

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

Dec 13, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 50

Executive Digest

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RCMP will soon be using bait sleds across the province in an effort to combat snowmobile theft.

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Dec 11 2013

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New RCMP unit to fight human-trafficking



Dec 09 2013

MONTREAL - The federal public safety minister has announced the creation of an RCMP unit that will work closely with law-enforcement partners in Quebec to fight human-trafficking in Canada and abroad.

Steven Blaney says significant progress has been made over the past year but that much work remains to be done on what he calls the despicable crime of modern-day slavery in Canada.

"Sometimes it can be a young girl who falls in love with an individual and who is then pushed into prostitution - it can be as horrible as that," Blaney said in an interview Monday after

making the announcement at a news conference. "So that's why it's so important to deal with this huge challenge as a Canadian society."

The RCMP has also developed an information and awareness campaign aimed at youth and the aboriginal population entitled: "I'm Not for Sale", which the federal minister says is providing good results.

"It is encouraging victims to come out and reach out to non-governmental organizations and actually seek help and then we can prosecute traffickers," he added.

A few hours after Blaney met reporters in Montreal, the RCMP announced the arrest of four more erotic massage parlour operators.



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The Mounties said in a news release that they, the Montreal police and the Canada Border Services Agency conducted a second police operation last Friday in a case of sexual exploitation of young Romanian women.

An arrest warrant was also issued for another operator. One week earlier, three erotic massage parlour operators were arrested as part of the same investigation.

Those arrested last Friday appeared in court a day later to face charges including keeping a common bawdy house, aiding or abetting a person to engage in or carry on prostitution, and living wholly or in part on the avails of prostitution.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre recently served notice that illegal massage parlours - havens for prostitution and human-trafficking - will be the target of a police crackdown and possible legislation that will include hefty fines.

The RCMP has pointed out in the past that such parlours are a gateway for moving human-trafficking victims into prostitution. The Mounties estimate there are nearly 350 illicit massage parlours in Montreal and many more in its suburbs.

At his Montreal news conference, Blaney also released the 2012-2013 annual report on progress of a national action plan to combat human-trafficking.

The plan involves 18 federal departments.

It includes a partnership with the National Association of Friendship Centres, which is aimed at aboriginal populations.

There's also been an increase in information that specifically targets foreign nationals and temporary foreign workers who may be vulnerable to human-trafficking.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 05, 2013

Dec 05 2013

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask. - A public inquest into the death of a man in RCMP custody has recommended that emergency medical services be on standby if a suspect appears unstable.

David Gruno, who was 54, died in a Regina hospital a day after he collapsed at the city RCMP detachment in Swift Current in July 2010.

He had been arrested by officers after another man was severely beaten near Herbert, about 50 kilometres east of Swift Current.

The six-person inquest jury suggested that police should call en route for EMS backup if a suspect appears to be in medical distress.

The jury also called for police to keep a better tab on medication that comes in with a suspect and for cameras to be recording at all times in common areas.

The inquest concluded that Gruno committed suicide by overdosing on insulin and an anti-depressant.

(CKSW, The Canadian Press)

Dec 05 2013

BARRIE - Ontario's ombudsman will have to look elsewhere for information about use of force by Barrie Police officers.

The city's police services board received a request last month to participate in Ombudsman André Marin's investigation into police officers' use of force.

Municipal participation in the study is voluntary.

Instead of sending the data, the board has directed Marin to obtain the information from the province's Community Safety and Correctional Services Ministry.

"I wouldn't say we've declined to participate in (the study)," Barrie Police Chief Kimberley Greenwood said. "There is a process we're required to follow and we report to the ministry. They know where to find the information."

The use of force investigation began earlier this summer in the wake of the July death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim in Toronto. He was shot nine times and then tasered after brandishing a knife on a TTC streetcar.

Last month, Marin chose two former police chiefs to act as special advisors in the probe.

(Barrie Advance)

Dec 05 2013

FREDERICTON - New Brunswick's finance minister says the ongoing protests against shale gas exploration near Rexton have cost the government

more than \$4 million so far in extra policing services.

Blaine Higgs says the added cost is unfortunate, but the government has a responsibility to ensure enforcement when there is unlawful activity.

An anti-shale gas protest near Rexton turned violent in October when police enforced an injunction to halt the blockade of a compound used by SWN Resources to store exploration equipment.

Forty people were arrested and six police vehicles burned.

Public Safety Minister Bruce Northrup is defending the police action, saying officers discovered weapons during the protest and their response was appropriate.

SWN Resources has since been granted another injunction that provides a buffer zone around its equipment in an effort to complete its seismic testing.

Dec 05 2013

OTTAWA - The federal government has once again postponed rules on serial numbers for guns until 2015.

The decision was taken by decree in late November and posted on the Privy Council's website on Wednesday.

The rules would help keep Canada in compliance with international conventions on arms smuggling.

Some gun enthusiasts have objected to the regulations because they said they would increase costs for manufacturers, who would pass the increase on to gun buyers.

The government noted in October 2012 that the repeal of the long-gun registry has created a gap in Canada's international obligations with regard to two protocols on arms smuggling.

The government posting of the measures in the Canada Gazette said that ensuring most firearms in Canada had unique serial numbers would meet some of the specifications of those international protocols.

The government has delayed the serial numbers measure at least four times.

Dec 05 2013

REGINA - Saskatchewan RCMP say an investigation into allegations of inappropriate workplace behaviour by members of a drug squad found nothing that would warrant criminal charges.

The allegations involved a unit made up of both RCMP and Regina city police officers.

The RCMP asked the Regina police to conduct the investigation, and on Thursday the Mounties said Regina police advised them there was "insufficient" evidence to lay criminal charges.

Mounties have said they won't disclose what the allegations were.

RCMP conducted its own investigation

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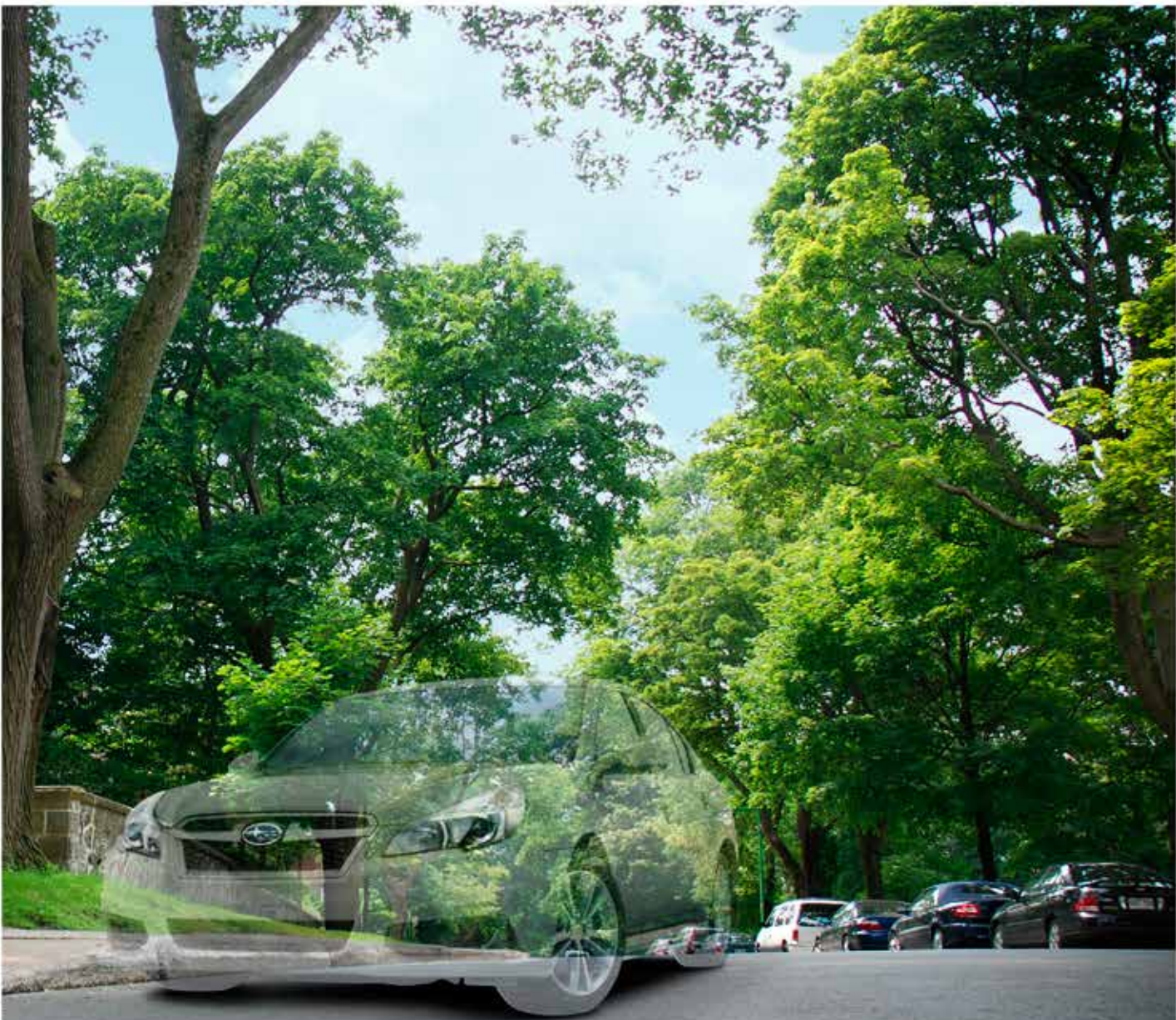
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and says it also found no evidence of wrongdoing by any serving members of the RCMP.

Dec 05 2013

OTTAWA - RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson says allowing police to take DNA from people on arrest instead of after conviction would help solve more crimes.

It's an idea Justice Minister Peter MacKay has said the federal government is actively examining.

Alberta Premier Alison Redford and Calgary police Chief Rick Hanson support the concept too.

Speaking on CBC-Radio, Paulson said he's in favour of taking samples from people when they're arrested.

"The Identification of Criminals Act has been very well tested and has endured for fingerprints and so on. And I think that the more DNA we can get, the better we're going to be," Paulson said.

Canada's DNA databank contains the blood, saliva and hair of roughly 266,000 people who have been convicted of a crime.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled this year that police may swab people on arrest.

The RCMP runs the national DNA database. Paulson conceded it might be tough to process, manage and store so many new samples.

"It'll be an administrative, logistical challenge, but I think we'd be up to it," he said.

(CBC News)

Dec 05 2013

NORTH BATTLEFORD, Sask. - A 911 call for booze and smokes has led to weapon charges against a North Battleford, Sask. man.

The man first called the emergency line early Thursday morning, asking Mounties to bring him smokes and a pop.

He then called a second time, this time asking for officers to bring him a mickey of vodka.

Police responded to the residence when he stated he had a gun and made threats to harm himself and others.

The 41-year-old man refused to leave the home when ordered to by police and fell asleep when he found out the officers had not brought him smokes or booze.

Mounties then entered the house and arrested the man and seized a .22 calibre rifle and ammunition.

He is facing charges of careless use of a firearm, unsafe storage of a firearm, unauthorized possession of a firearm and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Police say due to his high level of intoxication, he will not appear in court until Friday.

(Global News)

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 06, 2013**

Dec 06 2013

DUNCAN, B.C. - Crown prosecutors in British Columbia are reviewing a judge's decision to sentence a Mountie to two years probation and 240 hours of community service for shooting a man.

While sentencing Constable David Pompeo for aggravated assault, provincial court Judge Josiah Wood called him a responsible Mountie who showed poor judgment when he

shot a man on southern Vancouver Island in September 2009.

Wood also said circumstances separated the officer's case from a general aggravated assault case, and a severe sentence would have cost Pompeo his job.

The Crown asked for an 18-month sentence, and Neil MacKenzie of the BC Criminal Justice Branch says prosecutors will review the ruling, although they respect the judge's decision.

Dec 06 2013

CAMROSE, Alta. - A judge has ruled there is enough evidence to send a man to trial on charges of attempting to kill two Mounties in rural Alberta.



The Police Leadership Award recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies "Leadership as an Activity Not a Position," and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organizational and community perspective.

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The 2014 award recipient will be recognized in the May 2014 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at the Blue Line Awards Gala held in conjunction with the Blue Line EXPO, April 29, 2014.



Application forms available at: www.blueline.ca/leadership

Applications for 2014 must be submitted, by February 12, 2014, to Leadership@blueline.ca

Dec 07 2013

QUEBEC CITY - Officers from the Sûreté du Québec are investigating after a man died early Saturday during a police intervention in Quebec City.

Police in the provincial capital were responding to calls of a man in distress around 7 a.m. Sunday in an apartment building in the Charlesbourg sector. At some point after police arrived, the man fell out of a window from the building's seventh floor.

The victim was then taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

"We're not eliminating the hypothesis that he voluntarily jumped from the window, but we have to conduct an investigation," said Sgt. Claude Denis of the SQ. "The victim's body is being shipped to Montreal for an autopsy. That should give us a better idea of the circumstances surrounding his death."

(Montreal Gazette)

Dec 07 2013

TORONTO - A drug suspect drove off with an undercover cop in his car and then slammed into Toronto Police vehicles trying to stop him.

Drug cops were working a sting Tuesday night that began with a plainclothes officer buying drugs from a man inside his vehicle.

Once the purchase was completed, another officer approached the driver and tried to open his door. The motorist sped off with the first officer still in his car.

During an ensuing chase, the suspect rammed several police vehicles before his car veered out of control, mounted a curb and slammed into a sign post.

The suspect fled on foot but was captured a short time later, said police.

Clarinton Kong, 32, of Toronto, is charged with escaping lawful custody, assaulting police with a weapon, forcible confinement, assault, failing to stop for police, failing to stop after an accident, trafficking in cocaine, possession of marijuana and possessions of the proceeds of crime.

(Toronto Sun)

Dec 08 2013

EDMONTON - Alberta will be running more classes for aspiring provincial sheriffs next year in an effort to keep up with the demands for officers.

Sawyer Robison was arrested following a standoff on his family's farm near Killam in February 2012.

The two officers were searching the property when they were shot.

Constables Sheldon Shah and Sid Gaudette underwent surgery, survived and later went back to work.

Robison was also charged with the second-degree murder of his uncle, who was found dead in the home following the standoff.

The Crown dropped that charge after receiving new evidence.

(CFCW, The Canadian Press)

Dec 06 2013

EDMONTON - An Appeal Court has sent the case of a fired central Alberta police officer back to the province's Law Enforcement Review Board for another look.

The Camrose Police Service dismissed Const. Jeffrey MacDonald in July 2012 after he pleaded guilty to misconduct for lying about attending a training course.

MacDonald challenged his firing and the review board overturned the dismissal, noting that he was being treated for depression when the offence occurred.

The Camrose Police Service appealed the board's decision.

The Alberta Court of Appeal has now thrown out the board's ruling that overturned MacDonald's dismissal.

The Appeal Court says the board must consider whether someone who has admitted to deceit, and who has a record of disciplinary convictions, can function effectively as a police officer.

Dec 06 2013

WINNIPEG - A retired Mountie has been charged with sexually abusing a girl more than 30 years ago while posted in Manitoba.

The man, who is 76, was arrested at his home in Nova Scotia earlier this week.

He is being transported to Manitoba to face charges of gross indecency and indecent assault.

RCMP say they received a complaint from a woman, a relative of the accused, alleging the man abused her between 1976 and 1981.

She was between 9 and 14 years old at the time.

RCMP say the man retired from the force more than 20 years ago.

Dec 06 2013

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service has now approved the option for female officers of Muslim faith to wear a police-issued hijab headscarf while in uniform.

EPS Supt. Kevin Galvin, representing the

Chief's Muslim Community Liaison Committee, says: "Regardless of race, culture, religion, or sexual orientation, it is important that anyone who has a calling to serve and protect Edmontonians, and passes the rigorous recruitment and police training standards, feel welcome and included in the EPS."

Police say the traditional hijab is worn by some Muslim women as an outward expression of religious and cultural identity - it covers the head and neck, but not the face. The force does not currently have any members or applicants requesting to wear the hijab.

As there were no police-issued hijabs readily available, the EPS Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Unit, and the EPS Tactics Training Unit developed a prototype with the assistance of a hijab tailor. After rigorous testing, the force determined that the headscarf did not pose any risk to the officer wearing it, or reduce officer effectiveness, nor interfere with police duties or public interactions.

The hijab prototype met the requirements of Occupational Health and Safety, and the professional standards of EPS Dress and Department.

A statement from the EPS states that the force "continues to change with the times, as have a number of police, justice and military organizations in western nations that have already modified their uniforms to accommodate the hijab."

(Edmonton Sun)

Dec 06 2013

ALLISTON - The funeral for York Regional Police Const. Michael Pegg was held this morning at the Alliston Pentecostal Church.



In addition to his family, friends and neighbours, the service was attended by many of his York Regional Police colleagues, along with officers from the Toronto Police Service and the OPP.

The 36-year-old Alliston resident died in hospital last week. His former supervising officer said he died of pneumonia, however the results from the autopsy haven't been released.

Donations in memory of Pegg can be made to the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation, Cardiac Care or the Canadian Diabetes Association.

(Alliston Herald)

"We normally do three sheriff classes a year, for 2014 we are going to do five of them," said Josh Stewart, a spokesperson for the Solicitor General.

Stewart said the province has seen pretty high turnover as officers leave the service, which means they are running short.

"One of the biggest challenges we have is we almost do too good a job with the sheriffs and we find we are losing some to the EPS, the CPS and the RCMP," he said.

Edmonton police had hoped to contract out prisoner transfers from their stations to the new Edmonton Remand Centre.

The police service estimates that it would save them \$170,000 a year to have sheriffs do the transfer work instead of police officers. Stewart said the province would like to help, which is part of why they are trying to get more sheriffs trained.

"We don't have a surplus of sheriffs that we can be contracting out right now," said Stewart.

EPS chief Rod Knecht said he hopes the province can get the sheriffs in place soon, because beyond just the financial hit having police officers doing prisoner transfers is a bad use of resources.

"You have a fully trained police officer, that individual has had upwards of a year of training," he said. "I think the taxpayer would be better served if those people were out on the street."

(Metro Edmonton)

MONDAY
DECEMBER 09, 2013

Dec 09 2013

HALIFAX - No charges will be laid against a Halifax Regional Police officer who shot a man three times after an investigation by a Nova Scotia agency that looks at all serious incidents involving police.

The Serious Incident Response Team says there are no grounds for charges because it was reasonable for the officer to conclude his life was in danger when he shot a 35-year-old man who pulled a knife and threatened to stab officers who had pursued him on the evening of June 27.

Police were called to the man's home where he first made the threat, then ran away before he was found on the sports field of Prince Arthur School.

Two uniformed officers chased him on foot for about 100 metres when the man stopped, threatened an officer with a knife and wouldn't drop the weapon.

The police watchdog says the man told investigators he had been using crack cocaine for four days and heard his dead father's voice telling him he should kill himself.

He told investigators he wanted police to shoot him.

The man was struck by three shots and was released from hospital the day after the shooting.

Dec 09 2013

BRAMPTON, Ont. - A Toronto police officer convicted of assaulting a protester during the G20 summit has been sentenced to 45 days in prison.

Const. Babak Andalib-Goortani was convicted in September of assault with a weapon for using excessive force during the arrest of a protester on June 26, 2010.

The Crown had called for a "short, sharp sentence of imprisonment" to send a message that those who abuse their positions of public trust and authority "will be dealt with severely."

Andalib-Goortani's lawyer, Harry Black, had asked for the officer to receive an absolute discharge.

Black said his client had suffered enough already, adding he has post-traumatic stress disorder, his psychological state is fragile and his marriage has fallen apart.

More than 1,000 people were detained by police during the G20 protests - most of them were released without charge within 24 hours.

Andalib-Goortani was one of two officers to face criminal charges stemming from the arrests, but earlier this year Const. Glenn Weddell was acquitted.

Dec 09 2013

SURREY - It looked like a scene right out of the Dukes of Hazzard.

And now a 38-year old Surrey man is in custody following a one-man rampage that destroyed six police cruisers and flooded the emergency room of Burnaby General Hospital.

The man is being held by RCMP pending a psychiatric evaluation,

The vehicle mayhem began at a mall early Sunday morning.

The suspect is believed to have driven a stolen Jeep from Surrey to the mall, where he then had an initial collision, hitting a police cruiser parked near the detachment's community policing office.

The man then got out of the Jeep and managed to start up a five-tonne truck that was in the parking lot.

From there he ran into and over the six police vehicles and a van owned by the City of Burnaby.

"It is almost like right out of a movie," said Burnaby RCMP Staff Sgt. Major John Buis as he looked over the six smashed RCMP cars and the Burnaby van.

"This is a very unique incident," he added.

The man is alleged to have rammed the stolen truck into the police cruisers at 1:20 a.m. Sunday.

According to Buis, the man was apprehended after he tried to run from the scene after colliding with a hydro pole while in the truck.

Despite the loss six fully loaded police cruisers, Buis said day-to-day operations will not be impacted.

The suspect was taken into custody and charged with mischief and theft over \$5,000.

Burnaby RCMP are also trying to determine exactly what happened at Burnaby General early Sunday.

A burst pipe flooded the emergency ward, forcing hospital staff to transfer patients to other parts of the facility.

Buis said the suspect was handcuffed when police took him from the truck crash, but when medical staff at Burnaby General went to check him, the cuffs were off.

"It was a split second and he was able to reach up and pull down the sprinkler system," said Buis. He said the suspect was taken to Burnaby General to have a mental evaluation.

The emergency ward at BGH is open but hospital officials are asking people to use other hospitals if possible, until the problem is resolved. A hospital official said Sunday night the damage figure has yet to be determined.

The suspect in the cruiser crunch-up is well known to police for charges involving property, drugs and failure to comply.

The man is also being investigated for damage to a sprinkler that caused a flood at the Fraser Health treatment facility in Surrey. (The Province)

Dec 09 2013

The federal government is looking to outsource a study on police use of force, collecting data that could be used to better train front-line officers.

Public Safety Canada's study, which is set for completion by April, coincides with numerous police forces now considering the expanded use of Tasers for front-line officers.

The study will look at collecting data from front-line officers and trainers after the need for an "evidence-based training curriculum" was identified. The safety department said in their request that research around police use of force has "frequently been driven" by high-profile incidents and does not tackle a broader approach.

Several questions surrounding police tactics, which have been debated for years by police, doctors, academics and the public, are outlined in the request for proposal — questions like, "Does erratic behaviour and mental instability relate to the degree of force used?"

The study would also look at individual circumstances — including officer fitness, how many hours they had been working and their experience — in determining how use of force is used.

Public Safety spokesperson Josée Picard said that the study is not connected to any specific event and is part of the department's

research plans.

The request came as a result of the working group on use of force that first came together in 2007 to discuss Tasers and has since expanded its role to data collection.

The study would eventually be shared with police to “support future data collection and analysis, in order to support future policy development,” Picard said.

There is already an Ontario use-of-force model used in training officers that shows how escalation can occur from soft tactics, such as verbal communication, to lethal force, such as a gun. It outlines that officers must constantly reassess a situation.

The federal study would look to develop a scale of severity for all use-of-force options and the “threat, display and application” of those tools — something that would go further than Ontario’s current model.

(Toronto Star)

Dec 09 2013

TORONTO - Thousands of police officers, dignitaries and others turned out to honour a fellow cop described as a “fine young man” whose heart now continues beating inside someone in Boston.



A long procession of uniformed officers filed into a trade centre hall followed by the flag-draped casket bearing Const. John Zivcic, who died Dec. 2, two days after he was hurt in an on-duty crash.

“We give thanks to a man I am so proud to call my brother, the unique, the intense, the sensitive, the extraordinary irreplaceable John,” his older sibling Tom Zivcic said in an emotional eulogy.

“It is comforting to our family that somewhere out there John’s heart will continue to beat.”

As Lt.-Gov. David Onley, Premier Kathleen Wynne, Mayor Rob Ford and others looked on, Zivcic was remembered as a popular, caring young man who loved helping and protecting others.

Tom Zivcic noted that when his brother was a boy, he wanted to be a garbage collector, and followed the garbage truck around on his bicycle.

“Unfortunately with his life being cut short, he was not able to fulfil his childhood dream of becoming a garbage man,” Zivcic joked even as he fought back tears.

Toronto police Chief Bill Blair described him as “a very fine young man” who was generous and compassionate.

He also praised the family’s decision to donate the officer’s organs, with a recipient for his “big heart” found in Boston, and recipients for his kidneys found in Toronto.

“The tragedy of John’s passing has meant new hope for several families and saved several lives,” Blair said.

“I would hope that we would all be inspired by the Zivcic family’s example.”

Onley praised Zivcic as a brave officer who gave his life in service to the people of the province, while Wynne called him “one of our best,” who served “proudly and selflessly” as he took on the job of protecting the public.

“He was the kind of person who went out of his way to help people,” Wynne said.

Zivcic, 34, a trained tool-and-dye maker, joined the police force in 2007.

He is survived by his mother, brother, sister, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law, who were all in attendance at the service.

“I’ve known him since he was born and it’s a very sad day for all of us,” said Nada Mogus, of Windsor, Ont., who grew up with the officer’s father.

“He was a very nice boy, very friendly. It’s very sad.”

Zivcic was thrown from his cruiser following the Nov. 30 crash that occurred as he responded to a traffic call.

Blair said the exact circumstances were still under investigation but said he was open to anything that would make officers safer, including mandating their use of seatbelts.

The woman driving the other vehicle involved in the collision was slightly hurt.

Toronto’s landmark CN Tower was to be lit in blue Monday night in Zivcic’s honour and as a tribute to the city’s police officers.

Dec 09 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton police are hoping if they ‘pin it,’ citizens can recover their stolen items.

As stated in a tweet posted by Edmonton Police on Monday, the local police force will use Pinterest to “return items to their rightful owners.”

Pinterest users “pin” and share photos they like, a social media site which has worked well for other North American police forces.

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department—the first police detachment in the United States to turn to the social media site— uses the website to spread police information with Pinterest’s primarily female demographic.

“We thought it would make [officers] a lot more accessible and friendly,” said Sarah Boyd, public relations specialist with the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. “People use Pinterest for DIY [Do It Yourself] tips

around your house, well here’s DIY tips on not to get robbed.”

According to a July SemioCast social media report, Pinterest has 70 million users, 79 per cent of those in the U.S., with just under four million of those from Canada. A Mashable.com article states that 68.2 per cent of Pinterest users are female.

Calgary police are also looking at turning to Pinterest and photo-sharing website Flickr for 2014.

(Metro Edmonton)



Dec 10 2013

WATERLOO REGION - In an unprecedented move, a Waterloo Regional Police officer was fired for smoking marijuana.

Jeremy Borda, 33, was slammed with the stiffest penalty — termination — at a Police Act disciplinary hearing Monday by hearing officer Supt. Paul Pedersen of York Regional Police. He has seven days to quit or face dismissal.

“He saw himself above the law,” Pedersen said in his judgment at police headquarters.

Pedersen said Borda took the oath of an officer, but “he can turn it on or off when he sees fit.”

“His pattern of behaviour gave me great concern,” he said. “He has lost the confidence of the public and his employer. He can no longer be a useful member of the Waterloo Regional Police Service.”

Last June, Borda pleaded guilty to 11 Police Act charges of discreditable conduct and one of insubordination.

He was also charged criminally with trafficking marijuana after he bought pot and gave it to another officer. He pleaded guilty to possession and was given a conditional discharge, a fine and community service with no conviction registered.

(The Record)

Dec 10 2013

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg is the first Canadian city to join a United Nations campaign aimed at reducing violence against women.

The UN Global Safe Cities Initiative is responsible for including women’s safety audits in urban planning for some cities and for banning sexual harassment in public places.

In Winnipeg, police plan to team up with community groups to identify which parts of the city need immediate attention.

Kerri Irvin-Ross, Manitoba’s minister responsible for the status of women, says the initiative will look at ways to reduce sexual violence and make the streets safer for women.

Aboriginal organizations are hoping the initiative will come up with ways to specifically address violence against native women.

Winnipeg joins more than 15 cities around the world, including New Delhi and Cairo.

Dec 10 2013

FREDERICTON - New Brunswick's Public Safety Department says a Mountie who publicly complained about not being able to smoke medicinal marijuana while on the job was subdued with a stun gun and charged with assaulting another RCMP officer.

Alycia Morehouse, a spokeswoman for the department, says Cpl. Ron Francis is undergoing a psychiatric assessment at the Restigouche Hospital Centre in northern New Brunswick after he was arrested last week.

An RCMP spokeswoman says the Mounties were concerned about Francis's well-being when they found him Friday on a street in downtown Fredericton.

Morehouse says the RCMP called Fredericton police for help because the city is not within RCMP jurisdiction.

She says Francis was hit with a stun gun at one point, but she couldn't offer further details, saying the matter is before the courts.

Francis attracted national attention last month when he spoke out against the RCMP's policy that says its officers can't smoke medicinal marijuana while in uniform.

He returned his red serge on orders from his superiors but accused the RCMP and the federal government of not doing enough to support officers with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The RCMP said its officers who are prescribed medicinal marijuana should not be in red serge or regular uniform while taking their medication as it would not portray the right message to the public.

The lawyer for Francis could not be reached for comment.

Dec 10 2013

MONTREAL, Que. - The City of Montreal's anti-corruption squad is being integrated into the much larger provincial unit.

The 20 members will become part of the provincial squad, which goes by the name UPAC.

The announcement was made in Montreal today by Mayor Denis Coderre and Quebec Public Security Minister Stephane Bergeron.

Coderre says the merger will allow for better results and less overlap.

The Montreal unit was created last January by then-mayor Michael Applebaum to root out collusion at city hall.

Applebaum later stepped down after being arrested on corruption-related charges.

Dec 10 2013

SYDNEY, N.S. - There appears to be no movement in the positions of the union representing members of the Cape Breton Regional Police Service and senior police officials in an ongoing labour impasse.

Joan Jessome, president of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, says her members deserve the same protection when facing criminal charges that is afforded to virtually all other police officers in Canada.

The current practice sees the officer paid for only the first 60 days of a suspension, with an extension at the discretion of the chief of police.

About 48 officers who serve on special units have told Chief Peter McIsaac they will not participate as members of the emergency response team, the public safety unit, the training unit, and the dive team and marine unit.

The decision came after Const. Ron Williams was convicted on charges of breach of trust and obstruction of justice.

Mayor Cecil Clarke has ordered McIsaac to request RCMP emergency assistance as a precaution.

The sides are due to meet Feb. 3-5 at the bargaining table to negotiate a collective agreement.

McIsaac and Clarke responded to the NSGEU's statements Tuesday, stressing that while discussion over some language had taken place, the sides were never close to reaching an agreement on the issue, noting CBRM contract negotiations are done by the human resources department.

McIsaac said that pay suspension at the discretion of the chief is under the province's Police Act.

Clarke said the NSGEU position is unacceptable.

(Cape Breton Post)



Dec 11 2013

ORILLIA, Ont. - Provincial police say they're expanding a program that was aimed at recovering stolen vehicles and licence plates to help take suspended drivers off Ontario's roads.

Police say about 250,000 licence suspensions are issued each year in the province and suspended drivers are involved in an estimated 2.3 per cent of fatal motor vehicle collisions.

OPP are adding 27 additional vehicles to the current fleet of four equipped with the Automatic Licence Plate Recognition that is capable of scanning approximately 3,600 plates per hour.

The plates will be compared with a database of about eight million licence plates to detect those registered to suspended drivers, associated with stolen vehicles, reported stolen or missing, or that haven't been issued.

When the system produces a "hit" on a suspended driver and the driver is found to have a suspended licence, officers will immediately impound the vehicle for a minimum of 45 days.

Police will retain records for scanned plates that match the hot list for evidentiary purposes, while data for plates that do not generate a hit will be automatically deleted every 10 minutes.

Eight of the 27 new vehicles are being deployed in the Greater Toronto Area and the remaining vehicles will move between detachments across the province as needed, with the rollout to be completed next month.

Currently, the OPP uses a data file that contains approximately six million licence plates in poor standing from the Ministry of Transportation and the Canadian Police Information Centre.

The new file of suspended drivers is anticipated to add an additional two million plates to the database.

Dec 11 2013

VANCOUVER - A B.C. provincial court judge has handed a former RCMP sergeant a conditional discharge after he tearfully admitted to stealing a \$70 sweatshirt.

Derek Brassington, who was once a lead officer for the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, wept as he pleaded guilty to theft and then apologized in court on Wednesday.

When he took the clothing from a Burnaby, B.C., store, he said he'd been suspended from the force for another matter and he told the court his marriage has fallen apart.

Brassington said he's been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder but none of that is an excuse for his criminal behaviour, because police officers should be held to a higher standard.

In June 2011, charges were laid against Brassington and three other officers in connection to a murder investigation.

Brassington faces seven charges, including breach of trust, obstruction of justice and defrauding the RCMP in the form of wages or overtime pay.

(CKNW)

Dec 11 2013

RCMP will soon be using bait sleds across the province in an effort to

combat snowmobile theft.

The modified snowmobiles will allow police to track stolen property and arrest those responsible.

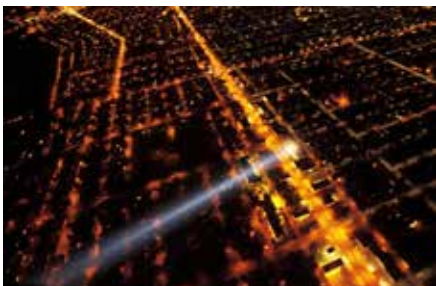
Police say some of the stolen snowmobiles go to chop shops and are sold off for parts.

They are warning people that if a deal is “too good to be true,” it probably is, and they could find themselves in possession of stolen property.

(Global News)

Dec 11 2013

EDMONTON - An Edmonton realtor is now chairman of the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) board of directors.



Shami Sandhu, who is also chairman of the Edmonton Police Commission, replaces Medicine Hat Police Commission's Ryan Jackson, whose tenure on the board is due to expire at the end of the year.

ALERT is funded by the province to bring together Alberta law enforcement resources to tackle crime. Since its inception in 2006, ALERT has taken nearly \$500 million worth of drugs off Alberta streets, seized nearly 500 firearms, and has arrested nearly 6,000 offenders.

Sandhu has been a member of the ALERT board since January 2013. He was appointed chairman of the police commission in 2013, and appointed by Edmonton City Council in 2010.

Dec 11 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton police are looking at buying one or two \$8-million twin-engined helicopters if they can't find a suitable site to base their current fleet.

The two existing choppers, which cost about \$2 million each, shifted to Villeneuve Airport from the former City Centre Airport about a month ago, deputy chief David Korol said Wednesday.

But the new location has added to their operating time and expense, and police have been unsuccessful so far in their search for a place around Edmonton to land and refuel, he said.

“If we're not able to find an alternative, we're looking at a different kind of aircraft that will give us capacity in terms of weight and time and distance,” he said.

“We will stay (at Villeneuve) as long as we need to, until we come up with an alternative or a different kind of aircraft.”

A twin-engined helicopter might be required if space is tight at a new facility because it needs less room to land and take off, Korol said.

While the current choppers could carry less fuel, making them lighter so they can also operate in smaller area, this would reduce their flying time, he said.

The service is still talking to the army about moving to the runway at CFB Edmonton in Namao, as well as private landowners in the city, he said.

“Preferably, we would like to find land and operate these (current) type of helicopters. They're a little more fuel efficient; obviously, they're less expensive and they have worked well for us in the past.”

Although there has been discussion of moving to the long-planned northwest police campus, Korol said this location isn't safe because of the danger of hitting birds flying around the nearby stormwater pond.

But Coun. Dave Loken, a member of the Edmonton Police Commission, criticized the lack of communication he's had on the issue, saying he hadn't heard the northwest campus wouldn't work for helicopters.

“It's great that we have a deputy chief walking around making statements like that when none of this information has come to us.”

Buying one or two higher-priced new helicopters is “out of the question,” Loken said.

“At this point, I think there are other priorities. We have two helicopters. What we have to do is settle the question of where our helicopters are flying in and out of.”

Loken hopes an arrangement can be reached with the army, adding he doesn't know any appropriate sites inside city boundaries.

Mayor Don Iveson said army staff are apparently doing what they can to accommodate the police.

“I recognize the police service would like to upgrade their helicopters, but at this point we have a fleet. We have to find an economical and convenient place for them to park ... We haven't exhausted all of our options.”

(Edmonton Journal)

A promotional graphic for the Blue Line Expo 2014. The top half features a blue and yellow background with the event logo in a yellow oval. Below the logo, text describes it as Canada's premier law enforcement event, including a tradeshow, training, and awards gala. The dates and times are listed as April 29th & 30th, 9 AM - 4 PM. The bottom half shows a photograph of people at a convention, with a red maple leaf graphic indicating it's the 18th annual event. The new location is listed as the Ajax Convention Centre, 550 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON, with the website www.blueline.ca/EXPO.

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