

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | October 14, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 42

Executive Digest

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The former police chief of an Atikamekw community northwest of Quebec City was sentenced Tuesday to six years in prison for sexually assaulting five women over a 40-year period.

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REGINA - The national search for Regina's new police chief began at 158 people, was whittled down to 41 who got an interview, 24 who got a second one, narrowed to 10, then eight - and in the end Evan Bray was the last man standing.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Montreal Police targeting contraband alcohol and tobacco

Oct 05 2016

MONTREAL - The Montreal police will renew two programs that give the department a financial incentive to crack down on contraband tobacco and alcohol and follow the money-laundering trail of criminal organizations in the city.

Montreal's city executive committee gave its approval on Wednesday for the police to renew both programs with the province retroactively from April 1 of this year to March 31, 2017.

It's the ninth consecutive year the police force is renewing one of the programs, known as Actions concertées contre les crimes économiques et financiers.

Under ACCEF, a Montreal police unit specialized in proceeds of crime works with Revenue Quebec to investigate money laundering and tax evasion related to the underground economy.

The program has allowed authorities to "drastically increase" the seizure of illicitly obtained assets, a report to the executive committee from the Montreal police says. The department's \$2.4-million budget for ACCEF this year, which includes the salaries of 12 officers and a civilian employee, is fully subsidized by the province.

Over \$6 million in cash alone was seized or forfeited under ACCEF in Montreal in 2015-2016, down from over \$10 million the

previous year, the report says. The bounty peaked at \$12.3 million in 2012-2013.

A Quebec government decree permits the Montreal police to keep half of confiscated assets, the report says.

"The renewal of the ACCEF program is paramount in the fight against organized crime," it says. "The purpose of the program is to detect and suppress in a concerted manner

all economic and financial crimes committed by criminal organizations."

The second program, known as Actions concertées

pour contrer les économies souterraines (ACCES), targets contraband tobacco and alcohol and has existed in some form since 1996.

This year, the Montreal police are contributing 33 police officers and two civilian employees, who work with the Sûreté du Québec, RCMP, the Régie des alcools des courses et des jeux and other agencies. Montreal's \$5.7-million budget for ACCES is fully subsidized by the province.

One recent ACCES operation was Project Malbec, which in May 2015 broke up a ring that allegedly bought cheap wine in Europe, repackaged it and sold it illegally in Quebec and parts of Ontario. The police said they had evidence the network had sold more than 1.8 million bottles of wine, which deprived the provincial and federal governments of more than \$14 million in revenue, including taxes.

(Montreal Gazette)



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THURSDAY OCTOBER 6, 2016

Oct 06 2016

SASKATOON - A Saskatoon police major crimes unit investigation will be overseen by an outside agency after a man was found dead in the bedroom of an Ave. Q North home following a daylight standoff with police.

The incident started around 9:15 a.m. Thursday, when police were called to the home with a report of a break-and-enter in progress. Chief Clive Weighill said an investigation into the "police-related shooting" is ongoing. He said he believes two officers discharged their firearms, but could not say how many shots were fired, or if the deceased man died as a result of self-inflicted wounds or wounds inflicted by police.

While responding to the break-and-enter report, officers entered the home and observed a man with a "long-barrelled firearm," Weighill said. Officers engaged with the man and shots were fired before police left the home and established a perimeter, he said.

"Following the exchange ... attempts by police to make contact with the suspect inside were not successful. At approximately 4:30 p.m. officers made entry into the bedroom and located a deceased male."

Weighill stressed all information provided at a police news conference late Thursday was preliminary and information could change as the investigation continues.

"We're not too sure if the suspect fired or not. We do know that our officers did fire," he said. "We don't know exactly what the cause of death is."

He noted while it's believed the deceased man was a suspect in the alleged break-and-enter, that has not been confirmed.

(Saskatoon StarPhoenix)

Oct 06 2016

MONTEBELLO - Quebec's police-oversight bureau is investigating an incident in which a man was shot and killed in Montebello during a Sûreté du Québec operation.

Late Thursday afternoon, SQ officers responded to a call regarding a man in a home making suicidal statements, the Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes enquête said in a statement.

The SQ officers entered the home and heard a noise in the attic. When they entered the attic, a man lunged at them with a knife and police shot him, the Bureau said.

The 29-year-old man died of his injuries. Located in the Outaouais region, Montebello is about 130 kilometres northwest of Montreal.

Oct 07 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's Special Investigations Unit says a Toronto officer who fired a Taser at a man three times during arrest will not face criminal charges.

The Special Investigations Unit says police were called to an east-end home in January on reports of a break-in and found a 37-year-old man on the main floor.

The SIU says the man tried to flee through the front door and threw one of his legs over the iron railing when two officers grabbed him.

It says the man continued to struggle even after the railing collapsed and the officers fell on top of him.

The agency says the man ignored multiple demands that he stop resisting arrest, so one officer fired his stun gun at him after issuing a warning.

It says the first shot appeared to have no effect, so the officer fired again, but the man managed to rip the prongs out so the officer fired a third time.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 7, 2016

Oct 07 2016

THUNDER BAY - Post traumatic stress disorder, the LGBT community and policing, and technological advances in the OPP are among the topics being discussed this week at the annual Zone 1 meeting and conference.

The event drew representatives of northwestern Ontario's police forces and police service boards to Thunder Bay for two days, with the conference itself taking place at the Balmoral Street police station.

"It's a joint venture between the ... Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB)," said Don Smith, OAPSB vice-president.

"It's kind of a unique situation in this area," he said. "It's called Zone 1, which is all northwestern Ontario, and we have a unique relationship where we meet as a group with

the chiefs and the police service boards, trying to get as much education as we can."

Doug Palson, chief of the Dryden Police Service, said the conference has been informative.

"It's a good way to work closely with the boards, the various police boards," he said. "[It's] important to have a good relationship with them."

Thunder Bay Police Chief J.P. Levesque also gave a presentation on the Future of Policing Committee (FPAC), which Smith said is made up of policing stakeholders who are working with the government on updating the Police Services Act (PSA).

The review of the PSA is supposed to begin next year, Smith said.

"There are many areas that need to be addressed in the Police Services Act," he said. "I think it was 1997 [when] it was last reopened, so it's a huge undertaking."

"Quite honestly, times have changed."
(CBC News)

Oct 07 2016

CHICAGO - The Chicago Police Department's top cop says the recent brutal beating of a female police officer highlights how fallout from police-involved shooting controversies can put officers in danger.

Around 10 a.m. Wednesday, officers in the 15th District were on patrol when they came across a traffic accident, authorities said.

The female officer was attacked by a man on the scene, allegedly high on PCP, who repeatedly smashed her head into the pavement. Two other officers were injured while putting the man in custody, officials said.

Partha Huff, 28, was charged after the incident with attempted murder of a police officer and aggravated battery to a police officer.

"She knew that she should shoot this guy," Chicago police Supt. Eddie Johnson said Thursday. "But she chose not to because she didn't want her family-or the department-to have to go through the scrutiny the next day."

The officer whose head was smashed into the pavement lost chunks of hair before falling unconscious and suffered severe concussions, according to the Chicago Tribune. A second officer also suffered severe injuries, including a concussion and a broken right thumb, the newspaper reported.

Johnson called for a change in the national narrative about police officers.

On Friday the Chicago Police Department unveiled a new draft policy regarding officers' use of force that focuses on the "sanctity of life."

(NBC Chicago)

Oct 07 2016

Former Mountie Monty Robinson is suing the RCMP for ruining his career and reputation, claiming his access to legal funds was restricted to stop him from going public.

Robinson claims that misinformation released by the RCMP after the death of Robert

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Dziekanski lead to a media storm that ruined his promising 16-year career and destroyed his reputation.

Robinson was one of four Mounties who raced to the airport after police received reports that a distraught man was causing a disturbance.

Robinson's lawsuit against the RCMP claims that there was a breach of statutory duty and abuse of office.

None of the allegations has been proven in court.

The lawsuit argues that the RCMP's failure to "correct misinformation" ramped up public scrutiny and interest in the case, and created a perception of a "cover-up" by the four officers involved.

(CBC News)

Oct 07 2016

OTTAWA - The body that oversees RCMP internal disciplinary decisions is getting swamped with case files.

The External Review Committee warns in its annual report that it faces significant challenges to its operations as it received 248 per cent more referrals in the last year and that "delays for the completion of files - already longer than acceptable - have started to rise."

The RCMP refers cases to the ERC to conduct reviews on internal grievance, discipline and harassment allegations in order to ensure the processes are fair and transparent. The types of cases referred to the committee include decisions to stop pay, medically discharge an employee or relocate someone.

Over the last five years, the small organization (nine people, including contract and support staff) received an average of 29 cases per year. Last year, 101 cases were referred to the ERC.

Among the issues highlighted in the 2015-16 report is a trend growing out of legislative changes to the Mounties' disciplinary process.

CBC News has reported on concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability in the new system, where less serious conduct cases are dealt with more informally than in the past. Any conduct that does not result in the RCMP seeking dismissal of a member is dealt with behind closed doors in a conduct meeting.

According to the ERC, these meetings are perhaps so informal as to be unfair.

"In reviewing the appeals of these decisions, the ERC found that the conduct authorities' reasons for their respective decisions were either insufficient or absent," says the report.

In two cases, the ERC found the manager's decisions simply rehashed the allegations, made no findings of fact or referred to any evidence.

"The ERC found that the failure to provide reasons contravened (policy), breached the principles of procedural fairness and rendered the decisions clearly unreasonable, and prevented the (RCMP) commissioner from properly assessing the appeals," the report says.

Looking to the future, the ERC warns that

with no more resources to handle what could be a permanent spike in case referrals, Mounties may have to wait much longer for their cases to be resolved.

The executive director of the ERC refused CBC's request for an interview.

(CBC News)

Oct 07 2016

VANCOUVER - British Columbians are being allowed to voluntarily surrender illegal or unwanted firearms, weapons or ammunition through the month of October.

From Oct. 1 to 31, police are not recommending weapons-related Criminal Code charges that might otherwise apply to stored and unregistered weapons.

"Every year stolen firearms fall into the hands of criminals who use those guns in the commission of violent criminal offences," said Vancouver Police Department Staff Sgt. Randy Fincham.

"Unwanted, unused or stolen firearms can also find their way into the hands of kids. We want to get these guns into the hands of the police."

People are being asked to refrain from dropping the firearms off at the local police department, and instead contact their local department so officers can take care of them.

When officers show up at the door, residents are asked to greet them with empty hands.

(Vancouver Sun)

Oct 07 2016

SHANGHAI - For a few thousand dollars, Chinese companies offer to export a powerful chemical that has been killing unsuspecting drug users and is so lethal that it presents a potential terrorism threat, an Associated Press investigation has found.

The AP identified 12 Chinese businesses that said they would export the chemical - a synthetic opioid known as carfentanil - to the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium and Australia for as little as \$2,750 a kilogram, no questions asked.

Carfentanil burst into view this summer, the latest scourge in an epidemic of opioid abuse that has killed tens of thousands of people in the United States alone. Dealers have been cutting carfentanil and its weaker cousin, fentanyl, into heroin and other illicit drugs to boost profit margins.

Despite the dangers, carfentanil is not a controlled substance in China, where it is manufactured legally and sold openly online. The U.S. government is pressing China to blacklist carfentanil, but Beijing has yet to act, leaving a substance whose lethal qualities have been compared with nerve gas to flow into foreign markets unabated.

"We can supply carfentanil ... for sure," a salesman from Jilin Tely Import and Export Co. wrote in broken English in a September email. "And it's one of our hot sales product."

China's Ministry of Public Security declined multiple requests for comment from the AP.

Before being discovered by drug dealers, carfentanil and substances like it were viewed as chemical weapons. One of the most powerful opioids in circulation, carfentanil is so deadly that an amount smaller than a poppyseed can kill a person. Fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin; carfentanil is chemically similar, but 100 times stronger than fentanyl itself.

"It's a weapon," said Andrew Weber, assistant secretary of defence for nuclear, chemical and biological defence programs from 2009 to 2014. "Companies shouldn't be just sending it to anybody."

The AP did not actually order any drugs so could not conduct tests to determine whether the products on offer were genuine. But a kilogram of carfentanil shipped from China was recently seized in Canada.

Carfentanil was first developed in the 1970s, and its only routine use is as an anesthetic for elephants and other large animals. Governments quickly targeted it as a potential chemical weapon. Forms of fentanyl are suspected in at least one known assassination attempt and were used by Russian forces against Chechen separatists who took hundreds of hostages at a Moscow theatre in 2002.

The chemicals are banned from the battlefield under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In fiscal year 2014, U.S. authorities seized just 3.7 kilograms of fentanyl. This fiscal year, through just mid-July, they have seized 134.1 kilograms, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data obtained by the AP. Fentanyl is the most frequently seized synthetic opioid, U.S. Customs reports.

Users are dying of accidental respiratory arrest, and overdose rates have soared.

The problem with carfentanil is not limited to the United States. In late June, Canadian authorities seized a kilogram of carfentanil shipped from China in a box labelled printer accessories.

The powder contained 50 million lethal doses, according to the Canada Border Services Agency - more than enough to wipe out the entire population of the country. It was hidden inside bright blue cartridges labelled as ink for HP LaserJet printers. "Keep out of reach of children," read the labels, in Chinese.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers in Vancouver sealed themselves inside hazmat suits, binding their wrists, ankles, zippers, and face masks with fat yellow tape. With large oxygen containers on their backs and chunky respirators, it looked as if they were preparing for a trip to the moon.

"Cocaine or heroin, we know what the purpose is," said Allan Lai, an officer-in-charge at the RCMP in Calgary, who is helping oversee the criminal investigation. "With respect to carfentanil, we don't know why a substance of that potency is coming into our country."

(AP, Calgary Herald)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8, 2016

Oct 08 2016

OTTAWA - The chief commissioner for the inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women says she knows the "world is watching" as her team works to launch hearings on the issue - and she wants to assure Canadians a lot is happening behind the scenes.



Marion Buller says the way the inquiry was announced this summer led people to mistakenly believe sessions would start immediately.

She says she and the four other commissioners are working diligently to hire staff and open the inquiry headquarters in Vancouver next week.

Buller also wants to assure families that her team is carefully designing a process that meets the goal of doing "no harm."

The chief commissioner notes families will be given options on how to participate in the inquiry process, including the chance to speak publicly at community gatherings or in private sessions.

Buller says Michele Moreau - executive director of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice - will serve as the executive director for the inquiry.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9, 2016

Oct 09 2016

SAN DIEGO - When Alfred Olango pulled out an object from his right pocket last month and assumed a shooting stance in a strip mall parking lot in a San Diego suburb, one officer opened fire with his pistol. The other officer simultaneously stunned Olango using his Taser.

Civil rights advocates say the different response by officers facing the same suspect illustrates a breakdown in police training and communication and shows that some officers are too quick to turn to deadly force.

"I think when one police officer feels it is appropriate to use a less lethal weapon like a Taser, and the other officer feels like the person has to be killed - it suggests a real divergence in training," said Ezekiel Edwards, director of the American Civil Liberty Union's criminal

law reform project.

Law enforcement experts, however, say it's not that simple because different officers don't necessarily have the same reactions for handling potential threats.

The decisions they make, the experts say, can be influenced by factors ranging from what officers see of suspects based on where they are standing, the extent of their police experience and information received from police dispatchers.

Officers increasingly work alone in patrol cars without partners and the sharp electric sound made by the Taser when fired could prompt other officers with guns to pull the trigger in what is known as a "sympathetic firing."

And once an officer chooses to use a Taser instead of a gun, there often is no time to switch to a firearm if the dangerous situation escalates quickly, said Tim Dees, a retired police officer and police trainer who writes a column for the PoliceOne.com website.

"If there is a deadly threat to officers, you don't want bring in something less lethal, because by the time you transition you could be dead," Dees said.

Stun guns, like the ones made by Taser, have been credited with saving thousands of lives by giving officers a safer alternative to guns.

But they are not meant for situations officers perceive as life-threatening.

In potentially violent situations, police often have an officer with a stun gun approach a suspect while other officers stay in the

background with their guns drawn, said retired Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank.

"You don't want the officer with the firearm being the one doing the talking, not in the heat of the moment," said Burbank. "You want the officer who is providing lethal cover to be removed from the situation, not emotionally involved, so they have good judgment."

Taser recommends that an officer using the weapon yell "Taser! Taser! Taser!" just before firing so other officers know what is going to happen and don't automatically react by opening fire with their guns when they hear the sound of the Taser firing.

(AP)

Oct 09 2016

OTTAWA - Experts say they're baffled by the big drop in the number of applications from police to conduct electronic surveillance on citizens.

In 2015, peace officers asked for authorization to intercept and record private communications 66 times, down from 114 a year earlier.

The data comes from the Department of Public Safety's annual report on the use of electronic surveillance in Canada.

The report describes how, when applying for authorization, police most often said they suspected drug trafficking, terrorism, conspiracy and possession of stolen property. It also says charges were laid against 56 people identified during an interception.

The government is currently holding

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consultations on Canada's national security framework. A spokesman for the Department of Public Safety says the public should share their views about police and security agency investigative capabilities in a digital world.

"More broadly, the government is advancing legislation to establish a committee of parliamentarians with special access to classified information to increase the accountability of all security agencies and departments," added spokesman Scott Bardsley.

(CBC News)

MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2016

Oct 10 2016

PALM SPRINGS - Lesley Zerebny returned to work early to help out after giving birth to her daughter, now 4 months old. She'd been an officer with the city's police department for just under two years.



Officer Jose "Gil" Vega had submitted his paperwork to retire in December after a 35-year career with the department. Vega, the father of eight children, wasn't scheduled to work Saturday but had picked up an overtime shift.

Zerebny, 27, and Vega, 63, were killed Saturday in a shooting that has drawn an outpouring of support from this desert community and shaken a small Police Department that hadn't lost an officer in the line of duty in more than five decades. The gunman was arrested early Sunday.

Palm Springs Police Chief Bryan Reyes' voice quavered at a news conference hours later as he described watching Zerebny's husband, a Riverside County sheriff's deputy, say goodbye to his wife.

"To see her lying there with her eyes open, and to witness her husband, in full Riverside sheriff's uniform, kiss her on the forehead for the last time, it's tough," Reyes said.

Many questions about the incident that led to the officers' deaths remain unanswered.

Police responded to a domestic disturbance call shortly after noon at the suspect's home and called for backup just 10 minutes later, Reyes said. Zerebny and Vega were killed and another officer was wounded, but he is expected to recover, authorities said.

The shooting suspect, John Felix, remained in the home until early Sunday morning, when officers used chemical agents to coax him out, said Riverside County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Ray Wood.

"When he emerged, he was wearing soft



body armor and he had a number of high-capacity magazines on his person," Wood said. Felix was not armed.

Felix, 26, was arrested and is expected to be charged with two counts of first degree murder with the special circumstances of multiple murder and murder of a police officer in the line of duty, authorities said. Riverside County Dist. Atty. Michael Hestrin said his office would decide whether to pursue the death penalty against Felix.

Reyes, who became police chief in February and oversees a department of 98 sworn officers, seemed to speak for the entire community when he talked about the loss of his officers.

"I'm awake in a nightmare right now," said a shaken Reyes just hours after the shooting. "If there's ever a time to pray for Palm Springs PD, it's now."
(LA Times)

Oct 10 2016

OTTAWA - The federal government is forbidding the construction of new embassies on Ottawa's Sussex Drive following a stark RCMP assessment of the potential for "violent events" in the high-profile neighbourhood.

Countries with diplomatic missions

already located on the well-known boulevard include the United States, France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

It is also home to Rideau Hall, where the Governor General lives, as well as the prime minister's residence at 24 Sussex.

Canada requires foreign states to obtain its consent before buying property for use as diplomatic chancery offices or official residences.

In summer 2015 the RCMP began a detailed assessment, at the request of Global Affairs Canada, of how construction of new embassies on vacant lots along Sussex Drive would affect the security of nearby Canadian and foreign facilities.

Oct 10 2016

RED DEER - Red Deer RCMP have partnered once again with Alberta Motor Association (AMA) to distribute 'All Valuables Removed' placards that the public can place in their vehicles to deter thefts.

Over 500 'All Valuables Removed' placards have been distributed by the RCMP.

"The placards serve two purposes - first, they tell thieves that the vehicle owner has taken the time to protect their belongings, and so the thief will be wasting their time and energy on this vehicle," said Const. Kelly Crites of the Red Deer RCMP.

"Second, the placards are a useful reminder to people to actually remove valuables and place tempting items out of sight every time they leave their vehicle."
(Red Deer Express)

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Oct 11 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's police SIU says three Toronto police officers are facing assault charges after an investigation into a February 2013 arrest.

The Special Investigations Unit says it learned of the incident in August 2015. It says officers arrested a 46-year-old man at his home on Feb. 13, 2013 and placed him in the back of a police cruiser.

The SIU says that as they were heading to a police station, there was an interaction between the man and three officers.

The agency says the man was taken to a hospital where it was determined he had suffered a serious injury. No further details were given about the incident or injury.

The SIU says as a result of its investigation, Const. John Darnell, Const. Piara Dhaliwal and Const. Adam Morris are charged with assault causing bodily harm.

Oct 11 2016

STEPHENVILLE, N.L. - Police in Newfoundland say it's a first: instead of busting a guy trying to break out of prison, they've arrested a man for trying to break in.

Bay St. George RCMP Cpl. John Butler says police received reports Friday night that an intoxicated man was trying to climb the fence at the West Coast Correctional Centre in Stephenville.

Butler said the fence in question fence is about 15 feet high and topped with razor wire.

"We've had a couple of cases of them breaking out of there, but nobody climbing to get in. I'm sure they would have taken him if he had made it all the way over," he said.

Butler said a man was arrested a short distance away in a residence for the College of North Atlantic.

"He just made a real poor decision as to how he wanted to show off that night, I guess," Butler said.

A 32-year-old man originally from the St. John's area is expected to appear in court on Dec. 5 to face a charge of mischief.

Oct 11 2016

A Cole Harbour RCMP officer is facing charges in connection with a collision that left a person with a broken ankle.

The Serious Incident Response Team released a report Tuesday following an investigation of the incident.

SIRT says the RCMP officer was responding to a call in his police vehicle around 7:30 p.m. on April 16 in Cole Harbour, N.S.

When he entered an intersection his vehicle was struck by another vehicle with a driver and two passengers.

The police vehicle then struck a third vehicle. A passenger sustained a broken ankle as a result of the collision.

No one else was seriously injured.

SIRT has laid two charges against 32-year-old Const. Mitchell Hire.

Hire is due to appear in Halifax provincial court on Nov. 22 to face charges of failing to stop at a red light and failing to drive with due regard for all persons using the highway.

(CTV Atlantic)

Oct 11 2016

An alarming proportion of police websites in Britain lack any form of automatic secure connection, meaning potentially sensitive data is communicated in plain unencrypted text - according to research.

Findings from non-profit body the Centre for Public Safety revealed that almost one-quarter of police sites lack an automatic secure connection, in a review of 71 websites.

Of these, more than 70 per cent (12 agencies) invited users to submit personal data - and in some cases information specifically relating to criminal activity - via these unsecured connections exposing the public to unnecessary risk.

Only 27 per cent demonstrated the highest "world-class" standard of secure connection, said the report.

The body said the finding were particularly concerning given police and crime commissioners and are banking on savings from digital transformation - which will see more services go online.

The report also found little connection between total spend on technology and



The Police Leadership Award recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies "Leadership as an Activity not a Position," and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organizational and community perspective.

This award is open to active Canadian police officers below the rank of senior officer who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to service through deeds resulting in a measurable benefit to their peers, service and community.

The 2017 recipient will be recognized in the April 2017 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at a gala presentation banquet held on the evening of April 27, 2017.

Details and application forms at www.blueline.ca/leadership

Applications for 2017 must be received by February 12, 2017 and emailed to leadership@blueline.ca

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performance. For example, the Metropolitan Police which spent in excess of £110m on just one IT supplier in 2014/15 but was only awarded a mid-ranking cyber security grade C.

Such a score means its server may be vulnerable to attack and likely uses older protocols.

In contrast Dorset, Durham and Warwickshire, which have more limited IT budgets, were awarded the top A grade.

Rory Geoghegan, founder of the Centre for Public Safety, said forces were at risk of losing public trust and jeopardising public safety.

He said: "It's 2016. The internet is not new, the cyber security threat is not new, and yet some police forces and their IT providers seem to think it is acceptable to pay large sums of taxpayer money for insecure technology."

The report recommends forces and organisations should take remedial action to bring their online services to the highest security standards.

"This action can be easily achieved for the majority of services, involving simple configuration changes to the server. The changes required are achievable by anyone with basic server administration skills," said the report.

Rising cyber security threats will mean the police service can expect to be a more appealing target, it warned.

(The Register)

Oct 11 2016

The former police chief of an Atikamekw community northwest of Quebec City was sentenced Tuesday to six years in prison for sexually assaulting five women over a 40-year period.



Jean-Paul Néashish, who headed the Wemotaci First Nation police force in the 1970s and 1980s, was found guilty in December on 10 counts of sexual assault charges, including rape, gross indecency and sexually touching children under the age of 14.

"[We are] relieved, I would say" said Crown prosecutor Éric Thériault, "Very, very, very relieved."

Thériault added that it is likely Néashish's position of power in the Wemotaci community contributed to the length of his sentence. The Crown had asked for a seven-year sentence, the defence for two years minus a day.

Néashish served on the Wemotaci force for 13 years. He was also a band member in the community.

It was during his time as a police officer

that Néashish committed most of the crimes. Two of the attacks happened while he was in uniform and was meant to be helping women who were intoxicated.

The court heard that Néashish told one of his victims not to speak about what happened, adding no one would believe her because he wore an officer's uniform.

The grand chief of the Atikamekw Nation, Constant Awashish, said it will take the small community of Wemotaci a long time to heal.

"I think what's most important is that justice has been served for the victims," Awashish said.

But the legal ordeal isn't over for one of the victims. In one incident where Néashish was found guilty, he was alleged to have had an accomplice, former Wemotaci band council chief Marcel Boivin.

Boivin is scheduled to stand trial in November on sexual assault charges.

Oct 11 2016

SASKATOON - The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal has ordered a new trial for a Saskatoon police officer convicted in 2015 of obstructing justice.

Const. Steve Nelson was given a 90-day conditional sentence and 50 hours of community service stemming from an incident in 2012.

Nelson took a statement from a woman who said she'd been beaten by her boyfriend, but the next day she came into the station and changed her story.

A taped phone call between Nelson and another officer, Const. Tyler Melnychuk, indicated the woman told police her boyfriend was innocent and that injuries to her face were the result of falling down several times.

That second statement never made it into the record and in the taped phone call, Nelson was heard telling Melnychuk the statement should be ripped up, but during his trial he denied ever getting the second statement.

In a written decision, appeal Court Justice Gary Lane said Judge Hugh Harradence didn't do enough to establish Nelson's intent in convicting him following his first trial.

(CKOM)

Oct 11 2016

EDMONTON - A judge has stayed a first-degree murder charge after it took the case more than five years to get to trial in Edmonton.

A jury trial was to begin next week for 29-year-old Lance Matthew Regan.

Regan was accused of stabbing to death fellow inmate Mason Tex Montgrand at Edmonton Institution in August 2011.

An Alberta Justice spokesman says the charge was stayed on Friday because of the long delay.

He could provide no further comment, saying the Crown has yet to decide whether to appeal the stay.

Lengthy court delays have been a problem in the past in Alberta, and a lack of judges has reportedly been a key issue.

Oct 11 2016

Investigators at Britain's Independent Police Complaints Commission blasted law enforcement Monday for receiving vital Canadian intelligence about active pedophiles, then doing nothing about it for more than a year.

The country's top police watchdog said in a statement it "found failings" with how the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOPC) had dealt with tips from the Toronto Police Service alerting U.K. authorities to the identities of nearly 2,400 British child exploiters.

This included the names of men who would soon become some of the U.K.'s most highly publicized serial abusers, among them a Cambridge pediatrician and an Essex teacher who was secretly recording nude images of his students.

But thanks to mismanagement by the British agency, the Canadian data - sent between July 2012 and October 2013 - sat virtually untouched for months.

"There was evidence of a lack of a general understanding or agreement as to who had ownership of the issue for some time," said the statement.

In fact, the information could have gone unnoticed for even longer if Toronto Police had not contacted the agency in late 2013 for "an update on progress."

Only then did "it became apparent that the information had not been fully processed or sent to UK police forces for their consideration," the statement added.

Given the details that emerged from the criminal trials of those arrested, the delay almost certainly resulted in more children being victimized.

The Toronto Police information was the result of Project Spade, one of the most far-reaching child pornography investigations in history.

It began when police arrested Brian Way, who ran Toronto-based Azovfilms.com, a multimillion-dollar international child porn distribution ring.

By rebuilding the site's customer database, Toronto officers were able to draw up an itemized list of child pornographers and sex abusers.

Ultimately, when the results of Project Spade were announced in late 2013, the investigation had rescued 386 children from sex exploitation, including 58 in Canada.

"It's a first for the magnitude of the victims saved," Insp Joanna Beaven-Desjardins with the Toronto force's Sex Crimes Unit, said at the time.

When the Project Spade findings were finally put into action in late 2013, British police were sent 724 referrals, launched more than 300 investigations and charged about 30 people.

News of the 16-month delay caused an uproar across the United Kingdom.

Monday's report by the complaints commission noted that the Project Spade mishandling has sparked internal reviews at agencies connected to the error.

(National Post)

CALGARY - The Calgary police chief says an officer-involved shooting that left an elderly man dead is "tragic for everyone involved."

"Anytime you have these events it affects the membership," Chief Roger Chaffin told reporters Tuesday afternoon.

Screaming could be heard in the background as police received a call from a home about 11 a.m. Officers arrived to find an injured and bloody 20-year-old man on the front lawn.

Chaffin says officers heard activity in the detached garage behind the house.

"Inside they found a vehicle running with a hose attached. Officers were confronted by a man outside the vehicle in the garage," he said.

Chaffin says the 76-year-old, Bob Crowle, was unco-operative with police and came towards them with a "large-edged weapon."

"An eight-year member of the service fired his service pistol," the chief said.

Paramedics declared him deceased a short time later.

Chaffin said there was a "family relationship" between the two men. A neighbour told CBC News the 20-year-old is Crowle's grandson.

The injured man was taken to hospital in stable, non-life threatening condition. There have now been seven police shootings this year in Calgary, three of them fatal.

Chaffin said they are unrelated but that training and resources are reviewed after each one. "It's been a difficult year. We have had some difficult situations," Chaffin said. "Things change quickly."

The chief says in this case he fully supports the actions of the officer.

"I believe our officer did the best he could under the situation."

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) is also investigating. (CBC News)

WEDNESDAY
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Oct 12 2016

B.C. police more frequently investigate people for possessing pot than officers in any other province, a trend fuelled by the RCMP in rural detachments, according to an exclusive Postmedia database of marijuana crime in Canada.

The mountainside communities of Salmo, Clinton, McBride, Hope, Valemount, Merritt and Whistler had the highest number of police probes into pot possession per capita in 2015 in B.C., and are ranked third through ninth in Canada (trailing behind Lake Louise and Jasper, nationally).

In Lake Louise, there were 40 pot-possession probes for every 1,000 people last year; the rates in the top seven B.C. towns ranged from 27 files in Salmo to 14 in Whistler

per 1,000 residents.

These are police-reported numbers compiled by Statistics Canada, which Postmedia downloaded, analyzed and turned into several online searchable databanks and maps that contain information on 1,132 municipalities across the country.

The stats show that police attitudes toward pot possession are really an urban-rural divide in the 200 B.C. municipalities we analyzed.

The first time a Metro Vancouver city surfaces in the data is at 21st spot - North Vancouver (rural), with 7.5 police pot-possession files per 1,000 residents. (StatsCan defines rural as outside a city's core or fringe areas; North Vancouver City was 74th on the list, and North Vancouver District was in 143rd spot.)

The next-highest Metro cities were Coquitlam (rural) in 57th spot and Langley City in 58th, both with around five pot files per 1,000 people.

Kelowna was 73rd with four pot-possession investigations per 1,000 residents; Victoria ranked 131st (2/1,000); and Vancouver was 142nd (1.7/1,000).

This data suggests that British Columbians like to toke, and that while urban police might be turning a blind eye, rural departments are not.

However, what the data also tells us is that although B.C. police might investigate, they are less likely to pursue criminal charges compared to their counterparts in other provinces.

B.C. ranks fifth out of the 10 provinces for the number of people aged 12 and older who were charged with pot possession per 100,000 population. Saskatchewan had the highest stats and Newfoundland the lowest.

Nationally, B.C. had the highest proportion of pot-related offences cleared by police discretion, meaning officers here more often issued warnings or sent the person to a treatment program rather than have the case handled by the courts.

Postmedia also analyzed national statistics on marijuana trafficking. B.C. had the lowest rate of people per capita charged with selling pot in Canada, and the second-lowest rate of police investigations into trafficking. The three provinces with the highest numbers in both categories were Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. (Vancouver Sun)

Oct 12 2016

TORONTO - The province's Special Investigations Unit is investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a construction worker in Toronto.

The Special Investigations Unit says a Toronto police officer attempted to stop a BMW late Wednesday morning and the vehicle fled the scene.

A short time later, the BMW struck and killed a construction worker.

Police said on Twitter that an officer suffered minor injuries in the incident, but gave no indication of how the officer was injured.

Oct 12 2016

REGINA - The national search for Regina's new police chief began at 158 people, was whittled down to 41 who got an interview, 24 who got a second one, narrowed to 10, then eight - and in the end Evan Bray was the last man standing.



A 21-year veteran of the Regina Police Service (RPS), Bray leaves his post as inspector for the north district to become the city's 14th top cop.

"I still am excited beyond belief to be able to put this uniform on every day and do a job that I love," he said. Among his priorities is the city's "concerning" escalation in gun crimes.

Bray, who complimented the dedicated team of nearly 600 working at RPS, also spoke of operational efficiency. "There's always a need to do an internal review and see are we maximizing the resources that we have right now."

To applause from officers who packed a news conference, Mayor Michael Fougere, head of the Regina Board of Police Commissioners, named the new chief Wednesday. Bray replaces Troy Hagen, who retired in mid-August after nearly 38 years at RPS. An acting chief had been appointed in the interim.

Fougere said half of the 10 prospective candidates currently work for RPS, but wouldn't elaborate further. He added that it's heartening to have so many quality candidates within the force.

Fougere said a factor in the commission's unanimous choice was Bray's knowledge of the city and its issues. "We have a very dynamic, complex city that's changing ... and so being here and being witness to that from different perspectives - front line then senior management - really plays a lot in making that selection."

Like Hagen, Bray formerly headed the Regina Police Association, the union representing the rank-and-file and civilian members. He was also president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers. He believes those previous posts are an advantage in this new job, giving him insight that could help in resolving issues.

Bray joined the RPS in 1995 after a six-year career using his booming voice in media, including stints as a radio announcer and television weatherman. If that voice sounds familiar, Bray was also the public address announcer for Saskatchewan Roughriders home games from 1998 to 2010. (Regina Leader-Post)

Police in B.C. say the man wanted in connection to the shooting of an RCMP officer near Golden on Tuesday has been found dead in an area east of Revelstoke.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle at about 3:00 p.m. near the weigh scales west of Golden, B.C.

The suspect in the vehicle refused to cooperate with police and then stole a nearby vehicle and drove away. Police searched for the suspect through the night but were unable to locate him.

Cst. Amber Brunner was shot during the incident and was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries where she remains.

"At this time we're confirming that our officer sustained a gunshot injury during the circumstances surrounding the initial vehicle stop. The police officer has been taken to hospital. The officer and family are being offered all possible support", says Staff Sergeant Rob Vermeulen, spokesperson for RCMP in B.C.

The stolen vehicle was located late Tuesday night just outside of Revelstoke and police combed an area about 4 kilometres east of the community on Wednesday morning.

The search for Sheldon Kyle Thunderblanket, 40, began after two people were seriously injured after a shooting on the Little Pine First Nation in Saskatchewan just before midnight on Monday.

Tami Frank was found in the home and was pronounced dead at the scene and her sister Lacey was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Thunderblanket was wanted on a number of charges in that incident including; first-degree murder, attempted murder, aggravated assault, mischief, assault and breach of undertaking.

On Wednesday afternoon, RCMP in B.C. confirmed that Thunderblanket was found dead within the seach area east of Revelstoke.

The B.C. Coroner Service is working to determine the exact cause of death and the Independent Investigation Office of B.C. will now investigate to see if there is a connection between his death and the actions of police.

Police say they delayed confirming the death of the suspect until next of kin notifications could be completed.

(CTV News)



Oct 13 2016

OTTAWA - Some drug addiction advocates and doctors are sounding the alarm about Ontario's plan to de-list a number of highly potent painkillers beginning Jan. 1. They're concerned the move will drive users to illegal drugs instead, raising the risk of overdoses and death.

The decision to "de-list" means the province will stop covering the drugs under its social assistance plans, which currently support seniors and others on Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and other

programs. Among the drugs cut from the list are highly addictive opioids such as fentanyl patches.

It's part of the Ontario government's new strategy to deal with the growing crisis of opioid addiction, overdoses and death in Ontario.

But some addiction specialists in Ottawa think the decision to de-list drugs could actually make things worse.

"The risk of not making them available is that you're going to drive people to the illicit market," said Rob Boyd, the program director for the Oasis drug treatment program at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre.

He's not the only addictions specialist voicing concern about the plan.

"This is going to be the biggest mistake," said Dr. Mark Ujjainwalla, who runs the Recovery Ottawa treatment program.

"Now they have to go to the street [and] it's so potent and now the overdoses are going to go crazy and the crime rate is going to go crazy," he said.

While the province is de-listing potent drugs, it is not offering to expand treatment, he said. The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre with its dozen beds is the only full treatment centre serving the entire region.

(CBC News)

Oct 13 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police say they have seized more than 90 kilograms of drugs in what they are calling the largest single seizure of powder cocaine in the force's history.

Officers who searched an east-end home and vehicle Wednesday allegedly found 73 kilograms of cocaine, 12 kilograms of crystal meth and eight kilograms of MDMA.

Police allege a criminal organization was importing and distributing cocaine in Toronto and nearby municipalities.

Nicholas Shouldice, 32, of Toronto, is charged with five counts of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking.

He was due to appear in court Thursday. Police say he did not have a criminal record.

Oct 13 2016

CALGARY - Numbers in a new citizen survey released by the Calgary Police Commission are showing a stark contrast to a similar poll done just two weeks ago.

The results of the 2016 survey were released on Wednesday and say that 95 percent of residents agree that Calgary is a safe place to live and have confidence in the CPS as a whole.

The survey also showed that a vast majority of people are satisfied with the services provided by the CPS.

However, the new results are quite different from a previous survey conducted by Mainstreet Research in early September.

That poll found that 48 percent of respondents disapproved of the police's performance.

It also found that residents have confidence in the CPS' accountability, with 51 percent of respondents saying that officers involved in misconduct allegations are held

accountable for their actions.

Officials say that the wording of the questions in the two surveys was the reason for the different results.

But the CPC's survey isn't all good news for the CPS.

The new survey also shows that half of citizens believe the crime rate in Calgary is increasing, with break and enters, illegal drugs and gang crime noted as the greatest concerns.

The commission also noted that confidence in police is on a downward trend, continuing from the past two years.

Confidence was at 97 percent in 2015.

The perception that officers are ethical also dropped to 39 percent in 2016, down from 45 percent in 2015.

(CTV News)

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