

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief said he is troubled by a deteriorating relationship with his union counterpart amid claims that he presides over a “culture of fear” in the Edmonton Police Service.

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CALGARY - Calgary Police Chief Roger Chaffin said the force has to adapt in an age of social media transparency, including being able to talk to the public when a police incident is under investigation.

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BALTIMORE - Prosecutors dropped all remaining charges against three Baltimore police officers accused in the arrest and death of Freddie Gray in a downtown courtroom on Wednesday morning.

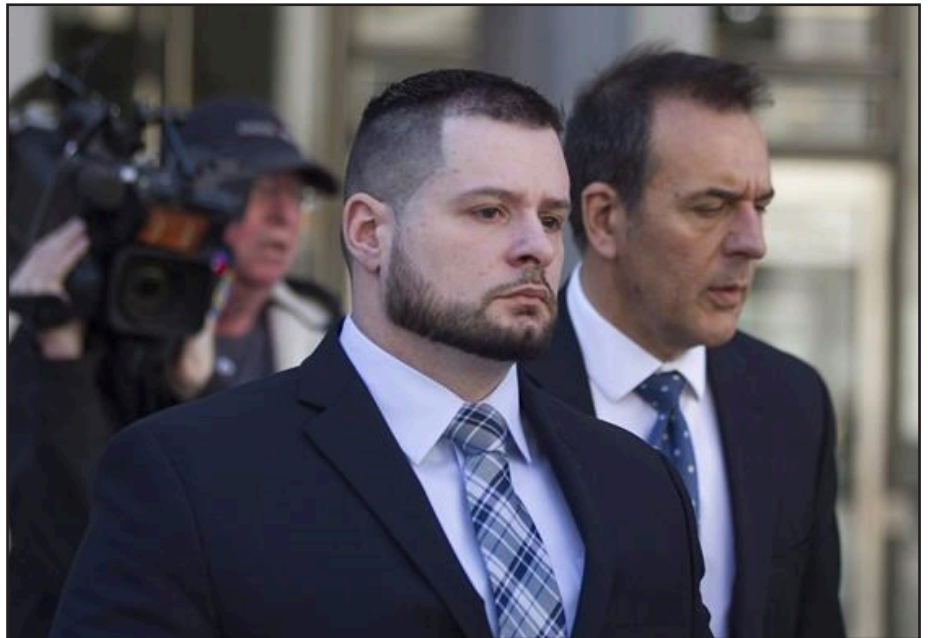
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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Forcillo gets six years for streetcar shooting



Jul 28 2016

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer has been sentenced to six years in prison for gunning down a troubled teen on an empty streetcar in 2013.

Const. James Forcillo was convicted of attempted murder in the death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim, which was captured on a cellphone video that went viral and spurred public outrage in Toronto.

The disgraced police officer, wearing a dark suit, stood straight and stone-faced as

he was handcuffed. Murmurs ran through the courtroom as Justice Edward Then delivered his sentence. Yatim's parents looked at Forcillo, then turned to one another in silence.

In handing down his sentence, Then said the cellphone video was “powerful evidence” that what Forcillo said occurred on the streetcar did not happen.

The judge spent almost 90 minutes dissecting the evidence that came to light during the trial, delivering a series of stinging rebukes to Forcillo's conduct that



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July night three years ago.

Then rejected the defence's assertion that Forcillo should not be subjected to the mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison for the attempted murder conviction. But he also said the Crown's request that the officer spend between eight to 10 years behind bars was "unreasonable."

Forcillo's lawyers, who had argued for house arrest instead of a prison sentence, filed a constitutional appeal, arguing the mandatory minimum was never intended to apply to peace officers who legitimately carry a gun at the behest of the state in order to protect society.

Prosecutors say the mandatory minimum is meant to apply to everyone, arguing police officers shouldn't get special treatment.

They also argued that Forcillo's case appears to be "among the most egregious examples of unjustified violence by a police officer in Canada."

The outrage over Yatim's death prompted the city's police chief to launch a review of officers' use of force and their response to emotionally disturbed people.

Yatim's mother, Sahar Bahadi, told the court she will never forgive Forcillo for killing her child.

"They say to move on, you have to forgive," she said during her victim impact statement. "But as a mother, I will not forget and I will never forgive. Human life matters. My son, Sammy, matters."

The teen's father also said he struggled to make sense of his son's death and wondered what would have happened if another officer had been on duty that night.

Forcillo's wife, meanwhile, said her husband doesn't deserve to go to jail because he isn't a risk to society.

In a letter to Then, Irina Forcillo said her husband is "the one whose purpose has always been to protect."

Forcillo had been out on bail since being charged. He's seeking bail again today pending

an appeal.

The officer fired two separate volleys - three shots and then six shots - at Yatim, who had consumed ecstasy and was wielding a small knife on an empty streetcar.

Forcillo testified that he never wanted to kill anybody when he confronted Yatim, but fired because he thought the teen was about to come at him with his switchblade.

Canadian Press

THURSDAY JULY 21, 2016

Jul 21 2016

WHITEHORSE - Premiers meeting in the Yukon say they want quick action from the federal government on the legalization of marijuana to prevent a patchwork of enforcement and distribution across the country.

"There's real concerns," said Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister before heading into the meeting Thursday in Whitehorse.

"It's one of the issues I want to raise today," he said. "I would hope we can develop a national approach, a co-operative approach."

British Columbia's Christy Clark echoed Pallister's worries around public health, safety and distribution.

"We need to see the federal legislation," she said. "We will build a system focused on safety."

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall said he's most concerned about consistent enforcement across Canada when it comes to marijuana use.

Jul 21 2016

VANCOUVER - Fifteen families with a link to a British Columbia justice training centre were targets in the firebombings and shootings of their homes and vehicles by a man who has pleaded guilty to orchestrating the attacks, the Crown told a sentencing hearing Thursday.

Vincent Cheung, 43, of Langley, pleaded guilty in B.C. Supreme Court to 18 of 23 counts stemming from the attacks between April 2011 and January 2012.

Reading from an agreed statement of facts, Crown lawyer Joe Bellows said the man targeted the families throughout the Lower Mainland after tracking down their homes with information obtained from their licence plates.

All the victims - including a corrections officer and members of a church group - had a member of their family park at the British Columbia Justice Institute, which offers training for people working in public safety including police officers and firefighters, he said.

Bellows said the Crown and defence will jointly ask for sentencing in the range of 10 to 15 years in prison.

He said nine witness impact statements will shed light on what the families endured.

"A lot of emotional trauma, a lot of financial difficulties," he said outside court. "They were very traumatized. Especially those who were victimized more than once."

Court heard that Cheung hired and directed others, and might have personally participated in the attacks. Most victims were at home and several were sleeping, but nobody was injured or killed, said Bellows.

Their safety was not the result of careful planning, "it was simply dumb luck," he told the court.

The attacks occurred at residences in nine municipalities in the Vancouver area, court heard. Video footage played in court showed a firebombing at the home of West Vancouver's former police chief.

Bellows read other descriptions of the string of crimes.

In one case, a fire was set to the front and back entrances of the home of an elderly woman. In another, parents and their two children awoke about 4:30 a.m. after gunshots were sprayed into their garage, home and car.

Investigators spent four years piecing together the mysterious reign of terror, which at first appeared to involve random victims, court heard.

Jul 21 2016

NANAIMO - Police in Nanaimo have a good idea who stole a woman's purse and iPhone thanks to automatic downloads from the camera on her phone.



Investigators say the woman left her purse near her car on July 5 when she went to dump some garbage and looked back to see a man near her vehicle. When she returned her purse was missing.

Police say the woman purchased a new iPhone and when her old pictures were downloaded, there was a picture of the man she saw near her purse before it disappeared.

The picture of the blue-eyed suspect with a shaved head appears to be a selfie and police have posted the man's photo on their website to see if anyone can help in their theft investigation.

Jul 21 2016

SAUGEEN SHORES - Should the OPP take over policing in Saugeen Shores? The question came up at a public meeting Wednesday night to discuss the overcrowding of the current police station.

About 60 people in attendance heard former Southampton Mayor Art Knechtel suggest that

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the OPP may be the future of policing in the municipality.

Knechtel says he believes Queen's Park is leaning that way in small communities.

Police Chief Dan Rivett says that policing decision belongs to the municipality.

Rivett says over the years, the community has chosen a municipal police force and he believes will continue to do so.

He says just because they need a new building, it's not a reason to disband the service in favour of the OPP.

Knechtel, while supporting a new headquarters build, called for a plebiscite on whether or not the OPP should be the police force of Saugeen Shores..

The meeting was the first of two this summer. Sometime in September, the public committee will make recommendations to the Police Services Board, who will ultimately make a presentation to town council during budget talks this Fall.

(Bayshore Broadcasting)

Jul 21 2016

VANCOUVER - The difference between the words "may" and "will" might seem insignificant. But when police are dealing with people in psychiatric distress, it could save a life.

According to a new Vancouver Police Department mental health policy released Thursday, the force is instructing its officers to de-escalate - or even avoid - confrontations with people in psychiatric distress, even though the Mental Health Act and other laws state they "may" take a more aggressive tack.

Instead, VPD members "are expected to recognize behaviours that are indicative of a person affected by mental illness or in a crisis," the policy states. "When a member determines that police engagement in the first instance will result in undue safety concerns for the individual, the public and/or the members involved, it may be acceptable to not engage with the individual at all."

The policy also requires ongoing training of all officers in de-escalating conflict with distressed people, and involving mental health professionals and specialized members of the force.

"History has shown that police interactions with persons living with mental illness, and who are in crisis, sometimes have the potential for violence," the policy states. "Occasionally, the mere presence of the police can elevate the tenor of the interactions and complicate communication further."

That's a shift the Canadian Mental Health Association Vancouver Fraser lauded as "really progressive" and "an example to other police departments across the country," said executive director Michael Anhorn in a phone interview.

"Having ongoing training to deal with people with mental illness, especially for de-escalation and avoiding the criminal justice system, will help officers implement it," he said. "When there isn't imminent harm to the public, we can then try to get mental health professionals to get in there and de-escalate

the person."

Authored by VPD Superintendent Daryl Wiebe, the new Mental Health Strategy is based on months of consultations with health authorities, University of British Columbia psychiatrists, and mental health advocates, including CMHA B.C.'s Senior Director of Policy, Research, and Planning, Jonny Morris.

"Police are often the first on the scene," he told Metro. "But police aren't always the most appropriate response.

"Living with a mental illness should not be a driving factor for ensnarement in the criminal justice system. We have a real obligation for people living with mental illness that their primary resource is the health system."

(Metro)

Jul 21 2016

LOYALIST TOWNSHIP, Ont. - The Special Investigations Unit says it's investigating a collision between an Ontario Provincial Police vehicle and a milk truck that left two officers injured.

The police watchdog agency says the officers were in a marked police vehicle on an eastern Ontario county road near Highway 401 in Loyalist Township on Wednesday, when the cruiser collided with the milk truck.

Both officers were taken to a Kingston-area hospital.

The driver of the cruiser remains in hospital, while the passenger was treated for facial injuries and released.

Police say the driver of the milk truck wasn't injured in the crash.

FRIDAY
JULY 22, 2016

Jul 22 2016

NORTH VANCOUVER - North Vancouver RCMP say a man bit the bait not once, but twice with the latest happening Friday.

31-year-old Lucas Brown was released from court custody on charges related to stealing a Bait Bike in March.

But less than half an hour after being released, Mounties say he struck again when he broke into a Bait Car.

In a release, North Vancouver RCMP Cst. Brett Cunningham says, "This was an interesting case where the offender has clearly shown that he hasn't learnt his lesson."

Brown is once again in custody and is facing additional charges of Theft, and Failure to Comply with a Probation Order.

Brown will appear court again on Monday.

(CKNW)

Jul 22 2016

CHARLOTTETOWN - RCMP on P.E.I. say one of the reasons for a recent big drop in crime on the Island may be the training of five crime analysts.

Statistics Canada released crime statistics for 2015 this week. They show while the crime rate was up in the country as a whole, it fell significantly in 2015. Since 2012, incidents of Criminal Code violations, excluding traffic,

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have fallen 36 per cent.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Kevin Baillie said in recent years RCMP have trained crime analysts to track crimes in communities across P.E.I. to look for similarities, and that could be a factor in the dropping rate.

“By compiling that data we can look at problem areas and target them,” said Baillie.

“Also a lot of the crimes are being committed by a small group of individuals, and we can target those individuals and use our resources more efficiently.”

Baillie said those analysts review large numbers of files every week, looking at similar methods of committing crimes and those convicted in the past for those types of offenses.

Baillie said because P.E.I. doesn't have a large number of transient criminals it can be easier to track down those who may be responsible.

(CBC News)

Jul 22 2016

The Longueuil police brotherhood failed in its duty to represent a temporary police officer who was fired in February 2014, Quebec's labour tribunal has ruled.

In a decision that has been made public, the court sided with former policeman Mathieu Gagnon, who accused the Brotherhood of “forcing” him to resign and refusing to file a grievance of dismissal in his behalf.

The Tribunal administratif du travail ordered the union to pay for the legal costs of challenging the dismissal.

“This is a victory for all temporary police officers in Longueuil and all union members,” Gagnon said. “The union did not respect the fundamental rights of temporary officers.”

The tribunal admonished the union in its decision.

“The circumstances required the union to conduct a serious and objective investigation to determine what it could do legally to represent the interests of the plaintiff,” judge Esther Plante wrote.

The brotherhood said it will appeal the decision.

“It is a ruling that has very heavy consequences for all unions in Quebec. It just changed jurisprudence significantly,” said Danny Lopez, president of the brotherhood.

Gagnon said his legal fees added to about \$30,000 since the beginning of the proceedings.

(CBC News)

Jul 22 2016

British police have been put on alert - they could be targets of an Islamic State kidnap plot after the attempt to abduct an RAF serviceman.

The National Police Chief's Council said forces had been told of the “heightened risk” and to “stay vigilant to possible dangers”.

It would not reveal specific advice “as doing so would only benefit those who wish to undermine it”.

Police are now said to have the DNA of

at least one of the two attackers who tried to drag an airman into a car at knife-point at RAF Marham, Norfolk.

The married serviceman, in his late 20s, beat one of them so badly he was left with his blood on him.

Police officers were yesterday warned they could be the targets of an Islamic State kidnap plot following the attempted abduction of an RAF serviceman.

Forces across the country were put on alert by the National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters amid fears an officer could be snatched by extremists.

A spokeswoman for the chief's council said forces were reminded of the “heightened risk to our workforce” and to “stay vigilant and alert to any possible dangers”.

(UK Mirror)

SATURDAY JULY 23, 2016

Jul 23 2016

VANCOUVER - Pokemon Go enthusiasts wandering around Coquitlam looking for significant sites in the hit game may find themselves at a surprising location.



The Hells Angels clubhouse, at 1041 Burnette Ave., shows up as a designated gym, meaning Pokemon Go players are expected to congregate there for battles with rival players.

Postmedia was tipped to the bizarre gym location by a Pokemon player Friday. Sure enough, a visit to Coquitlam with the Pokemon Go application opened showed the special icon for a gym right on the biker clubhouse.

The spokesman for B.C.'s anti-gang agency said Friday that it's totally inappropriate for the popular gaming application to send people to the clubhouse of the notorious biker gang.

“We think it's highly inappropriate that this game would include a location that attracts all ages - including children - to the location of a gang that is not only as well known as the Hells Angels is, but includes people who are involved in the highest levels of organized crime, including violent crime,” said Staff Sgt. Lindsey Houghton, of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit.

Hells Angels spokesman Rick Ciarniello did not respond to an emailed request for comment. The Coquitlam clubhouse is the base of the Vancouver Chapter of the biker

gang, which is one of the three oldest.

Last week, Vancouver police expressed concerns when a civilian employee discovered a virtual “Venonat” was located inside the police department's Cambie Street headquarters.

Const. Brian Montague reminded members of the public that they couldn't wander around the VPD building.

(Vancouver Sun)

SUNDAY JULY 24 2016

Jul 24 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog is invoking its mandate after a shooting in Toronto's west end that left one man dead and a woman seriously injured.

Police were called to the scene at about 5:30 a.m. Sunday amid reports two people had been shot.

Paramedics say a man was shot in the upper torso and a woman was shot in the leg.

The man later died in hospital.

Jul 24 2016

OTTAWA - The province's police watchdog says it's examining the circumstances surrounding the arrest of a man in Ottawa.

The Special Investigations Unit says Ottawa police officers responded Sunday morning to a report of a man causing a disturbance.

The SIU says the officers located a 37-year-old man and, at some point during the confrontation, the man suffered medical distress.

He was taken to hospital, where the SIU says he is listed in critical condition.

MONDAY JULY 25, 2016

Jun 25 2016

CALGARY - Calgary has approved the use of money collected from traffic tickets to hire 50 new police officers.

City council voted unanimously in favour of the request Monday, which the Calgary Police Service says is necessary to meet a rising demand for both crime response and community policing.

Last year, the Alberta government increased fines for speeding and running red lights by 35 per cent.

“So, that has resulted in about an \$8 million revenue stream that we weren't anticipating,” said Ward 13 Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart, who is a longtime member of the Calgary Police Commission.

It would cost the city about \$7.5 million per year to create and maintain the new job.

The force had 10 new positions in 2015 and none so far in 2016.

(CBC News)

Jul 25 2016

OTTAWA - Ontario's police watchdog says a 37-year-old man arrested in Ottawa this weekend has died.

The Special Investigations Unit says police officers responded Sunday morning to a report of a man causing a disturbance.

The SIU says the officers located the man and, at some point during the confrontation, he suffered medical distress.

The agency says it has since designated two subject officers and five witness officers.

Jul 25 2016

PETERBOROUGH - To date, de-amalgamating the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service has cost the City \$420,251, with "other potential financial impacts" still on the table.

At Monday's (July 25) committee of the whole meeting, staff provided the update about the cost of de-amalgamating the service at the end of 2014.

The report outlined the \$263,271 "one-time de-amalgamation costs to date" as well as "other legal costs" of \$57,825 and "additional costs" incurred by the police service of \$99,155.

"In addition, there are still other potential financial impacts that could occur as a result of the agreement termination," reads the report, prepared by Sandra Clancy, director of corporate services.

Those other potential impacts include the disputed contractual entitlements of the Chief and Deputy Chief and associated legal costs, "which could mostly be offset by the City's Statement of Claim and punitive damages being sought", as well as "ongoing savings resulting from a renewed alignment of future operating budget increases with that of the City."

In July of last year, an arbitrator deemed that the two top police staffers were entitled to a combined \$460,000 in severance when the police service de-amalgamated with Lakefield in late 2014. Subsequently, the City launched a suit against the two officers for nearly \$500,000.

(Peterborough This Week)

Jul 25 2016

CALGARY - Global TV personality Leslie Horton has let the city and the Calgary Police Service off the hook in connection with a dunk-tank inspired lawsuit.

But Horton's claim, filed in Calgary Court of Queen's Bench, continues to seek damages from the Calgary Police Association as well as the company which provided the tank for an event two years ago.

Court records show Horton's lawyer, Don McFarlane, filed discontinuation notices to both the police service and the City of Calgary on July 14.

The notices did not explain why the two defendants were being dropped from the legal action.

Both had been named in a lawsuit filed by Horton last month seeking damages over a July 5, 2014, incident at the CPS Westwinds Campus.

Horton sued the police union for hiring Tubby's Hot Tub and Party Rentals Inc. to provide the dunk tank for the event, in which she was asked to participate.

Her claim states that while in the dunk tank Horton hit her head "on an unpadded protruding portion."

It alleges Tubby's - among other things - was liable for failing to provide a properly designed dunk tank that was reasonably safe and not providing proper instructions on its use.

Among the alleged acts of negligence on part of the CPA was "failure to ensure the party responsible for operating the dunk tank received proper instructions in the safe operation of the dunk tank."

Horton, who suffered "traumatic brain injury," "cognitive injuries including memory

loss and concentration problems" and other wounds, is seeking \$150,000 in damages.

Statements of defence disputing the allegations, which have not been proven in court, haven't been filed.

(Calgary Sun)

Jul 25 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton police officers were recently shot at during a chase with suspects, and the head of the Edmonton Police Association said the incident unnerved him.

On Saturday night, a double shooting left two people wounded; the suspects fled in a vehicle. Police caught up with the suspect vehicle and attempted to stop it.

That's when shots rang out in the direction

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of police - no officers were injured. Officers later found the vehicle near 130 Avenue and 88 Street and arrested two people after a short chase.

"Are we watching a Hollywood movie? It showcases to me how policing is changing in Canada," association president Maurice Brodeur said.

Brodeur said he fears attitudes towards gun violence from the United States are creeping into Canada through the media.

Brodeur said it is difficult to say if numbers are on the rise, but he wants Edmontonians to keep a few things in mind.

"I need the residents of Edmonton to understand we are not the United States. Policing here is of a different brand. We're more transparent, more accountable, more professional," he said. (Global News)

TUESDAY
JULY 26, 2016

Jul 26 2016

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. - Niagara Region police have been cleared of any wrongdoing in a shooting on Oct. 10, 2015 that left two officers and a suspect wounded by gunfire.

In a letter to the police force, Special Investigations Unit acting director Joseph Martino says there is "clear and compelling" evidence that none of the involved officers committed a crime during the incident.

He says he is satisfied that the officers were faced with a "clear and present danger" as the male suspect stepped from his apartment in the community of Fenwick and began shooting in their direction.

Martino says the officers were "well within their rights in responding with gunfire of their own," adding one or more of the officers would have been killed had they not reacted as they did.

The incident remains under investigation by Niagara Region police, who say no further information will be released at this time.

Jul 26 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating a crash involving a police cruiser and a bicycle in Toronto.

The Special Investigations Unit says a 39-year-old man was riding his bike in Toronto's east end late Monday night when his bicycle and a police car collided in an intersection.

Investigators say the man was taken to hospital with several fractures.

They're asking anyone who may have seen the crash to come forward.

Jul 26 2016

HALIFAX - The RCMP have charged a Nova Scotia Mountie with sexual assault.

Investigators say they were dealing with an unrelated matter in July 2015, when information came forward about an alleged assault of a woman in Auburn, N.S., in 1995.

Police allege the constable touched the

woman in a sexual manner without her consent while he was posted to the detachment in Bridgetown.

RCMP Const. Charles Quartey, who is currently posted to the Northwest Territories, has been charged with one count of sexual assault.

He is expected to appear in provincial court in Kentville, N.S., on Sept. 27.

Quartey was placed on administrative duties in November 2015 and was suspended from duty on June 17, 2016.

Jul 26 2016

VAUDREUIL-DORION, Que. - A man was injured on Tuesday after a gunfire exchange with police just west of Montreal, authorities said.

The incident began when officers in a cruiser tried intercepting a driver, who then refused to stop, provincial police said.

The man's vehicle ended up in the parking lot of a police station in Vaudreuil-Dorion, off the western tip of the island of Montreal.

Police spokeswoman Ingrid Asselin said the man stepped out of his vehicle and pointed at officers with what appeared to be a weapon.

Shots were exchanged and the suspect was taken to hospital with injuries that are not considered life-threatening.

None of the officers in the chase or the shooting were injured.

Asselin said the man's car was reported stolen.

The case has been transferred to Quebec's new bureau for independent investigations into police shootings, which began operating in June.

Jul 26 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief said he is troubled by a deteriorating relationship with his union counterpart amid claims that he presides over a "culture of fear" in the Edmonton Police Service.



Edmonton Police Association president Maurice Brodeur is calling for an independent review after a survey of union members that he said demonstrates a "toxic" workplace.

Brodeur said EPS has some of the highest rates of discipline and most severe punishments of any force across Canada. He said while discipline is important, the way it's doled out in Edmonton is too harsh.

But Chief Rod Knecht disagrees.

"I have very little discretion in carrying out those duties as chief of police," he said, adding that he is bound by legislation. "Each case is judged on its own particular facts.

There isn't a cookie-cutter approach."

He added that he had an "open and progressive relationship" with Brodeur's predecessor, but that has changed.

"If they believe an independent review of our culture is a better way, I welcome (it)," Knecht said.

Brodeur said his decision to go public with the survey - which included a question about Knecht's ability to continue leading the service - isn't wholly an attack on the chief, but does take issue with leadership style.

"I think the leadership comes from the cauldron of the leadership within the RCMP where the chief comes from," Brodeur said, adding that the RCMP style can be "autocratic."

About 50 per cent of those surveyed said they were "very unconfident" or "somewhat unconfident" in Knecht's ability to continue leading.

Knecht has been chief since 2011, when he left the position of RCMP senior deputy commissioner. He took over the role from Mike Boyd, who held the position for four years until 2010. Before him, Fred Rayner was fired and Bob Wasylshen left under a cloud of controversy. Knecht's contract with EPS is slated to end in 2018 after being extended earlier this year.

Brodeur said the association hopes to work with the chief to address their concerns.

Of the 1,850 sworn association members, 60 per cent completed the survey.

Among those who responded, Brodeur said almost 80 per cent answered "agree" or "strongly agree" to the question asking whether they thought they were working in a "culture of fear."

Brodeur added 95 per cent of the respondents agreed that working for EPS was very stressful, and 40 per cent said they had looked for jobs outside EPS.

"They need to feel that they are welcome and supported and properly cared for, and they're not feeling that," Brodeur said.

A report that will outline the findings of the survey is being prepared and will be made available in the coming weeks, Brodeur said. He is calling on the Edmonton Police Commission and city council to engage in an independent review of the service.

He said the association asked the EPS to partner with them on a health and wellness survey during the winter, but said Knecht declined and said EPS would be doing its engagement survey instead. EPS did the survey, but Brodeur said the results were "flawed."

Knecht said the EPS survey showed that officers want their peers held accountable.

"Internal discipline is one of the key ingredients to building and maintaining that public trust," he said.

He added that the public has high expectations of police, and disciplinary action affects a small percentage of officers. He said less than five per cent of officers are subject to any form of discipline.

"Quite frankly, we're too short of police officers to want to fire anybody," he said. "Secondly, we invest heavily in these people."

(Edmonton Sun)

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Service has released its annual sunshine list-detailing the pay grades by rank of all members of the force.

Deputy Chief Bob Ritchie told the Calgary Police Commission Tuesday that CPS presents its earning disclosures in this way to maintain some privacy for their members.

"We have to balance the transparency piece for the public with the privacy part for our members," he said. "We're not naming names or identifying anyone, but obviously there are a few you can figure out because there are so few of them."

According to the data available online from the CPS website and presented to the CPC Tuesday, there are 2,908 employees at CPS; 25.86 per cent civilian employees and 74.14 per cent sworn members.

The highest percentage of CPS employees (47.56 per cent) earns between \$100,001- \$125,000 a year. Included in this group are senior constables, sergeants, detectives as well as information technology professionals, supervisors and managers.

CPS said there are only 61 employees (2.10 per cent of all sworn and civilian employees) who earn over \$150,000 per year. These included positions such as inspectors, superintendents, deputy chiefs and the chief of police.

The majority of CPS sworn members (58.40 per cent) earn between \$100,000-\$125,000 annually. There are 53 sworn employees (2.46 per cent) who earn over \$150,000.

All salaries are decided through negotiations with unions and salaries for civilian members are often based on hours per week. (Metro)

Jul 26 2016

Ground was broken Tuesday on a new headquarters for the 24 member Tsuut'ina Nation Police.

It's a long awaited facility for a growing force that currently shares space with a day-care and has some cells in a trailer, according to Tsuut'ina Chief Roy Whitney.

He said work on the roughly \$5 million project - being funded by the Tsuut'ina Nation - is expected to begin Aug. 1 and be completed within six months.

"We should have a full, utilized facility come December," he said.

The building will be "reflective of our community," said police Chief Keith Blake.

"Each room will be dedicated to something in our community that means something to the people of Tsuut'ina," he said.

"It will be representative of all the people here, the culture, the tradition and the history. We intend to have an opportunity for the Tsuut'ina Nation to give us input on what they think each room should be. There's a tremendous amount of cultural history here."

Some plans are already in place, said Blake.

"Finally we'll have an opportunity to have an elders room, where the nation elders

can come in, have a cup of coffee, talk to us and pass on their wisdom," he said.

"We're going to have a commission room, we'll have state-of-the-art interview rooms, we'll have the opportunity for our Victim's Services programs to have space."

The Tsuut'ina Nation Fire Department administration will also move into the new building and it will house holding cells for prisoners.

Jul 26 2016

TORONTO - The high-ranking Toronto Police officer reprimanded for his conduct during the 2010 G20 summit is appealing his conviction.

Supt. Mark Fenton was convicted by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission of unnecessary and unlawful use of authority in the arrest or detention of hundreds of people on June 26 and 27, 2010.

Fenton was convicted in August 2015 and sentenced in June 2016 to a reprimand and the loss of 30 paid vacation days.

In a notice of appeal, Fenton asked to be found not guilty on all counts, or else be granted a new hearing, or be given another reprimand instead of lost vacation days.

"(Fenton's) conduct that was in issue at the hearing arose in a context," said Michael Lacy, lawyer for the superintendent.

"We made submissions at the time about the reasonableness of the officer's behaviour, based upon the information that was known to him and also the fact that other superior officers, people he reported to, were aware of the decisions he was making."

The document lists 14 grounds for appeal, including the argument that he had "reasonable and probable grounds" to order the arrests and was authorized to do so by "ancillary powers" granted to police during the G20 summit.

Fenton's appeal also claims that retired justice John Hamilton, who oversaw the tribunal, did not have the jurisdiction to allow the Canadian Civil Liberties Association to participate as an intervener.

Fenton is currently the unit commander for Toronto Police 43 Division. (Toronto Sun)

Jul 26 2016

CALGARY - Calgary Police Chief Roger Chaffin said the force has to adapt in an age of social media transparency, including being able to talk to the public when a police incident is under investigation.

"I just think in an era, with what we're seeing going on in North America right now, saying nothing does not inspire confidence," he said after a meeting of the Calgary Police Commission on Tuesday.

"It leads the public and the media to just kind of fill in the gaps, and often in a way that doesn't instill confidence in public safety and policing."

Chaffin was addressing concerns raised by the release of two videos during the Calgary Stampede which showed officers using force

to arrest suspects.

In one, a swarm of officers took down a man on the Stampede grounds after they said he tried to grab an officer's stun gun.

In another, a man was aggressively taken to the ground in front of a bar before being punched several times.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is overseeing an investigation into the second incident, according to Chaffin.

Chaffin said there are restrictions when ASIRT is called to investigate any incident, hampering his ability to communicate with the public.

"When police are involved in something, there's a presumption that anything we say will tend to corrupt the investigation," he said during the commission meeting.

"There has to be an ability for the chief of police to speak to issues."

He said communication is one thing that needs to change, but it can't stop there.


"We have to be able to adapt our training, our policies, our supports for members, but also expectations from communities have to be heard and reflected in policing."

Also high on the chief's to-do list is getting more body cameras on his officers, something he said could help add context when videos such as these show up on social media.

"Every day we go out we don't have those cameras, we might miss an opportunity to add transparency to a situation," he said.

Chaffin said he's heard concerns from officers that they will be investigated whenever

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Canada's Law Enforcement Information Specialists



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an arrest is caught on tape.

“You can imagine just how difficult their decisions are now given the kind of rapid transparency that’s occurring. And being able to keep their confidence high that when we train people, and we follow our policies, they are also going to be supported when these things hit the media the way they do,” he said.

“That’s the biggest message I have for our organization: I will absolutely support people but that doesn’t mean we can hide from accountability.”

(CBC News)

Jul 26 2016

LONDON - A notoriously violent gang rooted in Nova Scotia is recruiting girls and young women in Southwestern Ontario and pimping them out along the Highway 401 corridor, say police and women’s advocates.

Members of North Preston’s Finest are among gangs operating in the region, the OPP say.

The gang has been connecting with area girls and women for more than a year, said the head of the London Abused Women’s Centre that has been focused on victims of sex trafficking.

“These are very dangerous people and these girls are terrified,” Megan Walker said.

“They are trafficking guns, drugs and women and they are settling in Southwestern Ontario from Windsor up to Toronto.”

Since January the centre has helped 134 women and girls who say they’ve been trafficked and 75 at risk of being trafficked, Walker said.

She couldn’t say how many, if any, had been victimized by the Nova Scotia gang.

The North Preston gang surfaced in Nova Scotia in the early 1990s, and has since expanded beyond that province to traffic women, guns and drugs across Canada.

Toronto police have said they believe the gang has members and affiliates in the megacity.

(London Free Press)

Jul 26 2016

EAGLE VILLAGE - There is no police station in Eagle Village.

Instead, officers on the Quebec Algonquin reserve work out of a 40-year-old, bungalow-style home that’s been jerry-rigged to fit two jail cells, offices and a tiny armoury.

It is a less than ideal arrangement and one that’s proving unsafe. Last month, a fire inspection by Quebec’s Ministry of Public Security gave the makeshift police station a failing grade, citing a number of hazards and building code violations.

Eagle Village police chief Nelly Mathias says this is just one example of how her force is badly underfunded. The department can’t afford to pay its employees overtime and can’t offer them permanent positions because there’s no money in the budget to pay for pension contributions.

“I love my job but every year, we don’t know if we’ll have enough funding to make

it,” said Mathias, who has been a police officer for 21 years. “It’s stressful, it’s scary the things we go without.”

The situation in Eagle Village isn’t atypical of how aboriginal police forces operate in Canada, according to regional and national unions representing aboriginal law enforcement. These working conditions are at the centre of a labour dispute pitting the country’s largest aboriginal police force against the federal and Ontario governments.

Earlier this month, the 134 members of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) - which patrols 35 communities in Northern Ontario - voted in favour of a strike mandate in hopes of forcing the government to hire more officers and make safety upgrades.

NAPS employees earn about 20 per cent less than police with equivalent training in non-aboriginal departments and they tend to face a much higher workload. Crime rates in aboriginal communities are about three times the national average, according to Public Safety Canada. Some cops on the force regularly patrol without backup.

The NAPS officers could walk off the job by summer’s end unless they sign a new agreement with the federal and provincial governments, who split funding costs.

It would also mark the third time a funding squabble shut down an aboriginal police force in Canada this year. Quebec’s Opitciwan and Mashteuiatsh First Nations temporarily disbanded their police departments in early 2016 after negotiations with the federal and provincial government broke down.

Critics say the situation with NAPS and other First Nations highlight an underlying problem with the model that funds aboriginal departments.

“Aboriginal police departments aren’t funded like an essential service, they’re funded by grants and contributions, as though policing were a short-term pilot project,” said John Domm, the president of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association. “There’s no flexibility built into the program. You get a block of funding and you make do with it.”

Since 1991, the federal government has helped pay for law enforcement in 450 aboriginal communities through the First Nations Policing Program. The program, which has cost more than \$2 billion in 25 years, was designed so that communities could take further steps toward self-government.

But funding problems have plagued the program since the beginning. Many communities don’t have 24-hour-a-day police coverage and a number of provincial inquiries have highlighted serious safety problems.

For people like Mathias, who says her department struggles to get through each day, change can’t come fast enough.

“I lost two officers earlier this year, they moved on to a job with better wages,” said Mathias, whose been the chief of police in Eagle Village for two years. “And before that I lost two more officers. There are only four of us working here, it’s hard to keep good people when you’re paying just \$20 an hour for someone to put their life on the line.”

(Montreal Gazette)

Jul 26 2016

NEW YORK CITY - NYPD officers are getting heavy-duty vests and ballistic helmets in response to the assassinations of cops in Texas and Louisiana, authorities said Monday.



The \$7.5 million expenditure was seen by Police Commissioner Bill Bratton and Mayor de Blasio as the obvious response to the escalating tensions that have played out in several American cities in recent months.

They made the announcement in front of symbolic location, the 84th Precinct station-house, where Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos worked out of when they were executed in Bedford-Stuyvesant in December 2014.

More recently, five cops were killed in Dallas and three more in Baton Rouge, La.

Another officer, part of the response to the gunman who killed 49 at a gay nightclub in Orlando, was shot in his Kevlar helmet but survived.

The 20,000 new helmets will provide similar protection.

“The helmets are very similar to ones worn by U.S. soldiers in combat,” Bratton said.

The 6,000 vests -- to be stored in the trunks of each of the department’s 3,000 patrol cars - will give officers an extra layer of protection, to be worn over their existing vests if they respond to active shooter scenarios.

Bratton said a local incident captured on video - a gunman opening fire on responding officers at the Cooper Houses in East Williamsburg on July 17- convinced him the NYPD was not as equipped as it needed to be.

(New York Daily News)

Jul 26 2016

VANCOUVER - Uniformed Vancouver police officers will march in Sunday’s Pride Parade, after the department reached a compromise with Black Lives Matter protesters who sought to have police stay out of the parade, according to VPD spokesman Sgt. Randy Fincham.

The department met last week with representatives of Black Lives Matter and the Pride Society, Fincham said Tuesday. As a result of those talks the department agreed not to have its armoured rescue vehicle in the parade, he said.

“We do understand there were concerns that were raised by Black Lives Matter and those are being addressed,” Fincham said. “We’ll have a number of officers in uniform, proudly marching in the pride parade.”

Marked police vehicles will be featured in the annual parade.

Black Lives Matter organizers didn’t

return phone messages left Tuesday, but posted a statement to their website expressing their satisfaction with what they called a “small and partial” victory.

“The removal of the Armoured Response Vehicle from the Vancouver Pride Society’s parade, while a small act, is symbolic to Black Lives Matter and especially to Black queer people,” the statement read.

The group’s Vancouver members published an online letter to the Vancouver Pride Society and police department earlier this month, asking that police not join in the annual parade.

WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 2016

Jul 27 2016

NANAIMO, B.C. - RCMP have arrested a man suspected of taking a photo of himself with an iPhone they say was stolen in Nanaimo, B.C.

Const. Gary O’Brien says in a news release that the 39-year-old was arrested less than 48 hours after the selfie was circulated on social media.

The man, who hasn’t been named, is charged with theft under \$5,000.

Police say the case began July 5 when a man grabbed a woman’s purse, containing her iPhone.

Police say the woman purchased a new phone the next day and it automatically uploaded photos from her old phone, including one of the man.

O’Brien says the “infinite wisdom” of uploading the photo, as well as the resulting attention on social media, helped officers make an arrest.

Jul 27 2016

WASHINGTON - The number of U.S. law enforcement officers shot dead on the job is up 78 percent this year compared with the same period last year, according to preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

In the wake of targeted attacks on police officers this summer in Dallas and in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the analysis of law enforcement deaths across the country shows that the 32 firearms-related deaths recorded as of July 20 account for nearly half of the 67 line-of-duty deaths reported by police agencies, with ambushes comprising 14 of the fatal shootings.

The fatalities are still well below the rates of officer deaths in the 1970s, when the number of firearms-related fatalities peaked in 1973 with 156 officers. But Craig W. Floyd, president of the nonprofit officers memorial fund, called the rapid uptick this year “extremely troubling.”

“In the 1970s, you had a lot of parallels to what we are facing now. There was a lot of anti-authority sentiment and a lot

of anti-police sentiment,” said Mr. Floyd, whose group maintains the national monument to fallen officers in Washington and keeps statistics on officer deaths. “They did become targets, just as they are becoming targets again today.”

Over the past decade, the number of officers fatally shot has averaged 52 a year. Firearms-related deaths reached their lowest point since the 1880s in 2013, when 33 officers were fatally shot, according to data from the officers memorial fund.

According to previously reported data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, the number of ambush-style killings has ranged from five in 2011 to 15 in 2014, with six such killings reported last year. Already this year, 14 ambush-style shootings have been reported.

“That is a frightening number of officers who have been assassinated because of the uniform they wear and the job that they do,” he said.

Seven officers were killed while stopping suspicious people, five were shot dead while executing tactical arrests or high-risk warrants, four were gunned down while attempting to arrest suspects and two were slain while handling prisoners.

Traffic-related fatalities accounted for 24 deaths so far this year. In three of the past four years, traffic-related fatalities have accounted for more deaths than firearms-related incidents, according to the officers memorial fund. (Washington Times)

Jul 27 2016

BALTIMORE - Prosecutors dropped all remaining charges against three Baltimore police officers accused in the arrest and death of Freddie Gray in a downtown courtroom on Wednesday morning.



The startling move was an apparent acknowledgement of the unlikelihood of a conviction following the acquittals of three other officers on similar and more serious charges by Circuit Judge Barry G. Williams, who was expected to preside over the remaining trials.

It also means the office of Baltimore State’s Attorney Marilyn J. Mosby will secure no convictions in the case after more than a year of dogged fighting, against increasingly heavy odds, to hold someone criminally accountable in Gray’s death.

Officer William Porter’s trial ended with a hung jury and a mistrial in December, before Williams acquitted Officers Edward Nero and Caesar Goodson and Lt. Brian Rice at bench trials in May, June, and July, respectively.

In a hearing Wednesday meant to start the trial of Officer Garrett Miller, Chief Deputy State’s Attorney Michael Schatzow told Williams that the state was dropping all charges against Miller, Porter and Sgt. Alicia White.

Porter had been scheduled to be retried in September, and White had been scheduled to be tried in October.

“All of our clients are thrilled with what happened today, and we’ll be making a comment later to address the details of what happened,” said Catherine Flynn, Miller’s attorney, outside the courthouse.

The officers still face possible administrative discipline. Internal investigations, with the help of outside police agencies, are underway.

Gray, 25, suffered severe spinal cord injuries in the back of the van in April 2015 and died a week after his arrest.

At a news conference in West Baltimore, near where Gray was arrested, Mosby defended her decision to bring the charges against the officers, and said that “as a mother,” the decision to drop them was “agonizing.”

But, given Williams’ acquittal of Nero, Goodson and Rice and the likelihood that the remaining officers would also choose bench trials before him, Mosby said she had to acknowledge the “dismal likelihood” that her office would be able to secure a conviction.

“After much thought and prayer it has become clear that without being able to work with an independent investigatory agency from the very start, without having a say in the election of whether cases proceed in front of a judge or jury, without communal oversight of police in this community, without substantive reforms to the current criminal justice system, we could try this case 100 times and cases just like it and we would still end up with the same result,” she said.

She said there is an “inherent bias” whenever “police police themselves.” She said the charges she brought were not an indictment of the entire Baltimore Police Department, but she also broadly condemned the actions and testimony of some officers involved in Gray’s arrest or in the department’s investigation of the incident - alleging “consistent bias” at “every stage.”

The decision Wednesday to drop all charges came during what was expected to be a contentious hearing surrounding the prosecution’s ability to proceed with Miller’s trial without using anything he said on the witness stand in Nero’s trial against him.

Miller had been charged with second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and two counts of misconduct in office related to Gray’s arrest. He was compelled to testify at Nero’s trial under a limited form of immunity designed to protect his constitutional right against self-incrimination while freeing him to speak about the events that transpired on the morning of Gray’s arrest. Before Miller’s trial could proceed, prosecutors were required to show that they had not gleaned any evidence or strategic advantage in Miller’s trial from his immunized testimony.

Having dropped the charges, prosecutors avoided taking the stand.

(Baltimore Sun)

VANCOUVER - British Columbia is asking the federal government to help it crack down on fentanyl overdoses that have been classified a public health emergency in the province.

Premier Christy Clark wants the federal government to restrict access to devices, such as pill presses and tableting machines, and to pursue stronger penalties against people who import and traffic in fentanyl.

Clark also wants Ottawa to ask the Canada Border Services Agency to search small packages for fentanyl to stop the drug coming into the country.

Recent statistics from the coroner's service in B.C. show there were 371 deaths in the first six months of this year, about a 74 per cent increase compared with the same period last year.

The service says the proportion of deaths where fentanyl was detected in toxicology tests jumped to about 60 per cent and that the drug was either used alone or in combination with other drugs.

British Columbia declared a public health emergency in April when overdose deaths surged to an alarming rate in the first few months of this year.

Jul 27 2016

VANCOUVER - A man who targeted 15 families with firebombings and shootings because he thought they had links to a training centre for emergency responders in British Columbia has been sentenced to 13 years and six months in prison.

Vincent Cheung, 43, of Langley, pleaded guilty last week to 18 of 23 charges stemming from attacks in 2011 and 2012.

Associate Chief Justice Austin Cullen said from the bench on Wednesday that the circumstances of the case required a strong message of denunciation.

The judge gave the man 1 and 1/2 years credit for pre-trial custody, ordered a firearms prohibition and that he provide a DNA sample.

The Crown had asked for a 15-year prison sentence, while Cheung's lawyer recommended a 10-year-term.

At the man's sentencing hearing, court heard that Cheung either hired associates or may have personally carried out the crimes. He admitted tracking down people who parked their vehicle at the Justice Institute of British Columbia in the Vancouver area by paying an Insurance Corp. of B.C. employee to run licence plates.

Investigations into the employee and the people Cheung hired are ongoing, said Crown attorney Joe Bellows outside court.

One man has pleaded guilty to one count in an arson case and will be sentenced next month.

Court heard nine victim impact statements in which people reported emotional trauma, depression and sleep deprivation after their homes or cars were shot at or set on fire.

Jul 27 2016

HALIFAX - A writer for a Halifax satire and gossip magazine has been charged him with breaching

a publication ban in the case of a police officer's murder.

Andrew Douglas, of Frank Magazine, says he's scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court Sept. 6.

Police said the charge, announced Wednesday, followed an investigation that began earlier this month after the launch of a preliminary inquiry into the homicide of Catherine Campbell.

The hearing began on July 11 and police say the magazine published a story online the same day that included information that was subject to the ban.

The same story appeared in the print edition of the magazine, which appeared on newsstands on July 13. The Halifax magazine is run separately from the Ottawa publication of the same name.

The publication ban was placed on all evidence presented at the preliminary hearing.

Douglas said his story was researched, written and published ahead of the publication ban.

"We put the story on the website at 9:30 or 10 o'clock in the morning on July 11 and that publication ban didn't go into effect until later in the morning or even the afternoon."

He said the story was based on a document that was not obtained through the court process and that proved to be controversial.

Police spokeswoman Const. Alicia Joseph said the charge was the result of "several complaints" and that police allege the story was published after the court ordered ban.

"If there is a breach of a publication ban we take that allegation and that investigation very seriously," said Joseph. "If you are going to breach a court order ... and we investigate that and there is an upholding charge that we can charge we will certainly do so."

Christopher Calvin Garnier is charged with second-degree murder in the death of Campbell, who had served as a Truro police constable for six years before her death.

**THURSDAY
JULY 28, 2016**

Jul 28 2016

Two Quebec provincial police officers accused of sex-related breaches while working as United Nations peacekeepers in Haiti have retired before facing any disciplinary action, CBC News has learned.

The Sûreté du Québec had an internal hearing scheduled for July 12 for one sergeant under investigation, but he left the force earlier in the month, said SQ Capt. Guy Lapointe.

Another SQ sergeant who allegedly solicited sex from a Haitian prostitute retired last year before the police force had scheduled his disciplinary hearing.

Over a two-year period beginning in April 2013, the second officer was placed on administrative duty and a paid suspension until his retirement in April 2015, Lapointe told CBC.

Both men will collect full pensions and neither one will face any sanctions now that they have retired, he said.

A disciplinary hearing could have led to a suspension, a downgrading in rank or firing.

The two officers have not been publicly identified.

The RCMP, which oversees Canada's UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), strictly prohibits intimate or sexual relations with members of the local population, due to "the difference in real or perceived power and authority."

The revelations raise fresh questions about Canada's ability to hold its peacekeepers accountable.

They come following a report earlier this year from CBC's French-language service Radio-Canada that at least two officers with the Montreal police fathered children while working as peacekeepers in Haiti.

(CBC News)

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