

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Prostitution laws struck down



Dec 20 2013

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada started the clock ticking Friday for Parliament to reshape social policy dealing with the world's oldest profession, as political battle lines were drawn.

In a unanimous 9-0 ruling on Friday, the high court struck down the country's prostitution laws, giving Parliament a year to produce new legislation. That means prostitution-related offences will remain in the Criminal Code for one more year.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay said the government was "concerned" by the ruling and is "exploring all possible options to ensure the criminal law continues to address the significant harms that flow from prostitution to communities, those engaged in prostitution

and vulnerable persons."

Meanwhile, Employment Minister Jason Kenney raised the spectre of judicial activism - saying legislators, not judges, should be making the law.

"My own view is the judiciary should be restrained of the exercise of overturning a democratic consensus. Having said that we of course respect the independence of the judiciary and its role," said Kenney.

The high court struck down all three prostitution-related prohibitions - against keeping a brothel, living on the avails of prostitution and street soliciting - as violations of the constitutional guarantee to life, liberty and security of the person.

The ruling comes more than two decades after the court last upheld the anti-prostitution laws.

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Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, writing on behalf of the court, noted that Canada's social landscape has changed since the last time the high court considered this issue in 1990.

"These appeals and the cross-appeal are not about whether prostitution should be legal or not," she wrote. "They are about whether the laws Parliament has enacted on how prostitution may be carried out pass constitutional muster.

"I conclude that they do not."

The decision upheld last year's Ontario Court of Appeal ruling that said the law banning brothels exposed sex workers to added danger by forcing them onto the streets.

"The harms identified by the courts below are grossly disproportionate to the deterrence of community disruption that is the object of the law," McLachlin wrote.

"Parliament has the power to regulate against nuisances, but not at the cost of the health, safety and lives of prostitutes."

The Supreme Court appeared to acknowledge the Pickton case in the ruling, saying: "A law that prevents street prostitutes from resorting to a safe haven such as Grandma's House while a suspected serial killer prowls the streets, is a law that has lost sight of its purpose."

The court also struck down the law that makes living on the avails of prostitution illegal, rejecting the Ontario government's argument that it is designed "to target the commercialization of prostitution and to promote the values of dignity and equality."

As for communication for the purposes of prostitution, the high court noted that the law is not intended to eliminate prostitution, but to take it out of public view so it will not be seen as a nuisance.

In weighing that balance, the high court concluded "that the harm imposed by the prohibition on communicating in public was grossly disproportionate to the provision's

object of removing the nuisance of prostitution from the streets."

Parliament could ask the Supreme Court for an extension on the effect of the ruling, if it has tabled legislation but can't meet the one-year deadline.

The ruling advised Parliament it needs to reshape the legal framework around prostitution.

"That does not mean that Parliament is precluded from imposing limits on where and how prostitution may be conducted," it said.

"Greater latitude in one measure - for example, permitting prostitutes to obtain the assistance of security personnel - might impact on the constitutionality of another measure - for example, forbidding the nuisances associated with keeping a bawdy-house.

"The regulation of prostitution is a complex and delicate matter. It will be for Parliament, should it choose to do so, to devise a new approach, reflecting different elements of the existing regime."

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2013

Dec 19 2013

MONTREAL - An unprecedented number of senior officers within the Montreal police force found themselves under internal investigation over the past three years.

A La Presse report suggests 15 of the 150 senior officers on the force had undergone questioning, at one time or another, in the three years since Marc Parent became police chief in 2010.

The report suggests the rank and file at the police department are split as to whether they believe there's a necessary cleanup taking place in the upper echelons of the force - or whether it's all a witchhunt.

In any case, a climate of suspicion is said to exist to the point where some of the 150 have purchased a second cellphone - just in case the one furnished by their employer becomes subject to wiretapping.

Two of the concerns were determined to be unfounded. Of the others, one officer is in the crosshairs because he is involved in a family construction business which did work for Mascouche, where the mayor is accused of corruption.

The rest of the cases are either serious disciplinary issues or criminal investigations including a drunk driving case, an officer who made false statements when crossing the border and an inspector who bought police equipment with a fund dedicated to the fight against contraband tobacco.

Parent's spouse is also being reassigned, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.

Genevieve Beauregard is director of human resources for the police force - she'll be assigned other HR work when the entire department is transferred to city hall in the New Year. (CJAD)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2013

Dec 20 2013

PETERBOROUGH - Mayor Daryl Bennett will face two additional allegations that he broke the code of conduct for police services board members after the Ontario Civilian Police Commission ruled that it's allowed to pile on allegations as it sees fit.



The Ontario Civilian Police Commission is seeking to remove Bennett from the Peterborough Lakefield Police Services Board.

On Thursday, the commission panel that's hearing the case issued its ruling on adding two new allegations to the nine the commission listed in its hearing notice in January.

In its ruling, the panel noted that the commission's regulations and provincial legislation that governs the body don't specify how the commission should handle amendments to a notice of hearing.

"The commission's rules of practice enables the commission to make rulings and orders as it deems necessary," the panel stated.

The panel heard the application to add the new allegations to the case on Dec. 16. The full hearing is set to start in Peterborough on Jan. 6.

The panel clarified that it does have expectations for how allegations are added to the case.

The commission's lawyer argued in the pre-hearing session on Monday that he didn't think he needed to apply to add allegations.

"It is our view that a change or alteration to the case" should be made by way of a motion to the commission, the panel stated.

The panel suggested that it's acceptable to add allegations to the case after the hearing has started, but before evidence has been presented.

"While it may have been preferable for the commission to have brought the motion earlier, the fact is it did not but nevertheless can bring it now during the hearing but before any evidence about the allegations has been adduced," it stated.

One of the new allegations is that Bennett shared with city council an email from the board about a secret meeting.

In the email, the board's administrative assistant notified Bennett about when the board would be holding a special closed-door meeting but that he wouldn't be allowed to participate.

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A COMPULSIVE READER FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
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“The mayor’s position is that the code of conduct allows his participation and, among other matters, the exclusion of his attendance... would be a matter of interest to city council colleagues,” states Richard Taylor, Bennett’s lawyer.

The other new allegation is that Bennett made a number of disparaging or disrespectful remarks about the commission, the police services board and the Peterborough-Lakefield police chief.

Taylor notes that one of the remarks specified by the commission is Bennett’s comment in *The Examiner* on Oct. 10, 2012: “Why are we having budget discussions in closed sessions... what’s so secretive?”

“The allegation suggests that asking the question would qualify as misconduct,” Taylor states.

(Peterborough Examiner)

Dec 20 2013

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia’s police watchdog has cleared a Cape Breton Regional Police Officer of any wrongdoing in an attempt to stop a man riding a motorcycle who sped away and was involved in a serious accident.

The Serious Incident Response Team says there are no grounds for charges against the officer, who saw a motorcycle riding in front of him pull a wheelie in Glace Bay.

Investigators say the officer briefly turned on his lights and siren and the motorcycle sped off, passing between vehicles travelling in both directions.

After travelling for about 450 metres, the motorcycle crashed into a car turning left in front of the 23-year-old man, who suffered serious injuries.

Investigators say witnesses confirmed that the officer did not pursue the motorcycle and GPS evidence shows his speed did not increase.

They say the officer correctly chose to attempt a traffic stop and there is no basis to consider any charges.

Dec 20 2013

TORONTO - Whether the victim was a scissors-wielding mentally ill man, a soldier with post traumatic stress disorder or a teen with a knife on an empty street car, police shootings of those in crisis appear to have sparked a polarizing debate.

At a time when statistics suggest one in five Canadians experiences a mental health illness in any given year, there’s growing concern.

While public outcry following some high-profile shootings has at times led to street protests and accusations of excessive police brutality, senior police officials say they’ve made the issue a priority.

Those in the upper echelons of law enforcement also say, however, that officers are only human.

“I’m not going to tell you that we’re perfect,” says Vancouver police chief Jim Chu,

who is president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

“What I will say is that the vast majority of police officers in Canada try very hard to act within the law, but also to handle those difficult, chaotic, dynamic situations. The vast majority of times they resolve peacefully.”

The association issued a call this year to shift from dealing with a crisis to preventing it in the first place through more health-care funding and government support for the mentally ill.

Police appear to lack national measuring tools, however, to see if training on de-escalation techniques is succeeding on the street and there aren’t any easily available national statistics on police interactions with the mentally ill, said Chu, partly because of the patchwork of forces across the country.

He added that police come under a great deal of scrutiny when an encounter ends with an injury or death - including watchdog investigations, civil suits and coroner’s inquests.

“Unfortunately those things happen and we don’t have the luxury of saying, ‘oh that client or that situation we’re not going to deal with,’” he said. “If we want more accountability than that, then I say bring it on.”

The heightened focus on the issue has some saying Canada could be at a critical juncture, with 2014 poised to be a year in which key changes could be wrought in how authorities deal with the mentally ill.

Many are working towards a conference

planned for the spring of next year - a joint initiative between the police chiefs association and the Mental Health Commission - which will take an in-depth look at the issue. Simultaneously, a number of police departments have emphasized training which focuses on de-escalation.

“I think we’re at a turning point, I think what these situations this year have really demonstrated is that the public demands that we do better,” said Camille Quenneville, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association’s Ontario division.

There are worries, however, that having such a spotlight on interactions between police and the mentally ill risks reinforcing the misconception that a mentally ill person is a violent one.

“There’s nothing to suggest there’s a link there,” said Quenneville, adding that statistics show those with a mental illness are far more likely to be the victims of crime rather than the perpetrators.

“These situations, although they’ve had a lot of attention, are very rare,” she said. “There are many family members who rely heavily on police to help them in crisis situations.”

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is currently in the process of reviewing training provided to forces across the country with plans to make recommendations. Trying to create some sort of national training standards which take cues from “pockets of excellence” across the country, is another goal it’s working towards.

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“Mental health issues have largely been misunderstood,” said commission president Louise Bradley. “There’s now more attention being paid by police forces to dealing with stigma that I have never seen before.”

Dec 20 2013

NIAGARA FALLS - Niagara Regional Police officers will soon all be wearing name badges.



It’s been a controversial issue for a number of years with various police services and border guards not only across the country, but around the globe.

NRP Chief Jeff McGuire was the first to wear one when he took over the service in June 2012 and he was a bit surprised to learn officers in Niagara were not required to wear them. That was part of an agreement in their earlier contract.

Having come from the Toronto Police Service, where he served for 35 years and was their deputy chief, his officers wore them.

“I’m a big advocate for them. I think it’s big for transparency and I don’t see any reason why police officers should not be identifiable to the people they are dealing with while in uniform,” said McGuire.

Some police officers feel the wearing of name tags, which displays an officer’s first initial and last name, increase the risk of them being harmed.

In 2011, the Toronto Police Association, which represented more than 5,000 officers and 2,000 civilians, attempted to end the mandatory wearing of name tags by uniformed officers by arguing their case before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

The board ruled policing is an inherently risky profession, but the evidence did not establish that the wearing of name tags resulted in any “material increase” in risks to officers.

McGuire said that when it was time to renegotiate the new contract, he let the police board know he wanted to raise the issue of having his officers wear name tags. That contract went to arbitration and on this issue the decision went in favour of the board.

“Our officers in Niagara were wearing their badge numbers on their shoulders. Research was done on both sides and I accept the fact that there is no increase in risk,” McGuire said. “I would not expect my officers to do it if I felt there was an increased risk.”

The chief noted police are held to high standards in the type of work they do, an incredible amount of power is given to police

officers and they have a responsibility to the people they deal with in the community.

(Sun Media)

Dec 20 2013

EDMONTON – This year, Edmonton police have encountered more GHB – commonly known as the “date-rape drug” – than ever.

So far, police have seized 206 litres of it, an amount Det. Guy Pilon of the EPS’ EDGE Unit said is “astronomical” compared to other years.

Police Chief Rod Knecht finds it particularly troublesome; he thinks the spike in GHB has contributed to an increase of sex assaults in the city (from 330 cases being investigated by the Sexual Assault Section in 2012, to 334 in 2013).

“The drug’s being dropped in people’s drinks at nightclubs, that sort of thing,” said Knecht.

But police say GHB is also being used for recreational purposes more than before.

“We’re seeing it on the streets, we’re seeing it at rave events,” said Pilon. “Five years ago, you wouldn’t see GHB on the street.”

The drug, which is used as an anaesthetic in a medical setting, seems to be especially popular with 18 to 25-year-olds.

It’s similar to alcohol in the sense that it’s a central nervous system depressant. Police say, though, that there’s a fine line which separates someone from getting high on it to overdosing.

(Global News)



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 April 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 3, 2014, to: Leadership@blueline.ca

CALGARY - Calgary Police Service is using one of its specialized units to keep an eye on mall parking lots during the peak shopping season.

The CPS Mounted Unit was formed in 1978 and currently six horses and four officers are on the patrol roster.

CPS Constable Garth Blais and his horse Kelsey were out on Friday patrolling the lot at Market Mall in the city's northwest.

"We're looking for any stolen vehicles that are being used in the area, definitely people that are car prowling, that's the biggest thing. We've got the really good view, we can get in and out of the traffic so much easier than anybody on foot or in the cars," said Blais. (CTV Calgary)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21, 2013

Dec 21 2013

TORONTO - A federal court judge has ruled that Canada's spy agency deliberately withheld information from the courts when it applied for top-secret warrants to intercept the communications of Canadians abroad.

Justice Richard Mosley says the Canadian Security Intelligence Service put Canadians abroad at potential risk.

The situation arose five years ago when C-SIS asked the Federal Court for special warrants related to two Canadian citizens while they were abroad.

The pair were part of a national security investigation and C-SIS assured Mosley the intercepts would be carried out from inside Canada and controlled by Canadian government personnel.

Mosley granted the warrants in 2009 but Canadian officials then asked for intercept help from foreign intelligence allies without telling the court.

Mosley was unimpressed, saying the courts never approved the foreign involvement.

He ruled the failure was a deliberate decision to keep the court in the dark about the scope and extent of the foreign collection efforts.

MONDAY DECEMBER 23, 2013

Dec 23 2013

EL ALTO, Bolivia - This city in Bolivia's highlands has hired Aymara women dressed in traditional multilayered Andean skirts and brightly embroidered vests to work as traffic cops and bring order to its road chaos.

About 20 of the "traffic cholitas" have been trained to direct cars and buses in El Alto, a teeming, impoverished sister city of La Paz in Bolivia's Andes mountains.

The women wear the bright petticoats and shawls of Andean indigenous women, who are called "cholitas" in Bolivian slang. The only difference is that instead of wearing their traditional bowler hats they don khaki green police-style caps. Some also don fluorescent traffic vests.

Amid El Alto's dense traffic and the incessant honking of horns, 24-year-old Sofia Colque blows her police whistle with authority.

"Some drivers don't obey us and try to flirt with us, but they are making a mistake. It is not easy but we make them respect us," Colque said.

Poli Condori, the driver of a small bus, said hiring the women seemed to be a good step taken by Mayor Edgar Patana, but he had his doubts about whether the experiment would be successful.

"The cholitas make the view happier, but I doubt they will be able to bring order to traffic. The people get on buses wherever they want; vehicles stop wherever they want. We have bad habits. It is chaos," he said.

Dec 23 2013

MONTREAL - Vito Rizzuto, the reputed head of the Montreal Mafia who built a powerful criminal organization with international tentacles, died in hospital Monday.



Rizzuto, 67, passed away of natural causes, said Maude Hebert-Chaput of Montreal's Sacre-Coeur Hospital.

His death raises questions about the future of the Rizzuto clan's decades-old empire, which was crippled by his 2006 extradition to the United States.

Rizzuto was arrested by Canadian authorities in 2004 and extradited two years later to the U.S., where he was convicted for his role in the 1981 murder of three Bonanno

crime-family members in New York City.

He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, minus time served while awaiting extradition.

Following his October 2012 release, Rizzuto returned to Canada to a group of family and friends whose ranks had thinned considerably.

Rizzuto's criminal empire stretched from South America to Europe.

Dec 23 2013

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A Newfoundland man who embarrassed the Mounties when he escaped undetected from a week-long RCMP standoff is out of jail.

Leo Crockwell made national headlines in December 2010 when he fled out a window of his home in Bay Bulls, N.L., as police tried to flush him out with fire hoses.

The Mounties continued to pump water into the house until the next day when another police force alerted them to Crockwell's escape.

The 58-year-old man was arrested without incident and later sentenced to four years on four counts, including assault with a weapon.

Crockwell argued in provincial Supreme Court last week that corrections staff miscalculated the amount of jail time he should serve.

The judge agreed that Crockwell's jail term was mistakenly based on time left to serve instead of the total sentence, adding an extra nine months to his time behind bars.

Crockwell's lawyer Nick Westera says the Crown tried unsuccessfully in court to keep Crockwell in jail and is appealing the terms of his release.

Dec 23 2013

An RCMP officer from Spirit River will be in court this month facing charges of perjury and intent to mislead.

Cst. Matthew Slipp was charged under sections 132 and 137 of the Criminal Code of Canada, which involve "false statement under oath," and the fabrication of "anything with intent that it shall be used as evidence in judicial proceedings."

The RCMP have declined to comment further on the investigation until the accused has appeared before a judge.

Slipp is currently suspended with pay and



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will make his first court appearance in Grande Prairie Provincial Court on Mon. Dec. 30. (Herald-Tribune)

Dec 23 2013

REGINA - Police in Regina saved the day for a family whose presents were stolen in a break-in.

Thieves broke into the home of a family with three children last week, taking all the family's Christmas presents and a little girl's piggy bank to boot.

Police were called and one of the men in blue, Cst. Brandon Boon, saw what happened and decided to do something.

So he passed the hat among his colleagues and pulled together \$415 in cash, a snow globe and more than eight kilograms of chocolate.

The Regina Police Association, the officers' union, donated some children's toys as well.

On Saturday, the officers presented the gifts to the family. (CJME)

Dec 23 2013

VANCOUVER - British Columbia's anti-gang unit says it has seized 19 firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition during an investigation on Vancouver Island that led to one arrest.



The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of B.C. says members also seized six grams of crack cocaine, as well as other items including a Taser and equipment used for the sale of drugs from the properties located in Courtenay.

Sgt. Lindsey Houghton says police received a tip in November that a 31-year-old man who has ties to at least one organized-crime group on the island was allegedly selling drugs and possessing firearms.

Houghton says investigators from B.C.'s mainland and Vancouver Island collaborated and arrested the man without incident last Thursday, following a month-long investigation.

Police then executed search warrants on two local residences and a storage facility.

Houghton says the man has been released from custody and could face drug, firearms and weapons-related charges in the coming weeks.

Dec 23 2013

WHITEHORSE - Yukon Mounties say a constable was forced to smash the windshield of a burning, rolled pickup

truck so a mother and child could escape.

The small, green pickup crashed Sunday evening in Whitehorse and police say bystanders were unable to get the 43-year-old woman and her four-year-old son out.

Police say Cst. Susan Shaw-Davis approached the vehicle that was billowing dark smoke and told the woman to cover her own face and the face of her child.

They say she then used her baton to smash the windshield, making a hole large enough for the occupants to escape.

An ambulance crew transported the woman and boy to Whitehorse General Hospital and they were released later in the day.

The two family members are from B.C. and were visiting Whitehorse for the holidays, but the police have not released their names or hometown. (Whitehorse Star)

Dec 23 2013

VANCOUVER - It's not a sparkly diamond or a precious sapphire, but police in Vancouver still want to find a stolen gemstone that, in Canadian terms, could rank right up there with the Hope Diamond.



Police are looking for what they say is a rare, opal-like gem that was stolen early Friday morning from a shop in Vancouver's Gastown district.

The front window of Rocks and Gems Canada was smashed and Vancouver police spokesman Sgt. Randy Fincham said Monday the crook made off with an ammolite piece worth \$500,000.

Ammolite is Alberta's official gemstone. It is also ranked as a Canadian national treasure, meaning the federal government must approve an application before it can be taken out of the country.

The gem is formed from the fossilized shells of extinct marine mollusks known as ammonites and contains the same minerals that make pearls.

Fincham said the piece stolen from Rocks and Gems Canada is nearly 28 centimetres long, or about the size of a man's shoe. It is shaped roughly like a helmet and has a colourful, iridescent sheen.

Nothing else was stolen from the store and it's unclear at this point whether the break-in was targeted, Fincham said.

Dec 23 2013

MAIDSTONE, Sask. - The commander of a Saskatchewan RCMP detachment has been removed from his post.

RCMP say the male sergeant has more than 20 years of service and was commander of the Maidstone detachment.

Senior management received information that there may have been inappropriate workplace behaviour.

Police have begun an internal investigation into the allegations.

Mounties did not release any other information, nor did they release the man's name.

RCMP say it will only release the name if the member is charged.

Dec 23 2013

EDMONTON - Freezing rain forced an unscheduled landing for the Edmonton police helicopter.

Department officials say the chopper and its crew left the Villeneuve airport just west of the city and headed for Edmonton about 1 a.m. Monday morning.

After two hours of helping officers with calls, the crew prepared to head back to the airport but ran into the freezing rain.

The pilot decided to land the aircraft in the parking lot of Callingwood Mall in Edmonton just after 3 a.m.

Insp. Gary Godziuk says there was no risk to the flight crew or the public.

He says the pilot, who has 3,200 hours experience, made a proactive decision.

"Mechanically, the aircraft was functioning and in no distress. The situation involved reduced visibility and any potential risk was professionally managed by the flight crew by deciding to land the helicopter immediately."

Officials also said the decision to land was made before the situation became an emergency.

Police said the helicopter was de-iced in the parking lot later that morning and took off to return to the Villeneuve airport at about noon Monday. (CTV Edmonton)

Dec 23 2013

CALGARY - A man who celebrates Christmas in an eye-catching way is now facing a fine for his festive display.

Slawomir Czyz stops everyone in their tracks when he drives around Calgary with a life-sized display of Santa and Rudolph mounted to the top of his van.

But late last week, Czyz was slapped with a \$57 ticket.

He says the officer told him the display was distracting to other drivers.

Acting Sgt. Sio Chuong confirms the admonishment, saying that the lights on it could be confusing to other motorists.

He says there are also concerns about how stable the display is, noting it does "not look very aerodynamic" and could come loose. (Global Calgary)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2013

Dec 24 2013

BANCROFT, Ont. - A man is facing multiple charges including attempted murder after two provincial police officers were fired on while investigating an assault complaint in central Ontario.

Police say the officers took cover and were not injured during the incident Monday in Purdy, north of Bancroft.

The officers were responding to a call about a male being assaulted with a weapon and were attending to the alleged victim when police say a man shot at the officers and then approached them with a knife.

Police say the officers subdued the man with a stun gun, with no injuries to him or either of the officers during the arrest.

The alleged victim of the original assault incident is in hospital with serious injuries.

Michael Darch, 32, of Purdy, is charged with three counts of attempted murder, two counts of mischief over \$5,000, one count of placing or throwing an explosive device and unauthorized possession of a weapon.

Dec 24 2013

REGINA - Concerns about how a police photo lineup was conducted have led a judge to acquit a Regina man who had been charged with driving while disqualified.

Shane Michael Longman had been accused of driving a getaway car after a theft from a Canadian Tire store in December 2012.

Court heard that a plain-clothed security guard at the store saw a man put merchandise into his coat, then leave without paying and get into the passenger seat of a car.

The guard described the driver as an aboriginal man who had a teardrop tattoo on one cheek and two teardrop tattoos on the other.

Regina police created a photo lineup of nine men, including Longman, who was the only person in the line with teardrop tattoos on his face.

The security guard chose the photo of Longman as being the car driver, but he was found not guilty.

The judge ruled that the lineup should have had at least 10 people and that the accused man was the only one with facial tattoos.

(CBC)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25, 2013

Dec 25 2013

VANCOUVER - A soon-to-be-released book by a B-C researcher is chastising the media and the police for how they talk about pot and marijuana grow-ops.

University of Victoria professor Susan Boyd has written a book titled "Killer Weed: Marijuana Grow Ops, Media, and Justice."

Boyd looked at 15 years of articles about marijuana enforcement in four major daily newspapers in B-C.

She says the articles frequently exaggerated claims about the size and scope of the underground marijuana industry, the people associated with grow-ops, and the industry's connection to gangs.

In some cases, she says the government's own research contradicts what politicians and police forces say publicly. Body says much of that information came from RCMP spokespeople quoted in the stories.

She says the result is that public debate not based on the facts.

And she says the result has been a heavy focus on tough-on-crime policies such as mandatory minimums, while other jurisdictions, including in the United States, abandon such strategies.



in the Transit Bureau, narcotics, the bomb squad and Emergency Service Unit, according to sources. That's up from about 60 a decade ago.

Many of the NYPD's German shepherds can carry cameras on their backs to check out suspicious packages or give officers an inside view of a hostage standoff.

As for officer staffing, the NYPD has dropped from its high of 41,000 at the end of the Giuliani administration to approximately 34,000 today.

The starting pay for police officers is \$41,975, which rises to \$76,488 after five years. But it only costs about \$1,000 to feed each dog annually and the NYPD wants to cut that expense too. Earlier this month, the department began to look for a new wholesale food provider, records show.

The NYPD isn't the only local agency with an expanding K-9 force. The MTA's police canine unit is one of the largest in the U.S., with 50 dogs in active duty patrolling the LIRR, Metro-North and Staten Island Railway stations.

(New York Daily News)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 26, 2013

Dec 26 2013

NEW YORK CITY - The department has slashed the number of officers by 17 per cent over the past 12 years, but its force of crimefighting canines has nearly doubled over that same period.

"The K-9 units have expanded, especially over the last five years or so, and there are no plans to stop that," said police spokesman Detective Martin Speechley.

He declined to give the exact number of pooch protectors on the force, citing security concerns but more than 100 dogs now work

THE BLUE LINE TEAM



Tom Rataj



Dave Brown



Dorothy Cotton



Stephanie Conn



Erin Oliver



Mike Novakowski



Danette Dooley



Elvin Klassen



Bob Murray



Nancy Colagiaco



Kieran Huggins



Lindsay Patten



April Lennon



Kathryn Lamberton



Mary Lamberton



Marley Lamberton



Joanne Orsini



Mark Rossini

Happy New Year!