

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | March 06, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 10

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TORONTO - The Harper government says it plans to introduce legislation that would keep what it calls "Canada's most heinous criminals" behind bars for life with no chance of parole.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Privacy commissioners caution police



Mar 02 2015

**A recent statement issued by the federal, territorial, and provincial privacy commissioners urged caution when equipping police with body cameras.**

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada issued a statement alongside a set of guidelines to help law enforcement agencies develop policies and procedures governing the use of body-worn videos (BWV).

"There are clearly benefits to the use of body-worn cameras, however, there are also significant privacy implications. Given this, and as more and more policing organizations consider adopting this technology, we

are encouraging them to address those privacy issues upfront to ensure they strike the right balance between law enforcement needs and the privacy rights of Canadians," stated Daniel Therrien, privacy commissioner of Canada.

Therrien's office is responsible for enforcing the RCMP's compliance with the federal privacy act.

The guidelines called upon policing agencies to evaluate whether the benefits of wearing the cameras outweigh privacy and personal information concerns. Commissioners from across the country asked the police

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to conduct a privacy impact assessment prior to implementation to help identify and mitigate the potential risks to privacy and personal information. They also called on law enforcement to consult with data protection experts and undertake a pilot project before implementing the technology.

"We're recommending that they do a pilot project first and from a privacy perspective, it's good to do privacy when you're designing your program and drawing up your policy. It shouldn't take very long ... if you start and build privacy from the beginning it shouldn't add to how long it takes you to develop that policy," said Mel Holley, Acting Manitoba Ombudsman.

According to an RCMP spokesperson in Ottawa, research on BWV technology within the RCMP has been going on for a number of years with pilot studies in the Codiac region of New Brunswick and in Kelowna, B.C.

Currently, the RCMP is using BWVs during cadet training at Depot in Regina as part of a feasibility study.

"The trials being conducted at the RCMP Training Academy, Depot, will assist in evaluating potential officer safety issues related to the feasibility of law enforcement use of this technology," stated the spokesperson. "The low risk Depot training environment gives the RCMP an opportunity to evaluate the camera technology during scenarios involving all aspects of physical use of force, ranging from lethal confrontations to low risk interventions."

The project is being run by Contract and Aboriginal Policing's National Use of Force program in Ottawa with results expected to be released sometime this spring.

Sgt. Brian Brewer from the Portage la Prairie detachment said officers are open to wearing BWVs and agreed that issues of privacy need to be worked out first.

"The biggest issue that you keep hearing

is (regarding) the public. Where every interaction they have with the police, (the force) wants it recorded and there's going to be some privacy concerns so I think it would have some benefit to officers when it comes to court and recording what happened, but by the same token you have to balance it.

"I know the big debate right now is with citizen's privacy rights. I'm not sure all of our population would be too happy with every interaction with police being recorded because they're going to want to know where that's going and who's going to have access and those kinds of things, but I can see some positives to it," he said.

Brewer said recording devices inside of cruisers are already capturing police interaction with criminals and the general public.

One of the issues highlighted by the commissioners guidelines is safeguarding data by implementing encryption, restricted access and strict storage periods.

"If they decided to go that route, they would have to come up with a system of how you'll keep the data — on a computer or a disk — and how long you'll keep it for, because you run into a problem down the road when if you remove the data after six months and it becomes relevant later on when you didn't think it would be .... Those are technical avenues that would have to be sorted out," he said.

Brewer noted camera data captured from the cruiser cameras in the early days of recording devices within the RCMP would only be kept for 60 days on VHS tape before it was destroyed. Today, that data is stored on a disk and is held for longer periods of time.

A variety of storage options, associated costs, security requirements, and the size of the video data collected are currently being examined by the RCMP, according to the RCMP spokesperson.

In 2013, more than 50 BWVs were worn by officers in Edmonton with mixed results. According to the Edmonton Sun, officers found managing the data resource-intensive and often police officers had questions over when it was appropriate to film.

In 2012, the Calgary police department began a 10-month pilot project that outfitted 50 officers with BWV technology. The cameras gathered 2,700 digital video clips during that time. The department is expected to provide these cameras to 550 officers within the first quarter of 2015 at an estimated cost ranging between \$275,000 to \$550,000, depending on the technology.

In 2014, about 100 police officers in Toronto wore BWVs as part of a one year pilot study with results expected to be released sometime next year. Winnipeg Police Services are currently considering a BWV pilot project within its ranks.

According to an interview with the Winnipeg Sun, Maurice Sabourin, president of the Winnipeg Police Association, was skeptical on the use of BWVs because he feels it opens officers up to criticism.

"That officer would be scrutinized 10 times worse for not turning the camera on, for

forgetting to turn it on, or thinking he turned it on," said Sabourin. "A lot of people aren't sympathetic to clearing the officer. I think it is more misconduct that they are trying to capture."

Other issues highlighted in the guidelines include public awareness that officers are wearing BWV technology; policies and procedures to address issues such as accountability, employee training and the handling of individual's requests for access to recordings; criteria for activating cameras should address the need to minimize the recording of bystanders or harmless interactions with the public; the use of recordings for secondary uses, such as officer training, to ensure the protection of privacy and personal information; and using BWVs for video analytic technologies such as facial recognition, licence plate recognition, and pattern recognition in terms of privacy.

"Privacy implications must be carefully considered given the complex privacy issues surrounding BWV usage by law enforcement. As required by federal privacy legislation, a privacy impact assessment (PIA) is being completed," stated the RCMP spokesperson.

(Sun Media)



Feb 26 2015

**It was a day remembered by many – a shooting in St. Albert that left an RCMP officer dead, and another injured – but for one couple, the first on the scene, the events of that day are still haunting their day-to-day lives.**

Rodney and Irene Codner were inside the Apex Casino early Saturday, January 17, when Constables David Wynn and Auxiliary Constable Derek Bond were shot.

The couple was also the first to help Wynn – the first to perform First Aid on him – the rest of the horrific incident was so traumatic; the couple did not want to go into details.

Instead, they're hoping to shed light on what they call a lack of support for victims of crime.

The Codners said memories of what happened have spilled over, affecting all areas of their lives – the couple says they have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

In the weeks following the incident, the couple has had problems getting connected with the supports they need.

"You're given a number, you're told to call there, phone that number – you can't," Rodney Codner said. "I don't know what supports there are, I don't know what supports are supposed to be able to get, I don't know if anybody does."

Now, the couple is seeking a counsellor in St. Albert who has offered her services free of charge.

However, the couple said getting access to the counsellor came after they ran into frustrations dealing with various organizations, they

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just happened to speak to the right person who could help them.

Rodney has also had to take a leave from his job in the oilpatch as a result of the incident. (CTV Edmonton)

Feb 26 2015

### Law-enforcement officials say they've seen a dramatic spike in the number of gun thefts across Alberta.

The Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) recorded a total of 154 "incidents of break and enter to steal a firearm" in 2013, according to data provided to Metro, compared to only 10 such cases in 2008.

"That number has steadily climbed every single year," said Mike Tucker, a spokesman with ALERT.

Jennifer Friesen/Metro Calgary Shooting Centre manager Norman Hamilton said while the average gun user may not be aware of the recent spike in gun thefts, the information may cause users to take extra caution when storing and transporting their firearms.

Law-enforcement officials say they've seen a dramatic spike in the number of gun thefts across the province.

He said every break and enter on record might not have been primarily aimed at stealing a firearm, but there are instances where guns were specifically targeted.

The fact these firearms are ending up in the hands of criminals is problematic, Tucker said. (Metro Calgary)

## FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Feb 27 2015

### TORONTO - The highly anticipated release of draft community contact procedures by Police Chief Bill Blair is being delayed yet again while a mediator steps in.



The board has been pushing for procedures to carry out a policy restricting the controversial practice of "carding" and ensure civil rights are protected when police approach people on the street to provide personal information.

The two sides have brought in former Chief Justice Warren Winkler as an outside mediator to resolve the debate, according to a news release issued by the board Friday afternoon.

A Monday meeting at headquarters, where Blair was to unveil the procedures, was cancelled.

The community contacts policy the board passed in April restricts the use of "carding" to a "public-safety purpose," defined as investigating or trying to prevent offences, or to ensure that the individual carded is not at risk.

The policy also says officers may not deliberately prolong such encounters to gain information that might justify formal questioning, and that police must inform people they document that the interaction is voluntary, if the person is not part of a criminal investigation.

Blair has yet to present procedures that would enact the policy. (Toronto Star)

Feb 27 2015

### EDMONTON - It's a trend Edmonton police began to notice in 2012, but now the use of pepper/bear spray in violent crimes has become a daily occurrence.

So far this year, police have recorded an average of two bear spray incidents per day across the city -- an increase of 63 per cent from 2014. The spray is mainly being used by crooks to commit violent crimes, such as personal robberies and assaults. Others simply carry it for protection in places there are no bears.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the time, they freely admit they have it for protection against people. These are people that are in violent areas of the city, have higher risk lifestyles in some cases," said Const. Ryan Lawley from downtown division.

"The fact there's people seeing this as an available means to facilitating crimes, it's kind of disturbing to say the least, especially on a violent crime."

The spray can easily be purchased at several sports and outdoor stores throughout the city, and isn't illegal to carry if people believe they are going to be attacked by a bear or dog. (Sun Media)

Feb 27 2015

### HALIFAX - A review of how Nova Scotia police and prosecutors handled the Rehtaeh Parsons case should be completed by this fall.

A former Ontario chief prosecutor, Murray Segal, is leading the review.

Parsons' family alleges she was sexually assaulted in November 2011 and bullied for months after a digital photo of the alleged assault was passed around her school.

Police initially said they looked into the allegations of sexual assault and an inappropriate photo, but concluded there weren't enough grounds to lay charges.

Parsons was 17 when she taken off life-support after attempting suicide in April 2013.

Police charged two men with child pornography offences just four days before Segal was appointed to lead the review in August 2013.

A 20-year-old man pleaded guilty last November to distributing a sexually graphic image of Parsons.

Another 20-year-old man pleaded guilty to making child pornography by taking a photo of the accused having sex with her.

Feb 27 2015

### Winnipeg police quickly caught a cell-phone thief after he picked up their call on the stolen device.

The thief confronted a 15-year-old girl with a knife, demanding cash.

She ran but dropped her phone, so she got in touch with police, who dialled up the suspect.

They didn't identify themselves as police officers, and the thief told them he would give them the phone for \$100.

When he arrived at the arranged meeting place and saw the police car, he tried to run, but he didn't get far.

A 24-year-old has been charged with robbery and fail to comply with a probation order. (CJOB)

Feb 27 2015

### After opening its doors last June for a gradual start-up, B.C.'s Real time intelligence centre officially launched Thursday.

The centre — staffed by police forces across the Lower Mainland and B.C. Corrections, B.C. Sheriffs, Correctional Service Canada, and Canada Border Services Agency — helps officers respond faster to serious crimes like armed robberies and gang violence during the most critical first 48 hours.

It involves all RCMP detachments and municipal forces in Metro Vancouver and expects to be fully staffed by 43 people (17 police officers and 26 civilian staff) and operating 24/7 by this summer. It will have a budget of \$5.8 million when fully operational.

The staff search and analyze law enforcement databases and open source material, among other techniques.

Interconnectivity between police agencies since opening has been "unprecedented," said Wayne Rideout, the RCMP assistant commissioner for criminal operations, investigative services and organized crime in B.C.

"Our staff has immediate access to 19 different databases, rather than the six to nine databases each police agency might have been able to readily access before," added Rideout. (Vancouver Sun)

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2015

Feb 28 2015

### As the third of March draws near, Don Schiemann can't help but think about his son Peter more than usual.



It's been 10 years since Peter, 25, was ambushed by armed police hater James Roszko on his farm near Mayerthorpe. Constables Brock Myrol, 29, Anthony Gordon, 28, and Leo Johnston, 32, were also caught in the hail of bullets. All of them died at the scene.

The tragedy marked the worst RCMP shooting in Canadian history. It also changed the lives of the officer's families forever.

"In some ways it happened only yesterday and in other ways it seems like a lifetime ago," said Don, adding the recent fatal shootings of RCMP officers in St. Albert and Moncton, N.B., brought his son's death to the forefront.

Whenever Don drives by the Fallen Four Memorial Park in Mayerthorpe, he feels some sadness. But he prefers to focus on the 25 years his son lived rather than the one minute of violence that broke out in the Quonset.

"We don't want to be so paralysed by the tragedy of the event that we ignore the many wonderful blessings in our life," said Don, a church pastor and president of the Alberta-British Columbia District of the Lutheran Church-Canada.

"There are many fond memories we have of him and wish he could still be with us."

Other family members of the fallen have echoed similar statements, noting things like the weather can trigger memories of that day.

Loved ones remember Brock as a character who loved anything to do with adventure. Anthony excelled at every sport he did, while Leo was an outdoorsman who loved his career.

Leo's mother, Grace Johnston, isn't sure whether her family will do anything to mark the sombre anniversary this year. Talking about her son is still very emotional.

"We are sort of like in never never land," she said from her Lac La Biche home.

Don hadn't planned on doing anything to mark the occasion either. Instead, he remembers his son as a very capable, fun-loving man who enjoyed working with others and being a police officer. Not a day goes by when Peter isn't in his thoughts.

"Peter was a Christian man, he died in Christian faith and he lives now and that's the hope that we have -- that we will see him again one day," said Don. "And what a wonderful reunion that will be."

(Sun Media)

Feb 28 2015

### **EDMONTON - Twelve cheerleading teams have pulled out of a cheerleading competition at West Edmonton Mall next weekend over fears of a recent terrorism threat to the mall.**

But Denise Fisher, executive director of the Alberta Cheerleading Association, said she has confidence in the safety of the March 6-8 event and the remaining 160 or so teams from B.C. to Ontario.

"We have complete confidence in West Edmonton Mall and the administration to host a high quality and safe competition," said Fisher, noting the event has taken place at the mall for at least 10 years. Fisher said she respects the decision by the teams not to participate, but has been assured by the mall

that security will be "significantly increased" during the competition with plain-clothed officers and others in uniform.

Last Saturday, Somalia-based terror group al-Shabaab posted a video online encouraging followers to attack a list of shopping centres around the world, including the Edmonton landmark.

But Edmonton police said the threat made in the video was a general threat and shouldn't keep people away from the mall.

A note on the cheerleading association's website notes it will contract more security for the competition, have first aid on-site and is training volunteers on what to do in an emergency. Cheerleading coaches will be briefed on the plans, the association said.

(Edmonton Journal)

Feb 28 2015

### **WINNIPEG - A federal cabinet minister from Manitoba says it's unacceptable that more freedoms have been granted to the man who beheaded a fellow passenger aboard a Greyhound bus.**

Shelly Glover is expressing concern that Vince Li is being allowed to walk freely amongst innocent Canadians.

The Manitoba Criminal Code Review Board has ruled Li must remain in the Selkirk Mental Health Centre or at the psychiatric centre at a Winnipeg hospital.

But as long as he carries a cellphone, he is being allowed unsupervised visits in Manitoba's capital.

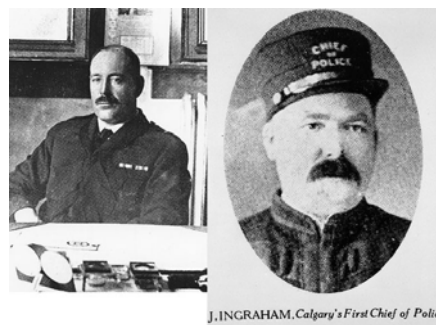
Psychiatrists told a hearing this week that Li has shown profound improvement and is a low risk to reoffend.

Dr. Steven Kremer said if the 46-year-old Li were transferred to a group home, staff there would ensure he continued the medication he needs to manage his schizophrenia.

Li was found not criminally responsible for stabbing, mutilating and beheading Tim McLean on a bus to Winnipeg in 2008.

Feb 28 2015

### **CALGARY - Jack Ingram was Calgary's first head constable, and he preferred the hands-on approach when it came to keeping the peace.**



J. INGRAMHAM, Calgary's First Chief of Police

Specifically, Ingram was known for battering ruffians and rowdies of the little frontier town into submission with his knuckles — fine, if Ingram wasn't the worst ruffian around.

The hard-drinking, quick-tempered copper had also served as the first police chief in

Winnipeg, before he was arrested in a brothel.

So in February 1885, it was over to Calgary, where for the next three years Ingram and two constables upheld the law from the back of a billiard parlour on Stephen Avenue, until the chief's obnoxious behaviour saw him fired again.

It was a less than auspicious start to an office that's now been held by 21 people, including Calgary's current chief, Rick Hanson, who announced his retirement this week.

Back in 1888, Calgary just wanted a chief less interested in prostitutes: "We hope that the new chief will prove a terror to evil doers," wrote one newspaper editor.

But Chief Matthew Dillabough was a dud, fighting with the mayor over who was really in charge of Calgary's police force — political meddling that would be repeated many times over the next 82 years.

When Thomas English took over in 1891, Calgary finally found a chief who took law enforcement seriously.

But it was a daunting task with only 36 officers to deal with a booming city of 15,000, along with traffic issues and illicit industries of gambling and prostitution.

English handled the traffic, using constables armed with stop-watches — but the seedy underbelly seemed to confound the chief, to the frustration of moral-minded citizens.

In 1906, when English publicly denied knowledge of any brothels in Calgary, the Morning Albertan mocked him by publishing a list of popular whorehouses, known to everyone in town, "except the chief of police."

The First World War saw the customers who'd fueled that roaring trade in prostitutes and drugs leaving to fight. When the rowdies returned, they found a hard-headed war hero running Calgary's police service.

Col. David Ritchie, decorated with the Military Cross for Bravery, fought Calgary's crime like an army officer, and Calgary sixth chief is remembered for motorizing the force, issuing the first parking tickets, and lobbying for driving licences.

Called the father of Calgary's modern police force, Ritchie served for 20 years and was perhaps the most popular chief in city history. When he died during routine gallbladder surgery on June 1, 1941, the entire city mourned, with mayor Andrew Davison saying "his death removes from our midst one who can ill be spared."

It took until 1952 for the next visionary top cop, and Chief Lawrence Partridge's appointment broke a tradition of simply promoting the most senior officer — a habit that resulted in a long string of retirement ready, lame-duck chiefs.

Partridge, just 48, split the forces into three divisions, patrol, traffic and detective, later adding a homicide squad, canine squad and punch-card computer system to keep track of the crooks.

Partridge's retirement in 1964 was lamented, with articles praising the chief for his intelligence and innovation.

If Partridge was an enlightened example of modern policing, his successor, Chief

Ken McIver, took Calgary right back to the dark ages.

A deeply religious man, McIver railed against the moral decay of the city, and instead of looking to improve the force, the teetotaler blamed permissive society for encouraging crime.

McIver was more old-school preacher than enlightened cop, and it took his successor to get things back on track with modern police tactics.

Starting in 1968, Chief Malcolm Kent added police science courses at Mount Royal college, and an education-first strategy for keeping youth away from drugs.

And Kent's fight with the city's mayor over allowing a major rock festival in 1970 led to the most important modernization of all.

A court ruled Calgary's mayor had abused his position on the police commission, and from that point on, mayors were banned, effectively ending political meddling with the police force.

The chief was in charge, no question. (Sun Media)

## SUNDAY MARCH 01, 2015

Mar 01 2015

**BURNABY, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog is investigating a shooting involving the Burnaby RCMP that sent one man to hospital.**

RCMP say officers driving on patrol at about 2:45 a.m. Sunday saw what appeared to be a robbery underway in a 7-Eleven.

Mounties say the officers engaged with the suspects and attempted to make an arrest, but the men entered a van and a police car was rammed.

Shots were fired and both suspects fled in the van until it crashed (near the intersection of Canada Way and Rosewood Street).

One man is believed to have sustained a gunshot wound and is in hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, while another man was taken into custody without incident.

Mar 01 2015

**OTTAWA - The RCMP has warned the federal government that drones — unmanned aerial vehicles — pose a terrorism threat to critical infrastructure in Canada.**



Yet a year later, and more than 4½ years after a regulatory overhaul began, Transport Canada has still not developed tougher rules around unmanned flight.

Last year the RCMP flagged that very problem. A threat assessment dated March 5,

2014, warned that critical Canadian facilities are targets at risk, and it noted drones have been flown dangerously close to political figures in Europe.

Much of the document is redacted, but it notes that drones have already been used to deliver drugs into a Canadian prison, and it may be only a matter of time before they're used for more devastating ends.

The document says extremists have "demonstrated they are ready to use UAVs enabled with GPS (global positioning systems) to carry out aerial surveillance in real time of targets and to transport improvised explosive devices and chemical or biological agents."

"We cannot ignore the eventual use of a UAV to commit attacks against critical infrastructure," the RCMP said.

The document, obtained under the Access to Information law by La Presse newspaper, says technology to allow commercial pilots to detect and avoid drones is critical for airline security but may not be available for several years.

Eight months later, in November 2014, after the RCMP's Critical Infrastructure Criminal Intelligence Assessment team issued that assessment, Transport Canada introduced new guidelines that allow small drones to be lawfully flown under certain conditions.

Those guidelines were intended to simplify small drone operations in civil airspace, while the department continues to develop safety rules for more complex and larger drones.

However, the focus of those rules, in development since June 2010, is on facilitating all the commercial applications that are popping up for the new technology — everything from police surveillance to film and broadcast, from engineering to insurance or agriculture, to name just a few.

Transport Canada spokesman Ben Stanford could not provide a timeline for when new safety regulations would be ready. He referred questions about how the RCMP's security concerns would be addressed to Public Safety, although he acknowledged Transport Canada is the regulator.

The RCMP did not immediately reply to the Star's inquiries about whether it had submitted recommendations around any new regulations to Public Safety. Public Safety replied generally, saying it is working with partners to protect Canada's critical infrastructure. (Toronto Star)

Mar 01 2015

**LONDON - International gangsters are increasingly abandoning drug dealing and other high risk rackets in favour of cybercrime, putting everyone who uses the Internet at risk, one of Britain's most senior police officers has warned.**

Up to a quarter of all organised criminals in Britain are now thought to be involved in some form of financial crime, netting them tens of billions of pounds in profit every year.

But with the majority of online fraud being committed by overseas gangs and victims often unwilling to report offences, law enforcement agencies are finding it difficult to

even assess the scale of the problem.

Adrian Leppard, the Commissioner of the City of London Police, which takes a lead in fighting fraud and cybercrime, said while traditional crimes were continuing to fall, financial offences were soaring.

And he warned that many people who use the Internet every day to shop or do their banking, were doing the online equivalent of leaving their homes and vehicles unlocked for burglars to exploit.

"If you ask a room full of people who has been a victim of some sort of fraud or financial crime, half of them will put their hand up. You would have difficulty finding any other area of crime with similar statistics," he explained.

"But we estimate that as much as 80 per cent of this sort of crime is not reported, so while we know there is a big problem, we can't put a scale on it and that is one of our biggest challenges," he added.

Mr Leppard said cybercrime appealed to organised criminals because it was a "low-risk, high yield" offence.

He said: "Organised crime is motivated by money. Whichever criminal activity delivers the most money that is where they will go

"We estimate that around 25 per cent of the organised crime groups in this country are now involved in financial crime in one shape or another, but that intelligence only relates to this country. We can't tell what the picture is internationally."

(The Telegraph)

## MONDAY MARCH 02, 2015

Mar 02 2015

**TORONTO - Police say they have identified and interviewed two men who built a tunnel near a Pan Am Games venue in Toronto and have determined there is no criminal intent or threat.**

Investigators say they received information on Friday that helped them to identify two men.

Police say the pair told investigators they built the tunnel for personal reasons and that their account has been verified.

The investigation is concluded and police say they are satisfied there was no criminal intent and no threat to the people or city of Toronto.

Deputy police Chief Mark Saunders announced the discovery of the tunnel on Feb. 24 and police released photos of the site found near York University, prompting media coverage across Canada and abroad.

Mar 02 2015

**TORONTO - A Toronto-based RCMP contingent of white collar crime investigators is moving in to the offices of the Ontario Securities Commission, a move intended to help the two agencies to work together more closely.**

The Integrated Market Enforcement Team was launched by the RCMP in 2003

to investigate major fraud cases and includes teams in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary.

All 28 of the Toronto unit's full-time staff are expected to be moved in to the OSC's headquarters by April 1.

The Toronto branch of the Integrated Market Enforcement Team already works with the OSC, but moving the two agencies under one roof is expected to strengthen that partnership.

Meanwhile, the securities commission says it launched 22 proceedings in 2014, down from 27 the previous year.

A total of 91 proceedings against individuals and companies were concluded during the year, including four court cases, two of which led to individuals being sentenced to jail time.

Mar 02 2015

### **NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. - A police officer in New Westminster, B.C., has been fired after an internal theft investigation.**

Chief Dave Jones of the New Westminster Police Department says the officer, who has eight years of experience, is also being investigated in connection with unrelated criminal matters.

Jones says an investigation under the Police Act, which governs how officers do their jobs, is also underway.

The officer's name is not being released and Jones said he couldn't provide any further details.

The department says it has committed significant time and resources to ensure the information that was used for the internal investigation is accurate and complete.

Mar 02 2015

### **Vancouver police and B.C. health agencies are launching a campaign to warn drug users about the presence of the potentially fatal narcotic fentanyl in heroin and other street drugs.**

Const. Sandra Glendinning says the campaign has been prompted by an increase in the number of deaths caused by fentanyl throughout the Vancouver area and on southern Vancouver Island.

Fentanyl is a synthetic narcotic between 50 and 100 times more powerful than heroin and is administered mainly in patch form to control pain.

Police say street dealers mix fentanyl with heroin and other drugs and neither casual users nor addicts know it's present.

The B.C. Coroners Service says fentanyl was detected in about one quarter of 300 illicit drug overdose deaths in 2014, compared with five per cent in 2012.

The campaign, which warns drug users to "Know Your Source," includes posters and Facebook advertising.

Mar 02 2015

### **The man who touched off national debate on Canada's faint-hope clause — when he reoffended more than a**

### **decade ago while out on early parole despite having killed a police officer — recently saw his day parole extended as he again struggles with life on the outside.**

The Parole Board of Canada recently decided that Randall Tabah, 67, a man who killed a Longueuil police officer during a bank robbery in 1981, is still not ready for full parole as he continues to serve the life sentence he received in 1983. The board decided Tabah should instead continue residing at a halfway house as he has for most of the past five years.

In 2002, Tabah generated headlines across Canada when he was arrested for a break-in in an apartment in Victoria, B.C., and police there learned he was out on full parole despite having been convicted of killing Constable Michel Vincent during the bank robbery in Longueuil.

The conviction came with an automatic life sentence and, initially, Tabah was not supposed to be eligible for full parole until 2006. But Tabah's parole eligibility date was reduced to 17 years through the so-called faint-hope clause, a part of Canada's Criminal Code from 1976 until the Conservative government had it repealed in 2011. Through it, offenders who had served 15 years of a life sentence could apply to have a jury hear arguments that they were rehabilitated enough to merit an earlier release.

Less than a week after news of Tabah's arrest in 2002 spread, the Canadian Police Association began a petition calling for the faint-hope clause to be repealed. The federal Conservatives, who were in opposition at the time, made it part of their election platform while promising tough-on-crime legislation before winning the 2006 election and forming a minority government.

Following his arrest, Tabah spent seven more years behind bars before the Parole Board of Canada granted him day parole in 2009. An addiction to gambling and a lack of transparency has prevented the board from granting Tabah a full release since then. His day parole has been suspended three times and was even revoked once, prompting a brief return to a penitentiary in 2013.

Tabah's case will be reviewed by the parole board again in six months.

(Montreal Gazette)

Mar 02 2015

### **An Alberta man who rammed three unoccupied police vehicles with a stolen pickup truck while trying to escape Whitecourt RCMP last week faces 36 charges.**

No one was injured in the incident. "Our officers' assessment of the situation, coupled with a swift and measured response, protected them from a potentially fatal situation," Chief Superintendent Brenda Lucki, district commander for the western Alberta district, said in a news release Monday.

"It became clear very quickly that this individual was not going to surrender easily."

The incident began about 6:20 a.m. Feb. 26, when RCMP were dispatched to a call about a possible impaired driver.

Officers located the vehicle, a pickup truck later determined to be stolen, with a snowmobile in the back, also stolen, and the truck's lone occupant, a 29-year-old wanted man from the Grande Prairie area.

An altercation ensued and the man sped away, RCMP said.

The truck and driver were later located in a remote area.

Whitecourt RCMP officers set up a perimeter, with help from the police helicopter and canine unit.

During the police approach, the man accelerated, "narrowly missing the officers on foot and in cruisers."

He struck one unoccupied unmarked police truck, then rammed two unoccupied police cruisers that had been parked to block the road. The cruisers were damaged beyond repair.

His vehicle rolled. He fled but was quickly apprehended with the help of a police dog, RCMP said.

Inside the stolen truck, police recovered a loaded .357 magnum handgun, a high-powered rifle, a flare gun altered to shoot shotgun shells, 33 grams of what appears to be methamphetamine, various drug paraphernalia and several stolen chainsaws.

Bradley Duff faces 36 charges, including assault of a police officer, evading police, resisting arrest, possession of stolen property, illegal possession of firearms and ammunition while prohibited, mischief, breach of recognizance, and driving while disqualified.

He has been remanded in custody and is scheduled to appear in Whitecourt provincial court March 10.

(Edmonton Journal)

Mar 02 2015

### **OTTAWA - The federal government is cutting funds for a program designed to prevent the most dangerous, high-risk sex offenders from repeating their crimes, just as its own five-year study has found the program dramatically improves public safety and saves money.**

The 18 Circles of Support and Accountability (COXA) programs across the country now have about 700 trained volunteers who help safely reintegrate offenders from prison back into the community.

Most sites are now preparing to close after funding from the Correctional Service of Canada ends March 31.

The looming closures come on the heels of a \$7.5-million, five-year project by the National Crime Prevention Centre, funded by Public Safety Canada, showing the support program leads to dramatic reduction in repeat sex crimes. The capacity-building and evaluation project also found that for every dollar invested in the program, it saves \$4.60.

The correctional service has provided \$650,000 in core funding annually, but half of that will be cut except for a program run by the Mennonite Central Committee with sites in Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener, Ont., that has three years left on the contract. Those cuts come at the same time the five-year project

funding — which had essentially boosted the annual budget to \$2.2 million — expires.

Studies have shown that recidivism rates are 70 to 83 per cent lower among participants, and the evaluation finds examples of even greater success. One case site study in south Saskatchewan, for example, finds the support program has been “incredibly successful” by lowering reoffending rates by 95 per cent among participants.

The evaluation report found the program to be cost-effective in dollar terms and in reducing the suffering of victims.

Jean-Christophe de Le Rue, spokesman for the public safety minister, said funding for the evaluation through the National Crime Prevention Centre allowed for testing various models and data collection, but could not be renewed after the five-year cycle ended.

He did not address the issue of core funding cuts from the correctional service.

(CBC News)

## TUESDAY MARCH 03, 2015

Mar 03 2015

### **One man is in hospital in critical condition and a second police force is investigating after a police shooting early Tuesday morning in St-Hubert.**

Longueuil police responded to reports of an armed holdup at a gas station on Taschereau Blvd. in Brossard shortly after 1 a.m. They caught up to a car that matched the description close to Highway 30.

The officers said that as they approached the suspect, he got out of his car and charged police with a what SQ officer Joyce Kemp described as a sharp object. The officers opened fire and the suspect was hit. The suspect was rushed to hospital and as of 10 a.m. his condition had been upgraded to stable but still critical.

The suspect is a 34-year-old man from St-Lambert. Kemp said he has been linked to two armed robberies just before the shooting.

The Sûreté du Québec were called in to handle an independent investigation, as is the policy when one police force is involved in a shooting that kills or endangers the life of a civilian.

Two Longueuil police officers were also taken to hospital as a precaution.

(Montreal Gazette)

Mar 03 2015

### **Canadian police have uncovered a huge online child pornography file sharing network with content amounting to 1.2 petabytes of data, which is four times more than the total amount of data stored by the US Library of Congress.**

The child pornography ring could consist of up to 7,500 users in 100 countries, and the police have decided to go after the operators of a data centre the material was seized from.

“What we are alleging is occurring is

that there are individuals and organisations that are profiting from the storage and the exchange of child sexual exploitation material,” Scott Tod, Deputy Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), told Vice Motherboard at a defence conference in late February.

“They store it and they provide a secure website that you can log into, much like people do with illegal online gaming sites.”

Much of the details surrounding this investigation are still unclear as the investigation is ongoing, and the police have yet to decide whom or how many people should be charged.

Police have said that the file-sharing service was traced back to a data centre company based in Ontario, Canada which has “millions of dollars in profits”, and that is where the data was seized.

In fact, the amount of child pornography seized is so great that the police had to purchase additional storage hardware in order to store and analyse the data.

The police also had to develop password-cracking software able to cycle through 500,000 possibilities per second in order to sift through the huge pile of approximately 1.5 million compressed, password-protected RAR files.

“This is the first investigation of this scale, to my knowledge—in North America, if not worldwide,” Tod said.

Out of the 7,500 unique IP addresses identified when the data was seized, the police have identified that 2,200 of the users are in the US, 843 are in Germany, 534 are in Japan, 457 are in Russia, 394 in Canada, 380 in the UK and 374 in France.

“We’re not making any assumptions of how many are actually criminally guilty at this time, or criminally responsible. But we’re certainly a size of information that’s being traded that we know is illegal material of volumes that we’ve never seen before,” Tod said.

Before this, the largest child pornography investigation in the world was Project Spade — an operation started by Toronto Police Service in October 2010 that eventually covered over 50 countries and equated to 142 terabytes of child pornography.

Over 2,300 people were caught purchasing naked images of teenaged boys. Almost 350 people were arrested for sharing pornographic videos by mail and the internet, and 386 children are believed to have been rescued.

The implications from this child pornography bust continue to this day — in the UK, the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is currently investigating whether North Wales Police took sufficient action against 12 individuals named by Canadian authorities that were believed to have bought videos of naked children.

(International Business Times)

Mar 03 2015

### **VANCOUVER - Police say a five-month investigation has disrupted the distribution of fentanyl and other illegal**

### **drugs throughout the Vancouver area.**

The investigation was launched after a high number of overdose deaths last year involving fentanyl, which dealers mixed with street drugs such as heroin.

Vancouver police worked with RCMP in North Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond to execute 11 search warrants that resulted in a dozen arrests and the seizure of drugs, cash, vehicles and weapons.

Supt. Mike Porteous of the Vancouver Police Department says the investigation dubbed Project Tainted has put a dent in one of the biggest drug distribution operations in B.C.

The announcement comes a day after police and health officials issued a warning about the danger of fentanyl, a potentially deadly synthetic narcotic that is up to 100 times stronger than morphine.

The B.C. Coroners Service has said most people who die from using fentanyl are not injection drug users.

Mar 03 2015

### **HAMILTON - Hamilton Police said Monday they will explore two new initiatives aimed at monitoring policing activities for possible racial bias.**

The initiatives are focused on the practice of so-called “street safety checks” where police ask questions of people who may not be accused of a crime and collect and store personal information about them.

The service’s community relations coordinator Sandra Wilson told CBC Hamilton the police board will discuss at an upcoming meeting whether to formally record race-based information in those stops as a way to measure whether there is evidence of racial profiling.

Secondly, it will consider issuing “receipts” to people stopped, questioned and who have provided ID, so they have a record of the interaction.

The potential changes are among several called for by anti-racism advocates as part of a wide-ranging meeting addressing racial issues with Chief Glenn De Caire last month. It’s not clear if the police were already working on them before the meeting with the advocates.

Hamilton Police have acknowledged they ask questions and for identification from pedestrians, sometimes collecting and recording that information even when that person isn’t part of a crime investigation. Sometimes that data includes “descriptors.”

(CBC News)

Mar 03 2015

### **TORONTO - Ontario is looking for public input on a proposal aimed at streamlining the process of dealing with some traffic tickets and other Provincial Offences Act charges.**

The current court process involves significant public resources, such as the time of a justice of the peace, a prosecutor and the enforcement officer who laid the charge.

It’s also an inconvenience and expense for defendants, who incur expenses such as legal representation and taking time off work

to attend court.

The Ministry of the Attorney General is proposing an online dispute system for offences that don't have a potential for jail time, such as those involving death or serious harm.

Under the proposed system, those accused of minor infractions could choose to pay online or initiate a dispute and enter information supporting their dispute online.

The ministry says the dispute would then go through a resolution process managed by "unbiased expert decision maker" without the need to go to court.

The ministry says that, not including parking tickets, about 1.65 million Provincial Offences Act charges were laid under provincial statutes and municipal bylaws last year.

And the cost of having police officers appear in Toronto courts where Provincial Offences Act matters are heard was over \$5.5 million in 2014.

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 04, 2015

Mar 04 2015

**A decade after four RCMP constables were gunned down on a farm near Mayerthorpe, questions remain about whether Canada's national police force has enough high-powered weapons to deal with the dangers officers routinely face.**

The RCMP insists the force is better armed and better trained than ever before.

But some experts insist change has been too slow in coming.

The March 2011 fatality report into the Mayerthorpe shootings concluded the Mounties were "heavily outgunned" by the man who ambushed them, James Roszko.

In 2006, a year after the murders, the RCMP began to study the idea of adopting new weapons for general duty officers.

There were several steps along the way, including the commission of an independent report by Carleton criminology professor Darryl Davies.

He completed that report in March 2010.

"My recommendation called for the fact that every uniformed officer, regardless of where they're policing, should have a patrol carbine," Davies said this week.

"So that in high-risk situations they're able to deploy that weapon when they need it."

Davies said after a survey of more than 100 officers across the country, it was "considered a joke in some places" that many small police departments already had carbines but the national police force did not.

For its part, the RCMP said Davies' report did not meet its requirements and failed to provide sufficient analysis to proceed with implementation of patrol carbines.

But Davies insists the RCMP approved his methodology and signed off on his work.

In September 2011, the RCMP's senior executive committee approved adding the Colt C8 patrol carbine for general duty use across Canada.

In October 2012, the force signed a contract with Colt Canada for an initial order of 527 patrol carbines, a high-powered, mid-

sized rifle much like an M-16.

By May 2013, all 527 of those carbines had been received by the RCMP.

But less than two years later, three Moncton RCMP members were gunned down by Justin Bourque, who roamed the streets for several hours armed with a .308 semi-automatic rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun. The three officers who died, and two others who were wounded, did not have patrol carbines. Instead, they had 9-mm handguns.

Bourque, 24, was later sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 75 years. (CBC News)

Mar 04 2015

**OTTAWA - The RCMP will show MPs the video Michael Zehaf Bibeau made last October before he killed a Canadian soldier and stormed Parliament Hill.**

A source familiar with the plan says the RCMP will use an open meeting of the House of Commons public safety committee Friday to provide a 'detailed update' of the investigation into Zehaf Bibeau's deadly attack.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly, says the video will be shown to the committee.

A spokesman for the public safety minister said Tuesday the federal government wants the video to be released publicly, despite the fact the investigation into the shooting is ongoing.

In addition, the Commons public safety and Senate security committees have requested the video be disclosed.

In the days following the attack, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson said he wanted Canadians to see what he described as footage of Zehaf Bibeau explaining his actions in a deliberate and lucid manner.

Mar 04 2015

**CHARLOTTETOWN - First responders in Prince Edward Island will soon be getting a new multimillion-dollar mobile radio system to help improve communications during emergencies.**



Public Safety Minister Janice Sherry says the current radio system is outdated and no longer reliable.

The provincial government will spend \$3 million to install a system that will use newer technology to provide better coverage across the Island.

The mobile radios will be used by the RCMP, paramedics and firefighters.

Pat Kelly, a 911 provincial co-ordinator for the P.E.I. Office of Public Safety, says the new system will also allow Island first responders to communicate with their counterparts if they are assisting on a call in Nova Scotia.

The province hopes to have the new radio system up and running by late fall. (Charlottetown Guardian)

Mar 04 2015

**TORONTO - The Harper government says it plans to introduce legislation that would keep what it calls "Canada's most heinous criminals" behind bars for life with no chance of parole.**

The government says the law would apply to those convicted of first-degree-murder involving the killing of police officers or correctional officers; who commit acts of terrorism; carry out kidnappings or sexual assaults that result in murder; or commit crimes "of a particularly brutal nature."

It would also apply to those who commit high treason.

Currently, those who are convicted of first-degree murder face an automatic sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

Speaking in east Toronto today, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the legislation will help protect Canadians and ensure that a life sentence means exactly that - a sentence for life.

Mar 04 2015

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is reopening an investigation into injuries suffered by a woman during an incident involving a provincial police sergeant in Orillia.**

The Special Investigations Unit says Maria Farrell was injured in 2013 during an "interaction" with OPP Sgt. Russell Watson.

Its initial investigation determined that early on April 2, 2013, provincial police responded to a call in the central Ontario city, and that Watson arrived to find Farrell and another person.

The police watchdog says there was an interaction between Farrell and the officer and that the woman's left leg was broken.

The SIU concluded at the time that there were no reasonable grounds to believe a criminal offence was committed by Watson.

Farrell was charged by police with assaulting and obstructing a police officer but Ontario Court Justice George Beatty dismissed the charges in December.

As a result of comments made by Beatty regarding Watson's conduct, the SIU decided to review the file, including the judge's reasons for judgment and transcripts from Farrell's trial.

Following that review, the SIU says it decided to reopen the case but will make no further comment while the investigation is ongoing.

Mar 04 2015

**TORONTO - Authorities across Canada are awaiting American test results before deciding what to do about thousands of possibly defective road-safety devices.**

At issue are the end units of guardrails that apparently can pierce a vehicle rather than cushion them in crashes.

Alberta, Quebec and Nova Scotia have stopped installing the ET Plus units, but aren't replacing them pending the outcome of new crash tests ordered in November by American highway authorities.

The town of Stratford, Ontario has launched a 500-million-dollar class action against Trinity, the US maker of the ET Plus unit.

The town alleges Trinity made secret changes to the product without telling anyone.

Trinity, which denies any wrongdoing, also faces legal action in the US.



# THURSDAY MARCH 05, 2015

Mar 05 2015

## OSHAWA, Ont. - A 22-year-old Oshawa man is facing charges after police say death threats against police officers were posted on social media sites.

Durham regional police say they were contacted Monday about a video that had been uploaded to Facebook, which allegedly contained threats to kill police officers.

They say investigators found numerous threats on both Facebook and YouTube with details about a male suspect's intentions to kill police officers.

A man was arrested at an Oshawa residence and police say knives, a machete and a sword were seized by officers executing a search warrant at the address.

Thomas Helmle is charged with uttering threats and possession of a dangerous weapon.

Mar 04 2015

## VANCOUVER - Chinese police agents have been conducting secret operations in Canada — a top destination for allegedly corrupt officials — seeking to “repatriate” suspects and money laundered in real estate.

Vancouver city officials will not comment on co-operation with Chinese agents in “Operation Fox Hunt,” or on suspects pointed to by Chinese news services.

Xinhua news agency reported that while China does not have extradition treaties with Canada, the United States and Australia — the three top destinations for corruption suspects — in 2013 Canada and China signed an agreement to share assets connected to corruption.

The Province found indications in various data sources of large wealth allegedly misappropriated in China and invested in condo and commercial developments and private residences in and around Vancouver.

Also, according to The Province's review of data posted by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, there are a number of offshore shell companies linked to addresses in Vancouver, West Vancouver and Richmond, with connections to Mainland China.

For some Vancouver real estate insiders, suspicions of money laundering are too dangerous to comment on.

“There is huge money laundering coming into Vancouver, but I don't know who would tell you on the record, because that would be slitting their own throats,” one source said.

Cases of high-profile fugitives sent back to China from B.C. include Lai Changxing, the alleged mastermind of a billion-dollar smuggling operation in China, who was returned to Beijing in 2011, and Li Dongzhe, who turned himself over to Beijing officials in 2012 after hiding out in North Vancouver for six years.

(The Province)

Mar 04 2015

## MONTREAL - A doctor who was arrested in the emergency room of Quebec's Lachute hospital after refusing to hand out information without a warrant has filed a lawsuit against police.

Dr. Jeffrey Sirzyk says he hasn't been the same since he was handcuffed and put in the back of a police cruiser in March 2012.

According to Sirzyk, Sûreté du Québec Sgt. Michel El-Khoury and his partner Const. Simon Jetté stormed into the hospital demanding information about a child they believe had been abused.

Sirzyk alleges El-Khoury flew out of control when the doctor refused to give them any information without a warrant.

Following the incident, the police

ethics committee suspended El-Khoury for five days and Jetté for two days.

The ethics committee found El-Khoury showed an “unacceptable ignorance” of the rules regarding the confidentiality of medical information, demonstrated poor judgment, and acted hastily in arresting the doctor.

For his part, Sirzyk took four months of unpaid leave after the incident and now works in Ontario.

His lawyer filed a lawsuit in Quebec Superior Court seeking \$320,000 in damages.

“The goal is simply to keep the pressure on the Sûreté du Québec to make sure that things change,” Sirzyk said.

The Sûreté du Québec said it was not available to comment.

(CBC News)



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