

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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RCMP dismantles operational silos



theprovince.com

Apr 29 2013

CALGARY - RCMP investigators in Alberta and across the country are part of a nationwide revamp of the force's federal policing operations.

The changes are happening behind the scenes, but a senior officer said they will allow the RCMP to better respond to organized and serious crime.

“We're doing it to be a little more nimble,” said Supt. Roger Miller from RCMP's K Division headquarters in Edmonton.

Although uniformed Mounties are a common sight in rural Canada, those officers work under contracts to provide local policing to provinces, territories and municipalities.

Less visible is the RCMP's federal policing

component, made up of specialized, usually plainclothes members investigating areas such as drug trafficking, financial crimes, national security and protection for Canadian VIPs and foreign dignitaries visiting Canada.

In Alberta, about 325 RCMP members work in federal policing, based mainly in Calgary and Edmonton. Until now, they were organized in specialized units tasked with investigating a particular area: commercial crime, drugs, proceeds of crime, financial market integrity.

However, the RCMP decided the model was too rigid and didn't allow them to change and respond if crime trends changed.

“The silos were inefficient,” Miller said.



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At the beginning of April, the RCMP began dismantling those specialized units. Instead, it is grouping together officers in multidisciplinary teams capable of investigating any kind of case under the RCMP's federal policing mandate.

"It'll be in and around what the intelligence tells us. In the past, it has been around a commodity," Miller said.

"It's a better way to address the higher priorities of the nation."

Miller estimated it will take up to 18 months to fully implement the plan.

Although it's an internal move, the RCMP redeployment affects other law enforcement agencies that have officers assigned to joint units that will disappear under the new plan.

The Integrated Proceeds of Crime Unit based in Calgary, for example, had municipal police members, as well as a Canada Revenue Agency employee and an assigned Crown prosecutor.

Although the RCMP has decided to change its internal workings, Miller said investigators from other agencies will remain in the new federal policing teams.

"As professionals we agree an integrated model is the way to go. Those positions are there, the doors are open," he said.

The Calgary Police Service confirmed officers assigned to RCMP federal policing functions are staying put.

In 2004, the Calgary police undertook a reorganization similar to the RCMP, combining several specialty units in to larger squads: the homicide and robbery units became a unified "violent crime" team.

Calgary police returned to a model closer to the original one after four years, reinstating the homicide unit and other specialty teams.

However, Supt. Guy Slater said the experiment gave Calgary police more flexibility and said city police will support the RCMP's move.

"From our perspective, we want to do everything we can to make their new model work as much as they do," he said, (The Canadian Press)

THURSDAY APRIL 25, 2013

Apr 25 2013

HALIFAX - The Nova Scotia government stepped up its fight against cyberbullying Thursday with legislation that could strip people of their phones and computers, impose hefty fines and clear the way for court action against online bullies.

Justice Minister Ross Landry outlined the provisions of the new Cyber-Safety Act, which includes a unique investigative unit dedicated to pursuing and penalizing so-called cyberbullies, while making parents liable for their child's bullying, if necessary.

"We will not allow cowards to make people's lives miserable online," Landry told a news conference at a high school in Halifax.

"We will insist that parents take responsibility for what their children are doing online. We will fight back."

The legislation would create a team of five investigators in the Justice Department, who would be trained to look into cyberbullying complaints and resolve them informally, if possible.

It's expected that team would be set up within six months at a cost of about \$800,000 a year.

Bob Purcell, the department's executive director of public safety and security, said investigators would be able to identify an alleged cyberbully through their Internet Protocol address and talk to them about the activity.

He said that if it doesn't stop or can't be resolved, investigators could seek a prevention order that would allow them to seize smartphones, tablets and computers for evidence. They could also hand the matter over to police.

The legislation would include fines of up to \$5,000 and a prison sentence of up to six months if someone doesn't comply with a protection order.

Apr 25 2013

WHITBY - The days of bad cops being suspended with pay and receiving \$100,000 a year to sit at home are numbered in Durham Region.

The region's top cop said he's "frustrated" with seeing officers who are charged criminally or under the Police Services Act collect a paycheque as they drag out the process for years — at times into retirement and escaping punishment — so he's begun ordering them back to work in non-policing roles.

"After six years (at the helm), I've seen enough," Durham Regional Police Chief Mike Ewles told the Toronto Sun Thursday. "It's time for me to challenge this, to challenge the

system itself.

"I don't know of any other company, or corporation, that is obligated to pay employees to stay home."

In this era of budget constraints and fiscal accountability, Ewles said his service has reached a "tipping point" and he needs every available body working.

"I'm starting to really feel the pinch and I've got to make some tough decisions," the chief said of forcing suspended officers to earn their pay.

He said he believes he owes it to taxpayers, who cover the \$172-million police budget, to get as much bang for their buck as he can.

"I'm turning over every rock to find efficiencies," Ewles said.

The Durham Regional Police Service has about 871 sworn members serving a population of about 600,000 and four are currently suspended with pay.

But Ewles said he's had as many as 11 cops, or 1.25% of his service, suspended with pay at one time.

"That's more than \$1 million," he said. "Why should taxpayers have to pay for them to sit around doing nothing?"

Ewles said it's especially troubling when an officer faces charges that have nothing to do with the job.

Earlier this week he ordered a suspended cop to help out with a renovation project and he's trying to find work for the other three.

Ewles believes they could work for the region or maybe volunteer somewhere.

No new officers have been hired in Durham Region for four years and they can't replace those on suspension as long as they are drawing a paycheque.

Ewles said the region's population has grown by 45,000-60,000 in that time, so the remaining 99% of his cops are pushed to their limits as they take up the slack.

He has made it clear to his members he'll seek termination if they face "egregious" charges. Knowing that, officers who get in trouble will do everything possible to collect a paycheque as long as they can.

It's time all Ontario police services talk to the province about how the current "anti-quoted" system for dealing with charges against officers could be streamlined, Ewles said.

A third party should be brought in to decide in a timely fashion, similar to a bail hearing, if an officer should be suspended with or without pay, he suggested.

"And maybe there should be timeline on it, so the officer would get paid for say 15 months," Ewles said. "That would encourage the member to resolve the matter sooner."

He suggested officers could be paid retroactively if they clear their name.

"We've got to start talking about this as a policing industry," Ewles said. (Toronto Sun)

Apr 25 2013

MONTREAL - Former Montreal police chief Ivan Delorme was back in the spotlight Thursday when ex-mayor

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Gérald Tremblay testified at the Charbonneau Commission that Delorme ignored his pleas in 2006 to probe allegations of extortion within Tremblay's own political party.

In an interview with La Presse, Delorme denied having been asked by Tremblay to launch an investigation.

"It's certain that if the mayor had spoken to me about such an issue, my response would have been to ask more questions," Delorme said. "Obviously, a subject like this would have deserved investigation and it would have stayed in my mind."

The 50-year-old Delorme, who served as head of 4,500-member police force from 2005 to 2010, had courted controversy throughout his high-profile career.

On Oct. 6, 2009 — less than a month before the Montreal municipal election — Delorme sent an email to the force's police officers and 2,500 civilian staff, remarking how good it was that Tremblay made a campaign promise that he would not impose job cuts within the department if re-elected.

Delorme was criticized at the time for trying to interfere in the election campaign.

On June 4, 2010, Delorme testified at a city hearing that the police department under his watch committed "administrative errors" by allowing private security firm BCIA to guard its headquarters, computer division and sensitive documents without awarding a contract.

Delorme also acknowledged having dinners with BCIA head Luigi Coretti shortly before he was appointed police chief in 2005. Coretti was arrested last year and is awaiting a trial on fraud charges arising from his now-bankrupt security firm.

In September 2010, Delorme retired suddenly even though his contract had already been renewed until 2013. In 2009, Delorme had accepted a sweetened pension package in return for staying on the job until 2012.

Delorme has also been romantically linked with Nathalie Normandeau, former Liberal natural resources minister, who resigned in 2011 and who was later criticized for her alleged ties to a construction industry executive.

(Montreal Gazette)

FRIDAY
APRIL 26, 2013

Apr 26 2013

REGINA - Saskatchewan's highest court has ruled that a provincial law that says some workers are essential and cannot strike is constitutional.

The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal says the right to walk off the job is not protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The decision overturns a Court of Queen's Bench ruling last year that found the government's Essential Services Act infringed on employees' rights to freedom of association.

The government argued in its appeal that the ruling broke new ground when it stated there was charter protection for the right to strike.

Union lawyers argued the essential services law violated the charter by forcing some employees to stay on the job.

The legislation was introduced in December 2007 shortly after the Saskatchewan Party won its first provincial election.

It states that employers and unions have to agree on which workers are needed and cannot walk off the job. Unions were outraged, because the law also states that if the two sides can't agree, employers can dictate who is essential.

Apr 26 2013

OTTAWA - The federal immigration minister says he's reviewing what can be done when Canada wants to deport someone who has no home country.



ctvnews.ca

Jason Kenney says he'll get a briefing from his officials on the question following revelations that one of the men charged in an alleged plot to attack a Via Rail train could not be deported because he is a stateless Palestinian.

Raed Jaser came to Canada with his family as a teenager in 1993 but was unable to obtain Canadian citizenship because of criminal convictions.

Federal authorities wanted to deport Jaser in 2004 but there was nowhere to send him.

Jaser, 35, of Toronto, and Chiheb Esseghaier, 30, of Montreal, face terrorism-related charges in what the RCMP says was a plot guided by al-Qaida elements in Iran.

It emerged this week that Jaser was also arrested in August 2004 after authorities issued a warrant for his removal from Canada.

Apr 26 2013

MONTREAL - An SQ officer has been relieved of his weapon and badge and placed in a desk job as he awaits a court date on the charge of negligent use of a firearm.

The incident that sparked the charge dates back to January 21, 2012 when the officer in question shot at a driver who had been involved in a police chase in Mirabel.

According to Sûreté du Québec Sgt. Benoit Richard, the officer observed a driver speeding. He took chase when the car did not pull over and the driver turned on to a dead end road.

The SQ officer parked his car sideways and got out of his car to box in the driver when he was forced to turn around in the cul-de-sac. When the driver approached, he sped around the cruiser instead of stopping and it was at this point that the officer used his gun.

The driver of the car was eventually caught later that night and on Jan. 23, 2012,

he appeared before a judge on charges of reckless driving and evading police.

When the report of the incident was written up, the officer who read it decided it must be submitted to the SQ's department of internal affairs.

After an investigation, the report was handed over to a crown prosecutor of the Mauricie region who decided to press charges against the officer, a seven-year veteran. That decision was handed down on April 23, 2013, and the officer was relieved of his active duties and placed in an administrative position. He has received a summons and is due in court on July 4.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 26 2013

OTTAWA - Canada's border agency has flagged the possibility of Iranians with "sinister motives" slipping into the country - a warning that came in the months leading to the arrest of two men charged with plotting to attack a Via Rail train with help from al-Qaida in Iran.

An intelligence report by the Canada Border Services Agency said 19 Iranian nationals had been found inadmissible to Canada on security grounds since 2008 - the majority of them refugee claimants lacking proper documentation.

The July 2012 report, Irregular Migration of Iranians to Canada, was obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

"Iran is the number one source country of improperly documented migrants who make refugee claims in Canada," says the report, portions of which remain secret.

"Most of these migrants cite persecution based on religion, political opinion and sexual orientation."

A significant percentage of the arrivals use "facilitators" to enter Canada, adds the report.

"Information provided by the migrants on their smugglers suggests possible links to organized criminal elements both within and outside of Canada."

Iranian links to Islamic extremism came to the fore this week with the arrest of two men accused of scheming to derail a passenger train in southern Ontario.

Raed Jaser, 35, of Toronto, and Chiheb Esseghaier, 30, of Montreal, face terrorism-related charges in what the RCMP says was a plot guided by elements of the al-Qaida organization in Iran.

The Mounties have not elaborated on the foreign connection, saying only that the support did not come from the Iranian government.

The border services agency report notes recent American concerns about Iranian secret operatives and members of the Hezbollah extremist group, backed by Iran, carrying out attacks in the United States. Testimony in March of last year before the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security alleged Hezbollah was active in stealing and forging high-quality passports that could allow members to travel freely.

Apr 26 2013

CLAVET, Sask. - Saskatoon Mounties shot a man during an investigation into several break and enters.

RCMP say members were investigating three break and enters when they identified suspects and a suspect vehicle Friday morning.

Several hours later, Mounties found the vehicle and stopped it on Highway 16 near Clavet, about 30 kilometres southeast of Saskatoon.

RCMP say officers discharged their firearms and one adult male was injured and taken to hospital.

The three other passengers in the suspect vehicle, who were not injured, were taken into custody.

No police officers were injured.

**SATURDAY
APRIL 27, 2013**

Apr 27 2013

SURREY - A Surrey student had a homework emergency Thursday night — one so serious that it apparently prompted parents to call 911.

Surrey RCMP received the nuisance dispatch from a south Surrey parent whose child was “not doing his homework,” said Cpl. Bert Paquet.

Officers were following up on the call Friday morning, as they were too occupied with legitimate police calls — including a stabbing — to deal with the issue Thursday evening.

Paquet stressed that it was not the Mounties’ job to “serve, protect and raise children.”

He said the force gets, on average, one call a month in a similar vein.

(The Province)

**SUNDAY
APRIL 28, 2013**

Apr 28 2013

EDMONTON - More provincial workers are joining Alberta’s prison guards in a wildcat strike, according to their union, while the government counters the union is spreading rumours and many guards are actually returning to work.



newstalk650.com

Tyler Bedford, a spokesman for the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, announced Sunday that provincial sheriffs in

Edmonton and Calgary will join the strike by hundreds of jail guards.

The sheriffs are members of the same AUPE local as the guards.

“Provincial sheriffs in Edmonton and Calgary voted overwhelmingly to support the striking guards,” said Bedford, who noted the sheriffs patrol highways and also provide security in courthouses and prisoner escorts.

Justice and solicitor general spokesman Josh Stewart, however, said the number of pickets on Sunday dropped from the day before and that many guards across the province have heeded a labour board order issued Saturday that their strike was illegal.

The government released a statement to corrections staff Sunday afternoon which said the province wanted to help them return to work.

The labour dispute involving hundreds of prison guards in Alberta is now into its third day.

The dispute was triggered by the suspension of an employee at the Edmonton Remand Centre who complained about safety issues.

Guards at several other detention centres walked off the job in protest.

Inmates have been restricted to their jail cells and striking staff have been either replaced by municipal police or RCMP officers who are backing up correctional supervisors.

Apr 28 2013

OTTAWA - Five years after the federal government amended the Criminal Code to give police new tools to go after drug-impaired drivers, the RCMP has

acknowledged in an internal report that support from Crown prosecutors “varies across Canada” and getting charges to stick has been a challenge.

One problem is a lack of expert witnesses who can be called upon to validate the methods used by police to detect and evaluate suspected drug-impaired drivers, says the report, which was obtained under access-to-information laws. There’s also limited data collection and monitoring of cases nationally to see what works and what doesn’t work.

But in an email, RCMP spokesman Sgt. Greg Cox said the current program has shown it can make a difference and there are no plans to discontinue it.

“The applicable legislation is still relatively new, and while there is much education to do, the DRE program is building strong case-law to support the judicial process,” Cox said.

Under the 2008 Criminal Code amendments, an officer who suspects a driver may be impaired by drugs can demand that the driver take part in a physical co-ordination test, known as a Standardized Field Sobriety Test.

If the driver fails that test, the officer can compel the driver to go to the police station for a lengthier evaluation by a certified drug-recognition expert.

If, at the end of that evaluation, the expert believes the driver is impaired by a particular drug, the expert can order the driver to submit a blood, urine or saliva sample to confirm the presence of that drug.

But a major challenge police and prosecutors

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have run up against is convincing judges that the presence of a drug in a person's system actually impaired that person's ability to operate a vehicle at the time they were driving.

"Despite the published studies evidencing the accuracy of the DRE program, prosecuting drug-impaired driving in Canada has proven to be challenging for a number of reasons," said the RCMP report.

"In particular, prosecutions have been hindered by insufficient numbers of forensic toxicologists and other expert witnesses who can provide validation testimony to the court. This has contributed to an overall lack of judicial awareness about DRE.

"In addition, the lack of data collection and a central repository which is vital in supporting the judicial process has been very limited."

While 1,300 officers across the country have received drug-recognition expert training, only 503 had active certifications as of January.

The RCMP, which until now has coordinated and funded all the training across the country, is in the process of passing on much of the responsibility — it costs about \$140,000 to train a class of 24 — to provincial and municipal police agencies.

It remains to be seen how much buy-in there is from municipal and provincial police forces.

"All the jurisdictions and municipal agencies are aware of the gradual transition and in the process of taking ownership of the training and re-certification process," Cox said. (Postmedia News)

Apr 28 2013

OTTAWA - A "communications protocol" is now in place to ensure the Conservative government knows "exactly" what the RCMP is saying and doing, the Public Safety Minister confirmed Sunday.



thebarriexaminer.com

"I'm responsible for the RCMP," Toews said in an interview on the Global News program The West Block.

"I need to know exactly what the RCMP is doing and saying because if I go into the House of Commons and I have no idea what is being said, I'm at a distinct situation where it appears that I'm not carrying out my responsibilities to the House of Commons."

Toews said it is also necessary for the RCMP to "communicate as an entity, especially on issues of national and public security."

In the Commons Friday, opposition parties raised concerns about the feds interfering with the independence of the RCMP, which has long fought to maintain its organizational

autonomy from government, after internal e-mails suggested RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson ordered senior Mounties and staff to seek permission for meetings with MPs and senators.

A March 22 e-mail from Paulson, made public by the CBC Thursday, reportedly indicated meetings with parliamentarians "can have unintended and/or negative consequences for the organization and the government."

"Should you or your staff receive such requests, I am directing that you advise my office and the chief strategic policy and planning officer," Paulson wrote.

Toews said he believes Paulson was stressing the importance of communicating a unified message on policy matters "related to the administration of the RCMP." He said MPs can meet with front-line officers in their constituencies to discuss issues.

"Obviously, MPs meet on a daily basis with members of the RCMP in their own communities to discuss about specific issues in their community," Toews said. "They don't clear that through my office."

(Sun Media)

MONDAY APRIL 29, 2013

Apr 29 2013

HALIFAX - An independent unit that investigates serious incidents involving police in Nova Scotia has determined that no charges should be laid after a high-speed chase and crash that injured a man.

The Serious Incident Response Team says the RCMP officer involved in the chase acted appropriately when he pursued a car that fled from the scene of a police checkpoint in the Halifax area last December 8.

The car was found a short distance away on its roof.

Its driver, a man in his mid-20s, was taken to hospital with a broken jaw.

The Serious Incident Response Team says the driver reported that his car had been struck by the police cruiser just before the crash.

But the unit says video footage of the accident shows that the two cars never came into contact.

Apr 29 2013

Police are seeking legislative changes to allow a list of known gangsters in British Columbia to be publicly released.

The renewed vow to name gang associates came after a targeted gang-related killing at a busy shopping area in South Surrey Wednesday.

Surrey RCMP Chief Supt. Bill Fordy said he was disturbed by the brazen attack.

"The fact that somebody would sneak up on another man, in a public venue or public setting, in the presence of children is disgusting," he said.

Fordy now wants to send his department's officers to meet up with known

gang members in the bars, restaurants and gyms they frequent to send them a message: "You are not welcome here and we do not want your dirty money," Fordy said.

The RCMP says it will assist businesses who decide to turn gang members away.

The RCMP also says a list of gang members and associates is now in the hands of every police officer in the province.

Chief Supt. Dan Malo, with the B.C. Integrated Gang Task Force, would like to make the list of the most prolific gangsters public, and is seeking changes in legislation to allow it.

"We've had enough of people wandering through our communities where we all know that they're drug dealers, we all know that they live through the proceeds of crime, we all know they're befriending businesses openly accepting their money," Malo said.

A former gang member, who spent time in prison, says the plan to name known gangsters is too dangerous for employees in bars, restaurants and gyms.

"You put that onto a normal Joe... they have to phone the police or get involved... and then the gang members will just look at that as you're a rat, ratting on me," said Jim Mandelin.

"And then what? 'I will come back and I will fix you.' That's gang warfare."

Apr 29 2013

MONTREAL - The trial of accused killer Luka Magnotta will begin late next year - on Sept. 15, 2014.

He will also face a pre-trial conference this coming fall, on Sept. 3.

Magnotta was in court in Montreal today to have a date set for his first-degree murder trial.

He faces five charges in connection with the murder and dismemberment of Chinese exchange student, Jun Lin.

Parts of Lin's body were mailed across the country last May, sparking an international manhunt for Magnotta.

The 30-year old part-time porn actor was arrested in Berlin in June.

Apr 29 2013

TORONTO - A man found not criminally responsible for killing a Toronto police officer with a snowplow will be detained in a psychiatric hospital, though he will be allowed out into the community under supervision.

The Ontario Review Board has accepted a joint submission from both the Crown and the lawyer for Richard Kachkar, 46, that he should be sent to the Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences in Whitby, east of Toronto.

Kachkar's lawyer Bob Richardson and the Crown had jointly recommended Kachkar also be allowed to walk the grounds of the hospital while escorted by staff.

The review board, which manages people found not criminally responsible, agreed in its decision released Monday.

The five-member board, including two psychiatrists, a retired lawyer and a member of the public, also ruled that the head of the hospital may allow Kachkar to go into the

community of Whitby, while escorted by staff, at the hospital's discretion.

The hospital will have to notify the local police if Kachkar is going into the community, the board ruled.

Kachkar was also ordered not to consume alcohol or non-medicinal drugs and to submit to random urine or breath testing. The evidence at his trial was that Kachkar didn't have drug or alcohol problems, but it is a standard condition for those under the purview of the review board.

The board did not release its reasons for its decision.

Kachkar was found not criminally responsible last month after a trial in the death of Toronto Police Sgt. Ryan Russell, 35.

His trial heard that Kachkar yelled about the Taliban, Chinese technology and microchips as he drove the stolen plow around Toronto for two hours, crashing into a luxury car dealership and several other vehicles before hitting and killing Russell.

The verdict means the jury believed the expert testimony of three psychiatrists that Kachkar's psychosis rendered him unable to appreciate what he was doing when he hit and killed Russell in January, 2011.

Now that Kachkar has been ordered detained in a psychiatric hospital, he will have hearings on an annual basis to assess his progress and determine if he should be allowed additional privileges.

At the review board hearing Friday, psychiatrist Dr. Philip Klassen said Kachkar should be put on anti-psychotic medication while detained in the medium secure facility - a designation that means he will be housed behind two sets of locked doors.

Review boards have the power to order a person found not criminally responsible detained in a hospital or release them either with or without conditions.

Absolute discharges are not granted until the board is satisfied the person no longer poses a significant threat to public safety.

Kachkar still poses a risk, though his prognosis is very good, Klassen said.

When Kachkar began to seriously deteriorate in the weeks before he stole a snowplow and killed Russell, he wasn't hiding his symptoms well and those around him could tell something was wrong, Klassen said. Given the scrutiny Kachkar will receive, his risk could be managed, the psychiatrist said.

The NCR verdict has been hard to swallow for Russell's family, who delivered emotional and at times angry victim impact statements to the review board Friday.

Apr 29 2013

PETERBOROUGH - Peterborough's deputy police chief, Stephen Streeter, will call it a career on June 29.

Deputy Chief Street made the announcement Monday. He will be replaced by Inspector Tim Farquharson.

Deputy Chief Streeter has served the communities of Peterborough and Lakefield for 35 years. He also served a one-year secondment in

Sierra Leone as an investigator for the Office of the Prosecutor responsible for the investigation of Human Rights Violations and Crimes Against Humanity. He also worked as the Canadian Contingent Commander during the one-year secondment. Deputy Chief Streeter was awarded the Operational Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada.

Inspector Farquharson has been a member of the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service since 1987
(myKawartha.com)

Apr 29 2013

TORONTO - A 13-year-old Toronto boy arrested last year for allegedly bringing a loaded .38-calibre handgun to school in his backpack walked free from court Monday, with all charges stayed, after a judge ruled that an "egregious" strip search by police had breached his constitutional rights.

It was not that a search in and of itself was improper, Justice David Cole ruled.

Nor did he suggest that the charges - possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition, careless storage of a firearm and assault - should not have been laid after the boy was arrested last April at Oakdale Park Middle School.

Rather, what troubled the judge was that in violation of procedures laid out by the Supreme Court of Canada in a landmark decision 13 years ago, the boy was stripped naked after he was brought to the 31 Division police station and searched.

Citing long-established police protocol, the top court ruled that "although the search involves the removal of all clothing, it should be done in such a way that the person is never completely undressed."

The correct way for clothing to be removed, Judge Cole concurred, is piece by piece, then examined and returned, so the suspect is spared the humiliation of being stripped naked in full view of anyone watching.

Toronto police protocol calls for that procedure, the judge wrote, but it was not followed here, and there have been other instances where the rules were broken.

"Leaving a 12 1/2 year-old naked in violation of expressly mandated policies prohibiting such official behaviours is not what we expect," he ruled.

"And the repetition found by courts to have occurred with other young persons over the past decade is particularly troubling."

The case stemmed from a fist fight between the boy, whose identity is shielded by the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and another student at Oakwood Park, in the city's north end.

Teachers intervened, went through his backpack, discovered the loaded gun and called police.

Justice Cole's ruling feeds into a long-simmering debate on strip searches. The Toronto Police Services Board and four uniformed officers are the target of a current lawsuit in which an accused shoplifter claims

that she was similarly humiliated.

The procedure also drew fierce criticism during the mass arrests that accompanied the G20 summit in 2010

(Globe and Mail)

Apr 29 2013

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - A provincial police officer won't be facing charges in the fatal shooting of a 41-year-old man in the Kawartha Lakes area earlier this year.

Special Investigations Unit director Ian Scott has concluded that the officer had the lawful authority to use lethal force in stopping Anthony Parro on Feb. 7.

The SIU says a number of drivers contacted police to report a pickup truck driving erratically, and when the officer caught up with the vehicle, Parro continued to drive in a dangerous manner.

When Parro eventually stopped his truck and the officer stopped his cruiser behind the truck, Parro began backing up directly at the officer's cruiser.

When the officer responded by also backing up, Parro went forward and then reversed at high speed toward the cruiser.

The officer got out of the cruiser and fired seven times - four bullets striking Parro who veered into a field and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The officer "could have reasonably concluded Mr. Parro was trying to run him over," Scott said.

"The officer had a reasonable apprehension of imminent death or serious bodily harm," Scott added.

TUESDAY
APRIL 30, 2013

Mar 30 2013

SAINT-MICHEL-DES-SAINTS, Que. - A Quebec man with alleged Hells Angels ties who had been wanted on murder charges for the past four years was arrested north of Montreal overnight Friday.

Frederic Landry-Hetu is facing charges in connection with Operation SharQc, a massive 2009 police operation aimed at crippling criminal biker activity in the province.

The 44-year-old was tracked down by police in a chalet in Saint-Michel-des-Saints in Quebec's Lanaudiere region.

Gregory Gomez, a spokesman for Quebec provincial police, said Landry-Hetu was apprehended peacefully.

"He showed no resistance when he was arrested by our tactical SWAT team," Gomez said.

Landry-Hetu was scheduled to appear in a Montreal court Saturday via video conference to face charges that include gangsterism, drug trafficking and murder.

Over 150 arrest warrants were issued in the sweeping SharQc police operation, which has targeted individuals with alleged ties to

the Hells Angels. A dozen people are still being sought by police.

The operation has involved raids by the RCMP, and provincial and municipal police with arrests in Quebec, New Brunswick, France and the Dominican Republic.

WEDNESDAY
MAY 01, 2013

May 01 2013

EDMONTON - A massive illegal strike of jail guards that was sparked by the suspension of two workers and spread to correctional facilities across Alberta came to an end Tuesday night.



news.nationalpost.com

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees announced in a news release it had struck a deal with the provincial government to get workers back on the job by Wednesday morning.

Union president Guy Smith said the agreement specifies the government will hold an occupational health and safety review to investigate concerns that have been raised about the new \$580-million Edmonton Remand Centre.

The deal also guarantees there will be no retribution for individual workers who have been involved with the strike.

Government officials could not immediately be reached for comment, but deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk suggested on Twitter the government had not made any concessions.

"Nothing new," he wrote. "(Occupational Health and Safety) must investigate any new reported complaint. I'm glad AUPE made the right decision."

A similar tone was struck in a letter obtained by The Canadian Press that was sent Tuesday from the government to the union. The letter also suggested there could be further fallout.

"We will seek all and any remedies from the AUPE to address the losses suffered as a result of this illegal job action," said the letter. "A timely return to work will be taken into consideration as we proceed."

Premier Alison Redford also suggested in a news release that the province could be looking for financial redress.

"The government will do everything within our means to ensure taxpayers are not on the hook for the millions of dollars this illegal job action cost," she said.

"As we have stated repeatedly, we will investigate all new and specific occupational health and safety concerns raised by

government employees at the Edmonton Remand Centre."

The end of the strike comes after a Court of Queen's Bench justice fined the union \$100,000 Monday night, a penalty that increased to \$350,000 at noon Tuesday.

The union had been told that fine would jump to \$500,000 on Wednesday and climb by half a million dollars each day after that.

The strike began last Friday when two workers voiced their concerns about safety at the new remand facility, which took in its first batch of 800 inmates earlier this month.

Their colleagues set up a picket line and refused to report for work, saying the workers had been disciplined unfairly.

Their anger quickly spread, with staff at other remand centres defiantly joining the movement. By Monday, they were joined by provincial sheriffs, who provide security at courthouses, and other court staff.

By Tuesday, many of those who had joined the strike at other correctional facilities had begun to return to work after the Alberta Labour Relations Board issued a cease-and-desist order.

The government said court services staff was back on the job in Edmonton and Calgary, and sheriffs had returned to work in Calgary.

The province estimates the dispute is costing the government more than \$1.2 million a day to pay for RCMP and other police to staff Alberta's jails.

Mounties were forced to cut some corners but said the strike did not affect criminal investigations.

Insp. Don McKenna said the RCMP cancelled training courses and reassigned officers who normally do administrative duties to help staff jails. Other Mounties were working at jails on their days off and putting in overtime after their regular police shifts.

May 01 2013

SURREY, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog has ruled that four RCMP officers acted appropriately when the attempted arrest of a distraught man ended in his death.

Independent Investigations Office director Richard Rosenthal has issued his report into the Sept. 10, 2012 shooting of 40-year-old military veteran Gregory Matters in Prince George, B.C.

The report details a two-day incident that began with a fight between Matters and his brother, resulting in a police standoff at a rural property and ending with shots fired as Matters became irrational during what had been a calm surrender.

The report says Matters was shot as he raised an axe and charged toward an officer who had just unsuccessfully tried to use a Taser to disarm the veteran of the Bosnian conflict.

Rosenthal says although there are inconsistencies in the officers' testimony, the differences don't appear to be an attempt to deceive.

Matters' family was given the Memorial Cross award just two weeks ago in recognition of soldiers whose deaths are linked to their military service. He was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

May 01 2013

TORONTO - There's a new voice for Canadian law enforcers facing workplace racism and inequity in hiring, retention and promotions.



thestar.com

The Toronto Guardians — the first Canadian chapter of a fraternal organization of police and correctional workers born out of the United States civil rights movement — soft launched late last year.

But it's now poised to make itself heard, through community outreach, diplomacy, litigation and protest.

The Guardians intend to make their presence known this week at an ongoing disciplinary hearing for Damejian Muirhead, a black York Region police officer accused of misconduct over the handling of an investigation where racial slurs were hurled his way.

Oddly, Muirhead, in part, is accused of not properly investigating the racial taunts made against him.

Much of the Guardians' effort will focus on the workplace.

"A lot of times people are disheartened, especially working in law enforcement and corrections, because the playing fields are not level, especially for black officers," says Keith Hassell, a provincial corrections officer at the Toronto (Don) Jail who started the Toronto Guardians.

"What the Guardians do is change the levels of accountability. You have very good human beings, but we don't live in a perfect world."

The fledgling Guardians have about 20 members, including corrections officers, Ontario Provincial Police officers and civilian employees of the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Hassell, a 46-year-old former police officer and U.S. navy veteran who served in the Persian Gulf War, expects the numbers to swell.

"We're not going anywhere. This is not a 'start up and end it' type of deal. We will only continue to get stronger as time moves along."

The group aims to forge partnerships with police around the GTA.

Although the Guardians grew out of the black civil rights movement, it is not a black-only group, says Hassell.

Amongst its first members is David Mitchell, founder of the Association of Black Law Enforcers. He works in the provincial corrections system and has been a strong advocate against workplace discrimination.

With unions and groups like ABLE to advocate for law enforcers, one might wonder why there is a need for a group like the

Guardians.

"The difference between ABLE and the Toronto Guardians is the structure. Our structure is sort of like being in the marines," says Hassell. "It's very strict, it's very demanding, it's highly structured."

And, when diplomacy fails, it's equipped to take employers to court and human rights tribunals.

Guardian members pay dues, are carefully vetted and abide by rules and a code of ethics. They also maintain a list of lawyers to litigate on behalf of individuals and groups.

(Toronto Star)

May 01 2013

SASKATOON - When Steve Simonar was pulled over by police in the past, he says officers would quickly question why he wasn't wearing a seatbelt while behind the wheel. Then they realized why.

He has no arms.

He says the surprised officers usually looked him over and let him off with "have a nice day."

"Nobody ever gave me a seatbelt ticket because, you know, I can't wear one. I can't put it on," Simonar explained Wednesday.

The owner of a Saskatoon construction company is fighting his first seatbelt ticket, a \$175-fine issued last week during a city traffic blitz.

Simonar said he was angry and hurt by the fine and plans to file a complaint with Saskatoon police. He wants the officer who approved the ticket to rip it up and apologize.

"I'm a rare bird ... and that's what kind of makes this whole thing stupid," he said. "I'm the exception to the rule and it has to be treated that way."

Simonar said shortly after he lost his arms, he passed a driving test using his feet. And Saskatchewan Government Insurance has approved all of his modified vehicles.

He also used to carry a doctor's note explaining the obvious: he can't put on a seatbelt. He didn't know the rules had changed requiring him to apply to SGI for a medical exemption.

SGI spokeswoman Kellie Brinkworth said doctors were previously allowed to grant the exemptions. In 2000, legislation changed requiring approval from SGI with a doctor's note.

Simonar said he didn't know about the requirement until police pulled him over last Thursday during the checkstop. An RCMP officer first walked up to his window and then called over a supervising city police officer.

Saskatoon police spokeswoman Alyson Edwards said the force is concerned for the man's safety and the safety of the public.

May 01 2013

PETERBOROUGH - Responding to concerns about escalating policing costs, the OPP is talking with municipalities about changing the way it bills for its service, a municipal official says.

North Kawartha Deputy Mayor Barry Rand told county council Wednesday that his municipality is one of 12 selected randomly by the OPP to participate in a discussion on billing alternatives May 9 at OPP headquarters in Orillia.

The OPP now charges municipalities for every call it goes out on. That could change to a fixed amount for every household, regardless of how often police are used.

North Kawartha is concerned that a group known as the Mayor's Coalition on Affordable Sustainable Accountable Policing is pushing for equal household billing, Rand said.

"Things like that don't really reduce total costs, they just spread it around differently," he said.

An OPP representative couldn't be reached for comment.

Rand likes the current system: "What you use, that's what you pay for," he said.

When fee-for-service payments are divided by the number of households it becomes apparent that some communities use more policing and pay more.

North Kawartha paid about \$600,000 for policing last year.

Over the last 10 years its police costs have increased by at least 6% each year, Rand said.

Following the meeting, Rand said police services boards from the eight county municipalities are working closely with the local detachment to find ways to deal with rising costs.

The detachment brought in civilian data entry workers to remove that work from officers about three years ago, it has optimized shift scheduling and overtime is well controlled, Rand said.

(Sun Media)



May 02 2013

LOS ANGELES - Police and politicians across the U.S. are pointing to the example of surveillance video that was used to help identify the Boston Marathon bombing suspects as a reason to get more electronic eyes on their streets.

From Los Angeles to Philadelphia, efforts include trying to gain police access to cameras used to monitor traffic, expanding surveillance networks in some major cities and enabling officers to get regular access to security footage at businesses.

Whatever Americans' attitudes or the costs, experts say, the use of cameras is likely to increase in the coming years, whether they are part of an always-on, government-run network or a disparate, disorganized web of citizens' smartphones and business security systems.

"One of the lessons coming out of Boston is it's not just going to be cameras operated by the city, but it's going to be cameras that are in businesses, cameras that citizens use," said Chuck Wexler, the executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum. "You'll see the use of cameras will skyrocket."

Part of the push among law enforcement agencies is for greater integration of surveillance systems. For decades, law enforcement has contacted businesses for video after a crime. An integrated network would make that

easier, advocates say.

Since the Boston bombings, police officials have been making the case for such a network.

In Philadelphia, the police commissioner appealed last week to business owners with cameras in public spaces to register them with the department. In Chicago, the mayor wants to expand the city's already robust network of roughly 22,000 surveillance video.

And in Houston, officials want to add to their 450 cameras through more public and private partnerships. The city already has access to hundreds of additional cameras that monitor the water system, the rail system, freeways and public spaces such as Reliant Stadium, officials said.

"If they have a camera that films an area we're interested in, then why put up a separate camera?" said Dennis Storemski, director of the mayor's office of public safety and homeland security. "And we allow them to use ours too."

In Los Angeles, police have been working on building up a regional video camera system funded by about \$10 million in federal grant dollars over the last several years that would allow their network to be shared with nearby cities at the flip of a switch, Downing said.

That effort is in addition to a recent request by an LA councilman who wants the city to examine allowing police access to cameras used to monitor traffic flow. If that happens, the LAPD's network of about 700 cameras would grow to more than 1,000.

May 02 2013

MONTREAL - Police arrested 447 anti-capitalist protesters in Montreal yesterday as they tried to tie this year's May Day demonstration to the theme of corruption.

The protesters tried to gather outside a private club in Old Montreal called Club 357C where politicians and construction executives have been known to meet.

But the protesters were kept from the site when police boxed them in and detained about 300 people.

Police said they would issue numerous fines of \$500, plus fees, for by-law violations while a small number might also face criminal charges.

Police have shown little tolerance for rowdy protest in Montreal lately and moved to head off events like those seen repeatedly in the city last year.

May 02 2013

The acquittal in January of three former Nortel Networks executives on fraud charges prompted questions inside the RCMP about the force's ability to tackle future white-collar investigations.

On the day of the verdict, an RCMP inspector wrote to the commanding officer of the force's Ontario division stating that the verdict would "undoubtedly raise questions as to whether the RCMP (Integrated Market Enforcement Team) has the capacity and

ability to investigate complex frauds of this nature.”

The inspector also predicted that the acquittals, following an investigation that stretched back to 2004, would be “seen by the Canadian government, Canadian public, and media as another defeat for the IMET program and bring into question the validity and future direction of the IMET program,” according to the briefing note, which was obtained under access-to-information laws.

The force said this week investigators in the Nortel case carried out a “meticulous” and “complete” investigation and that IMET teams across the country are still intact.

While the RCMP’s federal policing arm is undergoing a major reorganization to be more “flexible” in dealing with national security threats and organized crime groups, “these changes have not impacted or resulted in any reduction on frontline operational resources for the Integrated Market Enforcement Teams,” Sgt. Julie Gagnon, an RCMP spokeswoman in Ottawa, said in an email.

“IMETs are strengthening the law enforcement community’s ability to detect, investigate and deter capital markets fraud by focusing resources on investigating and prosecuting the most serious corporate frauds and market illegalities.”

The Vancouver-based IMET team recently moved out of its downtown offices to RCMP headquarters in Surrey, B.C., raising questions about its future.

But Sgt. Duncan Pound, an RCMP federal policing spokesman in B.C., said Wednesday “financial integrity” investigations remain a priority and that the work of IMET investigators will be enhanced because they now will be working alongside commercial crimes investigators and others.

Formed in 2003, the RCMP’s IMET program comprised teams of “highly specialized” investigators in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal.

But the teams struggled to get charges to stick. Numbers released by the force in November showed that they had secured criminal convictions against 11 people.

In June 2008, IMET investigators flexed their muscle when they announced charges against former top brass at Nortel, the telecom giant, which at its height was worth nearly \$300 billion.

Ex-CEO Frank Dunn, ex-chief financial officer Douglas Beatty and ex-controller Michael Gollooly were each accused of manipulating the company’s financial results in 2002 and 2003 in a cook-book scheme to trigger substantial bonuses and stock payments.

Led by an IMET team in Toronto, the case — dubbed Project ONetwork — was one of the force’s biggest corporate investigations, involving the review and disclosure of more than 25 million pages of documentation and more than 200 witness-interviews by the Crown, according to the RCMP.

But in January, Ontario Superior Court Justice Frank Marrocco said in a 140-page decision that the Crown had failed to meet

its burden and dismissed all counts of fraud against the accused. The Crown chose not to appeal.

Though the judge did not question the integrity of the investigation, “this decision could generate discussion relating to the onerous burden of disclosure placed upon the police and Crown,” RCMP Insp. D.J. Pond wrote in the briefing note to “O” Division Assistant Commissioner Stephen White under the heading “strategic considerations.”

“This decision could generate discussion concerning capacity to consistently resource such long-term complex financial investigations,” Pond continued.

“This decision may raise questions as to whether the Canadian justice system as a whole is equipped to deal with complex fraud cases of this nature and magnitude.”

In her email to Postmedia News this week, Gagnon said the IMET program has increased its capacity to collect, share and analyze intelligence related to suspicious

activity in capital markets.

No longer are teams relying just on referrals from police agencies, provincial securities regulators and tips left with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

“The Toronto IMET has been reaching out to its community in the financial district on Bay Street since February 2011 to establish a rapport and to exchange intelligence information,” she said.

“By meeting with the financial industry, the IMETs are staying aware of what business professionals are doing on the job and being briefed on the latest business methods. These meetings better position the IMETs to launch their own investigations.”

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty signalled in March that he is pushing for the creation of a common securities regulator with shared federal-provincial powers to replace the current 13 provincial and territorial regulators.

(Postmedia News)



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