

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Study weighs pros and cons of cops on Twitter



Jun 19 2014

**VANCOUVER** - When a gunman killed three Mounties, wounded two others and then led police on a manhunt through Moncton, N.B., Twitter quickly emerged as one of the best sources for updates, both for residents of the city and for Canadians watching in horror from afar.

As the drama unfolded, the RCMP posted up-to-date information about where the alleged shooter was believed to be and - more crucially - what people living in those areas could do to keep themselves safe.

The force posted nearly three dozen updates during the 30-hour manhunt, finally

restoring a relative sense of calm with just 131 characters.

"Justin Bourque arrested by RCMP at 12:10 in Moncton," the force wrote, referring to a man now facing murder and attempted murder charges, in a post that was retweeted 14,000 times.

"He is in police custody. Residents of north Moncton can now leave their homes."

It was an extraordinary example of how police forces across the country are using Twitter, whether they're offering real-time information during disasters, asking for tips or breaking news about arrests.

"During a live incident, they can be



soliciting tips from the public and it's also a very immediate way to issue public orders, like: 'Don't come out of your house, there's an active shooter in the neighbourhood,'" says Christopher Schneider, a sociology professor with the University of British Columbia who has published a new study about how Canadian police forces are using the social media website.

"They can do it with traditional media, and they did, but when they do it on social media and Twitter ... the information shares a lot more quickly."

Schneider says police forces are flocking to Twitter, with forces in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver each boasting tens of thousands of followers.

But he argues in his study that Twitter can both help and hurt.

While the service offers a new way to interact directly with the public, it also presents potential risks as officers blur their professional and private lives.

Schneider examined more than 100,000 tweets from the Toronto police - both on the force's official accounts and from officers.

Twitter was primarily used as a publicity tool, says Schneider, with the force and its officers using the service to highlight the good work of the police and develop a relationship with the public.

"I think it's a lot more about public relations, primarily about encouraging symbolic support and doing what the public expects of the police," he says.

"Using Twitter in this way to encourage (public confidence) is helpful."

On the other hand, Schneider says becoming too personal on Twitter - which, for many users, is the entire point - can become a problem, especially when individual officers are tweeting.

Schneider says officers are limited in what they can say about their actual work, for fear of releasing sensitive information,

so many officers' accounts are peppered with non-work related material - comments about a hockey game or a photo from a family vacation, for instance.

It might seem like a good idea to present an officer as a likable "average Jane," but Schneider says that could actually undermine the ability of officers to do their job if they encounter people who recognize them from Twitter. It's the same reason most forces don't allow beat cops to work in their own neighbourhoods, he says.

"When I'm speaking on behalf of myself and I'm also an officer, this personalizes these officers," he says.

"If these personalized officers then have to use their authority in the street by arresting people or ticketing people and there is a personal relationship, this has the potential to erode police legitimacy."

Schneider says it's also not clear whether officers who tweet on their own time are still representing the force.

For example, his study notes Ontario's Police Services Act prohibits officers from endorsing a political party or candidate while on duty, but it's not clear how that might apply if an officer is tweeting from home.

"Twitter is immediate, and police need to be very careful about what they say," says Schneider, whose review of Toronto police tweets doesn't identify any obvious examples of officers crossing the line.

conducting a traffic stop in the community of Deschambault Lake when he noticed smoke coming from a nearby residence.

Several people were waving their arms at him to get his attention, and when he went over, they told him one person was still inside the house, where the back was fully engulfed in flames.

RCMP say the officer was careful entering the residence and found a 21-year-old female asleep on a couch.

He got her out safely, but went back in when told there may have been children still inside.

The heat was too intense for him to search, and the children were located safely outside the home a short time later.

## FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2014

Jun 20 2014

### OWEN SOUND, Ont. - An Owen Sound police officer is facing numerous charges under the Police Services Act.

It's alleged the officer, an eight-year veteran of the force, began a personal and sexual relationship with a victim in a crime investigation.

Chief Bill Sornberger says an investigation into the case by an unnamed external police service started last November in connection with alleged incidents between February and July of 2013.

Const. Brian Follis has been charged with six counts of discreditable conduct, five counts of neglect of duty, two counts of deceit and one count each of insubordination and breach of confidence.

Follis has been suspended from duty with pay.

Since the allegations are not of a criminal nature, the case will be heard by a hearing officer at the Owen Sound police station on July 3. (CFOS)

Jun 20 2014

### HALIFAX - The Federal Court in Halifax has reserved a decision in two class-action lawsuit settlements involving RCMP and military veterans with disabilities.

Lawyers for the veterans and the federal government were in court today seeking the approval of settlements worth \$70 million for retired RCMP officers and \$38.6 million for military veterans.

The RCMP case involves officers whose long-term disability payments were cut by the same amount they received in monthly disability pension payments through Veterans Affairs.

David White, the lead plaintiff in the RCMP class-action, says the roughly 1,000 retired Mounties with disabilities who would be covered by their agreement are supportive of the deal and are eager to close the case.

White says the \$70-million agreement would mean that the clawback would end for all RCMP veterans now receiving benefits and Mounties who are medically released in the future.

## THURSDAY JUNE 19, 2014

Jun 19 2014

### REGINA - The commander of a Saskatchewan RCMP detachment has been removed from his post while the force investigates what it describes as inappropriate workplace behaviour.

Sgt. Craig Cleary says the staff sergeant in Meadow Lake was suspended with pay June 10.

Cleary says allegations came to light that prompted an internal code of conduct investigation, but he says he can't get into details of the claims.

Cleary refused to name the commander at the centre of the case, but confirmed it is the same Mountie who faced allegations in 2009.

Cpl. Tim Korman was accused of sexually harassing a female subordinate, but the case was dismissed because an RCMP review panel said it took too long to be heard.

Former Mountie Laura Lehne alleged that Korman made offensive and sexually explicit comments about her when the two served in Buffalo Narrows, Sask., in 2004, then punished her after she filed a complaint.

Jun 19 2014

### DESCHAMBAULT LAKE, Sask. - A Mountie is being credited with saving a woman from a burning home in northern Saskatchewan.

Police say on Tuesday an officer was

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The \$38.6-million settlement in the lawsuit involving military veterans was reached on the cost of living provisions with veterans who were awarded an \$887.8-million settlement last year.

At issue in that case was a long-standing federal practice of clawing back the military pensions of injured soldiers by the amount of disability payments they received.

Jun 20 2014

**QUEBEC - Two men, including the director of computer services for the provincial Public Security Department, have been arrested by Quebec's anti-corruption police squad.**

The men are suspected of putting together a fraud scheme to facilitate the awarding of a contract valued at \$3.3 million.

The value of the fraud was set at \$400,000.

Abdelaziz Younsi, the director of Information Technology for the Public Security Department, and businessman Mohamed El Khayat face charges including breach of trust and fraud.

They will appear in court on Sept. 8.

Public Security Minister Lise Theriault says an investigation was triggered after the anti-corruption squad got a tip.

Jun 20 2014

**VANCOUVER - British Columbia residents are being asked for their opinions about the nearly two-year-old office that examines incidents of death or serious injury involving police in this province.**

A special legislative committee reviewing the Independent Investigations Office is accepting public submissions until Sept. 26.

A section of the Police Act that set up the office requires the review by an all-party committee, with a final report submitted to the legislature.

Committee deputy chairman Spencer Chandra Herbert says members look forward to learning about the agency and considering how its operations could be improved.

The office accepted its first case in September 2012, when former soldier Greg Matters was shot to death during a standoff with RCMP in Prince George.

Earlier this month, director Richard Rosenthal announced a civilian monitor will review the handling of that file after questions arose about their report clearing officers of any criminal wrongdoing in Matters' death.

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 21, 2014**

Jun 21 2014

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's Special Investigations Unit says there are no reasonable grounds to charge an OPP officer in connection with a fatal crash in Mississauga last fall.**

A 16 year old male was killed on November

23rd after crashing his Honda Civic into a hydro pole at high speed.

An SIU investigation says the teen had briefly talked to officers at a RIDE stop, then sped away, running a red light and eventually hitting the pole at between 160 and 180 kilometres per hour.

The SIU says officers suspected the teen had been drinking and initially gave chase with their lights flashing - the lead cruiser hitting 144-kilometres per hour in a 50 zone before ending the pursuit.

SIU Director Tony Loparco says that given the facts of the case criminal charges against the officers involved are not warranted.

Jun 21 2014

**TRURO - A former Truro police chief is being remembered today as a gentleman, dedicated family man and well-respected officer.**



Alonzo "Lonnie" Murray passed away at the age of 80 early Saturday morning.

Murray served with the Truro Police

Service for 40 years, from 1956 to 1996, and was chief for 22 years until he retired.

"Lonnie was on the police force when I joined in 1962," said former colleague Wyman Mingo of Truro. "He was a sergeant at the time. It (the service) was very small then and not as well equipped."

Mingo said Murray had a "mild" personality and an open mind.

"He was a chief and sergeant that stood by his men," said Mingo. "I looked up to him as a chief and an officer."

"The good things he did here as a police officer was certainly noticeable by all his men and the public."

Truro resident and former police chief Ken MacLean, served as deputy chief from 1988 to 1996, stepping into the chief's position following Murray's retirement.

"He's the best boss I ever had," said MacLean. "He had a great passion for the community and his members. He wanted the best for them."

MacLean described him as a very strong, humble leader and said Murray led the service through "a time of revolution of policing."

He served during a time when call boxes were the norm, then later radios and cell phones. Murray is credited for securing body armour, dress uniforms and other safety equipment for his members.

"He was the author of all that," said MacLean. "Anything to do with safety and training, he was proactive in those fields."

Murray is survived by his wife Anne Clair,

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four children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, as well as three sisters, a brother and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Mattatall Varner Funeral Home in Truro. Time and date had not been announced as of noon Saturday.  
(Cape Breton Post)

## SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2014

Jun 22 2014

### OTTAWA - Many of the Justice Department's finest legal minds are falling prey to a garden-variety Internet scam.

An internal survey shows almost 2,000 staff were conned into clicking on a phoney "phishing" link in their email, raising questions about the security of sensitive information.

The department launched the mock scam in December as a security exercise, sending emails to 5,000 employees to test their ability to recognize cyber fraud.

The emails looked like genuine communications from government or financial institutions, and contained a link to a fake website that was also made to look like the real thing.

Across the globe, an estimated 156 million of these so-called "phishing" emails are sent daily, and anyone duped into clicking on the embedded web link risks transferring confidential information - such as online banking passwords - to criminals.

The Justice Department's mock exercise caught 1,850 people clicking on the phoney embedded links, or 37 per cent of everyone who received the emails.

That's a much higher rate than for the general population, which a federal website says is only about five per cent.

The exercise did not put any confidential information at risk, but the poor results raise red flags about public servants being caught by actual phishing emails.

A spokeswoman says "no privacy breaches have been reported" from any real phishing scams at Justice Canada.

Carole Saindon also said that two more waves of mock emails in February and April show improved results, with clicking rates falling by half.

"This is an awareness campaign designed to inform and educate employees on issues surrounding cyber security to protect the integrity of the department's information systems and in turn better protect Canadians," she said in an email.

"In this case, this exercise specifically dealt with the threat from phishing which is increasingly being used as an attack vehicle of choice by cyber criminals."

A February briefing note on the exercise was obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

The document indicates there are more such exercises planned - in June, August and October - and that the simulations will be "graduating in levels of sophistication."

Those caught by the simulation are notified by a pop-up window, giving them tips on spotting malicious messages.

The federal government's Get Cyber Safe website says about 10 per cent of the 156 million phishing emails globally make it through spam filters each day.

Of those, some eight million are actually opened by the recipient, but only 800,000 click on the links - or about five per cent of those who received the emails.

About 10 per cent of those opening the link are fooled into providing confidential information - which represents a worldwide haul of 80,000 credit-card numbers, bank accounts, passwords and other confidential information every day.

## MONDAY JUNE 23, 2014

Jun 23 2014

### QUEBEC - There will be tighter detention conditions for three men who were captured after fleeing a Quebec City-area jail in a helicopter.



The trio, who were arrested Sunday in Montreal, appeared before a judge in Quebec City today under tight security conditions.

Each was shackled and brought to court from the suburban Orsainville detention centre in separate convoys of police vehicles.

The public and journalists were searched before being allowed into the courtroom.

The judge suspended two earlier court decisions that relaxed security conditions to help the accused prepare for their trials on murder and gangsterism charges.

Yves Denis, Denis Lefebvre, and Serge Pomerleau broke out of jail on June 7 and were the subject of an international manhunt.

They were arrested Sunday at a luxury condo in Montreal in an early morning raid by a Quebec provincial police SWAT team.

The men had grown beards and looked tired when they appeared in court.

They're expected to face additional charges.

The Quebec government has ordered an internal investigation into the jailbreak - the second by helicopter in just over a year.

## TUESDAY JUNE 24, 2014

Jun 24 2014

### WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg gang leader has been sentenced to five years in

### prison after being recorded on a jail-house phone directing street drug operations and meting out violent discipline to an unruly underling on the outside.

In addition to a cocaine-trafficking charge, Michael Balingit, 25, admitted Monday to directing others within a criminal organization to conduct crimes on its behalf.

It's believed to be the first time a member of the 334 MOB (Most Organized Brothers) Squad has been found guilty of a criminal organization-related charge.

Balingit was among the main targets of a Winnipeg police operation focused on busting a cellphone "dial a dealer" operation.

Crown attorney Jason Clouston told court the case against Balingit took off after he made 86 telephone calls from inside jail while he was awaiting trial on charges of selling drugs to an undercover officer.

Clouston says Balingit apparently didn't heed a sign warning inmates that their calls were being recorded.

Jun 24 2014

### HINTON, Alta. - RCMP in an Alberta foothills community are advising the public to be aware that some smart phones may have more zaps than apps.

Mounties from the Hinton detachment say they have seized two stun guns in recent days that were disguised as iPhones.

The first seizure was made after a complaint that someone was trying to sell a conducted energy device online.

Less than 24 hours later, officers responded to a complaint of a disturbance outside a bar in the Hinton area.

Another stun gun, also disguised as an iPhone, was seized and charges laid.

Jun 24 2014

### REGINA - Saskatchewan is launching a program that allows children and youth to report bullying anonymously online.

It's modelled after the ERASE website in British Columbia, which has information about what kids can do if they're being bullied or if they witness bullying.

Education Minister Don Morgan says the website will help young people report bullying using their computers or mobile devices.

Morgan says once an anonymous report is made, alerts will be sent to those who can best resolve the situation.

The program is part of a plan to address bullying that was outlined by the Saskatchewan government last fall.

B.C. launched its website in 2012 a few months after the death of 15-year-old Amanda Todd, who committed suicide after she was sexually exploited online and then relentlessly bullied by her peers.

Jun 24 2014 Officers with the Codiac RCMP are returning to work after a period of mourning following the shooting deaths of three of their colleagues in Moncton on June 4.

The officers have been on leave since a funeral for constables Fabrice Georges Gevaudan, Douglas James Larche and Dave

Joseph Ross was held on June 10.

Officers from other jurisdictions have been filling in since the funeral, but the first of the local Mounties returned to work Monday.

“As members are cleared, they are going to go back and those that are there in Codiac working now, working to replace those members, they will return back to their home units,” says Const. Jullie Rogers-March.

About 200 RCMP officers and support staff have been assessed by doctors and psychologists.

The chair of the police commission says replacing all of Codiac’s members was no small task, but he says it went well.

“I don’t think the people of Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview saw any difference in the policing,” says Nick LeBlanc of the Codiac Regional Policing Authority. “In fact, I know they didn’t, and they saw more vehicles with the men that were here.”

Moncton residents John and Tanya Majensky say they are still haunted by the tragic events of June 4 and their hearts break for the officers returning to work.

“Everybody was affected by this and I think we are all very grateful,” says Tanya.

“To think about what they have to go through mentally and physically, to walk into a locker room and maybe see the names gone off the lockers,” says John.

“God bless you and thank you. You are not dealing with the burden on your own. The whole city, not just our city, everybody’s city is behind you and with you.”

Police say the officers’ return to work will be gradual and on a case-by-case basis.

(CTV Atlantic)

Jun 24 2014

**Complaints originating from social media make up “at least half” of calls passed on to British front-line officers, a senior officer has told the BBC.**

Chief Constable Alex Marshall, head of the College of Policing, said the number of crimes arising from social media represented “a real problem”.

He said it was a particular problem for officers who deal with low-level crimes.

About 6,000 officers were being trained to deal with online offences, he said.

He said the police and public were still trying to understand when online insults became a crime.

Mr Marshall told BBC Radio 4’s Law in Action: “As people have moved their shopping online and their communications online, they’ve also moved their insults, their abuse and their threats online, so I see that it won’t be long before pretty much every investigation that the police conduct will have an on-line element to it.

“It’s a real problem for people working on the front line of policing, and they deal with this every day.

“So in a typical day where perhaps they deal with a dozen calls, they might expect that at least half of them, whether around antisocial behaviour or abuse or threats of assault may well relate to social

media, Facebook, Twitter or other forms.”

Currently, online crimes are recorded under traditional headings such as harassment or threats to kill and not as a cybercrime, so each record is required to be read individually to ascertain if the crime originated on social media.

Mr Marshall said because of that, the force was missing out on information.

The College of Policing was currently carrying out research to quantify how many crimes actually originate on social media, he said, and was expecting the results in the next couple of months.

The Home Office said that it had introduced a voluntary “flag” this year that would enable forces to highlight online crime “to further improve our understanding of where crime occurs”.

This is expected to become mandatory by 2015/16.

(BBC)



Jun 25 2014

**HIGH RIVER - RCMP constables acted on their own in seizing firearms from High River homes following last year’s flood, a district commanding officer said Tuesday.**

Officers were never ordered by their superiors to grab insecure guns from evacuated homes, during either the initial searches in June and those that followed into July, said Chief Supt. Kevin Harrison.

“Nobody” ordered them, said Harrison, who added officers simply correctly acted on their own volition when they encountered unsecured weapons.

“It’s like an officer on highway patrol — you come across an impaired driver and no officer specifically issues an order to arrest that driver.

“We didn’t even anticipate we’d come across (guns).”

The seizure of 539 firearms has drawn the ire of critics concerned the actions violated gun owners’ civil liberties.

Harrison confirmed that High River’s Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) ordered

Mounties to enter homes to search for stranded people and pets and to later escort building inspectors.

No directive was ever issued to step up any search for guns after the initial discoveries, he said, adding suspicions that a copy of the now-abolished long gun registry was used to target weapons is ridiculous.

“There was no long gun registry,” he said.

Firearms not in plain view that were seized were often found squirrelled away in an unsafe manner in places discovered when Mounties were accompanying building inspectors.

As for legally-secured firearms seized by Mounties, “I’m only aware of one case — a shotgun and .22-cal. rifle from the same house and they were just inside the doorway,” said Harrison.

Other gun owners have alleged their safely-stored weapons were taken by RCMP, though all weapons seized have been returned to their owners.

Harrison couldn’t say what percentage of guns seized weren’t in clear view of officers.

In a letter obtained by Sun Media dated June 27, 2013, provincial Justice Minister Jonathan Denis — who denies issuing any seizure order — tells the RCMP’s commanding officer “some residents in High River have asked why firearms were collected from numerous private dwellings.”

In a responding letter the next day, Deputy Commissioner Dale McGowan states it was done to ensure public safety in an evacuated area.

Harrison said Mounties would do some things differently in a similar situation but cited none of the actions that have sparked anger.

“There’s always ways to improve — it was a vast undertaking and our response was exceptional,” he said.

Findings on the matter from the Commission for Public Complaints against RCMP are due in August.

(Sun Media)

Jun 25 2014

**HALIFAX - The Canada Border Services Agency says more than 46 kilograms of cocaine has been seized from a commercial cargo ship in Halifax.**

The agency says a container from Panama

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bound for Montreal was flagged at the Port of Halifax on May 2.

It says the cargo inside the container was declared as suitcases but an inspection found vacuum-sealed packages of cocaine in 10 of the 207 suitcases.

RCMP and police in Nova Scotia and Montreal launched an investigation and four men from South America were arrested in Montreal on May 15.

The agency says charges against the men are pending.

Jun 25 2014

### PORT STANLEY, Ont. - Ontario's provincial police say one of its patrol boats was stolen and set ablaze in Lake Erie on Wednesday morning.



Investigators say the seven-metre vessel was taken from a marina in Port Stanley, Ont., around 2:45 a.m. and driven about one kilometre to Port Stanley Harbour on Lake Erie.

Police say the boat was then set on fire and destroyed.

OPP say the boat's location and access to the area made firefighting efforts difficult.

Elgin County OPP say a temporary replacement boat is being arranged from provincial police headquarters in Orillia, Ont.

The boat was valued at about \$85,000.

"An act such as this really jeopardizes the safety of the boating public," Const. Troy Carlson said in a release.

The vessel was responsible for marine safety, security and rescue operations along about 70 kilometres of shoreline and to the U.S.-Canada border on Lake Erie, Carlson noted.

The loss of the boat "hampers our ability to respond to marine emergencies in a timely fashion out on Lake Erie," he said.

Jun 25 2014

### SASKATOON - Saskatoon police have taken a 25-year-old man into custody after a stolen vehicle rammed a police cruiser and headed toward an officer and a group of people standing on a street.

The incident began Wednesday afternoon when police received a report of a black truck driving erratically.

An officer tried to stop the truck but the driver simply kept going. A criminal pursuit was launched but was called off a short time later due to safety concerns when the driver headed for downtown.

The truck collided with a number of vehicles and then hit a police cruiser, disabling it.

Police say the driver then turned the truck around and headed toward the officer from the disabled vehicle, who was standing

where a number of people had gathered.

The officer shouted at the crowd to move to safety, then drew his firearm and shot twice at the truck, which then fled the scene. (The Canadian Press)

Jun 25 2014

### OTTAWA - Ontario's police chiefs want the ability to suspend officers without pay if they are facing dismissal due to their on-the-job conduct.

In a resolution passed at this week's annual general meeting, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police said these officers — as well as those charged with off-duty crimes — should be eligible for the sanction.

"We're looking for suspension without pay for officers that are charged with off-duty Criminal Code offences as well as on-duty serious misconduct under the Police Services Act that we are seeking for dismissal," said Chief Jennifer Evans, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police president and head of the Peel Region police, at the conclusion of the general meeting in Ottawa on Wednesday.

The chiefs had previously positioned themselves to ask for no-pay suspensions when officers are charged in events not relating to their job performance, earning the ire of police associations.

The on-duty misconduct, if it were going to lead to a suspension without pay, would have to be serious enough that individual chiefs believed the officer had lost a level of public confidence and trust such that the force would be seeking dismissal under the Police Services Act.

Services would have to know that they want to dismiss an officer before suspending them without pay.

Evans said chiefs are looking forward to working with unions to have talks about the resolution.

Police associations have said that no-pay suspensions would unfairly convict officers in the court of public opinion before a court of law tried their cases.

As it stands now, the Police Services Act, the provincial legislation that governs police in Ontario, doesn't allow for any officers to be suspended without pay. The PSA would have to be amended to allow for changes and chiefs have repeatedly said that it's time for the provincial government to revisit the legislation at a time where public perception of policing has changed and salaries are at an all-time high.

The suspension resolution is one of seven passed by OACP members in Ottawa.

In addition:

- Chiefs are now asking for the province to start covering the costs of prisoners' meals at Ontario courthouses;
- They also want community safety plans to be mandated under the Municipal Act;
- They've approved a pilot project for the Ontario government to test autonomous vehicles, or self-driving cars;
- The chiefs are also asking for improvements in the audit process for licence

plates — 51,000 vehicles in the province last year weren't captured by red light cameras because their licence plates were damaged;

- They're seeking amendments to the Highway Traffic Act to include clear-cut definitions of "sidewalks" and "pedestrians."

(Ottawa Citizen)



Jun 26 2014

### LOS ANGELES - Officers are being briefed during roll calls, new procedures are in place, and prosecutors are considering the effect on potentially thousands of pending court cases after the US Supreme Court's ruling that restricts police searches of cellphones.

From Los Angeles to New York, and in San Diego, Chicago and Houston, officials met to discuss Wednesday's unanimous ruling that could make it harder for officers to quickly find incriminating evidence. The ruling prohibits law enforcement from searching an arrestee's cellphone without a warrant unless a person's safety or life may be in danger.

Because cellphone technology has so rapidly advanced over the last decade, they can be a treasure trove of suspects' pictures with fellow gang members, not to mention text messages and call records that help police find accomplices or victims.

Few, if any, in law enforcement circles were surprised by the high court's ruling, and they said many cautious investigators were already getting warrants to ensure evidence doesn't get tossed out of trials. But they also universally acknowledged that it would make their jobs more difficult, especially for the rank-and-file patrol officer.

"It's going to be more cumbersome, it's going to take more work, it's going to take more time," said Los Angeles County sheriff's Lt. Kent Wegener, of the Major Crimes Bureau. Wegener said his investigators routinely seek search warrants for their cases.

In Houston, prosecutors were already treating cellphones as personal property with privacy rights and advising police officers that if they weren't given permission, they'd need a search warrant to access the devices, said Bill Exley, a prosecutor in the Harris County district attorney's office.

The Constitution's Fourth Amendment requires police generally to have a judge sign a warrant that's based on "probable cause," or evidence that a crime has been committed. But cellphones have been treated like any other item in an arrestee's possession, meaning they could be examined to ensure the officer's safety and prevent the destruction of evidence.

Thousands of pending court cases could be altered or dropped because of what would now be considered illegally obtained evidence as a result of the decision, said

Oregon defence attorney Bronson James, who authored an amicus brief for the plaintiffs. Whether that'll happen is unclear, and prosecutors are working to limit the case's retroactive impact.

The ruling may also ultimately challenge law enforcement's use of other technology, James said, such as the U.S. government's bulk data collection or the "Stingray," a device that sweeps up cellphone data in a given area.

It can take anywhere from a few hours for a judge to sign off on a state search warrant to a few days for a federal one.

Though the ruling provides leeway for situations where a person's safety or life is in danger, authorities have concerns about whether information or opportunities might be missed. The San Diego County district attorney's office has had conversations with law enforcement on how to expedite search warrant requests when only a couple judges might be on call at night or over the weekend.

San Diego County's chief deputy district attorney, Summer Stephan, said human traffickers often run their businesses from their cellphones, arranging prices and schedules for girls and customers by text message.

Though the ruling allows for emergency situations, "sometimes you don't know if you have that until you look," Stephan said.

"You don't know if the girl you were already able to rescue is the only girl until you look at the phone and see if there's communication with another girl."

The decision addresses worries that information may be erased remotely, allowing police to seize the cellphone and turn it off or remove its battery. Police can also place it in a special bag to isolate it from radio waves.

Jun 26 2014

**BARRIE, Ont. - Provincial police say an officer was seriously injured after his motorcycle hit a goose and crashed at Highway 400 and Highway 11 in Barrie.**



He was taken to Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre and then airlifted to Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital with serious injuries to his leg after the goose flew into his motorcycle during a training exercise.

OPP Sgt. Kerry Schmidt said the officer is expected to recover, though "it will be a significant recovery period."

The injured officer is from the OPP's Highway Safety Division in Toronto and was practising a highway escort.

(Barrie Advance, CP)

Jun 26 2014

**OTTAWA - Statistics Canada says police reported 1,414 hate-motivated criminal incidents in 2012, 82 more than in 2011.**

The agency says just over half of all such crimes in 2012 were motivated by hatred toward a race or ethnicity.

It says 30 per cent were motivated by hatred towards a particular religion, including hate crimes targeting Jews, Muslims and Catholics.

Another 13 per cent of incidents were motivated by sexual orientation, while the remaining six per cent were motivated by language, mental or physical disability, sex, age or some other characteristic, such as occupation or political belief.

Among hate crimes motivated by race or ethnicity, black populations were the most frequently targeted, with 21 per cent of incidents aimed at them.

In crimes motivated by religious hatred, Jewish populations were the most common target, with 17 per cent of all incidents directed at them.

Jun 26 2014

**VANCOUVER - The Mountie who's in charge of investigating cases of missing and murdered women along B.C.'s so-called Highway of Tears says his team has a number of strong suspects, but there's not enough evidence to lay charges.**



Staff-Sgt. Wayne Clary says 12 to 15 officers are currently assigned to investigate the deaths or disappearances of 18 women murdered along several highways in the province's north.

Some of the victims' family members have raised concerns about whether the investigation was still making progress or was even active, but Clary says the officers spend most of their time working on the project dubbed E-PANA.

Clary tells The Canadian Press that there are strong suspects or persons of interest in more than one of the women's cases, though he said he couldn't offer specific details.

While the RCMP announced in 2012 that it believed a dead American convict was believed to be responsible for three of the cases, Clary says there is no evidence that any of the other women were victims of a serial killer.

He says investigators are still in regular contact with families, though yearly group meetings were replaced with individual meetings or phone calls for relatives who wanted updates.

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