

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community

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Executive Digest

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CALGARY - An internal workplace review of the Calgary Police Service has revealed claims of sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation, and a workplace culture that's left some officers too fearful to formally complain.

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WINNIPEG - Deputy Chief Danny Smyth, a second-generation police officer who has been with the service since 1986, is the Winnipeg Police Board's recommended candidate to succeed Devon Clunis as chief.

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PETERBOROUGH - The City of Peterborough, Police Chief Murray Rodd, Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson and the Peterborough Police Services Board have reportedly resolved all issues between themselves, including all legal claims previously in dispute.

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RCMP focus on rapid information sharing



Oct 20, 2016

OTTAWA -The Mounties have created a permanent place for counter-terrorism detectives to work shoulder-to-shoulder — and database to database — with federal border guards, immigration officials and spy-agency analysts.

The RCMP's national-security joint-operations centre (NSJOC) in Ottawa is a "real-time and rapid information-sharing" crossroads where federal agents can efficiently swap files, according to recently released records. However, critics fear it will go places no watchdog can follow.

The counter-terrorism centre was largely unknown until RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson made a brief reference to it in Parliament earlier this year. The Globe and

Mail has acquired the centre's terms of reference under Access to Information laws.

The centre brings federal agents of all stripes together in an RCMP facility in Ottawa where they can talk to each other and exchange information as part of the fight against terrorism. It formally came into existence in October, 2014, the same month two men inspired by the Islamic State killed two Canadian Forces soldiers.

The next spring, executives at the Communications Security Establishment, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the Canada Border Services Agency and Citizenship and Immigration Canada signed the centre's terms of reference, under which they agree to embed at least one staff member



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The federal agencies constantly collect data, but under different mandates than that of the Mounties. Federal agents typically shield their files from each other unless they have a compelling reason to share. In some cases, warrants are needed for information handovers.

Yet federal agents want to knock down institutional walls in times of crisis, and the RCMP-led centre seeks to keep the bureaucratic barriers to information-sharing low.

“The NSJOC’s members are co-located at the RCMP’s National Operations Centre in Ottawa to facilitate real-time and rapid information sharing “... [where] members have access to the databases and information holdings of their respective agencies,” the terms of reference say.

The document says criminal charges are just one approach to fighting terrorism. Pooling knowledge among federal agents makes other interventions possible — such as revoking suspects’ passports, adding people to no-fly lists, or even warning the family and friends of radicalized young people “of the risks associated with violent extremist activity.”

Nothing in the terms of reference suggests the agencies got new powers to share information.

“NSJOC members are required to adhere to the respective operational policies and procedures of their agencies,” the document says. However, the Conservative government’s 2015 Bill C-51, which was created at the same time as the centre, allows federal departments to move information relevant to “activity that undermines the security of Canada” to federal-security agencies. The Privacy Commissioner of Canada has called this law highly invasive.

Federal watchdog agencies have complained for years that they cannot track

what information agencies share in the name of national-security. Even as federal-security agencies increasingly swap files, none of their review bodies are legally empowered to see what is happening as it happens, or within more than one agency.

“A body like this makes the case for why we need more robust real-time oversight,” says Carmen Cheung, a professor at the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs, who was shown a copy of the terms of reference. “It looks like they are all co-located in essentially one room, and that room has direct access to all the databases of all the respective agencies, which is amazing.”

A decade ago, a judicial inquiry recommended Canada create a watchdog to track all security agencies at once, but the concept never got off the ground. The finding followed a Canadian counter terrorism investigation in which federal agents swapped information carelessly and several Canadians were wrongly jailed as presumed terrorists in Middle East prisons.

Today, federal-security agencies are under renewed pressure to amass and share records. Recent disclosures indicate CSIS, the domestic spy agency, has been “ingesting bulk data sets” in hopes of predicting patterns of terrorism, and its foreign-focused counterpart, CSE, is mapping out “contact chains” of global communications to discern where threats lie.

It’s not clear how police would use such deductions. The records about the RCMP-led centre say that sharing information, early and often, can minimize the risk that federal police and spies trip over each other, and head off future problems.

Oct 20 2016

CALGARY - Alberta has gained a measure of relief as it battles a shortage of judges that threatens to toss more criminal cases out of court.

The federal government has announced it is filling five vacancies on Alberta’s superior courts.

Alberta Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley says that’s welcome help but the judge shortage still exists and the province will take measures to ensure violent cases aren’t tossed out because of delays.

Ganley says the government plans to work with prosecutors and police to ensure serious cases are heard faster, with other cases moved to dispute resolution or resolved by other means if necessary.

She says a recent Supreme Court ruling has brought matters to a head by imposing hard time limits on how long a person has to wait to have a case heard in court.

Earlier this month in Edmonton, a man accused of murder in a prison stabbing had his case tossed out because it took more than five years to get to trial, violating his right to have his case heard within a reasonable time.

Oct 20 2016

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police hope the story of a man who broke into a home, stripped naked and began cooking eggs will encourage people to lock their doors.

Police say the 35-year-old man also managed to damage the stove and microwave before a resident who was watching TV in another room walked into the kitchen to investigate.

Police say the resident thought his roommate was cooking, but discovered a naked stranger and chased him out of the house.

Officers arrested a naked suspect a few blocks away, and are recommending mischief and break-and-enter charges.

In July 2013, police say a 30-year-old man from Burnaby was arrested after breaking into a Vancouver home, where he began cooking eggs.

Police say there have been 1,600 residential break-ins in Vancouver this year and many of them involved unlocked doors.

Oct 20 2016

COQUITLAM, B.C. - British Columbia’s police watchdog is investigating the death of a man who died in custody in Coquitlam after he was shot with a stun gun.

The RCMP says they received a call late Wednesday night about an agitated man trying to break into homes.

The Mounties say one caller described a man confronting a homeowner with a large stick, and officers later found the suspect severely injured and bleeding in a home.

The RCMP says officers used a stun gun and a physical confrontation ensued.

The man was taken into custody and soon

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2016

Oct 20 2016

VANCOUVER - The number of illicit drug deaths in British Columbia surpassed last year’s death toll after just nine months.



The Ministry of Public Safety says in the first nine months of this year there were 555 deaths because of illicit drug overdoses, compared with 508 for all of 2015.

The ministry says fentanyl remains the major contributor to the high number of deaths and in more than 60 per cent of them, the drug was detected.

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GROUP PUBLISHER: Paul Grossinger
EDITOR: Tom Rataj - tom@blueline.ca
COPY EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: BlueLine.ca / Subscribe
ADVERTISING: 905 713-4387

222 Edward Street, Aurora ON, L4G 1W6
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca

after went into medical distress.

Emergency Health Services performed CPR and took the man to hospital, where police say he was pronounced dead shortly before midnight.

The RCMP says it won't release any further information on the incident because it is being investigated by the Independent Investigations Office.

Oct 20 2016

MONTREAL - The city spent \$12 million more than expected on police overtime, largely as a result of police officers directing traffic in construction areas.

Montreal police inspector Andre Durocher said while other cities use civilians to direct traffic, it's not an option in Montreal.

"The Highway Safety Code does not allow us to allow civilians to do it," said Durocher.

He added that given the tremendous amount of frustration drivers face going through multiple construction zones, he doesn't think civilian traffic monitors would be obeyed.

"Keep in mind the density. You take a look at where all the work sites are being undertaken downtown with the amount of pedestrians. People don't respect necessarily civilians to do it," said Durocher.

Police are also handing out fewer tickets. They are on track to collect \$19 million less than predicted, similar to last year.

(CTV Montreal)

Oct 20 2016

TORONTO - The Toronto police board has approved a pricey second step in an ongoing examination of body-worn cameras, taking the service closer to equipping all front-line officers with the increasingly popular technology.



One month after a much-anticipated report on the Toronto police body-worn camera pilot project was released, the civilian board agreed to spend \$500,000 on a non-binding request for proposals to find the best, most affordable camera technology.

The money will also pay for a fairness commissioner and outside experts to ensure the search is above-board - something city councillor and police board member Shelley Carroll said is costly but necessary.

"The reality is, we absolutely need this. This will be the biggest contract for a new technology in the country," she said at Thursday's board meeting at Toronto police headquarters.

A supporter "in principle" of the deployment of body-worn cameras, mayor John Tory said the cost of ensuring the police service does a proper technology evaluation "will pay itself back many times over."

"This is precisely the kind of due diligence that any public or private body should be expected to do, and precisely the kind of investigation of all the questions," Tory said.

Last month, a 95-page Toronto police report concluded all 3,200 front-line officers should be equipped with body-worn cameras at an estimated cost of \$85-million over 10 years - a gargantuan expense at a time when the service is under pressure to slash its \$1-billion budget.

That conclusion is based on a nearly year-long body-worn camera pilot project that ended in May, in which 85 officers across the city wore cameras on the front of their uniforms.

The report found the cameras ensure an "unbiased, independent account of police/community interactions," and emphasized strong community and officer support of the technology; surveys found 95 per cent of the public, and 85 per cent of officers, support the use of the cameras.

But critics and Toronto police, too, raise significant concerns about the project's shortcomings - not to mention the skyrocketing cost of implementing body-worn cameras, though there is hope emerging cloud storage technology could decrease costs.

Among the biggest criticisms is that the

project's sample size was so small that no statistical conclusions could be drawn on key issues, including whether the cameras caused a decrease in public complaints against officers.

Erick Laming, a doctoral student in criminology at the University of Toronto who has researched police body-worn camera studies said the public response rate of 7,500 surveys was "pretty weak."

"If that's your main finding from a nearly yearlong study, it's sad," he said.

Laming warned about the dangers of "selling your soul" to a company, saying that could result in unforeseen problems, such as issues recently encountered by the Calgary Police Service.

Local media reported Thursday that technical problems with the chosen body camera supplier have forced Calgary police to terminate a \$1.3 million contract and re-start the process of equipping all of their frontline officers with the cameras. The police service is considering legal action.

Another major concern is that, during the pilot project, Toronto officers did not have the cameras rolling at all times. In an email Thursday, the Toronto Police Accountability Coalition raised concerns about the officers' ability to turn the devices on and off.

"If there is no agreement about when cameras will be on or off, what do we do? Leave it up to the officer involved?"

But at Thursday's meeting, Toronto police chief Mark Saunders defended what he said

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are already clear and well considered guidelines for officers concerning when to activate the cameras. The rules were guided by consultations with Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, he said.

"Believe me, this is not about arbitrarily turning them on and off," Saunders told the board. "In fact, it is more to make sure that we try our very best to have some sort of objective evidence for encounters that we have whenever we are dealing with the public on a day to day basis."

Laming said before giving final approval to the expansion of body-worn cameras, board members should consider the bigger question of whether the tool can truly enhance public trust.

"This is technology - and technology cannot change policing. It can advance it in certain areas, but it's not going to change how police officers act," he said.

Body cameras were not the only policing technology discussed by the board Thursday. The board also passed a motion to conduct community consultations on the deployment of Conducted Energy Weapons, more commonly known as Tasers, to more front-line officers.

Currently, only a select few Toronto police officers are issued Tasers, including roughly 300 front-line uniform sergeants, members of the Emergency Task Force and supervisors in high-risk units.

The possible expansion of Tasers to all frontline officers has for years been the subject of heated debate. In his 2014 report on Toronto police use of force, retired judge Frank Iacobucci recommended the service consider equipping front-line officers with Tasers to decrease fatal encounters between police and people in emotional or mental crisis.

Saunders told reporters Thursday he wants to equip his officers with an effective but less-lethal weapon to use in place of their firearm. (Toronto Star)

Oct 20 2016

ORLÉANS - Peter Platt had been out of policing for more than two decades, but when an anonymous officer cried out for help, Platt knew what to do.

Platt received the email because he was the founder of Badge of Life Canada, a support group for officers struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Basically (the email) said, 'I've had enough. I'm not going on with life,'" recalled Syd Gravel, another ex-Ottawa officer who worked with Platt to establish Badge of Life.



"Peter right away went into his policing mode. He called Ottawa Police Service and asked them to get a warrant to identify the sender. Then get in touch with that police service to ask them to check the address. Sure enough, the officer had prepared themselves to commit suicide. They were able to save him.

"It was typical of Peter. But it wasn't until I told the story that he would even admit that it had happened."

Peter "Halsey" Platt died of cancer on Oct. 12 at his home in Orléans. He was 67.

"He was a giant of a man," said Gravel, who first met Platt when they were patrol officers together, but became close through their shared experience of PTSD. Gravel's stemmed from one incident - a night in August 1987 when he shot and killed a suspect in a gas bar robbery.

Platt's PTSD was more insidious, the cumulative effect of a 23-year policing career.

"It was about 3 a.m. one October morning in 1992 when my world started to crumble around me," Platt wrote on the Badge of Life website. "I was driving around the streets looking for a large tree to drive into to end my life. I had never felt this strange feeling before ... I felt a sudden, deep depression. I called my sergeant, who came to me in what seemed like seconds, and I explained to him how I was feeling. He followed very closely behind me while we drove to the station. I changed out of my uniform, went home and never returned to police work again."

Platt was diagnosed with PTSD but was frustrated by what he felt was an indifference from his superiors. In 2010, he founded Badge of Life based on a similar program in the U.S.

"He realized there wasn't anywhere for municipal and provincial police and First Nations officers to turn," Gravel said. "From when we were traumatized until that day, in 2010, people didn't know which way to turn. Where are the resources? What does PTSD look like. Do I have it? What should I do?"

Platt enlisted Gravel's help after Gravel published a book, 56 Seconds, about his own struggles with PTSD. Platt was finding the

organization a hard sell, probably because of his own earnest and aggressive approach.

"I don't think it was intentional that he was being ignored, I just don't think it (PTSD) was on anybody's radar," Gravel said. Gravel convinced Platt to soften his tone - "to pour a little honey" on the message - and Badge of Life took off.

Things have changed a lot for police officers, since Platt's last shift.

"Going out on a limb like he did, to put himself out there as a champion of the cause, the development of Badge of Life Canada, wanting to speak on behalf of those who could not speak ... And he did it all on his own time and with his own dime," said Gravel.

Platt is survived by Cathy and their two daughters, Jo-Anne and Stephanie. (Ottawa Citizen)



Oct 21 2016

The acting commander of the Yukon RCMP, Supt. Brian Jones, says he's looking forward to welcoming auxiliary constables back to their former duties.



Discussions with the territorial government are still ongoing, Jones said, but there's widespread support in the territory for a bigger role for the auxiliaries in policing.

New guidelines were put into place last year by RCMP headquarters in Ottawa

after a regular officer, Const. David Wynn, was shot and killed by a suspect in St. Albert, Alta., in January 2015. An auxiliary officer with him, Const. Derek Bond, was wounded.

Changes to the program took away the opportunity for auxiliaries to go on "ride-alongs" with regular officers. They could no longer take part in traffic checkpoints - used to enforce impaired driving and other laws - and they were to wear more casual clothing that doesn't resemble police uniforms.

The RCMP has since reopened the issue and is discussing the auxiliaries' future with local governments in different jurisdictions. One option would see the auxiliaries remain out of uniform and volunteering mainly at public events. Another would have them revert back more or less to their former duties.

Yet another would allow for flexibility with auxiliaries choosing what type of role they want, based on their training. Jones said that has advantages.

"It's an opportunity for those people who want to become involved in the auxiliary constable program, for them to be provided an opportunity to be engaged at a level that they're comfortable at," said Jones.

(CBC News)



MIDLAND, Ont. - A central Ontario police officer won't be facing criminal charges in the death of a 44-year-old man who killed himself after the officer told him he was the subject of a criminal investigation.

The Special Investigations Unit says the officer with the Midland, Ont., police force called the man on June 1st to tell him he was being investigated and asked him to come to the police station.

The SIU says the man texted his wife shortly after the conversation with the officer and wrote that he would be taking his own life as he could not face going to jail.

The man's wife immediately called police and officers - including the one who had contacted the man - went to search for the man and found his body, with a gunshot wound to the chest, next to a rifle in a park.

SIU director Tony Loparco says that when the officer contacted the man to advise him of the criminal investigation, it set into motion a series of events that resulted in the man electing to take his own life.

But Loparco says the officer won't be charged as legal fault cannot be attributed in this case because the outcome of the man taking his own life was not reasonably foreseeable.

Oct 21 2016

HALIFAX - Seventy people died of opioid overdoses in Nova Scotia in the first eight months of 2016, a spike being attributed to the early impact of the highly addictive painkiller fentanyl.

The province's chief public health officer, Dr. Robert Strang, released the figures today for the deaths between Jan. 1 and Sept. 1, saying as many as 10 are from fentanyl, and the trend lines are increasing.

Strang says the province doesn't yet have "a significant issue with fentanyl," but problems in British Columbia and Alberta give Nova Scotia a chance to develop a "pro-active response" as problems move eastward.

Senior leaders in Nova Scotia's health and justice departments, along with other stakeholders, will meet Oct. 28 to discuss better co-ordination and both short and long term responses.

Oct 21 2016

TORONTO - Canada's top doctor has released a report on family violence across the country - and he says the statistics are staggering.

Chief medical health officer Dr. Gregory Taylor says family violence is not just about physical abuse, but includes sexual, emotional and financial abuse, as well as neglect.

Taylor says almost 58,000 girls and women were victims of family violence in 2014, and every four days a woman was killed by a family member.

Population surveys show that a third of Canadians, or nine million people, have reported experiencing abuse before they were 15 years old.

In 2014, indigenous Canadians were murdered at a rate six times higher than non-indigenous Canadians, with aboriginal women three times more likely to report spousal abuse than non-aboriginal women.

The report also found that every day, eight seniors on average were victims of family violence.

"This is a serious public health issue in Canada - one that can have long-lasting and widespread effects on the health of individuals, families and communities," says Taylor.

"The health impacts of family violence extend far beyond physical injuries and include poor mental health, psychological and emotional distress, suicide, and increased risk of chronic diseases and conditions such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes."

Oct 21 2016

OTTAWA - The number of RCMP wiretaps on organized-crime groups is plummeting sharply as the force shifts its detectives to the fight against terrorism, according to statistics analyzed by The Globe and Mail.



In its federal policing role, the RCMP essentially has two major business lines - chasing mobsters and chasing terrorists. The priority the Mounties give to each of the two files has always been an issue, but the balance clearly shifted after the attack on Parliament Hill two years ago.

The RCMP has moved hundreds of officers from organized-crime probes to terrorism investigations in a bid to track suspected sympathizers of the Islamic State. This may come at a cost to other important RCMP missions, such as stopping human trafficking, getting guns off the street and curbing trade in illicit drugs such as fentanyl.

A spokeswoman for the police force does not dispute that a significant shift has taken place.

"The decrease in RCMP wiretap applications for serious and organized-crime investigations in the past year can partially be attributed to the shifting of a number of federal-policing resources to national-security criminal investigations," Corporal Annie Delisle said in an e-mailed response to Globe questions.

Her e-mail added that the RCMP "prioritizes its investigations based on threat and risk to public safety and remains committed to fighting organized crime."

In a typical year, the Mounties and their partner agencies usually seek approval for more than 100 wiretap applications from federal Crown attorneys, before bringing these bids to criminal-court judges for final approval.

The Public Safety Canada annual report for 2015, released this month, shows that 67 such applications were made.

This number does not necessarily mean police surveillance is declining. Police can pack scores of suspects and potential charges into a single wiretap application.

The Public Safety Canada report says the overall number of people being wiretapped by police is not changing much from year to year.

Yet the focus of police investigations is clearly shifting.

In 2011, police sought wiretaps in hopes of laying charges for 82 Criminal Code offences that explicitly had to do with organized-crime. Only six such charges were contemplated in 2015.

Half of all wiretap applications still involve drug cases, yet the number of drug charges being pursued has plummeted.

In 2011, federal police were seeking wiretap warrants involving only three terrorism charges. In 2014, police were hoping to lay 97 terrorism charges. In 2015, that number was 68.

The Public Safety Canada electronic surveillance report is preliminary and the 2015 numbers may increase because police do not have to disclose data about all their investigations right away. Not every wiretap warrant of leads to an arrest or criminal charge. (Globe and Mail)

Oct 21 2016

TERRACE, B.C. - An RCMP officer in British Columbia who was expected to be sentenced Friday after pleading guilty to assaulting a teenager will learn his fate at a later date.

Provincial court Judge Edmond de Walle did not say when he would impose a sentence in the case of Const. Bruce Lofroth.

He pleaded guilty in August to assaulting a teen during a violent arrest in May 2014.

Lofroth was charged several months later when cellphone video surfaced on YouTube, showing two Mounties kneeling beside the teen as he lay on a sidewalk in Terrace.

An officer wearing black leather gloves appears to punch the youth's body and head and, after the boy is handcuffed, the officer appears to strike him in the face.

The Independent Investigations Office was called in by the commanding officer of the Terrace detachment. (CFTK)

Oct 21 2016

CALGARY - A Calgary judge on Friday said the trial of a retired city cop in connection with an alleged bribery scheme will be set despite attempts by defence lawyers to delay the case.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice David Gates refused attempts by lawyers for two of three accused to delay setting what is expected to be a four-week hearing.

Former Calgary police officer Stephen Charles Walton is charged along with his wife, Heather, and Kenneth Robert Carter in connection with allegations they criminally harassed Carter's ex-wife, Akele Taylor.

Walton is also charged with offering a bribe, mishandling a firearm and perjury, while

his wife is accused of offering a bribe and handling a firearm in a manner contrary to regulation and Carter faces an additional charge of perjury in connection with a family law matter.

Three others, two city cops and another retired officer, are already set to go to trial beginning Feb. 5, 2018, in connection with the allegations.

Const. Bryan Allan Morton and Sgt. Bradford Robert McNish, along with retired cop Anthony John Braile are charged with accepting a cash bribe and other charges.

(Calgary Herald)

Oct 21 2016

DURHAM - A Durham police officer has been cleared of any criminal wrongdoing in a 2015 crash in Whitby that left a 25-year-old woman with serious injuries.

In a decision released Friday, Oct. 21, Special Investigations Unit director Tony Loparco said the officer acted lawfully in pursuing a vehicle that fled a traffic stop.

That suspect vehicle ran a red light and slammed into the victim's car; the driver of the suspect vehicle fled the scene. A suspect has since been charged.

"There is no evidence to suggest the subject officer himself was a danger to vehicular or pedestrian traffic at any point during the course of events," Loparco wrote in the decision.

(Ajax News Advertiser)

Oct 21 2016

For the first time in its history, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) has charged an officer with fraud or theft.

After an investigation by ASIRT that started in February, former Spruce Grove/Stony Plain RCMP officer Aaron Sayler, 30, was charged with theft under \$5,000, obtaining by false pretences, uttering a forged document and fraud under \$5,000.

ASIRT alleges the officer took an airsoft pistol instead of seizing it after finding it in a vehicle he was searching in March 2015.

He is also accused of committing insurance fraud by allegedly creating a false hit-and-run report that he submitted to his insurance company to get \$1,600.

"We received information from an individual who was aware of the insurance claim and we also received information with respect to the seizure from the vehicle," ASIRT executive director Susan Hughson said.

ASIRT received tips from more than one person about the two alleged incidents, and its investigation concluded no other RCMP members were involved.

It's the first time ASIRT has charged an RCMP officer with theft or fraud, according to Hughson.

Sayler was suspended from duty in February of this year. The RCMP said his suspension "was standard RCMP practice and not a disciplinary measure."

Sayler resigned from the RCMP Wednesday. He was with the RCMP for nearly nine years.

(Global News)

Oct 21 2016

A bill that would close a "glaring loophole" in Alberta's bail application process came one step closer to becoming law, but not before a St. Albert RCMP officer had to lose his life.

Named for RCMP Const. David Wynn, who was fatally shot at the Apex Casino in St. Albert on Jan. 17, 2015, Wynn's Law would make it mandatory for the Crown to disclose at bail hearings an accused's criminal record, outstanding charges and past failures to appear in court.

Shawn Maxwell Rehn, 34, was out on bail when he fatally shot Wynn and wounded auxiliary Const. Derek Bond, despite having 29 outstanding Criminal Code violations.

"He had an extensive rap sheet, and yet none of that information was presented to a justice of the peace at that application hearing. As a result, he was let out on bail when he clearly should have been behind bars," said St. Albert-Edmonton Conservative MP Michael Cooper, who has championed Bill S-217, otherwise known as Wynn's Law.

Wynn's Law, introduced by Ontario Sen. Bob Runciman, passed through the Senate with "wide support" Thursday evening.

"I'm glad that senators realize there is a glaring loophole and recognize that the way to close it is by passing Wynn's Law," said Cooper.

Cooper will now introduce the bill Monday in the House of Commons.

Had Wynn's Law been in effect at the time of Rehn's last bail hearing - after the casino shooting, he was found dead in a rural home east of St. Albert - Cooper said Wynn wouldn't have died that day, and his wife, Shelly, wouldn't be a widow.

"This case was one that was completely preventable had the information been provided at the bail application hearing," Cooper said. "There is no doubt in my mind that Shawn Rehn would be behind bars and Const. Wynn would be alive today."

Despite having an extensive criminal history spanning decades, including confrontations with police, Rehn's past wasn't brought up at his bail hearing.

At the time, Edmonton police blamed part of the problem on the participation of their own officers in bail hearings.

In Alberta, police officers sometimes participate in bail hearings instead of Crown prosecutors; however, they often lack the legal training needed to conduct them properly.

"We're not trained to be lawyers, we're not trained to do that sort of work, that's better suited for someone who has legal training," said Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht, adding Alberta may be the last province where officers take active roles in bail hearings instead of Crown prosecutors.

A new policy requiring Crown prosecutors at bail hearings in Edmonton and Calgary was supposed to take effect Oct. 24.

According to Patrick Mears, with the public affairs office for the Justice and Solicitor General Ministry, the Alberta Crown

Prosecution Service has asked the Court of Queen's Bench to clarify whether police officers are even allowed to act as prosecutors in justice of the peace bail hearings. Chief Justice Neil Wittman reserved his decision Wednesday.

In April, Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley said the change could cost between \$4 million and \$6 million, and could mean the province would have to give up its capacity to hold bail hearings 24 hours a day.

(Edmonton Journal)

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 22, 2016

Oct 22 2016

TORONTO - The Toronto police civilian oversight board has told Chief Mark Saunders to explain why he decided, without any public or board input, to change the colour of the service's fleet from white to grey.



"We are making a major design change, and we did never discuss it," Councillor Shelley Carroll said at this week's board meeting.

"I'm sure at one point when we went from yellow to red, white and blue there was probably a conversation."

The board told Saunders to report back on the service's plans for its cars.

Last month, the Toronto Police Service began replacing its familiar white Ford Crown Victoria vehicles with Ford Interceptors painted in a dark shade of grey. "Police" is printed in highly reflective decals on all four sides.

The cars are different from the service's new "stealth" cars, which are also grey but the word "Police" and motto, To Serve and Protect, are barely visible beneath grey paint.

Saunders told the board he didn't seek input for the current switch "other than the fact that I put a couple of them out in 23 Division and asked for a response on it and the feedback was positive, by and large."

The chief told reporters later it was "a choice I get to make" without consultation. He also said that people complained when the cars were yellow, then white, and now. "It was a change, nothing more, nothing less, and it takes a while for the public to embrace it." Changing to grey cars comes at no extra cost and the vehicles have a higher resale value at the end of their 4.5-year life, he said.

Last month, Saunders tweeted the colour change "ties in with our modernizing of policing," and told City-TV it was "something that I wanted to do... for no particular reason." He added he liked the look and colour grey.

(Toronto Star)

Oct 22 2016

MONTREAL - Montreal Police are searching for two suspects after an armoured truck was rammed open with a front-end loader.

A Garda truck was parked behind a mall on Holiday Avenue near St-Jean Boulevard in Pointe-Claire, Que., about 20 kilometres west of Montreal on Friday afternoon.

When two guards from the company left the truck to go inside Home Depot, two suspects barricaded the guards in the building. They then rammed the back door of the Garda truck with a front-end loader and raided the contents.

Police do not know how much money the two suspects took before they fled the scene in a white pickup truck.

No one was injured and an investigation is underway.
(CBC News)

Oct 22 2016

VICTORIA - Three suspects are facing numerous charges after an arrest turned violent in Victoria Friday night, leaving five officers injured.

Victoria police officers responded to an assault report a little before 6 p.m.

A man was placed in custody, but before he could be taken away, two other people involved in the incident allegedly became violent towards the lone arresting officer. Multiple back-up units provided assistance, during which time three other officers sustained injuries.

One of the attackers was transported to hospital with non-life threatening injuries, and then was returned to police headquarters, where he then allegedly proceeded to assault a jail staff member.

All of the police officers, and the jail staff member, were taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries, and have all been released.
(Global News)

Oct 22 2016

A former Mayerthorpe RCMP officer who developed post-traumatic stress disorder following the 2005 murder of four of his colleagues is claiming his Charter rights were violated when he was discharged from the force because of his disability.



Former constable Trevor Josok was dismissed June 13, 2016, more than a decade after the tragic shooting that triggered a “disabling condition” that forced him to take a medical leave.

Josok was finally let go following changes to the RCMP

Act that allow for the dismissal of an officer having a disability. If Josok’s application for a judicial review by the Federal Court is successful, it could have implications in a number of cases across Canada, his lawyer Sebastian Anderson, a B.C.-based labour rights attorney, said earlier this week.

Anderson said the incident triggered serious PTSD in Josok, connected to the guilt he felt about not being there for his co-workers. He went on medical leave in September 2005.

Josok returned to work through the RCMP’s accommodation program in September 2006.

According to the court application, Josok tried to recover, but felt he was continuously given tasks that were “menial and demeaning,” and the distress pushed him to take another medical leave in November 2008.

“Overall, the RCMP’s accommodation process was very disappointing and made him feel completely defeated, demoralized and humiliated,” Josok’s application states.

Anderson said that because of the PTSD, Josok cannot bring himself to wear his

uniform, but is otherwise fully able to perform police duties.

In March 2011, RCMP notified Josok it was seeking a medical discharge for him. More than four years went by, and then the RCMP withdrew that notice and issued a new one based on changes to the RCMP Act, which included an amendment allowing dismissal of an officer on grounds other than violating the code of conduct.

In his application to the court, Josok said the RCMP cited that section of the act, as well as a section of the Commissioner’s Standing Orders that allows for dismissal of a member for having a disability as defined by the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Josok will argue that the existence of that section violates section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and that it should be struck down as unconstitutional.

Josok is also requesting reinstatement as an officer, and that the RCMP pay his associated costs.
(Edmonton Journal)

MONDAY
OCTOBER 24, 2016

Oct 24 2016

CALGARY - An internal workplace review of the Calgary Police Service has revealed claims of sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation, and a workplace culture that’s left some officers too fearful to formally complain.

The review, completed in 2013 and obtained by Postmedia, further details how the culture makes men and women often feel punished when they bring issues forward, or even when they request flexible work schedules.

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Some women also reported feeling their chances for promotion were lost when they became pregnant.

“Both males and females shared instances of workplace bullying and harassment,” according to the human resources report, written by an independent auditor.

“Both men and women reported they did not bring these concerns forward in any formal way because the culture is one of intimidation and retaliation.”

Officers echoed those concerns in interviews with Postmedia, including one current female member who said seven officers texted her photos of their genitals after working shifts together.

In another incident, she claims a co-worker grabbed her head without warning and shoved it into his crotch, telling her to “do something useful.”

Senior police officials say they’ve taken strides to combat the issues outlined in the 2013 review, including the creation of the “Office of Inclusion,” a department existing specifically to receive and process complaints related to workplace culture.

The office is also working with the University of Calgary’s gender studies program to better understand workplace culture issues.

Police Chief Roger Chaffin said addressing the state of workplace culture and gender equity issues is a priority but will take time.



“It’s a new office, so it’s not a magic wand I can wave and say to trust it,” Chaffin said.

“We’re making headway, we see a lot of employees, we deal with a lot of issues.”

Though the report raises claims of sexual assault within the force, the service says no one has come forward to file a complaint.

“(Once) I have someone to step forward and say, ‘This happened to me and this is the situation,’ then we can go and find out what the facts are and investigate it,” Chaffin said.

An independent auditor interviewed 65 CPS employees in 2012 and 2013 to get a handle on the effectiveness of HR and the general situation of the workplace culture and gender-equity issues in the force. The results weren’t made public until recently.

While the report found “many examples of the good work that the Human Resources Section has done and is currently doing,” it also flags examples of “when things did not go as hoped or planned.”

The report cited a culture of “intimidation and retaliation” that kept both men and women from formally reporting their concerns.

The auditor found the submission of formal reports “was perceived to be unsafe in

terms of their career to do so. In fact, it was often the perpetrator who reminded them that it would be unsafe to report incidents and that nothing would be done.”

Interviewees also reported they didn’t trust human resources to process a complaint without negative implication on them, “despite there being examples of serious bullying and/or harassment, acts of discrimination . . . and acts of criminal behaviour including sexual assaults.”

Indeed, during the review, some staff requested to meet the auditor outside city limits. One officer asked the auditor to wear a disguise so their peers wouldn’t know they were meeting.

Another reason some CPS staff said they didn’t raise complaints was the perception perpetrators aren’t sufficiently dealt with, because of what was perceived to be “powerful connections.”

The report also noted many female officers felt like they had “1,000 stab wounds” from workplace interactions, and that they felt like they were punished for becoming pregnant.

Nineteen per cent of the CPS sworn members are female, while 67 per cent of its civilian staff are women.

“The female members who had children consistently reported their acceptance on the job ended at the point they became pregnant,” the auditor wrote.

“Upon announcing their pregnancy, a few of those I spoke to were able to be accommodated in a safe environment within their workplace, which was acceptable to them and allowed them to continue their work.

“However the majority were told the only placements for them were at front counters, which has traditionally had a negative stigma that is hard to get past, offers less than challenging work tasks and, in fact, as some suggested, were not particularly safe.”

The auditor said some of the women wanted to return to work on a job-share or part-time basis, but were reportedly challenged by such statements as, “My wife came back full time.”

But while the CPS says it’s taken strides to combat the issues outlined in the 2013 review, five officers interviewed by Postmedia say they haven’t seen a noticeable change in the workplace culture since the report came out, and are still afraid to speak out.

Other officers interviewed by Postmedia, including Marlene Hope, who worked on the Office of Inclusion until she quit in 2015, called the office “a Band-Aid solution” that wasn’t effectively solving deep-seated issues in the force’s culture.

“If they dealt with the issues appropriately, we would probably have very few reoffenders, but because we never dealt with it, people didn’t even know where the line was anymore, they kept crossing it,” said Hope.

“The reality is, this is absolutely not just a gender issue. The culture that exists impacts everyone.”

Chaffin said finding a way to get officers to trust the organization and come forward

with their complaints is a long process.

“It’s a very important topic, and just because we didn’t see anyone come forward it does not make us naive (enough) to suggest that there’s nothing there,” said Chaffin.

“When people feel uncomfortable coming forward, that’s something we still have to work on every day.”

(Calgary Herald)

Oct 24 2016

NORTH BATTLEFORD, Sask. - A lawyer for the family of a First Nations man shot dead in Saskatchewan says a key piece of evidence has been compromised.

Chris Murphy represents the family of Colten Boushie, who was killed in August after the SUV he was riding in with four other people drove onto a farm west of Saskatoon.

Murphy says the SUV, a Ford Escape, was outside in a towing company parking lot on Sept. 12 and then moved the next day to a salvage yard for auction.

He says he told the Crown and RCMP that the SUV was not in police custody.

The former prosecutor says he was told by police that blood splatter analysis had not been performed on the vehicle and Murphy says that means any evidence collected now could be tainted.

Farm owner Gerald Stanley has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in Boushie’s death and is free on bail.

Oct 24 2016

Americans’ respect for local police jumped to its highest levels since 1967, according to a new Gallup poll Monday.

The poll, conducted earlier this month, found 76% of Americans said they have “a great deal” of respect for police in their area, up 12 percentage points from last year.

The findings follow high-profile fatal attacks on police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, and come amid ongoing protests over police shootings of black men across the country.

“The sharp increase over the past year in professed respect for local law enforcement comes as many police say they feel they are on the defensive—both politically and for their lives while they are on duty—amid heated national discussions on police brutality and shootings,” writes Gallup analyst Justin McCarthy.

Law enforcement experts said the high-profile killings of five officers in Dallas and three officers in Louisiana this summer contributed to the jump.

William Johnson, executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations, which represents about 240,000 law-enforcement officers, said the poll shows that Americans understand that videos of police killing people aren’t the whole picture.

“The public understands that there are incidents where things go horribly wrong,” Mr. Johnson said. “They also understand that policing in the U.S. is the best in the world.”

Mr. Johnson said the killings of police officers had “an eye-opening effect on the American public, especially in Dallas where the officers are protecting antipolice protesters and are gunned down.”

But police still face heavy criticism, especially in minority communities, where the killings of black men have continued to stir protest and demands for increased scrutiny of police use of force.

The Gallup poll revealed racial disparities in attitudes toward police, with 67% of nonwhites saying they have a great deal of respect for local police, compared with 80 per cent of whites.

In a separate poll conducted before the police shootings in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Gallup found that 56 per cent of Americans had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in police, up from a 22-year low of 52 per cent in 2015.

(Wall Street Journal)

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 25, 2016

Oct 25 2016

WINNIPEG - Deputy Chief Danny Smyth, a second-generation police officer who has been with the service since 1986, is the Winnipeg Police Board's recommended candidate to succeed Devon Clunis as chief.



But Smyth said following his father into the profession wasn't originally his plan when he was going to university in the 1980s.

“At that time in the mid-'80s, there was a height and a weight restriction, and if you've never met me before, I'm a relatively short guy - I'm five-foot-seven - so that wasn't even in the cards at that time,” he said in an interview Tuesday.

“But they changed the standards back in the mid-'80s and it became more of an obstacle, physical obstacle test that you had to pass.... It really sort of opened the door for an opportunity, and I thought about it for a while and decided to give it a try, and I haven't looked back.”

Smyth, who was born and raised in Winnipeg's North Kildonan area, continues to live in the north part of the city with his family.

Smyth was chosen as the top pick for top cop following an extensive national search that began when Clunis announced his retirement in March.

The board will make its formal recommendation on Nov. 4. Smyth is scheduled to be sworn in on Nov. 8.

“This is a very long process,” said Smyth, adding that he's feeling “some relief, actually, because it's been going on for quite a while, but just taking in the moment, for sure.”

During his career, Smyth has served the police force in uniform and undercover operations, the latter as a member of both the vice unit and the surveillance unit. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1983 and a master's degree in organizational management in 2006.

Winnipeggers may recognize him as the public face of the Winnipeg Police Service in some high-profile investigations, including a series of mail bombings in July 2015.

Smyth was promoted to inspector in 2005 and superintendent in 2012. Last year, he was named deputy chief of investigative services.

(CBC News)

Oct 25 2016

WINNIPEG - A body that reviews serious matters involving police is looking into complaints from two people who say they were injured during arrests by Winnipeg officers.

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba says the first complainant says his arm was injured while he was being handcuffed on Feb. 7.

He says he went to hospital after his release and was told his arm was sprained or dislocated. The man says he has been off work since then.

The second complainant says he required surgery after his hand was injured during an arrest on Oct. 4.

Oct 25 2016

PEACE RIVER, Alta. - A Mountie in northwestern Alberta has been charged with assault causing bodily harm.

RCMP say Cpl. Mark Potts of the Peace River detachment was charged following an investigation.

A fellow officer alleged last spring that a prisoner had been assaulted while he was being taken to Peace River from Manning, Alta.

Potts is to make his first court appearance in Peace River on Nov. 28.

He has been suspended from duty until the criminal charge against him has been resolved.

Oct 25 2016

VANCOUVER - A legal advocacy group is calling on the British Columbia government to release newly gathered statistics about the use of police dogs in the province.

Pivot Legal Society also wants the provincial government to conduct an audit of how closely the Vancouver Police Department is following a new law around police dog training and deployment, which came into effect a year ago.

Spokesman Doug King says Vancouver police have the highest bite ratio of any department in the province and going public with the statistics could lead to changes that would help lower that number.

Last month a bystander was bitten while Vancouver officers were responding to a reported kidnapping and double murder - an incident for which police have since apologized.

A police dog tore off part of the man's ear before grabbing his leg and dragging him across the ground.

Vancouver police spokesman Sgt. Brian Montague says they are transparent about their dog-bite data and wouldn't stand in the way of the province disclosing that information to the public.

Oct 25 2016

WOODSTOCK - A 49-year-old woman who worked as a nurse at long-term care facilities in Woodstock and London has been charged with eight counts of first degree murder following a multi-jurisdiction homicide investigation.

The investigation began on Sept. 29, when Woodstock police say they received information that eight people had been murdered between 2007 and 2014.

Due to the nature of the allegations, a multi-jurisdictional major case manager was contacted.

“As you can imagine, this disclosure caused us to immediately assess the information and muster the necessary resources to ensure a thorough investigation of the facts,” said Woodstock Police Chief William Renton at the news conference.

Det. Inspector Rob Hagerman of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch was assigned to coordinate the investigation by members of the Woodstock Police Service and London Police Service.

Police say the victims were administered a drug. Investigators would not comment on which drug specifically and or a possible motive.

A nurse employed at the facilities, 49-year-old Elizabeth Tracey Mae Wettlaufer of Woodstock, is charged with eight counts of first degree murder.

The accused appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Oct. 25 and was remanded into custody.

Prior to the police news conference, Caressant Care Woodstock Long Term Care spokesperson Lee Griffi said in a statement that the facility is “cooperating fully with police investigating the actions of a former staff member, a registered nurse.”

The nurse in question stopped working at the home approximately two and a half years ago, Griffi added.

The long-term care home remains in “regular contact” with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term care, Griffi said, explaining that their “highest priority” continues to be to provide for the “physical, social and spiritual needs” of its residents.

“We deeply regret the additional grief and stress this is imposing on the families involved,” Griffi said.

(CTV London)

The RCMP will soon face another class-action harassment lawsuit - this time on behalf of male Mounties and civilian employees of the force.

Earlier this month, the federal government and the RCMP set aside \$100 million to settle an estimated 1,000 cases of female employees being harassed and bullied at work.

CBC News has learned that one of the law firms that represented those women is preparing to bring another suit for men - which could potentially be much bigger given that men make up roughly 80 per cent of the RCMP's workforce.

"We've spoken with hundreds of members, and we're contacted by new members every day," said lawyer Megan McPhee of Kim Orr Barristers in Toronto, who has been working on the case for years. "The stories are very consistent. We're told that there is a culture of bullying and harassment within the force, and one of the regular issues that we hear is a fear of speaking out, a fear of reprisals."

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 26, 2016

Oct 26 2016

SASKATOON - A 21-year-old man who was critically injured in an accident during a police chase in Saskatoon has died.

Police have said the man was a passenger in a stolen truck that was being pursued when it slammed into a fence early Sunday morning.

They said a 20-year-old man who was the alleged driver sped away when officers tried to stop the truck, which had been reported stolen the previous day.

He's facing charges of dangerous driving causing death, evading police causing death, possession of stolen property over \$5,000, breaching probation and several gun and weapon charges.

Investigators say they recovered four guns and ammunition from the vehicle after the crash.

Saskatchewan Justice is now overseeing the case.

(CKOM, CTV Saskatoon)

Oct 26 2016

WINNIPEG - An inquest has been called into the death of a man shot by Winnipeg police last November.

Mark Dicesare, who was 24, was killed after a police chase and standoff with officers.

Police had been called following reports of a man driving and pointing a gun at people. Dicesare was shot after being surrounded on a field at a busy city intersection.

He died of multiple gunshot wounds.

The shooting is still under investigation by the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba, which reviews police conduct.

Oct 26 2016

The New Brunswick Police Commission's investigation into the Saint John Police Force's handling of the Richard Oland murder investigation has been postponed indefinitely now that the Court of Appeal has ordered a new trial for Dennis Oland.

The review by the independent provincial oversight body will remain suspended "until such time as all criminal proceedings are completed," executive director Steve Roberge confirmed in an email to CBC News.

It's unclear how long that will take. A date for Oland's second trial in his father's 2011 death has not yet been set.

Meanwhile, a separate police commission investigation into allegations Deputy Chief Glen McCloskey encouraged another officer not to reveal McCloskey had entered the bloody crime scene is proceeding, said Roberge. It is expected to be complete by Dec. 26, he said.

Oland, 48, was released on bail Tuesday after the Court of Appeal panel overturned his conviction and ordered a new trial on Monday.

Oland had been in prison since Dec. 19, when a jury found him guilty of second-degree murder following a three-month trial in Saint John's Court of Queen's Bench. He was serving a life sentence with no chance of parole for at least 10 years.

(CBC News)

Oct 26 2016

TORONTO - The investigation into the alleged murders of eight elderly nursing home residents was prompted by information the nurse accused in the case provided to a psychiatric hospital in Toronto, The Canadian Press has learned.

Officials from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) alerted the Toronto police that Elizabeth Wettlauffer, of Woodstock, Ont., had shared information with hospital staff that caused them "concern," a police source familiar with the investigation said Wednesday.

The source said once Toronto police received the information from the hospital, officers interviewed Wettlauffer and found out that the alleged crimes had occurred outside Toronto police's jurisdiction.

That's when Toronto police passed the information to the Ontario Provincial Police and police forces in Woodstock and London, said the source, who was not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

The investigation into the alleged murders was launched on Sept. 29. Wettlauffer was arrested on Monday and appeared in an Woodstock courthouse on Tuesday where she was remanded into custody.

CAMH declined to comment, saying they do not disclose information about their clients due to patient confidentiality.

However, a peace bond Wettlauffer entered into earlier in the month required her to "continue any treatment for mental health"

with any physician to whom she was referred by her family doctor or "representatives of CAMH."

Wettlauffer was also not allowed to possess or consume alcohol and had to obey a curfew and reside in either her apartment or with her parents in Woodstock between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m., except to attend alcoholics anonymous meetings, according to terms laid out in the peace bond.

Wettlauffer's friend, Nancy Gilbert, told The Canadian Press that Wettlauffer had told her she recently completed her second stint in rehab in Toronto and seemed to be in good spirits.

A Facebook page for a Beth Wettlauffer, whose photo, education and employment records match that of Elizabeth Wettlauffer, makes reference to what appears to be a struggle with substance abuse.

Oct 26 2016

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service has become the first law enforcement agency to win a national award that honours efforts to improve harmony between cultures and races.



EPS Chief Rod Knecht received the Wolf Award on behalf of the police force Wednesday. Wolf Project founder Heather Acres said several First Nations leaders nominated the EPS for the award a few months ago for its ongoing work with indigenous youth through a unique training and mentorship program.

"After careful deliberation, the board of directors for the Wolf Project agreed wholeheartedly to award this wolf to the Edmonton Police Service's Indigenous Relations Unit for the Oskayak Police Academy," Acres said.

The summer program began three years ago and sees participants trained in leadership development and problem solving, attend educational sessions and traditional cultural activities with diverse speakers and elders, assist with community outreach in the downtown core and experience what it is like to be a police recruit.

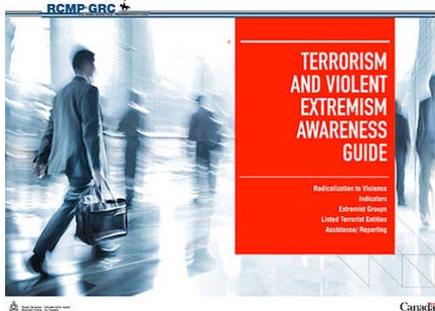
"The establishment of the Oskayak Police Academy demonstrates the leadership and determination to bring community members together to plan throughout the year and provide aboriginal youth with hands-on experiences with police in a culturally sensitive environment," Fred Hines, principal of Amiskwaciy Academy, said after the award was given to police.

Edmonton has the second-largest urban aboriginal population in Canada and about half of the population is under the age of 25. Knecht said building relationships with young aboriginal people is important for him and his members.

(Global News)

Oct 26 2016

With a level of detail unheard of from law enforcement, the RCMP's new "Terrorism and Violent Extremism Awareness Guide" tackles everything from how to see whether your kids are becoming radicalized online, to how to check for signs of explosive testing: look for dead plants and unusual corrosion in the sink.



Destined for parents, teachers, colleagues and friends of people at risk of becoming radicalized to violence, the guide includes a whole section on "indicators" of radicalization for police use as well, whether it's of the right-wing, left-wing or Islamist variety.

Among things to look out for:

- Suspicious use of the Internet. The guide asks: "Does my child have several accounts on social media and does he/she use different identities in a specific network?"
- Signs a child may be planning to travel to a conflict area: Accessing information on obtaining multiple passports, selling personal belongings.
- Signs a child may be planning terrorist activities: Attempting to access restricted areas; acquiring weapons training, using drones, paintball.

The guide was conceived as a training tool for police on the front line not necessarily up to date on anti-terrorism research and practice, explained RCMP Quebec Superintendent Martine Fontaine. But they soon realized the police could not prevent terrorism alone.

"There's nothing secret in the document," said Fontaine, adding that the Internet is full of recipes and techniques to make bombs or avoid detection. "So we may as well give access to all those who may need this. ... We need everyone out there to be our eyes and to be aware of the signs so we can report (suspicious behaviour) earlier."

The guide, produced by the RCMP's Quebec Communications department using sources like the Montreal Centre for Prevention of Radicalization leading to Violence, has gone to great pains to not single out one form of radicalization, but to explain

the process common to all.

There is no profile to look out for, but rather a "cluster" of changes, it says. Some are obvious, like an "overconsumption of violent propaganda" on the Internet. Others, like a change in appearance and dress style, are less obvious, and on their own may not mean anything.

(Montreal Gazette)

Oct 26 2016

DAWSON CREEK - Attracting professionals of all stripes to live and work in northern communities like Dawson Creek can be a hard sell.

But recent changes to the RCMP's recruiting policy has city staff worried about an additional barrier-and its potential to leave the local detachment understaffed.

At a meeting earlier this month, city councillors expressed concerns about a new RCMP policy they feared would allow recruits to opt out of serving in small, northern communities.

Those concerns however are unfounded, the RCMP told the Dawson Creek Mirror.

"In the past, we have members straight out of the depot here," city administrator Jim Chute said during a council meeting Oct. 17. "(They were) gathering a lot of experience that they'll get in a detachment of our size with our activity that they won't get in a bigger spot."

The local detachment also pays slightly higher than average as an added incentive, he said.

However, in a move to retain staff, the RCMP announced in May it would give more control to new recruits in choosing their first posting.

"Their hope is that they can get (a new crop) of recruits at least through a year in service without quitting," Chute said. "They're using it as a retention tool (but) it's not helpful for small northern, remote (towns)."

But the RCMP says the city has no reason to fear.

"To meet organizational needs, (recruits) from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba will have the opportunity to select their home province for their first post following graduation," RCMP National Headquarters spokesperson Cpl. Annie Delisle told the Mirror in an email.

Yet, "new recruits cannot choose the city/town where they would like to be posted," Delisle added. "The RCMP's operational needs will continue to determine the exact location of a posting."

That means the city won't have to sell itself to recruits, the way small communities are forced to attract doctors and nurses.

Still, the RCMP does face other challenges in recruiting officers that could potentially end up in the Peace Region.

For example, Chute said the national police service pays about 25 per cent less than the Toronto City Police and about 20 per cent less than the Vancouver City Police service.

"If you are from a big city and you want

to stay in the big city, you have attractive options right at home," Chute said.

He added that it's expected the RCMP's member union will be pushing for wage equalization with bigger city departments - something council should be aware of, because the city covers 70 per cent of the detachment's wage costs, while the province pays for rural policing.

(Dawson Creek Mirror)

Oct 26 2016

FAIRVIEW, Alta. - Alberta's police watchdog is investigating after a Mountie fired a gun and a man involved in a crash allegedly fled in the officer's unmarked police cruiser.

It happened Tuesday afternoon in a rural area outside of Fairview in northwest Alberta when a RCMP officer responded to a crash.

When the officer arrived, it's alleged a fight ensued between the man who was driving the car and the officer.

The member fired the gun, then the man fled in the officer's unmarked police cruiser.

The suspect dumped the cruiser a short distance away and allegedly stole a second vehicle from another person.

It was later discovered in the Dawson Creek area in British Columbia.

Authorities are still looking for the man.

RCMP Major Crimes North is investigating the officer's action while Alberta Serious Incident Response Team will review the police investigation.

(CFFR)

Oct 26 2016

MONTREAL - Quebec's independent investigation bureau has launched an investigation after a man was shot by a plainclothes Montreal police officer on Wednesday.

The shooting happened early in the afternoon during a police operation.

Bureau spokesman Martin Bonin-Charron said plainclothes officers were attempting to intercept a vehicle they had under surveillance.

The vehicle accelerated towards them and an officer on foot opened fire, he said.

Bonin-Charron could not confirm the number of shots fired, but did say that the male passenger of the vehicle was hit once by an officer. They do not fear for his life.

He said that the vehicle continued on its path until it collided with a police patrol car.

The unit has assigned 10 of its investigators to look into the incident.

(CBC News)

Oct 26 2016

QUEBEC CITY - Police in Quebec City are defending their use of a stun gun to bring a knife-wielding, nine-year-old boy under control.

The child was not injured in the incident, which happened Sunday at the boy's home after his mother called police.

Police spokesman Const. David Poitras said officers tried without success to reason

with the boy, who was brandishing two large knives.

The boy became violent when officers tried to enter the home, Poitras said.

Police resorted to a deploying a stun gun for a few seconds when the boy began making his way to a room where there was another member of the family.

The boy dropped the knives and officers were able to bring him under control.

"Given that we didn't know this child's intentions, that he had access to potential victims, that there was a chance he was a danger to himself, at that moment the best option was the stun gun," Poitras said.

"In those circumstances, that was the option with the least potential consequences," he said.
(CBC News)

OCT 26 2016

EDMONTON - A first-of-its kind manslaughter charge in connection to a fatal fentanyl overdose comes with a strong warning from Edmonton homicide detectives.

"Anyone who is providing or dealing in those controlled substances can be, and will be, held responsible for deaths if we have the evidence to lay the charge," said acting Staff Sgt. Dave Monson, with the Edmonton Police homicide section.

"Dealers need to know that."

Police were called to an apartment building on Jan. 27 and found Szymon Kalich, 33, found dead in a hallway.

Following an autopsy and toxicology testing, it was determined that Kalich died of a fentanyl overdose.

Homicide detectives conducted an extensive investigation and on Monday charged Jordan Yarmey, 25, with manslaughter in connection to Kalich's death.

Detectives believe Yarmey supplied Kalich with the fatal dose, but refrained from sharing any more details ahead of his trial. Yarmey was not previously known to police.

Yarmey is being held in custody awaiting his first appearance in court on Thursday.

The arrest comes on the heels of a fentanyl conference hosted by Alberta RCMP in Sherwood Park on Oct. 20 and 21. Police were joined by representatives from other agencies, including the medical examiner's office, the Canadian Border Services Agency and city police forces.

Edmonton police Insp. Dwayne Lakusta, who leads the Edmonton Drug and Gang Enforcement (EDGE) unit, told Postmedia during the conference that police were pursuing manslaughter charges in a number of investigations involving fentanyl deaths, but said those cases are challenging and require a lot of investigation and collaboration with other agencies.

"We also work closely with the Crown prosecutors' office and the medical examiner's office. It is a very difficult to prove and I do not anticipate a lot of these charges being laid," Lakusta said in an email.

In the first six months of 2016, 43 people died of fentanyl overdoses in Edmonton, out of a total 153 deaths across the province. Alberta Health said the number of overdose deaths linked to the deadly opioid have risen dramatically the past five years.
(Edmonton Sun)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27, 2016

Oct 27 2016

OTTAWA - Some cellphone users will be getting a couple of texts today as provincial police in Ontario unveil an innovative technique to identify potential witnesses in an ongoing homicide investigation.

The body of 65-year-old Frederick Hatch was discovered near Erin, Ont., on Dec. 17, 2015, and investigators have been searching for suspects ever since.

The investigation has determined that Hatch was last seen alive on Dec. 16, 2015, in Ottawa - in the area of West Hunt Club Road and Merivale Road - about 450 kilometres northeast of where his body was found.

Police say they've identified cellphone numbers that were in use in the area at the time Hatch was last seen and will send two text messages - one in English and one in French - to those phones today.

The message will ask recipients to visit a website and voluntarily answer a few simple questions to possibly help the OPP solve Hatch's killing.

Police did not receive the names or any other contact information for the registered cellphone owners, but they're hoping those who receive the message will respond.

"We believe this new investigative technique - a text message canvass to cellphone owners - will reach witnesses," Det. Supt. Dave Truax said Wednesday in a release.

Det. Insp. Andy Raffay said the technique builds on the accepted practice of the door-to-door witness canvass.

"Texting is an evolution of this investigative technique that is unique, maybe unprecedented," Truax said.

"It's the most efficient way to contact these people quickly to either eliminate them as witnesses or learn whether they have any useful information," he said.

Oct 27 2016

WINNIPEG - A former Manitoba Hells Angel has lost a long legal battle with the federal government over the ownership of his house.

Ernie Dew alleged his Winnipeg-area home was illegally seized and sold under proceeds-of-crime legislation.

Dew, who is 57, was convicted of cocaine trafficking and possession of goods obtained by crime following a 2006 arrest and was given two additional years in custody in 2012.

He was acquitted of another drug offence



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that involved his home and it was that matter on which the legal dispute was focused.

The civil forfeiture case went to trial in 2014, with Dew testifying and denying any criminal acts took place under his roof - at least under his watch.

The Manitoba Court of Appeal says there's sufficient evidence to conclude there's an evidentiary link between Dew's residence and his criminal activities, so Ottawa gets to keep the net proceeds from the home's sale - believed to be more than \$100,000.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Oct 27 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's ombudsman wants the power to look into all three of the province's police oversight bodies, not just the Special Investigations Unit.

It's part of ombudsman Paul Dube's submission to Ontario's independent police oversight review, which has a broad mandate to recommend ways to enhance accountability and transparency.

The only police oversight agency currently within the ombudsman's jurisdiction is the SIU, which investigates when police are involved in incidents of serious injury or death.

But Dube said his office should also have the power to probe the Office of the Independent Police Review Director and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, as well as municipal police services boards.

"The time has come to jettison the historic anomaly that sets the OIPRD and the OCPC apart and ensure that all three civilian oversight bodies are equally subject to ombudsman review," Dube wrote in his submission.

"Our civilian oversight bodies represent critical checks and balances in our democracy. However, public trust depends on their effectiveness, and transformative change is required to foster confidence in policing in this province."

The OIPRD is responsible for overseeing public complaints about the police in Ontario, such as about the conduct of a police officer, the policies of a police department or how it delivers services.

The OCPC hears appeals of police disciplinary decisions, adjudicates budget disputes between municipal councils and police service boards, oversees amalgamation of police services and investigates chiefs of police, police officers and members of police services boards.

The ombudsman's office has received 184 complaints about both organizations in the past four years, 138 of them about the OIPRD.

Members of the public have complained about the quality of OIPRD investigations, its dismissal of complaints, and its practice of referring certain matters back to police services, Dube said.

The ombudsman also recommended several legislative reforms to the SIU, including making it an offence for police to

fail to co-operate with an SIU investigation. The office has conducted two systemic investigations of the SIU in the past 10 years, and some of the issues they raised remain, Dube said.

"The recommendations we made to transform the SIU's legislative authority remain unfulfilled, and the problems we first highlighted in 2008 continue to damage public trust in the SIU," Dube wrote.

Oct 27 2016

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg Police Service constable has been charged with dangerous driving following a crash.

Saskatchewan RCMP say they were asked by Manitoba Justice to investigate a collision that happened on March 12.

The crash at around 3 a.m. in a residential area of the city involved two off-duty Winnipeg police officers.

Manitoba Justice says the vehicle hit a parked car and one of the officers was sent to hospital.

RCMP say Andrew Stevenson, who is 27, is charged with one count of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

Stevenson is to appear in Winnipeg provincial court on Dec. 15.

(CTV Winnipeg, The Canadian Press)

Oct 27 2016

PETERBOROUGH - The City of Peterborough, Police Chief Murray Rodd, Deputy Chief Tim Farquharson and the Peterborough Police Services Board have reportedly resolved all issues between themselves, including all legal claims previously in dispute.

"The City of Peterborough, members of the Peterborough Police Service and the Police Services Board have a strong history of an exceptional working relationship and of providing exceptional policing services," wrote the City's chief administrative officer, Allan Seabrooke, in a release Thursday (Oct. 27).

"This resolution is a key milestone in continuing this tradition. The Chief and Deputy look forward to continuing to provide policing services in the community."

A representative of the chief and deputy chief said the comments of the two were



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reflected in the joint media release that had been issued. Councillor Dave Haacke, a member of the Police Services Board, made a similar statement, one that was echoed by fellow councillor and board member Dan McWilliams.

Coun. McWilliams also said a confidentiality agreement was in place, prohibiting him from discussing the matter.

In July of 2015, an arbitrator deemed that the two top police staffers were entitled to a combined \$460,000 in severance when the police service de-amalgamated with Lakefield in late 2014. In December, the City filed court documents to sue the chief and deputy chief for nearly \$500,000

(Peterborough This Week)

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