

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Executive Digest

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DETROIT - It's a first for police cars: Doors that can protect officers against armour-piercing bullets.

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Liberal government wants to let Mounties unionize



Mar 09 2016

OTTAWA -The Liberal government wants to allow RCMP officers to form a national union but would not grant it the right to strike and would drop Mounties from a dedicated federal health-care scheme that now covers their workplace injuries.

The proposed move would instead direct Mounties injured or shot on the job to seek care under provincial workers compensation plans.

Treasury Board President Scott Brison introduced the Liberal government's long-awaited response to last year's Supreme

Court of Canada ruling that found the current RCMP labour relations regime a breach of the constitutional right to associate.

"We've responded in consultation with RCMP members as well as with jurisdictions employing the RCMP," Brison said.

Sources inside the RCMP suggested the move may cut costs but may also create a patchwork of care for the country's national police force, and seems certain to boost support for unionization.

None would speak on the record, as Mounties cannot speak freely to the media without permission.

Mounties injured on the job are currently



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assessed by doctors, nurses and psychologists contracted specially by the RCMP who can approve expedited care as needed. The former Conservative government toyed with the idea of eliminating that scheme but never proceeded, although it made other changes to RCMP health care.

Most of the other changes unveiled Wednesday — barring the right to strike and requiring a national union, not provincially organized ones — had been anticipated. The proposed scheme would see impasses at the bargaining table resolved by independent, binding arbitration.

The government says it consulted broadly across the force and found many Mounties were mistrustful of how a new labour relations scheme would be set up, but the nearly half who responded to a survey wanted a national bargaining body.

Now the jostling begins.

Since last year's court ruling, the RCMP's in-house labour relations group, the staff relations representatives for rank-and-file members, has been disbanded. There is no broad-based national voice for officers. Neither the Ontario nor the B.C. provincial associations that successfully challenged the RCMP scheme returned calls for comment.

The high court ruled that the RCMP's non-unionized body set up for rank-and-file members in 1967 by management that left all final decisions up to the RCMP chief denied the Mounties a right to form an independent labour association and hold "meaningful" collective bargaining talks with their employer. It didn't mandate a union, but left much of the design of the new scheme to the government.

The RCMP is the only Canadian police service that is not unionized.

Consultations led by former CBSA head Alain Jolicoeur concluded: "There are more (RCMP) members who want change than there are members who are comfortable with the status quo."

Under separate changes proposed in December by the Liberal government to repeal Conservative labour laws, it would be easier to certify a bargaining unit now. The Conservatives had required a two-step process for certification or de-certification, a 40 per cent vote to launch the process, followed by a mandatory secret ballot vote-based majority.

The Liberals would instead make certification subject only to a 51 per cent vote.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY MARCH 3, 2016

Mar 03 2016

OTTAWA - A Canada-U.S. initiative to create new, cross-border, law-enforcement teams has been "postponed" due to unresolved concerns about how to treat police officers accused of breaking the law.

The so-called next-generation border project has been put off as discussions continue with U.S. officials - almost four years after pilot projects were supposed to begin, said Staff Sgt. Julie Gagnon, a force spokeswoman.

The initiative - part of the 2011 Canada-U.S. perimeter security pact - would see the two countries build on joint border-policing efforts by creating integrated teams in areas such as intelligence and criminal investigations.

Two pilot projects were supposed to get underway by summer 2012.

But in 2013, it emerged that the effort was being held up by the difficult question of which country's legal system would apply if a police officer were accused of breaking the law.

In an interview, then-U.S. ambassador David Jacobson spelled out the challenges.

"If an RCMP officer is in North Dakota, and they're chasing a criminal and they go to shoot somebody, well what are the laws that govern the appropriate use of force? Is it Canadian rules? Is it American rules?" Jacobson said.

"What happens if there's a lawsuit in North Dakota? Does the Canadian RCMP officer want to be subject to litigation in the United States? We have slightly different rules," he said. "The question is: which rules are going to apply to which? It is a complicated question."

Another issue: where would a citizen of one country take allegations of ill-treatment at the hands of an officer from the other country?

A March 2015 RCMP briefing note, recently obtained under the Access to Information Act, said the Mounties should stick to their position that officers from Canada and the U.S. be treated equally "under a common criminal liability regime."

The Public Safety Department says there has been no change in the border policing project's status since the initial delay.

The perimeter security deal between the two countries, known as the Beyond the Border initiative, includes dozens of projects aimed at improving continental secu-

urity while allowing low-risk passengers and goods to move easily across the 49th parallel.

The next-generation enforcement units were intended to help police strategic points along the 9,000 kilometres of shared Canada-U.S. land border.

The project was to be modelled on the Shiprider project, which involves specially trained Canadian and U.S. officers working on the water in dedicated teams.

Mar 03 2016

MONTREAL - The Quebec government has granted another \$500,000 to an anti-radicalization centre in Montreal.

The sum is in addition to another \$1 million the province gave the centre, as well as \$1 million it will receive from the City of Montreal between last year and 2017.

Public Security Minister Martin Coiteux made the announcement Thursday alongside Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and Herman Debarice-Okomba, head of the facility.

Coderre, who recently spoke to a United Nations group about migrants, said the centre was the focus of much admiration when he was in New York City.

It has received 647 calls since opening a year ago. Nine of those were referred to police, while 147 required "direct intervention" because the people involved were just getting started in the radicalization process, said Debarice-Okomba.

FRIDAY MARCH 4, 2016

Mar 04 2016

EDMONTON - He's tackled some of Edmonton's toughest policing issues - gangs, murdered and missing aboriginal women, violent extremism - but it's his next assignment that leaves Insp. Dan Jones jittery.



The 19-year veteran of the Edmonton Police Service is on his way to Cambridge University, one of the top universities in the world, and he's doing it on a scholarship.

"It's a massively humbling experience to be selected for something like this," Jones said. "I don't get nervous about many things. And I'm nervous about this. But I'm excitedly nervous."

In April, Jones will join a long line of noteworthy names who have attended Cambridge, including Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Prince Charles and dozens of Nobel Prize winners.

Jones said he believes he's the first of

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two Canadians to ever be accepted into Cambridge's master of studies in applied criminology and police management on a Wakefield scholarship.

"I was so shocked that I got in," said Jones, whose name was put forward by a professor at the University of Waterloo. "I did not expect to get in."

The application process was intense. It involved several academic references and interviews, plus a 3,000-word essay analyzing the research methodologies used in the 1992 Kansas City Gun Experiment to reduce gun violence.

Over a two-year period starting in April, Jones will travel back and forth between England and Edmonton.

He'll spend two weeks at a time living on campus studying crime and harm-reduction issues, with an emphasis on evidence-based policing, which uses academic research to ensure the use of best practices.

His second-year master's thesis will focus on a topic selected by EPS. (CBC News)

Mar 04 2016

Two Canadian police officers were accused of sexual misconduct during United Nations missions abroad last year.

The information is in a new UN report released by the secretary-general today.

In one case, a Canadian officer was found after a 55-day investigation to have fathered a child.

He was pulled back from the country involved, and suspended for nine days.

The second case is still under investigation.

Neither the government nor RCMP has commented.

Mar 04 2016

RCMP now have a new tool in solving cases and his name is Doc.



The five-year-old purebred German Shepherd now has the distinct honour of being the first and only RCMP cadaver dog in Canada.

"All of our dogs in the RCMP are trained to find human remains, but they're not specialized in maybe finding bones and different levels of the human body being deceased at different time periods," said Sgt. Rick Bushy, Division Coordinator for RCMP Police Dog Services.

Bushey has been interested in starting a cadaver training program for years and often has requests from various units in the RCMP for this kind of service. In December of 2014, the perfect opportunity arose and the RCMP teamed up with the Nova Scotia Medical Examiners Officer to train Doc.

"My hope is that we will be able to serve families better by recovering their loved ones faster," said Dr. Matthew Bowes, chief medical examiner for Nova Scotia.

Dr. Bowes calls Doc an amazing new tool that police can use to solve the most difficult cases.

"When we don't have a body at all, we can't really do anything," said Dr. Bowes.

Before he became the country's first RCMP cadaver dog, Doc worked at the Halifax airport where he was specially trained to look for explosives.

Doc and his handler, Const. Brian Veniot, trained for months, completing the Human Remains Detection Program last summer.

Doc was trained using human remains that were donated by Nova Scotians.

Doc's training is part of a pilot project. If all goes well, the hope is that someday the cadaver dog program will be implemented across the country by the RCMP. (Global News)

Mar 04 2016

SASKATOON - An RCMP constable who had child pornography traced to his computer while he was stationed in Fond-du-Lac, Sask., has been sentenced to a year in jail.

Aiden Arthur Pratchett, 33, hugged a lone supporter Friday before being led off in handcuffs.

Pratchett was convicted in February of accessing and possessing child pornography following a trial in Prince Albert, Sask.

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During sentencing arguments, the Crown revealed that investigators recovered more than 100 files and that some of the sexually explicit images involved girls younger than 10 years old.

Pratchett denied any knowledge of the files throughout the trial, arguing anyone could have accessed his computer and suggesting a third-party could have been using his Wi-Fi.

He also refused to give police the passwords to his heavily-encrypted computer - until after he was found guilty.

Pratchett will also have to serve three years probation after he is released from jail. (CKOM)

Mar 04 2016

Some criminals have switched to new iPhones as their "device of choice" to commit wrongdoing due to strong encryption Apple Inc has placed on their products, three law enforcement groups said in a court filing.



The groups told a judge overseeing Apple's battle with the U.S. Department of Justice on Thursday that, among other things, they were aware of "numerous instances" in which criminals who previously used so-called throwaway burner phones had switched to iPhones. They did not list a specific instance.

The brief by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association and two others also cited a jailhouse phone call intercepted by New York authorities in 2015, in which an inmate called Apple's encrypted operating system a "gift from God."

The government obtained a court order last month requiring Apple to write new software to disable passcode protection and allow access to an iPhone used by one of the shooters in the December killings in San Bernardino, California.

Apple asked that the order be vacated, arguing such a move would set a dangerous precedent and threaten customer security.

Tech industry leaders including Google, Facebook and Microsoft and more than two dozen other companies filed legal briefs on Thursday supporting Apple. The Justice Department received support from law enforcement groups and six relatives of San Bernardino victims.

The law enforcement groups said in their brief that Apple's stance poses a grave threat to investigations across the country.

The FBI says Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, were inspired by Islamist militants when they shot and killed 14 people on Dec. 2 at a holiday party. The

couple later died in a shootout with police and the FBI said it wants to read the data on Farook's work phone to investigate any links with militant groups.

In a filing on Thursday, the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office said at least two 911 calls from the time of the shooting reported three assailants, not two.

Even though those reports were "not corroborated," if in fact there were three attackers it would be important to crack open the iPhone "to identify as of yet unknown co-conspirators," the District Attorney's filing stated.

Apple has said it respects the FBI and has cooperated by turning over data in its possession.

The latest request is different, Apple says, because it requires them to crack a phone with a software tool that does not currently exist.

(Reuters)

Mar 04 2016

Every once in a while, the topic rears its head on whether cities like Burnaby should consider dumping the RCMP and move to a municipal police force.

But as Richmond takes a serious look at the issue, it doesn't appear the Burnaby Mounties will be riding off into the sunset anytime soon.

Mayor Derek Corrigan said the city is interested in the results from Richmond, but there are no plans to follow suit and consider

a change in policing.

He said if the city was not getting the service it wanted from the RCMP, the municipality would look at an alternative, but instead he praised the local force for providing excellent service to Burnaby.

The mayor said the city had briefly looked at a change a few years back but found transition costs were too expensive.

"It's significantly more expensive to go through the transition, and that's what I think makes everybody very hesitant about moving over to that model," he told the NOW, noting the annual cost for a municipal force would only be about 10 per cent more than using RCMP.

Corrigan said he's not convinced the transition costs have changed much in recent years to make the switch desirable.

Earlier this month, the City of Richmond underwent consultation with residents pertaining to keeping the RCMP or establishing a new municipal police force.

The Richmond News reported the city's mayor, Malcolm Brodie, had stated residents would have to contrast paying more money for a municipal force with having a local detachment where decisions are being made in Ottawa and "very often there's no consultation, no discussion, or even any considerations at a local level."

Corrigan seemed to agree, suggesting the problems with RCMP arise with decisions in Ottawa, adding local decisions in the detachment are always of high quality.

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Under the current RCMP contract signed in 2012, the city covers 90 per cent of police costs, with Ottawa picking up the other 10 per cent.

The city's 2016 budget has policing costs pegged at \$44.7 million.
(Burnaby Now)

Mar 04 2016

Quebec's police ethics commission has ruled that a Sûreté du Québec officer abused his position of power when he seized and searched a man's cellphone in 2013.

Officer Sylvain Baril stopped driver Steve Lemire for using his phone behind the wheel on Feb. 22, 2013 in Shawinigan.

Baril, who has been a police officer since 1991, threatened to charge Lemire with obstructing justice if he did not hand over his phone, according to the commission.

Lemire said he initially refused to give his phone but Baril kept repeating his threat to charge him.

"You stopped me," Lemire said he told Baril. "Give me the ticket for what you arrested me for and I'll go, no trouble."

In an 18-page decision, the commission ruled the officer had no right to seize and search the phone against the man's will.

The decision states Baril also abused his power as a police officer when he threatened to charge Lemire with obstruction of justice.
(CBC News)

SATURDAY
MARCH 5, 2016

Mar 05 2016

OTTAWA - As the Liberal government began moving on its commitment to legalize marijuana, Health Canada flagged nine key considerations - from health risks and benefits to the experience of other jurisdictions, newly obtained documents show.



A November 2015 ministerial briefing presentation, "Legalizing & Regulating Marijuana," was released to under the Access to Information Act. Some conclusions and recommendations were withheld from release, but the document offers insight into how the new government will navigate the issue. A look at the nine areas cited by Health Canada:

Canadian marijuana usage rates — 11 per cent of the population age 15 and older used marijuana in the past year, according to a 2013 survey. Use was highest among 20-

24 year-olds at 26 per cent. The presentation characterizes this as "relatively low overall rates of usage" and points to evidence that use declines with age.

Evidence of health benefits and risks - There is some evidence of limited therapeutic benefit to marijuana use for managing symptoms of chemotherapy, neuropathic pain and treatment-resistant epilepsy in children. But the health-community consensus is that regular recreational usage carries risks, including long-term cognitive ones for those under 25.

International legal framework - Canada is party to a global legal framework on psychotropic drugs, including the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. It does not allow for legalization but allows leeway on the kinds of sanctions imposed. The International Narcotics Control Board expressed regret over Uruguay's decision to legalize marijuana, but it is not clear what practical impact this has had, Health Canada notes. A UN special session on the World Drug Problem is slated for next month.

Canadian regime for medical marijuana — The 2013 Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations attempted to shift the medical marijuana industry to licensed producers, away from home growers. But thousands of Canadians were allowed to possess or grow marijuana pending a court ruling that came down last month.

Domestic legal context - The court ruling handed down in February affirmed the right of people to grow their own medical marijuana.

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The presentation, drafted before the ruling, says the decision and others from the courts could affect government choices on the new legal regime.

Role of provincial and territorial governments - The federal and provincial / territorial governments would be able to regulate in many of the same areas concerning access to legal marijuana. The federal government could set minimum standards, but provinces and territories might enact more stringent requirements on where pot is consumed, retail sale locations or minimum age for purchase. Achieving a national approach will require close co-operation.

Experience of other jurisdictions — While Uruguay adopted tight government control, Colorado and Washington states chose models that spurred involvement of commercial interests, increasing risks to health and safety. Early lessons from the U.S. reinforce the need to take time to implement a legalized model, figuring out the complexities of how best to protect public health.

Law enforcement issues — Organized crime groups are heavily involved in the marijuana trade. Illicit grow operations exist in all parts of Canada. Police-reported drug-impaired driving incidents are a small fraction of actual drug-impaired driving incidents, as it is difficult to recognize the signs. Given all this, a national approach will require police agencies to work together.

Youth justice — The Youth Criminal Justice Act requires police to consider use of measures such as warnings and referrals to community programs for those ages 12 through 17. Careful consideration will need to be given to how the new regime will be enforced when it comes to young people.

SUNDAY
MARCH 6, 2016

Mar 06 2016

EDMONTON - A workplace investigation that followed the shooting of two Mounties in Alberta last year says the RCMP contravened Canada Labour Code health and safety rules.

Const. David Wynn and auxiliary Const. Derek Bond were shot on Jan. 17, 2015, during a struggle with a suspected car thief in a St. Albert casino, just north of Edmonton. Wynn died a few days later.

A review of the St. Albert RCMP detachment by federal Labour Department investigators says the portable radios assigned to Wynn and Bond failed to transmit and receive inside the casino and that a radio in a police cruiser could not transmit or receive from the officers.

The investigation also found that the RCMP did not have safe alternative communication procedures for situations where radios are known to fail or not transmit or receive messages clearly.

It also determined that Bond's actions that day appear to have exceeded the expected duties of an auxiliary RCMP officer.

Last October, Bradley Tetarenko, a health and safety officer, issued a "direction" to the RCMP to fix the contraventions by Nov. 13, 2015, and to ensure that they don't happen again.

"The said official delegated by the Minister of Labour is of the opinion that the following provisions of the Canada Labour Code have been contravened," reads the order obtained by from Occupational Health and Safety Tribunal Canada.

The direction document orders the RCMP to ensure that equipment used by employees is safe under all conditions of its intended use. It also directs the RCMP to identify, assess and take measures to prevent hazards associated with its communications system.

The order also deals with auxiliary constables. It calls on the RCMP to ensure that activities of every person granted access to a workplace do not endanger their health and safety.

"(The) employer shall identify and assess the hazards associated with the activities of the auxiliary constables ... and take steps to ensure the activities of the auxiliary officers do not create a hazard for themselves or RCMP members."

The direction order was sent in October to Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan, commanding officer of RCMP in Alberta.

A month later the RCMP filed an appeal of the direction, which has not yet been heard.

RCMP national headquarters staff declined to comment on the appeal.

Staff-Sgt. Julie Gagnon said the RCMP on Jan. 16 approved changes to the auxiliary constable program after conferring with provinces, territories and municipalities.

The changes include no longer allowing auxiliary constables to go on ride-alongs with Mounties or to take firearms familiarization training.

The RCMP is also working on a new national training standard and policy for auxiliary constables, she said in an email from Ottawa.

There are about 1,600 auxiliary constables across Canada.

Mar 06 2016

During the few moments when the police are on their way and the thief is fleeing the scene, a single image caught on camera can make the difference between an arrest and one more unsolved crime.

That's the impetus behind Project Vigil, a database of resident surveillance cameras, and the newest endeavour of the West Vancouver Police Department.

The department is asking residents to register their security systems with the police department. That way, when a crime is committed, officers can get in touch with neighbouring homeowners immediately to see if their cameras picked up a clue.

"Any image is potentially a helpful image," said Const. Jeff Palmer, spokesman for the West Vancouver Police Department.

(North Shore News)

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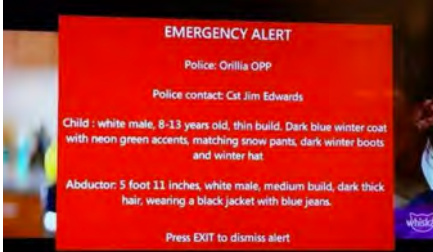
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MONDAY
MARCH 7, 2016

Mar 07 2016

TORONTO - The OPP said it was dismayed by the reaction of some in the public who complained that they were inconvenienced by the alert issued in an effort to find a missing child.



It was the first time the provincial police used the enhanced National Alert Aggregation and Dissemination system to advise about a missing eight-to-13-year-old boy that callers said was physically taken and forced into a vehicle in Orillia, Ont.

The new system, which appeared as a red box over top of a broadcast, alerted viewers about a silver Toyota Sequoia in Orillia going to an unknown location.

Insp. Patrick Morris, the Orillia OPP detachment commander, said he couldn't believe some people called 911 to complain about the interruption, adding he fielded calls himself asking why the alert was broadcast outside of the area where the incident occurred.

"Well, the last Amber Alert was about a year ago and the subjects of the Amber Alert were located three hours away by vehicle from the jurisdiction where they were reported missing," he said.

"The geography rapidly expands."

Mar 07 2016

REGINA - An RCMP officer says he shot a 42-year-old man in a small Saskatchewan town dead because he feared for his life.

Gerald Lord, who was 42, died Sept. 11, 2013 at his home in Holdfast, about 80 kilometres northwest of Regina.

The officer, who can't be identified due to a publication ban, testified Monday at a coroner's inquest in Regina.

The constable said he went to the house about a complaint of criminal harassment against Lord.

He says Lord gave him a blank stare, resisted arrest, choked him and threatened to kill him.

The officer said he Tasered Lord, but it didn't work, so he fired his gun three times before shooting Lord in the head.

The week-long inquest will examine the circumstances surrounding Lord's death, and a coroner's jury will make recommendations on how to prevent similar tragedies.

(CJME)

Mar 07 2016

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - Police in Lethbridge, Alberta have found a new use for the 12-gauge shotguns that used to be common equipment in their police cruisers.

Chief Rob Davis says the service has recycled the Remington 870 shotguns into less-lethal weapons that fire sock rounds, instead of regular shells.

Davis says there were a number of incidents in 2015 involving armed individuals who were going through some form of mental crisis.

He says although the incidents ended peacefully it spurred the department to come up with a weapon that falls somewhere between a Taser and the use of deadly force.

Davis says not only will it benefit those going through a mental crisis but reduces the trauma for police officers who are involved in violent incidents.

Mar 07 2016

NANAIMO, B.C. - A Mountie who responded the night a Polish immigrant was killed at Vancouver's airport has filed a lawsuit alleging RCMP negligence and harassment.

Const. Gerry Rundel has filed a statement of claim in British Columbia Supreme Court naming the Attorney General of Canada and B.C.'s minister of justice as defendants.

The document alleges he was made a "scapegoat" after Robert Dziekanski was

repeatedly stunned with a Taser and died at the airport in October 2007.

None of the allegations have been proven in court and no statements of defence have been filed.

All four officers who approached Dziekanski were charged with perjury relating to testimony they gave at an inquiry into his death.

Rundel was acquitted of the charge last April.

Court documents say Rundel, who is on long-term sick leave, has suffered "permanent and irreparable harm," including post-traumatic stress disorder, loss of reputation and financial loss because of how he has been treated by the RCMP.

The claim alleges his career has been effectively destroyed and his chances at another career have been seriously impeded.

Mar 07 2016

MONTREAL - A Quebec coroner says police officers in Montreal need better training when dealing with people who have mental illness.

Coroner Luc Malouin looked into the death of Alain Magloire, the 41-year-old homeless man who was shot to death during a confrontation with police just over two years ago.

Radio-Canada has obtained a preliminary copy of his report. In it, Malouin found the police did an adequate job, but could have done more.

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He said police on the scene communicated their methods poorly.

Video surveillance from the downtown Montreal bus terminal on Berri Street captured the final moments of Magloire's life.

As four officers stood around Magloire with their firearms drawn, a police car entering the scene hits the man.

That led to a scuffle between Magloire and one of the officers who slipped and fell. As Magloire raised his hammer and appeared poised to strike the officer, another one shot four times.

Malouin says it would have been preferable for the officer in the car to announce what he was going to do on his police radio.

The coroner also noted weaknesses in how police dealt with Magloire, someone who was visibly in psychological distress and suffering from mental illness.

"The tone used by the officers, yelling at Magloire to drop his hammer, was inappropriate," wrote Malouin. "In a situation where someone has mental illness, you have to de-fuse the situation."

For Malouin, one of the major problems with how the situation was handled was the lack of a Taser on the scene.

He said Magloire could have been neutralized on two separate occasions during the confrontation with police before he was shot.

A police officer can be heard calling for a Taser in audio recordings between officers on the scene and the police dispatch. It arrived seconds after he was shot.

Malouin recommends that the Montreal police increase the number of stun guns available to officers in the field.

He notes in his report that Montreal has 75, with fewer than half of them in the field with officers on duty.

Malouin says Toronto has 700.

The coroner also recommends that Quebec's ministries of Education and Public Security revise their training for officers when dealing with people with mental illness.

Malouin said the hours spent on that sort of training in CEGEP or in the province's police college are either insufficient or poorly used.

It's not known when the official copy of Malouin's report will be released.

(CBC News)

"Civil forfeiture laws allow provincial governments to seize property not only from criminals, but also from people who have never been charged with, or even suspected of, a crime."

In criminal proceedings, the standard for guilt is proof "beyond a reasonable doubt." Civil cases work on lower "balance of probabilities." This makes it easier to go after cash and other assets, especially where evidence for criminal charges, let alone a conviction, is lacking, the report states.

In one case, a man in Saskatchewan sold \$60 worth of Oxycontin he legally owned to buy gas so he could drive to work. The government took away his \$7,500 truck.

One Ontario couple saw their \$400,000

12-unit apartment building seized because some renters were involved in illegal activities. The province argued they should have evicted the tenants. In another Ontario case, the province sought to confiscate a couple's two rooming houses because some tenants allegedly sold drugs.

Alberta assumes that if police find \$10,000 or more in cash during an investigation, the money was illegally acquired. British Columbia confiscates expensive cars - in one case a \$235,000 Ferrari - used in traffic offences.

No province requires criminal charges or convictions to initiate civil-forfeiture proceedings. In fact, New Brunswick makes it explicit you can still lose your property even

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TUESDAY
MARCH 8, 2016

Mar 08 2016

TORONTO - Canadian provinces have confiscated tens of millions of dollars in assets as proceeds of crime, but a new report indicates the seizures are often a simple cash grab from innocent parties.

The analysis concludes the rationale for the laws — to confiscate property from criminals and organized crime and compensate victims — has been lost in their application.

"These laws are not fair," states the report by the Canadian Constitution Foundation and Institute for Liberal Studies.

if you're acquitted criminally.

Another issue, according to the report, is that money from such proceedings goes to provincial governments and police services with little accountability or transparency.

B.C., for example, has seized \$41 million in recent years, but paid out just \$1.5 million to victims. Ontario reports distributing \$21.2 million to victims to since 2003. Yet in 2013-14 alone, the province seized \$22.9 million. One police board in Ontario, Peel region, used seized money to buy tens of thousands of dollars in tickets to mayoral galas. B.C. used none of the money it seized between 2006 and 2012 to compensate victims. Instead, all went into the civil forfeiture regime itself.

In addition, some provinces appear to make no effort to track the money. The report states that none of the provincial forfeiture regimes has been subject to an auditor general's review.

"It is difficult to know how much money collected by successful civil forfeiture applications goes towards compensating victims," the report states. "Instead, it seems that much is used to purchase equipment for the police or is spent on trivial and improper expenses."

There was no immediate comment from the provinces to the report.

The Calgary-based foundation, which bills itself as protecting the constitutional freedoms of Canadians, and the Ottawa-based liberal studies institute make several recommendations:

- Forfeiture should only be available when a property owner has been convicted of a provincial offence.
- Judges should have discretion to craft proportionate forfeiture orders.
- Civil forfeiture should only be available for property used or acquired by an owner convicted of a corresponding provincial offence where an identifiable victim was harmed.
- Revenue collected by successful civil forfeitures should compensate victims that suffered harm as a result of a convicted property owner's acts.
- Each provincial civil forfeiture office should provide a full and accurate annual report on revenues raised and compensation disbursed.

Only Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador have no such laws among provinces. Neither do the territories.

Mar 08 2016

OTTAWA - Ottawa police say nine more officers are being investigated in a probe into allegations traffic police issued unsubstantiated warning tickets.

The investigation has already seen two officers suspended.

Warning tickets allow traffic enforcement officers to reinforce safety messages and record the activity of drivers who have violated the rules of the road.

Police say the allegation was that the officers were entering warnings into the Records Management System without evidence

or the knowledge of the driver.

The Ottawa police professional standards section began the investigation last November and did an audit of warning tickets that had been issued.

Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau says the audit found evidence to warrant further investigation into the warnings issued by nine other officers.

Mar 08 2016

BROCKVILLE - Brockville's Ontario Provincial Police costing process resumed on Monday with a closed-door meeting – and it could take until the end of the year.

Not, however, if things go as mayor David Henderson would like.

"I don't think anybody wants it to drag on that long," Henderson, also the chairman of the city's OPP contact committee, said Tuesday morning.

The committee, created to discuss the nuts and bolts of the OPP costing, met for the first time Monday afternoon since the province lifted a moratorium on OPP costing processes.

The meeting took place in camera at the request of the OPP, said Henderson, adding the provincial force prefers to begin these processes with a closed-door session.

"They described the process and the steps," said the mayor.

"They'll be gathering information from the city and the police service."

Henderson first started the process of asking for the OPP costing in October of 2012. The OPP imposed a moratorium on costings in the fall of 2013, as the provincial force reviewed its system for billing municipalities.

The province lifted that moratorium late last year.

The renewed process will lead to a public debate that could, in turn, result in the replacement of the Brockville Police Service with an OPP service contract.

The mayor believes the costing process can now take anywhere from four to nine months.

Cec Drake, co-chairman of the advocacy group Citizens Offering Police Support (COPS) with Ruth Kitson, was disappointed to see the OPP call for a closed-door meeting.

COPS is campaigning in support of keeping Brockville's 184-year-old municipal police force.

(Brockville Recorder)

Mar 08 2016

A veteran Toronto Police officer has been suspended for 20 days by an internal disciplinary tribunal after he was caught bringing an unlicensed revolver, brass knuckles, and a prohibited knife into Canada in 2014.

According to a sentencing document summarizing the heading, Const. Antonio Da Costa, a 28 year veteran of the force, was searched while travelling back into Canada across the Fort Erie Peace Bridge. He was off-duty at the time.

Officers with the Canadian Border Services Agency found seven knives, a pair of brass knuckles, pepper spray, and a pair of handcuffs in his vehicle. One of the knives was considered a "prohibited" weapon. Inside a blue personal bag marked with an officer's badge, CBSA officers found a loaded .38 Colt Cobra revolver and ammunition. None of the weapons were registered to Da Costa.

According to the document, Da Costa cooperated fully, and told the arresting officers that he had several other weapons stored at his house in Ontario. A search by investigators the next day turned up a .22 caliber rifle and a 9mm handgun. Da Costa didn't have the license for either weapon.

He eventually pleaded guilty in a Welland-area courtroom to one count of carrying a pistol without a license, and another count of carrying a prohibited weapon without

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a license. Unspecified substance abuse issues were factored into his sentence, according to the document: three years probation and conditional release.

Da Costa was not convicted of a criminal offense.

Defense counsel Gary Clewley said during the tribunal that Da Costa had a reputation for being hard-working and professional for much of his career with the Toronto Police. (Toronto Star)

Mar 08 2016

OTTAWA-The RCMP is looking for gaps in how it shares and receives information about threats to Canada's major infrastructure networks.



Documents released in February show the Mounties plan to look at how information is shared between government agencies, police and the private sector on threats to "critical infrastructure." The broad term can refer to physical infrastructure like bridges and buildings, but also telecommunications, transportation, and financial networks.

"The information received from (critical infrastructure) stakeholders varies from information that is deemed quite preliminary to information that is more specific and concerning," the documents, released online, read.

"Private sector stakeholders' information, if identified properly, presented and followed up (on) appropriately, might help detect and protect an attack . . . or a plot with another target where the infrastructure is involved."

It's not clear what sparked the review. The documents do not make reference to a specific problem. Instead, the \$185,000 study will compare efforts by other "Five Eyes" countries — close allies including the U.S., U.K., New Zealand, and Australia - to protect major assets and infrastructure.

The Star requested an interview with the RCMP for this article. In a written statement, the RCMP did not address specific questions, but outlined in general terms the intention of the external review.

"The winning bid will help the (RCMP) identify the impediments and opportunities regarding information sharing with partners and law enforcement, explore innovative ways to have law enforcement fully engage the (critical infrastructure) community to enhance investigations, and opportunities to get the most up-to-date, valuable information on criminal threats to (critical infrastructure) to the partners," Sgt. Julie Gagnon, a spokesperson for the force, wrote in an email. (Toronto Star)

Mar 08 2016

OTTAWA - Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says he is worried that jihadis who come back to Canada are not facing prosecution, adding that the next budget could give the RCMP more money to deal with the threat.

"That is a concern; obviously, it is a concern," Mr. Goodale told reporters after appearing before the national security committee of the House.

Mr. Goodale said he leaves "operational issues" to the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, but added: "They need to know that Canadians expect that where offences are committed, charges will be laid and prosecutions will follow."

CSIS director Michel Coulobme has estimated that 180 Canadians are engaged with terrorist organizations abroad, including fighting with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, and that another 60 have returned home.

While CSIS can conduct surveillance and disrupt threats posed by such individuals, it is up to the Mounties to investigate and lay any charges for terrorism-related offences. For example, the RCMP laid charges against six Ottawa-area men linked to the Islamic State last year, including participating in or contributing to the activities of a terrorist group.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, who also appeared at the committee, said accumulating evidence against so-called foreign fighters is a complex operation.

"It is a challenge to be able to get the evidence that is required to prove our cases to our standards here in Canada. We have been improving our performance in terms of collecting that evidence, but it is fundamentally an evidence-collection issue," he told reporters.

He added there is a difference between identifying a supporter of the Islamic State and sending that person to jail.

"In a small town, you may know who the burglar is, but then you have the challenge of going to get the evidence to bring a prosecutable case," Commissioner Paulson said.

Commissioner Paulson insisted prosecution or full-time surveillance are not the only ways to deal with returnees, adding that family members and friends can help to deradicalize jihadis.

"In other cases, we've assessed that they are back, they are sorry, they are working to try and get their head straight, and we are relying on family members and other professionals to help us," he said.

Still, the RCMP could benefit from a permanent funding boost to do a better job of tracking and charging IS supporters, Mr. Goodale said.

"As a former finance minister, I don't comment on future budgets, but I believe very strongly we need to make sure that our security and intelligence agencies and our police forces have the resources necessary to do what we tell them to do," Mr. Goodale said.

Overall, he said, the government can't

ask the RCMP to "perform miracles and not provide the resources necessary to get the job done."

(Globe and Mail)

Mar 08 2016

A disturbed man who fatally shot a Laval police constable in the line of duty more than a decade ago remains behind bars because he has not changed at all.

François Pépin did little to help his case for day parole when he recently threatened and insulted a psychiatrist who was assigned to evaluate him. The fact that he self-mutilates, is still fixated with firearms and has spent most of the past decade in a maximum-security penitentiary also did not help his recent request for day parole.

On Dec. 14, 2005, Pépin, 50, shot and killed Constable Valérie Gignac through the door of his apartment in Laval, while she and her partner were responding to a noise complaint made by one of Pépin's neighbours.

On May, 7, 2008, Pépin pleaded guilty to second-degree murder at the Montreal courthouse. He received an automatic life sentence and he was ordered to serve at least 12 years before he becomes eligible for full parole (in 2017). A written summary of recent decision by the Parole Board of Canada, denying him day parole, suggests he is very far from being released.

"To add to everything, you maintain a profound sense of injustice. You recognize what you did but you believe (Gignac) was at fault for positioning herself in front of your door," the author of the summary wrote.

(Montreal Gazette)

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 9, 2016

Mar 09 2016

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg Police Service is hoping to strap cameras to its officers and is asking for \$1 million in the city's budget to try the equipment on a pilot basis.



In the funding request, the police express that "with increasing demands for capturing information when dealing with the public, it appears that at the moment the best way to accomplish this is through an officer mobile video system."

City council first heard of the plan for the pilot project in February of 2015, but the idea has been thrown around since at least 2013.

The cameras, police say, would help in evidence gathering and disclosure to courts.

However, concerns were raised in 2015 over privacy, as well as the cameras possibly being hacked.

Coun. Scott Gillingham, who chairs the police board, said in 2015 the fact that Winnipeg is not the first force in Canada to implement the body cameras is an advantage.

"We can and we will learn from places like Calgary, Edmonton, any other jurisdiction I think especially in Canada that has run a pilot project, and we can learn the pros, the cons," said Gillingham.

Gillingham was not available for further comment Tuesday.

The police have made just more than \$20 million in other capital project requests of the city for this upcoming budget.

(Metro)

Mar 09 2016

NORTH BAY - Former North Bay chief of Police Paul Cook has been appointed the new Chancellor of Nipissing University. He'll begin his four-year term as Chancellor on June 1.



The appointment comes after a two-year search by the Chancellor selection committee. Cook succeeds Jon Dellandrea, becoming Nipissing's fourth Chancellor.

Cook served as Chief of Police for the North Bay Police Service from 2004 - 2016, capping off 34 years on the force.

(Bay Today)

Mar 09 2016

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Service (CPS) is adding another 48 officers to the frontlines to meet the demands of the city's increasing population and to deal with ongoing policing challenges.

All of the officers will be relocated from existing units and from two community stations that are closing.

Brae Centre and the Riverbend Community Stations in District 6 will be closing May 6, 2016. CPS is working to find other opportunities for the volunteers who were working out of those stations.

Through the reallocation, District 2 and District 3 will each get 20 new officers, and District 4 and 5 will each get another four officers.

In a press release Wednesday, CPS said that the distribution was based on the number of calls for service per officer as well as the number of calls in each district.

All of the changes take effect May 6, and any remaining vacancies will be managed through the recruitment classes that graduate in May and July of 2016.

(Global News)

Mar 09 2016

REGINA - A Regina police officer gets to keep his job despite a court ruling reinstating his conviction for kicking a partially blind and homeless man outside a detox centre.

Const. Robert Kenneth Power was found guilty of assault causing bodily harm in 2014 and given a conditional discharge with a year of probation.

The incident involving Edward Stonechild in May, 2012 was caught on a security camera outside the downtown centre.

Power was fired in 2014 but was reinstated later that year after his provincial court conviction was overturned in Court of Queen's Bench.

The Crown appealed and the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled Tuesday to reinstate the guilty verdict.

Power will now face a sentencing hearing before the original trial judge.

Regina deputy police chief Dean Rae explained why Power will continue working as a patrol officer in the community services division.

"When Const. Power was dismissed and he appealed the dismissal, the criminal conviction was argued in front of the hearing officer, who is appointed by the Saskatchewan Police Commission," Rae told reporters Wednesday.

"Although prior to the hearing officer's decision, the criminal conviction was overturned and could not form part of the decision, the hearing officer did comment that even if the conviction was upheld, it would have been insufficient to warrant dismissal at that time.

"The hearing officer allowed Power's appeal of dismissal and he was reinstated."

(CJME, CP)

Mar 09 2016

ORANGEVILLE - Orangeville's Mayor has recommended withdrawing from a police costing with the OPP, but he's still trying to get the rest of council to back him on it.

Mayor Jeremy Williams says the process is just taking too long. He also says he believes the OPP won't give them a price until they commit to using their services. It also wants the town to withdraw from looking at other police options with their neighbours.

Williams said he wanted to see if Orangeville Police could prove themselves as the right option when it comes to providing safety services to the Township of Amaranth.

He called it an "incredible opportunity" for the Orangeville Police.

But at council, members voted 4-3 to continue to pursue a costing from the OPP and quit the RFP process with Amaranth.

Williams says no bylaw has been passed yet, but they hopefully will be looking at the issue again on March 21st.

He's hoping council will choose to pull back from the OPP costing process.

(Bayshore Broadcasting)

THURSDAY
MARCH 10, 2016

Mar 10 2016

PETERBOROUGH - The provincial minister in charge of police boards said he's requested an investigation of the Peterborough Police Services Board because of "significant challenges" such as meetings being held in private when they should have been held in public.

Yasir Naqvi, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, has requested that the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) do an investigation into the local police board's actions over the last couple of years.

Although he was unavailable to speak to The Examiner about it on Wednesday, Naqvi was interviewed on CBC Radio about the matter.

When the interviewer asked whether the board is dysfunctional, he said that's what he wants to find out.

"I continue to hear there are significant challenges ... based on decisions being made, meetings being held in camera when they should not have been held in camera," he said on the radio. "I should not get into specifics, but (the issues) have been significant."

Naqvi also said that "challenges" faced by the police board have persisted for years.

"And I think it's having a significant impact on the policing in Peterborough," he said on the air.

"The police officers in Peterborough are hard-working and very much focused on ensuring the community is safe," he said. "But if civilian governance is in a precarious place, then it impacts policing as well. So we need to make sure there is confidence restored within the citizens of Peterborough, and within the police service, and that there's proper civilian governance and oversight."

On Tuesday, Naqvi's office issued a release stating that he would be requesting an OCPC investigation into the police board.

It comes following a dispute over a request for \$460,000 from Police Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson; that's a year's pay apiece, as a compensation payment.

On Wednesday, OCPC spokesman Chris Popovich said they have received a request to investigate the Peterborough Police Services Board pursuant to section 25 of the Police Services Act.

He wrote in an emailed statement that the OCPC must consider the request and "take any action" if the circumstances warrant it. He didn't comment any further.

Mar 10 2016

MONTREAL - Police in several Quebec communities have arrested and charged 26 people following a series of drug raids in the province.

The first group of 13 suspects was arrested in raids conducted Wednesday by some

50 police officers in and around the Montreal area and in Drummondville.

The suspects, who range in age from 22 to 44, were charged with producing, possessing and trafficking drugs in addition to conspiracy. Police seized drugs, cash, restricted weapons, bulletproof vests, manufacturing equipment and vehicles during the raids.

The investigation began in June 2014 into the distribution of methamphetamine pills in the Montreal area.

The second raid saw 13 suspects aged 18 to 51 arrested in nine searches conducted by police in the Portneuf region west of Quebec City. Some were scheduled to appear at the Quebec City courthouse today to face drug trafficking and possession charges.

The Portneuf investigation began in November 2015 to stop sales of cocaine and methamphetamine in the region.

Mar 10 2016

DETROIT - It's a first for police cars: Doors that can protect officers against armour-piercing bullets.



Ford will soon be offering the doors on its Police Interceptor sedans and SUVs.

The doors are designed to stop a .30-calibre bullet shot from a high-powered rifle. They're made from ceramic tile, which breaks up the bullet, and a layer of a Kevlar-like material that catches the shrapnel.

Ford has offered ballistic panels on its police car doors since 2008. But previous versions protected against handgun fire and non-armour piercing bullets.

Ford says police departments made frequent requests to upgrade the doors, particularly in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

The doors won't be sold to non-police customers.

Ford hasn't said how much it will charge, but the previous versions cost \$1,500 per door.

Mar 10 2016

OTTAWA - U.S. President Barack Obama says the United States and Canada will proceed with full implementation of long-planned systems to track border entry and exit information from travellers.

The measures - almost two years behind schedule — are intended to help stem the flow of foreign fighters to conflicts in the Middle East.

During a news conference at the White House, Obama and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also announced plans to share more no-fly list information and to move ahead with planned customs pre-clearance initiatives.

For the moment, the border tracking system — promised in 2001 as part of the perim-

eter security pact - involves exchanging entry information collected from people at the land border, so that data on entry to one country serves as a record of exit from the other.

The first two phases of the program have been limited to foreign nationals and permanent residents of Canada and the United States, but not citizens of either country.

The initiative was to be expanded by June 30, 2014, to include information-sharing on all travellers crossing the land border.

Mar 10 2016

WINDSOR, Ont. - At least 10 people are facing charges after a year-long investigation into an alleged gun-smuggling ring.

Ontario Provincial Police say they worked with officers in Windsor, Ont., as well as officials in the United States over the course of the probe dubbed Project Kirby.

Police allege guns were being illegally brought into Ontario across the border with Michigan.

During the course of the investigation, police say they seized seven handguns and one Tech-9 machine gun.

They also found drugs, cash and cars while searching properties in Windsor and London, Ont.

Police have laid 111 charges against 10 people and are still searching for two more who are still at large.

Mar 10 2016

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg's police chief is stepping down.



Devon Clunis, who was sworn in on Nov. 2, 2012, is set to announce his retirement Thursday at 2 p.m.

Clunis, who began his career with the Winnipeg Police Service in 1987, has served in all major areas of the organization, including uniform patrol, traffic, plainclothes investigation, community relations, organizational development and duty office, as well as in a number of administrative leadership roles.

Point Douglas community activist Sel Burrows will miss Clunis, who led the force for more than three years.

"I'm extremely disappointed that he's retiring," Burrows said.

"He's had a massive positive influence in our community and on the whole city."

Clunis was a different kind of chief for Winnipeg, he said. He made great efforts to work with struggling neighbourhoods like Point Douglas, Burrows said.

"He trusted the community, wanted people to work with him," he said.

Clunis believed in "smart policing," Bur-

rows said, which he described as getting to know struggling communities on a personal level and taking strategic steps to prevent crime. For example, under Clunis's leadership police partnered with landlords to identify drug dealers and evict them, Burrows said.

"As a result Point Douglas is a safer place, Winnipeg is a better place," he said.

As a senior officer, Clunis was willing to admit there were problems in the police force and promoted officers who excelled in working with community members, Burrows said.

"That set a whole new tone through the Winnipeg police."

Clunis came to Winnipeg with his family from Jamaica 40 years ago and grew up in the North End.

(CBC News)

Mar 10 2016

TORONTO - Some officers with the Ontario Legislative Security Service will be armed with handguns later this month.

Speaker Dave Levac says the tragic shooting on Parliament Hill in October 2014 prompted a broad review of security at the Ontario legislature.

Starting March 21, the Legislative Security Service will deploy an armed response unit, consisting of a number of officers equipped with holstered handguns, but the exact number with guns on any given day will not be disclosed.

The Speaker stopped short of requiring that everyone who enters the Ontario legislature go through a metal detector, instead of just those who want to enter the legislative chamber to watch debates.

Levac says his goal is to balance the need for the legislature to be an open and welcoming place for all while ensuring it is a safe and secure environment.

Armed Ontario Provincial Police officers used to provide security at the legislature until its own security force was created in the late 1990s.

Mar 10 2016

A trove of documents turned over to European news outlets is reported to list the names of at least half a dozen Canadians among thousands of foreigners who have joined the Islamic State terrorist group.

Britain's Sky News said it obtained 22,000 Islamic State files with names, addresses, telephone numbers and family contacts of jihadis from at least 51 countries.

"We are not in a position to offer any information on this subject," an RCMP spokesman said from Ottawa.

However, Michel Coulombe, director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, told a Senate committee recently that Canadian authorities suspect about 100 Canadians are in Iraq and Syria fighting with terrorist organizations.

According to Sky News, the files were on a memory stick stolen from the head of Islamic State's internal security police, by a disillusioned former Free Syrian Army.