

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

August 9, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 32

## Executive Digest

Aug 01 2013

**VANCOUVER** - A civilian employee of the RCMP has filed a B.C. Supreme Court lawsuit alleging that a culture of sexual harassment within the force was so pervasive it couldn't be stopped.

Page 2

Aug 06 2013

**Police forces across Ontario will no longer police themselves when it comes to public complaints of discrimination. The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal says it will now hear cases of alleged police discrimination even if a similar complaint has already been dealt with by another oversight body.**

Page 4

Aug 07 2013

**HALIFAX** - A law in Nova Scotia that allows people to sue or seek a protection order from the courts if they or their children are being cyberbullied has taken effect.

Page 5

Aug 07 2013

**ORILLIA** - Orillia's dispute with the OPP over a new policing contract could be heading off to binding arbitration.

Page 6

Aug 07 2013

**TORONTO** - The Ontario government says it is strengthening its death investigation system by expanding the role of forensic pathologists.

Page 6

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Ombudsman to probe police guidelines



Aug 08 2013

**TORONTO** - Ontario's ombudsman says he'll conduct a systemic investigation into the government's guidelines to police on how to de-escalate conflict situations.

Andre Marin's announcement comes in the wake of the fatal shooting of a Toronto teenager that sparked public outrage over police use of force.

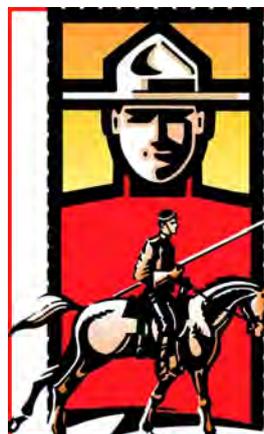
He's said the shooting raises the question of whether it's time for the province to direct police on how to de-escalate situations before they lead to the use of force.

Sammy Yatim, 18, was killed on an empty streetcar on July 27 in an incident captured on surveillance and cellphone videos.

Shouts of "drop the knife" could be heard as a few officers surround the streetcar. Three shots ring out and Yatim can be seen dropping to the floor, then seconds later six more shots can be heard followed by the sound of a Taser.

Witnesses have told various media outlets that Yatim exposed himself and waved a knife around before the other streetcar passengers fled.

His death prompted hundreds of people to take to the streets calling for justice. More than 30,000 people have signed an online



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petition calling for criminal charges to be filed against the officer who fired the shots.

The Special Investigations Unit - Ontario's police watchdog - is looking into what happened and if the officer who fired the shots should face any criminal charges. Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair has also said his office is reviewing the incident.

Const. James Forcillo has been suspended and the Toronto Police Association president is urging the public not to jump to conclusions.

The ombudsman said his office has already received more than 60 complaints related to this shooting. He also said that anyone with information relevant to this investigation can come forward anonymously.

"I want to stress that this investigation will not affect the ongoing criminal investigation being conducted by the Ontario Special Investigations Unit," he said.

The ombudsman also noted that the chair of the Toronto Police Services Board welcomed the investigation.

But some police officers have already attacked the ombudsman on Twitter, calling him names associated with terrorism. The ombudsman said that a Durham Regional Police detective had already been identified as the person behind the attacks.

That conversation quickly took over the press conference.

"Emotions run high when we talk about police oversight," he said. "I would hope for a more informed dialog."

Marin declined to mention how the person behind the attacks on Twitter was identified and also declined to mention if disciplinary action would be taken against the officer.

The ombudsman's investigation will not examine the criminality of the Yatim shooting in particular, but instead will look at the training, policies and procedures that led to it and allowed it to happen. The deescalation of tension and defusing violence should be a

bigger priority and training should avoid the use of violence.

He said police shootings have become a systemic problem that must be addressed at the most basic level.

"The investigation will relate to the systemic response to conflict by police services in Ontario. And in the last week we've looked at the results of inquests dating back to 1994 and the recommendations coming out of these inquests are almost carbon copy from each other. Increase police training. Increase how police defuse situations. What's happened to all these recommendations in 20 years? They've all been gathering dust in some bins somewhere," he said.

(Canadian Press, Postmedia News)

## THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 2013

Aug 01 2013

**VANCOUVER - A civilian employee of the RCMP has filed a B.C. Supreme Court lawsuit alleging that a culture of sexual harassment within the force was so pervasive it couldn't be stopped.**



Atoya Montague's civil lawsuit names high-profile Insp. Tim Shields as one of several RCMP members who subjected her to ongoing harassment and sexual harassment.

The lawsuit alleges Shields made sexual advances towards her while they drove to drop off supplies to victims of B.C.'s wildfires in 2003 and also claims Shields showed her his penis and made similar advances in July 2008.

The lawsuit alleges Shields made regular comments about her breasts, and that a sergeant, staff sergeant and a commissioner at different times made sexually degrading comments about her.

Montague, who's been on sick leave for two years, claims she has post-traumatic stress disorder and is suing for damages and loss of income and earning capacity.

This is another of several harassment lawsuits filed against the RCMP and none of the allegations have been proven in court.

Aug 01 2013

**WINNIPEG - Manitoba's highest court has ordered a new trial for two RCMP officers found guilty of beating a handcuffed man they were found to have wrongfully arrested.**

Cpl. Jeffrey Thomas Moyse, 43, and Const. Trevor Ens, 32, had both maintained their innocence during a 2011 trial.

Queen's Bench Justice Perry Schulman

rejected their version of events in finding both guilty of assault.

On Thursday, the Court of Appeal cited numerous errors made by the judge as grounds to overturn the guilty verdicts and have a re-trial.

No date has been set.

Conley Papineau told the first trial he was punched, kicked and thrown around by the accused after being confronted in a bar parking lot in Traverse Bay, Man., in 2008.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Aug 01 2013

**EDMONTON - A recent drug investigation yielded 28 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of \$2.5 million, the largest such seizure in the police department's history, police said Thursday.**

The Edmonton Drug and Gang Enforcement (EDGE) unit made the bust last Friday, concluding a two-month investigation into a high-level cocaine trafficking ring. The unit executed search warrants at an apartment complex, Staff Sgt. Carlos Cardoso said.

"The quantity of cocaine that we seized is the largest ever single seizure to date in the City of Edmonton in the history of EPS," Cardoso said at a news conference at police headquarters, where drugs and weapons were on display.

Police say the apartment was being used as a cocaine conversion lab. Inside, they also found 10.5 kilograms of a chemical agent valued at \$52,000 used to convert powder cocaine to crack, Cardoso said.

Officers also seized more than \$265,000 in cash. A subsequent search of a vehicle connected to one of the accused led to the seizure of \$12,000 cash and 0.2 grams of heroin in a hidden compartment.

Jesse James Langevin, 27, of Edmonton, and Vincent Louie, 42, of Vancouver, have each been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and cocaine conversion.

(Edmonton Journal)

## FRIDAY AUGUST 2, 2013

Aug 02 2013

**SASKATOON - A man charged in the highway death of a Saskatchewan conservation officer this spring is now facing a charge of manslaughter.**

Blaine Thomas Taypotat was charged with impaired driving causing death and criminal negligence causing death in a May 31 collision that killed Justin Knackstedt.

The additional count of manslaughter was laid Thursday during a court appearance in Saskatoon.

Knackstedt had stopped to help RCMP officers at an accident scene on Highway 11 just south of Saskatoon when he was struck by a sport utility vehicle. The SUV continued driving towards Saskatoon and rolled on the outskirts of the city.

Taypotat returns to court Aug. 21.

(CTV Saskatoon)

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Aug 02 2013

**CADOTTE LAKE, Alta. - RCMP have charged a northern Alberta man with attempted murder after someone fired a rifle at police.**

Police say an officer was responding to a call about a suspected impaired driver Wednesday but the driver fled.

Police say when the officer pursued a man allegedly fired a rifle round at the constable.

The officer returned fire, but no one was hit.

Rodney Ominayak, 29, of Little Buffalo also faces impaired driving, driving while disqualified and other charges.

He was being held in custody pending an Aug. 12 court hearing in Peace River.

Aug 03 2013

**ONEIDA SETTLEMENT, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating a shooting that happened in the Oneida First Nation territory near London.**

The Special Investigations Unit says one man was taken to hospital with gunshot wounds after what is described as a "police-involved" shooting on Saturday morning.

Ontario Provincial Police had been investigating a robbery that occurred the day before.

The SIU says police received information that a suspect was driving around the territory with a loaded gun.

The SIU says the OPP and the man exchanged gunfire.

The SIU has assigned four investigators and two forensic investigators to probe the incident.

**SUNDAY  
AUGUST 4, 2013**

Aug 04 2013

**WETASKIWIN, Alta. - Days after a deadly shooting in Toronto sparked a debate over police use of force, Alberta's police watchdog is looking into three separate incidents that saw officers use their firearms or a Taser.**

The latest incident in Alberta happened Saturday night when police say an officer with the Wetaskiwin RCMP detachment pulled over a suspected impaired driver near Ma Me O Beach, south of Edmonton.

RCMP say there was an altercation and the officer shot two men who were in the car.

A 30-year-old man from Pigeon Lake, Alta., died and a 41-year-old man, also from Pigeon Lake, was transported to hospital in Edmonton.

On Friday, RCMP used a Taser on a 27-year-old man during an arrest in Leduc, Alta. The man died Sunday morning.

On Thursday, RCMP in Grande Cache shot and wounded a man who has since been identified by family as Curtis Hallock, a regular character on the reality TV show "Mantracker."

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is conducting independent investigations into all three incidents.

The head of the agency cautioned about reading too much into the incidents when asked by a reporter whether the public should question its confidence in police.

"I don't think generally speaking the public needs to be concerned about being stopped," Clifton Purvis told a news conference on Sunday.

"In fact, I think probably in Canada we're one of the very few jurisdictions worldwide where your first reaction when you get pulled over by police isn't fear, it's 'Oh gosh, I got a ticket.'"

Purvis said Saturday's incident began when an RCMP officer who was alone in a marked police cruiser pulled over a vehicle with five males inside on suspicion the driver might be impaired.

Purvis said that while the officer was arresting one of the males, an altercation occurred with the other four, and that the officer shot two members of the group.

One male was pronounced dead at the scene and the other was taken to hospital. The remaining males were taken into custody.

RCMP said the man who they used a Taser on during the arrest Friday was a suspect in a series of assaults, theft of automobiles, driving complaints and hit-and-runs. They said they stopped him at a gas station, but they said there was a physical confrontation and that's when the Taser was used.

Mounties said he was then handcuffed but went into medical distress and was transported to hospital in Edmonton in life-threatening condition before dying on Sunday.

Purvis said his team isn't linking the use of the weapon with the man's death.

"There will be an autopsy conducted on that male later this week, and it's hoped the results of the autopsy will confirm the cause of death," Purvis said.

The identities of the men who died have not been released.

Purvis also said he couldn't provide much detail about the shooting Thursday near Grande Cache, since he said a suspect is facing charges, though he didn't know if they have been formally laid.

RCMP have released few details about the shooting, but they have said two officers were trying to pull over a suspected impaired driver when a confrontation ensued and a man was shot.

He fled, but was caught a short time later and taken to the local hospital.

A relative said Friday that Curtis Hallock was shot in the leg and arm.

Purvis said the police vehicle at the shooting Saturday was equipped with a video camera and his investigators hoped the recording would assist them.

Purvis also said there was cellphone video and a number of witnesses to the incident with the Taser in Leduc and is hoping they will contact his team, and he noted that forensic investigators with his team were at the location of Thursday's shooting near Grande Cache.

**MONDAY  
AUGUST 5, 2013**

Aug 05 2013

**MONTREAL - The death of a 30-year-old man who rolled his car about 11 p.m. Sunday near St-Hyacinthe — during a high-speed chase by the Sûreté du Québec — is being investigated by Montreal police.**

An SQ patrol car had been trying to catch up with the man along Highway 20 eastbound, after he refused to pull over, when the man took Exit 134 and lost control, Constable Raphaël Bergeron of Montreal police said.

The man's vehicle rolled over several times.

He was declared dead on the scene.

The SQ car and the one being chased didn't touch, Bergeron said.

Because the death involved the SQ, he added, the provincial public-security department has placed Montreal police in charge.

Investigators from the major-crimes squad have been sent to the scene, Bergeron said.

(Montreal Gazette)

**TUESDAY  
AUGUST 6, 2013**

Aug 06 2013

**Police forces across Ontario will no longer police themselves when it comes to public complaints of discrimination.**

The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal says it will now hear cases of alleged police discrimination even if a similar complaint has already been dealt with by another oversight body — a factor that usually disqualified a case for consideration.

The ruling ends years of successful arguments by police lawyers that the tribunal should dismiss discrimination cases against officers that were originally filed with the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD), usually the first avenue for public complaints.

That body refers most police conduct complaints back to the originating force for investigation.

"It's been an ongoing issue for many decades — how to police the police in terms of their conduct," said Bruce Best, a lawyer with the Human Rights Legal Support Centre. "The police complaint process, as set out in the Police Services Act, is primarily the chief disciplining his or her officers. It's an internal mechanism."

In 2011-12, the OIPRD referred 1,520 cases back to the police service where the complaint originated. The organization retained 121 cases.

In the past, the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal dismissed cases based on Section

45.1 of the Human Rights Code, which was there to prevent duplication.

"In some cases it's clear that the same issues have been addressed and it doesn't make sense to relitigate it if someone is trying to have a second kick at the can," said Best.

But the new ruling differentiates between the two bodies, noting that the police complaint process can only result in discipline to the officer whereas a human rights application could result in the tribunal ordering the police service to make systemic changes.

The decision means a number of human rights applications, which have been held for years pending the decision, can now go forward.

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police will review the tribunal's decision at a meeting in September.

"From our perspective, we know there will be some significant challenges for us moving forward," said Toronto police Insp. Reuben Stroble, vice-chair of the association's professional standards subcommittee. "We have to look at the impact it's going to have. There could be conflicting judgments.

"That could there be a problem."

(Toronto Star)

Aug 06 2013

**CAMPBELLTON, N.B. - The two boys who police say were killed by an African rock python in Campbellton, New Brunswick are being remembered as fun-loving free spirits.**

Noah and Connor Barthe, ages five and seven, were found dead yesterday morning in an apartment above an exotic pet store.

Police say they believe the snake escaped its enclosure at the apartment and went through a ventilation system before strangling the boys.

The Mounties are looking at whether the store followed the province's regulations on exotic animals as part of their investigation.

They say that the snake has been put down.

Aug 06 2013

**AURORA, Ont. - Provincial police Commissioner Chris Lewis says the 2013 Civic Holiday long weekend saw the lowest number of fatalities in areas under OPP jurisdiction in almost 20 years.**

The OPP reported one fatality on the roads and another fatality in a marine incident over the long weekend.

Despite the low fatality rate, officers laid numerous charges for various offences.

Police say 290 people were charged with not obeying the move over law, 6,052 motorists were charged for speeding, 83 with street racing, 375 for seat belt infractions, and 96 with driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

Officers also issued 233 distracted driving charges and 91 roadside license suspensions to drivers with a blood-alcohol reading in the warning range.

## WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7, 2013

Aug 07 2013

**HALIFAX - A law in Nova Scotia that allows people to sue or seek a protection order from the courts if they or their children are being cyberbullied has taken effect.**

Justice Minister Ross Landry introduced the Cyber-Safety Act in April following the death of 17-year-old Rehtaeh Parsons, who was taken off life-support following a suicide attempt at her home in Halifax.

Her family says she was bullied for months after a digital photo of her allegedly being sexually assaulted was passed around her school.

The law allows victims of cyberbullying to apply for a protection order that could place restrictions or help identify the cyberbully, and in the case of a lawsuit, parents of cyberbullies could be held liable for damages if the aggressor is a minor.

The act also allows for the creation of an investigative unit consisting of five people dedicated to pursuing and penalizing cyberbullies, whether they're adults or children.

Landry says the unit will be running in September.



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Aug 07 2013

### ORILLIA - Orillia's dispute with the OPP over a new policing contract could be heading off to binding arbitration.



Orillia CEO Martiuk

The Orillia Police Services board has recommended to council that the OPP proposal for an integrated Orillia and Severn and Ramara Detachment be sent to an independent arbitrator.

It would be either the Ontario Civilian Police Commission or the Ontario Police Arbitration Commission that would look at the proposals and decide which one is the most appropriate.

The cities CAO Roman Martiuk says he is confident that the city will get the best policing service at the best possible price by going this route.

He says if the OPP agrees to enter a binding arbitration, two issues would be under discussion: the number of staff required to adequately serve the city and the OPP's costing formula.

Orillia Councillor and Police Service Board member Patrick Kehoe says its been frustrating for the city as they have tried to be flexible with the OPP throughout this entire process.

Kehoe admits there is a bit of a risk heading off to arbitration.

However he says if the OPP balk at that option - then council again will look at the municipal policing option.

(Bayshore News)

Aug 07 2013

### TORONTO - The Ontario government says it is strengthening its death investigation system by expanding the role of forensic pathologists.

Under a new system, forensic pathologists would be appointed as coroners in cases of suspicious death or homicide or where the criminal justice system is involved.

It's one of several changes planned for the province's death investigation system.

Ontario's chief forensic pathologist says the new role will mean better services for families and criminal investigators along with more comprehensive court testimony.

Other changes include posting recommendations from inquests online and allowing an oversight council to advise the province's chief coroner on whether to call discretionary inquests.

The government also says it will look at options that would give the chief coroner the authority to assign a lawyer or judge to preside over inquests if necessary.

Aug 07 2013

### Treaty Three Police Chief Conrad DeLaronde has submitted a letter of resignation, saying he will leave the service in three months.



The development comes as a new police board tries to repair a damaged relationship with staff on the Aboriginal force serving many First Nations in northwestern Ontario and eastern Manitoba.

The newly-elected chair of the Treaty Three Police Services Board, Eli Mandamin, said on Tuesday he didn't know the specific reasons behind Chief DeLaronde's decision to resign, but he acknowledged that recent turmoil plaguing the force — including financial worries and a labour dispute with officers — has made for tough times.

"I know that it's been really hard on him and his family," said Mandamin, who is also chief of Shoal Lake 39 First Nation. "Of course, being in the public life also is ... stressful itself."

A spokesperson with the Public Service Alliance of Canada, which represents Treaty Three police officers, said she's not aware of the circumstances around DeLaronde's resignation.

Sharon DeSousa said the union's focus right now is working with the new board to ensure the Treaty Three police service continues to operate.

But she said doesn't expect DeLaronde's resignation will affect those talks and said the union wishes him well.

CBC News contacted DeLaronde's office on Tuesday about his resignation but he declined to comment.

(CBC News)

Aug 07 2013

### TOFINO, B.C. - An RCMP officer in Tofino, B.C., is recovering from injuries suffered after being hit by a car while conducting a traffic stop near that Vancouver Island community.

Detachment commander Sgt. James Anderson says the incident happened last Friday.

He says Const. Kathy Bullock had just turned to walk back to her fully marked cruiser, with its lights activated, when she was hit by the passenger-side mirror of a passing car.

The impact tore the mirror off the car and left Bullock with abrasions and whiplash-type injuries, but police say the suspect vehicle, a 2005 Hyundai Accent, didn't stop.

It was found a short time later in a Tofino parking lot and a 30-year-old Tofino woman now faces charges related to impaired driving and failing to remain at the scene of a crash.

Anderson says Bullock is expected to return to full duties within days.

Aug 07 2013

### VANCOUVER - The Police Complaint Commissioner says a public hearing must be held to determine whether two officers used excessive force in a 2011 detention, ruling Wednesday that previous disciplinary proceedings were flawed.

Almost two years ago, Const. Aaron Hill and Const. Aaron McRae of the Delta Police Department allegedly tackled a man off of his bike and repeatedly smashed his face into the cement.

This June, after a lengthy review process, the allegations were dismissed.

But retired Judge De Villiers noted in his dismissal that he wasn't allowed to cross-examine those who testified, and potential witnesses such as the cyclist himself weren't allowed to participate.

Now, Commissioner Stan Lowe has ordered a binding public hearing to determine what discipline, if any, the officers should receive, saying De Villiers may have been mistaken.

The hearing will allow for cross-examination and witness participation, resolving issues Lowe identified with previous proceedings.

Aug 07 2013

### SURREY, B.C. - There's been a strange twist in the investigation into a hit-and-run accident in Langley, B.C., that claimed the life of a man early Wednesday morning.

RCMP in Surrey say they found the driver of the semi truck which struck the 37-year-old pedestrian.

Police say the driver is an expert civilian witness contracted by police throughout the region.

In fact, police say that the expert had been consulting with the Surrey Mounties traffic section on an ongoing traffic investigation just hours before the hit and run occurred.

Surrey RCMP has now requested that an independent observer from another police force monitor the hit-and-run investigation.

Police say they're looking for witnesses and need to establish a timeline for both the driver and the victim to try to piece together what may have happened.

Aug 07 2013

### A high-ranking Montreal police officer who played a lead role in law enforcement during Occupy Montreal and last year's student protests has been appointed chief of police in Laval.

Pierre Brochet, a deputy chief with the SPVM, was named Wednesday as the successor to Jean-Pierre Gariépy, who

announced his retirement earlier this year.

The announcement was made by the Commission municipale du Québec, which currently has trusteeship over the beleaguered city.

Brochet has served as operations chief for the Montreal service since 2010, responsible for investigations and emergency communication.

"He is a candidate of exceptional value who will lead the organization toward a service that is improved, more efficient and continually adapting to the changing needs of an evolving urban centre," said Florent Gagné, the provincially appointed supervisor for Laval and a former head of the Sûreté du Québec.

Gariépy initially said he would retire at the end of 2013, but he will now leave his post at the end of August. He has denied any knowledge of corruption allegations among high-ranking Laval politicians and city staff, some of which led to arrests on criminal charges in May.

The call for candidates for the new chief was overseen by an outside firm, and the process included interviews by a selection committee struck by the Commission municipale.

(CBC News)



Aug 08 2013

**WINNIPEG - There won't be a big parade, but police will be celebrating their own Friday to mark National Peacekeepers Day.**

The day celebrates the efforts of Canadians who have gone or are on peacekeeping missions, including about 3,000 police officers, said Assistant Commissioner Kevin Brosseau, commanding officer of the RCMP D division in Manitoba.

Aug. 9 is a date of significance for peacekeepers; it's the anniversary of the 1974 deaths of nine peacekeepers whose plane was shot down over Syria.

The day of commemoration also has significance for RCMP, who lost two members in the 2010 Haiti earthquake while they were serving on a peacekeeping mission.

"This is something that's obviously been of importance and significance for the RCMP and for policing for a number of years, but that memorial took on a special significance over the past few years," Brosseau said.

The RCMP have a program in place that

allows members to take part in UN peacekeeping missions, Brosseau said. Those who choose to go receive orientation about the countries in which they'll be serving. Officers who have done tours give advice to those who are planning on going, he said.

"Police officers will call each other and say 'What is it going to be like? What are the things that I'm not going to hear in those orientation sessions that I need to prepare myself for,'" Brosseau said.

RCMP officers have been sent to Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, South Sudan and the West Bank, said Sgt. Line Karpish, media relations officer for the RCMP.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Aug 08 2013

**WINNIPEG - An inquest has been called into the shooting death of an aboriginal man by Winnipeg police five years ago.**

Craig McDougall was shot by police on Aug. 2, 2008, after they say he refused to drop a knife.

But some witnesses said the 26-year-old man didn't have a knife, just a cellphone.

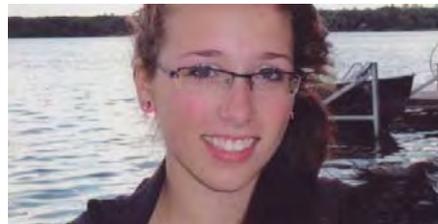
McDougall was also zapped with a Taser electronic stun gun.

At the time of the shooting Manitoba native leaders asked the province to hold a public inquiry into McDougall's death, but that request was denied.

Holding an inquest into deaths involving police is mandatory.

Aug 08 2013

**SAINT JOHN, N.B. - The prime minister says he hopes arrests made in the case of Rehtaeh Parsons provide a measure of comfort to the teenage girl's family.**



Stephen Harper says he was pleased to hear that progress is being made in the case of the 17-year-old Halifax girl, who died this year following a suicide attempt in what her family says stemmed from cyberbullying after an alleged sexual assault.

Speaking in Saint John where he was touring the Irving Oil refinery, Harper said Rehtaeh's death was a terrible tragedy that touched people across Canada.

The RCMP and Halifax police arrested two males at their homes in Halifax at around 8 a.m. today and took them into custody where they are being questioned.

The Mounties did not release further information on the males arrested, including their ages and what they were arrested for.

Rehtaeh's mother, Leah Parsons, says she is hopeful the arrests lead to charges.

Aug 08 2013

**Preliminary autopsy results on two New Brunswick boys who were killed after an African rock python escaped its enclosure in Campbellton, N.B., show they died from asphyxiation, RCMP said Wednesday, as questions lingered about how the large snake came to be in the possession of a pet store.**

The pathologist completed the autopsies on Noah and Connor Barthe on Tuesday.

"At least right now we have a cause of death. Even though we still need some reports from the pathologist to be forwarded, that's going to help the investigation to move forward," RCMP Sgt. Alain Tremblay told CBC News.

Tremblay said in a statement that police are aware the case has "touched the hearts of people across the world" and that people are eager to know how the deaths could have happened.

"Our investigators are looking at all aspects of this tragic incident, and that will take some time," he said of the investigation into the deaths of Noah, 4, and Connor, 6.

The case is still being treated as a criminal investigation. Tremblay told CBC News earlier Wednesday that the case is unique, and will involve a learning process for investigators and the pathologists involved in the case.

(CBC News)

Aug 08 2013

**MONTREAL - The Montreal Police department is renting a building from a convicted drug trafficker with ties to the Mafia.**



The building at 6665 Papineau St. in Rosemont-La Petite Patrie borough serves as "administrative offices" for the Eclipse squad, the Montreal police tactical unit set up to fight street-gang crime.

Real estate records show the building is owned by the Armeni Family Trust, headed by Vincenzo Armeni, who is serving a 19-year prison term for his latest drug-trafficking conviction, and his wife, Giuseppina Vaccarello.

The lease is up for renewal on Oct. 13.

The Armenis have been the Montreal Police's landlord since 1998, when Natale Armeni signed a 10-year lease with the now-defunct Montreal Urban Community to open a neighbourhood police station. Members of the family operated a bakery there until 1997.

The building housed Station 35 East until 2008, when the lease came up for renewal and the Montreal Police and the city of Montreal determined they no longer needed a station at that location.

But they decided to exercise the first of two five-year renewal options in the lease in order to use the building as an administrative office, according to a civil service report to the Montreal city executive committee, city council and the island council that oversees the police.

The 2008 report said the station would be used for the Éclipse squad.

By then, Natale Armeni, a retiree, had ceded the Papineau building and a five-unit residential building in St-Léonard to the Armeni Family Trust. The 2005 and 2006 real estate deeds related to the transfer name Vincenzo Armeni and Vaccarello as its trustees.

The trust was created for the benefit of the couple's children, the deeds say.

The deeds don't mention Natale Armeni's relationship to Vincenzo Armeni.

According to police intelligence reports, Vincenzo Armeni has ties to the Montreal Mafia. A 2008 parole board decision describes Armeni's "lifelong involvement in criminality," one heavily tainted by his "association with organized crime."

In the 1980s, Vincenzo Armeni was convicted with his uncle, Giuseppe Armeni, for their roles in a major heroin-trafficking ring. At the time, Giuseppe Armeni was described in police intelligence reports as being "very respected in organized crime, and this by the very highest levels."

Vincenzo Armeni was again convicted, along with his brother-in-law, Tonino Calocchia, in 1998 for cocaine-smuggling. Calocchia was targeted and injured in a shooting in a Laval restaurant parking lot in February. At a 2003 parole hearing in that case, Armeni convinced the National Parole Board that he had severed his ties with the Mafia for the sake of his children.

Armeni was arrested again in 2006 on charges of trafficking 761 kilograms of cocaine while he was still on parole. He was convicted and sentenced in October 2007 to 19 years in prison, the stiffest sentence ever given in Quebec at the time for drug trafficking.

He began serving that sentence in 2008, when the 10-year sentence for his previous conviction ended.

According to news reports, Armeni was under police surveillance before his 2006 arrest.

Vincenzo Armeni isn't mentioned in the civil service documents that wended their way through the Montreal Police department and to the city and island councils in 2008 for the lease renewal on the Papineau St. police station.

The documents include the lease, which Giuseppina Vaccarello signed as representative of the family trust. They also include a December 2008 authorization from the family trust for Vaccarello to sign the lease.

The documents also include an early draft of the lease, which names a different Armeni family member as representative of the family trust.

The documents were prepared and signed by civil servants with the city of Montreal's real estate division, which the documents say

was responsible for the file. However, three employees of the administrative division of the Montreal Police and their assistants examined the lease renewal and recommended in favour of it.

Meanwhile, a borough report on the building in 2009 spelled the family trust incorrectly as Arménie Family Trust.

The family trust had sought a zoning exemption from the Rosemont-La Petite Patrie borough to allow three additional outdoor parking spaces next to the Papineau building to add to the nine existing spaces.

The police required the extra parking spaces from their landlord as a condition of renewal of the lease, the borough report said. The street-gang unit required the extra parking spaces, it said.

Vaccarello was also involved in a condo project on Côte des Neiges Rd. In August 2012, the body of a man with a criminal record was found in a penthouse unit. At the time, The Gazette reported that Vaccarello was the owner of a penthouse in the 10-storey building. The newspaper also revealed that a numbered company registered to Vaccarello that was incorporated in 2005 sold the units in the building.

A high-ranking Montreal police officer purchased a unit in Le Renoir from Vaccarello's company in May 2006. Police Cmdr. Ian Lafrenière told The Gazette in August 2012 the officer didn't know that the owner of the unit he was buying was married to a member of the Mafia. The police officer bought the unit from a numbered company and the owner's name meant nothing to him, Lafrenière said.

Armeni and Vaccarello's home in Laval is listed as Vaccarello's residence on the lease she signed with the city of Montreal and the police department in 2008. The Armeni Family Trust is registered at the same address, the real estate records state. Armeni and Vaccarello are the trustees authorized to act on behalf of the trust, the records say.

Lafrenière said on Wednesday the department doesn't plan to renew the lease when it expires in October. The Éclipse squad will be moved, he said, but the department is still looking for a new location that meets the unit's needs.

The department became aware of the building landlord's criminal record in 2010, Lafrenière said, but said he couldn't discuss what prompted the check. The police remained in the building because there's no clause in the lease they can use to break it, he said.

The department would have continued paying rent until the end of the term even if it had vacated the building, he said.

"It's sad to pay rent to someone with a bad reputation," Lafrenière said. "But it's worse to pay and not get anything for it. It's taxpayer money."

The Montreal Police didn't do background investigations on any building owner it contracted with before 2006, Lafrenière said. That year, the department began doing checks only on new leases, he said.

The department began doing background checks on all leases, including renewals, in

2010, Lafrenière said. All service providers contracting with the Montreal Police are now checked, he added.

"I might look stupid, but you have to remember that in 1998, there wasn't a (Charbonneau Commission) and all that we've learned since."

(Montreal Gazette)

Aug 08 2013

## TORONTO - A coroner's inquest into the deaths of three people who were shot by police has been scheduled for the fall.

The coroner's office says the inquest into the deaths of Reyal Jardine-Douglas, Sylvia Klibingaitis and Michael Eligon will begin Oct. 15 and last about eight weeks.

All three may have had mental health issues, and were shot and killed after approaching Toronto police officers with weapons.

The inquest will examine the events surrounding their deaths and may lead to recommendations aimed at preventing similar deaths.

The announcement comes on the heels of another police shooting that claimed the life of a Toronto teen.

Sammy Yatim, 18, was killed on an empty streetcar on July 27 in an incident that has sparked public outrage over police use of force.

Aug 08 2013

## Charges have been approved against an RCMP officer involved in a shooting in Cranbrook, B.C., last year.

Const. Richard Drought is charged with intentionally discharging a firearm into a motor vehicle, knowing another person was inside. He is also charged with intentionally discharging a firearm while being reckless as to the life or safety of another person.

Drought is alleged to have fired at least one shot in October 2012 as he pursued an SUV believed to have been involved in a carjacking. A man in the suspect vehicle was injured, but he survived.

The province's Independent Investigations Office was called in to investigate. This is the first IIO case resulting in charges laid against an officer.

(CBC News)



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