

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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His name was Gurvinder Singh. The 22-year-old Toronto man was brutally assaulted with a compressed air hose on March 6 at his Mississauga workplace and died in hospital 12 days later.

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TORONTO - It can offer clues as simple as a person's favourite sports team, frequent hiding spot in the neighbourhood, or a certain word that can spark a violent reaction.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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RCMP shuffle cash, staff to combat terrorism



Apr 08 2015

OTTAWA - The RCMP has been forced to shuffle more cash and officers into terrorism investigations as Ottawa's contribution has remained static over the last decade, documents show.

The Mounties diverted \$22.9 million from other operations to the Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams (INSETs) in 2013-14. The RCMP's share of INSET funding has been steadily rising from \$717,000 in 2003 to more than \$20 million for each of the last three fiscal years.

Meanwhile, the federal government's contribution to INSETs has remained static

at \$10 million a year since 2003.

"Given the priority the RCMP has placed on countering the threat posed by high risk travellers and high risk individuals, the RCMP has and will continue to reallocate the necessary resources to the INSETs," read the documents, tabled in Parliament earlier this year.

"As of Jan. 5, 2015, it is estimated that almost 600 RCMP full-time equivalents have been reallocated from other priority areas (e.g., serious and organized crime, economic crime and other national security files) to INSETs."

The documents state investigators have been reassigned, on a temporary basis, from



Deputy Chief Constable Central Saanich Police Service

The central Saanich Police Service Board invites applications for the position of Deputy Chief Constable in beautiful Saanichton, BC. The Central Saanich Police Service serves an inclusive community of approximately 16,000 residents and has a complement of 23 sworn police personnel and 4 non-sworn positions.

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Forward applications, by **April 30, 2015** to: Elizabeth Trudeau, Central Saanich Police Service
1903 Mt. Newton Cross Road, Saanichton, BC. V8M 2A9 or liz.trudeau@csaanich.ca

“dedicated special investigative teams, surveillance, undercover teams, technical intercepts, analytical support, wiretap warrants and production orders.”

In an appearance before a Commons committee in March, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson told MPs that the force has sufficient resources — but other investigations move to the backburner as a result of the shuffling.

“Yes, we have enough resources to deal with the threat we’re facing, but . . . we’re taking now a little over 600 resources from other areas of our federal responsibility to transfer those full-time equivalent positions into the counterterrorism world,” Paulson said.

“We have enough people who are working these (terrorism) cases, but they’re not doing what they’re supposed to be doing.”

INSETs operate in five major Canadian cities, including Toronto, to collect and share intelligence about threats to national security, and to “enhance investigative capabilities” to carry through investigations to arrests. While led by the RCMP, INSETs include representatives from CSIS, the Canadian Border Services Agency, as well as provincial and municipal police forces.

The Star made multiple interview requests to the RCMP for comment, which weren’t returned. The Star also requested an interview with Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney’s office. In reply, a spokesperson for Blaney said the government has increased security agencies budgets since coming to power.

By The Numbers:

- \$171,716 — RCMP’s contribution to INSETs in 2003-2004
- \$22,864,779 — RCMP’s contribution to INSETs in 2013-14
- 120 — Number of RCMP employees on “assignment” to INSETs in 2014.
- 600 — Estimated number of RCMP employees re-assigned to counterterrorism after Oct. 22, 2014.

• \$10 million — Annual federal contribution to INSETs since 2003.

1/3 — Approximate proportion of Ottawa’s funding to INSET compared to total expenditures, 2011-2015. (Toronto Star)



Apr 02 2015

VANCOUVER - A Vancouver emergency-room doctor is warning drivers to avoid marijuana after his research has shown just over 7 per cent of those injured behind the wheel consume cannabis in the hours leading up to a crash.



Jeff Brubacher, who works at Vancouver General Hospital, published an opinion piece in this month’s British Columbia Medical Journal detailing how four emergency rooms across the province surveyed 1,097 drivers and found cannabis was the most common recreational drug, after alcohol, used among injured drivers, with 7.3 per cent consuming it in the hours preceding their crashes and 12.6 per cent still showing traces of the drug from earlier use.

That same data showed 17.8 per cent of the injured drivers drank and 15.8 per cent had a blood-alcohol concentration greater than 0.08.

Dr. Brubacher and his research team are still analyzing another 1,000 blood samples, but he said it is important the public knows past studies have suggested heavy cannabis use nearly doubles a driver’s risk of having a crash resulting in serious injury or death.

“Cannabis slows reaction times, causes weaving, creates difficulty maintaining a constant speed and predisposes to distraction,” Dr. Brubacher stated in his article.

He said the latest available data comes from 2012, but Vancouver’s police department says it is concerned an increase in the number of people who consume cannabis recreationally or medically, as evidenced by the explosion of dispensaries over the past two years, inevitably will lead to more drivers being impaired by the drug.

Dr. Brubacher said his research has shown that cannabis was most commonly used by men and drivers under 30. The message to avoid drinking and driving has seemed to stick with younger generations of B.C. drivers, he said.

“But there are still quite a few who think ‘well cannabis isn’t such a big problem, drugs aren’t such a big problem,’ and they may be

using drugs and driving instead of drinking and driving,” he said.

“Just separate driving from using pot, so wait at least four hours after you use before you drive and don’t mix it with alcohol.”

Vancouver police spokesperson Sergeant Randy Fincham said the department hasn’t compiled any data to see whether officers are catching more people driving while impaired by marijuana, but about one drug-impaired driver was caught for every three drunk drivers in last December’s annual counterattack blitz.

“With drivers that were coming through random road checks at locations in Vancouver, we were seeing drivers that were impaired by drugs, which the vast majority of the time turned out to be marijuana,” Sgt. Fincham said.

(Globe and Mail)

Apr 02 2015

HALIFAX - A police oversight agency in Nova Scotia is investigating allegations of sexual assault and assault by a male RCMP officer.

The Serious Incident Response Team says the officer is alleged to have sexually assaulted a female employee and assaulted a female RCMP member.

Both incidents allegedly occurred during a three-day RCMP meeting at a private facility in Queen’s County in March.

The agency says the sexual assault complainant came forward on Monday and on Tuesday the second assault allegation came to light.

Ron MacDonald, director of the response team, says no charges have been laid.

The RCMP say the officer involved has been suspended with pay pending the outcome of the investigation.

Apr 02 2015

It has been almost five years since two northern Ontario friends drowned in the same week, but for OPP Sergeant Marty Singleton, it feels like just yesterday.

Singleton hopes to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of Clayton (Beef) Windigo Jr. and Const. Bob Mainville of the OPP by raising donations to purchase 1,000 life preservers for northern Ontario First Nations people who spend much of their time on waterways.

“You can’t change the past, but you can hopefully do something right now to be positive about the future,” Singleton said in an interview. “I would love to be able to help other communities, to save some lives.”

The cost of living is high in northern First Nations communities, and families often scrimp on things they don’t think they really need — like life preservers, said Singleton, who’s originally from the Eagle Lake First Nation on the Canadian Shield, southwest of Dryden.

Many of the communities he polices are remote, fly-in communities where there are few first responders, vast waterways and frequent drownings.

“The people who have passed away weren’t wearing life jackets,” Singleton said.

BLUE LINE NEWS WEEK Celebrating 20 Years

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The week Mainville and Windigo died was particularly painful for him.

Singleton was a longtime friend of Mainville, 43, a father of two daughters.

Windigo, 20, was a popular local hockey player from the tiny First Nations community of Nigigoonsiminkaaning (Red Gut). He died in a water accident on June 27, 2010.

Mainville had been Windigo's hockey coach and reached out to comfort Windigo's family.

Then, just a few days later, on Canada Day, Mainville himself drowned in a boating accident.

It was four days before Mainville's body was found by fishermen.

Singleton remembers Mainville as someone who had a particular gift for making others feel better.

He said it's difficult to explain the emotions involved in searching for the body of a friend and then working with his family and community to cope with the loss.

That's the sort of work Mainville had excelled in, Singleton said.

"He got along with everyone in the detachment," Singleton said. "He was able to cheer them up when things weren't going so great.

"It's one of our core functions as police — to help people," Singleton said in an interview.

Singleton said that Mainville routinely showed empathy in times of crisis, and that he was working to assist Windigo Jr.'s family until the time of his own death.

"He was providing support to the family the day before he drowned," Singleton.

Singleton's life preserver fund is called "Remember Your Lifejacket Fund" at TD Bank Account No. 6499635.

(Toronto Star)

Apr 02 2015

TORONTO - Concern over what details will be recorded by police when they stop and document individuals has delayed implementation of the Toronto police board's revised carding policy, another hurdle the policy has failed to clear since it was first voted in nearly a year ago.

Board members decided at a meeting Thursday to wait until they reconvene April 16, when Chief Bill Blair promised to report back with details on what personal information — such as name, address and associates — that his officers will continue to record during the interaction, which is now being referred to as community engagement.

The decision was made after Councillor Shelley Carroll pointed out to fellow board members that the correct data retention was essential for any real review of the policy, which the board plans to do in September.

At that time, board members were hoping to use the review to address any deficiencies in the policy and the procedures.

The original policy was passed by the board a year ago, but Chief Bill Blair told the board that a number of operational concerns prevented him from completing procedures

and so the policy was never implemented.

Blair wrote new procedures soon after and released them on March 27.

The information recorded by police in their notebooks is entered into a computer database as a community engagement report.

The revised document is also missing language that once narrowly restricted carding for a "public safety purpose" that included investigating a specific offence or gathering intelligence directly related to a criminal problem.

Blair's new procedures say officers can stop and document an individual to keep the peace, prevent crimes and in the performance of common law duties as defined by the Police Services Act.

(Toronto Star)

Apr 02 2015

MONTREAL - People should refrain from taking to social media to track down criminals, according to the Service Policiere de la Ville de Montreal (SPVM), three days after a Domino pizza shop owner took to Facebook to post five still photos of a robbery.



Such vigilantism can impede ongoing investigations, said Sgt. Laurent Gingras this afternoon.

"People need to come to us first and let us do our investigation," he told the Chronicle.

The photos, posted by co-owner Lucian Iliescu, reveal three masked thieves allegedly rummaging through the Dorval-based pizzeria around 2:30 a.m. on March 30, stealing about \$150.

Iliescu said thousands of people viewed the photos merely hours after the post. Security tapes, he said, showed the thieves allegedly breaking into the pizzeria, causing what he estimated to be \$1,500 of damage.

"We were just trying to be creative," Iliescu told the Chronicle Thursday morning. "Hopefully it'll scare people off. That's the idea behind it."

The problem, however, is that if information is easily available online, the criminals can change their modus operandi, said Sgt. Gingras.

The situation can go from bad to worse as people who post photos of criminals caught in the act on social media networks risk biasing a court as the accused will already be condemned in the eye of the public.

Finally, Sgt. Gingras warned of the legal risks attached to vigilantism.

"You need to be careful because you can be exposing yourself to a number of things, like a defamation lawsuit," he said.

(The Chronicle)

FRIDAY
APRIL 03, 2015

Apr 03 2015

KITCHENER, Ont. - The province's police watchdog has released the identity of a 20-year-old man killed in a shooting incident involving Waterloo Regional Police.

The Special Investigations Unit says it happened after police responded to a call at a residence Thursday night in Kitchener.

The SIU says there was what it called an "interaction" between police and Beau Aaron Baker and he was shot.

Baker, 20, was later pronounced dead in hospital just after 10 p.m.

The SIU says an autopsy is scheduled to take place in Hamilton on Saturday.

Five SIU investigators and three forensic investigators have been assigned to review the incident.

SATURDAY
APRIL 04, 2015

Apr 04 2015

CHARLOTTETOWN - Charlottetown police say a 17-year-old boy was shot by police after an altercation with officers outside a shopping mall Friday.

Police say they received a call Friday afternoon saying someone had been shot behind the Charlottetown Mall and that there was an armed suspect in the area.

Det.-Sgt. Brad MacConnell says police arrived to find a suspect matching the caller's description with what appeared to be a firearm and other weapons.

MacConnell says following what he called some interaction with police the teen was shot and taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

He says the only shots fired were from the police and that investigators did not locate anyone else injured as initially reported.

Police say the teen will face charges including careless use of a firearm and possession of prohibited weapons. MacConnell says outside investigators from Summerside, P.E.I., and Nova Scotia will review the incident.

Apr 04 2015

SYDNEY, N.S. - Cape Breton Regional Police say a 66-year-old man has died after he was struck by a police vehicle Saturday afternoon.

Police say officers were responding to an unrelated complaint of an injured child in North Sydney at the time of the accident.

In a statement, police spokeswoman Desiree Vassallo says an officer struck the pedestrian while backing up a police vehicle to make room for an ambulance.

Vassallo says emergency responders treated the man but he was pronounced dead at 4:30 p.m.

Cape Breton police are referring the matter to Nova Scotia's police watchdog, the Serious Incident Response Team.

Apr 04 2015

TWEXSBURY – Last December Tewksbury Police confronted a new, and growing, frontier in cyberterrorism when the CryptoLocker ransomware virus infected the department's network, encrypting essential department files until the town paid a \$500 bitcoin ransom.

In total, police systems were down between four and five days as the department worked with the FBI, Homeland Security, Massachusetts State Police, as well as private firms in an effort to restore their data without paying the ransom.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), CryptoLocker is a malware campaign that initially surfaced in 2013. A new variant of ransomware, it restricts access to infected computers and demands the victim provide a payment to the attackers in order to decrypt and recover their files. As of this time, the primary means of infection appears to be through phishing emails containing malicious attachments, phony FedEx and UPS tracking notices, and even through pop-up ads.

Police Chief Timothy Sheehan told the Town Crier that Tewksbury was hit with a newer form of CryptoLocker, for which authorities did not have the key. Though initially infected sometime on December 7, the department became aware of the malware on December 8, 2014.

This kind of malware has the ability to find and encrypt files located within shared network drives, USB drives, external hard drives, network file shares and even some cloud storage drives. If one computer on a network becomes infected, mapped network drives could also become infected, which is what happened in Tewksbury. CryptoLocker then connects to the attackers' command and control (C2) server to deposit the asymmetric private encryption key out of the victim's reach.

Sheehan said that they believe the virus entered the system through the Officer-In-Charge's (OIC) computer and began looking for a large store of data. Since all the computers have mapped drives and are networked, the virus went to the largest server – in this case that housed the Computer Aided Dispatch, records management, arrest logs, calls for service, motor vehicle matters, and so on – and encrypts everything, making it impossible to access.

"It basically rendered us in-operational, with respect to the software we use to run the Police Department," said Sheehan.

Once officers tried to access the data following the malware infection, they received a demand for a \$500 bitcoin ransom sent to

a web address and account that cannot be traced by the FBI, State Police, or National Security. Bitcoin is a digital, peer-to-peer, currency with military-grade cryptography. While bitcoin promises security for online transactions, it has also become the preferred currency for ransomware, because it is untraceable.

Sheehan reached out to police chiefs across the state to see if anyone else had experience with this virus. A number of communities responded with similar stories. Most notably Swansea Police Department, which paid a \$750 ransom in November 2013. Once alerted by Sheehan, other departments took immediate action to protect their systems, especially those with mapped drives.

Tewksbury Police sent their infected server to the Commonwealth Fusion Center in Maynard, a facility that brings federal and state services, as well as the public and private sector together, acting as the state repository for homeland security information and incident reporting.

In the meantime, the department isolated the files that were encrypted, ran virus protection on all remaining machines in the network, and were able to use their systems, but could not access saved records.

"Once hit with this kind of ransomware, only two alternatives are available," said Sheehan. If the files cannot be decrypted, then you must go to the most recent back-up. If a recent back-up isn't available, the ransom must be paid.

In Tewksbury's case, the back-up on an external hard drive was also corrupted. The most recent non-corrupted tape back-up was 18 months old, and simply not enough to rebuild missing information from paper reports.

"Nobody wants to negotiate with terrorists. Nobody wants to pay terrorists," said Sheehan. "We did everything we possibly could," including moving town departments away from mapped drives.

"It was an eye opening experience, I can tell you right now. It made you feel that you lost control of everything," said Sheehan. "Paying the bitcoin ransom was the last resort."

(Tewksbury Town Crier)

SUNDAY APRIL 05, 2015

Apr 05 2015

PETERBOROUGH - Ontario's police watch dog is investigating the shooting death of a 23-year-old man in Peterborough.

The Special Investigations Unit says police responded to a disturbance at a Tim Hortons restaurant at about 11:30 p.m. Saturday.

Police said they located a man and "an interaction" between an officer and the man

occurred, resulting in the man being shot. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

A police officer was also taken to hospital with minor stab wounds.

An autopsy has been scheduled for Tuesday for the unidentified man.

(CTV Toronto)

MONDAY APRIL 06, 2015

Apr 06 2015

WINNIPEG - A group of seasoned volunteers is set to drag Winnipeg's Red River again this year, in search of evidence that might bring closure to the families of missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Bernadette Smith, whose sister Claudette Osborne disappeared seven years ago, spearheaded last year's search after the body of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine was found in the river wrapped in a bag.

Volunteers in boats used hooks to drag the river bed.

This year, Smith says the dragging bars are better made and she's even bought her own boat to use in the search.

The group is also fundraising for another boat and rain gear through a GoFundMe webpage.

Smith says the work is empowering for the families of missing and murdered women who often feel helpless.

She says Fontaine's body wasn't the first to be pulled from the river and no one knows how many more victims there are.

Apr 06 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Newfoundland and Labrador's premier says his staff told police about potentially threatening tweets Friday, two days before the man behind the account was shot dead by an officer on the premier's security team.



Paul Davis said Monday he wasn't aware of the online comments until he heard that Don Dunphy, 59, was fatally shot Sunday by an officer with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary. But the premier's staff knew and reported them to police, he said.

"I was shocked, deeply saddened yesterday to learn of the events that had taken place," Davis said.

Davis, a former constable with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, said he briefly spoke with the officer late Sunday.

"I called to offer my personal support to him. I've known him for some time."

Chief William Janes of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary said the officer was a member of the protective services unit providing security, threat and risk assessments for the premier and elected officials.

Janes said the officer was working a regularly scheduled shift Sunday when he went to Dunphy's home in Mitchells Brook, about 80 kilometres southwest of St. John's, as part of an investigation.

"At the time, the officer was confronted and shots were fired," he told a news conference.

Janes said he wasn't aware of the officer having any partner or backup when he went inside the home at about 2:30 p.m. The officer was not injured in the shooting, he added.

Janes declined to identify the officer. He said the RCMP are now investigating the shooting.

Janes said he could not comment on whether more than one gun was fired as such details could jeopardize the ongoing RCMP probe.

"I think having the RCMP conduct the investigation provides the independence and the impartiality that we need and that the public expects."

Dunphy was a frequent Twitter user who described himself on his account as "a crucified injured worker from NL Canada where employers treat injured like criminals."

Davis said his staff typically monitor his official account and that, from time to time, perceived threats from there or other sources are handled by police.

RCMP Sgt. Greg Hicks said an autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday. The scene of the shooting is officially in RCMP jurisdiction and Hicks said the Mounties were aware Sunday that the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer was investigating there.

Apr 06 2015

CORNER BROOK, N.L. - A police officer in Newfoundland has been sentenced to 10 months in jail for making indecent phone calls and mischief.

Sean Kelly, a constable with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, was convicted in February after police followed up on a complaint they received in October 2012.

During sentencing Monday, Judge Wayne Gorman of provincial court in Corner Brook called Kelly's crime "egregious" for a police officer.

Kelly has also been placed on probation for a year.

His lawyer has indicated he will appeal the sentence. (VOCM)

Apr 06 2015

His name was Gurvinder Singh. The 22-year-old Toronto man was brutally assaulted with a compressed air hose on March 6 at his Mississauga workplace and died in hospital 12 days later.

Three of Singh's colleagues, Abhijeet Singh Nagra, Dilsher Singh and Prabhjeet Singh, stand accused of manslaughter.

But the police never told the public his name. Peel Regional Police are keeping it

secret at the request of his family.

"Police are not going to release the victim's name, nor would we confirm the victim's name should it be released by anyone," said Const. Thomas Ruttan.

The Star was able to confirm the identity through publicly accessible court records.

The case underscores stark differences between the practices of police forces nationwide. Toronto and Vancouver, for example, always release the victim's name; both forces say their practice is in the public interest. Peel police and Quebec's provincial force, on the other hand, do not.

The varying approaches have pitted transparency advocates against privacy experts. The former argue the identity of a homicide

victim is critical to the public's understanding of a crime, while the latter that respect for the family's wishes comes first.

"We believe you can't be murdered anonymously, that the public has a right to know some of the details around a homicide," said Vancouver police spokesman Const. Brian Montague.

"While we do the best we can to respect the family's wishes, we try to help them understand why we would release information, because you want to be seen as transparent with your information. As a police department, you don't want to be seen as trying to hide a homicide in your city."

Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash said the force believes there is a "compelling



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public interest in the victims of what is the most serious crime that we investigate.” He said police work closely with the families, and that while some have expressed concern about disclosure, he said they ultimately agree when police explain that it’s important for the investigation.

In Quebec, the provincial police force, like Peel police, will not disclose without the family’s consent. The RCMP follows a similar practice.

“Once the victim has been formally identified by the coroner and with the consent of the family, we will release the name of the homicide victim,” said Sûreté du Québec spokeswoman Sgt. Mélanie Dumaresq. “We really have to have their consent . . . It’s delicate.”

While such decisions may have a homicide victim’s family in mind, transparency advocates say they open the door to problems.

There is no specific legislation that governs police disclosure practices.
(Toronto Star)

Apr 06 2015

CALGARY - The head of the Calgary Police union says he is concerned by comments from a senior officer about the theft of a semi-automatic rifle and ammo from a constable’s personal vehicle.



Supt. Kevan Stuart told reporters on Sunday he felt “sick to my stomach” about the theft, which saw a C8 patrol rifle and 56 rounds of ammunition in two magazines stolen from an officer’s vehicle while it was parked at Crowfoot Crossing restaurant in the city’s northwest.

Stuart also said “there is no reason in my mind why an officer would take this firearm home.”

“Like most citizens I watched the press conference,” said Calgary Police Association president Howard Burns.

“It would have been my preference for the facts to have been presented rather than the personal inflections of the police.

“Because now, from a CPA point of view, once this investigation is done, say there’s some internal charges, really, we now have a high ranking officer in the service that has already passed judgment on this officer.

“That causes me concern.”

The officer who has been on the force for three years, was suspended for seven days with pay.

Burns said interim Chief Paul Cook will then decide whether to reinstate the officer, place him on administrative duties or extend the suspension.
(Calgary Sun)

Apr 06 2015

EDMONTON - In response to the growing amount of violence at city bars and night clubs in the last five years, Edmonton police would like to make scanning patron’s identification mandatory at certain locations.

During the last few months, downtown patrol officer Const. Aaron Ward began putting together a proposal pushing for mandatory ID scanning at major bars and night clubs.

According to Ward, ID scanning is currently a voluntary option and about 30 to 40% of venues with more than 200 seats use the technology that collects a persons name, age, and digital photograph. Ward, however, believes more establishments need to get on board in order to better protect the public from known troublemakers and help police with investigations.
(Edmonton Sun)



Apr 07 2015

TORONTO - A Toronto man accused of holding a woman captive for five days and subjecting her to sexual assaults that included “ritualistic actions” has been charged with multiple offences.

Police said a man carrying a firearm approached a 27-year-old woman on March 31 in downtown Toronto for a “business transaction.” He then brought her to a home in the city’s east end, where she was bound with duct tape and handcuffs and sexually assaulted several times, police said.

There was “some form of ritualistic actions involved in the crime,” Toronto Police Inspector Joanna Beaven-Desjardins said in a news conference.

“He did do things that we are very unfamiliar with,” she said, but would not elaborate.

The woman, who police said is a sex worker, managed to escape through the front door five days later and sought help from a passerby.

“She’s in good condition now...she’s recovering,” Beaven-Desjardins said.

Rejean Hermel Perron, 43, was arrested Monday and charged with sexual assault with a weapon, kidnapping, forcible confinement and assault.

Investigators said he is known to police but gave no further details.

Police said he is originally from Timmins, Ont., but has spent time in Chatham and London, and has been living in Toronto for 10 years.
(CFRB)

Apr 07 2015

TORONTO - A lawyer who defended a wealthy former police officer accused of killing his lover and stuffing her remains in a trash bin has been disbarred for cheating legal aid of close to \$120,000.

In its decision this week, the Law Society of Upper Canada also ordered Munyonzwe Hamalengwa to pay \$125,000 for its legal costs.

“The lawyer intentionally and deliberately overbilled the (Ministry of the Attorney General) with the intention to profit personally from these overbillings,” the ruling states.

“Thou shalt not pad thy dockets and/or intentionally misrepresent thy disbursements’ is one of the commandments of legal life. The lawyer broke this commandment repeatedly.”

The regulator had found Hamalengwa guilty of professional misconduct in October last year for billing the province for court appearances he either didn’t make or were shorter than he had claimed. He also charged too much for legal research, billed for services that didn’t qualify, or forged invoices.

In finding professional misconduct, the law society blasted the lawyer for billing systems that were “deplorable and defective.”

Hamalengwa was one of several lawyers who defended Richard Wills, then-50, who was convicted of first-degree murder in 2007 for killing his longtime lover Linda Mariani, 40, in 2002. Her remains were found in a garbage bin behind a wall in the basement of his home just north of Toronto.

Following the killing, Wills systematically divested himself of his assets - several properties among them - then pleaded poverty in persuading a judge to order legal aid to fund his defence.

By the time he was convicted, taxpayers had spent about \$1.5 million on seven lawyers for Wills. Hamalengwa accounted for about \$750,000 of the bill to taxpayers.

As part of his defence - rejected by the regulator - the Zambian-born Hamalengwa accused the ministry and law society of picking on him because he is black.

“It was logical for the lawyer’s accounts to be assessed,” the penalty decision states.

Ontario also launched a civil action alleging he sold off his assets so Legal Aid Ontario would have to pay for his defence.

In its statement of claim, the government accused Wills of “unjust enrichment” through “fraudulent conveyance” of several properties to his wife and sister. He also signed over his police pension to his wife.

Apr 07 2015

ST. JOHN’S, N.L. - The RCMP says a loaded rifle was seized from the home of a 59-year-old Newfoundland man shot dead by an officer on the premier’s security team.

Sgt. Greg Hicks says the .22-calibre rifle was retrieved and will be examined at a forensic lab as the Mounties investigate the fatal shooting.

Don Dunphy of Mitchells Brook, southwest of St. John’s, was killed Sunday by a Royal Newfoundland Constabulary member.

The officer was part of the security team for Premier Paul Davis investigating perceived threats on Dunphy’s Twitter feed.

Hicks says the officer was invited into Dunphy’s home but after about 15 minutes the mood suddenly changed before Dunphy

pointed the rifle at him.

Hicks says the officer consulted local Mounties and police databases as part of a routine risk assessment before deciding back-up was not warranted.

Apr 07 2015

VANCOUVER - Police say it's a bizarre case of jealousy and of the cultural pressures of conceiving male offspring.

The story unfolded in February 2013, when the parents of a seven-week-old boy took their wailing baby to the emergency department at the Richmond, B.C., hospital.

The doctor examining the baby found something blocking both his ears and it was later identified as super glue that needed to be removed through painstaking surgery.

Mounties - who are only just releasing the details of the case now - say the baby's aunt, Wei Wang, was charged and convicted in a B.C. court of aggravated assault last December.

Wang, a 30-year-old Chinese National, was sentenced to four months in jail and two years probation.

RCMP Cpl. Chris Tarasoff says the case was extremely sad and emotionally trying for investigators, but the best result that they could have hoped for was that the child is expected to make a full recovery.

Apr 07 2015

A Whitehorse RCMP officer has been reassigned and outside investigators called in after a video showing a violent arrest went viral.

The short video appears to have been shot in someone's kitchen. An RCMP officer holds a man on the ground while several angry voices are heard off-camera. It is not clear why the man is being arrested. No other people are seen in the video.

"I'm doing nothing," the man says while he's held on the ground. "Why are you hitting me?" he asks, before the officer appears to punch him in the head. The officer then forces the man onto his stomach and handcuffs him.

Yukon RCMP say the video warrants further investigation. In a statement released Tuesday, the police force says it has a duty to account to the public for its actions, including the use of force. But police say it's too soon to make an informed judgement about this case.

"Social media is a great tool, but sometimes it doesn't give you the whole story," says Whitehorse RCMP Insp. Archie Thompson. "It gives you part of the story."

RCMP say the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) has been called in to conduct a criminal investigation.

Thompson says the officer shown in the video has not been charged, but the nature of the incident warrants a criminal investigation. In the meantime, the officer has been reassigned to administrative functions.

Neither the officer's name nor the name of the man arrested in the video have been released by police.

Yukon RCMP say they will limit what

they publicly say about the incident, to "avoid influencing the investigation or any future processes that may result."

It's not clear how long ASIRT's investigation may take. (CBC News)

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 08, 2015**

Apr 08 2015

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. - A white South Carolina police officer who claimed he killed a black man in self-defence was swiftly charged with murder after a bystander's video recorded

him firing eight shots at the man's back as he ran away. Government authorities sought Wednesday to contain the outrage as protests began.

The video recorded by an unidentified bystander shows North Charleston Patrolman Michael Thomas Slager dropping his stun gun, pulling out his handgun and firing at Walter Lamer Scott from a distance as he runs away. The 50-year-old man falls after the eighth shot, fired after a brief pause.

The bystander is assisting investigators after providing the video to Scott's family and lawyers.

North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey announced the murder charge Tuesday, saying that "when you're wrong, you're wrong." "When you make a bad decision, don't care

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if you're behind the shield or a citizen on the street, you have to live with that decision," the mayor said.

Police initially released a statement that promised a full investigation but relied largely on the officer's description of the confrontation, which began with a traffic stop Saturday as Slager pulled Scott over for a faulty brake light.

Slager's then-attorney David Aylor released another statement Monday saying the officer felt threatened and fired because Scott was trying to grab his stun gun.

Aylor dropped Slager as a client after the video surfaced, and the officer, a five-year veteran with the North Charleston police, appeared without a lawyer at his first appearance Tuesday. He was denied bond and could face 30 years to life in prison if convicted of murder.

The video, shot over a chain link fence and through some trees, begins after Scott has left his car. Slager follows him, reaching at the man with an object that appears to be a stun gun. As Scott pulls away, the object falls to the ground and Slager pulls out his handgun as Scott runs away.

The final shot sends Scott falling face-down about 30 feet away.

Slager then slowly walks toward him and orders Scott to put his hands behind his back, but the man doesn't move, so he pulls Scott's arms back and cuffs his hands. The officer then walks briskly back to where he fired the shots, speaking into his radio. He picks up the same object that fell to the ground before and returns to Scott's prone body, dropping the object near Scott's feet as another officer enters the scene.

Scott had four children, was engaged and had been honourably discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard. There were no violent offences on his record, Stewart said. He also speculated that Scott may have tried to run because he owed child support, which can lead to jail time in South Carolina until it is paid.

The FBI and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division are investigating as well.

Apr 08 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The mayor of the small Newfoundland town where a man was shot dead by an officer checking out Twitter threats is raising questions about police handling of the situation.

David Sorensen, the mayor of the Mitchells Brook, says he thinks an officer should have checked Don Dunphy's background before going to the home.

Sorensen says the people in his community are shocked and sad about the death, and he says the situation shouldn't have ended the way it did.

Friends have said Dunphy was severely injured in a heavy equipment accident while working for a contractor several years ago.

The 59-year-old used Twitter to describe himself as "a crucified injured worker," in a province where employers treat the injured like criminals."

The RCMP say that Dunphy pointed a

loaded rifle at the investigator.

Sergeant Greg Hicks says evidence indicate the officer responded by drawing and discharging his pistol.

Apr 08 2015

The Ontario Superior Court has ordered a new trial in the case of an Aroland First Nation man who was thrown to the floor of a Greenstone, Ont., jail cell with his hands cuffed behind his back during an altercation with an OPP officer in 2012.

Const. Brian Bellefeuille was found not guilty in 2013 of assaulting Gary Megan.

The Crown appealed the decision and on April 7, Justice Terrence Platana ordered a new trial.

Platana ruled that..."a reasonable person would find that apprehension of bias was created by the judge's comments..."

That perception of bias was created at the trial during arguments about whether Megan had been lawfully arrested outside a Geraldton bar.

Bellefeuille told the court that Megan was so drunk that he was taken into custody for his own safety.

The Crown argued that police had other options for dealing with concerns about Megan's safety and suggested the police were targeting Megan because he had made an obscene gesture at a police car earlier that day.

Trial Judge Frank Sargent appeared reluctant to hear that argument, citing previous cases of First Nations people who had frozen to death; quoting headlines of articles about drunk people dying of hypothermia and asking the Crown "...would it have been proper to let him walk, attempt to walk and freeze to death on the side of the road? I just want you to consider that."

The Crown referred to four other grounds for appeal in the case, but having ordered a new trial on the issue of bias, Justice Platana said it was unnecessary to determine the other issues. Platana then went on to say the trial judge made an error in not allowing cross-examination of Bellefeuille about his character.

By telling the court "I do not lie" and that he did not want a reputation for police brutality in the First Nations community which he belonged to through his mother, Platana said Bellefeuille put his own character up for scrutiny.

Bellefeuille has 30 days from the date of the ruling to appeal. If he doesn't appeal, the court will set a date for a new trial.

(CBC News)

Apr 08 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A retired provincial Supreme Court judge will report on the investigation into the shooting death of a man by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

The RCMP is leading the investigation and says David Riche will have full access to all details for a report on its independence and thoroughness.

Don Dunphy was shot dead Sunday by an

officer investigating perceived threats against provincial politicians on Twitter.

Riche was appointed to the bench in 1982 and retired as a judge in 1999.

Apr 08 2015

CHARLOTTETOWN - The director of Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team will lead a review of a police shooting of a teenager in Charlottetown.

Ron MacDonald says he will lead an investigation by Summerside police into the conduct of Charlottetown police after a 17-year-old boy was shot behind the Charlottetown Mall last Friday.

MacDonald says he will deliver findings to P.E.I.'s attorney general.

Apr 08 2015

VANCOUVER - A B.C. police officer facing a second-degree murder charge says he fired his rifle after a "distracted and violent" man pointed a handgun at police during a tense standoff.

In a response to a civil lawsuit filed by the dead man's daughter, Const. Jordan MacWilliams said he had a "reasonable fear" the man would cause death or grievous bodily harm to himself or others.

Forty-eight-year-old Mehrdad Bayrami was fatally shot outside the Starlight Casino in New Westminster in November 2012, after he allegedly released a female hostage and a five-hour police standoff ensued.

The Crown approved the murder charge against MacWilliams last fall after B.C.'s police watchdog, the Independent Investigations Office, led a probe into the shooting.

Nousha Bayrami claims in her lawsuit against the Delta, B.C., officer and the Corporation of Delta that her father was walking backwards away from police when MacWilliams suddenly shot him without warning.

None of the allegations have been proven in court. The officer's criminal trial is due to begin in October.

Apr 08 2015

CALGARY - Calgary police are asking for public help in tracking down a gun stolen from an officer's vehicle.

Investigators have released surveillance video images recorded Saturday night of a parking lot near Shank's sports bar on the north side of the city.

The officer's patrol rifle and two ammunition magazines, all inside a locked case, were swiped from his personal vehicle between 10:45 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Sgt. Jason Walker says the video shows a suspect vehicle temporarily blocking another car that is trying to leave the parking lot.

Officers are still trying to determine the make and models of the vehicles.

Police say the off-duty officer had taken the rifle home for cleaning and left it in his vehicle when he went into a restaurant. When he returned, he realized the vehicle had been broken into and the gun and ammunition were gone.

He has since been suspended with pay while the force looks into a possible code of conduct breach.

Walker said he and other officers with the service's Guns and Gangs Unit have been tasked with getting the gun back.

He hopes people who saw the suspect vehicle will call investigators.

"These folks might have seen something that is very important to us but at the time thought nothing of it, other than 'I want to get out of this parking lot. There's a car in my way and some guys doing stuff. What the heck?'"

He says investigators are still looking into whether other vehicles in the area were also broken into. So far, no one has reported any.

"Sometime people's vehicles get broken into and they don't think it's worth reporting - it is."

Apr 08 2015

TORONTO - It can offer clues as simple as a person's favourite sports team, frequent hiding spot in the neighbourhood, or a certain word that can spark a violent reaction.



For police, it is akin to a "user manual" during an encounter with someone who, because of a disorder such as autism, dementia, or an emotional crisis, may have difficulty communicating — the kind of interaction that can quickly turn from tense to tragic.

It is called a "vulnerable persons registry," and in coming weeks, the Toronto Police Service will join the ranks of Canadian law enforcement agencies implementing such a system.

The force will soon invite the public to help provide crucial information about a child or someone in their care "who may have some limitations in their ability to communicate in a crisis which could compromise their own or officer safety," Const. Curtis Molyneaux said in a recent email sent to educators, parents and advocates.

"This critical, situation-specific information will be available to the (Toronto Police Service)," he said.

Molyneaux, a use-of-force instructor at the Toronto Police College, said the registry will work on a voluntary basis, allowing family members or caregivers to provide police with basic identifying information about a relative who has challenges ranging from autism to a Medic-Alert condition, an acquired brain

injury or dementia.

The caregivers then provide information that could be useful in certain situations involving police — perhaps the vulnerable person's habits, behaviours and likes or dislikes, key phrases to communicate more clearly, and words or actions to avoid.

Dennis Debbaudt, a U.S.-based law enforcement training consultant who specializes in interactions between people with autism and police, said the "likes and dislikes" part of the registry can often be the most vital information.

Citing a case from Ottawa, where police have implemented a similar registry, Debbaudt said officers responding to a high-risk

call for a young man wielding a knife used one tidbit of information to avoid a violent outcome: they knew he liked discussing hockey.

"When the door was opened, he had the knife, and the police said, 'We want to talk about hockey,' and he put the knife down," said Debbaudt, who helped Toronto Police develop the registry.

"A standard approach would have been yelling: 'Police.' And it would have been totally different."

Though details of the Toronto registry are still being finalized, the information would probably be communicated to officers responding to a call, through either a dispatcher or their in-car computers.

(Toronto Star)

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Presenter: Tom Hart, President CCII
Cost: \$100

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Day 1: April 28th, 9am – 12pm
Suicide Bomber Awareness & Identification

Presenter: Nir Maman
Cost: \$100

Day 1: April 28th, 1pm – 5pm
Active Shooter Intervention

Presenter: Nir Maman
Cost: \$100

Day 2: April 29th, 9am – 4pm
Counter-Ambush Response for Patrol Officers

Presenter: Phil Devine
Cost: \$200

INTERVIEWING & DECEPTION

Day 1: April 28th, 9am – 4pm
The Non-Accusatory Interview

Presenters: S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret) and A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret)
Cost: \$100

Day 2: April 29th, 9am – 4pm
Dealing with Deception

Presenters: A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret) and S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret)
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Presenter: Commissioner Chris Lewis (ret)
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Apr 09 2015

EDMONTON - Alberta RCMP say it may be tough, but they're relying on people to identify relatives or friends who may be vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist groups.

Inspector John Baranyi, the officer in charge of the RCMP national security enforcement team in Alberta, says calling police may be difficult.

But he says it is not as hard as dealing with what might happen if that call is never made.

A 17-year-old Edmonton-area boy is scheduled to be in court today to face terror-related charges.

He was arrested last month and charged with trying to leave the country to participate in a terrorist group and attempting to leave the country to commit a terrorist activity.

Baranyi says early intervention is the only way to ensure that the individual gets access to the necessary support and assessment services before they do something they can't undo.

Apr 09 2015

OTTAWA - When the sentries who watch over the National War Memorial return to their post today following last year's deadly attack, Ottawa police officers will be watching their backs.

The Department of National Defence says it is paying the Ottawa Police Service an estimated \$425,000 for uniformed officers to protect the unarmed sentries starting today through to November.

There will also be stanchions placed around the sentries and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as an added security measure.

The move comes after the Oct. 22 attack. National Defence says it hired the Ottawa police because it doesn't have jurisdiction over the National War Memorial site.

The Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force rotate sentries throughout the year.

Apr 09 2015

WATERLOO, Ont. - A man has been sentenced to six years in prison for attacking a Waterloo Regional Police officer with his car.

The judge in the case called 29-year-old Jeffrey Woodman a career criminal, who likely wouldn't be rehabilitated.

In September of 2013, police were called to a shoplifting case at a Kitchener grocery store.

One officer approached a vehicle with his weapon drawn, and fired four times.

He suffered multiple broken bones when hit by the car while it was speeding away. (CJOV)

Apr 08 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton police say they had no choice but to shoot a pit bull when it attacked a police canine.

Officers were investigating reports of break-ins in northeast Edmonton on Wednesday morning when police dog Viper was released to track a suspect.

However, police say the person who called in the complaint of the break-ins had left his door open and his dog attacked Viper.

Staff Sgt. Troy Carriere says the pit bull got the upper hand and had the canine by the throat.

He says the dogs fought for more than a minute before the decision was made to shoot.

Police say the dog was still alive when it was taken to an emergency vet clinic for treatment but it later had to be put down.

A woman at the home, who didn't want her name used, says she believes the dogs could have been pulled apart and that the police dog's life was not in danger.

Officials say Viper's injuries are minor, and he's expected to recover.

The police department will do a standard review to make sure officers were following proper protocol. (CTV Edmonton)

Apr 09 2015

OTTAWA - Rogers Communications says it saw a sharp drop in the number of requests for customer information from government and police agencies last year - a result of swelling public concern and a landmark court ruling on telecommunications privacy.

In a report released today, Rogers says it received fewer than 114,000 such requests for subscriber information in 2014, down from almost 175,000 the previous year.

Last summer, the company said it would no longer routinely give basic customer information to police and security agencies without a warrant.

The move followed a key Supreme Court of Canada ruling as well as concerns voiced by subscribers, the telecom provider said at the time.

Last June, the Supreme Court ruled police need judicial authorization to get personal information about customers from Internet providers.

The high court rejected arguments that claimed the federal privacy law governing companies allowed providers to hand over subscriber identities voluntarily.

Apr 09 2015

A Peel Regional Police officer was stabbed in the arm and his cruiser stolen after responding to a call in Mississauga.

Police received the initial call at about 11 a.m. Thursday, and the officer was dispatched to a residence for what police describe as a "Mental Health Act call."

Upon arrival he had an "interaction with a male party," according to Sergeant Matt Small. The officer was stabbed and the

suspect proceeded to steal the officer's police cruiser and fled the scene. The man was considered armed and dangerous.

The officer's cruiser has been recovered and the suspect is in custody.

The officer's injuries are considered serious but not life threatening.

"Anytime you're cut with a knife ... that's serious," Small said. "Due to the excellent work by the emergency services, his injuries are now considered non-life threatening. He is in stable condition."

(National Post)

Apr 09 2015

Jogging across the academy campus in central Los Angeles, the city's freshest police recruits already fit one Canadian stereotype: they're unfailingly polite. They stop walking in the presence of an actual police officer and address even journalists as "sir."

Unbeknownst to them, the LAPD recruits are being guided in part during their six-month training by Canadian values and ideas.

During the next six months, they'll learn a variety of skills, like how to keep their police car on the road while chasing suspects, how to fire their weapons, and, most importantly, when to fire them.

At a time when police shootings are in the spotlight in the United States like never before, Canada has a surprisingly large role to play in the U.S.'s third-largest police force.

Joe Johnson has been a tactical instructor for 21 years. Seven years ago, Johnson was asked to change his training course to put more emphasis on critical thinking and abstract ideas like community values. At first, he says, he resisted because he was worried it would make his recruits soft. But now he's fully on-board.

Luann Pannell joined the LAPD several years ago and has now become its director of training. She instructs everyone from new recruits to senior officers. She believes she is the first psychologist to head the training division of an American police force. And certainly, she says, she's the first Canadian.

"I think I get to bring a new perspective," Pannell said. "I think in Canada there is a lot of emphasis on community and I think at heart we really do want to serve the community. Maybe when you live through a Canadian winter you know that the human spirit can persevere," she said with a laugh.

Some of the principles she's teaching were borrowed from her Canadian colleagues. She uses the RCMP's incident management model known as CAPRA: Community Policing Problem Solving Model. Even though fighting crime in Canada and the U.S. can be dramatically different, she says, she saw value in the RCMP's approach to community policing.

(CBC News)