

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community / November 18, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 47

## Executive Digest

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**SASKATOON** - The new commanding officer for the Saskatchewan RCMP says police are doing the best they can to address the growing rate of property crime in the countryside.



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The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) have released a framework that outlines how police forces across Canada should deal with cases relating to intimate partner violence.

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**OTTAWA** - The RCMP is lobbying the Prime Minister's Office for new powers to bypass digital roadblocks in cases where national security threats and other "high priority" suspects hide online and operate anonymously beyond the reach of police.

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**VICTORIA** - Arguments have wrapped up in Frank Elsner's bid to end an external investigation into his conduct, and the chief justice of the BC Supreme Court will now weigh the arguments before making a decision.

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A former Quebec provincial police officer has been charged in connection with the investigation into allegations of police abuse of Indigenous women.

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## Inconsistent discipline found in RCMP

Nov 17 2016

**Analysis of RCMP internal disciplinary data, obtained under Access to Information by CBC/Radio-Canada, reveals that more than half of complaints against members of the force were found to be justified, and also that there was wide latitude in the severity of punishments handed out.**

Using RCMP aircraft to poach caribou, leaving a loaded gun at a gas station, sexual offences involving children and not responding to calls for help are among 700 cases over the last five years where the RCMP found its employees had broken its rules or the law.

For instance, one Mountie who "provided false information to his superior pertaining to his physical fitness test" was docked two weeks of annual leave. But another, accused of pepper-spraying an arrested individual who was tied to a chair "while in full restraints" in a jail cell, was ordered to undergo counselling and special training.

But the data also suggests the Mounties are making progress on at least one front: complaints of use of excessive force in carrying out their duties.

CBC/Radio-Canada also found 76 cases

where officers avoided RCMP discipline by retiring or resigning in the face of allegations as serious as violent assaults on family members, possessing child pornography and trafficking cocaine.

In some of those 76 cases, the RCMP recommended criminal investigations or charges, such as with former Const. Randi Love from Kamloops, B.C., who is now facing charges for dealing drugs.

But in others, no information was provided in the RCMP documents. CBC/Radio-Canada asked the force for more details but it told us to file another access to information request.

The data provided by the Mounties includes 1,253 summaries of allegations from B.C., Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec, as well as the outcomes of the disciplinary investigations.

The complaints were made between Jan. 1, 2010 and Oct. 9, 2015. They vary in seriousness from an officer cheating on a charity golf tournament scorecard, to another lying under oath, to a high-speed car chase that contributed to the death of a pedestrian.

CBC/Radio-Canada organized the incidents into 11 categories and entered the information into a database, noting where the



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RCMP made findings of guilt and how the force did or did not discipline the member.

The data reveals the RCMP's internal discipline process found the complaints were justified in 56 per cent of all cases.

The majority of complaints fall into three broad categories:

- Information leaks and lies, including lying during an investigation and wrongly searching police databases. Over the five-year period, the RCMP received 242 complaints and substantiated the allegations in 128 cases.
- Dereliction of duty, including failure to promptly respond to calls for help, with 215 complaints over the five years, of which 127 were substantiated.
- Mischief, including a variety of bad behaviours such as off-duty public drunkenness and abuses of authority. Over the period, 215 complaints were made with 120 findings of guilt.

Examples of complaints that fell into these categories range from invasions of privacy to sick pranks:

- In a February 2015 case, a male member of the force "inappropriately accessed RCMP electronic database, sent inappropriate pictures of a sexual nature to a youth and used his position as a member to pursue a relationship with the youth." The RCMP ultimately moved to fire the man.
- A member obtained information from the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), a centralized database of criminal records and incidents, for a member of the public and then tried to hide the action.
- In a 2013 complaint, a member failed to properly investigate a sexual assault complaint and then lied about it. It led to a reprimand, special training and increased supervision.

- In 2012, a Mountie received special training and a reprimand after a prank "that involved having [a] cadet inspect the genitals of a deceased male."
- A 2010 complaint says that a Mountie, who did not have a licence to hunt caribou, used RCMP aircraft "to locate and circle caribou herds" before landing in Lac Brochet, Man., hopping on a police snowmobile and driving back to the caribou to shoot and kill four of the animals. Parts of this incident summary are redacted and there is no indication about how this complaint was resolved.
- A unique case involved a member who "inappropriately obtained a football from a B.C. Lions player." While short on details, the RCMP took it seriously enough to dock him eight days' pay and order him to undergo special training.

A small but steady number of officers are losing their guns. The documents obtained by CBC/Radio-Canada summarize several incidents where Mounties left their service pistols at Tim Hortons or other restaurants and one in which a loaded gun was left at a gas station.

There are also a number of cases where people broke into police cruisers and stole unsecured weapons (sometimes loaded), ammunition and case log books. One Mountie had his pistol stolen from the back of his chair while eating at a restaurant.

For the most part, these officers were reprimanded and told to take some special training.

The data also suggests fewer people are complaining about excessive use of force.

In 2010, the RCMP received 22 official complaints in that category. By 2015, the number had fallen to eight, of which only one was substantiated.

The decline corresponds with a 2010 change to the RCMP's rules on the use of Tasers.

Tasers may now be used only after a verbal warning and only when a suspect is causing bodily harm or could "imminently" hurt someone.

Given the RCMP was unable to provide data for five provinces and the information that CBC/Radio-Canada did receive came in four incompatible formats, it is unclear what exactly, the national police force is able to track in terms of discipline and conduct.

In an email received late last night, the RCMP said it has started using an interactive case management database containing information submitted from each division that is centrally monitored at national headquarters for inconsistencies.

In addition, a spokesperson for the force says an early intervention system is now in place to allow "supervisors and/or senior management to proactively identify members at an early stage that may benefit from interventions."

(CBC News)

**THURSDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2016**

Nov 10 2016

### **LANGFORD, B.C. - Some Mounties on Vancouver Island were put on Play-Doh duty this week after a daycare provider suffered a medical emergency and had to be taken to hospital.**

Police say they were contacted by B.C. Ambulance after a Langford daycare provider called 911 and had to be transported to hospital as a precaution.

Three West Shore RCMP officers went to the daycare and provided "babysitting services" to the four young children there.

The officers looked after the tots - playing with balloons, singing songs and making French fries out of Play-Doh - until their parents could come and pick them up.

Nov 10 2016

### **NORWAY HOUSE, Man. - RCMP at Norway House, Man., say they have arrested a guard at their local detachment and charges are pending of sexual assault involving two female prisoners.**

Mounties say they acted on two separate complaints filed Wednesday that two women had been inappropriately touched through the cell door on different occasions within the last two months.

A 21-year-old male from Norway House who was working as a contract employee of the RCMP was taken into custody on Thursday.

Mounties say he had been hired through the Commissionaires.

His role was to guard prisoners lodged in cells at the local detachment.

RCMP say his security clearance and building access have been revoked.

"This is still very early in the investigation but we are asking anyone who may have been a victim to contact the Norway House RCMP," said Supt. Will Tewnton, North District Commander for the Manitoba RCMP.

"We acted immediately upon learning of the accusations and have arrested a suspect but it is important that our officers hear from anyone who may have information on this matter."

The Major Crimes Unit of the Manitoba RCMP is leading the investigation.

Nov 10 2016

### **FREDERICTON - The Fredericton Police Force is looking at introducing the use of body cameras for its officers.**

Deputy Chief Martin Gaudet said the force will be running a 90-day pilot project in the next six to eight weeks.

"We tried it before and the issue we had is what do we do with this video and audio stuff? Where do we put it?" he said.

"Where do we store it that's practical, that can be redacted and that can be tracked so that we know where the videos have gone, who's touched them, who's redacted them, that's the biggest piece."

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GROUP PUBLISHER: Paul Grossinger  
EDITOR: Tom Rataj - tom@blueline.ca  
COPY EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca  
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Gaudet said the force is using Axon, a company that makes smart public safety technology and weapons.

"We already use their Tasers and we have video on our Tasers as well, so we're using one company, pushing all those videos to the cloud," he said.

"We're told by the company... that (the cloud is) secure. Our corporate IT is working on it, they feel that the portal is secure."

Gaudet said it's hard to say what the cost of running the operation will be at this point. The cameras, he said, are about \$400 to \$500 and the 90-day pilot project is free. After that the cost depends on how much space the police force needs to store its videos.

Six officers will be issued the body cameras, which they will attach either to their chests or shoulders. He estimates they'll take two to three hours of footage a shift.

"The benefit is to capture officer-public interaction, or part of the interaction. The audio and video will be part of the package in any investigation," he said.

(CBC News)

Nov 10 2016

### **TORONTO - Toronto's Police Services Board could approve new policies governing how police officers can stop and interview people, and how they must conduct themselves while engaging in street checks.**

In March, the province banned random stops and demanded officers keep written records of their exchanges with the public.

The police board's new policy, designed to comply with Ontario's regulations, contains several more rules that officers would have to adhere to.

Toronto police could not card individuals if, for instance, "any part of" the officer's reason "is that the officer perceives the individual to be within a particular racialized group," with some exceptions.

Police officers could still stop people of a particular ethnic background if they are looking for a specific person and know that person's ethnicity, the policy states.

Police could also card people belonging to a racialized group if they have other identifying information in addition to their ethnic background, such as a physical description of the person, their location, their vehicle, their associates, or their behaviour. Age and gender would not be sufficient grounds.

Under the proposed regulations, Toronto police would not be able to collect information through carding if "the attempted collection is done in an arbitrary way."

Police would have to show that it wasn't arbitrary by explaining their reasons for stopping a particular individual.

Police will still hold onto historical data collected from carding under the proposed policy, although that information will be restricted to authorized users.

Coun. Shelley Carroll, who sits on the Toronto Police Services Board, said it's important to keep data from past carding stops despite calls from critics who say it should be destroyed.

"The police service's cold case unit has said that they need the data to be stored somewhere, should they need to go back to it," she said.

(CBC News)

Nov 10 2016

### **A spike in deaths on Manitoba highways this year has triggered several warnings from the RCMP for drivers to change their behaviour.**

Police have delivered message after message, yet fatal collisions continue to happen.

CTV News has learned the RCMP has fewer members working in Traffic Services compared to 10 years ago.

RCMP sources said in 2006 there were 76 members in Traffic Services units across the province. Staffing records obtained by CTV News show the number of members dropped to 60 in 2010 and then to 57 in 2016.

In 2010, there were traffic units based in nine communities across the province. In 2014 and 2015, the RCMP amalgamated resources and places like Riding Mountain and Steinbach lost their Traffic Services officers and members were moved elsewhere.

The Officer in Charge of "D" Division Traffic Services, Insp. Ed Moreland, said RCMP enforcement can't be judged solely on the number of Traffic Services officers.

"We've amalgamated some of our resources and it's more to make us more flexible for service delivery," Moreland said. "I don't think we're seeing fewer officers. Across the province we've got 700 officers that are

assigned out of all the regular detachments. We augment their day-to-day service with specialized services such as [collision] reconstruction and the different things that we bring to the table."

Insp. Moreland said more tickets have been issued this year in Manitoba compared to 2015.

(CTV News)

Nov 10 2016

### **OTTAWA - The rate of prostitution-related incidents reported in 2014 was the lowest it's been in decades, but the proportion of under-age people accused of prostitution offences went up, according to a new Statistics Canada report.**

The study examined trends in prostitution offences up until December 2014, when new legislation was passed to shift the focus of criminality from sex workers to clients.

Police reported a rate of three prostitution-related incidents per 100,000 people, the lowest rate since 1982, and found that prostitution offence rates between 2009 and 2014 went down from 9.3 to 1.35 accused per 100,000 when averaged across genders.

However, the report also found that homicides of sex workers were more likely to remain unresolved compared to the general population, stating that "homicides involving victims who were sex workers may be more difficult to solve in part because they usually do not involve family members or accused who are otherwise well-known to the victims."

(Global News)

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**VICTORIA - The public may be used to seeing ice cream carts or beer carts at events on hot summer days, but not carts selling illicit substances.**

Victoria Police say they arrested a man pedalling a marijuana cart that was decorated with the name "420 Delivery" in large type on the sides. The number 420 is a widely used code term for marijuana use.

Officers noticed the man peddling through the city's downtown core last week.

Police say the 22-year-old man in charge of the vending cart was found in possession of 150 grams of marijuana.

The man was released on a promise to appear in court next month.

Police are recommending charges of one count of possession for the purpose of trafficking.  
(CFAX, CP)

Nov 11 2016

**BROCKVILLE - The Brockville Police Service's future may be in doubt, but not its excellence.**

The 184-year-old city force, soon to be the focus of a debate over an Ontario Provincial Police costing, won the Community Excellence Award Thursday at the Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce's Awards of Excellence Gala.

The fate of the municipal police service has become one of the most pressing civic issues of the day, as the city awaits a proposal from the OPP for a service contract later this month or early in December. The debate is expected to wait until early next year.  
(Brockville Recorder)

Nov 11 2016

**The inquest into the death of a Kasabonika Lake First Nation woman while in police custody has come to a close, with the jury making 28 recommendations around police funding and community grief counseling and suicide prevention.**

Lena Anderson hung herself in February 2013, using a draw string she removed from her pants while being held in the back of a Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) vehicle.

She had been left in the back of the vehicle as Kasabonika Lake didn't have any holding cells.

The jury's 28 recommendations included:

- That police services in indigenous communities use the Police Services Act (PSA) as their governing legislation
- That Canada, Ontario and Indigenous communities work together to ensure policing standards and service levels in Indigenous communities are equivalent to those in non-

Indigenous communities

- That Indigenous police services are provided with enough funding to ensure an adequate complement of backup officers, and that they have access to a central communications and dispatch centre that meets PSA requirements
- That Indigenous police services have adequate detachment buildings, proper training, and that officers review policies on prisoner care and identification of individuals at risk of self-harm
- To ensure that prisoners are not held in police vehicles for any longer than needed to transport them to a proper holding cell
- That communities get adequate funding to deliver grief recovery and suicide prevention training programs
- That an age-appropriate suicide prevention program be developed, which would be delivered to students at Kasabonika Lake's school
- And that Kasabonika Lake's band security officer program be reviewed to include defined duties and responsibilities, and to ensure security officers aren't performing duties normally assigned to a police/peace officer.

(CBC News)

Nov 11 2016

**VANCOUVER - A "very large man" shot and killed by officers during a robbery and hostage-taking may have had further criminal intentions after trying to steal firearms from a Canadian Tire outlet, Vancouver police say.**

Chief Constable Adam Palmer said the 38-year-old Vancouver man confronted and attacked a store clerk in what appeared to be a botched robbery on Thursday.

"A search of his home has provided police with concerning evidence of his possible criminal intentions, which will all be part of this ongoing investigation," Palmer told reporters on Friday.

He said the 380-pound man, who stood six foot one and was dressed in camouflage, stabbed a 53-year-old employee in the back and across the neck before removing guns from store cabinets.

The suspect then abandoned the weapons and took an 82-year-old man hostage at knife-point as he left the store and confronted police on a rooftop parking lot, Palmer said.

The man was also believed to have had a bottle of pepper spray, though police said it's unclear whether he used it.

When police tried to arrest the man, he stabbed an officer multiple times, including in the head and stomach, Palmer said.

While the hostage was unhurt, the officer and the employee were rushed to hospital with life-threatening injuries. Both people were reported to be in stable condition as of Friday afternoon.

Palmer commended the officers who responded to the incident, including those who provided first aid at the scene, which he said was instrumental in the recovery of the two

people who were injured.

"The actions of our officers were absolutely heroic," he said. "I'm very proud of the way they performed yesterday."

Mental health is suspected to have played a role in the incident, Palmer said. He added that the man was originally from Alberta, where he was also known to police.

Nov 11 2016

**SASKATOON - The new commanding officer for the Saskatchewan RCMP says police are doing the best they can to address the growing rate of property crime in the countryside.**

Assistant commissioner Curtis Zablocki made the comment during his address to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities mid-term convention in Saskatoon on Friday.

He said providing sufficient policing services to the vast and sometimes sparsely populated regions of the province can be a challenge.

He encouraged communities to consider setting up chapters of Rural Crime Watch, Agriwatch and Citizens on Patrol.

He said crime prevention and crime reduction are achieved through the sharing of information.  
(CTV Saskatoon)

Nov 11 2016

**OTTAWA - Two more officers have been charged in the Ottawa police force's audit into officers producing "phantom tickets" or "ghost warnings," the Sun has learned.**

The charges against Const. Paul Stam and Const. Kevin Benloss come after the police board granted the force a six-month extension to further investigate officers in a probe that has been ongoing for more than a year.

In a September report to the police board obtained by the Sun, Chief Charles Bordeleau asked the board to extend the time in which seven officers still implicated in the probe could be charged. Those officers include the two that were charged this week, as well as Const. Peter Dawson, who was suspended in February, and four other officers who were reassigned to desk duty in March.

The report, and the agreed statements of fact in each of the guilty pleas already accepted in the ghost warning audit, is clear that a "quality assurance audit" began after the chief launched an investigation into a traffic officer in September 2015. That officer, Const. Edward Ellis, has pleaded guilty to faking warnings to boost his internal statistics. Yet, the force is asserting the investigation only fully began in March, once the results of the audit and the names of the officers whose conduct raised red flags were known.

The police union says it has expressed concerns for years about the board "rubber-stamping" extensions for internal investigations.



Unions president Matt Skof said that the board's doing so allowed the force to "inappropriately allocate" more resources to investigations that ought to have been completed in the time frame set out in the Police Services Act, which is six months.

The report reveals that police had anticipated referring the probe to a criminal investigator if the audit found "elements of a criminal offence." But that threshold, after more than a year on the police radar, appears to have never been met.

Police actually only audited warnings issued between April and September 2015, and those issued by officers in the traffic escort and enforcement unit, all district traffic officers, all neighbourhood officers and the top six officers who issued warnings from each patrol platoon.

A total of 201 officers were audited.

"Those investigations took six months and have resulted in four PSA hearings," the report says.

Four Ottawa police officers to date have pleaded guilty to misconduct under the Police Services Act - Const. Edward Ellis, Const. Bernard Covic, Const. Brad Tierney and Const. Clinton Danson.

A total of seven have been charged. Stam and Benloss have yet to be formally arraigned and enter pleas, as has Const. Frederick Thornborrow, who was charged months ago. (Ottawa Sun)

Nov 11 2016

**MONTREAL - The Montreal police union has sent chief Philippe Pichet a lawyer's letter demanding to know if any of its members have been the subject of electronic surveillance in the last three years, according to media reports.**

"It was revealed in the news recently that several journalists were the subject of electronic surveillance," the letter said, adding that the news has given police officers a feeling of uncertainty about whether or not their calls and movements are being tracked.

The letter was sent Nov. 7, the day Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre admitted that he phoned former police chief Marc Parent to complain that reporters were getting information about him such as when he received a speeding ticket. Police received warrants to monitor La Presse columnist Patrick Lagacé's phone records soon afterwards. Montreal police also tracked three other journalists to find out which of its officers were leaking information to reporters.

The letter demanded to know which police officers were under watch, and if Pichette denies the request, the Montreal Police Brotherhood said it may take other legal recourses. (Montreal Gazette)

Nov 11 2016

**VANCOUVER - The annual report from British Columbia's police watchdog agency highlights several concerns about policing in the province, including suicides after arrest by RCMP and the lack of body cameras worn by officers.**

The 2015-2016 report from the Independent Investigations Office also says some officers are failing to follow so-called duty-to-account guidelines, delaying writing reports about officer-involved shootings or in-custody deaths.

The IIO said it investigated allegations made against RCMP officers that they failed to take action to protect six people they arrested or questioned over sex-related offences who later killed themselves.

In five of the six cases, the report says investigators found insufficient evidence for a connection between police and the suicide, and in the last case there was no reason to believe officers committed any offence.

But the report says command staff at RCMP's B.C. headquarters have responded to the IIO saying it will review officer training to identify someone who may be at risk of suicide when released from custody.

The report also says IIO staff reviewed 71 investigations and found that footage from body-worn cameras would have potentially assisted in resolving 93 per cent of those cases.

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2016

Nov 12 2016

**TORONTO - Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders is being applauded for heeding public outcry and slamming the brakes on the rollout of the service's new grey cruisers.**



"It is a great thing to live in a country where genuine concerns can be expressed in a civil way and not only be listened to, but considered as the catalyst of change," crime reduction specialist Neals Chitan said Friday, lauding the city's top cop for his for "listening, considering and acting" on public concern.

"He has shown good leadership in regards to our concerns for the new uninviting stealth look of the cruisers and I again congratulate his ability to rethink his position," he added.

Saunders tweeted a video on Sept. 20 officially unveiling the new-look police cars - grey Ford Interceptors with large reflective white decals on the sides as well as smaller "police" decals on the front and back.

Like many citizens, Chitan quickly recognized and took exception to the fact the new cruiser looks strikingly similar to the service's stealth cars - except the stealth cars have imbedded Toronto Police decals on the sides and no emergency lights mounted on the roof.

At the time, he said the new design "invokes the unfriendly, uninviting perception of spying, waiting to pounce, slapping the cuffs

on, or intimidating the community."

Other opponents of the new cruisers wondered about the impact of lower visibility on crime deterrence and questioned whether people needing help might have difficulty spotting a police car.

Frontline cops have spoken favourably of the new cars to the Toronto Sun in recent weeks, describing the grey cruisers as "really cool" and "more aggressive looking."

Several officers said the grey cars are "great for sneaking up on people," directly contradicting the service's claim that the new cars remained highly visible.

On Thursday, after city council and the Toronto Police Services Board also raised concerns about the grey cruisers, the police chief released a statement explaining the rollout of the new police cars would stop "immediately."

"The concern that has been expressed has convinced me that further work is necessary," Saunders said.

Tim Burrows, a retired sergeant in the traffic services unit, commended the chief for making "an excellent decision."

"It shows he is open to listening to what the public is saying and looking at more options and public input," Burrows said. "He is showing that he is flexible and open to input." (Toronto Sun)

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Nov 13 2016

**TORONTO - The former Toronto police civilian employee charged with 20 counts of breach of trust is alleged to have searched police databases for information on two people who were, months later, murdered - gunned down in separate shootings.**

Erin Jade Maranan, 28, faces 24 criminal charges, the majority related to illegal searches of Toronto police files. Police allege Maranan, who had three years' of service with Toronto police, made a slew of illegal database searches between February 2014 and June 2015 while she was a temporary civilian clerk in the Forensic Identification Service.

Her charges solely relate to allegedly accessing information without authorization. She is not charged in connection to either homicide.

Court documents show Maranan is accused of searching for information on 16 people, including convicted or wanted criminals and two men who would later become homicide victims.

No arrests have been made in either homicide.

Toronto and Vancouver police both declined to comment on any connection between Maranan's searches and the men's deaths, citing the ongoing investigations into both cases.

"(Nguyen's) murder is an active and ongoing investigation and unfortunately we would not be able to share any additional in-

formation,” said Sgt. Brian Montague, spokesperson for the Vancouver police, in an email.

Maranan is one of two Toronto police civilian employees charged with Breach of Trust within a month. On October 31, Toronto police announced Davita Federico, formerly with the force’s Records Management Service, is facing one count of breach of trust and one count of unauthorized use of a computer. She is scheduled to appear in court next month.

Maranan is also facing one charge of perjury and one charge of personation. Maranan is due back in court December 7. (Toronto Star)

## MONDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Nov 14 2016

**OTTAWA - The Canadian Automobile Association is lobbying for a government-funded public education program to warn of the dangers of cannabis-impaired driving before Canada legalizes recreational pot.**



Police will also need more funding to learn how to recognize and investigate drug-impaired drivers, says the CAA.

The Liberal government has promised to introduce legislation legalizing recreational marijuana next spring, and a committee report on the process is expected at the end this month.

The CAA helped fund a study by the Ottawa-based Traffic Injury Research Foundation that suggests legalization will pose “incredible challenges” for managing pot-impaired drivers.

The study is sure to inflame the escalating propaganda war over marijuana’s harms and benefits, because it is premised on the assumption that access to legal cannabis will increase traffic accidents.

The CAA commissioned a poll that found almost two thirds of respondents are worried roads will become more dangerous after legalization.

“There are a lot of misconceptions out there that marijuana doesn’t affect your driving, or even worse, it makes you a better driver,” Jeff Walker of the CAA said in a release.

“There need to be significant resources devoted to educating the public in the run-up to, and after, marijuana is legalized.”

The CAA-funded study, however, notes

there is a lack of good research data on what it calls the “magnitude of the relationship between THC use and collision risk.”

The automobile association release refers to the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, which in turn has cited a 2012 meta study of other research that concluded “Acute cannabis consumption nearly doubles the risk of a collision resulting in serious injury or death.”

However a 2015 study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - which the U.S. government agency called “the most precisely controlled study of its kind yet conducted” - found that marijuana smokers had only a minimally higher risk of being involved in a traffic accident than sober drivers. The 20-month-long survey of more than 10,000 Virginia Beach, California, drivers found there was no “significant increased risk of crash involvement” from cannabis use.

The largest population-based study, involving nine European Union countries in 2010, also found the traffic accident risk from pot impairment was “not statistically significant.”

“Drivers positive for THC were estimated to be at elevated risk (1-3 times that of sober drivers),” said an NHTSA review of the research, while the same study found alcohol-impaired drivers had elevated crash risks of between 20 and 200 times that of sober drivers.

That’s not to say the risk is zero.

“Performance deficits (for drivers) have been found in tracking, reaction time, visual

function, concentration, short-term memory, and divided attention,” says the 2012 research cited by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

But even though recreational marijuana is self-evidently an impairing substance, many Canadian youth aren’t getting the message.

The CAA-commissioned poll of 2,102 Canadians, conducted by Earncliffe Strategy Group, found that 26 per cent of respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 “believe a driver is the same or better on the road under the influence of marijuana.”

The online poll claims a margin of error of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points, 19 times in 20, although the Market Research and Intelligence Association rules say online panels should not include error margins.

As the traffic foundation study observes: “the pervasive messages from pro-cannabis groups have made it more challenging for road safety messages to be heard.”

A random sample of British Columbia drivers in 2013 found that 5.5 per cent tested positive for cannabis. And Health Canada reports that its 2012 Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey found that 2.6 per cent of drivers in Canada admitted driving within two hours of using cannabis at least once in the previous 12 months.

Cannabis has a half-life of about two hours in the human body, which further complicates police efforts to accurately measure drivers’ THC levels in a timely fashion.

“To conclude, cannabis-impaired driving

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is complex and it will require a continuum of road safety strategies to complement the new legislative changes to cannabis regulation,” states the Traffic Injury Research Foundation report.

Nov 14 2016

**OTTAWA - Alternatives to criminalizing a variety of illicit drugs in Canada could result in lower rates of use and fewer harms such as addiction, overdoses and infectious diseases, says an internal federal study.**

The Justice Department research paper stresses there are healthier and less costly ways of addressing the problem of illegal drug use, and that the biggest hurdles might be political - not practical - ones.

“It is becoming more challenging to justify the criminalization of drug users,” the study says.

“Drawing on international evidence, Canada can be a leader in national and international drug policy reform.”

CP used the Access to Information Act to obtain a draft copy of the November 2015 study, “Criminalizing Drug Possession and Use: Different Policy Approaches and International Alternatives.”

The study takes a broad look at state policies around the world - including approaches to harder drugs such as cocaine and heroin - and the resulting outcomes. The paper concludes there are successful alternative approaches, including early education, prevention and treatment of those who become users.

It cites several examples, including:

- The Netherlands, where access to syringes and prescribed heroin have been followed by a reduction in petty crime and a drop in the number of dependent drug users;
- Portugal, which has seen fewer opioid-related deaths and HIV/AIDS diagnoses after decriminalization of drug use;
- The United States, where decriminalization of small amounts of cannabis in more than a dozen states in the 1970s did not result in greater increases in use of the drug among adults or adolescents when compared with other states.

The study was initiated in early 2015 by the Justice Department’s research and statistics division - months before the Liberals took office - with the aim of gauging the impact of policy approaches around the globe, said Andrew Gowing, a Justice Department spokesman.

“The government is not currently considering any options related to the possession and use of drugs, other than the legalization and strict regulation of marijuana,” Gowing added.

Nov 14 2016

**REGINA - Saskatchewan Justice Minister Gord Wyant says the government made a mistake when it introduced a bill that would have removed a mandatory requirement for coroner inquests when people die in custody.**

The province withdrew the proposed legislation Monday.

“When I first introduced this bill, I believed that we had done proper consultation and the necessary background work had been done on it. But since the introduction of the bill, after some further investigation, it seems that wasn’t the case,” Wyant said in a conference call with reporters.

“I certainly had full confidence in the bill when it was introduced, but I’m willing to admit that we’ve made a mistake.”

Wyant says the government talked with the coroner’s office and Ministry of Justice officials before tabling the legislation last month.

But he says became clear the government has not consulted a number of other people, including families who had a loved one die in custody.

Withdrawing the bill means there will continue to be a mandatory inquest into all deaths in custody, unless the death was from natural causes.

Nov 14 2016

**OTTAWA - Women on Ottawa’s police force often endure sexist behaviour as they struggle under a workplace culture that’s stacked against their advancement, according to a damning gender equality audit released Monday.**

“The audit clearly shows we have significant work to do,” said police Chief Charles Bordeleau. “Women deserve the same respect and opportunities.”

In a report to the Ottawa Police Services Board, Bordeleau admitted that “the audit found evidence that women are under-represented in our promotions, do not share in decision-making (including decisions on promotions), are adversely impacted by family status or maternity accommodations or needs, and that many have experienced inappropriate behaviour or comments aimed at their gender.”

The audit was ordered last December by the Ontario Human Rights Commission as part of a settlement between the Ottawa Police Service and an officer who had alleged she was denied training and promotions because of “her family status, sex and maternity leaves.”

The audit was conducted by an independent researcher, Dr. Carina Fiedeldey-Van Dijk.

It found that 23 per cent of sworn officers with the Ottawa Police Service are women, a rate that’s slightly higher than the national average of around 20 per cent, but which has only grown marginally in a decade.

That finding appeared to startle some board members.

The audit found women in senior roles, support by management for women’s advancement and investment in gender integration policies, are “rare or by implications only, and are in need of improvement.”

Women and men do not share in decision-making during meetings, training doesn’t take gender equality into consideration and there

is little opportunity for officers to exchange ideas, experience or advice when it comes to resolving gender issues, the audit found.

Bordeleau publicly thanked the constable who forced the issue of sexism in force into the public for her “courage.”

That officer was Barbara Sjaarda, who told the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario that in 2005 Ottawa police supervisors refused her request to enter a training program because she was going to be on maternity leave. When she returned from her leave, she said she was not allowed to participate in a promotion process because she had taken time off after having a child.

This happened twice more: when Sjaarda returned from each of her subsequent two maternity leaves, she was denied her request to enter a training program that could have led to a future promotion.

(CBC News)

Nov 14 2016

**The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) have released a framework that outlines how police forces across Canada should deal with cases relating to intimate partner violence.**

The ‘National Framework for Collaborative Police Act on Intimate Partner Violence’ (IVP) was released to create a unified response to intimate partner violence across the country, with the hope of establishing consistency.

According to Barrie Police Chief Kimberley Greenwood, a quarter of all police-reported violent crime in Canada is due to family violence.

Greenwood, who also co-chairs the Crime Prevention, Community Safety and Wellbeing Committee, says so there will be an application of the law and supports in place that will “ensure we’re meeting everybody’s needs, and specifically the victims of this violent crime.”

She says the framework defines what IPV means. According to the framework, it refers to the behaviour of an intimate partner or ex-partner relating to behaviour that causes sexual or psychological harm - including physical aggression, sexual coercion, controlling behaviour and psychological abuse.

Greenwood says that in 2013 there were 505 homicides in Canada, and 68 of them were acts of IVP.

The framework will be reviewed constantly to monitor the effectiveness of the strategy and ensure victims and children are supported.

(Global News)

Nov 14 2016

**A 16-year-old Vaughan boy has been charged after laser strikes targeted a police helicopter and two commercial aircrafts flying in the GTA on Saturday.**

“Pointing a laser at an aircraft is intentionally and recklessly putting people’s lives in danger,” York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe said Monday.

“York Regional Police takes this offence very seriously and remains committed to ensuring the safety of all our officers and citizens on the ground and in the air.”

Police say an Air2 cop helicopter was patrolling in Vaughan at about 8:30 p.m. when it was hit by a bright light source.

The crew took safety measures and directed police on the ground to the location of a suspect, who was arrested and charged.

The youth is also accused in similar incidents involving commercial flights, which were reported by Peel Regional Police.

There were no injuries in all three incidents and the aircrafts were able to land safely.

The teen, who can't be identified because of his age, has been charged with three counts of mischief endangering life and three counts of common nuisance.

(Toronto Sun)

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Nov 15 2016

**CALGARY - A former police officer is facing 11 criminal code charges that include kidnapping and obstruction of justice.**

“These are serious criminal charges. Full stop,” Ray Robitaille, deputy chief of the Calgary Police Service, said Tuesday.

“That a member in uniform is accused of these crimes is deeply concerning - 99.99 per cent of our police officers go out every day to earn the public's trust and they work very, very hard to make sure Calgary's a safe place,” he said.

“Any time this sort of behaviour surfaces, it's a betrayal to all police officers and the public.”

Police say a man and a woman came forward in January alleging two cases of harassment. An investigation revealed that the woman had been stopped in a Calgary parking lot in July 2015 for traffic violations and her vehicle was towed.

The officer drove the woman home, but she alleges she was confined in the back of a locked police vehicle for 3 1/2 hours.

The same police officer allegedly met the woman and her boyfriend six months later in front of their home, told the man to wait in his car and followed the woman into her house without permission.

The investigation also found the officer was using Calgary Police Service databases to obtain information about the complainants.

Robitaille said there was no suggestion the officer knew the woman before the 2015 traffic stop when he wrote her up for not having a valid driver's licence or auto insurance. Nor was there any indication that stalking or sexual assault was involved.

Denis McHugh, 35, is charged with kidnapping, obstruction of justice, break and enter, breach of the peace, two counts of fraudulently obtaining a computer service and five

counts of breach of trust. McHugh resigned his position as constable earlier this month after eight years on the job.

“There's nothing positive to say about this other than this individual will be answering these charges in a court of law where it's appropriate,” said Robitaille.

“There's a fairly comprehensive list of charges before you that outline very clearly what the facts in this matter are.”

McHugh is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 29.

Nov 15 2016

**RED DEER, Alta. - A retired central Alberta police officer who planned to fight two photo radar tickets didn't have to when they were withdrawn in provincial traffic court today.**

Jim Seward of Red Deer County had argued that his charter rights were violated because the tickets were sent out too late.

He says he's glad the Crown accepted arguments he had presented in a letter, but was disappointed that no reasons were given for the decision.

A few people had suggested on Facebook that he would get special treatment as a former RCMP officer.

He wanted the reasons behind the Crown's move publicized to show there was no favouritism.

Seward received the tickets with dates of June 8 and June 15 in the mail in mid-August.

(Red Deer Advocate)

Nov 15 2016

**WINNIPEG - Manitoba's health minister says a national strategy is needed to halt the flow of powdered fentanyl into Canada from such countries as China.**

Kelvin Goertzen's comment Monday comes days before a national opioid conference and summit in Ottawa.

The minister says there's a need at the provincial level to get a better fix on the extent of the opioid crisis, pointing to an inconsistency in reporting overdoses.

The national opioid conference and summit begins Friday.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

## WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Nov 16 2016

**OTTAWA - The RCMP is lobbying the Prime Minister's Office for new powers to bypass digital roadblocks in cases where national security threats and other “high priority” suspects hide online and operate anonymously beyond the reach of police.**

“I can safely say that there's criminal activity going on every day that's facilitated by technology that we aren't acting on,” RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson told CBC News and the Toronto Star in an exclusive interview.



The problem is a major focus for Paulson, and one that only gets more urgent as technology advances and suspects find new ways to cover their digital tracks.

“Because of our inability - and the future inability - to protect Canadians, both from garden variety criminality and from the national security threat, I see that as really significant,” Paulson said. “I'm consumed with trying to make sure that we're able to mitigate the threat.”

On June 23, the RCMP sent Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's national security adviser a briefing note that says Canada lacks strategies and laws to address the technological limitations of police investigations.

The RCMP argues the U.S., Australia, the U.K. and New Zealand - members of our Five Eyes intelligence alliance - do much more than Canada to help their police forces deal with high-tech obstacles like encryption, and interception and storage of digital information.

“It's a challenge,” Paulson said. “I think we're lagging.”

The RCMP briefing note closely mirrors four policy ideas floated in the federal government's green paper on national security, which is open for public consultation.

The RCMP and other police leaders say aside from requests for basic subscriber information, these additional powers would be used only in targeted investigations and would require a warrant from a judge.

Paulson directed his force to provide CBC News and the Toronto Star access to ongoing “high priority” investigative case files to demonstrate what police call “going dark” - the digital barriers to tracking suspects and gathering evidence.

“If you've got a complaint of criminality on the internet, you're going to have to think about where you go with that complaint because I don't know that we can help you,” he said. “And that's a terrible thing for a person who's in charge of a police force to say when citizens, when companies, when corporate Canada, or indeed the government comes to us and says, ‘Hey, we've been victimized on the internet.’”

Paulson fully expects he'll be criticized by civil libertarians and privacy advocates, but he insists Canadians need to understand the growing digital challenges police face and that our laws need to be updated.

“I think Canadians need to be asked, ‘What do you expect the police to be able to do in this digital world? What do you expect?’”

He says privacy is increasingly being understood as a right to complete anonymity online.

“In other words, absolute privacy is everybody's right,” he said. “And for me to sit



here and say, 'OK, hold on, that's not right,' immediately I get dismissed as someone who doesn't respect privacy.

"That's the space that we need to talk about. What's reasonable, what's unreasonable."

One of Paulson's top priorities may also be the most controversial.

"I've been consistently advocating for a warrantless access to subscriber information. I often get dismissed as, you know, as a troglodyte that doesn't understand people's privacy."

He's adamant Canada must return to a system that allows police easier access to basic phone and internet subscriber information.

In 2014, the Supreme Court ruled in a child pornography case that police had violated the suspect's expectation of online privacy when investigators requested the basic subscriber information (BSI) linked to the IP address he was using. The ruling says absent a reasonable law, the request for the suspect's BSI constituted a search and therefore police should have first obtained a warrant.

Before the ruling, police didn't hesitate to request BSI directly from telecom companies.

Paulson says the new system causes delays and occasionally forces police to abandon investigations. He says the public and policy-makers don't fully understand the consequences of the ruling.

"We can query licence plates and get the subscriber of a car on the basis of the fact that the police are engaged in enforcement of the Traffic Act or another criminal investigation. We keep records of all that and we're accountable for that," he said. "I don't think it's unreasonable."

Paulson and many other police leaders across the country are hoping the Liberal government will draft a new "reasonable law" to create a system of "administrative access" to BSI that could be overseen by senior police or prosecutors - not the courts.

Paulson has mixed views on the other policy proposals discussed in the government's green paper.

For example, he disagrees with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police that courts should be able to order suspects to hand over their passwords and/or encryption codes.

He says he struggles with the idea of compelling suspects to potentially incriminate themselves.

But the commissioner does support proposals to require communications providers to build intercept and data-retention capabilities into their networks

He insists access to a suspect's private data or communications would require a warrant authorized by the courts.

"We are not at all interested in surveilling citizens, except to the extent that we can demonstrate to others that they're engaged in criminal activity that threatens Canadians."

Paulson says public debate on these issues is urgently needed because police are increasingly hitting digital dead ends in terrorism and child exploitation investigations.

"I feel responsible for the safety and security of Canadians in the face of this challenge."

(CBC News)

Nov 16 2016

## **A move by the Ontario Provincial Police intended to save money is actually costing hundreds of thousands of dollars more and putting the lives of northerners at risk, says France Gelinas.**

The Nickel Belt NDP MPP says her party has been tracking the cost of relocating an OPP search-and-rescue helicopter from Greater Sudbury Airport to OPP headquarters in Orillia and the results are troubling.

The police service relocated the Sudbury aircraft to Orillia in May 2015, a decision it expected to save \$254,000 a year. OPP officials said it was necessary to move the chopper south because of an anticipated increase in OPP search-and-rescues precipitated by an increase in the number of people with dementia, who often wander and must be found.

Gelinas says there was something wrong with the math used to calculate the savings. Her research shows the OPP has spent \$975,000 extra just to fly the Orillia-based chopper to Sudbury from May 2015 to early November of this year. Many of the searches an OPP search and rescue team performs are north of the Nickel City.

Gelinas based the almost \$1 million price tag on 250 trips the chopper made to Sudbury, with a 2.6-hour return time, at a cost of \$1,500 per hour.

During the bitterly cold winter months in Northern Ontario, adding 1.3 hours one way of travel for a search-and-rescue chopper to respond could be deadly.

"There's a good chance you're going to be spending the night in the bush," said Gelinas.

Even when it isn't cold, it has taken well over an hour for an OPP pilot to fly from Orillia to Sudbury and points north, leaving people stranded for a longer time.

She is calling on OPP to review the decision to relocate the Sudbury chopper.

Sudbury Liberal MPP Glenn Thibeault said the OPP, which operates at arm's length from the Government of Ontario, is "well aware" of the concerns of northerners about not having a helicopter based in Sudbury to do searches and rescues.

The OPP has told Thibeault that safety is not an issue, although the MPP said he hasn't given up on having an aircraft stationed here.

(Sudbury Star)

Nov 16 2016

## **SURREY, B.C. - RCMP officers in Dawson Creek, B.C., who were involved in a fatal confrontation with a man wearing a mask have been cleared of any wrongdoing.**

The Independent Investigations Office says it doesn't believe any officer committed an offence and the case will not be sent on to Crown counsel to consider charges.

The shooting happened in July 2015 when police were called to a hotel where a disguised man refused to drop a knife.

The IIO report issued Wednesday says several people saw him lunging towards Mounties with the switchblade and that the officers acted appropriately in their use of force.

Forty-eight-year-old James McIntyre was killed while wearing a Guy Fawkes mask, the most well-known member of a plot to blow up Britain's parliament in 1605, and the mask that is a symbol for the online hackers' group Anonymous.

McIntyre's death set off a series of threats by the group to escalate online attacks across Canada, and it claimed responsibility for temporarily disrupting the RCMP's main website the day after the shooting.

Nov 16 2016

## **QUEBEC - The Quebec government officially launched a public inquiry on Wednesday into police surveillance of journalists.**

Jacques Chamberland, a judge with the province's court of appeal, will chair the inquiry.

Guylaine Bachand, a lawyer specialized in media law and Alexandre Matte, a former Quebec City police chief, will sit as the other two commissioners.

The inquiry's mandate will include identifying best practices to protect the confidentiality of journalistic sources.

They must report back to the legislature by Mar. 1, 2018.

Premier Philippe Couillard had announced an inquiry would be held after Montreal and provincial police admitted they collected data from the cellphones of several journalists in order to uncover their sources.

Justice Minister Stephanie Vallee said the inquiry "will be the same as the Charbonneau Commission," which was enacted in 2011 to look into corruption in the construction industry and the illegal financing of political parties.

The inquiry is public but commissioners will be able to hear certain witnesses behind closed doors in the event they are linked to ongoing investigations.

Commissioners will hear testimony covering the period between May 2010 until present day.

Nov 16 2016

## **VICTORIA - The fate of Victoria's suspended police chief is now in the hands of B.C.'s top judge.**

Arguments have wrapped up in Frank Elsner's bid to end an external investigation into his conduct, and the chief justice of the BC Supreme Court will now weigh the arguments before making a decision.

In court Wednesday, lawyers for the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner argued Elsner should be investigated for several reasons, including that he misled the public.

Elsner told media nearly a year ago that an internal investigator found no inappropriate relationship between him and a subordinate officer's wife.

But the investigator did find the relationship inappropriate, calling Twitter messages exchanged between the two "salacious and sexually charged," and said the pair shared a hug and kiss in Elsner's office.

The court also heard how the mayors of Victoria and Esquimalt, Lisa Helps and Barb Desjardins, negotiated a deal with the chief,

who accepted a formal reprimand in exchange for the investigation to be kept confidential and final.

The OPCC argued in court that the mayors, who co-chair the local police board, didn't have the authority to make that kind of deal.

The hearing has also sparked new questions about how Helps and Desjardins handled the investigation and whether one of them flat-out lied about it.

The contents of the Twitter messages and resulting internal investigation are currently the subject of a publication ban that is being contested by CTV and the Times Colonist.

The judge has indicated he will rule on the ban after deciding whether Elsner has a case to halt the investigation.

(CTV News)

## THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Nov 17 2016

**VANCOUVER - Hundreds have died across the country, but the true magnitude of Canada's surging opioid crisis remains unknown because of the "hodgepodge" of different methods provinces use to track overdoses, experts say.**

There is no standardized, countrywide protocol for how overdoses are categorized, nor is there a consistent timeline for reporting, which experts say makes it all but impossible to come up with an accurate pan-Canadian snapshot.

They say the lack of comparable, timely data from across the country seriously restricts policy makers, academics and service providers from understanding the problem, designing effective responses and assessing the success of these interventions.

Government officials, medical experts and those with first-hand experience of drug dependence are gathering in Ottawa on Friday for a two-day summit aimed at discussing how to address the opioid problem.

David Juurlink, head of pharmacology and toxicology at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, said the absence of any reliable, real-time federal data on opioid overdoses makes it difficult to identify so-called hot spots that require immediate attention. By the time the problem is identified it's already too late, he said.

"We need to find a way to get as much information in as close to real time as possible on not just opioid fatalities, but non-fatal overdoses as well," Juurlink said in an interview.

Some provinces are improving the timeliness of their reporting, especially British Columbia and Alberta, which have been hardest hit by what B.C.'s chief medical officer has called a public-health emergency. Other provinces publish overdose data months or sometimes years late.

But the challenge isn't insurmountable, as evidenced by steps taken in other jurisdictions. The State of Maryland developed a monitor-

ing system capable of detecting an overdose and automatically notifying the authorities in under a week after it was forced to deal with its opioid crisis.

"We pretty much know what we're talking about within two to three days," David Fowler, Maryland's chief medical officer, said in an interview.

Fowler described how an on-site laboratory dedicated exclusively to the medical examiner's office runs day and night, five days a week. It then alerts the Drug Enforcement Agency and the state Health Department of any relevant overdose results.

"So public health and public safety are getting a constant feed," Fowler said, pegging the system's cost for a state of six-million people at \$1.5 million a year.

Michael Parkinson, a drug strategy specialist with the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council in Ontario, described the various monitoring and reporting systems in place across Canada as a "hodgepodge."

He said the government appears to employ a different standard to victims of opioid overdoses and their families than to other forms of death and injury.

"Two people get hospitalized for influenza and we know about it almost right away. Two people die from an overdose in Canada and we might be waiting two or three years to find out about it," Parkinson said.

"You can't respond two or three years after the fact."

Nov 17 2016

**CALGARY - A unit that reviews police actions in Alberta says there are no grounds to charge an RCMP officer involved in an arrest that left a suspect with broken ribs and a collapsed lung.**

On Dec. 31, 2014, RCMP were called to a complaint of a truck with a stolen licence plate near Blackfalds, Alta.

According to the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, an officer trying to pull over the truck was struck on the arm as the driver tried to pull away from a traffic stop.

Two officers gave chase and during the pursuit, ASIRT said the occupants of the truck could be seen throwing beer cans out the back cab window.

When it finally ran into a ditch, the driver, who was impaired, stayed in the vehicle but a 47-year-old male passenger and two women got out and were told by one of the officers to get onto the ground.

The officer told ASIRT the man came toward him so he struck him in the head with his service pistol and then kicked him when he was on the ground because he refused to stay down.

Nov 17 2016

**A former Quebec provincial police officer has been charged in connection with the investigation into allegations of police abuse of Indigenous women.**

Alain Juneau, 56, is accused of sexual assault and armed assault between 1992 and 1994 in the northern Quebec village of Schefferville, where he was posted as an of-

ficer with the Sûreté du Québec. He was charged Nov. 10.

Quebec's director of criminal prosecutions is expected to confirm the charges at a news conference Friday in Val-d'Or.

The revelation of Juneau's arrest comes after multiple reports that prosecutors would not be laying charges in connection with any of the 37 files handed over by Montreal police, setting off a torrent of criticism from activists and Indigenous leaders.

The Montreal police investigation was ordered after Radio-Canada's investigative program Enquête uncovered several allegations of abuse toward Indigenous women in Val-d'Or, a city about 600 kilometres north-west of Montreal.

(CBC News)

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