

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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SASKATOON - A police chief in Saskatchewan says the deaths of two teenagers has him fed up with the increasing rate of vehicle thefts in his city and the owners who seem to be making the crimes so easy.

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A national policy needs to be created to guide police in how to properly interview children who are witnesses to or victims of crime, a new study urges.

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REGINA - Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) is trying to improve road safety by investing in automatic licence plate readers for the RCMP and municipal police forces.

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OTTAWA - The two largest First Nation police services in Ontario say Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney refuses to discuss the serious problems they face - shortcomings documented this week by the federal auditor general.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Veteran officer dies while training



May 08 2014

A Thunder Bay Police officer has died during a training exercise in south-eastern Ontario.

Const. Joseph Prevett was participating in a canine unit tracking exercise around 10:45 a.m. Wednesday in the Town of Gravenhurst when he collapsed.

He was taken to hospital in medical distress and died a short time later.

"Words are tough at this point," an emotional Chief J.P. Levesque said during an afternoon news conference.

"(Prevett) will be sadly missed. You can't pass anybody in this building and not hear them say only positive things about Joe . . . our thoughts and prayers are with the family," Levesque said.

Prevett, 50, was participating in an Ontario Provincial Police training course with



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his new police service dog Timber.

Prevett began his policing career in 1998 with Peel Regional Police. He became a member of the Thunder Bay Police Service in 2003, and as a member of the emergency task unit was a police dog handler. One of five brothers who are all police officers, Prevett leaves a wife and family.

Levesque said police officers are dedicated, hardworking individuals, and anyone who knows a canine handler, "they bring that to a whole new level.

"It certainly says something about (Prevett), his character and abilities. He wasn't with us for very long before he became a canine trainer. He was a very dedicated officer and a huge loss to this organization," Levesque said.

Officers in his unit will be attending grief counselling sessions.

Levesque said support from the OPP has been "absolutely exceptional. . . . I received the news personally from OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes.

"Joe was on duty when he died. "It's not considered a line of duty death, or somebody was involved in a shootout or whatever the case may be. He was on duty.

"It certainly brings on certain emotions. It's not like he was out splitting wood in the backyard and had a heart attack . . . it's just different. As sad as that would be, this is really magnified when something like this occurs," said Levesque.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

A Facebook page is being set up by Thunder Bay Police Service to receive condolences and provide information about funeral/memorial arrangements.

Investigation by the OPP and Ministry of Labour continues into Prevett's death.

THURSDAY MAY 01, 2014

May 01 2014

CALGARY - A southern Alberta woman has filed a lawsuit against the RCMP and one of its officers alleging sexual assault.

The statement of claim was filed last month against the national police force a constable based in Strathmore, east of Calgary.

It alleges that the woman was being driven home from the detachment in December 2012 when she was forced to strip and perform oral sex on the officer.

The woman's lawyer says she decided to file the claim after an internal RCMP investigation and a separate investigation by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team failed to produce any results.

There was no immediate comment from the RCMP or ASIRT.

The allegations have not been proven and a statement of defence has not been filed.

May 01 2014

OTTAWA - The Conservative government is resisting renewed calls for an inquiry into murdered and missing aboriginal women and girls despite a media report that suggests there may be hundreds more cases than previously thought.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney was asked Thursday to finally call a inquiry in light of a report by the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network that Canada may be home to more than 1,000 cases of murdered and missing women.

His answer, in short: no.

The broadcaster cited an unnamed source Wednesday in a report that said the Mounties have now identified more than 1,000 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls - significantly more than previous estimates, which had pegged the tally at more than 600.

The RCMP arrived at the new number after contacting more than 200 other police forces across the country, APTN reported.

The Mounties would neither confirm nor deny the report Thursday.

Spokeswoman Sgt. Julie Gagnon said the RCMP report is not finalized and it would be premature for her to comment further.

"The RCMP is currently completing a national operational review to gain the most accurate account to date of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada," Gagnon wrote in an email.

The APTN report also said the Department of Public Safety is sitting on a copy of the RCMP report, which the network says was supposed to come out March 31. Public Safety has yet to respond to questions.

May 01 2014

TORONTO - Police have made a big bust in Calgary's drug trade,

dismantling an alleged trafficking operation and seizing \$1 million in drugs and an AK-47 rifle.

Three people were arrested Monday when police searched homes, including one where the drugs were being manufactured.

Investigators uncovered a large stash of \$1 million worth of drugs, weapons, \$225,355 in cash, and a full-scale cocaine conversion lab.

A fully automatic AK-47 assault rifle, believed to have originated in China, was also found.

The drugs include 4.6 kilograms of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$460,000, 6.5 kg of marijuana worth about \$64,940, 1.6 kg of methamphetamine worth about \$162,000, 387 grams of MDMA worth about \$38,000, and 187 oxycodone pills valued at \$15,000.

Also seized was 115 kgs of Phenacetin - a cutting agent used to dilute the purity of cocaine to maximize profits - valued at about \$230,000, a pen gun, a hydraulic kilogram brick press, money counters, scales, cellphones and a 2007 GMC Acadia with a hidden compartment.

(QMI Agency)

May 01 2014

EDMONTON - "I was told by the doctors, you broke your neck, you'll never walk again," Acting Detective Bryce Clarke said. "You'll never work again; you won't have much of a life."

The Edmonton Police Service member described the news from doctors that spurred his determination to surpass the odds after a freak accident nearly ended his life.

Back in 2001, the then-29-year-old patrol officer had just finished a night shift on Whyte Avenue, and was relaxing with friends in his backyard.

Clarke dived into his 4-foot, above-ground pool.

"When I dove in, I heard a loud crack, and I was floating face down," Clarke said. "I realized, I can't move, I was still conscious."

Moments later, McCormack realized what had happened, screamed for someone to call 911, and pulled Clarke from the water - initially, McCormack said it didn't look good.

"He's unresponsive, I'm checking his vitals, he has a very shallow pulse," McCormack said.

Clarke was airlifted by STARS Air Ambulance to hospital, and he didn't wake up for about a week.

Faced with an initially dismal diagnosis, Clark's horror turned to determination to prove his doctors wrong.

Since then, Clarke has regained partial use of his arms, and has come up with ways to complete day to day tasks independently - such as inventing a cup holder on a wrist cuff enabling him to hold his own drinks, and using a tent peg to change the channel, use his cell phone, and to type.

A few years after the accident, Clarke returned to work - eventually becoming one of two full-time quadriplegic police officers in Canada.

"It was really important as a police service

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to find a way, when Bryce was ready, for him to have a job," Ed McFarlane, Superintendent of the Criminal Investigations Unit said.

At first, Clarke took on public speaking, and undercover work with the Gang Unit, finally joining the Historical Homicide Unit full time in 2010.

"That was a dream come true," Clarke said. "Even before my accident, my dream was to eventually become a detective in homicide."

Although he hasn't quite yet become a detective – he's currently working as an acting detective – he's an active part of the unit, reviewing evidence in cold cases, and hoping to come up with new leads.

"It doesn't matter that he sits in a chair, he is able to do very meaningful work as a police officer in that chair," McFarlane said.

Outside of work, Clarke rarely slows down – going tubing, and climbing a mountain, he's also met Rick Hansen, and recently won The Shining Star Award from the Canadian Paraplegic Association.

"I can truly attest to how inspirational he is, not only as a person with a spinal cord injury, but what he does in the community," Zachary Weeks with the Canadian Paraplegic Association said.

According to those who know him, Clarke's attitude leaves a lasting impression.

"Of all the people I know, I have never met a fellow with the sense of optimism and the positive attitude that Bryce brings to life," McFarlane said. "Nevermind the job of policing."

For Clarke, it's about challenging the odds, and working to achieve his goals in life.

"If you have a dream, it doesn't matter your situation, you can achieve it, you can get there."
(CTV Edmonton)

May 01 2014

EDMONTON - Steve is his pseudonym, but his problems are real and last year he cost taxpayers \$188,000.

The 47-year-old Caucasian male has a range of addiction and mental health issues. Last year, police were called to deal with him 48 times and he was taken to hospital 115 times.

To help people like Steve, Alberta Justice minister Jonathan Denis announced a \$1.45 million grant for Edmonton Police's Heavy Users of Service project Thursday.

Police Chief Rod Knecht said, working with social agencies, the funding means they will now be able to give it more focus.

"This will assist the project in gathering greater momentum," he said.

Right now, Knecht said precious time is being spent on the homeless and mentally ill without ever getting to the core issues, which he hopes this program can help change.

"If we don't spend 104 minutes on every call, if that time is spent focused on the people who are preying on the homeless, addicted or the mentally ill, that's an investment," he said.

The money for the three-year grant comes from Alberta's civil forfeiture program, which sells property seized that is connected to crime, Denis believes this a good use of the funds.

(Metro Edmonton)

FRIDAY MAY 02, 2014

May 02 2014

CALGARY - An Alberta government report says complacency about recreational pot use and fear of reprisals makes it difficult to find and shut down marijuana grow-ops.

The report makes dozens of recommendations that include a public campaign about the dangers of grow-ops and how to recognize them.

It also suggests mandatory safety inspections of homes that have been used to grow marijuana and that mortgage lenders and insurance companies be required to report suspected grow-ops.

Another recommendation is for a law that would require landlords to inspect a property yearly and evict a tenant immediately if a grow-op were discovered.

The province sought input from police agencies, municipalities, fire officials and health, safety and building investigators.

Utility, mortgage and real-estate companies and community leagues were also consulted.

May 02 2014

PORT ELGIN, Ont. - Ontario's Special Investigations Unit says there are no grounds to charge any police officer with a criminal offence in the death of a 47-year-old man in Port Elgin last year.

The police watchdog says its probe into the June 21 incident determined that an altercation took place after a man - who appeared confused and aggressive - broke into a neighbour's home and was confronted by the owner.

Two Saugeen Shores Police Service officers, with the assistance of the homeowner, tried to bring the man under control and arrest him but due to the man's strenuous resistance, were unable to get him in handcuffs.

The SIU says a third officer helped overpower and handcuff the man in a prone position but that he then fell into acute medical distress, went limp and stopped breathing.

Despite the efforts of the officers and paramedics, the man could not be revived and was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

SIU Director Tony Loparco says the officers used no more force than was reasonably necessary under the circumstances, adding the man was being aggressive and resisting arrest.

May 02 2014

After months of searching, the Treaty Three Police have found their new permanent police chief. Louie Napish from the Migisi Sahaigan First Nation will be officially taking command of the aboriginal police force on May 20.

"The Treaty Three Police Service is a very professional and committed group of individuals," said police board chair Eli

Mandamin. "We certainly have appreciated the leadership and efforts of interim chief of police Dan Davidson, who was on secondment from the Ontario Provincial Police over the last six months."

Although there were several candidates from outside the Treaty Three Police applying for the job, Napish is an internal hire, having served as a deputy chief with the aboriginal police services and has 18 years of experience working in the Treaty 3 area's reserve communities.

The last permanent Treaty Three Police chief, Conrad DeLaronde, resigned last August after facing criticism for his part in the police force's labour crisis. The police board then brought in Davidson for a six-month contract with the force while on secondment from his regular job with the OPP.

Now with a new permanent police chief selected, the police service can move forward on solving the financial crisis which nearly destroyed the police force last year. Negotiations with the union were formally to begin in late February on a brand new collective agreement to replace the current one which was set to expire at the end of March, despite only being signed in the fall of 2012.

According to Mandamin there is still work to do before the police force is back on its feet.

"We still have the issue of lack of funding, but the entire organization, including out officers, are committed to this essential service for our communities," said Mandamin.

The Treaty Three Police Service is not designated as an 'essential service' by either the provincial or federal government, which has been a sore spot for the police board, who feel it has allowed the governments to underfund the force.
(Kenora Daily Miner and News)

SATURDAY MAY 03, 2014

May 03 2014

CALGARY - This spring, two high-level Calgary police officials and a City of Calgary bylaw employee flew to Stockholm for a closer look at the Nordic model of prostitution and whether it could work on Canadian streets.

The first thing they realized is that a uniform Nordic model of prostitution doesn't exist.

Instead, the group found a tangle of legislation, social strategy and enforcement, and an issue that remains as divisive and controversial in Nordic countries as it does here.

"It's not simple," said Debi Perry, who was one of the three people who travelled to study prostitution in Sweden, Norway and Denmark in March.

"Even though 'the Nordic model' sounds pleasant, the solutions are very complicated," said Perry, who is manager of the Calgary police strategic services division.

The idea of the so-called "Nordic model" came into the spotlight in Canada after

the Supreme Court struck down prostitution laws last December and gave the government a year to come up with new legislation. Justice Minister Peter MacKay has said that this legislation will be a “Canadian solution,” and there’s been broad presumption that it may be some version of the Nordic approach, which criminalizes the trafficking and purchase - but not the sale - of prostitution.

Academic May-Len Skilbrei, who has studied the sex trade for 20 years and co-wrote a book, Prostitution Policy in the Nordic Region (2013), says there’s no clear Nordic model because there are significant variations in how sex purchase is dealt with in the Nordic countries.

The legislation, she says, is deeply affected by social policies in each country, and immigration laws, social services and education may all have more impact on the state of sex work than the actual legislation.

“This has to do with a kind of legal optimism - believing that if you just get a law in place, then everything will be fine, which is rarely the case,” Skilbrei said from her office in Norway.

In 1999, Sweden became the first country in the world to enact legislation against the purchase, but not the sale, of sexual services.

The law was seen as the culmination of decades of work on issues of gender equality, feminism and violence toward women. Other Nordic countries later followed the Swedish model. (Regina Leader-Post)

May 03 2014

MONTREAL - A riderless police horse took an unexpected and speedy trip down Sherbrooke St. on Saturday afternoon, managing to evade officers for nearly 30 minutes after it bolted away from its handler.

The animal, identified as a horse named Royal, was spotted galloping west along Sherbrooke in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce at 4 p.m.

Police horses are trained to obey the officers riding them even when confronted with loud noises or other disturbances, so it’s unclear what prompted the animal to dash off. According to police, a female officer was attempting to mount the horse and fell, at which point the animal bolted.

There were several loud claps of thunder just before the incident.

Officers managed to find and bring Royal back under control around 4:30 p.m. The horse suffered minor injuries to its legs and nose, and was being seen by a vet on Saturday evening. The police officer sustained minor injuries to her upper body when she fell. (Montreal Gazette)

May 03 2014

BRIERCREST, Sask. - Mounties are praising a Saskatchewan village for springing to action with quads, a tractor and even a small plane to hunt down a trio of young car-theft suspects who became stranded in the community.

RCMP Sgt. Paul Dawson says it’s alleged

the three suspects, who are all under 18, left Regina in a stolen Subaru early Friday, abandoned it in the community of Roleau, and then stole a truck.

He says they made their way to nearby Briercree, but a resident who spotted them suspected the truck was stolen and took action.

Dawson says when the suspects left the truck parked for a few moments, the resident swiftly opened the door and grabbed the keys.

The resident called police, and the village activated an emergency telephone call-out system to warn everyone to keep an eye out for the suspects.

Eight hours later, after being chased on foot through wet fields and bogs by officers, police dogs and residents, two 16-year-olds and one 17-year-old from Regina were arrested and will face various charges.



May 04 2014

PORT HAWKESBURY, N.S. - A Nova Scotia provincial court judge has determined there is enough evidence to send a head sheriff’s sexual assault case to trial.

James William Snow is expected back in court on July 4 to set dates for the Nova Scotia Supreme Court trial.

The RCMP arrested the 59-year-old Antigonish County man following an alleged incident in Troy in November 2008.

Snow, who has been released from custody, has been a sheriff for more than 30 years working in various parts of the province.

He has been placed on leave from his job. (CIGO)

May 04 2014

ORILLIA - Proposed changes to the OPP’s billing model are a “Band-Aid” solution to the problem of rising policing costs, Orillia police board member Patrick Kehoe says.

“The costs of policing haven’t changed, they are just being distributed differently,” he said. “The problem is the rate at which they are escalating.”

Rising policing costs were at the center of contentious contract negotiations that ended with the city retaining the OPP as its provider of policing services.

Kehoe said Orillia stands to enjoy “moderate” savings under a revamped billing model proposed for communities served by the provincial police force.

However, the changes do nothing to address arbitrated salary increases that continue to drive up costs, he added.

“This is not addressing the long-term un-affordability of police services,” he said, later adding, “The fact of the matter is,

crime is dropping and police costs are going through the roof.”

The new billing model seeks to ensure costs are distributed more equitably across OPP-patrolled communities.

Officials anticipate the new model will be implemented in 2015.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has created a steering committee to review the proposed billing model and offer alternatives to address concerns raised by communities.

(Orillia Today)

May 04 2014

EDMONTON - After 36 years of service, Edmonton police deputy chief David Korol has hung up his hat and is heading into retirement.



Marking his last day on Tuesday, Korol is among a growing list of retirements in the service in recent years. Last year, there were 46 retirements — including 14 detectives, six inspectors, six staff sergeants and three superintendents.

Another 25 sworn members handed in resignations for a variety of reasons. It was same story in 2012, with 45 retirements and 18 resignations.

Supt. Darren Eastcott of the human resources division expects another 60 people will leave this year, amounting to five to six retirements a month. He’s been watching the numbers closely, anticipating how and where police will fill the gaps.

In order to fill the vacancies, police have been on an aggressive recruiting campaign. Eastcott is hoping to put three classes of 40 recruits through this year and the next, depending on whether the city expands its borders. But not everyone who attends recruit class is successful. Usually two or three people per class don’t make the cut.

Eastcott admits replacing those with years of experience isn’t easy, which is why the last group of inspectors were working with the University of Alberta’s business school so they have the tools to move up the ranks and run the business of policing.

Where police are feeling the biggest impact from the retirements is with the middle managers, like staff sergeants, who can have 25 years of experience.

In July 2012, police lost two other deputy police chiefs — Darryl da Costa and Neil Dubord, leaving Korol as the lone deputy chief. (Sun Media)

MONDAY
MAY 05, 2014

May 05 2014

TORONTO - The Toronto Police Service has announced an expansion of the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team program.

The expansion comes three months after a coroner's inquest made more than 70 recommendations in the deaths of three emotionally disturbed people at the hands of Toronto police.

One of the recommendations was to expand the program, in which a police officer teams up with a mental health nurse.

Deputy Chief Mike Federico said one new team is being added to 32 and 33 divisions in the North York area.

"We are working with existing hospital partners — St. Joseph's, St. Mike's, Humber River and Scarborough General — to expand a territory of the existing teams, so that in 2014 we expect that all areas of the City of Toronto will be serviced by the mobile crisis teams," Deputy Chief Federico said at a news conference on Monday.

While it's not a 24-hour operation, the deputy chief insists officers have crisis training and are capable of handling a mental health related call if the specialty team is not available.

A report by the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital found the partnership between police and mental health nurses are having a positive effect.

In 2011, Toronto police officers went sent to almost 20,000 calls related to a mental health crisis.

(680 News)

May 05 2014

The RCMP in B.C. is winning back support after a series of "PR nightmares" left the organization reeling in the public eye.

In an Angus Reid Global poll released exclusively to The Province, public confidence is shown to have dramatically rebounded in the RCMP, municipal police and court system since the last time the B.C.-based polling firm asked these questions in a 2012 survey.

Shachi Kurl, vice-president of Angus Reid Global, said the new survey shows in particular that public confidence in the Mounties is normalizing after it hit "an absolute low point" a few years ago.

Kurl pointed to a series of "PR nightmares" involving police in B.C. that dominated the headlines leading up to 2012, including the Taser-related death of Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver airport, the lingering memories of the Robert Pickton trial, the in-custody death of Ian Bush in the northern community of Houston, and harassment lawsuits from RCMP officers in B.C.

"It was unprecedented. I don't think anyone can really remember such a stacking-up of issue on issue on issue, which then tends

to snowball in the minds of the public," said Kurl. "It really will have a devastating effect on perception and public opinion."

Despite the encouraging news for the RCMP, the results also showed that B.C.'s confidence in the justice system still lags behind the national average in every category of the poll: RCMP, municipal police, provincial criminal courts and the Supreme Court of Canada. In fact, British Columbians registered the lowest confidence level in every category, except municipal police, where they were the second to last.

(The Province)

May 05 2014

AGASSIZ, B.C. - Two men suspected of stealing a truck that was carrying

a stolen snowmobile were apparently in need of a rest before they were arrested in Agassiz, B.C.

RCMP say the pair was fast asleep in the cab of the vehicle Saturday night when a Mountie woke them up and took into custody.

Cpl. Len vanNieuwenhuizen says the officer saw the vehicle parked in a boat launch parking lot but without a boat trailer attached.

He says the truck's licence plate had an expired decal and was flagged as stolen from another truck and the bed of the vehicle contained a snowmobile that had been reported missing.

May 05 2014

An RCMP officer in Yellowknife is facing several charges for allegedly defrauding the police organization.

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To register, contact Pat Mazan at: T: 403.428.8380 E: pat.mazan@calgarypolice.ca.

CALGARY POLICE SERVICE
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Const. Nathan White was charged in April of fraud under \$5,000, forgery and uttering a forged document.

RCMP started investigating the matter about a year ago. On May 29, White was suspended with pay pending court proceedings and an internal discipline process, an RCMP news release said.

White joined the RCMP in 2007 and has served his entire career in the Northwest Territories. He is scheduled to make his first appearance in territorial court on May 13.

(Edmonton Journal)

TUESDAY
MAY 06, 2014

May 06 2014

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg newspaper says it's learned that the future of the city's drug treatment court is in jeopardy due to a lack of stable funding.

The Free Press says justice sources confirm that as of May 1, the court stopped accepting new applications from offenders because there's no guarantee its annual funding will be there as of April 1, 2015.

They also say the federal government is tired of funding the program without a commitment by the province to take it over in the long term.

Ottawa provides about \$500,000 a year to the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba to fund the court, which helps support the long-term rehabilitation of offenders whose crimes are fuelled by addictions.

Defence lawyer Michael Dyck says the demise of the court would mean a rise in costs and incarceration rates, plus more pressure on existing community-based resources for addicts.

The office of federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay says discussions on the issue are continuing between the Manitoba Department of Justice and Justice Canada.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

May 06 2014

OTTAWA - The federal First Nations policing program is bedevilled by poor allocation of money, shoddy buildings and lack of transparency, auditor general Michael Ferguson says.



The policing program, created in 1991 to address concerns about policing in aboriginal communities, involves negotiation and funding of agreements between the federal government, provincial or territorial governments, and First Nations and Inuit settlements.

Federal expenditures for the program totalled about \$1.7 billion through 2012-13. At last count, 442 of the 593 First Nations communities across Canada were receiving services from one or more agreements funded by the program.

The program is intended to provide these communities with policing services other than those the province covers, but Ferguson said in a report Tuesday that the program was sometimes used to replace core services normally provided by the provinces.

Auditors from his office surveyed 10 First Nations chiefs with self-administered policing services, with five saying their services had replaced the provincial policing in their communities.

Public Safety Canada, the department responsible for the program, lacks reasonable assurance that policing facilities in First Nations communities are adequate, the report says.

Ferguson found the department does not systematically collect information about whether facilities maintained by First Nations comply with federal building and fire codes, or applicable provincial standards.

In visiting six fly-in communities in Ontario, auditors observed instances in which officers were living in houses "that were crowded, contained mould, and were in a state of disrepair."

Other problems included holding cells that were too small, unfinished construction and a lack of reception and community meeting rooms.

Public Safety's practices for assessing applicants to the program, selecting recipients and allocating money were not transparent, the report says. In addition, assessments and selection decisions were not adequately documented, meaning they could be considered arbitrary.

Ferguson also found First Nations were not meaningfully included in the negotiation of agreements. For seven of nine new or renewed policing agreements examined, there was no documented evidence of the nature and extent of input by aboriginal communities.

Thirty agreement-holders had less than one month's notice to complete negotiations of agreements that were slated to expire March 31 of last year, the auditors noted.

"The program is not working as intended, and many issues persist," Ferguson said.

Ferguson also found that certain elements of the federal First Nations Policing policy principles were not fully incorporated into agreements, and that Public Safety did not measure and report on whether the program's objectives were being achieved.

Public Safety Canada agreed with the auditor general's recommendations.

May 06 2014

Highlights of auditor general Michael Ferguson's spring report to Parliament:

- The prison system has met its immediate need for cells, but has not figured out how to deal with the long-term problem of crowding, especially since federal law-and-order legislation promises to keep more people

behind bars for longer periods. The audit says there is already overcrowding in some regions as prisoners are bunked two to a cell - and the problem could get worse.

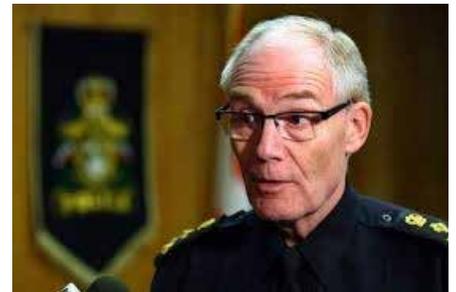
- The First Nations policing system is not working as intended and some of the police services fail to meet provincial policing legislation and standards. The audit found that First Nations don't have enough say in negotiating policing agreements. The Public Safety Department doesn't know whether First Nations police facilities, such as jails, police stations and accommodations, meet fire and building codes or provincial standards.

- Public-service pension plans, covering public servants, Mounties and the military, are not regularly assessed for sustainability. The audit says the Treasury Board should assume a greater role in overseeing the plans, because prolonged low interest rates, lower-than-expected returns on assets and longer life spans could end up costing taxpayers billions.

- A government program intended to integrate the way public servants, the military and the RCMP handle transfers and moving costs, did not encourage competition when it sought to issue one large contract to cover everyone. The audit also found that Public Works did not follow its usual processes in documenting its procurement strategy.

May 06 2014

SASKATOON - A police chief in Saskatchewan says the deaths of two teenagers has him fed up with the increasing rate of vehicle thefts in his city and the owners who seem to be making the crimes so easy.



Saskatoon police say a stolen pickup truck sped through a busy intersection Monday night and crashed into two other vehicles. One of them, a car, was pushed on its side and into the wall of a medical clinic.

Two 17-year-olds in the car, a boy and a girl, were killed. A 16-year-old girl who was also in the car was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Chief Clive Weighill said Tuesday that the truck had been easily taken. Its keys were left inside.

"I am frustrated and I mean it," he told a news conference.

"Something like this should never happen in the city of Saskatoon."

Weighill said that in about 70 per cent of stolen-vehicle cases in the city, keys were left inside or were poorly hidden nearby. And

despite public campaigns asking people to guard their keys more safely, more vehicles have been reported stolen in recent years.

"Already this year, we're up 28 per cent."

The vehicles that most often go missing in Saskatoon are new pickup trucks - again with keys left inside, said Weighill.

Matching the chief's vexation with auto thefts was his disdain for repeat car thieves and courts that put many of them back out on the street.

The suspects in Monday's deadly crash - a 21-year-old woman pulled out from behind the wheel of the truck and a 17-year girl sitting beside her - have been charged with stealing a vehicle before, he said.

"I'm probably one of the biggest proponents of diversion and helping youth and trying not to send people to correctional facilities," said Weighill. "But in some cases, where we have these repeat offenders, somebody has to say stop."

He gave no details on the pair's past crimes or release dates.

Weighill dismissed witness accounts that the deadly crash happened during a high-speed police chase.

He said a police video shows an officer had been following the stolen truck for several blocks before he turned on his emergency lights and siren.

"As soon as he did that ... that vehicle immediately sped off at a high rate of speed. Our officer's vehicle slowed right down, did not pursue that vehicle, because he could see that this was not going to end well if there was a pursuit."

Weighill said he hopes the deaths will finally wake up people.

"We can't do this on our own. We're asking people not to leave the keys in their cars. We're asking the prosecutions and the courts to help with some of the repeat offenders.

"It's a frustration when you're caught in the middle as a police service."

May 06 2014

A national policy needs to be created to guide police in how to properly interview children who are witnesses to or victims of crime, a new study urges.



Researchers analyzed dozens of cases and found that investigators tended to ask "largely inappropriate" questions, so closed or narrow that they elicited short answers. Open-ended questions are preferred.

Instead of asking a child to "tell me what happened," police were more likely to ask questions along the lines of "Where did he touch you?" or "Did he have his clothes on?"

according to a report published in the Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology.

This style of questioning could prevent investigators from getting a full picture of what happened and, worse, could lead to wrongful accusations, said lead author Kirk Luther, a PhD candidate in psychology at Memorial University in Newfoundland. "The child may be the only witness to a criminal event. You want to get all the information so justice can be served."

More rigorous police training in child interviews was a key recommendation eight years ago of a commission of inquiry that probed three wrongful convictions in Newfoundland.

There was a time when experts thought that children were not reliable witnesses because they have weaker memories and are highly suggestible, Luther and his colleagues wrote. But more recent research has found "compelling" evidence that children as young as four can provide detailed and accurate testimony.

It all comes down to the quality of the questions.

Research has found that best practices include establishing a rapport with a child before an interview. An interviewer might invite a child to "tell me about the last time you played hockey."

It's also important to establish that the child knows the difference between the truth and lying. "If I say that my shoes are black, is that true or not true?" an interviewer might ask.

A child should also be told that it's OK to say they don't know the answer to something or to correct the investigator if they say something wrong.

The evidence is "very clear," the researchers wrote, that questions that result in a "yes" or "no" answer or questions that force a child to pick an answer should be avoided.

But in their review of 45 interviews from an unnamed Canadian police agency, the researchers found that there was little rapport building and an "over reliance" on closed or directive questions. In fact, open-ended questions — those that begin with "tell," "explain," or "describe" — were used only 7 per cent of the time.

"Interviewers are potentially narrowing the scope of their investigations by limiting the information they elicit from the child and by collecting information that is of questionable quality," they wrote.

The Canadian Child Abuse Association recently started offering the country's first voluntary certification program for forensic child interviewers. Investigators must complete a written exam, plus submit a recorded child interview for review by a team of experts.

Four members of the Calgary Police Service's child-abuse unit have so far been certified, said Staff Sgt. Kelly Campbell, who heads the unit out of the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre.

Interviewing children can be challenging because they have narrower attention spans, but it is critical that investigators avoid the temptation to ask leading questions, she said.

"If you say, 'Did he touch you in your private parts?' and he says, 'Yeah,' well, then you're

done because you're suggesting this person has done something to them," Campbell said.

You have to give the child the opportunity to "give their rendition of the facts."

(Postmedia)

May 06 2014

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police are investigating why an emergency call was cancelled in a fatal shooting outside a nightclub.

Police chief Devon Clunis says someone called 911 on Sunday to report a fight outside the Opera Night Club.

Someone in the 911 centre cancelled the emergency response 20 minutes later.

Four minutes after that, the 911 centre received another call from the nightclub saying that shots had been fired.

Police responded to that call within three minutes.

Clunis says he cannot provide any details at this stage, but an internal review is underway and some staff are on administrative leave.

"It's a fairly dynamic situation in that centre, where we do have staff at different levels, different ranks, as well as a duty officer," Clunis told reporters.

"And again, that's why I've ordered this investigation to determine all of the details surrounding the cancellation of this call."

May 06 2014

MONTREAL - Two brothers who are police officers on different forces are suing the Quebec government for \$500,000 each after they were the targets of "an unjustified, abusive and sloppy" investigation for corruption but never charged.

François Bouffard was a commander with the Montreal police until April 1, where he headed investigations into organized crime until May 4, 2011. His brother, Francis Bouffard, served on the special investigations unit of the Sûreté du Québec until May 4, 2011.

On that date, both men were visited at their workplaces by the SQ and told they were under investigation for having bribed the mayor of Mascouche in order to get his help with a Bouffard family housing project, says a lawsuit filed last week in Quebec Superior Court.

Mascouche mayor Richard Marcotte was arrested by the province's anti-corruption unit in April 2012, along with 16 others, and charged with fraud, breach of trust and corruption.

The brothers claim that investigators didn't have many facts about their case, but the Bouffards co-operated with them anyway, allowing them access to bank accounts and the family business books. They also provided police with names of witnesses who could corroborate their version of events.

Their lawsuit claims police also visited the Bouffard brothers' parents, told them their adult children had admitted to their crimes and if they didn't co-operate, they'd have trouble for the next five years.

The day they were visited by investigators, Francis Bouffard was suspended with

pay from the SQ and François Bouffard was moved to a desk job with the Montreal police, the suit says.

It says that it wasn't until April 17, 2013 that Francis Bouffard learned from a colleague that there would be no criminal charges laid against him and his brother.

Both took sick leave from their jobs as a result of the stress, the lawsuit states. François Bouffard took early retirement from the Montreal police April 1. His brother still works for the SQ, which is named as the subject of the complaint in the suit. The defendant is the attorney general of Quebec.

"The Bouffard brothers were the object of an unjustified, abusive, sloppy ... investigation for which the defendant must be held responsible," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit also claims that the police investigation was biased because Francis Bouffard was in line to take over as lieutenant of the major crimes division but, a month before his suspension, he learned Dominique Lefrenière would have the position. Her husband, Martin Prud'Homme, was the deputy minister of Public Security at the time.

(Montreal Gazette)

May 06 2014

REGINA – Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) is trying to improve road safety by investing in automatic licence plate readers for the RCMP and municipal police forces.

There are currently 13 police cars in the province equipped with automatic license plate readers.

"The benefit of this technology is that it helps get the high risk drivers off the road," said White Butte RCMP Constable Kaufmann. "We've gone from manually checking about 10 plates every 15 minutes to checking 10 plates in 10 seconds with the automatic license plate reader."

SGI has currently invested about \$485,000 in this technology and plans to buy more devices in the future.

(Global News)

WEDNESDAY
MAY 07, 2014

May 07 2014

MONTREAL - Hundreds of police officers took part in raids on drug-trafficking networks in Quebec on Wednesday, seizing drugs, cash, weapons, vehicles and even a stolen boat.

Authorities say they targeted groups that operated in suburban Montreal and in the Saguenay region about 250 kilometres north of Quebec City.

Provincial police and numerous municipal counterparts arrested 69 people.

Five of those detained were identified as the supposed ring leaders of five different networks, including one that specialized in producing cannabis destined for the United States.

Six people remained at large on Wednesday.

Some 650 officers took part in 49 seizures in three dozen municipalities.

A number of pill presses were seized, including one that could be used to manufacture 80,000 pills per hour.

Authorities say it's the first time they've seen equipment like that used in a trafficking case.

Police say the networks worked independently of each other and were behind the trafficking of cocaine, cannabis, methamphetamines and ecstasy.

The networks were linked to criminal biker gangs.

The accused face a wide range of charges relating to the production, trafficking and exportation of drugs. Some also face gangsterism charges.

May 07 2014

VANCOUVER - Police in Vancouver didn't have to travel to an intergalactic outpost to find Darth Vader when they arrested the Star Wars villain near the tony neighbourhood of Shaughnessy.

Sgt. Randy Fincham says police quickly determined they weren't dealing with Luke Skywalker's heavy-breathing but powerful dad when they responded early Tuesday to a robbery involving a suspect wearing a Darth Vader mask.

He says the 23-year-old victim reported she was unhurt but that her attacker was a woman who'd pointed a gun at her and escaped with a small amount of cash.

In the absence of Tie fighter patrols, a 911 call helped lead police to a suspect, who was not far away and still wearing the mask.

A search revealed the 20-year-old didn't have a light sabre but was armed with a replica firearm, and Fincham says police will be seeking charges related to robbery and weapons offences.

Fincham says unfortunately for this robber, she underestimated the power of the force.

May 07 2014

OTTAWA - The two largest First Nation police services in Ontario say Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney refuses to discuss the serious problems they face - shortcomings documented this week by the federal auditor general.



Representatives of the Nishnawbe-Aski and Anishinabek police services are accusing the federal government of chronic underfunding and underhanded negotiating tactics on policing agreements.

A report by auditor general Michael Fer-

guson says the federal First Nations policing program is hamstrung by poor allocation of money, shoddy buildings and lack of meaningful aboriginal involvement.

The program - created in 1991 to address concerns about policing in aboriginal communities - involves negotiation and funding of agreements between the federal government, provincial or territorial governments, and First Nations and Inuit settlements.

More than 400 First Nations communities across Canada receive services from one or more agreements funded by the program.

In visiting six fly-in communities in Ontario, auditors found officers living in overcrowded, mouldy houses and working in cramped or unfinished facilities.

May 07 2014

EDMONTON - Alberta Solicitor General Jonathan Denis has launched an investigation into how an accused first-degree murderer under guard in hospital managed to escape.

Denis says Christopher Nagel was free for about five hours in Edmonton's University Hospital.

He says the 36-year-old was able to escape when the guard let him go to the washroom and Nagel managed to slip out a side door.

He was discovered hiding three floors up from the washroom and taken into custody without incident.

Nagel was charged on Sunday in the death of his wife Rienna Nagel, and now also faces a charge of escaping lawful custody.

Rienna Nagel was found dead Saturday in a home in Spruce Grove, just west of Edmonton, and Christopher Nagel was taken to hospital with unspecified injuries.

May 07 2014

VANCOUVER - Two marijuana vending machines — believed to be Canada's first — have been installed in Vancouver.



One looks like a gumball machine, with small amounts of marijuana available in plastic containers that sell for \$4 to \$6 depending on the variety.

Charles Varabioff, director of the B.C. Pain Society, which houses and runs the machines, said it is "for people who want cheaper stuff, not necessarily quality."

The other machine contains larger packages, which sell for between \$10 and \$50. Hash, and its oil and extracts, are also for sale in the machine.

Varabioff said that only those with a membership to the society — which requires a doctor's prescription — are allowed to purchase marijuana from the machines. If interested parties don't have a prescription, Varabioff said he can refer them to a doctor.

"If they consent that marijuana is an option for you, we'll print you out a free ID card," he said.

Police said they are aware of the drug machines.

"Whether it happens over the counter, in a dark alley or through a vending machine, the sale of marijuana is illegal. There is always a risk of arrest when someone engages in illegal activity," said Vancouver Police Department spokesman Brian Montague in an email.

"The VPD will respond to any complaints and decide if further investigation or enforcement is required," he said. "We have a priority-based approach to policing and, generally, this is a low priority. Not to say that it can't become a priority if public safety is a concern."

Varabioff said his goal is to have more of these machines installed. He plans to add another one at the society and hopes machines like these will spread across the city. (QMI Agency)

THURSDAY MAY 08, 2014

May 08 2014

SASKATOON - Additional and more serious charges have been laid against a 17-year-old girl after a fatal crash in Saskatoon this week involving a stolen truck.

The teen was initially charged with possession of stolen property, but police now say she is facing six counts that include dangerous driving causing death and criminal negligence causing death.

Police have said a pickup sped through a busy intersection Monday night and hit two other vehicles, including a car that was pushed into the wall of a building.

Two 17-year-olds in the car, a boy and a girl, were killed and a 16-year-old girl was seriously hurt.

The teen, along with a 21-year-old woman who was charged in the collision, were expected to appear in court today for a bail hearing.

The second suspect, Cheyann Chrystal Peeteetuce, faces 14 counts that include impaired driving causing death and criminal negligence causing death.

May 08 2014

BRANTFORD - Ontario's Special Investigations Unit is probing a crash between a Brantford police cruiser and a car in which two seniors suffered serious internal injuries.

The SIU says preliminary information is that a Brantford police officer was travelling

north in a marked cruiser on Clarence Street in Brantford on Wednesday at about 7 p.m. when it collided with a vehicle travelling south.

A man and a woman in the vehicle, both 75, were transported to Brantford General Hospital with serious injuries.

The SIU has assigned five investigators and a collision reconstructionist to probe the circumstances of this accident.

(Hamilton Spectator)

May 08 2014

CORNER BROOK, N.L. - Police in western Newfoundland have charged two men with impersonating peace officers.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says the two men had uniforms, a marked vehicle and other equipment, including protective vests and handcuffs.

Const. Scott Mosher says the men, who were arrested Tuesday, were allegedly trying to line up work with smaller municipalities as bylaw enforcement officers.

He says a 34-year-old man from Corner Brook, N.L., and a 25-year-old man from Deer Lake, N.L., are facing charges.

Both men are scheduled to appear in court June 10.

May 08 2014

RED DEER, Alta. - A central Alberta Mountie has been found guilty of using excessive force during an arrest.

Const. Ron Lavallee, who is 35, was convicted Wednesday of assault causing bodily harm during a confrontation in December 2011.

Lavallee, who is assigned to the Maskwacis detachment, is to return to court next month.

The RCMP officer is a seven-year veteran. (CKGY)

PRESENCE, COMMAND, IMAGE

The three aspects of law enforcement authority to which all police and security agencies aspire are presence, command and image however they differ on which is the most important.

Many studies indicate that image is a primary factor and unspoken asset in encouraging voluntary compliance. Appearance can be the one determining factor that improves community respect for an agency in general and the officer in particular.

For many years *Blue Line Magazine* has looked at Canadian law enforcement attire and apparel with a view toward encouraging an atmosphere of continuous improvement from both agency and industry. Toward this end we have now set aside a single issue each year to recognize the agency which best exemplifies quality improvement and function in its uniform attire and apparel. Emphasis will be placed on the success of the image projected to the community along with the cooperative efforts of both



members, stylists and industry manufacturers and fabricators.

The *Blue Line Uniform Image Award* may be bestowed upon any police or parallel law enforcement agency where a uniform is a primary part of day-to-day operations. The

award can recognize design and style of an entire array of uniforms or one improved aspect of the uniform kit which creates a demonstrably enhanced public image. Factors considered include style, safety, comfort and innovation.

Apply to be considered for this recognition by supplying appropriate photographs and supporting documentation outlining the process, goals, and achievements made in the attire and/or apparel. All submissions will be viewed by a group of judges with extensive experience in law enforcement, manufacturing, retail and design.

Recipients will be the featured cover story in the November edition of *Blue Line Magazine* and receive a plaque of recognition suitable for display. All submissions may be made to uniforms@blueline.ca before September 15, 2014.

Blue Line Magazine will also be entertaining resumes and suggestions for judges for this award up to August 31, 2014.