

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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Fentanyl was detected in a quarter of the province's illicit drug overdose deaths last year, according to a new report by the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.

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OTTAWA - The federal government should outlaw membership in a terrorist group, bar radicals from Canada and look at forbidding the glorification of extremists to protect the Canadian way of life, says a Senate committee.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Former officer "mocks" police *Thanks Service for pay while suspended*

Jul 08 2015

WATERLOO REGION - A former Waterloo Regional Police officer who was suspended with pay for three years sent an email to police thanking them for his continued salary while he sat at home, played golf, travelled and took a course to become a firefighter.

"I am very thankful and fortunate to have received such a nice gift from WRPS over the last three years. You have opened up others doors for me and have paid me to sit back and watch. What a dream come true," Craig Markham wrote in an email on March 27 addressed to the police service's solicitor.

Police Chief Bryan Larkin presented the letter to members of the Region of Waterloo Police Services Board at a meeting Wednesday.

"He (Markham) mocks what is supposed to be a fair and judicial system," Larkin said in an interview.

"It sends a bad message to the community. More importantly, it harms and takes away from the incredible work of the 760 officers who are out there everyday putting their lives at risk," Larkin said.

"It's an abuse of system and I believe the



Craig Markham

system needs to be changed."

In a sarcastic tone, Markham said he was paid a first-class paycheque, receiving full benefits and pension without having to work.

"So really I was in no rush. Timing couldn't have been better," said Markham, who added he was "down south" playing golf until the end of April and "hanging out on the beach using some of that WRPS sick bank payout."

In the email, Markham said he has a "close family member" at

a fire service and he was recently offered a job, starting May 1.

He does not work at the fire departments in Cambridge, Kitchener or Waterloo.

At the board meeting, Larkin said the email was offensive and highlights the immediate change needed to provincial legislation which allows officers who are criminally charged to receive their salaries pending appeals.

Markham, 37, an officer for 11 years, was charged criminally with breach of trust. He pleaded guilty and was given a conditional discharge in October 2012.

He also faced Police Act charges including breach of confidence, insubordination and



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discreditable conduct after he leaked private information on someone who was in custody to the person's partner.

Markham was working the front desk at the Kitchener detachment in September 2011 when a friend, who had ties to the Hells Angels, was arrested on drug trafficking charges. The officer received a text from the man's common-law wife and he logged onto a police computer to call up a report on the investigation.

Markham went to the holding cell and passed on information to the arrested man as surveillance cameras recorded the meeting.

After a formal hearing, Markham was fired. He appealed the decision and received his salary during an appeal process. A first-class constable earns an annual salary of \$90,348.

A civilian commission dismissed his appeal and he was ordered to resign. He quit on Feb. 18 this year.

Ontario is the only province that allows charged officers to continue to receive their pay.

Larkin said the Ontario chiefs of police have been calling for change for a long time but there seems to be "no traction" from the province. He hopes this case prompts the province to action.

"It gives us credibility around what we are calling for. This isn't chiefs trying to exercise power. This is about good governance and responding to our community," he said.

The Markham email will be sent to politicians.

"I'm disappointed that we even find ourselves in this process," he said. "The fact that someone would actually take the opportunity to talk about this really highlights exactly what the chiefs have been saying for years."

"This is about rooting the evil of our organizations. I still believe we have incredible

support and trust but we can never lose sight of that," he said.

Board chair Tom Galloway said board members were "quite offended" with the tone of the email.

"It's a huge amount of money, taxpayers' money and we are getting no value for it," he said.

Paul Perchaluk, president of the Waterloo Regional Police Association, said he hasn't spoken to Markham since he resigned and he saw the letter for the first time at the meeting.

"I don't know what motivated him to write it. He was sarcastic," said Perchaluk, who added that it was unfortunate that the service disclosed a personal letter.

Perchaluk said changes need to be made to the process which stretches out for long periods of time, forcing people to find work elsewhere. But he suggested police suspend too quickly and should give officers other work so they are still doing a job while receiving a salary.

(Waterloo Region Record)

THURSDAY JULY 2, 2015

Jul 02 2015

CALGARY - Calgary's former police chief says he can't understand why Alberta government investigators are looking into conflict-of-interest allegations over the deployment of officers to a district in the city.



Rick Hanson made the decision about the officers on his last day on the job before announcing he would run for the Progressive Conservatives in the May 5 provincial election.

The 22 new officers were assigned to parts of the city that fall within Calgary-Cross, the constituency that Hanson ran in.

Hanson told CHQR radio that the deployment of the officers had been planned for some time and he didn't want to leave it unresolved.

Last Friday, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team said it is investigating the circumstances surrounding the deployment of police during the provincial election.

ASIRT said it has been directed to determine whether those circumstances provide reasonable grounds to believe an offence has been committed, but didn't name Hanson.

Hanson lost the election to NDP candidate Ricardo Miranda by just 100 votes. (CHQR)

Jul 02 2015

Microsoft has recruited a number of law enforcement agencies to store criminal records, fingerprints, and video in its data centers.

Microsoft said the agencies, including the Los Angeles Police Department, Oakland Police Department, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina are all using the company's cloud data centers to store law enforcement information.

Agencies are using Microsoft Azure, the name of its cloud computing platform, to store surveillance video, criminal records, fingerprint data, and even the footage from police body cameras.

"Once we get our video onto the Azure platform we can aggregate it, we can learn from it, we can make the database proactive to tell us things," Oakland Police Department Officer Dave Burke said in a statement.

Burke described how the Oakland police can search for specific keywords in the cloud database and retrieve the appropriate audio or video "where certain things were said." It's unclear if Burke was referring to the department being able to sift through the actual audio for keywords or through transcripts.

Law enforcement agencies can only store sensitive data with vendors that comply with the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy. Microsoft says it does comply with the requirements, which includes tough security standards, and routine audits of the cloud-service provider's performance.

In 2011, the LAPD decided ended plans to use Google's cloud services like email and office applications because the department felt the search giant wasn't able to meet the FBI's security requirements. (Fortune)

Jul 02 2015

EDMONTON - An obese, mentally disabled man died last November in an Edmonton police van because of the way he was handcuffed by officers, says the medical examiner.

Trevor Proudman died from positional asphyxia as a result of being restrained with his wrists handcuffed behind his back while in the back of a police van, Dr. Bernard Bannach wrote in an autopsy report released this week.

"This position did not allow him to breathe adequately resulting in a cardiac arrest."

Proudman, 32, had Prader-Willi syndrome, a rare genetic disorder linked with compulsive eating and behavioural problems.

The syndrome and Proudman's scoliosis of the spine combined to reduce the volume of his chest cavity and made it more difficult to breathe with his wrists handcuffed behind his back, Bannach wrote in the report.

Proudman was arrested following a disturbance at a north Edmonton medical clinic, where he got into an argument with staff who called police.

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When officers arrived, they handcuffed Proudman and placed him on his side in the EPS van.

When they checked on him 23 minutes later, he was face down and unresponsive.

University of Alberta nursing professor Donna Wilson, who researches death and dying, said studies show handcuffing obese people this way can prevent them from breathing.

"This is putting someone's life at risk," she said.

Wilson wants police to develop a policy to prevent positional asphyxia.

She's supported by Jim Smith, a former police chief who has written a book called Crisis Management for Law Enforcement.

Smith said many police forces in the U.S. have adopted policies to prevent positional asphyxia.

While not everyone is convinced handcuffing a suspect in a certain position and leaving him alone can cause death, many police services err on the side of caution.

"A prisoner is never to be unattended," he said. "I mean, that's just common sense to me."

An internal EPS investigation is now being reviewed by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team.

(CBC News)

Jul 02 2015

RCMP in Nova Scotia say a man on a motorcycle was seriously injured when he ran into a car that stopped to allow a family of ducks to cross the road.

Police say a car stopped on Highway 101 near Wolfville as the ducklings made their way across.

They say another car stopped behind it and was rear-ended by the motorcycle.

The rider, who is in his 60s and from Upper Rawdon, N.S., was seriously injured and taken by helicopter to hospital. Police say the vehicle that stopped for the ducks did not remain on the scene. They're asking for the public's help in locating the driver.

The Nova Scotia incident bears a striking similarity to a 2010 accident in Quebec. In that case, a father and his teenage daughter died after crashing their motorcycle into the back of a car that had been stopped on a highway so the driver, Emma Czornobaj, could help a family of ducks cross the road. Czornobaj received a 90-day prison sentence after a jury found her guilty of criminal negligence and dangerous driving.

(National Post)



Jul 03 2015

TORONTO - Paul Bernardo has applied for day parole in Toronto.



The lawyer for the families of Bernardo's murder victims, 14-year-old Leslie Mahaffy and 15-year-old Kristen French, says

Correctional Service Canada sent out a form letter to the families last week advising them of his application.

Tim Danson says it is Bernardo's right to apply for parole three years before he is eligible, but this has left families of both girls devastated, even though they knew this day was coming.

Danson says he has told the families that there is no chance Bernardo will ever see the outside world again.

Bernardo was sentenced to life with no chance for parole for 25 years for raping and murdering Mahaffy and French.

He was also given a dangerous offender status, the most severe designation in Canadian law, for admitting to raping 14 other women.

Jul 03 2015

KYIV, Ukraine - Ukraine's interior ministry is disbanding Kyiv's often corrupt traffic police detachment Saturday and installing a new force - with help from Canada, the U.S., Japan and Australia.

Canada's ambassador to the embattled country says the pilot program will be rolled out nationwide, and doesn't believe putting thousands of ex-cops out of work will stoke resentment and violence.

Roman Waschuk says approximately 2,000 recruits who graduated from their training program Thursday were selected through a rigorous interview and training process.

The existing force has been dismissed, but members under the age of 35 have been allowed to reapply, as long as they passed the screening.

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The U.S. has led the way in establishing the reform program, but Waschuk says Canada will be more heavily involved with the arrival of eight police mentors as other cities are added, including Lviv, Odessa and Kharkiv.

Waschuk says he doesn't anticipate blowback from the fired cops, who have a reputation of shaking down motorists to collect cash fines for real or imagined traffic violations.

Jul 03 2015

VANCOUVER - A Vancouver provincial court judge has ruled a Richmond Mountie involved in a marijuana drug trafficking case "exaggerated his evidence" and "embellished" his observations.

In a voir dire ruling, Judge Gregory Rideout excluded the observed and seized evidence in a case against Eugenio Alfonso Bahamonde, who is charged with trafficking marijuana in Vancouver back in November of 2012.

Rideout ruled that Richmond RCMP Const. Inderpal Singh Bal was "wilful and careless" in the use of some medical terms while he gave evidence, and that Bal was embellishing when he "gave the impression that he had extensive general knowledge of marijuana."

Rideout wrote: "Bal's propensity to embellish, exaggerate or overstate his evidence had a significant negative impact on his credibility and reliability."

Rideout ruled that Bahamonde's arrest was "not lawful" and that the subsequent search of Bahamonde's BMW X5 "would not be justified as a search incidental to arrest."

Bal was a member of the Richmond RCMP's quick response team that was investigating a series of break-and-enters that had occurred in Richmond. Bal and other officers were targeting a suspect believed to be living in a home in Vancouver.

Bal testified that while he was sitting in the back seat of an unmarked Buick sedan, and peering through a set of binoculars at the suspect's residence, he noticed a BMW X5 parking alongside the unmarked Buick.

He testified that he saw Bahamonde talk on his cell phone for a short period of time, then saw Bahamonde reach into the back of the X5 and then place a black backpack onto his lap.

Bal testified: "At that point I see the X5 driver reach in, pull out a large Ziploc bag with a substance that I believed to be dry bud (marijuana). That observation is made with binoculars...I'm able to clearly see that it's medium-to-large-size bud marijuana consistent with my training and experience as a police officer."

Bahamonde was arrested at gunpoint in the parking lot of a nearby Safeway.

Judge Rideout gave several examples where Bal's testimony did not survive scrutiny.

"On numerous occasions, without prompting, Bal would remind the court that he was making all of his observations with

surveillance binoculars, while at the same time, relaying his observations with the radio given to him by (RCMP Const.) Jaggassar along to his team members. Why Bal would continuously need binoculars to view activities in the X5 that was positioned a mere nine feet away from his position was difficult to accept"

After noting the height of the taller X5 SUV compared to the unmarked Buick, Rideout also wrote: "I do not find that Bal would have been able to see the scale being placed on the centre console of the X5. Nor am I persuaded that he would have been able to see the bag placed on the applicant's lap with zippers facing toward the applicant (Bahamonde)."

In an unrelated case, Bal pled guilty for an assault that occurred on Jan. 26, 2012 while he was on duty as a Richmond RCMP constable. He received a suspended sentence and a six-month term of probation.

But Rideout wrote that he "disabused" his mind of the submission about that previous case involving Bal before reaching his decision.

"My findings in this voir dire in relation to the credibility and reliability of Bal have been based entirely on the evidence that was presented and the submissions advance with respect to that evidence," Rideout ruled.

(Richmond Review)

SATURDAY JULY 4, 2015

Jul 05 2015

The Nunavut Department of Justice's new assistant deputy minister is a familiar face for the territory's justice system.



Yvonne Niego, an RCMP officer for more than 20 years, will start a new job in government Sept. 21, Premier Peter Taptuna announced Friday.

In a news release, Taptuna said Niego "will be an invaluable asset to the Department of Justice. Her experience within our community and Nunavut's justice system will make an impressive contribution to the senior management team. She brings knowledge, skills and abilities that complement the vision of justice within our territory."

Niego is originally from Baker Lake, and was the first Inuk woman to complete training at the RCMP depot in Regina. She has worked as a frontline police officer and in community policing and drug prevention programs.

More recently, Niego served as RCMP V

Division's media spokesperson and as a crisis negotiator.

Earlier this year Niego received a community service award from the International Association of Women Police.

(CBC News)

Jul 04 2015

BARRIE, Ont. - Barrie police have charged a 43-year-old Peel Regional Police officer after her handgun and duty belt were stolen from her personal car.

Investigators say it happened in front of the officer's home in Barrie, sometime between the evening of June 26 and the morning of June 27.

They say the belt taken from the car also contained 46 rounds of ammunition, pepper spray, a baton and handcuffs. On Tuesday, police charged two 20-year-old Barrie men in connection with the alleged theft.

Police said Saturday that the unidentified 16-year veteran of the Peel force had been charged with careless use of a firearm and she will appear in court in Barrie next month.

SUNDAY JULY 5, 2015

Jul 05 2015

Fentanyl was detected in a quarter of the province's illicit drug overdose deaths last year, according to a new report by the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.



The report, published in the latest B.C. Medical Journal, highlights the rapid rise of the powerful synthetic opioid in communities throughout the continent.

"While clusters of fentanyl-detected deaths have been reported in Canada and the U.S., these recent deaths represent an emerging public health concern in B.C.," the article says.

The B.C. Centre for Disease Control says many users consume it without knowing.

The drug, increasingly sold falsely as oxycodone or mixed with street drugs like heroin to make them more potent, has been the subject of many public warnings and health advisories by police and health authorities since it exploded onto the scene in recent years.

According to the article, fentanyl was detected in just five per cent of total illicit drug deaths in 2012. In 2014, the substance was found in over a quarter of the more than 300 overdose deaths recorded in B.C.

"Given the potency of fentanyl and the highly variable doses in illicit substances, the risk of overdose in considerable," the article says.

(Metro)

Jul 06 2015

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police have charged a man with sending explosive devices to law firms and other businesses in the city, and they caution that more packages may be discovered in the coming days.

Guido Amsel, 49, has been charged with two counts of attempted murder, one count of aggravated assault and a number of offences related to possessing explosives.

The hunt for Amsel started last Friday, when a bomb went off inside a small law firm south of the downtown area, severely injuring Maria Mitousis, 38.

Another bomb was found Saturday at a small business in another part of the city. Then Sunday night, yet another explosive device was detonated by police at a law firm closer to downtown.

Police say Amsel targeted law firms that had represented himself or his ex-wife in the past, and they warn that other packages may be delivered to lawyers or justice officials in the city.

"Police are imploring extreme caution if any suspicious packages are discovered," the city police service said in a release late Sunday.

Amsel has been remanded in custody.

Court records show he went through a divorce that dragged on for years, and was also sued by his ex-wife. In both cases, Amsel's ex-wife was represented by Mitousis, who remains in hospital in stable condition with serious injuries to her upper body.

Police have said Mitousis was alone in her office when a package delivered by Canada Post exploded.

Colleagues of the 38-year-old set up a fundraising website which had raised almost \$15,000 in little over 24 hours. The site said Mitousis faces "a long road to recovery." A source in the legal community said Mitousis had undergone surgery and had lost one of her hands

The device that was detonated by police Sunday night was at a law firm connected to a lawsuit Amsel's ex-wife filed in 2010 that involved a numbered company the couple had set up more than a decade earlier.

Jul 06 2015

LINCOLN, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating a deadly incident in the town of Lincoln.

The Special Investigations Unit says two officers from the Grimsby office of the Niagara Regional Police Service were called to a residence in the community Sunday evening.

The SIU says both officers were injured during an "interaction" with a resident of the home.

One officer was treated at a local hospital while the other was transported by air ambulance to a hospital outside the region. There's been no word on their condition.

Investigators say a fire also occurred at the residence and that the bodies of two people were later found inside the dwelling.

No other details have been released at this point.

Jul 06 2015

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating the fatal shooting of a man after officers in Toronto responded to a report of a man armed with a hammer.

The Special Investigations Unit says the incident occurred early Sunday morning in west-end Toronto.

The SIU says there was an interaction between the officers and a 45-year-old man, and one officer discharged his firearm.

The man, identified as Andrew Loku of Toronto, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Jul 06 2015

CALGARY - A Calgary man got more than he bargained for when he flew over the city in a lawn chair attached to helium balloons and then had to parachute to safety.

Police have charged the man with mischief and say more charges could be on the way.

"It's the first time I've seen anything like it in my career," said Calgary Police acting Insp. Kyle Grant. "I usually see it on those crazy shows on TV of what not to do."

An person was spotted floating over the Stampede grounds Sunday in the chair, which was attached to more than 100 helium balloons. He was then seen gliding to Earth outside of the grounds using a parachute.

"He sat in the chair and began floating over Calgary. It's my understanding that he didn't have any sort of device to steer the craft and got to a point so high at cloud level that he became a little worried and decided to jump from the chair," Grant said.

"He deployed the parachute and ended up landing in a green space and rolled his ankle, causing minor injury. He was looked at by EMS, then taken into custody and eventually charged."

Daniel Boria, 26, of Calgary faces a single charge mischief causing danger to life.

"According to him, he was looking to use that as a platform to advertise for his company," said Grant.

The stunt brings to mind the 2009 animated movie "Up" in which an elderly widower ties thousands of balloons to his home and takes off on an adventure.

Grant said no one was hurt.

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Jul 06 2015

EDMONTON - Edmonton police say a uniformed attendant sustained non-life threatening injuries during a jailbreak at the southwest division.

Late Sunday night, the commissionaire opened a cell door and was assaulted by a man being held on the other side.

The suspect then used a cell door key to free another man in an adjoining cell.

Both men then fled the building with officers hot on their heels.

The man accused of assaulting the commissionaire didn't make it far and was apprehended within a few minutes at a nearby shopping centre.

The second detainee was on the lam for about an hour, but was caught just a few blocks from the division after police cordoned off the neighbourhood.

(CHED)

Jul 06 2015

RED DEER, Alta. - The Red Deer RCMP detachment was briefly evacuated after a citizen dropped off some hemlock at the building.



Police say the person didn't mean any harm, but the poisonous flower needed to be safely and properly removed.

The hazardous material unit and Red Deer emergency services were called in.

Traffic in the area was also closed for about two hours while crews worked to secure the building, but by Monday afternoon everything was back to normal.

According to the Bison Producers of Alberta, water hemlock is the most poisonous plant in North America and is toxic to both livestock and humans.

One root of the plant can kill a cow. It grows in wet areas such as springs or stream edges.

(CKGY)

TUESDAY
JULY 7, 2015

Jul 07 2015

FREDERICTON - A 27-year-old Alberta man is in custody following an early morning low-speed pursuit on the Trans-Canada highway in New Brunswick involving a backhoe.

RCMP Const. Derek Black says police were called around 3:40 a.m. Tuesday about a backhoe on the highway west of Fredericton that was impeding traffic and didn't have any lights on.

Black says the driver was only travelling

about 10 kilometres per hour, but refused to stop.

He says the backhoe was finally halted with the help of the Fredericton Police and a spikebelt.

Black says the backhoe damaged some asphalt and a number of guardrails over a distance of about 15 kilometres.

Police say alcohol is believed to have been a factor.

Jul 07 2015

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - A drunk driver in Abbotsford, B.C., is getting no sympathy for a belated decision to pocket his car keys and grab a cab.

Abbotsford Police say the suspect pulled his vehicle over beside what he thought was a taxi, jumped in and muttered "get me outta here buddy, cops are everywhere tonight."

Turns out the taxi was actually an idling police car, and the officer wasted no time in taking the man directly to jail.

In a tweet, Abbotsford Police put the man's gaffe at the top of their latest list of excuses heard by officers handing out tickets in the Fraser Valley jurisdiction.

Other favourites on the list include the driver who admitted to speeding because of bothersome hemorrhoids, prompting the officer's tongue-in-cheek apology for making the motorist sit even longer.

The often hilarious list of bad-driver excuses was viewed 16,000 times by Tuesday, when it was posted on social media as part of the Abbotsford Police Departments bid to raise road safety awareness.

Jul 07 2015

About one in three local police departments provided officers with body cameras in 2013 and the authorization of Taser guns increased more than tenfold between 2003 and 2013, according to statistics released Tuesday by the U.S. Justice Department.

The data shed light on the use of police equipment as officials are examining policing tactics and adding cameras to increase transparency and to protect their officers.

In addition to body-worn cameras, 6 percent of police departments provided at least some officers with weapon-attached cameras in 2013, the survey said. In May, the Department of Justice announced a \$20 million pilot program for body-worn cameras at police departments around the country.

Nearly 90 percent of local police departments were using some type of video camera technology in 2013, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics survey. About 17 percent used automated license plate readers and about 49 percent used video cameras for the surveillance of public areas.

According to the survey, there was an increase in other forms of technology and safety equipment. The percentage of the more than 12,000 local police departments that used in-car video cameras in 2013 (68 percent) was higher than in 2007 (61 percent). The number

of local police departments authorizing the use of Tasers and stun guns increased more than tenfold between 2000 and 2013 — up from 7 percent to 81 percent.

The survey showed that 94 percent of police departments allowed their officers to use pepper spray and 87 percent allowed the used of batons.

Furthermore, most local police departments allowed defensive physical tactics including open-hand (91 percent), takedown (89 percent) and closed-hand (85 percent) techniques. Slightly less than 20 percent of local police departments allowed neck-restraint tactics.

(CBS News)

Jul 07 2015

MONTREAL - Internationally renowned doctor Arthur Porter has been confirmed dead by Quebec's anti-corruption unit, ending days of speculation that news of his passing may have been a ruse.

The doctor had become embroiled in alleged fraud in recent years but unit head Robert Lafreniere says charges will now be dropped.

Porter's biographer, doctor and relatives all said last week that he had died of cancer in Panama, where he had been detained since May of 2013 in an effort to battle extradition to Canada.

But Quebec authorities said they wouldn't drop fraud charges against him without solid proof that he was dead.

The province sent two investigators to Panama last Friday.

Porter was accused of receiving part of an alleged 22.5-million dollar payment from SNC-Lavalin in order to rig a 1.3-billion dollar Montreal superhospital contract — all to ensure it went to the engineering giant.

Lafreniere said proceedings will continue against seven co-accused.

Jul 07 2015

A Walpole Island police officer suffered "substantial" injuries after allegedly being assaulted by two brothers on Saturday.

Walpole Island police were trying to arrest a man with an outstanding warrant when police say an altercation began between an officer, the man and his brother.

The Lambton OPP had to be called in to assist.

A 27-year-old Walpole resident has been charged with aggravated assault of an officer, resisting arrest, disarming an officer, assault with a weapon and possession of a controlled substance.

His 20-year-old brother has been charged with aggravated assault, obstructing an officer, choking and disarming an officer.

The two men are in custody pending a July 6 bail hearing in Sarnia.

The injured officer was treated and released from hospital.

(Blackburn News)

Jul 08 2015

OTTAWA - The federal government should outlaw membership in a terrorist group, bar radicals from Canada and look at forbidding the glorification of extremists to protect the Canadian way of life, says a Senate committee.

The Senate security and defence committee also recommends creation of a “wanted terrorist” list and urges the government to explore options for training and certification of imams in Canada.

In addition, it calls on the government to work with Muslim communities to create “an effective counter-narrative” to denounce the ideology of Islamist fundamentalism.

These are among 25 recommendations in the committee’s interim report flowing from nine months of hearings on security threats facing Canada.

The report examines terrorist recruitment, operations, financing, prosecutions and other aspects of what it calls the genuine threat of violent extremism.

Canadians must tackle the issue in a thoughtful, balanced way without undermining the values “that make us great,” the report says.

“We must find every resource, tool and technique available to us as a civilized society to diminish and defeat a most uncivilized force,” it says.

“Our goal is to lessen the risk to all Canadians, including the risk to vulnerable young Canadians who might be lured to extreme ideas and violent action.”

The report represents the views of the Conservative majority on the committee, but lacks the backing of Liberal members.

A number of the recommendations push farther than the Harper government chose to go in its omnibus security bill, introduced after two Canadian soldiers were killed last October in daylight attacks just days apart by jihadi-inspired, lone-wolf attackers.

For instance, the anti-terrorism bill - which recently received royal assent - makes it a crime to promote terrorist acts but stops short of outlawing the glorification of extremist plots and symbols.

“We cannot try to appease this threat that we face,” Conservative Sen. Dan Lang, the committee chairman, said in an interview.

One recommendation takes aim at groups that invite foreign nationals with extremist views to speak to impressionable youth. It urges the government to establish a publicly accessible list of “ideological radicals” deemed to be a security threat, prohibiting them from visiting Canada.

Among the 25 recommendations:

- challenge the ideology of global Islamist fundamentalism;
- make it a criminal offence to be a member

of a terrorist group;

- establish a team of terrorism prosecutors to ensure the laws passed by Parliament are fully enforced;
- publish a “no-visit list” identifying ideological radicals and a “wanted terrorist list” for whom a warrant has been issued;
- the Canadian Security Intelligence Service should investigate the Muslim Brotherhood to determine whether it should be designated a terrorist entity;
- prevent foreign funds from entering Canada where such funds, donors or recipients have been linked to radicalization;
- consider amending the hate laws to prevent glorification of terrorists and terrorist acts and symbols linked to radicalization;
- enable the provinces to protect Canadians who are engaged in the public discourse from vexatious litigation;
- work with “at-risk communities,” especially women, and support parents who report radicalization;
- work with the provinces to prevent radicalization in areas such as at schools, colleges, universities, prisons; and
- communicate more clearly with Canadians about the threat and encourage them to anonymously report information by calling the national security tip line at 1-800-420-5805.

Jul 08 2015

VANCOUVER - The RCMP is so lacking in translation resources that the United States is offering to send in help, a lawyer for the man at the centre of an alleged spying scandal told a B.C. Supreme Court.

Greg DelBigio said Wednesday that the Mounties’ shortcomings should prompt an indefinite postponement of his client’s extradition to the United States.

The U.S. Department of Justice accuses Su Bin of masterminding a plot to swipe confidential information from several American defence contractors, including Boeing and Lockheed Martin, to sell the secrets to the Chinese government.

DelBigio told the hearing that a shortage of RCMP resources is causing delays in translating information written in a foreign language from computers and other electronics confiscated from accused hacker Su following his arrest in June 2014.

“If the RCMP resources had been different from what they are - meaning if they had more people who had the both technical and linguistic skills - I would now have in my possession the data which had been seized,” said DelBigio.

The court heard that the U.S. is applying to send a team of investigators to Canada to help with extracting and translating data from the seized equipment. That information consists primarily of email correspondence between Su and two members of the Chinese military accused of being his co-conspirators.

The FBI alleges Su directed the pair to illegally access Boeing’s computers in

California to obtain information about the aircraft company’s military projects, including detailed diagrams and flight-test documents of the C-17 transport jet, as well as the F-22 and F-35.

Jul 08 2015

PORT HARDY, B.C. - Mounties on northern Vancouver Island say the province’s police watchdog is now investigating the shooting death of a man by officers.

They responded on Wednesday morning to reports of a man allegedly threatening security staff at a high school in Port Hardy.

The school is being used as a staging area for personnel and helicopters battling local wildfires, and police say reports indicated the suspect “was brandishing a knife.”

RCMP say officers tracked the suspect down on the Island Highway, a confrontation followed, police fired shots, and the suspect was killed.

No officers or members of the public were injured, and police say the Independent Investigations Office of B.C. has asserted jurisdiction over the scene and will conduct an investigation, which is mandatory in any officer-related shooting.

Police say they will not make any further comment on the shooting because of the IIO investigation.

Jul 08 2015

A 40-year-old Niagara Regional Police officer and father of three will require months of treatment after suffering significant burns with his partner and close friend in a Vineland residential explosion.



Chief Jeff McGuire said Monday that Const. Phil Sheldon remains in hospital and will require many, many months of treatment, including skin grafts and surgeries to repair the damage from the traumatic event.

McGuire, speaking at a press conference at police headquarters in downtown St. Catharines, said he met with Sheldon’s family at the hospital as the officer arrived by air ambulance after the explosion Sunday night.

“I’m amazed by the strength and the courage that they displayed at the time while we were in the waiting room awaiting the assessment from the doctors,” McGuire said.

“While I am amazed by their strength and courage, I also am not fooled by the trauma and the challenge that they are facing now as they have to work their way through this at Phil’s side, as we all will.”

Sheldon was on duty July 5 around 8:30

p.m. when he and Const. Dale Culley were dispatched to a disturbance call at 137 Epp St. in Vineland.

At some point after their arrival, there was an explosion and a fire in the home. Residents Anne Schmidt, 73, and her son Karl Schmidt, 50, were killed.

Both police officers, who the chief said were uniform partners in Grimsby detachment and among best friends, were badly burned.

Culley, 35 years old and an NRP officer since May 2008, was treated for his burns in hospital. He is now recovering at home with his wife Lisa and three young children.

Sheldon, an NRP officer since August 2009, was taken by paramedics to St. Catharines hospital and transported by air ambulance to an unidentified out-of-region hospital.

"We were very fortunate that paramedics were on the scene as this occurred," McGuire said. "I fully believe their immediate action probably was instrumental in minimizing the injuries as much as possible."

Sheldon's family has been by his side. He lives with his common-law wife Tanya and their three children, two of whom are from Sheldon's previous marriage and one of Tanya's. McGuire said Sheldon's parents had hoped to attend the press conference but they remained at the hospital with him.

His sister Jen asked the chief to share some thoughts about her brother.

"She described Phil as larger than life, loud and boisterous. She said it often feels like the room is full, even though it's only Phil by himself," McGuire said.

Sheldon's sister said he enjoys spending time with the three daughters and loves the outdoors, especially fishing.

"He loves his role as a police officer, the career that he had chosen, and was very proud to serve and will continue to serve the citizens of Niagara Region," McGuire said.

Sheldon's family asked McGuire to thank the community for their overwhelming support through emails, voicemails, phone calls and even delivery of food.

"(Dale Culley) also wants to stress the fact he's been overwhelmed by the support from the members of the service and members of the community, and especially from his fellow officers and his neighbours," McGuire said.

The chief also extended thanks on behalf of the service for all the first responder partners, firefighters and paramedics, along with medical professionals assisting the officers in their recovery. He also acknowledged a public outpouring of support for the families and the police service.

McGuire said the tragic event has been traumatic for the whole service.

"We're not the largest service in the world and a lot of people know each other in this job. They're not just coworkers, they're friends," he said.

The NRP has released few details about what happened at the Epp St. home, citing the investigation by the Special Investigations Unit. The province's unit probes cases involving the police and serious injury or death.

McGuire said officers have to respond to incidents not fully knowing what they face when they get there.

"This is the kind of thing that first responders could walk into at any time, really not having any defence to it," he said.

"It's one of the challenges of first responder work, not just for police officers but firefighters and paramedics."

A fundraiser unrelated to the police service has been started online to help Sheldon's family. The GoFundMe account "Phil Sheldon In The Line of Duty" can be accessed at www.gofundme.com/yr9t54.

(St. Catharines Standard)



MONCTON - Court proceedings against the RCMP on four counts of violating health and safety provisions of the Canada Labour Code have been put off until Sept. 24.

The matter was set over during a brief provincial court session in Moncton on Thursday.

Defence attorney Scott McCrossin, acting as an agent for Ottawa lawyer Normal Boxall, asked for more time to review the case.

The RCMP waived reading of the charges in court. No single RCMP manager or supervisor is named in the charges under the labour code.

The charges were recommended by the Public Prosecution Service of Canada after its investigation into the shooting deaths of three Moncton Mounties and the wounding of two others by gunman Justin Bourque in 2014.

The charges against the RCMP relate to equipment, training and supervision and fall under Part II, Section 148(1), of the Canada Labour Code. Anyone found guilty of an indictable offence under the section faces a maximum fine of \$1 million and two years in prison. The maximum sentence for a less serious summary conviction on the charge is a maximum fine of \$100,000 with no jail time.

No selection has been made on whether the Crown will proceed with the case as an indictable offence or a summary conviction charge.

The charges include:

- Failing to provide RCMP members with appropriate use of force equipment and related user training when responding to an active threat or active shooter event.
- Failing to provide RCMP members with appropriate information, instruction and/or training to ensure their health and safety when responding to an active threat or active shooter event in an open environment.
- Failing to provide RCMP supervisory personnel with appropriate information, instruction and/or training to ensure the health and safety of RCMP members when responding to an active threat or active shooter event in an open environment.

- Failing to ensure the health and safety at work of every person employed by it, namely: RCMP members, was protected.

An internal RCMP review of the Moncton shooting noted no members of the Codiac detachment were trained to use a carbine.

(CBC News)

Jul 09 2015

The director of Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team has ruled that a police shooting at a Charlottetown mall that injured a teenager was justified.



Ron MacDonald, who was appointed by P.E.I.'s justice minister to lead Summerside police in a review of the April 3 incident, says the officer had a right to protect himself and a duty to protect others.

The report released Thursday says a Charlottetown Police Service officer and an unarmed police academy cadet responded to a report of a shooting around 4:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Charlottetown Mall, which was closed for Good Friday.

The report says the men located the suspect, who had a knife attached to brass knuckles in one hand and a gun in the other, and ordered him to drop his weapons.

It says the 17-year-old boy remained behind a dumpster as more officers arrived before walking towards the responding officer, still holding his weapons.

The report says the officer fired three shots when the suspect got within 15 metres, injuring his hand and wounding him in the thigh.

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