, that’s been the No. 1 piece for these folks.”

Townsend said the changes have been a matter of debate since the mid 1980s and he’s concerned the reclassification could lead to a “loss of expertise” that would have a direct impact on law enforcement should individuals decide to move to other areas of the public service.

Certainly civilian members, including dispatchers who were celebrated this past week, are “feeling somewhat abandoned,” he said.

Bill C-42 is currently being debated in the Senate and is steps away from becoming law.

Asked about this particular clause when the matter was being debated by the House of Commons last fall, Commissioner Bob Paulson said it’s about finding “efficiencies” and “streamlining” human resources processes.

“The idea is that it’ll be much more efficient to manage two categories of employees, that the opportunities for growth and advancement for civilian members will be enlarged considerably by having access to the breadth and scope of the public service, and that we will be able to form a more cohesive

team approach because frankly, if it were up to me I’d have one category of employee and that would be RCMP employees,” he said.

(Postmedia.com)

Apr 19 2013

**OTTAWA - Stephen Harper's top bodyguard is poised to become Canada's new ambassador to Jordan, an appointment that is raising eyebrows in diplomatic circles.**



After heading the RCMP protective detail that guards the prime minister and his family, Supt. Bruno Saccomani appears on his way to join the foreign service.

Postmedia News was the first to report the pending job change for the veteran Mountie. The Prime Minister’s Office declined to comment Thursday. A spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird dismissed it as “pure speculation.”  
(Toronto Star)

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## SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2013

Apr 20 2013

### HALIFAX - Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson seems receptive to a call to make it illegal to distribute intimate images for a malicious or sexual purpose without consent.

Nicholson's Nova Scotia counterpart wants such a change following the suicide of Rehtaeh Parsons.

A spokeswoman for Nicholson says federal, provincial and territorial officials have been asked to identify "potential gaps in the Criminal Code on cyberbullying and the non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

Julie Di Mambro says Nicholson will propose to accelerate the review when he meets his provincial counterparts next week.

The 17-year-old Parsons took her own life earlier this month.

Her family alleges she was sexually assaulted by four boys in 2011 and that a photograph of the incident was passed around her school.

## SUNDAY APRIL 21, 2013

Apr 21 2013

### TORONTO - Organized crime will be the big winner of Canada's new monopoly on an easy-to-abuse painkiller, a veteran Toronto police officer says.



Supt. Ron Taverner, who chairs the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police substance abuse committee, was reacting to a U.S. Food and Drug Administration decision this week to deny patent requests for generic OxyContin that don't have a tamper-resistant casing, which would make them hard to abuse.

The powerful narcotics, sometimes known as hillbilly heroin, have sparked a growing wave of addiction in America, causing 16,000 overdose deaths a year.

But the generic pills are legal here in Canada, where federal officials gave them the thumbs-up in November. Taverner said he supports the FDA's decision, which is based on the danger of potential abuse. But because Health Canada didn't take a similar move, the pills will present an opportunity for criminals here, he said.

"What happens is organized crime becomes involved because it is very lucrative,"

Taverner said.

The chiefs association, along with health ministers from every province and territory, asked Health Canada to reject patent applications as the FDA did. Taverner fears that because that request was rejected, abuse and crimes to get the pills will once again increase.

Taverner said those crimes were on the decline since Purdue Pharma, the company that developed OxyContin, released a new formulation of the pill with a tamper-resistant casing last year.

"The robberies in pharmacies have decreased since OxyNEO was introduced," he said. "When these generic pills go (back) on the market I think we'll see robberies and break and enters go up."

Health Canada spokesman Blossom Leung said the federal government has reached out to the U.S. FDA in an effort to determine "evidence-based criteria for 'abuse-deterrence.'"

But approval of the generic pills are not based on danger of abuse but benefits to legitimate users.

"The needs of patients must be our first priority," Leung said in an e-mail. (QMI Agency)

## MONDAY APRIL 22, 2013

Apr 22 2013

### A West Vancouver police officer is suing his department and former West Vancouver police chief and former solicitor general Kash Heed for putting him through the wringer with a police complaint he says his bosses should never have pursued.

Const. Michael Bruce filed the lawsuit against Heed, the West Vancouver Police Department and another police inspector, Sheila Sullivan, in B.C. Supreme Court April 15.

Bruce said in court documents the complaint - which took four years to resolve - left him with stress, anxiety and a \$27,000 legal bill.

All of the more serious charges of misconduct against him were eventually dismissed.

In 2008, Bruce was investigating a credit card fraud in West Vancouver when he was hit with allegations that he had forged a witness's signature on a photo line-up, then lied about it to department investigators.

Senior members of the department looked into the allegations, eventually concluding there wasn't enough evidence to support them.

But according to Bruce's lawsuit, Heed intervened, and insisted the case be forwarded to B.C.'s Office of Police Complaints Commission.

In 2009, Heed resigned to enter politics and Acting Chief Constable Jim Almas was still reviewing the file when Sullivan

"maliciously" sent the complaint to the police complaints office "knowing that by forwarding the investigation to the OPCC it would be approved for further investigation and charges," according to the lawsuit.

The investigation took four years before all serious charges were dropped. The only charge upheld involved Bruce's failure to keep proper notes, for which he received a one-day suspension.

In the lawsuit, Bruce accused Heed and Sullivan of "gross negligence and malicious and willful misconduct" in allowing the complaint to go forward. He said both senior police officers "failed to exercise reasonable care, skill and professional judgment in their investigation of the allegations," adding that they ignored witness statements that would have exonerated Bruce and "interviewed in a manner that was patently unfair. . . ."

The police department has not yet filed a statement of defence.

Bruce's father, former West Vancouver staff sergeant Doug Bruce, is also suing Heed for defamation claiming comments he made implied Bruce was using sick leave as a way to avoid facing his own disciplinary hearing in 2008.

(North Shore News)

Apr 22 2013

### TORONTO, Ontario - Two terror suspects who were arrested for allegedly plotting to attack a Via passenger train received "direction and guidance" from al-Qaida elements in Iran, the RCMP said Monday.

The suspects - identified as Chiheb Esseghaier, 30, and Raed Jaser, 35, - were arrested Monday morning in Montreal and Toronto.

"While the RCMP believed the accused had the capacity and intent to carry out these criminal acts, there was no imminent threat to the general public, rail employees, train passengers or infrastructure," RCMP Assistant Commissioner James Malizia said at a news conference.

Dubbed "Project Smooth," the investigation was part of a cross-border operation involving Canadian law enforcement agencies, the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Police said the suspects were conspiring to derail a passenger train but refused to elaborate beyond saying the plot had the "direction and guidance" from al-Qaida elements in Iran.

"Now I can tell you that there is no information to indicate that these attacks were state-sponsored," Malizia said.

RCMP Supt. Doug Best said "this is the first known al-Qaida planned attack that we've experienced in Canada."

He said the suspects have been in the country legally for a "considerable period of time" but are not Canadian citizens.

The two men are charged with conspiring to carry out an attack against, and conspiring to murder, persons unknown for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a terrorist group.

Apr 22 2013

### WINNIPEG - Manitoba is imposing greater penalties for street racers.

Justice Minister Andrew Swan introduced Bill 23, which would increase the impoundment period for vehicles used in street racing to seven days from 48 hours.

Police officers would also be given the power to immediately suspend the driver's licence of anyone caught street racing.

This one-week driver's licence suspension would help police stop street racers from putting others on the road at risk, Swan said.

Swan said the changes complement Bill 21, introduced last week, which would ensure convicted drivers could have their vehicles impounded if they do not follow the rules of the ignition interlock program.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Apr 22 2013

### MONTREAL - The safety mechanisms on Montreal police holsters must be discussed openly at a coroner's inquest into the 2008 police shooting death of Fredy Villanueva, a Superior Court Justice ruled Monday.

The city and its police force argued that such a discussion would jeopardize the security of the force, but Justice Danielle Grenier ruled that delaying the coroner's report on an inquest that ended in November 2010 discredits the administration of justice.

The holster issue — which could very well be the crux of the entire inquest — is the only thing holding up coroner André Perreault from writing his conclusions about the 130-day inquest.

Const. Jean-Loup Lapointe testified that the reason he pulled his gun was because he was afraid the young men he stopped to question in Montreal North that August night in 2008 might disarm him. He ended up firing his service pistol, killing unarmed Villanueva and injuring two others.

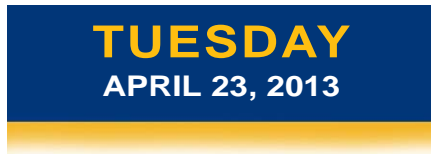
The inquest, called after riots and a public outcry over the shooting, shed light on the minute detail of what transpired before, during and after the 57 seconds it took for Lapointe and his partner, Stephanie Pilotte, to get out of their police cruiser and wrestle Dany Villanueva to the ground, and for Lapointe to fire his gun.

The victims' lawyers argue that if safety measures on the holster are such that it's difficult for someone to disarm an officer, Lapointe's fear was unfounded and he shouldn't have drawn his weapon. His partner, Pilotte, has said she never pulled her gun during the melee because she wasn't afraid.

(Montreal Gazette)



Safariland Raptor 6070



Apr 23 2013

### BUFFALO, N.Y. - A Niagara Region police officer has been sentenced in Buffalo, N.Y. to one year plus a day in jail.



CBC.ca

Const. Geoff Purdie also received two years-probation for exporting anabolic steroids from Buffalo into Canada.

He was arrested in April 2012.

Immediately after sentencing, Purdie was suspended without pay.

Niagara Regional police say Purdie's future employment status will be addressed "pursuant to the discipline process according to the Police Services Act."

Niagara police chief Jeff McGuire, who was in court during sentencing, said his force will work to "restore the trust that has been damaged."

Apr 23 2013

### TORONTO - The Ontario government wants to talk with its federal counterparts about beefing up security on passenger trains following the arrest of two men accused of planning to attack a Via Rail train.

Attorney general John Gerretsen says until recently, airport security received the lions share of attention, but he thinks it may be time to change that.

Gerretsen wants federal and provincial security experts to look at the possibility of airport-style checks for passenger trains and other forms of public transport.

He says the goal is to make people as safe as possible when they travel, and admits checking passengers' bags before they board trains is a possibility.

Gerretsen also says he was very pleased with the working relationships between the Ontario Provincial Police, the RCMP and U.S. law enforcement agencies including the FBI to arrest the suspected terrorists.

The two men charged in the alleged terror plot made brief court appearances in Montreal and Toronto today.

Apr 23 2013

### SASKATOON - Saskatchewan's highway patrol officers now have the power to issue speeding tickets.

Highways Minister Don McMorris says the officers will set up in work zones across

the province and will issue speeding tickets to any driver exceeding 60 km/h.

Once the province's new photo radar system is in place later this spring, transport officers will help out if necessary.

Highway transport patrol officers are considered special constables with the authority to enforce federal, provincial and municipal statutes relating to road transportation and the licensing, registration and operation of vehicles.

The province has implemented new signage and new safety devices such as rumble strips as well as deterrents in the form of increased fines.

Last summer's death of 18-year-old Ashley Richards, a flag person working on a road construction site near Midale, sparked the changes. (CJWW)

Apr 23 2013

### CFB TRENTON, Ont. - An investigation into an international weapons smuggling operation has led police to raid an Ontario army base and lay more than 30 charges against a Quebec soldier.

Ontario provincial police say the raids conducted at CFB Trenton and several locations in Quebec netted hundreds of firearms, gun enhancements and parts, including silencers and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

They say officers also seized documents related to the production of prohibited firearms parts and enhancements, as well as a computer, several portable drives and a vehicle.

OPP say the parts seized would have allowed buyers to convert semi-automatic guns into fully automatic ones, or use over-capacity ammunition magazines.

Quebec provincial police, the Department of National Defence and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives also took part in the investigation.

David Theriault, 36, of Lyster, Que., faces multiple charges including importing or exporting firearm components, importing or exporting firearms and trafficking in firearms, weapons, devices or ammunition.

Police say he is also facing charges in the U.S., including importing machine-guns without a licence and smuggling.

Authorities say the investigation continues and more charges are pending.

Theriault is being held in Ontario and is scheduled to appear in court in Barrie on May 2.

Apr 23 2013

### OTTAWA - Prime Minister Harper rose in Parliament today to congratulate the RCMP, CSIS and local police forces for their work on an alleged terror plot to derail a Via Rail passenger train.

Harper also thanked Canada's Muslim community for its help.

Police have said tips from the community helped uncover the plot.



Apr 23 2013

**WHITEHORSE - The body that investigates complaints against the RCMP has ruled that police used unreasonable force against a Whitehorse man.**

Stewart Jamieson complained to the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP after an incident in February 2012.

Jamieson was walking along the road when he was stopped by police. Jamieson gave his name when asked, but refused to show his ID.

He was arrested for obstruction, handcuffed and forcibly searched.

“They handcuffed my hands behind my back, and shoved me against the police car, and searched me to get my wallet off me,” he said.

He said the officers then put him in the back of the police car while they went through his wallet to get his ID and run a check on him.

The Commission for Public Complaints found that Cpl. Christopher Hutchings and Const. Ian Crowe lacked reasonable grounds to arrest Jamieson, and that the use of force was also unreasonable.

It recommends both officers be briefed about the law. (CBC News)

Apr 23 2013

**VANCOUVER - When designing the new K9 cruisers in 2011, Vancouver police didn't forget about Fido.**



The special side air bags constructed to protect kennels in the rear area “deployed perfectly” to save the life of a police dog named Shack involved in a collision at Main and Terminal Sunday.

Original redesign plans didn't include the special air bags, but the supply company was able to put them in – a move that was “vital” in saving the dog's life.

Shack, his K9 handler and the driver of the other vehicle involved are all home recovering from the crash, police said Tuesday.

The officer was responding to a 911 call when the collision occurred.

The cause of the crash is not yet known. (Metro)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 24, 2013**

Apr 24 2013

**CHARLOTTETOWN - New legislation says Prince Edward Island police will be given added powers to suspend the licences of drivers who appear to be impaired by drugs.**

Changes introduced in the legislature Tuesday permit police to get drivers off the road immediately in instances where a driver refuses or fails a sobriety test.

If the driver is later convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada, they face an automatic three-month driving ban.

Police say one of the problems they face when it comes to drivers on drugs is there isn't a simple test like the breathalyzer to identify drugs in someone's system.

Rob Vessey, the provincial minister of Transportation, says the legal change means more officers would need to be trained to conduct the testing.

He says further testing, such as urine or blood samples, can be done after the initial check if required. (Charlottetown Guardian)

Apr 24 2013

**BURLINGTON, Ont. - Police say they've tracked down and arrested a suspect in a 37-year-old murder in Burlington, Ont., that had so far remained unsolved.**

Fifty-four-year-old Donald McAvella was found dead in his apartment on April 26, 1976 and police say he was fatally stabbed.

Witnesses told police at the time they overheard two people arguing in the early hours of the morning, then heard screams and saw a man leave.

But despite witness accounts and physical evidence, the investigation hit a roadblock and no suspect was identified until December, when police say they came across new information.

They say 66-year-old Jan Goro was arrested Tuesday in Banff, Alta., and taken back to Ontario where he appeared in court Wednesday on a second-degree murder charge.

He was remanded into custody and is due back in court Friday.

Apr 24 2013

**OTTAWA - An anti-terrorism bill that's been in the works for more than five years has passed in the House of Commons.**

Among other things, the bill restores the power of police to preventively arrest people in order to stop terrorist acts.

It also makes it a crime to leave Canada to commit terrorist acts abroad.

The Combating Terrorism Act passed the House of Commons in a 183-93 vote after being introduced in the Senate last year, following several previous attempts.

It had been languishing in the Commons until the Tories suddenly announced late last week they were going to bring it to a vote.

Apr 24 2013

**WINNIPEG - The Manitoba government says cyclists under 18 will have to wear a helmet as of May 1.**

Healthy Living Minister Jim Rondeau says the law will also cover children when riding as a passenger or being pulled by a bike.

First-time offenders caught not wearing a

helmet can have the \$50 fine waived if they complete an online bicycle helmet safety course.

The bike-helmet law states children under 14 will not be given a ticket or fine.

It also gives police discretion if they're dealing with a first-time offence.

However, a ticket can be issued to parents or guardians if they do not ensure their children wear a helmet, although youth aged 14 to 18 years of age may be ticketed directly. (Winnipeg Free Press)

Apr 24 2013

**WINDSOR - Windsor police have released the identity of a 14-year veteran officer who has been charged with theft.**

Timothy Kettlewell is charged with theft under \$5,000, possession of stolen property and two counts of uttering a forged document.

Police say the charges stem from an incident involving found property that was turned over to police.

An internal investigation was carried out as soon as the police service was made aware of the allegation. The officer was arrested within hours of learning his identity, according to police. (CTV News)

Apr 24 2013

**LAVAL - Laval's police chief is retiring.**



During his career, Jean Pierre Gariépy has participated in numerous police operations, including anti-riot interventions during the October Crisis in 1970, and police operations during the Oka crisis in 1990.

After having served the public for 45 years – the last 15 of which were in Laval – Gariépy says he will retire at the end of the year.

“My decision to retire is the result of several months of reflection that ended in the past few days,” stated 62 year old Gariépy. “I'm grateful to the municipal authorities, the police force, and Laval residents who put their confidence in me during this time. I'm proud of the many projects I was able to achieve.”

It's a rare feat, in this day and age, for a police officer to tally four and a half decades of commitment and service in his career.

Gariépy began his career in 1968 when he joined the Sûreté du Québec.

After 30 years within the heart of the SQ, Gariépy left the provincial police to become Laval's chief in 1998.

During his time at the helm of the Laval police force, Gariépy contributed to important reforms and changes to modernize the force. He was president of the Quebec Association of Police Chiefs in 1995 and 1996, and then again from 2001 to 2007. Gariépy received the medal for the Order of Merit in 2004.

It was also during Gariépy's time at the head of the LPD that the Laval police force suffered its first fatalities, when two officers were killed in two different shooting incidents. The first was Constable Valerie Gignac in 2005, and the second was Constable Daniel Tessier in 2007.

During his career, Gariépy participated in numerous police operations, including anti-riot interventions during the October Crisis in 1970, and police operations during the Oka crisis in 1990.

Gariépy's successor will be decided throughout the course of the year by a selection process.

(LavalNews.ca)

Apr 24 2013

**OTTAWA - Breaking the law online is no different from breaking the law anywhere else, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Wednesday as his government pushed to fast-track efforts to create an anti-cyberbullying law.**

"We absolutely must speak out against the notion that some people have that anything goes on the Internet," Harper said during question period in the House of Commons.

"Something that is a crime is a crime if it happens on the Internet as well."

Harper's comments came a day after he met the parents of Rehtaeh Parsons, the 17-year-old Nova Scotia teenager who took her own life earlier this month.

Her family alleges Parsons was sexually assaulted by four boys in 2011 and that a digital photograph of the incident was shared around her school.

Parsons' parents want federal laws beefed up so more can be done to combat cybercrime.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson pushed his provincial and territorial counterparts Wednesday to speed up efforts to create a law that would curb cyberbullying.

Nicholson said he would also speak with his colleagues about a proposed federal victims' bill of rights.

He said he wants a review of laws to combat online bullying to be completed before summer. The review began last fall.

"I'll be looking for co-operation from my colleagues," Nicholson said ahead of a meeting with provincial and territorial ministers.

And while it was unclear when legislation might be introduced, Harper told the Commons his government will give law enforcement the tools needed to combat cybercrime.

"One of the difficulties here is that investigative tools for our police officers have not kept pace with the Internet age," he said. "That must change."

**THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 25, 2013**

Apr 25 2013

**LONDON - Britain's deputy prime minister says a government proposal for the routine surveillance of citizens' online activity is dead in the water.**

The proposal calls for the logging of every single piece of online activity - ranging from Skype calls to parents to visits to pornographic websites - and the plans have alarmed free speech advocates and academics.

Nick Clegg told LBC radio on Thursday the proposal "isn't workable or proportionate. It isn't going to happen."

Clegg's opposition could sink the plan because his Liberal Democrats are the junior party in Britain's coalition government, which is led by Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives.

Cameron's office declined to comment directly on Clegg's statement, saying conversations about the proposal are ongoing.

Apr 25 2013

**BOSTON - Sixteen hours after investigators began interrogating him, the surviving suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings went silent: he'd just been read his constitutional rights.**

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev immediately stopped talking after a magistrate judge and a representative from the U.S. Attorney's office entered his hospital room and gave him his Miranda warning, according to four officials of both political parties briefed on the interrogation. They insisted on anonymity because the briefing was private.

Before being advised of his rights, the 19-year-old suspect told authorities that his older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, only recently had recruited him to be part of the attack that detonated pressure-cooker bombs at the marathon finish line, two U.S. officials said.

The CIA, however, had named Tamerlan to a terrorist database 18 months ago, said officials close to the investigation who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case with reporters.

The new disclosure that Tamerlan Tsarnaev was included within a huge, classified database of known and suspected terrorists before the attacks was expected to drive congressional inquiries in coming weeks about whether the Obama administration adequately investigated tips from Russia that Tsarnaev had posed a security threat.

Shortly after the bombings, U.S. officials said the intelligence community had no information about threats to the marathon before the April 15 explosions that killed three people and injured more than 260.

Tsarnaev died Friday in a police shootout hours before Dzhokhar was discovered hiding in a boat in a suburban back yard. He was

wounded.

Washington is piecing together what happened and whether there were any unconnected dots buried in U.S. government files that, if connected, could have prevented the bombings.

It is unclear whether the issue of their younger son's constitutional rights will matter since the FBI say he confessed to a witness. U.S. officials also said Wednesday that physical evidence, including a 9 mm handgun and pieces of a remote-control device commonly used in toys, was recovered from the bombing scene.

But the debate over whether suspected terrorists should be read their Miranda rights has become a major sticking point in the debate over how best to fight terrorism. Many Republicans, in particular, believe Miranda warnings are designed to build court cases, and only hinder intelligence gathering.

Investigators have said the brothers appeared to have been radicalized through jihadist materials on the Internet and have found no evidence tying them to a terrorist group.

U.S. investigators travelled to the predominantly Muslim province of Dagestan in Russia and were in contact with the brothers' parents, hoping to gain more information.

They are looking into whether Tamerlan, who spent six months in Russia's turbulent Caucasus region in 2012, was influenced by the religious extremists who have waged an insurgency against Russian forces in the area for years. The brothers have roots in Dagestan and neighbouring Chechnya but had lived in the U.S. for about a decade.

Investigators have found pieces of remote-control equipment among the debris and were analyzing them, officials said. One official described the detonator as "close-controlled," meaning it had to be triggered within several blocks of the bombs.

That evidence could be key to the court case. And an FBI affidavit said one of the brothers told a carjacking victim during their getaway attempt, "Did you hear about the Boston explosion? I did that."

Officials also recovered a 9 mm handgun believed to have been used by Tamerlan from the site of an April 18 gunbattle that injured a Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority officer, two U.S. officials said.

The officials told the AP that no gun was found in the boat where Dzhokhar was hiding. Boston police Commissioner Ed Davis said earlier that shots were fired from inside the boat.

Apr 25 2013

**OTTAWA - The Harper government is throwing its support behind a private member's bill that would keep some killers behind bars for up to 40 years before they become eligible for parole.**

The bill introduced by Manitoba Tory James Bezan would allow judges to impose sentences of up to 40 years without parole in particularly heinous cases.



Apr 25 2013

Murders which involve a kidnapping or a sexual offence against the victim would draw automatic sentences of 25 years without parole eligibility and give judges the discretion to stretch that to 40 years.

Bezan says murderers now are eligible for parole hearings every two years after serving 25 years, forcing families to re-live their trauma.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson says the government will vote for the legislation.

Apr 25 2013

**OTTAWA - The federal government is ruling out a public inquiry into the case of Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh after the Supreme Court of Canada said sex offence charges against him took too long to go to trial.**

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson says he has no plans for an inquiry after Nova Scotia requested such a review on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected the Crown's appeal of a lower court ruling that tossed out 17 sex offence convictions against MacIntosh.

The court said the provincial Crown took too long to bring the former Cape Breton businessman to trial on charges involving boys in the 1970s.

MacIntosh was working in India when the allegations first surfaced in 1995, but he wasn't extradited to Canada until 2007 and didn't go to trial until 2010.

Apr 25 2013

**TORONTO - Ontario's Special Investigations Unit is probing an incident in Toronto early Thursday that left a 23-year-old man with a gunshot wound to the leg.**

The SIU says emergency task force officers were executing a search warrant at a home shortly after midnight when there was an "interaction" between a man and the officers.

The provincial watchdog agency says a firearm discharged, with the man being struck in the lower leg.

He was taken to hospital for treatment of a non-life-threatening injury.

Apr 25 2013

**TORONTO - Police say five people have been arrested in a series of early-morning raids in the Toronto and Hamilton areas.**

The raids - involving officers with the guns and gangs and organized crime units - came Thursday as police executed 12 search warrants in Toronto, Peel Region and Hamilton.

Toronto police say of the 12 warrants, six were executed in Toronto, three in Peel Region to the west of the city, and three in Hamilton.

There's no immediate word on charges but police say a quantity of drugs and money were seized.

One of the raids took place in a townhouse complex (near Morningside and Old Finch Avenues) where a man

(680News, The Canadian Press)

**HALIFAX - An investigative unit in Nova Scotia would be established to look into complaints of cyberbullying under legislation being introduced today by the provincial government.**

Justice Minister Ross Landry says the new Cyber-Safety Act would allow the unit to issue prevention orders forbidding someone from communicating online.

Landry says the legislation would also allow victims of cyberbullying and their families to seek a court protection order that could result in someone having their computer or phone confiscated.

He says violating such an order would carry a fine of \$5,000 and up to six months in jail.

The legislation comes after the death of Rehtaeh Parsons, a 17-year-old Halifax girl who allegedly endured months of cyberbullying.

Apr 25 2013

**BOSTON - Thousands of police officers and other mourners turned out Wednesday for a public memorial service at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to honour a slain campus officer.**

Dozens of metal detectors were set up at the entrance to Briggs Field on the MIT campus, and authorities shut down sections of a major riverside thoroughfare.



Authorities say Sean Collier, 27, was shot and killed during an encounter with Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the brothers accused of setting off the pair of bombs that killed three people and injured more than 260 others at the marathon.

L. Rafael Reif, president of MIT, said at the memorial service that Collier had got along so well with the school's student body that he had gone on hiking trips and on swing dance outings with campus groups.

"In just 15 months, he had built a life with us," Reif said. "He touched people across our community with his deep kindness."

Hours earlier, in Boston, Boylston St., the busy hub that forms the northern boundary of Copley Square, was reopened to the public as the city continued to seek a semblance of the ordinary, nine days after the bombings.

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Apr 25 2013

**Eurocopter has validated its EC145 helicopter in an optionally piloted vehicle (OPV) role following a successful series of flight tests using its testbed demonstrator.**

Demonstrated at a media briefing at Istres AFB in France on 25 April, the aircraft flew in both a piloted and unmanned mode, which was the third unmanned flight for the technology demonstrator although some 28 flights of the platform have been flown to date.



'This OPV is a very basic and simple concept,' Jean-Brice Dumont, executive VP of engineering at Eurocopter, said. 'We consider this a real success; a technological success because we achieved what we wanted to achieve.'

Acknowledging that in rotary programmes targets are not always achieved, he said the company aimed to have the concept validated in time for the Paris Air Show at Le Bourget this June, and also said that the programme was meeting cost targets.

'It shows after a programme like X-Cube our ability to innovate,' Dumont explained. 'It also shows an excellent relationship with the authorities...this is not a standard or normal flight.'

He said the concept simply requires 'an extra box', while the real effort comes from ensuring that it is safe to fly.

Meanwhile, Roland Gassenmayer, project manager for innovation at Eurocopter, said that the hushed programme was thought up in September 2011, and it took a 'small team of engaged people' for it to come to fruition.

'This was the first unmanned flight of a helicopter for Eurocopter; we had to integrate secure data flow into the ground systems and autopilot.'

The company will eventually apply this concept to other aircraft in its family when it has matured further, with Dumont describing it as 'platform agnostic'. The EC145 was chosen because of its popularity, and customer discussions will lead to a decision of whether to apply this to a heavier or lighter aircraft next.

The military market is expected to be the first adopters of Eurocopter's OPV concept as they have 'the clearest means' towards this type of operation.

Dumont also admitted that Eurocopter is 'running a race' with other OEMs that are adopting their platforms to this technology type, but said the company is simply working to ensure that the system is reliable enough to meet requirements at the moment.

(Rotorhub)

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