

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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Camera phone 'pervasiveness' reduces police violence, study finds



Jun 24 2015

OTTAWA - One night five years ago, Greg Brown was patrolling a busy Ottawa street when he was attacked while subduing a violent man.

"I was going to punch the person. I was going to use an open-handed technique to stop the person from assaulting me," said the Ottawa police officer.

"And as I raised up my arm to do that, I realized what's going to be visible to the people standing behind me videotaping this."

Brown, who has been on the force for 28 years and is a PhD candidate in sociology and anthropology at Carleton University, turned that sudden insight into the basis for a research project into how the "omnipresent pervasiveness" of camera-equipped cell-phones has reduced frontline officers' willingness to use force.

His paper, *The Blue Line on Thin Ice: Police Use of Force Modifications in the Era of Cameraphones and YouTube*, was



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published recently in the British Journal of Criminology.

"It's the new reality today, in pretty much every atmosphere for policing; urban, suburban, even rural now," Brown told Ottawa Morning host Robyn Bresnahan on Wednesday. "All of us have smartphones."

As part of the research, Brown spoke with 231 frontline officers from forces in Toronto and Ottawa.

Nearly three-quarters of the officers Brown interviewed told him they had modified their on-the-job behaviour based on the possibility they could end up being filmed.

More than half were either been more reluctant to use force in an arrest or had used less force than normal, Brown said. The average officer perceived they'd been recorded about 17 times in their career, a number that could easily be higher, he added.

"Very seldom are officers actually aware that they're being recorded," said Brown.

"When an officer's dealing with somebody - maybe using force, trying to resolve a certain issue - their attention isn't focused on somebody who could be standing 100 metres away, filming them. Their attention is on what's going on on the ground."

One of the "surprising, anecdotal" findings of his research, said Brown, was that many officers support being equipped with body cameras, in part because they feel citizen videos don't tell the whole story.

"What's captured is when the officer starts to react to the stimuli," said Brown. "And then that's what's put on the news and [is] what the public sees."

(CBC News)

THURSDAY JUNE 18, 2015

Jun 18 2015

HAMILTON - A dozen Hamilton Police Service officers are now being paid to sit at home - and in at least one case, behind bars - because of a provincial policy that is costing the city half a million dollars every year.

Factoring in the seven officers arrested Tuesday from the high profile ACTION team, five of whom have been criminally charged in an alleged fake ticket writing scam, the Hamilton Police Service has 12 officers under paid suspension.

Police Board chair Lloyd Ferguson said that the paid suspension policy is costing the city \$500,000 annually.

Hamilton Police Chief Glenn De Caire has backed the fight for unpaid suspensions for the past year, including bringing the issue to the annual general meeting of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police in 2014. The ask is now before the provincial government for consideration.

The public push came after Hamilton Police inspector David Doel collected more than \$550,000 in pay and then retired before having to face a tribunal process last year. Doel faced 14 charges under the Police Services Act including having sex on the job, keeping pornography on his work computer and using video equipment and the national criminal database for his own personal use.

(CBC News)

Jun 18 2015

HARTFORD, Conn. - Analysts are citing several reasons behind Colt Defence's bankruptcy filing, including struggles to recover from the loss of military business, failure to capitalize on consumer interest in guns and problems in other markets.

The 179-year-old gun maker filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy on Sunday, estimating it owes up to \$500 million.

Richard Feldman of the Independent Firearm Owners Association says Colt forfeited gun sales to police forces at least 20 years ago, believing profit margins were too small. Its share of military business also fell sharply.

Moody's Investor Service analyst Gigi Adamo says Colt's business with the U.S. government accounts for 10 per cent of sales, down from 60 per cent in 2009. Gun sales to individuals also dropped.

Colt says it will restructure while meeting obligations to customers, vendors, suppliers and workers.

Jun 18 2015

OTTAWA - The Harper government should explore new ways to disrupt the flow of money to the militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, says a House of Commons committee.

In addition to Canada's current role of

building and training local and regional security forces, the Commons finance committee wants the government to target ISIL's administrators, financial collectors and distributors.

In a report tabled Thursday, the MPs also urge the government to consider expanding the investigative capacities of the RCMP and other Canadian security agencies in order to ensure that they can address terrorist financing.

They recommend the RCMP set up a specialized and dedicated terrorist financing unit within the force.

In addition, the committee says the Canada Revenue Agency should be encouraged to work more closely with charities to ensure their compliance with anti-terrorist financing laws.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service told the committee that ISIL raises funds through activities in Syria and Iraq including selling oil on the black market, taking over banks, extortion, kidnapping and taxing economic activity in the areas it controls.

"In CSIS's view, these diverse fundraising methods and complex financing networks make it difficult to investigate terrorist financing and to enforce related laws," the report says.

Jun 18 2015

NEWMARKET, Ont. - The family of a Toronto-area police officer who was killed during a routine traffic stop is pleased a teen has been convicted of first-degree murder.



A jury found the 19-year-old guilty Thursday night in the death of York Regional police officer Garrett Styles.

Styles had pulled over a van for a routine traffic stop in Newmarket, north of Toronto, in the early hours of June 28, 2011.

There was an altercation and the van sped off with the officer clinging to the door for 300 metres.

The van flipped, pinning Styles, who later died in hospital.

In a statement released Thursday, Styles' family said the outcome serves as a reminder there are consequences to the choices people make.

"We are relieved the accused in this case has been held responsible for this crime," said Styles' father Garry, a retired York Regional police officer.

The chief of the York Regional force also expressed his satisfaction with the verdict.

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“His (Garrett’s) loss is still felt every day across our organization,” said Chief Eric Joliffe in the statement. “We respect the justice system in which we operate and believe justice has been done in this case.”

The teen was left a quadriplegic after the crash.

Jun 18 2015

KINGSTON, Ont. - Ontario’s police watchdog is investigating the injuries of a 30-year-old man in Kingston, Ont.

The Special Investigations Unit says Kingston police officers were searching for a man in a wooded area around 3 p.m. on Thursday.

The SIU says once the officers found the man, they began talking to them, but a short while later the man suffered a gunshot wound to the head.

Kingston police say the man was a suspect in the homicide of a woman found dead Thursday morning.

They say as its officers approached, the man pulled a gun and shot himself.

Police say he was taken to hospital in serious condition.

Jun 18 2015

Online reporting of small-time crimes is gaining traction among the “thumb people.”

Tech-savvy residents who regularly communicate via smart phones and other devices are making use of the OPP’s citizen self-reporting program.

“They are not face-to-face people, they are thumb people and they would rather do a lot of things online,” said Staff Sgt. Angie McCollum, of the OPP’s communications and technology services bureau.

Launched last July, the initiative is aimed at freeing up officers from responding to non-emergent calls, “so that our front-line resources could be utilized better in the community for community activities, directed patrols ... as opposed to going to someone’s house to investigate a mailbox that got hit,” McCollum added.

Minor crimes eligible for online reporting include theft under \$5,000, mischief or damage to property under \$5,000, theft from a vehicle, and driving complaints.

“We are getting a lot more people actually sending in texts about that,” McCollum said.

Online reports are assigned to an officer who reviews and enters the incident in the OPP’s records management system.

An officer will follow-up if necessary.
(Orillia Today)

Jun 18 2015

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire has some new responsibilities. He has been appointed president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police.

McGuire is the organization’s 64th president and takes over the position from Peel Regional Police Service Chief Jennifer Evans.

The association was formed in 1933 and has evolved to include not only Ontario’s Chiefs of Police, but also senior officers and police managers. It has more than 1,500 members and represents the RCMP, the OPP, First Nations and Municipal Police Services across Ontario.

As the president, McGuire will be on the forefront of police related issues provincially and nationally, a press release said.
(St. Catharines Standard)

Jun 18 2015

METRO VANCOUVER - The size of Surrey’s RCMP detachment hasn’t changed since March, despite Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney’s recent statement that the deployment of 20 new officers to Surrey was “already underway,” Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner said Thursday.

Blaney said last week the deployment of the first 20 of 100 new Surrey-bound RCMP officers was proceeding and that “boots are already on the ground.”

But Hepner confirmed there are still 703 RCMP officers in Surrey, the same number it had in March, after 34 new officers were added to the detachment.

When Blaney announced last month a federal commitment to 100 new Surrey officers over a one-year period, he said the strengthened detachment would “tackle the senseless gang violence and protect families in our communities in Surrey.”

Hepner said the new officers will come

from transfers, promotions and new recruits being assigned to Surrey but she’s not sure when they will physically arrive.

“That depends on how those transfers and promotions take place and I don’t know how many new recruits we will get from each graduating class,” she said in an interview. “That is a process. All I know is that over the next 12 months, we’ll get 100.”

Hepner said she couldn’t comment on Blaney’s statement about 20 new officers and boots “already on the ground.”

“I’m not sure whether it has to do with the 30-plus that have already been added since March or whether it’s in process relative to the transfers and promotions,” she said. “That’s something the minister would have to speak directly to.”

Blaney’s office did not respond to questions about the issue, suggesting it was an RCMP issue.
(Vancouver Sun)

Jun 18 2015

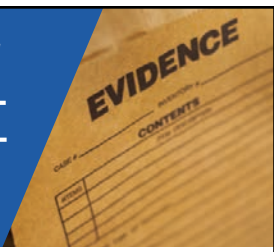
VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department’s strategic shift from strong-arm tactics to ‘charm and disarm’ was endorsed Thursday by new Police Chief Adam Palmer.

“Absolutely,” Palmer told The Province after getting a police board report on public order.

“You’ve got to treat people with compassion. It’s important to back off and slow down,” he said.

With U.S. police forces facing scathing

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criticism and race riots, Thursday's police board report contrasted a tale of two 2011 Occupy events - Occupy Vancouver and Occupy Oakland, Calif.

Vancouver Deputy Chief Steve Rai and Staff-Sgt. Jeff Harris reported that there were no arrests in Vancouver - which adopted a 'meet and greet, charm and disarm' strategy in allowing protesters to peacefully occupy the space outside the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Oakland officers took the strong-arm approach - tear gas, 85 arrests - and ended up having to discipline 44 officers for overzealousness and pay out more than \$1 million US in civil court costs.

Harris then went on to call the 2014 dismantling of the Oppenheimer Park native-rights protest the 'crown jewel' of Vancouver's police work, using a holistic approach assisted by firefighters, social workers, housing personnel and low-key cops to dismantle a tent city.

"We had a court injunction that said everyone had to be out by 10 p.m., Oct. 15," Harris told the board. "A lot of people came out for a confrontation, but we didn't show up."

Instead, the next morning, at 10:30, police came by with their 'meet and greet, charm and disarm' strategy, offering coffee and food, help finding housing, help bundling up belongings, and managed to get all but three of the 200 tents down without incident.

Down to their last tent - the protester's last stand - the officers simply left the premises for an hour, rather than be caught up in an altercation.

"Chief Chu (now-retired VPD chief Jim Chu) set the tone immediately - it was going to be a low-key approach," Rai told the board.

(The Province)

FRIDAY
JUNE 19, 2015

Jun 19 2015

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department has officially welcomed 10,000 new workers to the force - worker bees, that is.



Two bee hives have moved into a community garden at police headquarters as part of a program involving a non-profit apiculture organization.

Three veiled beekeepers and a department employee ushered the buzzing hives through the lobby for their first day on the job.

The insects are the newest recruits joining the department's 2,000 employees and volunteers.

The hives will be funded and maintained by volunteers from the department and trained beekeepers from Hives for Humanity.

Sgt. Randy Fincham says there are many similarities between beekeeping and policing because if people treat each other with respect "nobody gets stung."

Jun 19 2015

SASKATOON - A Saskatoon police officer has been found guilty of obstructing justice after a victim's statement disappeared.

Const. Steven Nelson was found guilty Thursday in Saskatoon provincial court.

He was charged last October after a victim's statement vanished in a domestic violence case he was investigating.

Court heard Nelson took a statement in August 2012 from a woman who claimed she was assaulted.

The woman recanted her claim the next day, but the second statement she filed disappeared.

In a recorded phone conversation played in court, Nelson and another officer discussed ripping up the second statement.

Nelson testified he didn't rip up the statement, but Justice Hugh Harradence said Thursday he didn't believe the constable's testimony.

Nelson remembers more than he let on, Harradence concluded.

The judge also questioned the Saskatoon police service's methods.

He described the conversation between the two officers about ripping up the statement as troubling and suggested the practice was routine.

He said, however, he is unable to conclude that the problem is systemic and not just an isolated incident.

Saskatoon police said Nelson will remain suspended with pay and that an administrative review will be conducted, but that no decision will be made until after Nelson is sentenced.

Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 4.

(CTV Saskatoon)

Jun 19 2015

OTTAWA - Updated findings on murdered and missing aboriginal women released by the Mounties on Friday include data which indicate there is a strong connection between homicides and family violence.

The Mounties said female victims, regardless of ethnicity, are most frequently killed by men within their own homes and communities.

"There is an unmistakable connection between homicide and family violence," RCMP deputy commissioner Janice Armstrong said. "Aboriginal women continue to be most frequently killed by men they know."

The RCMP data show that homicides of aboriginal women are solved in 81 per cent of

cases, similar to the 83 per cent solution rate for killings of non-aboriginal women.

The force said its review reaffirms that prevention efforts need to address family violence.

"The frequency of violence against aboriginal women is alarming," said RCMP Supt. Tyler Bates. "It matters not where they are being killed within their homes, within their communities, we have an obligation to solve these outstanding occurrences."

The update follows a report last year on missing and murdered aboriginal women which said there were 1,181 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women between 1980 and 2012.

The RCMP says 11 additional aboriginal women have gone missing since the 2014 report.

Jun 19 2015

OTTAWA - A Senate committee says safeguards must be put in place so the border agency doesn't abuse its extensive powers.



In a report tabled yesterday, the Senate national security committee recommends an oversight body for the Canada Border Services Agency be set up to ensure it follows legislation and policy.

And it is calling for an independent civilian review and complaints watchdog to deal with grievances from travellers about border agency activities.

Each year, the agency's 13,000 employees manage the flow of about 100 million travellers across the border.

The committee notes that border officers can stop travellers for questioning, take blood and breath samples, and search, detain and arrest citizens and non-citizens -- all without a warrant.

Unlike the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the border agency is not overseen by an independent review or complaints body.

A spokesman for Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney says the government will study the committee's recommendations.

Jun 19 2015 Cincinnati's police chief says a veteran policeman and an armed person who exchanged gunfire with officers have died.

Chief Jeffrey Blackwell says the officer and the suspect died after the shooting Friday morning in the Madisonville neighbourhood.

The officer was identified as 48-year-old Sonny Kim, a 27-year veteran of the department.

Authorities didn't immediately identify the suspect.

Blackwell says multiple shots were fired between the suspect and officers responding to a 911 call. The chief says he believes the suspect was on the street when police arrived.

Jun 19 2015

WINNIPEG - The director of a new civilian-led unit that will investigate police forces across Manitoba says it is the toughest of its kind in Canada.

The Independent Investigation Unit will not only review cases where police officers are involved in deaths or serious injuries, but will also be able to take over any police investigation it considers to be in the public interest, director Zane Tessler said Friday.

That would be any case where an officer is suspected of breaking federal or provincial laws.

"In other words, there are virtually no limits to the jurisdiction of the (unit) and the manner in which it may provide civilian oversight of police," said Tessler, a former Crown attorney and defence lawyer

Calls for such a unit date back decades and grew louder after the 1988 shooting death of aboriginal leader J.J. Harper. It was recommended formally in a 2008 public inquiry into the death of Crystal Taman, a Winnipeg woman who was killed when her car was rear-ended by an off-duty Winnipeg police officer who had been out partying all night.

The new unit means police forces will no longer investigate their own members, Attorney General Gord Mackintosh said.

The unit will be led by Tessler and will

include seven investigators who are all former police officers, many of them from out of province. If charges are to be laid, a prosecutor will be brought in - either from out of province or from a different area of the province - who has no connection to the police force involved.

The unit will have a budget of \$2.5 million a year and expects to handle an estimated 30 to 50 cases a year, Tessler said.

Jun 19 2015

MONTREAL - A man who pleaded guilty to being an accomplice in a spectacular 2013 helicopter jailbreak in Quebec was sentenced to 15 years in prison Friday.

Mathieu Steven Marchisio pleaded guilty to several charges in connection with the daring getaway after a helicopter pilot was forced at gunpoint to fly to a prison in Saint-Jerome in March 2013.

The charges include seizing an aircraft, possessing a firearm and breaking and entering

Two convicts, Benjamin Hudon-Barbeau and Danny Provencal, climbed a rope ladder into the hovering chopper and fled.

The two escapees and the two men accused of hijacking the helicopter were picked up by police in Mont-Tremblant, about 85 kilometres away, within a few hours of the escape.

A year after that breakout, three accused drug traffickers also broke out of jail using a helicopter.

Yves Denis, Denis Lefebvre and Serge

Pomerleau escaped detention near Quebec City after a chopper landed in the prison yard.

The three were nabbed about three weeks later hiding in a luxury condominium in Montreal.

**SUNDAY
JUNE 21, 2015**

Jun 21 2015

SURREY, B.C. - The RCMP say a battle for control of street-level drug sales is behind a recent escalation of violence in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey.

They've linked at least 18 shootings in the past three-and-a-half months to fighting over so called dial-a-dope lines.

Most of the shootings have been drive-bys, and police say many of the young people pulling the trigger enjoy flaunting their gangster lifestyle.

Surrey RCMP Sergeant Dale Carr says suspects in the turf war frequently brag about their BMWs and \$400 jeans.

One former drug dealer now involved in an anti-gangs program called the Surrey Wrap Project says the new generation of gangbangers like to flash their guns and money because they think it's cool.

The Surrey Wrap Project is run by the school district and is getting \$3.5 million from Ottawa over five years to steer troubled teens away from gangs.

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MONDAY
JUNE 22, 2015

Jun 22 2015

TORONTO - An Ontario man convicted of killing his wife in 1970 has won his 45-year battle to clear his name.



The province's top court today acquitted 75-year-old John Salmon of manslaughter in the death of his wife Maxine Ditchfield.

The prosecution also apologized to Salmon for a miscarriage of justice that sent him to prison for four years.

Salmon's trial in the 1970s heard that Ditchfield had died from a severe beating.

He maintained her injuries came from a series of falls at their home in Woodstock, Ont.

The Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted hired three pathologists to re-examine the evidence and concluded that Ditchfield had indeed fallen multiple times after suffering a stroke.

Jun 22 2015

VANCOUVER - The Mountie sentenced to two-and-a-half years in jail for lying at a public inquiry says he'll appeal the conviction.

Const. Kwesi Millington was one of four RCMP officers involved in the fatal Taser death of Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver International Airport in 2007.

Millington was found guilty for lying under oath for a testimony he gave at the Braidwood Inquiry about the death two years later.

Although he was convicted of a single charge, BC Supreme Court Justice William Ehrcke said it included six instances of lying about key details into the Polish immigrant's death.

Millington's lawyers had asked for a one-year conditional sentence but Crown prosecutors asked that he spend up to three years in custody.

In his sentencing decision Monday, Ehrcke said the officer's perjury impaired the ability of the Braidwood Inquiry to answer key questions about Dziekanski's death.

"Perjury undermines the very heart of the administration of justice," he said.

"Perjury is a very serious offence and even more serious when committed by a police officer sworn to uphold the law.

Ehrcke told the court even though the Braidwood Inquiry wasn't a criminal trial: "It was a solemn inquiry into the circumstances of the death of a human being."

(CTV Vancouver)

Jun 22 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton police say a man has been arrested after an officer was attacked with a hatchet.

Police say the officer was at a makeshift camp looking for a suspect who had been breaking into vehicles downtown.

When he opened one tent, he found a man with a hatchet holstered to his leg.

Police say there was a struggle and the officer was cut in the thigh and the man was cut in the hand.

Both were treated in hospital for non life-threatening injuries.

Police say the man is in custody and will likely face charges.

TUESDAY
JUNE 23, 2015

Jun 23 2015

OTTAWA - Three decades on, the RCMP says its investigation into the Air India bombing - the worst terrorist act in Canadian history - remains "active and ongoing."



On June 23, 1985, an explosion ripped apart Air India Flight 182 en route to New Delhi, killing all 329 people aboard, most of them Canadians of Indian descent.

Authorities believe Sikh extremists fighting for an independent homeland sabotaged the Boeing 747, which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Ireland.

A federal commission of inquiry would conclude that a "cascading series of errors" by police, intelligence officers and air safety regulators allowed the attack to take place.

The complex investigation of the crime was hampered by difficulty raising the wreckage from the ocean floor, agency turf wars and challenges persuading witnesses to come forward.

Talwinder Singh Parmar, a prime suspect, died in 1992. In 2003, Inderjit Singh Reyat pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Two years later a British Columbia judge found Ajaib Singh Bagri and Ripudaman Singh Malik not guilty.

But police have not closed the file.

A "dedicated team" of Mounties continues to probe the attack on the jetliner and a related explosion at Tokyo's Narita airport, said Sgt. Annie Linteau, an RCMP spokeswoman.

"Over the last 30 years, the Air India investigation is the longest and certainly one of the most complex domestic terrorism investigations that the RCMP has undertaken in the

history of the Canadian judiciary," Linteau told.

"We have continuously worked with various international police agencies in Europe, Asia and North America, who have been extremely co-operative."

Jun 23 2015

OTTAWA - The RCMP has delivered an external hard drive containing a complete set of Quebec's long-gun registry records to the Federal Court in compliance with a court order.



The gun records have been sealed, pending the outcome of more legal challenges that now appear destined to take months to resolve.

At issue are retroactive legal changes buried in the latest Conservative omnibus budget bill, which has cleared Parliament and is set to receive royal assent.

The federal information commissioner tried today to launch a constitutional challenge to the gun registry measures, which retroactively remove the records from the jurisdiction of the Access to Information Act.

However, a Superior Court judge in Ottawa transferred the case to a three-judge Divisional Court panel in Toronto, after receiving written assurances from federal government lawyers that no more documents would be destroyed or shielded from access-to-information requests.

The dispute began when the RCMP destroyed long-gun registry records from every province and territory except Quebec in 2012, despite an ongoing investigation by information commissioner Suzanne Legault and a written promise from the public safety minister that the Mounties would preserve the data until Legault's inquiry was resolved.

Jun 23 2015

MONCTON, N.B. - A task force appointed by the provincial government after two New Brunswick boys were killed by an African rock python in 2013 is calling for the immediate inspection of all sites where exotic animals are kept.

All of its 29 recommendations on how to improve the management of exotic animals in the province were accepted today by the Department of Natural Resources.

The department says it will create a committee to ensure they are implemented.

The task force was established last July after the August 2013 deaths of four-year-old Noah Barthe and his six-year-old brother Connor.

They boys were asphyxiated inside an apartment in Campbellton where they were

staying for a sleepover.

Among the recommendations, the task force wants immediate, provincewide inspections of all sites involved in public display, retail, research and the commercial farming of exotic animals.

It also calls for improved enforcement of regulations and greater public education on exotic species.

The task force was led by Bruce Dougan, manager of Moncton's Magnetic Hill Zoo.

Jun 23 2015

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police have apologized and launched an investigation after officers flying in a helicopter mistakenly broadcast a cockpit conversation that one person says referred to a sex act.



Const. Jason Michalyshen said three officers were on routine patrol Monday night when they inadvertently turned on the chopper's public address system.

They didn't know many in the city could hear their workplace chatter which witnesses said ranged from swearing to talking about money and sex.

"The involved members were not able to hear the public address system from within the aircraft. They became aware their conversation had been broadcast and immediately turned the system off," he said.

"The Winnipeg Police Service, the flight operations unit and the involved members sincerely apologize to all members of the public, especially those who overheard the broadcast."

Michalyshen was tight-lipped about details of the incident but said some of the remarks in the conversation were inappropriate.

The matter is being reviewed by the police service and disciplinary action could be taken as a result, he said.

"I can assure you that members of the executive are very much aware of the sensitivity and the nature of what was broadcast," Michalyshen said. "They will be looking into it and ultimately make a determination from there."

The R-rated conversation came to light when people took to social media using the hashtags #whoops and #speakerphone. One tweet said the chatter included remarks about oral sex.

"Having a backyard hang out with the gals and the megaphone on that chopper was loud and clear," Natanielle Felicita tweeted around 10 p.m. Monday night.

Others snippets of the conversation included "too much body hair," she wrote.

Stephen Kernaghan was hanging out

by the Manitoba legislature building with friends when they heard someone talking through what sounded like a megaphone. It took a few minutes to figure out the conversation was coming from the helicopter flying overhead.

"It was very bizarre. They were cursing quite a bit," said the 26-year-old English teacher. "They're talking about how someone only makes \$600 a week ... We caught the tamer version which is sort of a shame."

Kernaghan said the group listened to the conversation for about three or four minutes before the public address system was abruptly turned off.

"Maybe they were saying some racy stuff but ... I just kind of feel bad for the guys," Kernaghan said.

"Everyone makes some dumb mistakes at some point and it's a shame when it's so public. There almost couldn't be any more public mistake - they were literally broadcasting their conversation for everyone to hear in downtown Winnipeg."

Jun 23 2015

EDMONTON - Specialized police units within the Edmonton Police Service will now wear body cameras.



The Edmonton Police Service said it made the decision after a comprehensive three-year study of the effectiveness of body worn video.

The three-year review studied technical performance of the cameras, privacy concerns and other back-end challenges brought about by implementing body-worn video.

Peter Clissold, Director of the EPS Security Management Branch, called this a landmark study the service has shared with police forces around the world.

Operational testing of the devices alone took upwards of 18 months. One aspect of the testing that was important was to thoroughly fully explore the extreme of Edmonton's winter weather on the use of body worn cameras.

Both Whyte Avenue and at West Edmonton Mall were addressed as two key areas addressed during testing that had their own unique policing challenges.

EPS Deputy Chief Danielle Campbell said that while body worn video has potential to contribute and to be adopted as a permanent police tool, full implementation is hampered by cost.

The cost of the cameras themselves, at approximately \$1,000 each, is not the problem, according to the deputy chief -- it is the "very significant cost" of back-end manage-

ment, storage and time it takes for law enforcement officials to view footage that is a critical concern.

Campbell acknowledges that there will also be an impact as video is submitted as evidence, and that the police service will need to work with partners at both the federal and provincial crown level to define the process.

Privacy concerns were addressed by Dr. Mary Stratton, the body worn video Project Coordinator for Edmonton police, saying that the police worked closely with the Alberta privacy commissioner for the pilot project and addressed all concerns.

(CTV Edmonton)

Jun 23 2015

CALGARY - Just seven people turned out for the first town hall session to help the Calgary Police Commission search for the city's next chief of police.

The open forum was held Monday evening in Calgary's northwest quadrant, the first of four this week as the commission looks to find a replacement for former chief Rick Hanson.

Other town halls will be held Wednesday through Friday in the city's other quadrants. They're being led by representatives of Boyden Global Executive Search, a recruitment firm that has partnered with the commission as part of the search process.

The audience was asked to describe the current state of the Calgary Police Service, the challenges that the organization and new chief will face in the next five years and the ideal characteristics they'd like to see the new chief possess.

(Calgary Herald)

Jun 23 2015

EDMONTON - An Alberta Mountie is accused of attacking a civilian who was being held in police custody and assaulting him with pepper spray.

Const. Eric Pomerleau faces charges of assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm and common assault.

Police say the charges stem from an on-duty incident on Aug. 19, 2012, in Red Deer, and follow an investigation into a public complaint.

RCMP would not say if the alleged attack took place in police cells.

Pomerleau is to make his first appearance in Red Deer provincial court on July 14.

Police say he is now on administrative duties at another RCMP detachment in Alberta.

Jun 23 2015

VICTORIA - British Columbia's police complaint commissioner has decided not to investigate accusations made by a Vancouver Island mayor about the conduct of municipal officers.

Saanich Mayor Richard Atwell made national headlines in January when he questioned the installation of spyware on his work computer and alleged he was stopped by po-

Jun 24 2015

HALIFAX - A Halifax man accused of threatening police with a rare, dangerous chemical has been found not guilty of threatening police and possessing a dangerous weapon.

Christopher Phillips was arrested inside an Ottawa hotel on Jan. 21 after police found a large stockpile of his chemicals in two locations in Nova Scotia.

The chemicals prompted evacuations in Nova Scotia and at the Ottawa hotel where he was found.

The accused has been in jail for more than five months after pleading not guilty to the charges of threatening police officers and possessing a dangerous weapon - the chemical osmium tetroxide.

During the trial, Judge David MacAdam heard from a chemist who testified that it's questionable whether the osmium tetroxide that Phillips had could have been a useful weapon.

Phillips's lawyer, Mike Taylor, has said his client was joking when he sent an email to a friend suggesting he could throw some of the chemical at officers if they entered his home.

Jun 24 2015

ST. STEPHEN, N.B. - The RCMP expect to reopen a detachment in southwestern New Brunswick in the next few days after it was vandalized last week.

The Mounties say its employees and officers have been working out of other detachments and from their vehicles since the building was damaged on June 17.

They say the amount of damage done to the building is still being assessed.

Police say there was extensive damage to most of the exterior windows as well some office equipment inside the building.

A number of police and personal vehicles parked outside were also damaged.

A 27-year-old Saint John man who was charged with breaking and entering is now facing three additional charges of mischief.

Jun 24 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has asked the Ontario Provincial Police to review how the force investigated one of its own officers.

RNC Chief Bill Janes says the OPP will assess how the case of Const. Sean Kelly was handled.

Kelly was sentenced to 10 months last February in Corner Brook, N.L., for making indecent phone calls and mischief after he tried to blame another man.

Janes says a review of the internal probe by the director of public prosecutions requested in April has found the original investigation was deficient.

lice four times on suspicion of drunk driving.

Atwell also said he would ask the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner to investigate how details of a Dec. 11, 2014 domestic dispute became public and were released to a Victoria newspaper.

Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham sided with Atwell in March over the spyware, ruling the municipality violated privacy rights by installing the surveillance software.

Deputy police-complaint commissioner Rollie Woods says his office did not handle Atwell's complaint about the police stops.

Woods says the office also decided not to investigate the leak to the newspaper because it didn't meet the definition of misconduct under the Police Act.

He says the office considers the issue concluded, although an appeal could be filed with the B.C. Supreme Court asking for a judicial review.

Atwell admitted to an extramarital affair after the Victoria Times Colonist reported on its front page that police responded to a domestic-dispute call where he was present with a woman and her husband.

He was elected last November, defeating the former mayor who had served in office for 18 years.

Jun 23 2015

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg man has been sentenced to four years in prison after a high-speed chase that left a police officer injured.

Zsolt Takacs pleaded guilty to flight from police and criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

In May 2011, he led police down Main Street at speeds up to 85 km/h through heavy evening traffic after two officers in a marked cruiser tried to pull him over.

At one point he stopped the vehicle and an officer reached inside to grab the keys but Takacs sped off, dragging the officer for about a block.

However, the officer somehow managed to jump inside and straddle Takacs, punching him in the face as the vehicle raced down Main Street.

The officer was eventually able to grab the gear shift and put the car in park to make it stop, though he sustained injuries on his back from the steering column because of the impact and suffered whiplash.

Justice Rick Saull called it a "horrific" case.

Takacs is also banned from driving for ten years.
(CJOB)

Jun 23 2015

Extortion and obstruct justice charges against an award-winning York Regional Police officer were withdrawn in court Tuesday, according to his lawyer.

The Crown withdrew the charges against York Sgt. Gurdip Panaich, 39, of Brampton. Assistant Crown Amber Lepchuk told the court there were "no reasonable prospects of conviction" and that the allegations did not

meet a "criminal code standard," according to Danielle Robitaille, partner at Henein Hutchison LLP.

Robitaille also said Panaich anticipates a return to work, possibly this week. He was under suspension pending the outcome of the charges.

York Regional Police have not yet responded to inquiries about his status.

"Sgt. Panaich was very grateful for the Crown's review of the matter," Robitaille told the court. "He was devastated by the charges which received significant media and community attention. Sgt. Panaich continues to deny the allegations and in any event the allegations do not meet the criminal standard. Sgt. Panaich is very anxious to return to his career in public service."

Panaich was one of five men accused of trying to extort money from Brampton real estate agent Dale Mundi using an Internet smear campaign that attacked his personal and professional reputation, according to police.

The five were charged by Peel Regional Police this past March after a complaint from Mundi in February.

The other four men charged in the case will be back in court next week.

(Brampton Guardian)

Jun 23 2015

BELLEVILLE - Ron Gignac, a former paratrooper, OPP Emergency Response Team member and former chief of police in Deep River, is the new deputy chief of the Belleville Police Service.



Gignac has an extensive history with the military and police by joining the Royal Canadian Army in 1981 and joining as a reservist three years later.

He was later accepted into the regular force as an army combat engineer. He later served as a paratrooper in the Airborne Engineer troop and was deployed to Cyprus, the Persian Gulf War and the Middle East.

Gignac was hired by the OPP in 1995.

He took command of the Upper Ottawa Valley detachment in 2006 and in 2009 joined the Deep River Municipal Police Detachment where he was promoted to chief of police in 2013.

The position was vacated last fall after former deputy chief Paul VandeGraaf announced his decision to take a position in Cobourg.

Gignac will officially begin his tenure with Belleville police on July 2.

(QMI Agency)

Provincial court Judge Wayne Gorman said Kelly's crime was "egregious" and raised concerns about a phone call to Kelly from a fellow officer during the investigation.

Janes says no other information is being released so as not to compromise the Ontario police review.

Jun 24 2015

AIRDRIE, Alta. - Sgt. Darrin Turnbull had just pulled over a speeding vehicle and was talking with the driver when he noticed a cardboard box wriggling in the back seat.



He asked the driver what was inside, expecting the answer to be puppies or some other small animal.

Then he heard a voice call from the back: "I am."

And out popped a little hand that started waving.

"I was shocked," says the RCMP traffic officer.

"The driver told me the child had refused to stay in the child seat and wanted to play in the box."

Turnbull wouldn't reveal more details about the Tuesday traffic stop in Airdrie, north of Calgary.

The officer says he was able to coax the boy into his seat and warned him about being safe.

He handed the driver a \$167 speeding ticket and a summons. It will be up to the driver to explain to a judge why the child was allowed to ride in the box, he says.

Jun 24 2015

VANCOUVER - The City of Vancouver has voted to regulate illegal medical marijuana dispensaries, despite strong warnings from the federal government.



Councillors voted eight to three to impose a \$30,000 licensing fee, requiring stores to be located 300 metres from schools, community centres and each other, and banning shops from certain areas.

In an unexpected move, council voted to create a two-tiered licensing system, allowing non-profit compassion clubs to pay a fee

of just \$1,000.

Canada's first such decision comes after four days of public hearings that drew numerous speakers.

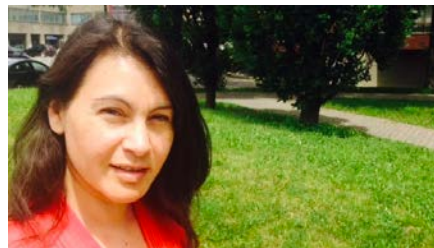
The speakers main concern was the city's ban on edible marijuana products such as brownies and cookies.

Selling marijuana over the counter is illegal in Canada, and Health Minister Rona Ambrose has warned the city and police that they must uphold federal laws.

**THURSDAY
JUNE 25, 2015**

Jun 25 2015

MONTREAL - A representative from Montreal's urban aboriginal community says the Montreal police are set to sign a "historic" agreement which would see new training for police officers and the creation of a protocol to handle cases of missing and murdered indigenous women.



It comes after months of work by the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network.

"There's very few other cities who have done this, and those that have done it were put together by the police" said Nakuset, the co-chair of the network and the executive director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal.

"This is the first time where the Montreal urban aboriginal community has met with the police, created something, and they're accepting it."

The agreement will establish new training for police officers and teach them about aboriginal culture and history.

It will also create a protocol to improve prevention and response to cases of missing and murdered indigenous women.

"Communities have been asking to create protocols for missing and murdered aboriginal women for the longest time and no one's done anything," said Nakuset.

She added that the protocol established under this agreement could be used as a blueprint for other cities.

Nakuset says the signing of the agreement should take place Thursday afternoon. Montreal police could not be reached for comment. (CBC News)

Jun 25 2015

TORONTO - Two people face a combined 41 charges following the latest crackdown on human trafficking in Ontario.

The arrests were made as part of an effort involving police in Toronto and 20 other forces including the RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police and various municipal departments.

Police have not released the names of the two people arrested.

During the operation, Toronto police say they were able to ensure the safety of six females working in the sex trade as a minor or against their will, including one 14-year-old, three 15-year-olds, a 16-year-old and a 19-year-old.

Durham Region police east of Toronto said they spoke to a 14-year-old girl who was allegedly being forced into the sex trade by a 19-year-old man who is currently being sought on a Canada-wide warrant.

Levi Alexander of Toronto is facing human trafficking charges after allegedly forced a 16-year-old girl into the sex trade.

Jun 25 2015

OTTAWA - Ottawa police say they are searching for a man who may have drowned after allegedly attempting to run down two officers on bicycles.

Police say the man tried to run over the officers in downtown Ottawa around 4 p.m. Wednesday, leaving one officer with minor injuries.

They say they gave chase in a squad car and ended up near the Rideau River, where they say two suspects jumped out and officers arrested one, but lost the other.

Several hours later police say they were called to the river's edge, where the same man was trying to swim across and police entered the water.

But they say the man went under before they could reach him and he hasn't been located.

Jun 25 2015

VICTORIA - A homeless man who turned in more than \$2,000 he found on a suburban Victoria street wants thousands of dollars in donations collected for him across Canada to go towards helping others in need.

The mystery man in his 60s has never spoken publicly since bringing the money to the West Shore RCMP detachment two weeks ago, and police say the only wish he has is help in finding a job.

Const. Alex Berube says the man from Langford didn't want the money but asked instead how it could be donated to a society called Our Place and others that provide food for people.

Berube says investigators asked the man to think about his decision overnight but he stuck to his wish for a job, while acknowledging the generosity.

Mike Kelly, of the media website Victoria Buzz, started the fundraising effort for the man and says nearly \$5,000 was donated and that he will do everything he can to help the man find work.

Police say the person who lost the \$2,000 has claimed the money after answering a series of questions that verified his identity.