

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY February 14, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 7

Executive Digest

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The Supreme Court of Canada will hear arguments on whether or not RCMP officers can unionize Feb. 18.

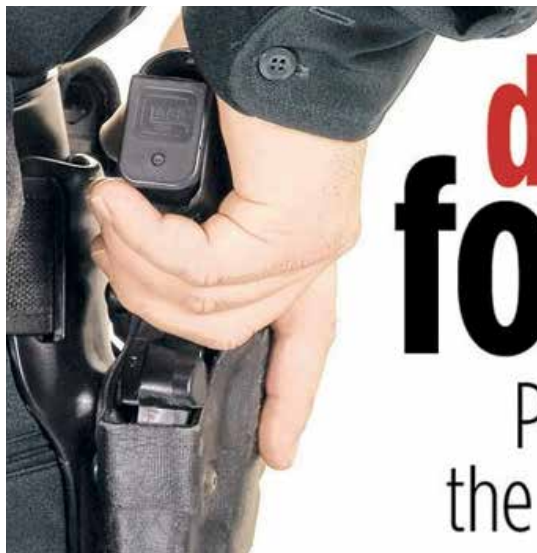
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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Jury recommends de escalation in police confrontations with the mentally ill



deadly force

Police & the mentally ill

Feb 12 2014

TORONTO - When police encounter an emotionally disturbed person officers should put more emphasis on defusing the situation through communication, particularly if those people don't respond to shouted police commands, a coroner's jury recommended Wednesday.

The suggestion is one of dozens of recommendations put forward by a five-member jury in an inquest into the deaths of three mentally ill Toronto residents who were shot by police. Royal Jardine-Douglas, Sylvia Klibingaitis and

Michael Eligon were all gunned down after approaching officers with knives or scissors.

Police should "maximize emphasis on verbal de-escalation techniques" in their training, the jury recommended.

"If the EDP (emotionally disturbed person) has failed to respond to standard initial police commands, ie "Stop. Police," "Police. Don't move," and/or "Drop the weapon," train officers to stop shouting those commands and attempt different defusing communication strategies," the jury recommended.

"Train officers in such situations to

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co-ordinate amongst themselves so that one officer takes the lead in communicating with the EDP and multiple officers are not all shouting commands.”

Representatives of the families of the people at the centre of the inquest picked up on the shouting-related recommendations as ones that could have made a difference in the situations involving their loved ones.

“If de-escalation and more distance and time was provided to Sylvia as opposed to the immediate withdrawing of the gun and the immediate screaming to my sister Sylvia, that could have perhaps saved her life,” said Klibingaitis’ sister Anita Wasowicz.

Peter Rosenthal, the lawyer for Eligon’s family, said it was a similar situation for Eligon.

“There were a number of officers just yelling at him the standard commands and they should have tried something else,” he said. “If they had tried something else he might well be alive today.”

The president of the Toronto Police Association was on hand for the jury’s recommendations, and while he said his officers are open to anything that improves police and community relations, they already do try to de-escalate such situations.

“Could it be better? Yes. We can always look for improvement,” said Mike McCormack. “But right now that’s how we do respond. Our officers do not want to use lethal force unless we absolutely have to, so we de-escalate and try to maintain that de-escalation for as long as we can.”

There is not only one solution, said Jennifer Chambers, co-ordinator of the mental-health organization the Empowerment Council, but communication at all levels can help.

“(The jury) recommended that there be more funding to mental health crisis services so that people get interrupted before they get into

contact with police and I think that dealing with people’s crises before they come into contact with police is the real solution,” she said.

“They recommend that the Toronto Police Service work more closely with people with direct experience with mental health issues. I think that could change everything.”

The inquest heard that when an officer is faced with an individual advancing with a sharp object, their response is based on the person’s behaviour and not their mental state.

The jury recommends training officers to take into account whether a person is in crisis and all relevant information about their condition, not just their behaviour, and refraining from shooting for as long as possible.

They also suggest police consider further use of in-car cameras, body armour that provides officers greater protection from edged weapons, body-worn camera technology for front-line officers and shields to disarm and control people with edged weapons.

The jury stopped short of recommending increased Taser use, suggesting it be studied to see “if there are any special risks or concerns associated with the use of this device on EDPs.”

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services already announced in August that it was authorizing the expanded deployment of Tasers in Ontario, though police forces would have to foot the bill. Tasers cost about \$1,500 each.

Coroner David Eden said the jury, through their recommendations, spoke “eloquently” of the need “not only for police, but for all of us to contribute towards understanding and accommodating the reality of mental illness in our community.”

“I think it’s clear to those of us who heard the evidence all three were gentle, intelligent, loving human beings making lives for themselves and that their behaviour on the days of their deaths was entirely uncharacteristic of them and could not have been predicted by them, by their families or by anyone else,” Eden said.

“This is the tragedy of mental illness.”

and improving the efficiency of the process required to attain it.

“Canadians take as much or more pride in their citizenship than any other country,” said Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander. “The rate of application is likely to go up in spite of the fact that we’re taking certain measures to reinforce the value of citizenship.”

Many of the new measures aim to crack down on so-called Canadians of convenience by making it harder to attain citizenship.

When the new laws come into effect, permanent residents will to maintain a “physical presence” in Canada for four out of six years before applying for citizenship, compared to the previous requirement of three out of four years.

They will also need to be physically present in Canada for 183 days each year for at least four of those six years, and will have to file Canadian income taxes to be eligible for citizenship.

In an effort to crack down on fraud, the proposed legislation increases penalties for phoney applications to a \$100,000 and or five years in prison. The cost of applying for citizenship is also going up to \$400, from the current \$200.

Under the new legislation, citizenship can be revoked from dual nationals who are members of armed forces or groups engaged in an armed conflict with Canada, and from dual nationals convicted of terrorism, high treason or spying.

The legislation will also deny citizenship to permanent residents who are involved in those activities.

The new legislation would also bar permanent residents with serious foreign criminal charges and convictions from getting citizenship.

In another change, permanent residents who are members of the Canadian Armed Forces will have a fast track to citizenship.

Feb 06 2014

CHARLOTTETOWN - An RCMP officer from P.E.I. who stole more than 300 pills from an evidence room in Montague has been sentenced to 18 months in jail.

Blair Ross apologized and sobbed during his appearance Thursday in provincial Supreme Court in Charlottetown.

He previously pleaded guilty to breach of trust, theft over \$5,000 and unlawful possession of drugs.

Ross served 25 years with the force and reached the rank of corporal during his career.

The sentence was a joint recommendation from the Crown and defence, and includes two years of probation upon his release from jail.

Ross was arrested on May 31, 2013.

In a police statement, Ross said he had

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THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 06, 2014

Feb 06 2014

TORONTO - In the first major overhaul of the Citizenship Act in nearly four decades, the Conservative government vowed Thursday to tighten the rules for those who want to become Canadian, crack down on fraud and strip citizenship from dual nationals who engage in terrorism.

The proposed changes were aimed at strengthening the value of Canadian citizenship

severe back pain, but the prescription painkillers he was taking weren't sufficient while he was at work wearing his gun belt.

(Charlottetown Guardian)

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 07, 2014

Feb 07 2014

MONTREAL - A Quebec judge presiding over the case of alleged killer Luka Rocco Magnotta has granted an order that evidence be collected in France and Germany.

Superior Court Justice Guy Cournoyer ruled today in favour of a Crown motion presented Thursday.

Magnotta's trial in the May 2012 death of Concordia University student Jun Lin is scheduled to take place this coming September.

Magnotta left Canada after the alleged murder and went to France and then Germany, where he was arrested in June 2012.

The prosecution wants to talk to more than 30 people in Paris and Berlin.

Cournoyer says despite the differences in how the justice system operates in those countries, a decision whether to accept the evidence gathered there will be taken once the process is over.

Feb 07 2014

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - A police officer from southern Alberta has been found not guilty of assault causing bodily harm.

A Queen's Bench justice ruled that Lethbridge constable David Easter acted in self-defence and used reasonable force when he punched a man in the face.

Court heard Donovan Girard was drunk outside a downtown bar and resisted when Easter tried to arrest him in May 2012.

Girard went down and hit his head on the sidewalk.

Easter testified during his trial that the only reason he hit Girard was because he believed Girard was going to strike him.

Easter has been a police officer for the last 15 years.

(CJOC)

Feb 07 2014

MONTREAL - Quebec chief coroner Denis Marsolais has ordered an inquest into the fatal shooting of a mentally troubled man by Montreal police.

Alain Magloire was shot near Montreal's downtown bus station on Monday after police responded to calls about a man threatening people with a hammer.

The coroner's office noted in a statement that Magloire suffered from mental problems and this is not the first time people

with psychological problems had died during emergency interventions in recent years.

Coroner Catherine Rudel-Tessier has been mandated to look into the circumstances of Magloire's death and make recommendations.

Quebec provincial police took over the investigation of the shooting from Montreal police immediately afterward under provincial protocols forbidding a police force involved in a fatal incident from investigating itself.

Montreal police said a man tried to strike one of their officers with the hammer and refused to surrender.

Feb 07 2014

CALGARY, AB - A former Saskatchewan Mountie has been sentenced to seven years in prison for molesting three young Calgary boys.

It was the second such conviction for Arnold James Somers, 72, who was jailed for two years in Saskatchewan in the 1990s for similar abuse against boys there.

Court was told Somers was someone the boys and their families trusted, never suspecting he would prey on children.

It is the second jail term for Somers who was jailed for two years in Saskatchewan in the 90s for similar abuse against boys there.

Somers was given nearly two years credit for time already served; six months of that was because he was beaten at the Calgary Remand Centre and suffered permanent injuries.

(CTV Calgary)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 08, 2014

Feb 08 2014

BRANDON - A rural police officer whose personal revolver was stolen last month has been suspended, justice officials confirm.

The RM of Whitehead police board advised the province it had suspended Chief Const. Doug Gormley, the only member of its police service.

The move was made under the Police Services Act to ensure adequate and effective policing, a Manitoba Justice spokesman said in a news release Friday.

The release didn't specify why Gormley had been suspended or whether that suspension was with or without pay.

The RM continues to refuse comment and Gormley couldn't be reached Friday.

Gormley previously told the Brandon Sun he had a .22-calibre revolver locked up in a case that was inside a police truck when that vehicle was stolen overnight between Jan. 11 and 12.

The revolver, Gormley said, was his

personal gun and not an official police firearm, albeit one he said he used for occasional police-related duties that called for lesser amounts of firepower, such as putting down injured animals that had been hit on the highways.

The stolen truck was found abandoned, but the gun was only recovered about a week ago after it was used in a bizarre accidental shooting that sent a woman to hospital with a bullet lodged in her buttocks. The gun had apparently discharged accidentally and fired through a wall before hitting the woman.

The Whitehead police service has been suspended until further notice and the RCMP have stepped in to police the municipality in the meantime.

They were already handling criminal matters and enforcing federal laws in that area; this will add bylaw and traffic infractions to their load.

The Brandon Police Service said the investigation isn't complete but no charges have been laid in connection with the storage of the gun.

Gormley said although the gun was in a locked case, it didn't have a trigger lock on it and ammunition for the gun was kept in a jar, which was also in the police truck when it was stolen.

(Brandon Sun)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 09, 2014

Feb 09 2014

HALIFAX - Police in Halifax say the Serious Incident Response Team is investigating after a man apparently fatally shot himself while fleeing from officers.

Police say officers were called to a downtown Halifax hotel on Sunday morning for report that a shot had been fired outside the hotel after four people were refused entry.

Officers located three men and a woman, and say one man began to run as they approached the group.

As the man was running, police say a gun went off, apparently causing a fatal self-inflicted wound.

The other two men and the woman are being held in custody as police investigate the initial incident involving the shot being fired outside the hotel.

Feb 09 2014

RED LAKE, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating a shooting in the province's northwest that sent a woman to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The Special Investigations Unit says

provincial police officers were called to an apartment in Red Lake late Saturday night.

It says a 23-year-old woman refused to let the officers in, and that the door was then forced open.

An “interaction” then occurred between the woman and the officers, causing one officer to open fire.

The agency says the woman was airlifted to a Winnipeg hospital.

Feb 09 2014

VANCOUVER - Vancouver's police watchdog is investigating after a man was found unconscious in a police vehicle following arrest.

Vancouver police issued a news release saying a 43-year-old man was arrested for allegedly breaching court conditions.

They say the man was taken to jail in a police wagon, but when the vehicle arrived at the lockup, he was found unconscious.

Police say he was rushed to hospital and remains in stable condition.

Feb 09 2014

WINNIPEG - Manitoba is slamming Ottawa for cutting front-line policing on dozens of the province's reserves, calling it part of a federal "line of attack" on First Nation communities.



Attorney General Andrew Swan told a gathering of the governing New Democrats that he just learned of the cuts to the band constable program in January. The 45-year-old program that allows First Nations to police their own communities in partnership with the RCMP will be terminated in just over a year, Swan said.

“This is a continuing line of attacks on aboriginal people by the federal government,” he told a convention of the provincial NDP in Winnipeg on Sunday. “The Conservative government tells us they’re about law and order. They may be about law but they’re sure as hell not about order.”

Some 31 First Nations communities across Manitoba rely on band constables and get about \$1.7 million for the program. Despite the funding, some reserves say they’ve had to fundraise to pay the constables’ salaries. Supporters of the program say the constables are a vital front-line service for many remote reserves where the RCMP detachment is several communities away.

Band constables are trained to federal policing standards but live in the community

and can diffuse many situations before they evolve into crimes, Swan said. The aboriginal constables can enforce band bylaws and are often first on the scene in an emergency while the RCMP are still making their way there, he added.

Both Alberta and New Brunswick have similar First Nation policing programs but it’s not clear whether those are also being terminated, Swan said.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney has offered the province some cash to replace the program but Swan said, at best, it would fund about 15 new RCMP officers which couldn’t possibly cover the same ground as the constables.

Blaney’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Feb 10 2014

OTTAWA - A man who once auditioned for the Canadian Idol TV show has pleaded not guilty to a terrorism charge.

Khurram Syed Sher, a doctor of pathology from London, Ont., is being tried by judge alone in Ontario Superior Court.

Sher, 31, was charged along with two other men in August 2010 with conspiracy to facilitate terrorism.

The others cannot be named due to recently imposed publication ban aimed at ensuring the jury in their trial, slated for April, is not prejudiced.

Following the high-profile arrests, police said they seized terrorist literature, videos and manuals, along with dozens of electronic circuit boards allegedly designed to detonate homemade bombs remotely.

Three additional men, all believed to be living abroad, have been named as unindicted co-conspirators.

Feb 10 2014

MONTREAL - The RCMP has arrested seven people as part of alleged fraud that involved some Canada Revenue Agency employees.

Charges laid include bribery of public officers, conspiracy, fraud, breach of trust by a public officer and fraud against the government.

Five of the accused allegedly received commissions on tax credits that were obtained through fraudulent means.

The Mounties said in a statement today that three of those five were active Canada Revenue Agency officials at the time the alleged offences took place.

The five are scheduled to appear in

court in Montreal on April 7.

One of the five plus two other people have also been charged in a separate component of the investigation and will appear in court on March 19.

Feb 10 2014

MONTREAL - Quebec's corruption inquiry has begun examining union intimidation and extortion on construction sites around the province, with an investigator sharing anecdotes he gathered from workers.

Testimony on Monday painted a picture of a construction union in complete control of what happened on sites on Quebec’s North Shore.

Inquiry investigator Michel Comeau said the union was ready to sabotage sites by vandalizing equipment.

There were also work slowdowns and payoffs to union brass, practices he said increased the price of projects by as much as 30 per cent.

While the inquiry has heard that several different players have driven up the price of projects in big cities, Comeau testified that the Quebec Federation of Labour’s construction wing was very much at the centre of the problem in other parts of the province.

The veteran police investigator said none of 70 witnesses his team met with would talk on the record or agree to testify before the inquiry, leaving Comeau to tell their stories.

In recent months, the inquiry has been examining the labour federation’s construction wing, corruption within its ranks and the influence of organized crime in its Montreal-based leadership.

Comeau described the North Shore region as a state within a state, with the construction wing representatives for that region operating through intimidation.

The man in charge was Bernard “Rambo” Gauthier, who has been previously accused of intimidation on sites.

The inquiry heard that he and several lieutenants ran the sites and that workers had to abide by their rules. They also fiercely defended local workers, ensuring sites would not operate unless the union was appeased.

“Over there, Rambo was considered a God,” Comeau said. “He was an influential person on the work sites.”

Gauthier has not testified before the inquiry.

One employee of a firm, having discussed intimidation on a site, reported a provincial police officer confided in him that they, too, felt threatened by members of the construction wing.

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Feb 11 2014

MILAN, Italy - A joint Italian-U.S. anti-Mafia blitz is underway with numerous arrests reported on both sides of the Atlantic.

Italian anti-Mafia police said the "New Bridge" operation targeted a new cocaine trafficking route from South America to the southern Italian port of Gioia Tauro that united the U.S. branch of the Sicilian Mafia with the Calabrian 'ndrangheta crime syndicate.

Officials said undercover agents in both countries prevented the delivery to Italy of hundreds of kilograms of cocaine hidden in shipments of coconuts and pineapples during the two-year investigation. They also confiscated heroin and marijuana.

U.S. and Italian authorities were seeking 26 suspects, including a member of the Gambino crime family in New York who authorities said negotiated the new smuggling route.

Gioia Tauro in Calabria is one of Europe's largest shipping ports.

Feb 11 2014

MIAMI - The fallout from her traffic stop of a speeding police officer is continuing for Florida Highway Patrol officer Donna Jane Watts as she pursues a federal lawsuit claiming she was harassed because of her actions.

Watts says in the lawsuit that after stopping the officer in October 2011, her private driver's license information was accessed more than 200 times by at least 88 law enforcement officers from 25 different agencies. She says she received threatening and prank phone calls and other harassment.

Federal law imposes a \$2,500 penalty for each violation. Watts is seeking that plus other damages.

The U.S. Justice Department has gotten involved.

The Miami Police Department eventually fired the speeding officer, who was clocked at 193 kilometres an hour.

Feb 11 2014

CALGARY - An ad campaign called "Crotches Kill" has been rolled out in Alberta to discourage drivers from using hand-held devices they hide in their laps to talk, text or watch movies.

RCMP say the \$380,000 campaign will target motorists who try to deceive police and also ask the public to consider how quickly danger can surface when they're not paying attention behind the wheel.

Coinciding with the campaign is a



crackdown on distracted drivers, with more than 200 tickets issued since the beginning of the month - more than double the number handed out during the same period last year.

RCMP Supt. Howard Eaton says despite Alberta's distracted driving law, motorists

still aren't getting the message about the risk of not keeping their eyes on the road.

He says it might be time to strengthen the legislation, possibly through demerit points or stiffer fines.

There were about 19,000 convictions during the first year after Alberta's distracted driving law took effect, with about 95 per cent of them involving hand-held devices. (CHQR, CHED)

Feb 11 2014

Hundreds of British police staff, including high-ranking officers, have been disciplined for breaching data protection laws - from snooping on their children and ex-wives, to social

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And in one case, a PC got into hot water after wrongly telling family members that a loved one had died.

Others breached data protection regulations to access confidential and personal information, spreading rumours in the communities they were policing.

More than 100 staff were sacked and nearly 200 resigned as a result of breaches in England and Wales during a five-year period, according to figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

Police forces recorded a total of 2,031 cases of data protection breaches between January 2009 and October 2013.

Investigations led to 186 resignations, while 113 were sacked as a result of their behaviour.

Of those investigated, at least 34 were inspectors or chief inspectors, while 474 were deemed "staff" - civilian officers who do not get involved with rank-and-file policing.

While some incidents involved police leaking information on social networking sites and spreading rumours in local communities, others used the police database to snoop on the personal details of family members, friends and associates.

(Daily Mirror)

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2014

Feb 12 2014

TROIS-RIVIERES - Two Quebec adolescents were charged Wednesday with first-degree murder and conspiracy in the deaths of three people found in a home.

The 17-year-old males were arraigned in Trois-Rivieres, Que.

The victims have been identified as sisters aged 22 and 17 as well as a 17-year-old boy.

Their bodies were found in a house in Trois-Rivieres on Tuesday morning. Local police said they intercepted two youths moments after they had allegedly emerged from a home.

Authorities have said jealousy is being considered a likely factor in the deaths.

The Crown has asked that the accused be tried as adults.

Feb 12 2014

WOLLASTON LAKE, Sask. - A member of a rescue team has died and another is in critical condition following a search for a missing man near the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border.

RCMP say two men who were part of the Lac Brochet Search and Rescue group that went out looking for the missing person on Sunday.

The missing man was found but RCMP say the rescuers didn't return.

The pair were found located on Tuesday afternoon by Wollaston Lake RCMP officers.

Mounties say a 47-year-old man is dead and a 40-year-old man is in critical condition in a Winnipeg hospital.

An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death.

Feb 12 2014

OTTAWA - The Canadian Judicial Council says it will convene an inquiry committee into the actions of a Quebec Superior Court justice.

The inquiry will be held under the Judges Act and will examine allegations Michel

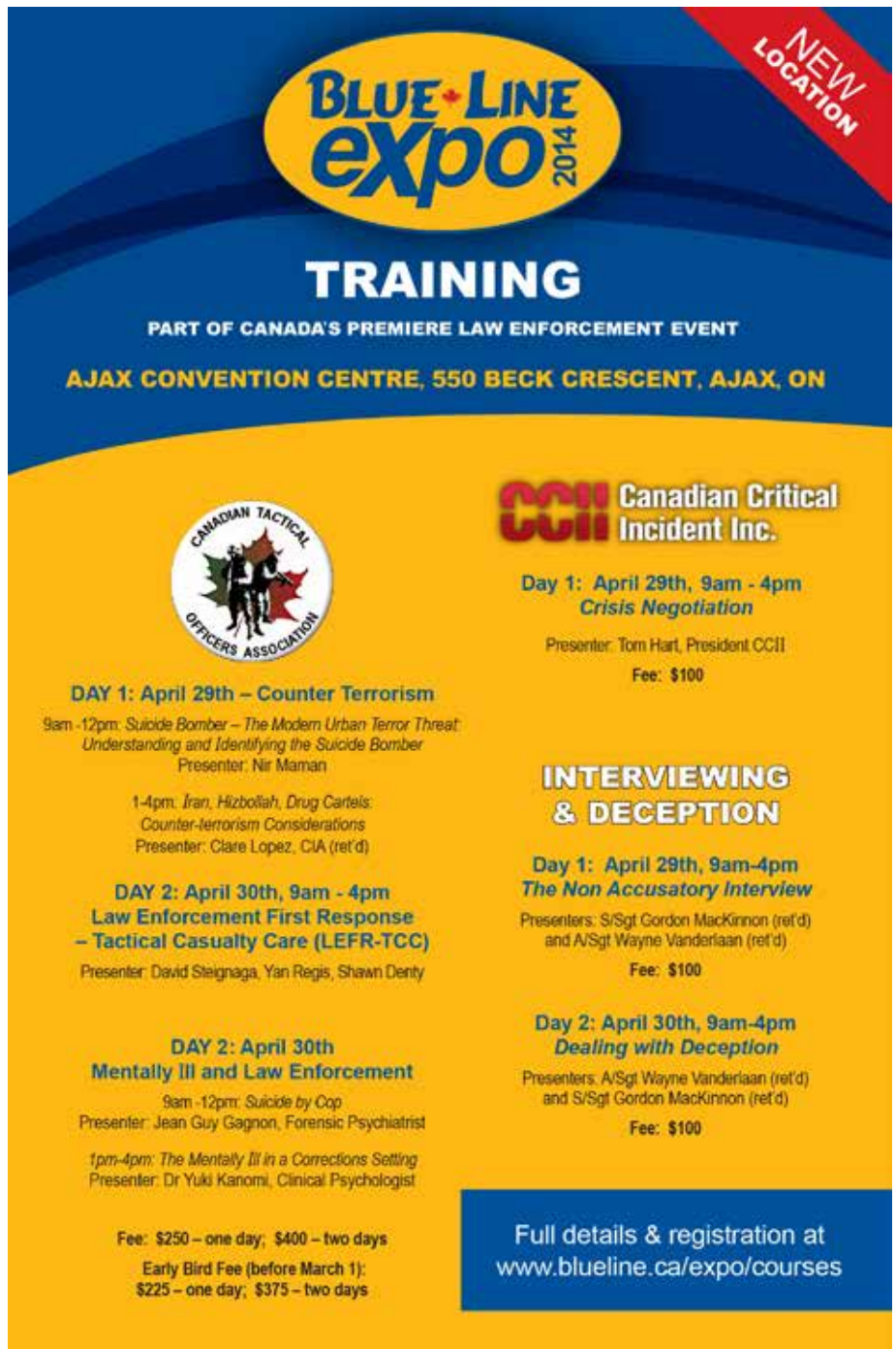
Girouard bought an illegal substance from a police informant before being named to the bench.

Superior Court Chief Justice Francois Rolland asked the judicial council last year to look into the matter.

Girouard is a former lawyer who was appointed to the bench in September 2010. He has been sidelined since the judicial council involvement.

He worked in the Abitibi-Temiscamingue region where a large drug sweep resulting in 100 arrests took place in 2010.

The judicial council pointed out in a statement the allegations against Girouard have not been proven and it is the responsibility of the inquiry to establish the facts.



BLUE LINE expo 2014

TRAINING

PART OF CANADA'S PREMIERE LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENT

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NEW LOCATION

CCII Canadian Critical Incident Inc.

Day 1: April 29th, 9am - 4pm
Crisis Negotiation
Presenter: Tom Hart, President CCII
Fee: \$100

INTERVIEWING & DECEPTION

Day 1: April 29th, 9am-4pm
The Non Accusatory Interview
Presenters: S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd) and A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret'd)
Fee: \$100

Day 2: April 30th, 9am-4pm
Dealing with Deception
Presenters: A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret'd) and S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd)
Fee: \$100

CANADIAN TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

DAY 1: April 29th - Counter Terrorism

9am - 12pm: *Suicide Bomber - The Modern Urban Terror Threat: Understanding and Identifying the Suicide Bomber*
Presenter: Nir Maman

1-4pm: *Iran, Hizbollah, Drug Cartels: Counter-terrorism Considerations*
Presenter: Clare Lopez, CIA (ret'd)

DAY 2: April 30th, 9am - 4pm

Law Enforcement First Response - Tactical Casualty Care (LEFR-TCC)
Presenter: David Stegnaga, Yan Regis, Shawn Denty

DAY 2: April 30th

Mentally Ill and Law Enforcement

9am - 12pm: *Suicide by Cop*
Presenter: Jean Guy Gagnon, Forensic Psychiatrist

1pm-4pm: *The Mentally Ill in a Corrections Setting*
Presenter: Dr Yuki Kanomi, Clinical Psychologist

Fee: \$250 - one day; \$400 - two days
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Feb 12 2014

MONTREAL - A high-profile lawyer with a long history of fighting organized crime has been appointed by Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre as the city's new inspector general.

Denis Gallant used to be a familiar face to Quebecers as a star attorney at the province's public inquiry into corruption in the construction industry.

He was also previously a Crown prosecutor specializing in cases involving organized crime, illegal drugs and the proceeds of crime.

The Quebec government modified Montreal's city charter on Wednesday to create the position, which was promised by Coderre in his election campaign last fall.

Gallant has a five-year, non-renewable mandate to be the city's anti-corruption watchdog in the awarding and execution of city contracts.

He will report to city council, which can overturn his decisions, and will have a \$5-million budget.

Refusal to co-operate with the inspector general is punishable by a fine.

Coderre told a Quebec City news conference after the charter was modified that Montreal is in a good position to fight corruption with the addition of the inspector general and the recent integration of Montreal police officers into the province's anti-corruption squad.

Feb 12 2014

WOLLASTON LAKE, Sask. - The brother of a man who died in the frigid wilderness of northern Saskatchewan during a search-and-rescue mission says alcohol was involved.



Benji Denechezhe says he found his brother Alphonse's body, and his barely conscious search companion yesterday - two days after the pair had set out to look for a missing man.

Police say the two searchers are part of the Lac Brochet Search and Rescue Rangers group.

The man they were looking for was found safe by others, but the two searchers didn't return.

Denechezhe says when it's cold and you're drinking out in the bush and there is nothing around, there are consequences.

The 40-year-old searcher who survived

the frigid temperatures was taken to hospital in critical condition.

RCMP are investigating and say it appears the snowmobile the two men were using might have broken down.

The Rangers fall under the umbrella of the Department of National Defence.

They provide patrols and run search-and-rescue missions in sparsely populated areas of Western Canada and the North that cannot be conveniently or economically covered by the Canadian Armed Forces.

Feb 12 2014

WINNIPEG - A troubled remote Manitoba First Nation has been flooded with RCMP after two men were killed.

More than 20 officers took over the Bloodvein First Nation band office as they probed the deaths of Cliff Malnyk, 52, on Saturday and Timothy Goosehead, 31, Monday.

Normally, just two Mounties are assigned to the community 200 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

A 17-year-old youth faces a second-degree murder charge for each of the killings.

A 15-year-old boy is also in custody accused of assault with a weapon in connection with the Malnyk case.

RCMP released few details on the homicides.

Police were working to quell the possibility vigilante justice might grip the small community of about 1,000 people.

Goosehead was just released from provincial jail Jan. 27 after spending 303 days behind bars for assaulting a Bloodvein woman in March 2013.

His alleged killer was out on bail on breach charges and was being supervised by Manitoba's Intensive Support and Supervision Program.

The youth is affiliated with the Native Syndicate street gang, sources told the Winnipeg Free Press.

Last year, the community was gripped by a series of major arsons, rattling many who live there.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Feb 12 2014

TORONTO - The Toronto Police Service needs a "complete shakeup" and the person to oversee that transformation in the coming years is not Chief Bill Blair, says Councillor Michael Thompson, vice-chair of the civilian oversight board.

"There is a need for things to change within the organization and I've been very clear on that," Thompson said.

As an example, under Blair's command, new statistics show Toronto police officers conducted strip searches in a third of all arrests last year up to November. Evidence,

such as drugs or proceeds of crime, was recovered in 1 per cent of those searches — or 270 items found in 20,152 searches.

No items were found in 53 per cent of the searches conducted in 2013.

"That's absolutely staggering, crazy," Thompson said. "We do have a problem."

In 2001, the Supreme Court of Canada declared strip searches "inherently humiliating and degrading" and said they should not be carried out as "routine policy."

Last month, the police board demanded a report from Blair after a police constable testified in court that he had stripped "hundreds" of people naked as part of routine searches during his career.

Blair has not said publicly whether he will ask the board to extend his contract beyond April 2015. If he does, Thompson has already made up his mind.

"I wouldn't support it. We need fresh blood," he said. "We need to start talking about it now. We can't wait for the final hour."

Blair turns 60 this spring. He has been at the helm of the country's largest municipal police force since 2005. The seven-member Toronto Police Services Board voted unanimously to renew his contract in 2009.

Since then, Thompson and board chair Alok Mukherjee have grown increasingly critical of his leadership and have expressed frustration about the "mindset" and culture within the force.

Mukherjee also shares Thompson's concerns about the prevalence of strip searches and the rationale behind them. "It seems to me that in terms of what they're looking for, the recovery of anything of very serious nature is quite low."

Mukherjee has suggested the board consider potential candidates outside the force and has questioned whether people "embedded in the same organization all their life can provide true leadership."

Thompson said he wants to cast the net "as wide as we can possibly cast it. At the same time, we assume that everyone who has an interest can step up to the plate."

The board's top two members are particularly unhappy with the Chief's Internal Organizational Review, the final report of which will be presented at Thursday's board meeting. According to the board's website, the goal of the review "was to re-engineer the Service and create a sustainable new model for policing."

"That review hasn't saved us one bloody cent," Thompson said this week. "It tells us about the organizational structure and moving people around . . . but quite frankly that should have been a board review. It was mismanaged and mishandled."

(Toronto Star)

TORONTO - Toronto's police force needs innovation – not more officers – say two members of the police services board who are dismayed by the results of a \$500,000 study into staffing levels.

The “right number review” was requested by the board to get an independent evaluation of the city’s policing needs against a backdrop of changing technology and limited financial resources.

The report by consulting firm Accenture, which the board will debate on Thursday, says the city needs another 178 officers above the approved strength of 5,604 “to provide adequate and effective policing.”

City councillors Michael Thompson and Mike Del Grande – who have both been critical of rising police spending – say the report’s recommendation ignores financial realities.

“I can tell you I am not happy with the process and I am not happy with the results,” said Mr. Thompson, vice-chair of the police board.

He said the board asked the force to figure out how it could manage with less and, instead, has been given a “business as usual” report.

He said this reflects a lack of innovation, suggesting it is time to look for someone with “great ideas” to replace Chief Bill Blair when his contract ends next year.

“The issue for me now is really how the organization is led,” Mr. Thompson said.

Mr. Del Grande, who called for the review in his former role as chair of the city’s budget committee, questioned the independence of the study.

“I was very clear: The chief should not have his hands in it. Did that occur? No,” Mr. Del Grande said on Wednesday. “This was to be independent. The chief shouldn’t be involved, period.”

Police spokesman Mark Pugash would not discuss details of the report.

(Globe and Mail)



TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating the death of an 18-year-old woman who died after being struck by an unmarked police vehicle in east-end Toronto.

The Special Investigations Unit says the incident happened at about 8:20 p.m. Wednesday night as the woman was crossing the street.

The SIU says while the pedestrian was on the street walking southbound, she was struck by an unmarked vehicle being driven eastbound by an on-duty York Regional Police officer.

The woman, who is not being identified at her family’s request, was pronounced dead at the scene.

York Regional Police say they and Toronto police are conducting parallel

investigations, while the SIU says it has assigned seven investigators, two forensic investigators and one collision reconstructionist to the case.

MONTREAL - Four former high-ranking Quebec provincial police officers have appeared in court through their lawyers on charges of fraud, theft and breach of trust.

The accused are former chief Richard Deschenes and three of his assistants - Steven Chabot, Alfred Tremblay and Jean Audette.

They are charged with fraud and breach of trust in the performance of their duties and stealing more than \$5,000 from the Quebec government and the provincial police force.

Published reports say the four officers used money from a fund that was earmarked for criminal investigations.

The accused were not in court today, with all being represented by their respective lawyers.

The Crown says there are nearly 3,000 pages worth of documents.

More evidence will be provided at the next court date in April.

The accused are not expected to be present on that date.

The Supreme Court of Canada will hear arguments on whether or not RCMP officers can unionize Feb. 18.

A ruling in either direction will be of major

legal significance, according to Rob Creasser, a spokesperson for the Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada. The MPPAC contends that RCMP regulations preventing the formation of a union infringe on its members’ constitutionally guaranteed freedom of association.

“The Supreme Court is going to define, I think, further what collective bargaining actually means, and whether the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms actually protects that collective bargaining,” Creasser told the Straight in a phone interview.

The RCMP is the only major police force in Canada that doesn’t have a union. A staff-relations-representative program is the only process for resolving labour issues in the organization. A ruling that upholds this program could set a precedent for other workplaces, Creasser said.

“The worst-case scenario... is that they [the court] may say that the current system within the RCMP, which is a management-controlled system of labour relations, meets the definition of collective bargaining and that’s good enough,” Creasser explained. “So that means in other workplaces... the company could... say, ‘Well, we’re creating our own system of labour relations for you and that’s good enough to meet the definition of collective bargaining.’”

In 2012, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned a lower court’s decision that recognized the constitutional right of Mounties to organize themselves into a union.

(Straight.com)