

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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## BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Anti-terror act risks creating 'grey area' with RCMP



Feb 23 2015

**Beefing up the powers of Canada's spy agency will come at the expense of the RCMP's ability to investigate and prosecute terrorists, security and legal experts are warning.**

In addition, giving new powers to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service to "disrupt" security threats will increase the role of political officials in law-enforcement operations in Canada, experts said.

The federal government's proposed Anti-Terrorism Act has sparked a fierce debate between proponents of security and defenders of civic rights. The Conservatives

and Liberals voted to send the legislation to committee for further study – against the opposition of the NDP – on Monday night.

Security experts are already raising questions over the government's decision to provide CSIS with new powers to disrupt terrorist threats, which stands to increase its overlapping areas of responsibility with the RCMP.

In particular, CSIS agents would be able to stay much longer on a case before they call in the Mounties to open up a criminal investigation, as they frequently do under their joint responsibilities over national-security matters. Instead of facing a criminal



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investigation, potential terrorists would continue to be monitored, and potentially disrupted by the intelligence-gathering agency, but not face the possibility of being charged, which is the sole purview of the RCMP.

In announcing the legislation last month, federal officials said the goal is to provide CSIS agents with the ability to act on threats to Canada's security "while they are in the planning stage." For example, CSIS agents could disrupt shipments of chemicals to would-be terrorists, or speak to a would-be terrorist's family members and friends to try and influence his plans, the government said.

But it also means that in many cases, CSIS could continue to track a target rather than calling on the RCMP to launch a criminal investigation.

"It's blindingly obvious that it's creating a potential problem area, not just in terms of the co-operation between the two agencies, but the efficacy of their work," said Wesley Wark, a professor at the University of Ottawa and one-time member of the Prime Minister's now defunct Advisory Council on National Security.

"If CSIS gets involved in too many disruption operations, under a quasi-intelligence mandate, this means that you are removing cases from the reach of criminal prosecutions."

Pierre-Yves Bourduas, a former RCMP deputy commissioner, said the new powers stand to create a new "grey area" between the two agencies' mandates.

"I can't help but reflect on the Air India inquiry, where CSIS hung on too long to particular information that would have been very valuable to the RCMP. It's something you have to bear in mind, looking at this legislation, to ensure that both CSIS and the RCMP will co-ordinate their efforts," he said. "We have to learn from the lessons of the past."

(Globe and Mail)

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Feb 19 2015

### B.C.'s police complaint commissioner has reviewed hundreds of Abbotsford police search warrants and found problems that could put at least 43 cases in jeopardy.

The investigation into the alleged misconduct of 17 Abbotsford officers, which has led federal prosecutors to launch a review of relevant cases, and defence lawyers to question if their clients were unfairly convicted, dates as far back as 2008 and could stretch further.

Rollie Woods, the deputy police complaint commissioner, said Thursday that hundreds of search warrants have been scrutinized. He could not provide an exact figure, but said it was more than 500.

Mr. Woods said problems have been found with 43 warrants to date.

He reiterated that the allegations against the officers are serious in nature. Earlier this week, when the investigation into 8 per cent of the force in Abbotsford, known as a gang-crime hot spot, was announced, Mr. Woods said information sworn for warrants may have been "misleading or inaccurate."

The chief of police in Abbotsford, a bible-belt suburb about 70 kilometres east of Vancouver, has pointed to the way the officers handled informants. Information sworn for warrants, particularly in drug cases, can often come from informants.

Bob Rich, the Abbotsford police chief, has said 10 to 20 investigations have been put on hold as a result of the misconduct probe.

(Globe and Mail)

Feb 19 2015

### EDMONTON - A fatality inquiry report into a fatal house explosion is recommending that police improve how they deal with family violence.

The report released Thursday says Dwayne Poirier strangled his wife, Cathie Heard, and then removed a cap from a natural gas line. Their home in northeast Edmonton exploded like a bomb in June 2010.

Poirier, 46, and two men who lived next door were killed. The blast caused \$3.8 million in damage to 41 homes in the neighbourhood.

Provincial court Judge James Wheatley says Poirier and Heard, 47, had severe emotional problems and had obtained several emergency protection orders against each other, which they always discontinued when they got back together.

Wheatley notes in his report that police gave evidence at the inquiry that one-quarter of their investigations involve domestic violence.

"One must wonder if, in fact, 25 per cent of all police business involves domestic violence, whether the manpower allocated to (the Edmonton police) domestic offenders crime section is sufficient to deal with this ever-present problem within our society," Wheatley writes.

Wheatley recommends that Edmonton police consider setting up a unit to intervene in family violence cases before they get serious and that they use a Calgary model as an example.

He says police services should begin training officers about domestic violence when they are recruits and continue the training once they are in the field. He says rookie officers should be monitored to ensure they have the backup and guidance to develop proper skills.

Feb 19 2015

### NIAGARA FALLS - After a seven-year suspension with pay, two trials and a prison sentence, Frank Dean Rudge is no longer a member of the Niagara Regional Police.

Rudge resigned late last month in the midst of ongoing police disciplinary tribunal proceedings. He was criminally convicted of breach of trust by a public official in 2013 and is serving a four-year penitentiary term.

"It's a black mark on the NRPS in relation to his activities," Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire said. "On the other side, I also hold it up as a gold flag for what was done by the officers themselves who discovered his activities. They pursued a very delicate undercover operation, brought it to light and took it to two trials. It was fantastic work and commitment to integrity."

Rudge was convicted for providing confidential information to the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang. It was the second time Rudge stood trial for the crime. He was first acquitted of the charge in 2010. A court of appeal overturned that acquittal in 2011, leading to the second trial. He was charged in 2006.

Police suspected information was being leaked to biker gang members when Hells Angel chapter president Gerald Ward was seen in possession of confidential police documents. Police records showed that those documents were printed by Rudge's computer, court was told.

Another document, later seized by police while executing a search warrant on another Hells Angels member's truck, had Rudge's fingerprint on it.

(St. Catharines Standard)

## FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2015

Feb 20 2015

### HALIFAX - A member of the Halifax Regional Police has been charged with assault following an investigation into an arrest last year.

The Serious Incident Response Team launched an investigation after a 34-year-old man who was arrested for theft on Aug. 22 complained about the arresting officer's conduct.

The police watchdog says it won't discuss the details of the incident because it is before the courts.

But it says police have the right to use reasonable force when arresting someone,

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and if the force is not reasonable, it is considered assault.

Forty-five-year-old Const. Derek Fish is due in provincial court in Halifax on March 23.

Feb 20 2015

### **OTTAWA - An Ottawa man accused in an attack on an elderly war veteran last year is now facing murder charges in the unsolved killing of three people in 2007.**

Police confirmed Friday that they have charged Ian Bush, 59, in the deaths of retired tax court judge Alban Garon, his wife Raymond and their neighbour, Marie-Claire Beniskos.

"This is an important development in a case that has troubled the community, investigators and the family and friends of these people for several years," acting police Chief Jill Skinner told a news conference.

Earlier Friday, Bush was found fit to stand trial in a Dec. 18 home invasion attack on Ernest Cote, a 101-year-old D-Day veteran.

Police said the investigation into that attack led to the murder charges.

"The investigation into the December home invasion prompted investigators to consider Bush as a suspect for the 2007 homicides," Skinner said.

Bush was charged in the Cote attack and underwent a 20-day psychiatric assessment to determine if he was fit to stand trial.

While he was in custody, police amassed evidence that later prompted them to charge Bush in connection with the 2007 slayings, which had stumped detectives for years.

"In the last few weeks, investigators have worked to establish evidence to warrant the homicide charges," Skinner said.

"We will not be speaking to that evidence today as those details will be presented in court. However, I can tell you that the evidence includes DNA."

Bush has opted for trial by judge and jury in the Cote case.

Feb 20 2015

### **VANCOUVER - The RCMP officer who stunned Robert Dziekanski with a Taser at Vancouver's airport lied at a public inquiry into the Polish immigrant's death, a judge ruled Friday.**

Const. Kwesi Millington fired his Taser multiple times after he and three other officers were summoned to Vancouver's airport in October 2007.

Each of the officers were compelled to explain their actions at a subsequent public inquiry, and all four were later charged with perjury.

The Crown alleged they lied when they attempted to reconcile their initial accounts of what happened and what was recorded on an amateur video that was released later.

Millington's verdict marks the first time a judge has concluded that one of the officers lied. Another Mountie, Const. Bill Bentley, was acquitted in 2013, while two other cases have not yet concluded.

Millington initially told homicide

investigators that Dziekanski remained standing after the first jolt of the Taser and that he was still standing when Millington pulled the trigger a second time. The video, however, clearly shows Dziekanski fell to the ground after the first deployment.

Millington testified at the inquiry that he honestly believed at the time that Dziekanski was standing, even though he acknowledged on the stand that he was mistaken.

B.C. Supreme Court Judge William Ehrcke said Millington's explanation was "patently false."

"The Crown has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Const. Millington gave oral evidence under oath which he knew at the time to be false and he did so with the intention to mislead the inquiry," Ehrcke said Friday, as Millington listened from the prisoner's dock.

The Crown alleged the officers colluded on a story to tell homicide investigators and write in their police notes in an attempt to heighten the threat that Dziekanski posed. Prosecutors argued the officers' statements and notes all contained similar errors, proving they worked together.

The Crown further alleged the officers met in the Vancouver area in the days or weeks before testifying at the inquiry in early 2009 to plan their testimony. A witness, whose ex-husband is Bentley's cousin, told the court the officers met at her home, but the defence presented telephone records, credit card receipts and other evidence to cast doubt on her testimony.

Millington testified in his own defence.

He told the court he had no reason to lie because he was walking away from the Dziekanski incident confident that he had done nothing wrong. He denied colluding with the other officers, either on the night of Dziekanski's death or before the inquiry.

The judge, however, said Millington had a motive to lie about what happened, and he noted that the officer's errors all exaggerated the threat Dziekanski posed.

Former corporal Benjamin (Monty) Robinson is awaiting a verdict and Const. Gerry Rundel's trial, which proceeded in another courtroom on Friday, is almost finished.

The Crown has filed an appeal of Bentley's acquittal.

Feb 20 2015

### **HAMILTON - A veteran Hamilton police constable was arrested Friday and charged with theft and obstructing justice in what police are calling an "on-duty incident."**

Police said the incident took place on Jan. 26 of this year.

The officer, who has been with the police for 15 years, allegedly unlawfully cancelled a ticket he'd served to a driver.

Police said the inconsistency was noticed during the processing of a ticket for a provincial offence.

Highway Traffic Act violations, like speeding, are the most common provincial offences, though the offence could also be related to municipal by-laws or charges laid

under provincial legislation like trespassing.

The officer has been suspended with pay in the lead up to his March 19 court appearance. Under the provincial Police Services Act, any time an officer is suspended while under investigation they must also still be paid.

Hamilton police spokesperson Catherine Martin said the charges are not related to a scandal engulfing the force's ACTION team, which is being investigated for allegedly writing false tickets that would count towards police statistics but were never handed out.

Const. Don Sauve, 50, of Caledonia, has been charged with one count of obstructing justice and two counts of theft.

(CBC News)

Feb 20 2015

### **In an attempt to end the frosty winter weather, a police department in Kentucky has issued an arrest warrant for an unusual suspect - Queen Elsa of Arendelle, the main character in the Disney film 'Frozen.'**

The Harlan City Police Department posted the humorous warrant on its Facebook page on Feb. 18, describing the suspect as "a blonde female last seen wearing a long blue dress (who) is known to burst into song 'Let it Go!'"

The post also cautions the public not to try to capture her themselves.

"As you can see by the weather she is very dangerous. Do not attempt to apprehend her alone."

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(canoe.ca)

Feb 20 2015

### **EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service failed to meet its own hiring goals the past two years.**

Despite that fact, recruitment officers hope a downturn in the economy and marketing in other provinces will help boost number this year.

Police wanted to hire 120 officers in 2013 and again in 2014.

In 2013, the force hired 78 of the 468 applicants — 70 men and eight women. In 2014, the number of recruits increased, with 564 applicants and 111 hires — 95 men and 16 women.

A growing population, increased workload and booming downtown are some of the reasons cited why Edmonton needs a larger police force.

Slightly more than half the recruits from last year's class were from Alberta. The rest were from around country, including 20 from Ontario and 11 from B.C.

This year, the department hopes to hire

120 officers.

"I think the downturn in the Alberta economy will make some people look at us and hopefully we maybe see an increase in applicants," Acting Staff Sgt. Mark Farnell said Thursday following a presentation to the Edmonton Police Commission.

Farnell said there have been many challenges when it comes to recruitment, including a competitive job market and attracting a range of applicants.

Recruiting officers will be going to Ottawa and Montreal in March in the hopes of encouraging more people to apply.

Farnell said recruitment officers made similar trips to other provinces last year. He believes that was part of the reason the number of applicants jumped between 2013 and 2014.

"I'm hoping, if other jobs aren't there, that people look at us," Farnell said. "We're looking for good applicants to join the Edmonton police and join this great city."

In the effort to boost recruitment numbers, the police have also brought back the experienced officer program, which hadn't been operating the past two years. Officers from other Canadian police agencies can participate in a condensed training program and become an officer faster than with the standard recruitment process.

The program was brought back because of high demand, Farnell said.

"After so many phone calls, we got the hint," he said. "We realized it was an opportunity to open up."

(Edmonton Journal)

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2015

Feb 21 2015

**This time last year, New Mexico Police Officer Jeremy Romero was not sure if he would be able to walk again. Romero was nearly killed in January 2014, while chasing after two suspects in a stolen car.**

The officer crashed into a power pole.

Doctors did not give Romero the prognosis he was looking for at first.

But now there is hope for Officer Romero who calls himself a real life Robocop thanks to futuristic technology that has the potential to help millions of people walk again.

Romero is the first injured police officer in the United States to use the robotic exoskeleton device made by a company called Rewalk.

The device just got FDA approved last year.

Only a few dozen of them exist across the country.

The device has four motors and a series of sensors, giving people with spinal cord injuries the ability to walk again.

"Those who actually have our device, it's not the number one reason, they talk about how their pains decreased," Rewalk Tech, Andy McCord, said.

An engineer in Israel developed the device after suffering from an injury for more than 10 years. A man who was determined to not be stuck in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. A man much like police officer Romero.

(KCEN)

Feb 21 2015

**OTTAWA - An autistic nine-year-old boy was handcuffed by police at his Ottawa school, leading his outraged mother to claim the school system is failing children like her son.**

Stephanie Huck claims there are autistic kids who are falling through the cracks because school staff are not properly trained.

Huck and her husband were called to their son Daniel's school Thursday after being told he'd been acting out in the principal's office.

When they arrived, a police officer was in the school and the couple learned their son had to be restrained.

They only found out about the use of handcuffs when Huck's husband questioned Daniel.

The police officer confirmed she handcuffed Daniel.

The boy's parents say they're determined to move their son to a different school.

The Ottawa Catholic District School Board insists its staff at St. Jerome Catholic School "acted appropriately" in order to protect other students and staff.

Feb 21 2015

**OTTAWA - An Ottawa man facing murder charges in an unsolved triple murder has been ordered held in custody until his next court appearance.**

Ian Bush appeared by video link in an Ottawa court on Saturday morning, where his case was remanded until Apr. 7.

The father of three, who had no previous significant brushes with the law, was then also charged with 11 firearms-related offences in connection with guns that were seized by police from his Orleans home.

The home invasion assault case, which includes a charge of attempted murder, has been held over until March 6 to set a trial date.

Feb 21 2015

**Winter isn't about to put a stick in the spokes of Old Strathcona beat cops.**



Constables Mike Zacharuk and Ryan Katchur are the first to test out fat bikes for the Edmonton Police Service -- a winter ex-

pansion of the mountain bike program that has been around since 2000.

Katchur said the public for the most part is embracing beat cops on the bikes.

"It's huge for building relationships," Katchur said.

"It's a positive interaction with police. There's so much negative media out there, so much negative connotations with the policing industry right now. This, we're out there. We're having a friendly conversation."

The bikes are lower gear and the tire pressure is low -- about 8 psi -- to maneuver through the snow and ice.

Emblazoned on the side of the black, Canadian-made bikes is the word "police" and side panniers offer storage for extra clothes and a clipboard and forms for their job. Bar Mitts keep officers hands warm without bulky gloves, making it easier to write.

On their first night out, the cycling duo were riding in -23C in the University area when they came across a group of people trying to rob a man. The stealthy mode of transportation surprised them and the constables were able to make an arrest.

"It turns out that this individual, along with the group had assaulted three other people prior to that within a 20 minute span coming from the Edmonton Transit LRT station," Zacharuk said.

That sold him on the program -- not that the officers needed convincing on the joys of cycling.

Katchur is an avid mountain biker and just bought his own personal fat bike after the positive experience. Zacharuk is a commuter who cycles each day from the northside.

"It helps me get through the traffic and it tires me out when I get home," Zacharuk said.

He describes the experience of riding a fat bike as "awesome."

"It's an utter enjoyment to ride," said Zacharuk.

"Once we get used to the stability that these bikes provide, it's definitely a confidence booster. For us, instead of always having to look down at the ground, or in front of your wheel, you look around and get around easier and safer."

Katchur concurs.

"With the conditions in Edmonton six months out of the year with ice and snow, with the tires on these, I feel I have better traction, better stability, better mobility than actually out walking," Katchur said.

"It's unreal. We've ridden over sheer ice you couldn't even walk across. This tackled it with no problems."

(Edmonton Sun)

Feb 21 2015

**VANCOUVER - A Canada Border Services Agency spokeswoman says the agency agrees there is no need to continue with a memorandum of understanding with Metro Vancouver Transit Police.**

Jennifer Bourque says the intent of the agreement was meant to facilitate the placement of a CBSA officer in Transit Police offices in

order to help with information sharing.

But she says since information sharing is covered under existing privacy legislation, CBSA did not see the need to have an officer embedded with Transit Police and the memorandum was never used.

Transit Police spokeswoman Anne Drennan announced the end of the agreement on Friday, and she also said that officers would no longer arrest undocumented migrants unless they were wanted on an outstanding warrant.

The decision follows the death of Lucia Vega Jimenez, a Mexican woman who hanged herself in a holding facility below Vancouver's airport in December 2013, after Transit Police stopped her for fare evasion and called CBSA.

Bourque says while the agency cannot comment on changes that Transit Police makes to its internal policies, CBSA will continue to act on tips it receives from any of its enforcement partners.

## MONDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Feb 23 2015

**EDMONTON - The Alberta government's response to a lawsuit filed by its former chief medical officer calls her "obstructionist, confrontational and disrespectful."**

In a statement of defence filed Monday, the province alleges Dr. Anny Sauvageau has only herself to blame for not getting her contract renewed.

"(Sauvageau) was either unwilling or unable to function properly as a responsible chief medical examiner," reads the statement of defence filed in Court of Queen's Bench.

The defendants include Justice Minister Jonathan Denis and other senior government officials.

Sauvageau filed a wrongful dismissal suit earlier this month. She claims that her contract was not renewed after she began flagging concerns about political interference in her department and about the province's contract to pick up and transport bodies.

Sauvageau alleges the government tried to get her to bend the rules about viewing bodies in her office and claims that former premier Dave Hancock once tried to get her to review the cause of death in one specific case.

She also claims one senior bureaucrat once told her that her job was "to make the minister look good."

The defendants, in the statement of defence, deny those allegations.

Sauvageau also alleges the government signed a questionable deal with the Alberta Funeral Services Association to top up body transportation contracts by \$3 million.

She claims she was also getting complaints that included a body being taken away in a pickup truck, a funeral home worker wearing a skating costume to a death scene

and staff taking crime scene photos for private collections.

The Alberta Funeral Services Association has said the complaints were never substantiated.

The province, in its defence statement, claims it doesn't know if the complaints are true, but says they are irrelevant because they are outside Sauvageau's job description.

"Medical examiners in Alberta are independent in their professional areas, which include conducting autopsies and issuing reports," says the statement.

"(Sauvageau) claimed that this gave her complete autonomy over many non-medical, administrative and policy matters that were outside her legal authority."

The province alleges Sauvageau insisted on intervening anyway and wanted control over odometer readings and upholstery conditions of body transport trucks.

It also claims she wanted to dictate what drivers wore and whether they had to change clothes before arriving at her office.

The government alleges Sauvageau created "an atmosphere of apprehension, intimidation, and low morale amongst staff."

None of the allegations has been proven in court.

Sauvageau was told last September, a day after she said she took her complaints to Premier Jim Prentice, that her contract would not be renewed.

Prentice has said he did not intervene in the dispute, but rather let Denis handle it.

Last week, the province announced that Jeffery Gofton, Alberta's assistant chief medical examiner, will take over the top job.

Feb 23 2015

**DELTA, B.C. - B.C.'s police complaint commissioner has ordered a final review of a case involving a police officer who could be dismissed due alleged professional misconduct.**

Const. Felipe Gomes of the Delta Police Department is accused of four charges of deceit and one of neglect of duty.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner says the complaints relate to concerns over the integrity of the officer's notes as well as claims he made to professional standards investigators.

The office found a separate charge of damage to police property against Gomes to be unsubstantiated.

A so-called review on the record to be held for Gomes would be conducted by a retired judge, and such decisions are final.

An officer is entitled to either a public hearing or a review on the record whenever dismissal or loss of rank is recommended as a disciplinary measure.

Feb 23 2015

**VICTORIA - An all-party committee reviewing B.C.'s civilian-led police investigation agency is calling for a provincial review following internal complaints and high staff turnover.**

The special committee, which was formed last year to examine the Independent

Investigations Office, has issued a report that recommends the Justice Ministry closely review human resources practices at the office.

The government's Public Service Agency is already investigating a series of employee complaints about the Independent Investigations Office's leadership.

The office was founded in 2012 to investigate cases in which people are seriously injured or killed by police officers.

The Liberal chair of the legislative committee, Mike Morris, says the report recommends the Justice Ministry report back in a year about how it has addressed the officer's human resources issues.

The report also recommends relaxing rules that prevent police officers who have been out of law enforcement for less than five years from being appointed as investigators.

Feb 23 2015

**PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - North District RCMP will soon be saying goodbye to Chief Superintendent Rod Booth.**



After 34 years in the RCMP, a career that has seen him take postings across Canada, including the Yukon, Chief Superintendent Booth will have decided to retire.

"It just feels like the right time" says the Chief Superintendent.

Those 34 years in the RCMP saw Rod Booth be involved in major crime, emergency response, 2 years as the Executive Officer to the Commissioner of the RCMP and he was seconded to the Privy Council office for two years where he helped work on the preparations for the 2010 Olympics.

Last fall he received the Order of Merit medal from the Governor General of Canada, David Johnston. The medal recognizes a career of exceptional service or distinctive merit by the men and women in policing service in Canada.

"I can tell you this job here, I can't think of a better job to end my career with" says Booth. "This has just been an amazing position as District Commander for the North. It's second to none. It all goes back to the people, the members and staff who do the work, specifically our small, remote and isolated communities where our members do amazing work under significant challenges and in isolation. They are the unsung heroes, we don't hear about the work they do every day, but they really are the best."

He says he had a list of things he wanted to accomplish here during his tenure and believes he has achieved those goals. One of his

priorities? “The number one priority was to connect with all the members, so I’ve done extensive travel throughout the North. I really wanted to connect with the members as best I could and provide them with reassurance. We’ve gone through some rough times over the years, and during the day I have to provide hope and promise and inspire my members to do the very best, and that was my number one priority.” The second priority was to connect with community partners and leaders.

Oh, there was one operational issue he wanted to resolve, and is proud to include it among his accomplishments. While North District covers 73% of the provincial land mass Booth says it just didn’t make sense that although there were three fixed wing aircraft here, there was no helicopter.

“So every opportunity I had at senior level meetings, I was advocating for a helicopter, and that has come to fruition and that’s going to happen. We will be getting a helicopter for Prince George.”

He has been at the helm of North District RCMP for the past five years and says when he first arrived, he joked that his predecessor (Chief Superintendent Barry Clark) forgot to leave him a copy of the owner’s manual for this job.

“Of course there is no manual, it was all tongue in cheek” says Booth, “But the message I would leave for my successor is, ‘you focus on the people and the work takes care of itself’. Our members are the greatest asset, I don’t say that with hollow words, they really are, that’s what I espouse, you focus on the people and the relationships and everything else will take of itself.”

As is his way, Chief Superintendent Booth, steps back from the spotlight, instead, shining the light on those around him and offering thanks for their efforts, especially those of his family.

“They have been amazing. All the long hours away from home, most importantly my wife, for all the support she has given me over the years, I honestly could not have done it without that support and understanding.” Chief Superintendent Booth will leave his post at the end of March, although with acquired holiday and leave, will not officially be off the RCMP payroll until September.

He will be heading back to school, he plans to finish the degree he started at McGill University before joining the RCMP so many years ago.

(250 News)

Feb 23 2015

**VICTORIA - The B.C. government needs to further investigate “serious” staffing issues within the independent police watchdog that investigates deaths and serious injuries involving police actions, according to a report by a legislature committee Monday.**

MLAs on the committee charged with reviewing B.C.’s Independent Investigations Office said the government should report publicly within one year on how it plans to fix internal issues plaguing the civilian police

oversight agency.

“There were some serious human resource issues that surfaced during the review and that were turned over to the ministry, and I think they’re taking the appropriate steps by turning it over to the public service agency,” said Mike Morris, the Liberal MLA who chaired the committee and a former RCMP officer.

“It’s public knowledge they’ve had a high turnover rate of investigators, a lot of the folks have complained about the management style.”

The IIO was created in 2012 to address public concerns about police investigating themselves in cases involving serious misconduct, injury or death.

However, chief civilian director Richard Rosenthal has faced questions about his management style and leadership.

Eleven of 32 investigative staff left in the last year; four were former police officers that were fired. Four additional staff left in 2012-13.

Rosenthal has blamed a “cultural conflict” between former police and civilians in the unit, as well as the evolving nature of the office, low morale and employees who could not meet expectations.

The committee also recommended Rosenthal be given the power to, in extraordinary circumstances, hire investigators who have worked as police officers in B.C. within the past five years, even though he’s currently prohibited by government from doing so.

Rosenthal had said he’s still committed to an office of fully civilian investigators in the future, but needs more freedom to hire former police officers where necessary.

(Vancouver Sun)

Feb 23 2015

**FORT MCMURRAY, Alta. - Investigators say the death of a baby and the hospitalization of four children are linked to high levels of an insecticide found in the family’s northern Alberta apartment.**

An eight-month-old baby died in hospital and four other children remain in critical condition.

Brad Grainger from the Fort McMurray fire department says the family brought the insecticide home from Pakistan, where they were on vacation.

He adds the insecticide was limited to one apartment and it doesn’t pose a threat to the rest of the building.

Grainger says the product is similar to aluminum phosphide pellets used in North America.

During fumigation the insecticides can emit a phosphine gas that can be toxic.

The property manager of the apartment block says the children’s mother grew concerned when they started vomiting.

A two- and a six-year-old are in Stollery Children’s Hospital in Edmonton, while a four- and a seven-year-old are in hospital in Fort McMurray.

**TUESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

Feb 24 2015

**VANCOUVER - A British Columbia legislative committee has recommended the provincial government “aggressively pursue” whatever steps are necessary to suit up police with body-mounted cameras.**

The proposal from an all-party special committee is “strongly supported” by its members, who urged the government to undertake consultations and then implement the measure in a report released on Monday.

It comes just days after the country’s federal and provincial privacy watchdogs jointly appealed to police departments nationwide to consider how equipping officers could infringe on the public’s privacy.

It also takes a page from the Vancouver Police Department, which in October became the first force in B.C. to outfit officers with wearable cameras when they dismantled a protracted homeless encampment.

“It’s the direction that a lot of police forces are going because it provides a lot more insight into the valuable work that the men and women do,” said Mike Morris, the committee’s chair and member of assembly for the governing Liberals.

But he noted the committee is aware that privacy czars have signalled caution, and for jurisdictions considering implementation “to see what kinds of legal roadblocks might be in the way.”

The recommendation was formed on the basis of several factors, including the rising use of body-worn cameras in other Canadian cities, which shows the measure would not only be “feasible” but “benefit law enforcement and citizens alike.”

Both Toronto and Calgary are already in the process of expanding the use of cameras.

The committee also described the move as a “really practical suggestion” that would be a natural progression within current technological capabilities.

Last October, Vancouver police donned light-weight, high-definition GoPro video cameras in a limited trial to clear away makeshift shelters from a park in the city’s impoverished Downtown Eastside.

In a presentation to the committee last fall, University of Victoria law Prof. Michelle Lawrence pointed to nine coroners’ inquests that recommended the use of recording devices by police.

She said the cost of equipment pales in comparison to the injuries and harms suffered when there’s not enough evidence showing what happened during a police encounter.

The recommendation comes as part of a broader report reviewing the province’s Independent Investigations Office, the police watchdog asked to investigate cases in which people are seriously injured or killed by police officers.

Spencer Chandra Herbert, the committee’s

deputy chair and a member of the Opposition New Democrats, said that body-worn cameras remove the need to rely on people's memories or notes.

He said cameras would greatly benefit investigators in cases where police may have been involved in a deadly incident.

"They want the evidence to come out and show if they've operated within the law and they did everything to reduce antagonism or aggression," he said. "And if they break the rules, we need that evidence too."

Last week, personal-information protection officials from across Canada released a document that provides guidance into the widespread use of cameras. It encouraged pilot programs first and said safeguards are imperative, such as encryption, restricted access and strict retention periods.

Josh Paterson, executive director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, said that while his organization does not oppose the measure, they want a detailed set of rules to be installed alongside the technology.

"Who gets to control the footage? How long is it kept? Who has access to it? To what purposes can it later be used? When will it be destroyed? What will the officers' rights be in relation to it?" are all questions that need to be answered, Paterson said.

He said protocol must be firm to prevent abuse, such as a scenario where officers might record indiscriminately to the point of creating a new blanket-layer of surveillance.

B.C.'s ministry of justice must green light the recommendation as a first step. Then work can begin with police departments to determine budgets and what circumstances would be most appropriate for camera use.

Feb 24 2015

**TORONTO - There is nothing at this time to suggest criminal activity was involved in a mysterious underground chamber found near a Pan Am Games venue, but the intentions of whoever built it remain unknown, police said Tuesday as they appealed for help in their investigation.**



The underground bunker, discovered in January by a conservation officer in a densely wooded area, is located 25 metres from the fence of the Rexall Centre, which is to host tennis events for the summer's Pan Am Games.

But while police are still trying to figure out who built the chamber and why, they emphasized that the structure wasn't currently thought to pose a public safety threat.

"I don't have any evidence that suggests

criminality at this point," said Deputy Chief Mark Saunders. "But bear in mind I don't have the intent behind this at this point, that could change. I'm open to anything right now."

Saunders called the discovery of the bunker "not your every day find," and said police would continue to investigate until they discovered who built it.

"In light of today's present circumstances, anything that we don't have an answer to, we want to fully explore, we want to get the answers and if it compromises public safety, we have a concern," he said. "So until we get what the intent is behind this, we're going to continue to investigate."

The police probe so far has determined that the chamber was used at some point during the winter.

Those responsible for building it clearly had some level of expertise in ensuring its structural integrity, Saunders said.

"Whoever decided to build this took quite a bit of time," he added.

Police found plywood wall supports, a generator, moisture resistant light bulbs and a sump pump in the chamber.

They also found a rosary with a Remembrance Day poppy nailed on to a wall in the chamber and food and beverage containers.

The chamber measures two metres in height, 71 centimetres in width and 10 metres in length.

Feb 24 2015

**VICTORIA - Four Mounties on Vancouver Island face assault-related charges in connection with alleged jail-cell incidents at two RCMP detachments.**

The charges come after investigations into two separate incidents by the civilian-led Independent Investigations Office.

The Criminal Justice Branch says one alleged incident occurred last June at the Nanaimo RCMP detachment and resulted in Const. Tim Bedard facing one charge of assault causing bodily harm.

In the second case, three Mounties faces charges of assault with a weapon after the alleged use of pepper spray in police cells at the Parksville detachment in June 2013.

Constables Scott Jones and Mick White, along with Cpl. Michelle Lebrun, are scheduled to appear in court in Nanaimo on March 17.

Feb 24 2015

**TORONTO - Educators say a court ruling against the use of breathalyzers at a high school prom is a reflection of the difficult place school authorities find themselves in.**

On one hand, they say parents expect schools will ensure a safe environment.

On the other, students have rights that limit the actions educators can take.

This week, an Ontario justice ruled that using breathalyzers at school proms would violate their constitutional rights.

A Toronto high school principal had said the devices were needed to curb alcohol use.

The judge said the move was too drastic.

Feb 24 2015

**The B.C. Coroners Service and Independent Investigations Office are investigating the death of Jacobus Jonker, who died while in the custody of the Smithers, B.C. RCMP detachment in February.**

The RCMP pepper sprayed Jonker, 53, when arresting him at his home following a complaint on Valentine's Day. A physical struggle ensued between the police and Jonker, who reportedly was uncooperative.

Jonker later complained of difficulties breathing and was taken to Bulkley Valley General Hospital and then to Victoria General Hospital, but died on Feb. 21, according to the B.C. Coroners Service.

The IIO, which was set up to investigate cases in which people are killed or seriously injured by police officers, will examine whether any offences may have been committed by the police, according to the Coroners Service.

Kellie Kilpatrick, the IIO's Executive Director of Public Accountability, said it will specifically look at the use of force, to see if there is a less intrusive way to assist officers when taking people into custody, or trying to handle situations.

The IIO report is expected to go to its Chief Civilian Director Richard Rosenthal within a couple of months.

The B.C. Coroners Service may look at the events which led up to Jonker's death and whether recommendations can be made to prevent fatal outcomes in similar circumstances in the future.

(CBC News)

Feb 24 2015

**VICTORIA - Victoria police are developing a program to help police officers overcome implicit or unconscious bias that can affect their work. It is based on the Fair and Impartial Police guidelines used in many U.S. States, as well as by Toronto police.**

Victoria police Chief Const. Frank Elsner said they are working to have the program implemented next year.

"Every human being on the planet has biases, may they be ethnic, gender-based, socio-economic, whatever those experiences may be," said Elsner. "It doesn't make you a bad person, it doesn't make you a racist, it makes you a human being."

Elsner said it is important to teach officers to understand those biases so that they do not influence their police work.

The Fair and Impartial Policing website explains the role bias can play in an officer's judgment.

"Implicit bias might lead the line officer to automatically perceive crime in the making when she observes two young Hispanic males driving in an all-Caucasian neighbourhood or lead an officer to be 'under-vigilant' with a female subject because he associates crime and violence with males."

Many officers who work in Victoria, Elsner said, grew up in middle-class families and have not dealt with extreme poverty or homelessness.

This training is meant to help them better understand others and not rush to judgment.

Even though Elsner said policing the homeless is a challenge officers in the city face, he said this program is not a reaction to one specific problem. "There are no overt issues," but rather a proactive move. "I don't want to react to something that's gone wrong," he said.

Victoria police spokesman Mike Russell said the cost for the full implementation of the program would be approximately \$50,000. (QMI Agency)

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Feb 25 2015

### **MONTREAL - The City of Montreal is withdrawing charges against demonstrators accused of violating a controversial bylaw governing protests.**

Mayor Denis Coderre says the city will not appeal a court ruling criticizing how police enforced the bylaw, known as P-6.

The bylaw bans masks at protests and requires that an itinerary be submitted by organizers before any demonstration in Montreal.

Municipal court Judge Randall Richmond acquitted three demonstrators earlier this month, rejecting the itinerary infraction because none of the accused were organizers of the demonstrations.

The judge also blamed police for a bulk-signing of the tickets by officers who did not necessarily observe the alleged violations themselves.

The city says 245 tickets were immediately withdrawn and another 1,700 will be in the near future.

Coderre says the regulation is still valid and remains in effect, but police will have to apply it correctly.

Feb 25 2015

### **A Chilliwack RCMP officer could face criminal charges in connection with an arrest a year ago that left a suspect with "serious facial injuries."**

The Independent Investigations Office (IIO) submitted a report to Crown counsel this week with respect to the incident that occurred after a motor vehicle incident on Feb. 16, 2014 in Chilliwack.

An adult male apparently fled police and was located with the assistance of a police service dog. While in custody, the suspect reportedly did not comply with officers' commands and a physical struggle ensued, according to a statement by the IIO on Tuesday.

That suspect who was not named sustained serious facial injuries and subsequently made a complaint to the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC).

When asked to clarify how the suspect was hurt, an IIO spokesperson said only that the injury was not the result of action by the dog.

On July 15, 2014, the IIO was notified of the incident by the OPCC. On July 17, Chief

Civilian Director (CCD) Richard Rosenthal of IIO directed investigators to obtain and review medical information.

In examining the evidence forwarded to the CCD by the IIO, Rosenthal "determined that an officer may have committed an offence and as such, has sent the file to Crown Counsel."

The CCD does not make recommendations on whether charges should be approved as the RCMP does. Rather, under the Crown Counsel Act, the Criminal Justice Branch determines if the evidence warrants charges. (Chilliwack Times)

Feb 25 2015

### **TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog has named the man shot dead by Toronto police last week after having kept his identity secret pending his family's consent to release it.**

Forty-nine-year-old David Andrew Doucette was shot and killed by police shortly after 9:15 p.m. last Wednesday near Dupont St. and Spadina Rd. Police were responding to reports of a man with a knife.

Another man in his 60s was found at the scene with serious stab wounds to his neck and was taken to hospital.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) had refused to release the victim's name due to a little-known policy change made in 2012.

Unlike police, who routinely release the names of homicide victims regardless of the family's wishes, the SIU will only do so with the consent of the family.

Transparency advocates worry this policy could shroud police shootings in secrecy and make it difficult to hold officers accountable for their actions.

Doucette was named in a news release sent out by email shortly after noon Wednesday, without any explanation.

SIU spokesperson Monica Hudon later told the Star that the family was notified and gave consent.

"Our policy remains unchanged," she wrote in an email. (Toronto Star)

Feb 25 2015

### **CALGARY - Calgary's police chief says four decades in policing is enough and he's ready to hang up his handcuffs.**



Rick Hanson, who took over the top job in 2007, announced Wednesday that he'll step

down as of March 13.

"I had my 40th anniversary on the job three weeks ago. In other words, two-thirds of my life has been spent in policing," Hanson told a news conference.

"This job is overwhelming. I want to sit back and evaluate what it is exactly that I want to do, where I want to go. I know if I'm ever going to do anything else, it's now."

Hanson, 60, joined the Calgary Police Service in 1975. He served with the Alberta RCMP as chief superintendent in charge of integrated and federal policing before returning to the southern Alberta city as chief.

Hanson wouldn't answer when asked whether he had any interest in entering politics.

"I'm not going to speak about anything that I plan to do after two weeks from Friday. I'm not going to speculate any further than that."

Hanson did say it was unlikely that he would be making a move to another police force.

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi said he was saddened by Hanson's decision.

"I've often said he's the best chief in Canada and I'll say today he's the best chief anywhere."

Hanson suggested he received plenty of credit over the years for the hard work they accomplished.

"As a police chief, you're a little bit of a fraud. The fact is officers are out there every day doing amazing work, and when they do great work, it's the chief that hears about all the good things.

"I hope everyone understands the level of commitment in this police service. .. is second to none anywhere."

Feb 25 2015

### **YORKTON, Sask. - A man has pleaded guilty to threatening to blow up a RCMP detachment in Saskatchewan.**

Shayne James Trowbridge, who is 40, admitted in provincial court in Yorkton, Sask., to uttering threats to harm RCMP members and uttering threats to destroy an RCMP building.

He was sentenced to six months in jail, minus the 42 days he's already spent in custody.

On Jan. 14, a member of the public alerted police that threats to blow up the RCMP detachment had appeared on Facebook. (CJGX)

Feb 25 2015

### **MONTREAL - The Crown is seeking a peace bond against a Montreal man who the RCMP says it fears will commit a terrorism offence.**

But the Mounties are not providing any details.

A summons was issued Feb. 23 for Merouane Ghalmi, who is required to appear before a Quebec court judge on Thursday.

The summons says the 22-year-old man will be asked to sign a peace bond when he appears before the judge.

The RCMP's Quebec detachment would not comment when contacted Wednesday and a person answering the phone at Ghalmi's



residence hung up when contacted by .

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada says the federal government has used peace bonds in terrorism-related matters fewer than ten times.

Feb 25 2015

### **KAMLOOPS, B.C. - A B.C. Mountie who was shot and critically injured in December is continuing his recovery, but don't expect to hear much more about it from Kamloops police.**

RCMP Supt. Brad Mueller said the family of Cpl. Jean-Rene Michaud has asked for increased privacy.

"He's continuing with his recovery," Mueller said. "Out of privacy and respect to the family, they don't want us to discuss his situation and his release to home."

Michaud, 41, was shot after pulling over a vehicle in the early-morning hours of Dec. 3.

He underwent multiple surgeries at Royal Inland Hospital following the shooting and was airlifted to a Vancouver-area hospital for treatment on Dec. 23 after his condition deteriorated.

Michaud was transferred back to Royal Inland in early February.

The shooting sparked an intense manhunt lasting more than 12 hours, eventually resulting in the arrest of Ken Knutson — a 36-year-old who is now facing a raft of charges, including attempted murder.

A convicted killer with a lengthy criminal history, Knutson remains in custody at Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre.

He is due back in Kamloops provincial court on March 5 for a potential bail hearing.

The shooting has prompted an internal RCMP investigation, which is running parallel to the criminal probe of the incident.

(Kamloops This Week)

Feb 25 2015

### **After a combined total of just four days of parliamentary debate, both the House and Senate have signed off on a controversial proposal to hand over control of Parliament Hill security to the RCMP.**

The Conservatives used their majority to curtail debate on the motion in both the House and Senate.

In a joint statement, House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer and his Senate counterpart, Pierre Claude Nolin, said that they've already sent a letter to RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson to "discuss next steps," but the integration process is expected to begin "immediately."

"Since Oct. 22, 2014, considerable work has been done, such as arming all uniformed personnel, improving communications and emergency notification systems and implementing numerous physical enhancements to security systems and buildings, as well as other enhanced security measures," the statement notes.

It also notes that the ongoing unification of House and Senate security is also

"progressing well," and stresses that the "experience and expertise" of the current Hill security team "will be vital to shaping this new era of security" within the parliamentary precinct.

The statement does not provide additional information on how, precisely, the new arrangement will preserve the separation between the legislative and executive branches of government.

It also remains unclear whether RCMP officers dispatched to the Hill will report to the speakers, or the commissioner.

After news of the proposal was leaked to the media earlier this month, Paulson sent out a staff-wide bulletin to make it clear that the plan was still very much in development.

"While I have been engaged in some preliminary discussions with officials, I must write to you today to caution that there are a lot of steps to be taken before this becomes a reality," Paulson wrote.

(CBC News)



Feb 26 2015

### **HALIFAX - One of Canada's newest jails is researching the use of detectors to prevent the invasion of drug-bearing drones that have plagued some North American prisons.**

Tim Carroll, superintendent of the Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facility, said staff are examining ways to prevent unmanned aerial vehicles from lowering contraband into the jail's airing yards in a rural area north of Truro.

"We're looking at both obtaining our own drones for... perimeter checks and verifying surveillance in and around our correctional facility and, in addition to that, detecting drones which are not government operated and that may pose a threat to the facility," he said in an interview.

Incidents recorded in South Carolina and Quebec in the past two years prompted Carroll's interest as he worked on plans for the 100-cell jail, which opened Feb. 8.

He added that readily available, higher-end drones are capable of video reconnaissance - another threat that has to be considered.

A drone detection company says it has received inquiries from provincial governments as incidents involving drones over jails become more prevalent.

Boris Defreville, chief of operations for French-based Orelia Inc., said his firm is one of a few competing in the new drone detection market.

Sensors made by the company, which cost about \$3,000 each, lock onto the sound

of whirring drone blades, while competitors' devices lock in on Wi-Fi frequencies, use radar or employ infrared cameras, he said.

Drone detectors are just part of an array of technology aimed at keeping drugs out of jails, said Carroll, who has asked for approval to buy a body scanner worth more than \$200,000 to keep contraband out of the jail in Priestville.

Feb 26 2015

### **OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada is telling the British Columbia Court of Appeal to take another look at a murder case that involved a Mr. Big sting by police.**

The justices say the appeal court should reconsider the case of Gary Donald Johnston in light of a 2014 Supreme Court decision on Mr. Big stings.

Johnston was sentenced to life with no parole eligibility for 17 years after he was found guilty in 2011 of killing a man who surprised him during a 1998 break-in.

He was only charged years after the crime when undercover police pretending to be major criminals managed to elicit an admission to the killing.

The Supreme Court last year ruled that judges must be leery of Mr. Big operations, although it didn't bar them completely.

Johnston appealed both his conviction and sentence, but was unsuccessful.

Feb 26 2015

### **HALIFAX - A former Ontario chief prosecutor says his review of how police and prosecutors in Nova Scotia initially handled the Rehtaeh Parsons case should be done in the fall.**

In an update on his review, Murray Segal says he has met with members of the province's Public Prosecution Service, Parsons' family and police and all have been forthcoming.

The provincial government ordered the review in August 2013 but it was delayed until legal proceedings involving two men charged in Parsons' case concluded.

Police charged the men with child pornography offences just four days before Segal was appointed to lead the review.

A 20-year-old man pleaded guilty last November to distributing a sexually graphic image of Parsons, who was 15 years old at the time of the offence.

Another 20-year-old man pleaded guilty to making child pornography by taking a photo of the accused having sex with Parsons, who was taken off life-support after attempting suicide in 2013.