

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Police to carry Fentanyl antidote



Sep 13 2016

VANCOUVER - RCMP officers will soon be carrying naloxone nasal spray to protect themselves against accidental contact with opioids such as the potentially deadly fentanyl.

Commissioner Bob Paulson said he cannot overstate the danger of the powerful synthetic drug that has already killed thousands.

"It's spreading across the country, leaving a

trail of misery and death," he said in a news release Tuesday. "First responders and the public need to know that even being near it can make you sick, or worse."

The RCMP said it will begin distributing naloxone kits to officers to use on themselves or others to reduce or reverse the effects of opioids. New procedures are also being developed for Mounties to safely handle unknown substances.

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Sep 08 2016

SAINT JOHN, N.B. - A young U.S. man who said he was worried about the safety of his Canadian girlfriend has been sentenced to two months in jail for using a Walmart air mattress to float across the St. Croix River and illegally enter New Brunswick.

Crown prosecutor Peter Thorn says 25-year-old John Bennett told police he had tried Wednesday to cross the border at Calais, Maine, but customs officers denied him entry because he was facing mischief charges in Maine.

The lawyer says court was told Bennett purchased an air mattress at the local Walmart, inflated it and later used a wooden board to paddle across to an area near Ledge Road, southeast of St. Stephen, N.B.

However, Thorn says a local resident spotted the man, and he was later arrested by the RCMP and charged with failing to appear at the border crossing as required by the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Sep 08 2016

OTTAWA - The Liberal government's promised changes to a controversial anti-terrorism law likely won't come until next year, once officials have digested an array of public suggestions on revamping national security.

The government opened an online consultation Thursday, soliciting feedback on everything from sharing information and preventing attacks to conducting surveillance and ensuring intelligence agencies are accountable.

The consultation, which can be found at canada.ca/national-security-consultation, runs until Dec. 1.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale told a news conference in Edmonton the government also hopes House of Commons and Senate committees will hold public hearings on the national security framework.

It means any legislation flowing from these reviews would not be tabled until December at the earliest and more likely in late winter or spring 2017.

Sep 08 2016

A provincial police officer is facing criminal charges in connection with a fatal car crash last year.

Sûreté du Québec officer Maxime Gobeil has been charged with three counts of dangerous driving causing death.

The collision happened in 2015 in the town of Dolbeau-Mistassini, about 120 kilometres northwest of Saguenay, Que.

The fatal collision happened last summer between a partially-unmarked police vehicle, which Gobeil was driving, and a car with three women aboard. The three victims were seniors, between the ages of 70 and 90.



The force released a video Tuesday featuring two British Columbia officers who became sick immediately after inhaling or touching fentanyl that belonged to people they came across while on the job.

Const. Rob Dupuis of Kamloops said in the video that he responded to a call about a young man who was slumped over in the driver's seat of a vehicle that had numerous narcotics in plain view.

Dupuis said he noticed a chemical smell and became nauseous and dizzy from what he later learned was fentanyl, and that tests at a hospital later showed his heart rate and blood pressure were elevated.

Traces of opiates were also found in his urine, he said.

"That was just after a 15-minute exposure in a vehicle," Dupuis said, adding that officers at traffic stops may believe they are dealing with cocaine or heroin, unaware that a substance is laced with fentanyl.

Const. Dawn Adams of Kelowna said she went to check on a man slumped over a table and noticed he had dropped a folded piece of paper.

"When I picked it up it unfolded and basically exploded white powder in my face," she said in the video.

"I felt dizzy, I felt nauseous, I couldn't

stand up very well. I had to lean over. It was a feeling of helplessness too. Very unnerving for a police officer."

Adams said she felt better immediately after receiving a dose of naloxone, which is sold under the brand name Narcan.

"It takes a second for you to be exposed and another second for you to die. And we all want to go home at the end of the night."

Fentanyl is a pain killer that in its illicit form is often mixed with street drugs, though users may be unaware of its presence in whatever they are taking. A few salt-sized grains of the drug can kill an adult male.

Cpl. Eric Boechler, of the RCMP's Clandestine Lab Enforcement and Response Team, said any amount of fentanyl has to be handled with extreme care because it is potentially lethal.

Boechler said someone who comes into contact with anything that could contain fentanyl should wear gloves, breathing protection and safety glasses.

Last week, the Vancouver Police Department announced its front-line officers would be carrying naloxone spray in case of exposure to opioids, and the Abbotsford Police Department said it will be ordering naloxone kits.

They will not be required to use it on anyone experiencing an opioid overdose in keeping with a policy the Vancouver Police Department adopted in 2003 to not attend overdose calls.

In British Columbia alone, the coroners' service has said there were 433 opioid-related deaths between Jan. 1 and July 31 of this year, a nearly 75 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2015.

The number of deaths between Jan. 1 and June 30 where fentanyl was detected has leapt to 238, a 250 per cent increase over the same period last year.

In July, the province created a joint task force involving the provincial health officer and the director of police services to identify ways to prevent and respond to overdoses.

The task force released a statement Tuesday saying the RCMP's decision to equip officers with naloxone is a "positive step."

"Adding naloxone to the list of tools at their disposal means they are able to keep themselves and those they serve and protect safe. At the end of the day that is what it is all about — keeping British Columbians safe," the statement said.

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK Celebrating 20 Years

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The SQ vehicle, which was responding to an emergency call, was speeding on Highway 169 before crashing at the corner of Rouseau Avenue.

Gobeil is scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 5. He has been suspended with pay. (CBC News)

Sep 08 2016

CORNER BROOK - Garvey is the newest cop on the beat in Corner Brook.



The German Shepherd is the third canine to work with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary in the city over the last 10 years, and he brings a diverse skill set to the Corner Brook squad.

The canine is trained as a general duty full-profiled dog, which means he can do a bit of everything. Some of his specialties include tracking human scent, evidence and firearms. And when the cops need to make an arrest, Garvey can hold a suspect in place.

Garvey, 2, has been trained for narcotics and has been on the job for two weeks. But, for the last five months Garvey was getting to know his new partner Const. Scott Mosher.

It's a new position for Mosher, who was the media relations officer in Corner Brook for the last few years.

"A little bit of a different role. I've got a full-time partner now. And, he's pretty amazing, actually, in some of the things he can do," said Mosher.

The duo spent the last five months training together in Alberta. One of the first things the new partners had to do was a bonding walk. The couple was dropped off in the middle of an Alberta back country and had to find their way back by working together through the unknown land, in a couple of hours.

It was the first bit of one-on-one bonding time the new partners had together. Needless to say, they got to know each other quick. (CBC News)

Sep 08 2016

With beef prices at an all-time high, B.C. cattle ranchers are pushing the RCMP to rehire a cow cop for the province.

B.C. Mounties have been without a dedicated livestock investigator for a year and a half, following the retirement of Cpl. Ralph Overby. The force's livestock investigator, most recently based out of Kamloops, was sent around the province to assist local detachments in landowner disputes, poaching, theft and other cases requiring specialized

knowledge of the cattle industry.

With the position vacant, it's difficult for the force to fully investigate livestock-related offences, according to the BC Cattlemen's Association.

The association passed a resolution at its annual general meeting last month asking the RCMP to reinstate at least two livestock coordinators.

The RCMP say "staffing action" to fill the position has begun, but it's unclear when the position might be filled.

The issue has come to the fore as beef prices rise, according to a cattlemen's report to the RCMP. (Dawson Creek Mirror)



Sep 09 2016

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. - A veteran police officer is being credited with saving a woman and child from a burning home in St. Catharines, Ont.

Niagara Regional police say they were called to the scene of the blaze around 1:35 a.m. Friday morning.

They say the first officer on scene tried to get into the house, but was driven back by smoke and flames.

He then found a nearby garden hose and used it to fight back the flames enough to get inside.

He found the mother and child inside and led them to safety through a back door.

The occupants of the house were not injured, and police say the officer has been treated for minor smoke inhalation.

His name is not being released and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Sep 09 2016

The ability to quickly route calls to emergency responders closest to a caller is critical to the success of the 911 emergency phone system — but a group of researchers say they've found a way to effectively disable the system across an entire state.

They simply launching what's known as a TDoS attack, or telephony denial-of-service attack. The tactic involves infecting mobile phones to cause them to automatically make bogus 911 calls — without their owners' knowledge — thereby clogging call-center queues and preventing legitimate callers from reaching operators.

The researchers say it would take just 6,000 infected smartphones in a geographical area - something hackers could easily accomplish - to launch an attack sufficient to disrupt the 911 system throughout the entire state of North Carolina, and just 200,000 infected phones distributed across the U.S. to significantly disrupt 911 services around the nation.

"Under these circumstances, an attacker can cause 33 percent of the nation's legitimate callers to give up in reaching 911," the

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researchers at Ben Gurion University in Israel wrote in a paper they recently passed to the Department of Homeland Security and are releasing publicly today.

Because call centers and routers around the country often operate at near capacity under normal conditions, increasing the volume of calls by just a small percentage can overwhelm them, said Mordechai Guri, head of R&D at the university's Cyber Security Center and chief scientist at Morphisec Endpoint Security. Guri conducted the work with researcher Yisroel Mirsky and Professor Yuval Elovici, head of the center.

"We believe the researchers have accurately characterized the problem" with the 911 system, said Trey Forgety, director of government affairs for the National Emergency Number Association, who received a copy of the researchers' paper from DHS. He says his group has long been aware of the potential for a TDoS attack and brought it to the attention of DHS four years ago. "We actually believe that the vulnerability is in fact worse than [the researchers] have calculated."

The call capacity of 911 systems is exceptionally limited, and in many cases just three to five circuits process all 911 calls for a 911 center, Forgety said. "Three to five circuits is trivial to overwhelm. I can do it with a pocketful of cellphones."

Americans make more than 240 million calls annually to more than 7,000 call centers scattered across the country. About 70 percent of these calls now come from mobile phones. But the technology used to process these calls hasn't kept pace with security needs, experts say.

An attack could be prolonged for days using techniques that would prevent authorities from halting the bogus calls, Guri and his colleagues say. The problem would be exacerbated as legitimate callers trying to get through made repeated calls that further clogged the lines.

Malware that the researchers created for their TDoS test infects the phone's firmware — software beneath the operating system that makes the phone work. The attacker then sends a command to infected phones over the Internet or via covert text messages to call 911 repeatedly. Because the calls are initiated by the firmware and not the operating system, they occur silently in the background without the phone owner's notice.

No record of the calls appears in the phone's call log either.

To test their TDoS attack, the Israeli researchers built a simulated cellular network in their lab based on the 911 network in North Carolina. They chose North Carolina because the state has published extensive information about its 911 network. It has, for example, 20 routers and 188 call centers that handle more than 23,000 emergency calls daily and more than 8 million annually.

But North Carolina has a problem shared by many other states - many of its call centers rely on a single router to process 911 calls. By overwhelming one router, an attacker can

affect many call centers. One North Carolina router known as the Rocky Mount SR, for example, feeds 64 call centers — more than half the state's call centers.

The researchers found that with just 6,000 infected phones, they could prevent more than 50 percent of wireless callers in the state from reaching 911, in addition to a good percentage of landline callers.

The researchers say state authorities could resolve the problem in part by making sure they have redundancy in 911 networks so that a single router doesn't become a major point of failure in an attack.

Guri and his colleagues say authorities need to act soon since it will only be a matter of time before attackers target 911 systems — if they haven't already.

(Washington Post)

Sep 09 2016

WINNIPEG - A conference in Winnipeg aims to establish a protocol between Manitoba and North Dakota to help end cross-border human trafficking.

Organizers say thousands of Canadian teens are lured into empty hotel rooms every year and end up being moved around circuits across Canada and the United States.

Barb Gosse, CEO of the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, says the goal of the conference's participants is to set up a collaborative and responsive system of dealing with that.

She says that will include training border control officers to be able to spot potential cases of human trafficking.

Gosse hopes the event will be the first of

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many across Canada and in the United States.

Organizers say an increase in the North Dakota oil industry since 2012 has resulted in an influx of temporary workers and an increased demand for sex-trade workers.

(CTV Winnipeg)

Sep 09 2016

TORONTO - A lack of crossing guards in the city is forcing some Toronto police officers into double duty helping school children cross streets rather than leaving the job to private citizens or city workers.



As many as 50 officers a day are being asked to fill in as crossing guards, CBC News has learned.

It's happening even as a task force appointed by the mayor has called for the job to be taken off the hands of officers to save about \$7 million. That's part of a proposed \$100 million cut to the force's operating budget in the next three years.

"The best use of a highly trained police officer's time is not on things like crossing guards, as much as we want to make absolutely sure our children are safe," Mayor Tory said Thursday.

Downloading crossing guard duties to the city or the private sector was just one of 24 recommendations announced in June as part of an effort to modernize the Toronto Police Service. Other measures included a freeze on hiring new officers, downloading life guard and parking enforcement services, as well as the closure of six police stations across the city.

Sgt. Jeff Zammit of 14 Division has been filling in at the intersection of Dufferin Street and Gordon Street because of a shortage of crossing guards in his area. He's there about three times a day.

"I make over \$100,000 a year to be doing a school crossing that I shouldn't be doing," he said. "An hour in the morning, about an hour and a half to two hours at lunchtime and about an hour to an hour and a half after school," he said.

The extra responsibility makes it difficult for Zammit and other officers to complete other duties they are responsible for in a 10-hour shift. Crossing guards, meanwhile, make \$13.81 per hour and are only paid for the hours they spend on the street working, even though they are spread across an entire day.

Zammit says that's one of the reasons they are having so much trouble finding people willing to do the job.

"It's almost like a full time job but you're only getting paid for three hours, so it's tough, it's a tough sell."

(CBC News)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

Sep 10 2016

INDIANAPOLIS - Police departments in at least two states that outfitted their officers with body cameras have now shelved them, blaming new laws requiring videos to be stored longer, which they say would significantly increase the cost.

About a third of the nation's 18,000 police agencies are either testing body cameras or have embraced them to record their officers' interactions with the public.

But departments in Indiana and Connecticut suspended their programs this year after their states imposed considerably longer video-storage rules.

Clarksville, a southern Indiana town just north of Louisville, Kentucky, began using body cameras in 2012 for its 50 full-time officers and 25 reservists. That program ended in late June when Chief Mark Palmer pulled the cameras in response to Indiana's new law requiring agencies using the cameras to store the videos for at least 190 days.

Palmer said his department's video storage and camera maintenance costs had been between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year under its 30-day video storage policy. But the new law that took effect July 1 would have raised those costs to \$50,000 to \$100,000 for the first year, he said, by requiring videos to be stored more than six times longer.

Palmer said the department would have had to buy new servers and may have had to buy new cameras and software and to train someone to use it, and that although the cost would have been lower in subsequent years, it still would have been high.

The adjacent city of Jeffersonville also shelved its 70 officers' cameras for the same reasons, and other Indiana police agencies have delayed committing to the cameras while they monitor the new law's impact.

At least eight states — Indiana, Oregon, Illinois, Nevada, California, New Hampshire, Nebraska and Georgia — have laws spelling out how long police departments must preserve the footage the cameras capture, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, whose Michigan department covers Detroit's northern suburbs, said he won't equip his 900 officers with the cameras largely because his department's startup costs for the cameras and storing the resulting videos for just 30 days would amount to more than \$1 million a year. "For body cams it's a deal-breaker. I won't implement them," he said.

Medium-sized police departments appear to be facing the biggest challenges with video storage because they often don't

have enough space on servers or hard drives for their considerable data storage needs, said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum.

(AP)

Sep 10 2016

SURREY - The man behind the Surrey vigilante group that claims to hunt predators by luring them into dates is apologizing to an RCMP officer mistakenly named as a target after an ambush this week

"I'd like to apologize to him and his family and hope that he will understand that we are trying to do a public service and that sometimes the public gets carried away," reads a Facebook post.

The group's Wednesday night ambush led to an arrest in Surrey by the RCMP.

"I never said his name ... and I have nowhere posted anywhere [his name] and I have nowhere condoned people posting that name," said Ryan Laforge, president of the Surrey Creep Catchers on Saturday.

Laforge said the whole thing was a misunderstanding.

He and other so called pedophile hunters became convinced that the suspect was a police officer based on images they say he sent to the "14-year-old" decoy who he'd been connecting with for a week and talking about sex.

On a Facebook video of the ambush, Laforge calls out an officer's first name as he approaches the suspect.

That name was based on the suspect's Twitter handle, he said.

After the ambush, online supporters of the Surrey Creep Catchers began posting comments, several claiming to know the RCMP officer involved.

But the name published in those comments was incorrect.

Laforge said the name he spoke on the Facebook video of the ambush happens to rhyme with another RCMP officer's real name — an officer who had nothing to do with the entire situation.

"The apology is just what any human being would do for someone who was brought into something they are innocent for," said Laforge.

He is also appealing to the besmirched officer to forgive the group.

"I hope that given what we are doing is to protect the kids I would hope that there would be a little bit of understanding," said Laforge, who urged all followers to stop naming any specific officers.

"It makes us look bad," Laforge posted.

On Friday, RCMP announced that they had arrested a Mountie and an investigation into child luring and sexual exploitation allegations was ongoing. That officer's name has not been released.

On Saturday, RCMP confirmed he has now been released from custody with a series of conditions as a result of a judicial bail hearing.

(CBC News)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Sep 11 2016

REGINA - Mounties have added another name to their honour roll, cenotaph and memorial wall as the RCMP held its annual National Memorial Service in Regina for fallen members.

Const. Sarah Beckett was killed in April when her police cruiser was hit by a pickup truck in a Victoria-area intersection.

The 11-year member of the force left behind a husband and two young children.

The memorial ceremony on Sunday is held annually at RCMP Depot Division in Regina, where the force's academy is located.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson says the memorial honours the fallen members for their service and is a reminder of what it means to commit one's life to the service of Canadians.

The addition Beckett's name to the memorial brings the total number of fallen members to 237 since the creation of the North-West Mounted Police in 1873.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

Sep 12 2016

OTTAWA - Military police say they have charged one of their own with sexual assault.

Sgt. Kevin MacIntyre, a military police officer at Canadian Forces Base Halifax, faces one count of sexual assault in connection with an alleged incident in Glasgow, Scotland, last year.

The Department of National Defence says MacIntyre and the alleged victim, also a member of the Forces, were participating in a training exercise at the time.

The charges were laid by the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service, the military police unit responsible for investigating serious crimes.

Military police charged 34 people with sexual offences in 2015 and 15 during the first six months of 2016.

Defence chief Gen. Jonathan Vance reported last month that the military was making progress in rooting out sexual misconduct in the ranks, but that more work needs to be done.

Sep 12 2016

Durham police's civilian oversight board discussed how an active officer was allowed to co-own an unlicensed medical marijuana shop that offers customers drug products that are illegal to sell.

What did the board decide? The public is not allowed to know.

At the end of Monday's Durham Regional Police Board meeting, member Bill McLean said he was going to raise his ques-

tions about the controversy in camera - legalese for in private.

McLean, a Pickering councillor and former Toronto police sergeant, had previously said he wanted answers following a Star investigation into the marijuana company, Living On Inc., which was co-owned by veteran Const. Phil Edgar.

"I think it's our job as a board to ask those questions and get those answers," McLean previously told the Star.

After briefly consulting with Roger Anderson, the head of the police board, McLean opted to ask his questions behind closed doors. In a text after the meeting, McLean said, "I asked the questions that I had in camera and I am satisfied with the answers I received."

The board made no statement regarding its private discussions.

Durham police have steadfastly refused to comment on Const. Edgar's case, calling it a personnel issue.

"I cannot speak about any specific case. That is not appropriate. I cannot speak about that in public because it is an employee-employer matter," Durham police Chief Paul Martin said after Monday's meeting.

The chief emphasized that the force would never approve a side job that it knew was illegal.

A recent Star investigation found Living On Inc., located on First Nations land in Port Perry, was not licensed by Health Canada. Its website also advertises various kinds of edible marijuana products that are illegal to

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sell in Canada because the government says they pose a risk of overdose or unintentional ingestion by children.

Const. Edgar joined the company in December 2015. He said he received permission from the force to do so around the same time. Police have not revoked that permission, Edgar said, though he has since "stepped back" from the marijuana company.

The officer, who attended the public portion of Monday's meeting, said he is weighing whether he wants to continue a career in policing or branch into the budding medical weed business.

(Toronto Star)

Sep 12 2016

HAMILTON - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating after a 74-year-old woman was struck by a police cruiser in Hamilton on Monday afternoon.

The Special Investigations Unit says the woman Dundurn Street at about 3:30 p.m. when she was hit by the cruiser.

She was taken to hospital for treatment of a leg injury.

Three investigators, one forensic investigator and a collision reconstructionist are looking into the incident.

Sep 12 2016

BROCKVILLE - Two Brockville Police Service officers are facing criminal charges — including one who allegedly committed multiple assaults while off duty — as well as disciplinary action, the police force said Monday.

In one case, the Ontario Provincial Police charged an eight-year veteran with "several" counts of assault, Brockville police said in a statement.

The alleged assaults span several years and occurred outside Brockville, while the officer was not on duty, police said.

The officer has been moved to administrative duty, police said, and a Police Services Act investigation has been launched.

In the second case, a seven-year veteran of the force was charged with one count of breach of trust following an investigation by Brockville police.

The officer has been suspended, police said, and also faces seven counts of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act and five counts of neglect of duty.

Due to the "nature of the allegations" against both officers, neither of their names has been released, Brockville police said.

(CBC News)

Sep 12 2016

RCMP officers in Clyde River didn't have to go far to catch an alleged impaired driver in the community, after he drove right into their door.

At around 5 a.m. Saturday, Nunavut RCMP got a call about an erratic driver operating an ATV.

But before the officers could get to that location, they heard a loud crash and found an ATV next to the RCMP garage door, with

significant damage.

Damage to the garage door is estimated at \$30,000.

A suspect was arrested at the scene of the crash. A Clyde River man is facing charges of operating a motor vehicle while impaired, breaking and entering, causing a disturbance, and four counts of mischief.

He also faces two municipal bylaw charges for driving without insurance and without a helmet.

(CBC News)

Sep 12 2016

TORONTO - Bill McCormack was a loving family man and a proud police officer.



That's how the former Toronto police chief was remembered during a funeral service at St. Paul's Basilica Monday, Sept. 12.

"The two most important things in my dad's life were family and family," said McCormack's son Michael, who is also president of the Toronto Police Association. "My dad is a proud man. He loved his beautiful bride, loved his children, grandchildren, great grand-

children and his beloved Toronto police."

McCormack, who served as Metro Toronto Police chief from 1989 to 1995, died last Thursday at age 83.

"My father was many things to me. He was a father, a mentor, my boss," said Michael, adding, "Try to participate in a job action when your dad is the chief and let me know how that goes for you."

McCormack leaves behind five children, four of whom became police officers, 11 grandchildren, three great grandchildren and his wife Jean.

About 900 people, including Mayor John Tory, former mayor Mel Lastman, former premier Mike Harris and former police chief Bill Blair, attended the funeral.


"I thought very highly of him. He could be tough but he could be kind, he could be compassionate, and the men and women in the force respected him and liked him," Harris told reporters. "If I had been premier a little sooner, he might have been chief a little longer."

Blair called McCormack a "great role model and a great mentor."

"I never knew a man who wore their uniform more proudly than Bill McCormack," Blair said.

Mike Sale, a retired inspector, said McCormack paved the way for community outreach.

"There was no chief before him who would go out and do the community interaction that he would do," Sale said in an interview. "As the chief of police, he'd put his



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www.badgeoflifecanada.org

uniform on, grab a couple of people from a local division and ... go walking through the neighbourhood to meet people. He was always engaging."

Sale was a 19-year-old cadet when he first met McCormack in the early 1970s.

"He was a gentleman. He was extremely cordial," Sale said.

McCormack, a longtime Scarborough resident, joined the police force in 1959 and served as a homicide detective throughout the '70s.

When police chief Jack Ackroyd suddenly and surprisingly announced his retirement in 1984, Jack Marks was appointed chief and McCormack was promoted to deputy chief.

McCormack became chief five years later and was extremely popular with the rank and file during his six-year tenure.

"From the first day to the last, there never was a time when he didn't enjoy pretty wide support and respect from the people on the police service," Sale said. "He was one of the most popular (chiefs) of all time."

(Metroland)

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

Sep 13 2016

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The RCMP says no charges are to be laid in the April 2015 shooting death of Donald Dunphy.

The 59-year-old man was shot and killed in his home on Easter Sunday by a police officer who was a member of the then-premier's security detail.

The officer was investigating a perceived threat at the home in Mitchells Brook, about 80 kilometres southwest of St. John's.

The RCMP concluded its investigation in January, and that was reviewed by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team.

Police said today that the Alberta team's report concluded that the RCMP investigation "followed the best practices and principles of major case management and that it was thorough, complete and unbiased."

The RCMP said they have decided not to lay charges, and that the Alberta team's report has been shared with the Dunphy family.

Sep 13 2016

TORONTO - A far-reaching review of civilian oversight of police in Ontario kicks off a series of public consultations on Wednesday as critics of the status quo call for sweeping reforms.

Led by Justice Michael Tulloch, the review has a broad mandate to recommend ways to enhance oversight accountability and transparency, long an emotional bone of contention.

The clamour for change should work to Tulloch's advantage in forging a report the government will feel compelled to act on, Andre Marin, former Ontario ombudsman, said Tuesday.

"You have Black Lives Matter, you've

got a public that's very cynical of the police," Marin said. "It's really a perfect storm for reform and I've got my hopes up very high."

Wednesday's webcast forum in north Toronto will be the first of 18 currently scheduled for across the province. Tulloch, who is to report to the attorney general by March 31, 2017, will introduce the review — its budget has yet to be disclosed — followed by hour-long discussion tables that will report back to him with suggestions.

The panel, which has already met privately with interested parties such as police representatives and families of victims, is also soliciting written input.

Danielle Robitaille, lead co-counsel, said she was confident the panel will succeed where others have failed because the review is designed to be driven by community needs and expectations. While views may be charged and polarized, Robitaille said Tulloch has the experience to battle his way through them.

"What the community needs at this point in history is an authoritative view on where do we go from here," Robitaille said.

Marin, who produced two reports on oversight which he said were thwarted by police opposition, warned Tulloch against trying to seek a watered-down compromise or consensus.

"Police resent oversight - they'd just like to see it disappear," Marin said. "So what he needs to do is just forge ahead and come up with the best public policy there is."

Currently, three different bodies are responsible for civilian oversight of police in Ontario:

- The Special Investigations Unit, established in 1990, probes cases of death, serious injury or sexual assault involving officers;
- The Office of the Independent Police Review Director, established in 2007, deals with public complaints about police;
- The Ontario Civilian Police Commission, also set up in 2007, adjudicates police discipline disputes and budget quarrels between police services and municipalities.

The Special Investigations Unit - Marin was once its director - has come in for fierce criticism from those who argue it is too secretive and lacks the teeth or will to deal with officers who resort to violence then thwart a proper investigation. Police have slammed the unit as having second-rate investigators working with a fuzzy mandate.

Among other things, Tulloch will look at whether the agency should release more information, including the names of officers, witnesses and victims involved in an incident.

Another controversial area is the staffing of the unit - mostly former police officers. Critics argue that creates an inherent pro-police bias. Proponents says the expertise of ex-cops is invaluable. Tulloch will also look at whether the bodies should collect race and other demographic data.

Tulloch, the first black justice on Ontario's Court of Appeal, will not delve into individual cases but wants to hear about personal

experiences to enhance his understanding of the issues.

Pamela Grant, an adviser to Tulloch who will facilitate the public forums, said it's crucial that those dissatisfied with police oversight are heard.

"The interests are entrenched on all sides," Grant said. "For many of the communities involved, this is not the first time around, so it's important that we are very conscious of that."

Sep 13 2016

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A Newfoundland man who promised in a Facebook post to turn himself in on five arrest warrants has kept his word.



The story played out on social media Monday for all to read when Brandon Melbourne took exception to comments on the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary's Facebook page likening him to a person wanted for an armed robbery at a St. John's bank on Friday afternoon.

The constabulary had posted pictures of Melbourne, who was wanted on a number of warrants. They had also separately posted pictures of a suspect in the robbery at the Bank of Montreal.

When some people posted comments that the bank suspect looked like Melbourne, he responded on the page saying it wasn't him, and he would be turning himself in on the warrants later in the evening after he done "a few things."

Staff Sgt. Tim Buckle of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary confirmed in an interview Tuesday that Melbourne arrived at the police station at 9:20 p.m. local time on Monday.

Before Melbourne's surrender, media spokesman Const. Geoff Higdon was enthusiastic about the effectiveness of social media as a crime-fighting tool, noting that the constabulary's "Wanted Wednesdays" have resulted in the arrests of all 18 people profiled.

"Social media is a really good way to tap into the community. A lot of people want to see justice," he said Monday.

He noted that another suspect who engaged on social media with the RNC last year, Rodney Constantine, also turned himself in as promised.

"I posted a thank-you. He kept his word," said Higdon.

The officer said he tries to treat suspects with respect.

"They're people too," Higdon said. "He's accused of a crime but at the end of the day we need to be respectful."

VICTORIA - A growing trend of vigilante stings has resulted in charges against a former deputy sheriff in British Columbia just days after a Mountie faced similar allegations.

The B.C. Criminal Justice Branch announced Tuesday that Kevin Johnston, who worked in Kamloops, has been charged with three counts of communicating with an underage person for a sexual offence and one count of invitation to sexual touching.

An unnamed RCMP officer in Surrey was arrested last week and is being investigated for child luring and sexual exploitation after the vigilante group Creep Catchers released video that it claimed was a confrontation with a man who thought he was meeting an underage girl.

Justice branch spokesman Dan McLaughlin confirmed that both men came to the attention of police through separate vigilante groups in the province.

"There are organizations that are out there providing opportunities for people to communicate with people they believe to be underage females in these instances and they seem to have been caught by those organizations."

None of the allegations against the two men have been proven in court.

In the latest allegations, media reports said a group called Creep Hunters in Kelowna, B.C., posted a video on Facebook that the group said showed a confrontation with Johnston after he allegedly tried to initiate a relationship with an underage girl.

The group's website was taken down on Tuesday, but some of the video was still available and had been shared on Facebook.

The branch said Johnston is no longer employed as a court sheriff. His next court appearance is set for Oct. 20.

Sep 13 2016

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department's mounted unit is taking heat for piles of horse manure left on streets, laneways and trails by its patrolling steeds.

In a July 11 complaint, the complainant — who is not named — said it's "absolutely disgusting" in Stanley Park.

"There are fresh big piles of horse crap on almost every trail daily and ones from weeks ago still rotting away. It is absolutely gross.

"What is more upsetting is the fact that dog owners must pick up after their dogs and if they don't they can be fined \$250 so I don't see how the police are not required to pick up after their horses."

In the department's response, which will be examined by the Vancouver Police Board on Thursday, VPD Sgt. Tan Tran wrote the mounted unit's supervisor recently checked and found "horse manure was indeed left on trails and paths in Stanley Park."

"He has issued a directive to his members iterating the practice and expectations that members are to clean up their horse manure on paths and trails or any location where it is safe to do so," Tran wrote.

"However, on roadways or in alleys with regular vehicle traffic, it is not always safe for mounted unit members to do so."

Tran said the VPD have now set up an agreement with Vancouver City Hall to radio in locations of poop left behind on roads and alleys, so city crews can attend.

However, when on a sidewalk, crosswalk, trail, seawall, beach, bike path or "any other place that the general public is likely to walk or bike," horse-riding police officers are expected, by policy, to clean up the mess by tossing the droppings into the bushes, a garbage can or on the side of a road.

"The (road) safety concern is related to the unpredictability of approaching or passing automobiles. If the rider is off their horse removing manure, a passing vehicle may frighten or even strike the horse," a new, amended policy reads.

"A frightened horse may cause injury to itself, the rider or general public ... the likelihood of the horse becoming frightened is lessened significantly when the rider is in the saddle."

(24 Hours Vancouver)

Sep 13 2016

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service are recruiting in Calgary as the force looks to add 140 new officers this year and another 80 in 2017.

Edmonton police were attending a Calgary career fair Tuesday and, in a new step, EPS will also host a local information session for potential applicants this week.

About 150 people have already signed up for the session, said Const. Carmen Fidler with the Edmonton police.

"There's quite a bit of interest," Fidler said, noting EPS used to only host information sessions in Edmonton and in other provinces. The force has also hosted some information sessions in Alberta towns.

"We weren't getting quite the draw that we'd hoped for, so that's why we're coming back to Calgary," she said.

Fidler said EPS has the support of the Calgary police in coming here to recruit new officers. Applicants often apply to the police services in both Calgary and Edmonton.

"We do work together, because we have the same kind of testing and we do have a lot of applicants sometimes that are in the process for both cities at the same time," she said.

A large number of officers have been retiring from the Edmonton Police Service over the past couple of years, said Fidler, and the force is trying to keep its numbers even as the city grows.

Coun. Ward Sutherland, a member of the Calgary Police Commission, noted current unemployment levels could translate to a lot of candidates.

"One of the advantages that the police department has here is the cadet program . . . which is a real good pre-screening. And then you're looking at really good candidates, because you want to reduce turnover as much as possible and ensure that you're hiring the right individuals," he said.

(Calgary Herald)

Sep 13 2016

B.C. researchers are launching the country's first large-scale clinical trial on marijuana as a treatment for a mental health condition, testing whether pot can ease the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Zach Walsh, a clinical psychologist at the University of B.C.'s Okanagan campus, is leading the study, which will put the anecdotal experiences of combat veterans to the test.

"A lot of veterans are using cannabis to help with their PTSD," Walsh said. "What we see, unfortunately, with treatment-resistant PTSD is people will be on a combination of drugs - one thing to help with sleep, another thing to help with mood and sometimes a bunch of other stuff.... What (veterans say) cannabis does is it addresses a lot of those issues concurrently. It helps them get to sleep, it relaxes them, it helps them to function on a day-to-day level."

Medical marijuana users claim that the drug helps them with everything from anxiety to insomnia to nightmares, he added. At the same time, many say they don't suffer the same side-effects as they might with anti-depressants - things like sexual dysfunction and weight gain.

"We have so many folks that suffer from PTSD for whom the existing treatments are insufficient. There are some good treatments out there for PTSD - most prominent are some of the behavioural therapies - but there are still a lot of people who suffer," Walsh said.

The marijuana for the study will be supplied by Tilray, the Nanaimo-based licensed medical producer. The researchers are now trying to recruit participants who suffer from PTSD related to military history, work as first responders, traumatic accidents or violent crime.

The triple-blind study will include three different treatments: a placebo with the active ingredients removed, a strain containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and one with both THC and cannabidiol. The participants will each receive a vaporizer to consume the drug, and get a chance to try two of the treatments over three weeks each while the researchers monitor their symptoms.

A similar study is being done in the U.S., and Walsh hopes to combine his results with those of his American counterparts to get a broader picture of marijuana's impact.

(Vancouver Sun)

Sep 13 2016

Peel Regional Police are investigating whether a group calling themselves the Motorcycle Mafia is behind Sunday's dangerous mob ride through Mississauga and other parts of the GTA that involved a fiery crash.

The News reached out to the group on Twitter, but they have yet to respond.

The group posted on Instagram they were set to ride from London, Ont. to Toronto on Sept. 11, the same day that residents reported seeing upwards of 100 motorcycles popping wheelies, running red lights and

riding aggressively through city streets.

"The only business we're into is doing burnouts and poppin' wheelies," the group wrote in an Instagram post.

It's not clear if this was the same group involved in the incidents in Mississauga and other parts of the GTA.

Police suspect that the two motorcycles that collided on Dundas Street at the corner of Cedarglen Gate around 1 p.m. Sunday, which resulted in one of them bursting into flames, were part of the motorcycle mob.

Const. Bally Saini said police are investigating how this ride was organized and are aware of the Motorcycle Mafia group.

Police haven't determined how or why the large group of motorcyclists were riding together, but have accumulated licence plates and are interviewing witnesses.

(Mississauga News)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Sep 14 2016

PETERBOROUGH - Mayor Daryl Bennett says a contractual dispute involving the chief and deputy chief of police is currently in mediation.

Speaking on local TV show Bennett also said he could potentially make a comeback as a member of the police services board.

Bennett wasn't available for comment on it later Tuesday night but on the show, he said that a dispute involving a \$460,000 payout that Peterborough Police Chief Murray Rodd and Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson are expecting has gone to mediation.

Meanwhile, the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) removed Bennett from the police board for good in 2014 after he was found guilty of misconduct while on the board.

But Bennett said on TV that he's expecting the OCPC to make that penalty more "moderate."

When Wilson asked him if that meant he would be returned to the police board, Bennett didn't directly answer the question.

"We're working toward a remedy in this regard, yes," Bennett said.

When Wilson asked him to clarify, Bennett implied he could be returning to the board.

Bennett then said that Farquharson is eligible for retirement in 2017 and Rodd is eligible in 2018.

"I would like to have a hand in picking a replacement, there," he said.

The city is suing Rodd and Farquharson for a total of \$460,000. That's the sum the officers claim they are owed as severance, according to their contracts - even though they kept their jobs.

The case stems back to January 2015, when the Peterborough-Lakefield Police Service dissolved.

The force ceased operating that day and was immediately replaced by Peterborough

Police. That's a new, city-only force (excluding the village of Lakefield as part-owner).

Rodd and Farquharson were hired back immediately, in the same jobs. But there's a clause in their contracts that says they are owned a year's salary apiece if the force ceases to exist for any reason - even if they remain employed.

The police services board balked when it was asked for the compensation. And since the board gets its money from the municipality, the city filed the lawsuit against Rodd and Farquharson.

On Tuesday evening, police services board chairman Bob Hall didn't confirm anything Bennett said on TV.

Hall wouldn't say whether the matter with Rodd and Farquharson has gone to mediation.

"It's a private contractual matter, and we're trying to manage this in a professional, dignified way," he said. "But it's still an ongoing issue - there's no doubt about that."

When Bennett was removed permanently from the police services board in 2014, it followed a budget impasse between City Hall and the police in 2011.

In its ruling in 2014, the OCPC stated that Bennett wanted to "sabotage efforts, escalate conflict, undermine the efforts of the (police) service ... and create upset in the community."

"This behaviour is unacceptable."

Although Bennett has said he planned to appeal that OCPC decision in court, he didn't mention it on TV.

(Peterborough Examiner)

Sep 14 2016

HALIFAX - An independent review has found the Truro Police Service badly bungled its investigation into the 2005 death of a three-year-old Nova Scotia girl, failing even to get a warrant before seizing items from the suspect's home.

Samantha Mercer died on March 3, 2005, from injuries including a severe head injury. Terry Dean Allen, the boyfriend of the girl's mother, was charged with manslaughter, but was acquitted in September 2009.

Gerard Mitchell, police commissioner for Prince Edward Island and retired chief justice, said in his report released Wednesday that the investigation was flawed in multiple ways.

"This was clearly a major case that required a very careful, methodical, and painstaking investigative approach. The Truro police did not take that kind of approach," said the review, ordered by Justice Minister Diana Whalen earlier this year.

The Truro Police Service did not immediately return a request for comment Wednesday.

Mitchell said the case was marred by "procedural errors, neglect, lack of diligence, and failure to provide the Crown with appropriate deliverables in a timely manner."

In fact, Mitchell states that the review was ordered after the Justice Department found out in April that a Truro police officer was disciplined for neglecting his duties in the Mercer case.

The report said the officer was found guilty following a review of the case by the

chief of another municipal police department. He was demoted and ordered to attend a major case management course, it said.

"The (Mercer) investigation lacked the leadership, teamwork, organization, and supervision that are the hallmarks of proper major case management," Mitchell said in the report.

The 24-page review said officers searched the suspect's home and seized items without a warrant, and took a statement from Allen without advising him of his rights to counsel.

It also said that Truro police should have communicated better with the prosecutor's office throughout the investigation.

Nevertheless, Mitchell said in a news release that he cannot say that a better-managed investigation would have produced a different result.

The report said although there were "serious deficiencies" in the capacity of the Truro Police Service to deal with major crimes in 2005, that is not the case today because of their relationship with the RCMP.

It makes several recommendations, including that the Justice Department ensures small police forces have access to support for major crime investigations, perhaps by establishing a "major case support unit."

It also says the department should conduct regular audits of municipal police services and that investigators should seek legal advice from the Crown as soon as possible when dealing with major crime cases.

Sep 14 2016

HALIFAX - A new Nova Scotia Appeal Court ruling raises fresh questions about the police use of so-called "Mr. Big" tactics, dismissing a Crown appeal in the case of a woman acquitted of being an accessory to murder.

The RCMP targeted Brittany Leigh Derbyshire in 2011 as a way of finding her friend Steven Skinner, an MMA fighter and murder suspect who was believed to have fled the country.

"Whatever (Derbyshire's) role in illegal activities, it does not give to the police carte blanche to coerce confessions," said the appeal court.

Two officers posing as outlaw motorcycle gang members approached the 28-year-old waitress in the underground garage of her Lower Sackville, N.S., apartment building, "wearing high-end tough guy clothes and gold jewellery," according to the appeal court ruling.

They told her they were sent by "high-er-ups from out west to clean up the mess" left behind by Skinner, a suspect in the April 2011 shooting death of Stacey Adams in Lake Echo, N.S.

The undercover Mounties told her they thought she might be a "rat," swore at her, blocked her exit, stopped her from using her cellphone, said she would not be going to work that day, and took her to Moncton, N.B., more than two hours away.

A fearful Derbyshire readily told the pair all about how she drove Skinner, 43, to the Moncton airport and helped him dispose of

evidence, the appeal court ruling said.

"She said she was petrified ... She said she felt she had no choice or they would think she was a problem that they would need to get rid of," said the appeal court.

Derbyshire was charged with being an accessory to Adams' murder, but at trial her lawyers successfully argued the police violated her right to silence. The trial judge, Justice Michael Wood, threw out the evidence gathered in the operation, and then acquitted Derbyshire when the Crown offered no other evidence.

In its appeal, the Crown argued that though police were forceful at first with Derbyshire, things quickly relaxed and she willingly aided the undercover officers.

But the appeal court disagreed. It cited a Supreme Court of Canada judgement that came down even as the Derbyshire case was being heard, which warned judges to be leery of Mr. Big operations in which police pose as gangsters. It said confessions obtained by undercover officers were unreliable, although it didn't bar them completely.

"It is the unacceptable use of police tactics to coerce confessions that is problematic," Justice Duncan Beveridge wrote in the provincial appeal court's unanimous decision.

The Crown had argued that the Derbyshire operation was not a classic Mr. Big operation, because there were no threats or inducement used. But the defence said it was a "truncated version" of one, and so the same principles should apply.

"It is the coercive power of the implied or indirect threats of harm to the accused or to others that matters, not whether the police had the time and resources to mount a full-fledged 'Mr. Big' operation," said the appeal court.

The appeal court also rejected a Crown request to ban publication of the undercover officers' names, saying "It is not in the interests of the administration of justice to create an anonymous police force."

Skinner was arrested on a Venezuelan beach in May 2016 and will face a charge of second-degree murder in Adams' death. According to the appeal court ruling, Skinner has also been implicated as a "principal" in two other, unspecified shootings.

Sep 14 2016

VICTORIA - Investigators looking into allegations of misconduct by Victoria's embattled police chief have once again been granted more time to complete their work.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner has extended the timeline for a series of investigations involving Chief Frank Elsner, who allegedly sent inappropriate Twitter messages to the wife of one of his officers.

The reviews were scheduled to be done by Friday, but investigators asked for more time and were granted an extension until Nov. 30.

This is the second extension investigators have received, after they asked for more time in June.

Elsner stepped aside from his duties last December pending the results of two investigations into his conduct, but was suspended

in April after yet another investigation was announced.

The third investigation was launched when new information surfaced containing allegations of false statements and the deletion of data, with the deputy police complaint commissioner saying Elsner faces 11 allegations of misconduct.

Sep 14 2016

KAPUSKASING, Ont. - Two provincial police officers are facing assault charges.

Ontario Provincial Police say the two officers were arrested and charged Tuesday following an investigation into an alleged assault on two people on May 28.

Const. Kenny Belanger - a six-year veteran of the OPP who works out of the Kapuskasing detachment - is charged with two counts of assault with a weapon.

Const. Daniel Lafontaine - a nine-year veteran of the force who works out of the South Porcupine detachment - is charged with two counts of assault.

Sgt. Peter Leon says both have been suspended with pay.

They are scheduled to appear in court in Kapuskasing, Ont., on Oct. 31.

Sep 14 2016

WATERLOO REGION - A revamping of how police do their jobs will lead to better co-ordination of investigations and "less silos" at Waterloo Regional Police.

Police Chief Bryan Larkin said a six-month review of investigative services looked at how work is done in homicide, major case, guns and gangs, tech crime, elder abuse and intelligence.

"It's no longer 'I work in this unit.' We need to be agile in policing," he said.

The committee, made up of local officers, also consulted with 13 other police services across Canada to look at their best practices.

Some of the major changes include creating a new unit — BEAT — referring to break and enter and auto theft. In 2015, there were 2,191 incidents of break and enter, up from 1,981 in 2014.

In 2015, there were 749 auto theft occurrences, up from 2014 when there were 580.

The major case unit will become known as the special victims unit.

Investigations under special victims will now include human trafficking, missing persons and elder abuse. Each area will have an extra officer, bringing the number to two constables working in each area.

The report, presented to the Waterloo Regional Police Services Board on Wednesday, suggests Statistics Canada is showing "concerning" figures in the region when it comes to elder abuse.

In 2014, the region had the highest rate of elder abuse in Ontario and the second highest nationally.

Tech crime will be renamed to cyber crime and will include Internet child sex exploitation.

The homicide unit will be called major crime and, in addition to murder and attempt murder investigations, it will include all deaths of children under five, fatal hit and runs, legitimate stranger abduction and major sex assaults.

The drug unit will become the drug and firearm unit and it will increase from 12 officers to 15, working out of each police division in the region. The officers will focus on mid-level drug dealing.

In 2015, the drug branch seized 1,337 grams of cocaine, 3,376 grams of methamphetamine and 16.4 grams of heroin. Fentanyl wasn't in the mix in 2015.

High-level drug trafficking will be handled by the intelligence unit, which also works with confidential informants.

The drug unit had 18 active informants last year, while other units had 49 active informants.

The intelligence unit will continue to look at gangs in the region, such as outlaw motorcycle gangs and organized crime. Crime Stoppers will move to this unit.

The intelligence unit will focus on crime trends in the region, Larkin said.

Currently, the service has two police dogs. Two other dogs have been purchased and are in training. They should be part of the canine unit by December.

A report to the board is suggesting the canine unit increase to six dogs in the future. (The Record)

Sep 14 2016

VICTORIA - Criminal charges have been laid against a man six months after a Vancouver Island Mountie was killed when her police cruiser was hit broadside by a pickup truck.

British Columbia's Criminal Justice Branch said Wednesday that Kenneth Fenton, 28, faces five charges after the death of Const. Sarah Beckett. She died while working an overnight shift April 5 for the West Shore RCMP in Langford, B.C.

Charges against Fenton include impaired driving causing death and flight from police causing death.

The Criminal Justice Branch statement also said Fenton faces charges of dangerous driving causing death, impaired driving and refusing to provide a blood sample.

Fenton is scheduled to appear in provincial court in nearby Colwood, B.C., at a later date. Beckett, an 11-year veteran of the RCMP, was mourned by thousands of people who lined local streets during her funeral procession.

Police officers and first-responders from across Canada and the United States attended the public service at a hockey arena.

Beckett, 32, left behind a husband and two sons, aged five and two.

Island District Commander, Chief Supt. Ray Bernoties said in a statement Wednesday that because the case was before the court it would be inappropriate for him to comment, "other than to say thank you, once again, to the community for the overwhelming support that we have received

DAWSON CREEK, B.C. - A police agency that investigates organized crime in British Columbia says 32 more people have been charged with drug-related offences in the province's Peace region.

The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit says an investigation that began in July 2015 resulted in the arrests of dozens of people and the seizure of drugs and firearms related to alleged trafficking offences.

The anti-gang agency says the latest arrests add to three others in June and that police conducted numerous traffic stops in the seizure of drugs including cocaine, fentanyl and about \$70,000 in cash.

Unit spokesman Staff Sgt. Lindsey Houghton says charges involving the alleged offences have also disrupted street-level drug networks in the province's Chilcotin, Cariboo and northern areas.

Court appearances for the latest people charged are scheduled to continue until Oct. 25.

Warrants have also been issued for at least eight other individuals who have not yet been arrested.

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Sep 15 2016

LETHBRIDGE, N.L. - A 12-year-old boy who brandished a knife while threatening another youth earlier this month has received an unusual sentence.

The boy, who can't be identified under provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, pleaded guilty Wednesday in Lethbridge youth court to single counts of assault with a weapon and possession of a weapon.

When it came time for sentencing, Judge Derek Redman ordered the boy to practise basketball.

During the court proceedings, Redman questioned the underprivileged boy about his life and aspirations, and was told the boy wants to play basketball, even though he doesn't play on a team and doesn't even own a basketball.

Redman noted the boy did not have a criminal record and had already spent seven days in custody, so he placed him on probation for 12 months and ordered him to practise dribbling and shooting a basketball for at least five hours a week.

When the boy said he doesn't own a basketball, Redman said that would be taken care of and instructed the court sheriff to get one for him before he was released.

Court was told that late last week the boy pulled out a knife and demanded money from another 12-year-old boy who was walking home from school.

The accused, who said he found the knife, chased the other boy but ran away after his intended victim asked for help from a nearby resident.

(Lethbridge Herald)

WINNIPEG - Police officers in Winnipeg will soon wear hard body armour when they respond to situations in which suspects could be armed with shotguns or high-powered rifles.

The city has issued a tender for active shooter kits that consist of body-armour plates and carriers.

Police say every patrol car will be equipped with two kits, which patrol officers will wear when they respond to critical incidents that may involve firearms.

Currently, only the tactical support team has ballistic protection.

Patrol Sergeant Shawn Langstaff says the kits, which weigh about seven kilograms each, are expected to arrive by the end of this year.

Langstaff also says some officers will soon be trained to use semi-automatic carbine rifles because police have encountered situations in which they were outgunned.

He says the rifles have arrived and training on them will start next month, with deployment set for later in the year.

(CBC News)

Sep 15 2016

The RCMP's Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit has rescued 55 children from either internet luring, or hands-on abuse since its inception in 2006.

Sergeant Jean-Marc Paré told those attending a Codiac Regional Policing Authority meeting Wednesday working in the ICE unit isn't all about finding predators.

"Sometime a lot of our work involves not only finding suspects, but also locating victims."

The unit's mandate is to investigate the production, possession, and distribution of child pornography.

Paré said other crimes within his scope are luring, in this case, "using a computer or any device of the internet to lure young persons under the age of 18 into performing sex acts or disrobing on the internet for them."

Paré also said cases of extortion files with the RCMP are also on the rise.

"What we'll see is the offender will threaten the young person to post more images or post videos of themselves online often. There's a lot of embarrassment that goes along with that."

Paré said he's seen it here in New Brunswick, which is why the unit was formed about ten years ago.

"It was a problem affecting all communities...and New Brunswick was no exception to that."

Paré said in the late 1990s the FBI conducted an investigation that uncovered thousands of Canadians suspected of internet child exploitation.

"The investigations were passed on to [the] police forces, but back then they had nobody trained that knew the proper way of carrying out these investigations and the RCMP was really in the same boat in this province."

The RCMP found 17 targets in New Brunswick.

Paré said three officers were chosen to conduct the investigation. He said it took longer than expected and not all 17 suspects were found, but he said it showed a need for a specially trained unit.

Today, the unit has grown to 10 positions with some located in Fredericton, where ICE is based, as well as Rothesay and Moncton.

Paré said in his line of work it's important to catch online predators, but just as important is educating kids and parents about the dangers of the internet.

"The important thing is to keep reminding kids, do talk to your parents about this, or you know go see somebody, don't put yourself in a situation where you're going to hit rock bottom and not see a way out of all this."

(CBC News)

Sep 15 2016

Nine months after an incident led to the suspension of four RCMP officers, police are remaining tight-lipped about what happened, but say decisions are coming for two officers in question.

Since the suspensions were announced on Dec. 8, 2015, two officers remain suspended from the force - one with pay, the other without.

One of the officers who was able to return to the force has since been sent somewhere else in Canada.

Police will not say where that officer was sent or who they were.

"This is an internal matter," said Const. Isabelle Beaulieu, a spokesperson for the RCMP. "We cannot talk specifics."

Beaulieu said the investigation into the unknown incident has ended.

"There was an administrative investigation and that has concluded," said Beaulieu.

"So at this point it's the administrative process that is still ongoing."

A fourth officer, Cpl. Andy Munro, was also connected to the incident. He retired shortly after the suspensions were administered in December.

Beaulieu said the two officers that remain suspended are now both awaiting an administrative decision as to their future with the force.

(CBC News)

Sep 15 2016

The Ontario Court of Appeal set aside a \$1.6 million judgment in an action brought by Central Auto Parts and its owner against the Thunder Bay Police Services Board and officer Frank Barclay.

The court released its unanimous decision Sept. 2 allowing the appeal and setting aside the trial judge's judgment except for an agreed award of \$70,000 for loss of property improperly stored by police.

"If there was any doubt, this case makes clear that when an action is brought against police for negligent investigation, expert evidence with respect to standard of care is critical," says Kirk Boggs, a lawyer who argued

the appeal. "In this case the trial judge elected to define the standard of care and make findings of liability against the police without expert evidence."

The court noted the investigation of auto parts theft is highly complex and it was unfair to the officers for a judge to determine the reasonableness of their actions without the benefit of expert evidence, says Boggs.

The court also concluded that without expert evidence the judge improperly elevated the standard of care expected of police from reasonable and probable grounds to lay charges to an obligation to prove guilt.

Central Auto Parts was part of a police investigation into stolen vehicles and auto parts that began in 1997. The company and its owner were acquitted of possession of stolen property in 2005 and subsequently sued lead investigator Frank Barclay and Thunder Bay Police for negligent investigation. In 2014, after a lengthy trial, an Ontario Superior Court of Justice judge awarded \$1.6 million in damages.

"This is an important distinction," says Boggs. "The role of the police is to investigate and assess whether there are reasonable and probable grounds for an arrest based on the information available to them at the time. They are not required to prove the accused's guilt in order to be acting reasonably. That is the role of the Crown and judges."

The court also ruled "emotional upset" is insufficient to justify an award for personal injury, which requires proof of serious trauma or illness. Without medical evidence to prove Central owner Ricardo P. Mercuri suffered psychological illness, his unsupported testimony was not enough to justify an award for pain and suffering.
(CNW)

Sep 15 2016

EDMONTON - A judge has found an Alberta man guilty of murdering two seniors who disappeared more than six years ago, but says there was nothing to suggest the killings were deliberate.

Justice Denny Thomas said Thursday he had concluded beyond a reasonable doubt that Travis Vader killed Lyle and Marie McCann during a robbery.

Vader was charged with first-degree murder and had pleaded not guilty.

Justice Denny Thomas said there wasn't enough evidence to conclude Vader planned to kill the McCanns. He also said there were other possibilities as to how they died other than the one presented by the Crown.

That scenario had Vader killing one of the McCanns during the robbery and then killing the other to eliminate a witness.

"I cannot conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Vader killed the McCanns in a planned and deliberate manner," Thomas said in a decision that was broadcast live from an Edmonton courtroom.

"The killing of the McCanns was not a first-degree murder. It is therefore a second-degree murder."

The conviction carries an automatic life

sentence, but a hearing still needs to determine Vader's parole eligibility. Thomas said he would reconvene court later in the day.

The bodies of the McCanns, who were both in their late 70s, have never been found, but Vader's DNA and a fingerprint were found in their SUV.

The vehicle and the couple's burned-out motor home were discovered west of Edmonton days after the McCanns vanished.

Thomas said Vader's motivation when he came upon the couple at a campground was to rob them because he was broke, hungry and a drug addict.

"The McCanns and their property were likely nothing more than a target of opportunity - an opportunity that Mr. Vader took."

Thomas allowed cameras in the courtroom to broadcast the verdict, saying it would increase public confidence in the judicial system.

Vader's lawyer says his client will appeal. Brian Beresh says the judge appears to have constructed his own version of what happened to Lyle and Marie McCann based on circumstantial evidence.

Sep 15 2016

OTTAWA - An in-depth review of Canada's anti-money laundering efforts has uncovered serious concerns that organized crime is using the country's hot real estate sector to illegally funnel cash.

The report from the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force makes special note of real estate as an area of the economy with a high risk of illicit activity, one of a few weak spots in what the report calls a comprehensive federal regime to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

The charitable and life insurance industries are also identified in the report as sectors at risk of providing financial help to terrorists and criminals.

Of particular concern are real estate schemes in which a foreign or domestic criminal provides cash to a local buyer, or more sophisticated schemes where loans and mortgages are combined with lawyers' trust accounts to move money around quietly.

The Canada Revenue Agency is probing questionable transactions in the Vancouver real estate market, part of a wider study the federal government is doing into ever-rising housing prices there and in Toronto.

The report released today suggests the risk of criminals using real estate to launder money and proceeds of crime is a cross-country issue and not solely focused on Toronto and Vancouver, pointing to the province of Quebec as a region where there is a risk of abuse.

Agents told reviewers they saw the risk of money laundering as low, pointing out that they don't handle cash-only deals - the money usually flows through lawyers, banks or mortgage companies.

The report, however, says financial agencies and agents involved in those transactions sometimes do only a cursory review of information to see if the buyer on paper is linked to a criminal or terrorist group.

Brokerage agents relied on their gut feelings to determine if something seemed suspicious, the report says.

It also says relying on lawyers is problematic because police can't probe their actions on behalf of clients.

"In light of these professionals' key gatekeeper role, in particular in high-risk sectors and activities such as real-estate transactions and the formation of corporations and trusts, this constitutes a serious impediment... to fight (money laundering)," the report says.

It finds that organized crime poses the biggest money laundering threat in Canada, with terrorist financing posing a smaller risk.

Most of the money flows through legally incorporated companies that conduct little or no business, the report says.

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