

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Merry Christmas*

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

December 26, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 52

Executive Digest

Dec 18 2014

VICTORIA - British Columbia needs to appoint a crime-fighting boss who can cut through provincial, municipal and social bureaucracies to build unified crime-prevention teams, say government reports released Thursday.

Page 2

Dec 18 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police are trying to capitalize on the meteoric popularity of the world's most downloaded podcast, *Serial*.

Page 3

Dec 19 2014

OTTAWA - Under pressure to prevent future attacks on Parliament Hill after the Oct. 22 assault by a gunman, the Mounties are bringing in rookie officers to boost security.

Page 5

Dec 21 2014

NEW YORK - The gunman who fatally ambushed two police officers in their squad car had a long criminal record, a hatred for police and the government, and an apparent history of mental instability that included an attempt to hang himself a year ago, authorities said Sunday.

Page 7

Dec 22 2014

TORONTO - In the wake of the fatal shooting of two New York police officers over the weekend, the president of the Toronto Police union is calling for an end to online "anti-police rhetoric" that has reached a "fever pitch."

Page 8

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National security demands leave RCMP areas understaffed



Dec 22 2014

The RCMP is seeking more money to replace the dozens of Mounties who have dropped their regular duties to focus on new threats posed by Canadian foreign fighters, federal sources said.

The move comes as Ottawa prepares to introduce legislation early in the new year making it easier to track and arrest Islamic State supporters and other militants.

A spokesman for the RCMP confirmed that some traditional areas of policing have been affected by the renewed threats to national security posed by travellers to conflict zones, sympathizers or jihadis.

Mounties working on issues such as organized crime, drugs and corruption have been transferred to investigations into dozens of cases of Canadians who have returned to Canada after travelling in places like Iraq and Syria, sources said.

Sources added the attack by Michael Zehaf-Bibeau on the War Memorial and Parliament in Ottawa on Oct. 22 further increased the shift in policing efforts, exacerbating holes in other areas of the national police force.

"The RCMP has reallocated resources to national security to address this key priority,"

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Sergeant Greg Cox said. "Employees from different parts of the country were transferred to high-risk traveller files from other federal policing areas, such as organized crime, to the five INSETs [Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams] located across the country."

Sgt. Cox did not confirm the RCMP's request for increased funding, but added that Commissioner Bob Paulson regularly meets with Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney.

"They discuss a variety of issues, including the force's budget, programs and overall direction," the RCMP spokesman said.

Sgt. Cox refused to state how many officers have been reassigned, saying that the "number of employees fluctuates on a regular basis."

In an appearance in front of the public safety committee of the House earlier this month, Mr. Blaney said he was "looking forward to coming back to this committee to seek support for additional funding to increase our safety and for the evolving threat of terrorism."

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Sunday that the "door is open" to additional funding to security agencies such as the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

"We are working to give additional tools to security agencies," the official said. "All agencies and departments want more money ... but some demands make more sense."

Still, the official said the effects of the new legislation will need to be analyzed before looking at the request for additional funding.

"The measures will be designed to allow the security agencies to make arrests more quickly," the official said. "This could potentially help to clear a number of these national-security cases more quickly."

In October, Commissioner Paulson laid out the extent of the work being conducted by the Mounties during an appearance at the

public safety committee of the House, in a joint appearance with Mr. Blaney and CSIS director Michel Coulombe.

"We have 63 active national-security investigations on 90 individuals who are related to the travelling group, people who intend to go [to countries like Iraq and Syria] or people who have returned," Commissioner Paulson said.

The federal government went on to introduce Bill C-44, a counterterrorism law aimed at boosting powers of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. The bill has been on a fast track through Parliament since its tabling after the Oct. 22 shooting, which came two days after Martin Couture-Rouleau rammed into two Canadian Forces members in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, killing one.

Mr. Blaney has said another bill with expanded law-enforcement powers for surveillance, detention and arrest in counterterrorism cases is due for release in the near future. (Globe and Mail)



Dec 18 2014

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - Two new charges have been laid against a man accused of shooting a Mountie in Kamloops, B.C., during a traffic stop.

When 36-year-old Kenneth Knutson appeared in court for a bail hearing on Thursday he learned he now faces six charges.

The new counts are for aggravated assault and possession of a firearm contrary to order in the Dec. 3 shooting of Cpl. Jean Michaud, who is still in hospital recovering from critical injuries.

Crown spokesman Neil MacKenzie says Knutson was initially charged with a variety of offences related to the alleged use of a firearm along with an attempted-murder charge.

MacKenzie says the added allegations are that a restricted or prohibited firearm was used, and the aggravating factor can involve an increase in mandatory minimum sentences.

Knutson's bail hearing has now been scheduled for Jan. 15 because he does not yet have a lawyer.

(CHNL)

Dec 18 2014

MONTREAL - A widow whose husband and daughter died when their motorcycle crashed into a woman's car as she helped ducks on a highway is satisfied with the 90-day jail term the accused received Thursday.

Besides serving the time on weekends, Emma Czornobaj must do 240 hours of community service and is prohibited from driving for 10 years.

After Czornobaj stopped her car in June 2010 to rescue ducklings on the side of the highway, the motorcycle carrying Andre Roy and his teenager daughter Jessie slammed into her vehicle.

A jury convicted her of two counts of

criminal negligence causing death and two counts of dangerous driving causing death.

Pauline Volikakis, the wife and mother of the victims, welcomed the sentence.

"I'm just happy that... we can now move on, maybe turn the page and continue with a positive attitude, instead of a negative (one)," she said outside the courtroom.

Volikakis said the judge "did what she had to do."

In passing sentence, Quebec Superior Court Justice Eliane Perreault noted that Czornobaj, now 26, showed no remorse during the trial and had described the tragedy as an accident.

Perreault said the accused showed a "reckless disregard for the safety of others" when she left her vehicle to tend to the ducklings.

Dec 18 2014

VICTORIA - British Columbia needs to appoint a crime-fighting boss who can cut through provincial, municipal and social bureaucracies to build unified crime-prevention teams, say government reports released Thursday.

Two reports by Liberal MLAs Darryl Plecas and Laurie Throness focus on preventing crime in communities and keeping inmates from returning to jail.

The Plecas report makes six recommendations, stating that the clearest message from 14 roundtable meetings and input from 600 people calls for improved collaboration and co-ordination on crime prevention programs across B.C.

"While many presenters were proud of the results they saw in their communities, there was frequent mention of disjointed approaches, fragmented interventions, and the propensity of many professionals to work in 'silos' isolated from each other," the report said.

"There is clearly a need for a province-wide interagency collaboration model that supports the development of local partnerships. Provincial and municipal governments should actively work to break down bureaucratic silos."

Plecas urged the government to appoint "a senior crime reduction leader to improve interagency collaboration across the wide range of crime reduction activities in B.C."

A Justice Ministry statement said the government will consider a pilot project to test that recommendation.

Justice Minister Suzanne Anton said in a statement that the government is already following through on many of the recommendations.

Plecas, who is a criminologist, was appointed in September 2013 to convene a panel of experts to find ways to drive down B.C.'s crime rate.

He recommended more focus on reducing crime by repeat offenders, expanding services for addicted and mentally ill inmates and increasing the use of restorative justice.

In another report on B.C.'s corrections system, Throness said the province should expand job training for offenders so they can be employed as they transition back into society.

He also called for ways to address the

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK
A NATIONAL LAW NEWS PUBLICATION FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

ISSN 1704-3913
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Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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root causes of repeat offences and strategies to increase safety for inmates while they're in custody and in the community.

Dec 18 2014

WATERLOO REGION -During his first week in the job back in February 1980, Steve Beckett was supposed to take part in cadet training at the Waterloo Regional Police 911 call centre.



With roads closed by a massive storm and unable to get to the Kitchener centre, he was told not to make the trip from Cambridge.

"I didn't know what to do," laughed Beckett, recalling his unforgettable first night.

He may have been a cadet, but Beckett's intrinsic sense of duty wasn't having any of that. He made his way to the Cambridge police detachment instead, putting himself to work, helping out local officers and pushing cars out of snowbanks during the storm.

It's that kind of tenacity and sense of duty that saw Beckett rise through the ranks, from a still-wet-behind-the-ears cadet all the way to his current post as deputy chief.

That policing career, served entirely at the local police force, will come to an end exactly 35 years later, when Beckett retires at the end of February 2015.

The deputy chief made the official announcement during the police services board meeting this past Tuesday (Dec. 16). And while Beckett said it's been an honour to wear the badge for 35 years, he's now setting his radar on a new mission: Operation Fresh Air and Fly Fishing.

"I've been wearing this uniform since I was 18 years old," said Beckett, sitting in his office at police headquarters.

He is looking forward to a different office, one where the coveted view is from the outdoors.

"Ideally, I'll get a chance to take a deep breath," he said.

(Cambridge Times)

Dec 18 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police are trying to capitalize on the meteoric popularity of the world's most downloaded podcast, Serial.

Serial focuses on the opaque details surrounding the 1999 murder of 18-year-old Baltimore-area high school student Hae Min Lee and the man convicted of killing her, Adnan Syed.

The series has been downloaded by millions of people worldwide and spawned endless online speculation and debate. It also encouraged some people on the periphery of the

case to come forward with new information.

Toronto homicide detectives have been listening, too. Now they are using the widespread interest in Serial to help solve the mysterious 2011 New Year's Eve murder of Mike Pimentel in Liberty Village.

Pimentel was at a party with two other friends but the trio was separated as they were leaving. At some point, Pimentel ended up alone, got into a confrontation with an unknown man and woman, and was stabbed to death.

Earlier this month, Det. Tam Bui began posting clues from the case on Twitter in an effort to crowd source new information.

Using the hashtag #mikepimentelmurder, Bui has tweeted photos of the crime scene and an image of a woman police hope to identify

so they can speak with her. He has also posted photos of three critical pieces of evidence: a hair extension, a high-heeled shoe and a set of keys with a distinctive key chain.

He tweets a new piece of evidence every Saturday, with a final clue expected on New Year's Eve.

"This could be a unique way of drawing information from the general public and more specifically people who were in Liberty Village on January 1, 2012," said Det. Jeff Tavares, who works with Bui in the homicide unit and has helped with the project.

"We were hoping that using the Serial podcast as a parallel to our investigation perhaps would spark interest in those who have been following Serial and they'll say,

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'Hey, we have a real life Serial story in our neighbourhood so why don't we start following this,' said Tavares in an interview with CBC's Metro Morning.

Tavares said the detectives have received "a ton of positive response" to the tweets, and a few people have even come forward with potentially helpful information, including a woman who said she owns the same pair of shoes and identified where she bought them.

Toronto police are generally very active on social media. Det.-Sgt. Brian Borg has been tweeting out clues to cold cases since November, hoping to advance multiple cases that remain unsolved.

(CBC News)

Dec 18 2014

ORILLIA - In a case even the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) calls rare, a judge had some harsh words for an OPP Sergeant who claimed that he had been assaulted by an Orillia woman - charges that have been thrown out.

Tonie Farrell, 48, continues to limp her way around with a cane after two surgeries after a violent incident involving an OPP officer in 2013.

On April 2, 2013, Farrell, a mother of six and a grandmother of two, witnessed an assault between two young guys and one young girl in downtown Orillia. Moments later police arrived and Farrell says she tried to give Sergeant Russell Watson a description of the suspects.

"He told me to shut the f*** up and I stepped back and I asked is that the way you talk to people? I said what's your name? Badge number? And I step to the write it and as I did he kicked me a karate kick to my leg," says Farrell. "And he kept pounding on me, I was on the ground with my arms underneath me and he was on my back and he was pounding my head into the cement."

Farrell was taken to hospital. She had a broken tibia and a crushed knee. Farrell was charged with assaulting a peace officer and obstruction.

The SIU looked into the incident but says it found no reasonable grounds to lay any charges against the officer. Sergeant Watson was interviewed by the SIU but did not provide a copy of his notes.

Earlier this week Farrell was found not guilty on both charges. In handing down his sentence, Justice George Beatty said Sergeant Watson was not injured while Farrell's injuries were catastrophic.

"We would really hope the SIU now with Justice Beatty's ruling would take another look at the investigation would reopen it or initiate, to be frank, and consider whether he should be charged in our opinion he should be," says defence lawyer Angela McLeod.

On Thursday, the SIU told CTV News "In light of the recent court findings, the SIU will be reviewing Justice Beatty's decision."

"I believe if I had done that to someone I'd be in jail and I think that he should at least have to stand-up to the same thing if anyone else did that to someone," says Farrell.

CTV News asked the OPP if the force or Sergeant Watson would answer questions about the case and was told no. Police would also not say if Sergeant Watson had been assigned to administrative duties after the incident.

Farrell says she plans on moving forward with a civil suit against the police officer and she is still hopeful the officer will be charged.

(CTV News)

Dec 18 2014

SASKATOON - A man has pleaded guilty to manslaughter and impaired driving causing death after hitting and killing a conservation officer.

Blaine Taypotat, who is 35, will return to court in early January for sentencing.

Justin Knackstedt, 25, and a colleague had stopped to help first responders with traffic control while they were dealing with a crash on Highway 11 on May 31, 2013.

RCMP got a call that an SUV was driving erratically toward the scene.

But before police could get to their vehicles, the SUV ran over Knackstedt, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Taypotat continued driving until his car rolled into a ditch near Saskatoon.

(CJWW)



Dec 19 2014

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Justice and Public Safety Department in Newfoundland and Labrador has been charged after the death of an enforcement officer last year.

Service Newfoundland and Labrador says a fish and wildlife enforcement officer was patrolling an area in western Newfoundland near Bellburns on a snowmobile on Feb. 21, 2013, when he fell through the ice and drowned.

The Justice and Public Safety Department has been charged under the Occupational Health and Safety Act with failure to provide necessary information, instruction, training and supervision and failure to ensure necessary protective clothing and devices were used.

The department is also charged with failure to ensure written safe work procedures appropriate to the hazards and work activity were included in the employer's safety program.

Justice and Public Safety Minister Judy Manning says Howard Lavers was a highly respected enforcement officer and his death has affected many people.

Dec 19 2014

WINNIPEG - A Manitoba RCMP officer accused of beating a handcuffed man he wrongfully arrested has pleaded guilty to a charge of assault.

Cpl. Jeffrey Thomas Moyses, who is 44, entered the plea Thursday and will face a sentencing hearing next June.

Moyses and a co-accused, Const. Trevor Ens, were found guilty at a 2011 trial of punching and kicking a man during a confrontation in a bar parking lot in Traverse Bay, northeast of Winnipeg, three years earlier.

Moyses was given a four-month jail sentence and Ens received a four-month conditional sentence, but both immediately filed appeals.

Manitoba's highest court overturned the verdicts in a ruling last year and ordered a new trial for both men, but Moyses's plea means that won't be necessary.

The Crown agreed Thursday to drop a similar assault charge against Ens, who faces no further legal sanctions.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Dec 19 2014

BELLEVILLE, Ont. - Belleville police say they have completed an internal investigation into inappropriate posts made by an officer on Twitter but won't say if anyone was disciplined.

The investigation began Dec. 8 after the comments were posted on the social media site by a user named "The Copper" from the account (at)BPS-Finest.

One of the posts read: "Sometimes I wish the cruiser played 'Move Bitch, Get Out The Way' instead of using sirens."

The Twitter page also had a photograph of a man hiding his face, wearing a vest with the word "Police" on it.

The investigation has determined the tweets were posted by a Belleville police officer who was not on duty at the time and that the officer did not use a police-issued BlackBerry to post the messages.

Acting Inspector Chris Barry says the identity of the officer won't be released and that the issue has been addressed internally but he wouldn't comment on whether any discipline was involved.

(CJOJ)

Dec 19 2014

LONDON, Ont. - Provincial police say 33 people are facing a total of 186 charges following a two-year investigation into illegal drug trafficking rings in southwestern Ontario.

The investigation dubbed Project Pinecreek began in 2012 and was expanded in July this year.

Police say "significant quantities" of methamphetamine and cocaine were being distributed in Huron, Lambton and Perth Counties.

The investigation led to search warrants being executed at 11 locations across the region.

Police say drugs seized included cocaine, methamphetamine, hydromorphone powder and various pills, along with about 20 kilograms of marijuana.

Restricted and prohibited weapons and about \$22,000 worth of stolen property was also seized.

Dec 19 2014

SURREY - A Surrey RCMP officer charged with numerous firearm offences in 2010 has been ordered to stand trial in B.C. Supreme Court.

Const. David Matthew Clarke was in Surrey Provincial Court early this week for a preliminary hearing of evidence, which concluded Wednesday (Dec. 17).

He was initially charged with 15 offences, but has been ordered to stand trial on 12 of them.

The charges include breach of trust by a public officer, possession of stolen property, three counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, three of knowingly possessing a firearm without a licence, two of possessing a prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition, and two counts of knowingly possessing a prohibited weapon without a licence.

The charges relate to offences that allegedly occurred in Chilliwack.

The case will now be heard in B.C. Supreme Court in New Westminster. A trial date has yet to be set.

When Clarke was charged four years ago, Surrey's then-Chief Supt. Fraser MacRae said such situations "are very rare" but taken very seriously.

Clarke remains suspended without pay. His next court date is Jan. 8.

(Surrey North Delta Leader)

Dec 19 2014

RIVERTON, N.S. - Police have identified a 49-year-old man who died as he was being arrested at a special care home on Tuesday in northeastern Nova Scotia.

Joseph Gardner Feltmate of Riverton, N.S., died at the scene as an RCMP officer placed him under arrest for alleged assaults of employees at the Valley View Villa.

Police say the man became unresponsive during his arrest, but have declined to provide further details.

The matter is being investigated by the province's Serious Incident Response Team.

The watchdog agency has said the RCMP officer was attempting to arrest Feltmate under the provisions of the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act.

Ron MacDonald, the agency's director, has declined to comment on what level of force was used during the arrest as that will be part of the investigation.

(The Canadian Press)

Dec 19 2014

MONTREAL - Montrealer Maude Laurier was driving to work this week when she was pulled over by a police officer, but instead of getting a ticket, she was handed a \$100 bill.

"He told me that he will give me a gift that morning, and I was surprised," Laurier recalled.

"And he gave me a \$100 bill. So I was really surprised a little bit. And after that a little bit happy and emotional about that, just before Christmas."

The officer, who has remained anonymous, has given out cash to at least 50 people, most of them with run-down cars in need of repairs, said Ian Lafrenière, a spokesman for Montreal police.

Lafrenière said when he heard what the officer was doing, he couldn't believe it.

"I thought it was a prank, it was a joke," he said.

"Then we found out about it. It's the officer, a friend of his gave him money, \$5,000, and he asked him to give out the money and make a difference this year."

The reaction has been overwhelming, Lafrenière said.

"[The officer] was extremely touched by the reaction of people, people crying of joy, being so surprised at getting money from a police officer," he said.

The officer has finished handing out money for now, Lafrenière said.

(CBC News)

Dec 19 2014

QUEBEC - The three men who spectacularly broke out of a Quebec jail by helicopter last June were sentenced Friday to between 16 and 22 years in prison on drug charges.

Serge Pomerleau, Denis Lefebvre and Yves Denis were found guilty in October of conspiracy, gangsterism and drug trafficking.

On those charges, Pomerleau, Lefebvre and Denis were given prison terms of 22, 20 and 16 years respectively.

Before being sentenced, the three pleaded guilty to breaking out of jail and, as a consequence, Quebec Superior Court Justice Louis Dionne added an extra year to their sentences.

Pomerleau and Lefebvre were also ordered to pay \$3.2 million and \$1.3 million respectively within five years, or face more years in prison.

The three men ran a drug-trafficking cell in northwestern Quebec from 2007 to 2010. Police allege the trio sold more than 640 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated \$64 million.

Dec 19 2014

EDMONTON - First-degree murder charges have been re-activated against a suspect in the deaths of a pair of Edmonton-area seniors who vanished in July 2010.

Police discovered the charred remains of Lyle and Marie McCann's motorhome but their bodies have never been found.

RCMP announced Friday afternoon they are proceeding with the case against Travis Vader, 42.

He had been charged two years after the McCanns disappeared but both counts were stayed in March. Police had a year in which to re-activate the charges.

"Vader was arrested without incident and will be held in custody until he speaks to bail," RCMP said in a news release.

"He will appear to speak to these charges at Queen's Bench in Edmonton at a date yet to be determined. We will provide an update to that information when it becomes available."

The couple, both in their 70s, were last seen alive more than four years ago when they fuelled up their motorhome in their hometown of St. Albert, north of Edmonton.

Dec 19 2014

WINDSOR - Windsor police officer Dorothy Nesbeth has been dismissed from the Windsor Police Service.

A Police Act hearing in October found Nesbeth guilty of discreditable conduct but not guilty on a charge of threatening a police officer stemming from a 2010 incident at the border.

In July 2010, Nesbeth failed to declare a large amount of alcohol stored in her trunk while returning to Canada at the Ambassador Bridge.

In a decision reached on Friday, Supt. Robert J. Fitches had this to say about Nesbeth's dismissal.

"[The] damage to the reputation of the police service, the public interest and the destruction of the relationship of trust between Constable Nesbeth and the Windsor Police Service are such that her good work history and other positive attributes as described in the letters of support, her evaluations and her conduct sheets do no provide sufficient mitigation to erase or alter the fact that her usefulness to the Windsor Police Service has been annulled," Fitches wrote in his conclusion.

In July 2010, Nesbeth was pulled into Canadian customs where border agents found cases of beer, wine and rum in her trunk.

She was not charged, but the border agency told Windsor Police about the incident.

Police charged her with deceit and discreditable conduct and Nesbeth has been suspended with pay since then.

(CBC News)

Dec 19 2014

OTTAWA - Under pressure to prevent future attacks on Parliament Hill after the Oct. 22 assault by a gunman, the Mounties are bringing in rookie officers to boost security.

The first new graduate from the RCMP Academy in Regina has already arrived for duty as part of the force's Hill security detail, the Citizen has learned.

"The RCMP will be deploying new constables upon graduation from the RCMP Academy to assist with security measures on Parliament Hill," Sgt. Greg Cox said in an email. "These graduates are fully trained police officers, who have completed an intensive 24 weeks of training."

Officers will serve eight weeks each before being deployed to their originally assigned postings. The RCMP would not say how many of the rookie officers are joining the Hill contingent, citing security concerns.

But Cox said "enhanced supervisory capacity will be in place on Parliament Hill to provide guidance to our newer members, much as it would be during their first six months out in the field." He said all RCMP officers graduate with enough practical training to work independently.

The RCMP "are able to deploy resources quickly, and move personnel with common training into situations where they are needed

most.” Cox said.

“We send these new constables to protect Parliament Hill with the same high-level of confidence in their abilities as we have when we deploy them to protect our Canadian communities.”

Other changes to Hill security are already evident. The Usher of the Black Rod, for example, is now armed at all times, including inside the Senate chamber, on the instruction of the former Senate speaker.

Guards in Senate areas of Centre Block have been seen wearing sidearms in recent weeks. House of Commons officers have been armed for 15 years, although usually only one-third are armed at any time. Senate guards were previously limited to carrying expandable batons.

House and Senate security operations are in the process of merging; each chamber historically thought it needed its own force in case the two ever came to blows. The two have since merged radio frequencies, but neither has a direct communications link with RCMP officers patrolling the grounds outside.

House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer has ordered a review of Hill security, and although a report is months away, some interim measures have been introduced, including extra screening of visitors. Some MPs have suggested broadening the screening to the grounds outside.

Zehaf-Bibeau had toured the Centre Block two weeks before he was shot dead in the building, the Citizen reported.

The House officers’ union noted after the Oct. 22 shooting that its force had dropped from 240 officers several years ago to 205 due to budget cuts. It is not known whether its numbers will be boosted.

(Ottawa Citizen)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20, 2014

Dec 20 2014

OTTAWA - The Prime Minister is praising police in Ottawa for swiftly making an arrest in connection with a home invasion that saw a 101-year-old veteran of D-Day tied up and robbed.

Stephen Harper tweeted a thank you Saturday afternoon to police for “their swift work” as well as to members of the public who provided tips that led to the arrest.

Police say a 59-year-old suspect was arrested Friday night after investigators received a tip earlier that day.

The suspect faces a string of charges including attempted murder, robbery with violence, forcible confinement, break and enter and using a credit card obtained by crime.

Police say a man posing as a city employee forced his way into the veteran’s condo on Thursday morning before making off with undisclosed items.

Police have not identified the victim, but Harper and Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino have said he is Ernest Cote, one of the Canadian soldiers who landed on Juno Beach on June 6, 1944.

Fantino, a former police officer, took to Twitter on Saturday to thank investigators for making an arrest in connection with “such a despicable crime.”

In a statement released on Thursday

Fantino said he travelled with Cote earlier this year to attend D-Day anniversary services and was honoured to know him.

The accused appeared in court Saturday but police weren’t identifying him because they are actively investigating several leads from the public that came in after images of the suspect were released, Staff Sgt. Michael Haarbosch said Saturday.

The case, which has drawn national attention and outrage online, spurred up to 10 additional tips, Haarbosch said.

“There were other tips from the public and each and every one of those has to be followed up on,” he said.

“The investigation... at this point, even though charges have been laid, is still in the early stages and there’s a lot of work to be done still.”

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21, 2014

Dec 21 2014

METRO VANCOUVER - The Delta Police Department will end its online promotion of a bracelet campaign supporting an officer charged with murder, after questions were raised about possible bias.

The department plans to immediately remove items on its website and social media accounts advertising the sale of blue wristbands in support of Const. Jordan MacWilliams,



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Staff Sgt. Ryan Hall said Sunday.

"We are always working to address people's concerns, and if this is a concern for the general public, and they'd like it removed from our website, I have no problem doing that," Hall said.

MacWilliams is charged with second-degree murder in the November 2012 death of Mehrdad Bayrami, who was shot following a five-hour police standoff outside the Starlight Casino.

The bracelets were created by the Delta Police Association, which doesn't have its own website. However, one is now being built and information about purchasing the wristbands will be hosted there, said Hall, who is the association's president.

The wristbands are emblazoned with the words "honour," "integrity," "courage" and "trust," as well as MacWilliams' badge number 2573.

Hall said the bracelets are not meant as a protest against the Independent Investigations Office, which reviewed the case, or Crown prosecutors, who approved the murder charge.

"This wristband is just to help our member, to show support for him through the court process," he said.

A total of 2,500 wristbands were originally purchased by the police association to be worn by fellow officers, but supplies were soon depleted as members of the public asked to join the campaign. The bracelets were sold for \$2 each to cover the cost of production.

MacWilliams is on paid leave from the force. He is scheduled to appear in court next month. (Vancouver Sun)

Dec 21 2014

NEW YORK - The gunman who fatally ambushed two police officers in their squad car had a long criminal record, a hatred for police and the government, and an apparent history of mental instability that included an attempt to hang himself a year ago, authorities said Sunday.



Moments before opening fire, Ismaaiyl Brinsley approached people on the street in Brooklyn and asked them to follow him on Instagram, then told them, "Watch what I'm going to do," Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce said.

A portrait of the Brooklyn-born gunman emerged as big-city police departments and union leaders around the U.S. warned officers to change their routines and insist on extra

backup a day after Brinsley carried out what he portrayed online as retaliation for the slayings of black men at the hands of white police officers.

Brinsley was black; the slain officers were Asian and Hispanic.

The slayings come at a tense time. Police nationwide have been criticized for months for their tactics, following Eric Garner's death in New York City and Michael Brown's fatal shooting in Ferguson, Missouri.

Investigators were trying to determine if Brinsley had taken part in any protests over the deaths of Brown and Garner, whose names he invoked in his online threat, or simply latched on to the cause for the final act in a violent rampage.

They said he travelled frequently between the South and New York, where he fathered a child in Brooklyn, and had been in the city earlier in the week.

Brinsley, 28, had at least 19 arrests in Georgia and Ohio, spent two years in prison for gun possession and had a troubled childhood so violent that his mother was afraid of him, police said. He ranted online about police and the government and expressed "self-despair and anger at himself and where his life was," Boyce said.

Boyce said Brinsley's mother believed he had undiagnosed mental problems and may have been on medication at some point, but detectives were still trying to determine if he had a mental illness.

On Saturday afternoon, Brinsley approached a squad car from behind in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighbourhood and fired four shots, killing Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu. He then ran into a subway station and committed suicide.

Hours earlier, Brinsley had shot and wounded his ex-girlfriend at her home outside Baltimore, then made threatening posts online, including a vow to put "wings on pigs" and references to the Brown and Garner cases.

Baltimore-area police warned the New York department that Brinsley was in the city and bent on violence. But New York police were still getting the word out when Brinsley struck. (AP)

Dec 21 2014

CALGARY - Traffic congestion wastes time and erodes patience — but the tight squeeze on Calgary streets is also putting a squeeze on the bottom line, for those in the business of issuing tickets to speeding motorists.

That's the explanation offered by senior traffic cops, after Calgary recorded a unexpected drop in traffic fine revenue, perhaps the first such fall in the force's long history of enforcing speed limits and other traffic violations.

"You can attribute some of that to congestion," said Staff Sgt. Paul Stacey of the police Traffic Unit.

"There's a lot of congestion on Calgary streets it seems, and you can't get a lot speed going when it's that busy."

Up to September, when the latest 2014 tally was taken, police had reaped just \$26.6 million in general fine revenue, based on photo radar tickets and summonses issued by police officers in person.

Over that same time frame in 2013, police had written \$27.4 million worth of tickets — but that number is deceiving, given that a disastrous flood that same summer put a dampener on fines and enforcement, adding up to an 18% drop in year-over-year revenue.

In other words, 2014's sagging ticket total is even worse that it appears, because the dip is measured against a year that was already considered a calamity, thanks to the flood.

To really understand how far the ticket tally has slipped in 2014, you have to compare the current revenue pace to 2012, when the police service collected a healthy \$44 million in traffic-fine funds.

That \$44 million total also includes revenue from red-light cameras, which in 2014 has hit \$2.5 million as of September — slightly ahead of the \$2.3 million collected through September in 2013.

Altogether, Calgary's police are running about 2% behind 2013's flood-dampened total of \$39.3 million, and if the pace continues, the total ticket revenue for 2014 will be around \$38.5 million.

That adds up to \$5.5 million loss over 2012.

It's not great news for a police force already dealing with a tighter budget, after city council allowed for only ten new officers over the next two years, compared to 90 rookies hired in the previous two.

Of course, the official police line is that fewer drivers breaking the law is good news. (Sun Media)



Dec 22 2014

MONTREAL - A Montreal man is facing a terrorism-related charge after police were tipped off by his family that he had recently become radicalized.

Montreal police spokesman Ian Lafreniere says authorities searched his apartment on Friday and found a city map that showed the co-ordinates of four different police stations.

The 21-year-old man is scheduled to appear in court this afternoon.

Lafreniere says no direct threats were made. He called the arrest a "preventive" measure.

Montreal police officers have been told to be vigilant in the wake of the shooting deaths of three officers in the United States on the weekend.

Dec 22 2014

The RCMP is seeking more money to replace the dozens of Mounties who have dropped their regular duties to focus on new threats posed by Canadian

foreign fighters, federal sources said.

The move comes as Ottawa prepares to introduce legislation early in the new year making it easier to track and arrest Islamic State supporters and other militants.

A spokesman for the RCMP confirmed that some traditional areas of policing have been affected by the renewed threats to national security posed by travellers to conflict zones, sympathizers or jihadists.

Mounties working on issues such as organized crime, drugs and corruption have been transferred to investigations into dozens of cases of Canadians who have returned to Canada after travelling in places like Iraq and Syria, sources said.

Sources added the attack by Michael Zehaf-Bibeau on the War Memorial and Parliament in Ottawa on Oct. 22 further increased the shift in policing efforts, exacerbating holes in other areas of the national police force.

"The RCMP has reallocated resources to national security to address this key priority," Sergeant Greg Cox said. "Employees from different parts of the country were transferred to high-risk traveller files from other federal policing areas, such as organized crime, to the five INSETs [Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams] located across the country."

Sgt. Cox did not confirm the RCMP's request for increased funding, but added that Commissioner Bob Paulson regularly meets with Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney.

"They discuss a variety of issues, including the force's budget, programs and overall direction," the RCMP spokesman said.

Sgt. Cox refused to state how many officers have been reassigned, saying that the "number of employees fluctuates on a regular basis."

In an appearance in front of the public safety committee of the House earlier this month, Mr. Blaney said he was "looking forward to coming back to this committee to seek support for additional funding to increase our safety and for the evolving threat of terrorism."

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Sunday that the "door is open" to additional funding to security agencies such as the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

"We are working to give additional tools to security agencies," the official said. "All agencies and departments want more money ... but some demands make more sense."

Still, the official said the effects of the new legislation will need to be analyzed before looking at the request for additional funding.

"The measures will be designed to allow the security agencies to make arrests more quickly," the official said. "This could potentially help to clear a number of these national-security cases more quickly."

In October, Commissioner Paulson laid out the extent of the work being conducted by the Mounties during an appearance at the public safety committee of the House, in a

joint appearance with Mr. Blaney and CSIS director Michel Coulombe.

"We have 63 active national-security investigations on 90 individuals who are related to the travelling group, people who intend to go [to countries like Iraq and Syria] or people who have returned," Commissioner Paulson said.

The federal government went on to introduce Bill C-44, a counterterrorism law aimed at boosting powers of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. The bill has been on a fast track through Parliament since its tabling after the Oct. 22 shooting, which came two days after Martin Couture-Rouleau rammed into two Canadian Forces members in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, killing one.

Mr. Blaney has said another bill with expanded law-enforcement powers for surveillance, detention and arrest in counterterrorism cases is due for release in the near future. (Globe and Mail)

Dec 22 2014

TORONTO - An Ontario man will be tried for a fourth time in September 2016 in the murder of a nursing assistant who was killed 33 years ago in the Hamilton area.

Diane Werendowicz died in 1981. She was dragged into a ravine, allegedly sexually assaulted, strangled and dumped in a creek.

Robert Badgerow was arrested in her death in 1998 and was convicted of first-degree murder several years later, but the verdict was overturned on appeal.

A new trial was ordered but ended in a mistrial in 2010 when a jury was unable to reach a verdict. Badgerow's third trial also resulted in a hung jury.

He then applied for, and was granted, a stay of proceedings when the Crown indicated it intended to try him for a fourth time. That stay was set aside by Ontario's Court of Appeal in April, and a new trial was ordered.

Badgerow then tried to take his case to the country's highest court, but the Supreme Court of Canada denied his leave to appeal.

Dec 22 2014

DETROIT - A 22-year-old Canadian man who was shot by U.S. border guards after pointing what appeared to be a gun at them is facing weapons-related charges in Windsor, Ont.



Windsor police say the man, who is currently in custody in Detroit, faces weapons and dangerous driving charges in connection with an incident just minutes earlier in

the Canadian city and will be arrested if he crosses the border.

The U.S. border agency says the man stopped his car before the U.S. inspection booth at the Ambassador Bridge crossing around 3 a.m. on Sunday and started walking towards officers while waving what turned out to be a replica handgun.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says officers ordered the man to drop the weapon but he then pointed it in their direction, prompting one officer to fire three shots and a second officer to fire a single round.

The man was hit once in the arm and was treated at a hospital before being taken into custody.

Windsor police say just 20 minutes before the incident at the border, the man was seen waving a handgun in a McDonald's parking lot in the southwestern Ontario city, and refused to drop the weapon when ordered to by responding officers, pointing it at them instead before fleeing.

According to the police statement, the man asked the officers "Why haven't you shot me yet?"

The statement says the officers tried to talk the man into surrendering, but he got back into his SUV and drove off before the officers could get back to their cruisers.

"Officers were faced with what they thought was a deadly threat and they showed tremendous restraint while re-assessing the situation. Although at one point, police considered the use of lethal forces, they opted not to," said Windsor deputy police Chief Vince Power.

"These types of situations are dynamic."

Dec 22 2014

TORONTO - In the wake of the fatal shooting of two New York police officers over the weekend, the president of the Toronto Police union is calling for an end to online "anti-police rhetoric" that has reached a "fever pitch."



"There are real consequences," Mike McCormack, Toronto Police Association president, told the Star Monday.

"People are posting this stuff all over about cops being the enemy, and then somebody acts on that, and everybody goes 'oh my God, how does this happen?' Well, to me, it doesn't seem to be that surprising."

McCormack's comments come one week after the Toronto Police Services Board decided not to discipline its chair, Alok Mukherjee, following a controversial post to his Facebook page about police-involved shootings in the U.S.

Mukherjee's post - shared on his personal Facebook page earlier this month - was a meme created by activist group Occupy Wall Street suggesting the number of American casualties caused by police each year is far greater than terrorist group ISIS or the Ebola virus.

On Sunday night, a day after two New York Police Department officers were gunned down in their cruisers in Brooklyn, the Toronto Police Association sent an email blast to Toronto officers urging them to "remain vigilant and exercise caution" in light of "continued anti-police rhetoric."

The shooter, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, had a long criminal history, had been treated for mental health issues and had shot and wounded his ex-girlfriend outside Baltimore hours before coming to New York to attack the police.

In a column published in the Toronto Sun Monday, McCormack said the New York ambush was anti-police sentiment "taken to the extreme."

"Now we know that there are consequences when individuals, groups and politicians post irresponsible anti-police rhetoric, for the sole purpose of inflaming an already volatile situation," McCormack wrote.

In an interview Monday, McCormack said he is referring to Mukherjee's post and to others depicting police officers "as the enemy."

"(When) we have people that are in positions of power and influence, who have respect within the community, posting or re-posting those things, I'm just really concerned about that," he said.

Mukherjee did not respond to a request for comment Monday. (Toronto Star)

Dec 22 2014

A woman was left "mortified" after calling in the Scottish SPCA to rescue an injured parrot that turned out to be a Christmas hat.



The charity was called to the scene in Aberdeen after what a driver believed to be a parrot was seen in the middle of the road.

However, when they got there they discovered it was a woolly hat.

Animal rescue officer Karen Hogg said: "It's fair to say the lady who called was mortified when I called her back."

She said: "When she was on her way home from the shops, she thought she saw an injured bird on the road.

"The hat has green holly which she assumed was the body and a red bobble sticking out which she thought was the parrot's head.

"As the lady was driving at the time she wasn't able to stop and get a good look so called to alert us.

"When I got there it was a nice surprise to find there wasn't an animal in danger and I must admit it gave me a bit of Christmas cheer."

Ms Hogg added: "The hat is now being safely looked after at our centre in Drumoak. If anyone recognises the hat they are welcome to come and collect it.

"Although this incident turned out to be a false alarm, we'd always encourage people to give us a call if they think an animal is in need of help."

(BBC News)

Dec 22 2014

BRAMPTON, Ont. - The province's Special Investigations Unit has been called in after a three-vehicle collision northwest of Toronto that left a woman seriously injured.

The police watchdog agency says the incident took place at about 12:30 a.m. Monday as Peel Regional Police were trying to investigate a van in Brampton.

It's alleged that the van fled from the area but was then involved in a collision with two other vehicles at an intersection.

A 49-year-old woman, who was the driver of one of those vehicles, suffered serious injuries and was transported to Brampton Civic Hospital and then to Sunnybrook Hospital for treatment.

The SIU says it has assigned five investigators and three forensic investigators and a collision reconstructionist to probe the circumstances of the incident.

Dec 22 2014

MONTREAL - The president of Montreal's police union says officers here are a target for attacks because it's a "multi-ethnic" city.

Yves Francoeur told Radio-Canada that "police officers are not immune to the possibility of attack because of the 'multi-ethnic' character of Montreal."

When asked about his statements on CBC's Daybreak, Francoeur said radicalized Islamic attacks are a factor the police need to consider.

He said the police have good relationships with Muslim leaders, but that radical attacks are a concern for the police force.

"We have good co-operation with those communities, who have to face some very extremist individuals in their own communities, but we're working with them."

Francoeur said there's still an ongoing investigation into the man arrested on Friday for allegedly making threats against police, but he believes the man was motivated by religion.

"I know from the investigation, there was a relation with religion, Islamist."

A spokesman for the Montreal police department has not confirmed that Islam, or any religion, was involved in that arrest.

(CBC News)



Dec 23 2014

A man who accused Cape Breton Regional Police of beating him was in fact injured when he fled police, according to a report released Tuesday.

On July 2, the man became a suspect in a Sydney home invasion committed the day before. Police knew the man and spotted him at 12:40 a.m. on Townsend and George streets.

An officer left his car and tried to stop the suspect, Ron MacDonald says in his Serious Incident Response Team report. The suspect ran

away, jumped a fence, and was then caught.

"The first officer caught up with the man while he lay injured on the ground and arrested him. He was soon joined by two other officers," MacDonald writes.

The man's ankle was broken and he said police beat him up.

"However, SIRT investigators saw no evidence of that when they met with him the next day, and evidence from civilian witnesses indicated the police had little physical contact with the man," MacDonald concludes.

"The facts of the case demonstrated that the police had grounds to arrest the male, and the injury was caused by the male's decision to run from police and jump a fence. There are no grounds to consider any charges against any officer in the matter."

(CBC News)

Dec 23 2014

OTTAWA - Treasury Board President Tony Clement says there's a reason some federal data can't be released to the public in electronic format.

Clement says people might alter it and spread falsehoods.

And Clement, who's the minister responsible for freedom of information, says there's a fear people could "create havoc" by changing the statistical information.

Federal agencies hold a vast array of data on everything from immigrants held in detention to use of force by RCMP officers.

Some researchers have requested data kept in electronic format, only to receive it as a paper printout.

That makes it virtually impossible for the recipient to sort and filter the data to identify patterns and trends.

The Access to Information Act says federal agencies must provide timely access to records in the format requested.

Clement could not point to a specific instance in which federal data had been altered.

Dec 23 2014

SYDNEY, N.S. - Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team says there are no grounds to consider charges against police after a man broke his ankle during an arrest in July.

In a report released today, investigators say a 27-year-old man who was a suspect in a home invasion in Sydney, N.S., was arrested by Cape Breton Regional Police on July 2.

The report says the man tried to flee from an officer who left his vehicle and chased the suspect near some homes on George Street.

The man jumped a fence and injured his ankle before he was caught by the officer who was then joined by two other officers.

The man says he was beaten by police, but SIRT investigators say they saw no evidence of that when they met him the next day and witnesses say police had little physical contact with the man.

The report says the officers had grounds to arrest the man and his injury was caused by his decision to run from police and jump a fence.

Dec 23 2014

FOND DU LAC, Sask. - A Mountie in Saskatchewan is facing charges of accessing and possessing child pornography.

The 31-year-old officer, who has been with the force for more than four years, was stationed at Fond du Lac.

RCMP say computer devices were seized during a search of the man's home in the remote northwestern community on Oct. 16.

He was removed from the detachment and suspended with pay, but charges were not laid until yesterday following an investigation by the Saskatchewan Internet Child Exploitation Unit.

Const. Aiden Arthur Pratchett has been released following an appearance before a justice of the peace and is to appear in Prince Albert provincial court on Jan. 28.

RCMP Supt. Alfredo Bangloy calls the allegations extremely disturbing.

Dec 23 2014

OTTAWA - The federal government is appealing a judge's decision that it was "unreasonable" for the top Mountie to deny a staff sergeant's bid for promotion because of a long-dismissed allegation of misconduct.

In a ruling last month, Federal Court Justice John O'Keefe directed RCMP commissioner Bob Paulson to do as much as he could to ensure Staff Sgt. Walter Boogaard was elevated to the rank of inspector.

Boogaard, 51, has been unsuccessful in obtaining a promotion due to an episode 14 years ago in which his gun was stolen by two women.

The women said Boogaard had picked them up and was trying to buy sex from one when the other nicked the firearm - a version of events the veteran Mountie denies.

Boogaard's account - that the gun was stolen from his vehicle - was accepted when the matter was addressed by the national police force at the time.

Boogaard's lawyer, Paul Champ, says a modern police force should be above sidelining someone's career over innuendo.

Dec 23 2014

EDMONTON - The suspect in a long-running murder case involving the deaths of two Alberta seniors is to be released on \$25,000 bail.

Travis Vader, who is 42, was re-arrested on first-degree murder charges last week.

He was originally charged in 2012, two years after Lyle and Marie McCann were last seen fuelling up their motorhome in their hometown of St. Albert, north of Edmonton.

Vader was supposed to stand trial earlier this year, but the charges were stayed.

He is to remain on house arrest while out on bail, but further details presented at the hearing are covered by a publication ban.

The McCann's bodies have never been found, but authorities believe the couple is dead.

Dec 23 2014

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - The Kamloops, B.C., Mountie who was shot during a

traffic stop over three weeks ago is experiencing medical complications.

RCMP say Cpl. Jean Rene Michaud has been airlifted from Kamloops to a Metro Vancouver hospital with his wife by his side.

Michaud underwent two surgeries in the first few days after being shot, but RCMP haven't indicated what kind of complications the officer is experiencing.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 3, Michaud was shot and injured by someone inside a vehicle he had stopped in a Kamloops residential area.

Within hours, 36-year-old Kenneth Knudson was arrested and faces charges off attempted murder, aggravated assault and two firearms-related charges.

A statement from Supt. Brad Mueller, the officer in charge at the Kamloops detachment, says the family wants to express its gratitude for the continued outpouring of well wishes, but asks for privacy at this difficult time.

Dec 23 2014

WINNIPEG - The RCMP says its serious and organized crime unit has arrested a veteran Mountie in Manitoba on 13 drug and weapons charges.

Police say Const. Daniel Daudet was arrested in a rural municipality southeast of Winnipeg.

He faces possession of cocaine, possession of a prohibited firearm obtained by crime and other charges.

RCMP say Daudet, who is 42, has been a Mountie for 13 years.

He has been released from custody and is to appear in Steinbach provincial court on Feb. 19. Police say he has been suspended with pay.

Dec 23 2014

VICTORIA - Prosecutors in British Columbia say they won't lay charges against a Fraser Valley police officer accused of breaking a man's finger during an arrest.

The Criminal Justice Branch says there is no substantial likelihood the officer will be convicted for any offence related to an incident on Jan. 28, 2014, in Abbotsford, B.C.

On that day, a report of domestic violence drew members of the Abbotsford Police Department to a local home, where the man was arrested.

The man alleged the arresting officer used excessive force while handcuffing him and as a result broke the small finger on his left hand.

The Criminal Justice Branch says it had reason to discount the complainant's evidence because he told others he'd broken the finger earlier while skateboarding.

Prosecutors say the man and his sister, who was a witness, had been drinking alcohol, other police described the arrest as uneventful, and the man's girlfriend heard no complaint of injury at the time.

Dec 23 2014

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police say an investigation is underway into the investigation death of a 58-year-old woman.

Officers responded to a 911 call early Dec. 15 and arrested the woman, transporting her to jail in a police wagon.

Const. Brian Montague says in a news release Tuesday evening that the woman was not responsive when the vehicle arrived at the jail.

He says paramedics were called and she was taken to hospital.

Montague says the woman died in hospital on Tuesday but the cause of death is not yet known.

He says the Independent Investigations Office, which is the province's police watchdog, and the coroners service are looking into the death.



Dec 24 2014

MONTREAL - Luka Rocco Magnotta is off to prison for life with no chance of parole for 25 years for the murder and dismemberment of Chinese student Jun Lin.

A Montreal jury yesterday found Magnotta guilty of first-degree murder and four other counts in the 2012 slaying.

The jurors deliberated for eight days before returning the five guilty verdicts.

Magnotta's lawyer, Luc Leclair, continued to argue that Magnotta is schizophrenic, but said no decision has been made on a possible appeal.

The 32-year-old Toronto native didn't testify at the trial and he had nothing to say before sentencing.

Lin's father says Magnotta's fate - years to reflect on his crimes behind bars - is not unlike the future he, Jun Lin's mother and his younger sister face.



Dec 24 2014

TORONTO - Edward Greenspan, one of Canada's most famous criminal lawyers, has died.

His law firm, Greenspan Partners LLP, confirmed his death Wednesday morning.

Greenspan represented a number of high-profile clients, including one-time media baron Conrad Black and former theatre mogul Garth Drabinsky.

A number of individuals in the legal community are mourning Greenspan's death, calling him a "giant" and one of the legal profession's best.