

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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The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has paid its members more than \$1 billion of overtime since 2009, according to documents obtained by CBC News.

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RCMP postpones body camera deployment



Dec 07 2016

Mounties won't be wearing tiny video cameras - at least for now.

The RCMP says it is postponing the deployment of body-worn cameras after testing revealed technical problems, including limited battery life and lack of durability.

Rolling out the cameras would mean purchasing thousands of units for over 750 detachments.

The national police force says that means it must have confidence in the technology and ensure the expenditure is justified.

Body-worn cameras generally clip on a uniform, or can be embedded in glasses or a helmet. They are used to gather evidence for prosecution should criminal behaviour be recorded and to bolster accountability if questions arise after an incident.

Several violent confrontations between police officers and civilians across North America have generated intense controversy and public debate in recent years.

The small video cameras are intended to openly capture an "accurate, unbiased and reliable" audio and video account of incidents from the officer's perspective, the RCMP said in an interim summary on use

of the devices, made public earlier this year.

The Mounties began exploring body-worn cameras - including privacy, legal and recording storage issues - three years ago.

RCMP detachments in Wood Buffalo, Alta., and Windsor and Indian Head, N.S., took part in tests last year. In addition, the Mounties have used the cameras at protests in New Brunswick and in Burnaby, B.C.

Evaluations were also carried out at the RCMP training facility in Regina, involving scenarios ranging from everyday interactions to use of lethal force.

In a statement Wednesday, RCMP deputy commissioner Kevin Brosseau said the RCMP would continue to buy and test new models in operational settings and to support rapid deployment as requested by divisional operations, "with the goal of eventually identifying a camera that meets our specific needs."

The interim RCMP policy said Mounties wearing cameras must hit the record button when there is "a high likelihood" they'll use force against someone. It said the force had taken steps to address privacy risks by:

- Telling the public when officers are wearing the cameras;
- Informing RCMP members of video policy and best practices;

- Ensuring that recordings are uploaded for secure storage, retained and routinely purged;

- Providing citizens with copies of recordings through the Access to Information and Privacy acts.

The RCMP has told the federal privacy commissioner another assessment of the technology would be undertaken and provided to the watchdog for comment in advance of any national roll-out of the cameras.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1, 2016

Dec 01 2016

MONTREAL - For most of the 1970s in Montreal, enforcing the law from midnight until dawn was the responsibility of Jacques Cinq-Mars, a tough, rule-bending police captain who eventually became the inspiration for a series of bestselling crime novels.

The nightly parade of violence, suffering and squalor that he witnessed as he patrolled the streets after dark didn't faze him, he said, for he had already learned much about life, death and crime as an infantryman during the Second World War.

Mr. Cinq-Mars, a veteran of the bloody raid on Dieppe and the last commander of the Montreal police's famous Night Patrol, has died. He was 96.

His daughter Danielle Bales said Mr. Cinq-Mars died of cancer on Sunday at Sainte Anne's Hospital, a facility for veterans in the Montreal suburb Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. His father, who had served during the First World War, also died there, 48 years ago.

"They say you can't appreciate food unless you've been starving and you can't appreciate life unless you've been close to death. I've been there many times," Mr. Cinq-

Mars said in a 1979 Montreal Gazette profile.

The legendary Montreal cop was an inspiration for novelist Trevor Ferguson, who created a stubborn, old-school character named Émile Cinq-Mars for his critically acclaimed series of detective novels.

Mr. Cinq-Mars' can-do attitude was the modus operandi of the elite squad he commanded.

"The criminal element, especially the thugs prone to violence, feared the Night Patrol. These were the detectives who seemed to like nothing better than crashing through doors," the late Gazette columnist Nick Auf der Maur once wrote about the squad.

Mr. Cinq-Mars started as a constable, doing foot patrols in central and east-end Montreal. Within a decade, he had been promoted to the holdup squad.

By the 1960s, he was a lieutenant with the Night Patrol, an elite group of 30 detectives who handled all major crimes in the city after dark.

The nights had their own criminal patterns, Mr. Cinq-Mars explained in a 1968 issue of the Star Weekly magazine.

For example, in the first hours of the evening, it was mostly domestic disputes. Then, the bars closed at 2 a.m. and they had to deal with knife fights.

The patrol also handled tactical operations, carrying with them an arsenal of rifles, shotguns and submachine guns as they hunted for runaway convicts or robbery suspects.

Mr. Cinq-Mars became a captain and the head of the patrol in 1970.

During that time, the patrol handled major cases such as the arson at the Gargantua Bar where gangsters killed 13 people, and the 1972 bombing at the Cuban Trade Commission, where gun-pointing Cuban guards tried to prevent the police from entering.

The patrol's methods were expeditious. Mr. Ferguson said Mr. Cinq-Mars confided to him that some of their tactics would have gotten them arrested today.

Even as he neared his 60s, Mr. Cinq-Mars still worked on the front lines, said former detective Claude Aubin, who recalled running alongside the captain, who carried an M-1 carbine, as they chased a fugitive on a downtown street.

The Night Patrol was abruptly disbanded in 1979 during a controversial overhaul of the police force. Mr. Cinq-Mars retired a year later.

His going-away party was attended by more than 400 officers. "We'll never have another one like him and the last vestige of the old police goes with him," one participant told Mr. Auf der Maur, the Gazette columnist. (Globe and Mail)

Dec 01 2016

VICTORIA - The Canada Border Services Agency has seized a package containing enough fentanyl that Victoria police say could cause a potential 725,000 overdoses.

The package intercepted at Vancouver's airport was destined for a Victoria address and contained 1.45 kilograms of the deadly opioid, acting police chief Del Manak told a news conference where a variety of drugs

packaged in plastic bags were displayed on a table.

Public Safety Minister Mike Morris said the shipment originated in China and he's hopeful a recent agreement between the RCMP and the Chinese government will deal with "the impact that fentanyl is having not only in British Columbia but across Canada."

Police valued the seizure at about \$1.2 million.

Staff Sgt. Conor King said the fentanyl was mixed with heroin and that nine people recently died within 11 days on Vancouver Island from the opioid that has killed hundreds of people across the country.

He said all of the drugs have not yet been analyzed to determine if any contain carfentanyl, which is 100 times more powerful than fentanyl.

Multiple charges are being recommended against a 27-year-old Montreal man, and King said the man had been out on bail on previous drug charges.

Police said the fentanyl shipment led officers to another bust in nearby Saanich, where they found 6,052 individual doses of fentanyl-laced heroin, 6.2 kilograms of cocaine in powder and crack form and 1.2 kilograms of methamphetamine.

Dec 01 2016

CHICAGO - Chicago has reached another bloody milestone.

There have been 701 homicides recorded so far this year in the city, the Chicago Police Department told CNN on Thursday.

There were 480 homicides in 2015.

It's the first time the city has recorded more than 700 homicides in nearly two decades, according to the Chicago Tribune. Chicago had 704 homicides in 1998, the Tribune reported, and is on a pace to easily break that mark.

(CNN)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2016

Dec 02 2016

HALIFAX - The case of a Halifax rapper who appealed for an end to violence in the city and was then charged with murder is due in court today.

Twenty-one-year-old Carvel Clayton is facing a charge of second-degree murder in the shooting death of Shakur Jefferies.

The 21-year-old Jefferies was found dead near a suburban Halifax apartment building on the evening of November 12th.

Clayton recently penned a song following the shooting deaths of several young black men that galvanized the city and prompted anti-violence marches.

Quentrel Provo, founder of Stop the Violence, has said Clayton is a talented young musician who was so moved by the string of shootings last spring that he wrote the rap, "Murder (Pray 4 Scotia)."

The song bemoans the slew of killings and urges people to refrain from violence.

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Police are continuing to investigate, but say Clayton was known to them.

Dec 02 2016

VICTORIA - British Columbia's police-complaint commissioner has determined that a public hearing is needed into allegations of professional misconduct by a Transit Police officer.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner says two allegations were made against Const. Edgar Diaz on August 11, 2011, and that one of them was proven, resulting in a suspension and training.

However, it says that during the investigation, other allegations against Diaz were raised and investigated, and that a public hearing must be held to determine what happened.

The office alleges that on or about August 10, 2011, Diaz used unnecessary force against a man and also issued him a ticket for drinking in a public place without sufficient cause.

A retired B.C. Supreme Court judge will adjudicate the hearing, but a date has not yet been set.

Dec 02 2016

KENSINGTON, P.E.I. - A small-town P.E.I. police department has issued a public apology to Nickelback, and taken down a social media post that threatened to force drunk drivers to listen to the Alberta band's music.

In a heartfelt Facebook post Friday, a Kensington police officer says that after the "joke" post went viral, he began to feel like a bully.

Friday's post was unsigned, but Const. Robb Hartlen of the service last weekend shared a social media post promising to force any drunk drivers to listen to the Alberta band while in the back seat of a cruiser.

In Friday's post, though, the officer said a message meant to deter drunk drivers instead made a charity-minded Canadian band the butt of jokes around the world.

He says he reached out to the band's four members and their families, and found they feel just as strongly as he does about drunk driving.

He says the police service plans to launch a new anti-drunk driving message, and asked readers to "stay tuned."

Dec 02 2016

British detectives have developed a new tactic to beat criminals using mobile phone encryption - legally "mug" them.

The tactic has emerged after Scotland Yard's cybercrime unit smashed a fake credit card fraud racket.

Officers realised crucial evidence in the investigation was concealed on a suspect's iPhone - but it would be unobtainable if the device was locked.

So a covert team seized it in the street while the suspect was on a call - beating the security settings.

The street seizure of the phone was dreamt up by detectives from Operation Falcon, the specialist Metropolitan Police team

running investigations into major fraud and related crimes organised online.

Gabriel Yew had been under investigation for the suspected manufacture of fake cards that gangs were using across Europe to buy luxury goods.

Detectives suspected that he was using an iPhone exclusively to communicate to other members of the network but knew if they arrested him, he could refuse to unlock it and they would never see incriminating evidence.

They considered whether they could legally force a suspect's finger or thumb on to the device's fingerprint reader to unlock it, but found they had no such power.

However, they concluded they could stage their own lawful "street robbery" - using a similar snatch technique to a thief - and in June a team set out to do precisely that.

Undercover surveillance officers trailed Yew and waited for him to unlock his phone to make a call - thereby disabling the encryption.

One officer then rushed in to seize the phone from Yew's hand - just as would happen in a criminal mugging. As his colleagues restrained the suspect, the officer continually "swiped" through the phone's screens to prevent it from locking before they had downloaded its data.

"The challenges of pin code access and encryption on some phones make it harder to access evidence in a timely fashion than ever before," said Det Ch Insp Andrew Gould who led the operation.

"Officers had to seize Yew's phone from him in the street. This evidence was crucial to the prosecution."

The phone revealed a motherlode of information on Yew's efficient business-like practices. He had orders for fake cards and there was evidence linking him to four men who were subsequently convicted and a further 100 potential suspects.

Detectives also uncovered Yew's "factory" with thousands of blank credit cards ready to be programmed.

Yew pleaded guilty to fraud and weapons offences and at a sentencing hearing this week at Blackfriars Crown Court was jailed for five and a half years.

(BBC)



Dec 03 2016

VERNON, B.C. - The head of the Vernon RCMP detachment released a public statement Friday night following a media report that claimed the city is at risk from too few police officers on the street.

Supt. Jim McNamara said the report contained, "significant inaccuracies that could compromise both officer and public safety."

"To set the record straight, I do not believe chronic under staffing is leaving our police officers or the public in danger," said McNamara.

The statement goes on to say the Vernon RCMP detachment has 57 officers in 56 established positions, "however due to illness, injuries and administrative leave, we're billing for 48 officers."

"If the city is being billed for 48 it means that on average we've had 48 roadable officers providing operational police services to the City of Vernon."

McNamara said they have adjusted schedules and resources to ensure the city of Vernon is protected during peak policing hours.

He said recent statistics Vernon RCMP have collected prove their policing efforts have impacted crime positively.

"From 2014-2015 there was a 2% decrease in the overall Crime Severity index in Vernon and this year from January to August we've actually seen a 5.9% decrease in violent crime compared to last year," McNamara said.

Vernon RCMP are looking to increase the number of police officers to 50 with the help of council.

(Global News)

Dec 03 2016

LOS ANGELES - Police investigating a notorious gang in a city on California's central coast issued a fake press release that the chief credited with saving two men by deceiving gang members who wanted to kill them.

Santa Maria Police Chief Ralph Martin defended the rare tactic this week when it came to light, saying he had never done such a thing in his 43-year career, but he wouldn't rule out doing it again.

"It was a moral and ethical decision, and I stand by it," Martin said Friday. "I am keenly aware and sensitive to the community and the media. I also had 21 bodies lying in the city in the last 15 months."

The phoney announcement issued in February was discovered in court documents and only reported this week by the Santa Maria Sun, a weekly newspaper in the city 140 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

The daily newspaper and local television stations were unaware the information in the release was false when they reported that two men, Jose Santos Melendez, 22, and Jose Marino Melendez, 23, had been picked up for identity theft and handed over to immigration authorities.

In fact, detectives eavesdropping on the deadly MS-13 gang had raced to the home of the two cousins in nearby Guadalupe and took them into protective custody after learning hit men were on their way there.

Kendra Martinez, news director at KSBY-TV, said she was "deeply troubled" that police misled the public and news organizations.

"While we strongly support the police department's efforts to protect citizens in harm's way, we are concerned this type of deception can erode the basic trust of our residents and viewers," Martinez said.

Sending bogus information to the media to advance law enforcement goals is rare but not unheard of. Police in Ottawa, Canada, were criticized for issuing a press release

with false information about evidence connected to a 2014 murder case so they could see how the suspects reacted.

Dec 03 2016

TORONTO - A frustrated Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wants police to "enforce the law" and criminally charge illegal marijuana dispensaries - even though weed legalization is looming.

"People are right now breaking the law," Trudeau told the Star's editorial board on Friday.

"We haven't changed the laws. We haven't legalized it yet. Yes, we got a clear mandate to do that. We've said we will. We've said we're going to do it to protect our kids and to keep the money out of the pockets of criminals."

But the spread of storefront "dispensaries" - scores of which have popped up on Toronto streets this year - is clearly a concern to the prime minister.

"It's a situation that is frustrating and I can understand people's frustration on this," Trudeau said.

"The promise we made around legalizing marijuana was done for two reasons ... that I was very, very clear about: one, to better protect our kids from the easy access they have right now to marijuana; and, two, to remove the criminal elements that were profiting from marijuana," he said.

"We believe that a properly regulated, controlled system will achieve both of those measures. But we haven't brought in that properly regulated, controlled system because it's important that we do it right in order to achieve those two specific goals."

That new regime will be unveiled next spring. The blueprint for the legislation is a report by former deputy prime minister Anne McLellan's task force of medical and legal experts, which be released within days.

Until the new law is enacted some time in 2017, Trudeau stressed "the current prohibition stands."

"So, I don't know how much clearer we can be that we're not legalizing marijuana to please recreational users," he said.

"I mean, that will be a byproduct. We recognize that that is something that's going to happen when it happens, but it's not happened yet."

(Toronto Star)

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2016

Dec 04 2016

British Columbia's police watchdog is changing a policy to allay officers' fears that efforts to provide life-saving interventions could subject them to investigation.

The change comes as the province reaches a record-level of illicit drug overdose deaths - an average of more than two a day this year. In the event of an opioid overdose, the slightest hesitation to administer the antidote naloxone, or perform CPR, could result in brain damage or death.

The Globe and Mail first reported in July that some police agencies had concerns about officers intervening with such measures because of potential liability. Unlike paramedics and firefighters, police officers in B.C. are subject to investigation by the province's Independent Investigations Office (IIO) in any instance where a person they interact with dies or is seriously injured.

Marten Youssef, acting director of public engagement and policy for the IIO, said the agency had occasionally heard complaints from police about the IIO investigating after an officer performed CPR on someone who ultimately died.

The agency has heard many more complaints in recent weeks, as various departments begin equipping officers with naloxone, a life-saving drug used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

Under the amended policy, police will not be required to notify the IIO in the instances that they assist in life-saving efforts unless physical force, or a weapon, is used during the encounter. Police will still be required to notify the agency if a death or serious injury occurs while the person is in police custody.

"It really is a win-win situation," Mr. Youssef said, "because then the police have the confidence that they can administer life-saving measures without being subject to an IIO investigation ... and it will allow us to focus our resources on the cases that are the real reason for why this office was established."

The civilian-led IIO was established in 2012 in response to recommendations from the Braidwood and Davies inquiries into the police-involved deaths of Robert Dziekanski and Frank Paul, respectively.

Mr. Youssef noted that the IIO has been notified of a total of 1,044 cases since December, 2012, and has released jurisdiction in 83 per cent of those cases. Investigations into events where an officer has performed CPR, for example, typically only take a few days, but officers maintain it can be a stressful process.

"[IIO investigations] simply assure the public that police are doing their work," Mr. Youssef said. "The IIO's process is an independent investigation; it's not an adversarial process."

The new policy was approved and distributed to police over the weekend.

Constable Brian Montague, a spokesman for the Vancouver Police Department, said the force had been concerned about the policy for some time, and is pleased that officers "will no longer be the subject of a very stressful and intrusive investigation for attempting life-saving medical interventions."

Across B.C., more than 622 people have died from illicit drug overdoses so far this year - the largest death toll in more than 30 years of record-keeping. Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid being mixed with or made to look like other drugs, was detected in about 60 per cent of those deaths.

(Globe and Mail)

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Dec 04 2016

HALIFAX - An analysis of complaints made against RCMP officers has found that in the past five years, Nova Scotia has the fourth highest rate in Canada for provinces and the second highest in Atlantic Canada.

The analysis by Metro Halifax was conducted using data obtained under an Access-to-Information request from the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC), an agency that reviews the complaints made against RCMP members while they are on duty.

More than 13,000 complaints were reported from Jan 1, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2016 and included allegations ranging from neglect of duty to oppressive conduct.

Detailed information on the allegations in every province was not provided.

According to the analysis, Mounties in Nova Scotia were the subject of 762 complaints over the past six years. That's an average rate of 13.43 reports per 100,000 of the province's population.

That places Nova Scotia as having the second highest rate of complaints in Atlantic Canada, and the fourth highest in the country in terms of provinces. Only New Brunswick had a higher rate in Atlantic Canada, with an average of 13.83.

The area of the country with the highest rate of complaints was the Yukon, where over the course of six years there was an average rate of 125 complaints against the RCMP per year.

Metro's analysis indicates that even though the number of complaints has shrunk year by year in every province, very few are ever proven.

Only in 2011, and the nine months of data available for 2016, did the RCMP substantiate more than five per cent of the claims made against its officers. On average 64 per cent of the allegations, or 8398, went unsubstantiated.

(Metro Halifax)



Dec 05 2016

OTTAWA - Publicity about near-misses between drones and passenger aircraft might give terrorists ideas about how to take down a plane, a federal intelligence report warns.

The Transport Canada report obtained by also suggests small unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, could easily be used for advance surveillance of targets.

The report tempers such fears by noting the practical hurdles in employing a drone for nefarious purposes.

But the assessment underscores concern in intelligence circles that terrorists could take advantage of the tiny, inexpensive and widely available flying machines.

The report documents five reports of "near misses" between Canadian aircraft and UAVs last year. In September 2015, a WestJet flight from Edmonton to Abbotsford, B.C., reported a drone passing about 60 metres underneath the plane.

Just last month, a Porter Airlines flight to Toronto narrowly avoided crashing into an object initially thought to be a drone.

Media coverage of near-collisions between UAVs and passenger aircraft "may encourage interest amongst extremists to consider the tactic," the Transport Canada intelligence report says.

However, given the short flying time - 10 to 40 minutes - of most off-the-shelf drones and strong, persistent winds at high altitudes, "intentionally striking an aircraft in-flight would be unlikely," the report adds.

A heavily censored version of the secret January 2016 report was released under the Access to Information Act.

In 2014, internal RCMP documents noted there had been several extremist plots around the globe - none successful - to use drones in attacks involving explosives, chemical weapons or biological agents.

Dec 05 2016

NORTH BAY, ON - The Special Investigations Unit is investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a 38-year-old Ottawa-area man in North Bay, Ont.

The police watchdog agency says paramedics called North Bay police on Sunday afternoon for assistance at an apartment building.

The SIU says police located the 38-year-old man near the building, and - approximately an hour after police were called - the man fell from the building.

The SIU says he was pronounced dead at the scene.

A post-mortem is scheduled for Tuesday in Sudbury, Ont.

Dec 05 2016

LACOMBE, Alta. - A member of a vigilante group has been charged with criminal harassment and mischief in an incident in central Alberta.

Chief Lorn Blumhagen of Lacombe police says the alleged victim had been communicating online with a person through a social media website for the past three months.

Police say the suspect used a false pretence to convince the person to meet in Lacombe, about 125 kilometres south of Edmonton.

The alleged victim was approached by a man wearing a hoodie who put a cellphone in his face and said he was being recorded and was busted by Creep Catchers.

Karl Young of Red Deer, also known as Carl Murphy, who is 37, has been released on conditions to have no contact with the alleged victim and not to access or use any computer or cellphone except for work purposes.

He is scheduled to appear in court in Red Deer on Friday.

Blumhagen says Lacombe police are continuing their investigation to identify a

second suspect.

"In this case, police believe the victim was targeted online and lured into a situation by a person or group using vigilante-type tactics without justification or facts to support their claims," Blumhagen said in a news release.

Creep Catchers are private citizens who post videos online to expose people they believe are seeking out minors for sexual activity.

(CHUB)

Dec 05 2016

PETERBOROUGH - City police have set a precedent in Ontario as the first police force to have its frontline officers carry the opioid antidote naloxone.

"We felt it really important for the safety of our officers to get naloxone in their hands, sooner than later," Insp. Larry Charmley said Monday.

Fentanyl is a hundred times stronger than morphine and some counterfeit fentanyls are a hundred times stronger than that.

"It takes very minute amounts of these counterfeit fentanyls to kill someone," Charmley said.

Opioid overdoses have claimed hundreds of lives in Canada in recent years. Locally, more than a dozen people die each year from opioid overdoses.

(Peterborough Examiner)



Dec 06 2016

WINNIPEG - Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister wants the federal government to postpone legislation to legalize marijuana.



The federal Liberals have promised the law in the spring, but Pallister says he and some other premiers have concerns that there are still many details to work out.

Pallister says issues such as the minimum age for users, maximum strength of the pot and proper distribution are still up in the air.

The premier also says there needs to be a large public awareness campaign about the dangers of driving while high.

Pallister says he wants the provinces to have a common set of rules on marijuana.

The issue is expected to be discussed at a first ministers meeting on Friday in Ottawa.

Dec 06 2016

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's minister of justice is taking a leave of absence from her cabinet duties after being hospitalized on Monday with a heart attack.

A news release from the premier's office says Diana Whalen, a veteran of the Liberal caucus, is expected to make a full recovery.

She went into hospital on Monday and received treatment.

Energy Minister Michel Samson will be the acting justice minister and attorney general while Whalen is on leave for treatment.

Dec 06 2016

VICTORIA - British Columbia's criminal justice branch says no charges have been approved against Delta police officers and paramedics who failed to file a report with the Children's Ministry about a child in need of protection.

The Criminal Justice Branch says in a release that the RCMP investigated and submitted an opinion recommending charges of failing to file the report in a case involving 17-year-old Paige Gauchier.

The branch says a review of the available evidence suggests there is no substantial likelihood that the officers or paramedics would be convicted of the offence involving an incident on Jan. 22, 2011.

The branch says Gauchier was intoxicated and had a bleeding nose when she walked into a gas station in Delta at 2 a.m. and said she'd been assaulted by six girls but refused to go to hospital on the recommendation of paramedics.

It says police called her uncle, with whom she was living in Vancouver, and that he asked she be sent to his home by taxi, but neither officers nor paramedics contacted the Children's Ministry.

Gauchier was 19 when was found dead from a drug overdose in a public washroom in the Downtown Eastside in 2013, and the then-children's representative said in a report two years later that multiple agencies involved with the teen had failed to collaborate and help her.

Dec 06 2016

TORONTO - The Toronto Police Association is using tele-townhalls to poll residents and mobilize support to fight the city's plan to reduce the \$1 billion-plus police budget through downsizing and restructuring.

The union is inviting tens of thousands of Torontonians to dial into a live panel discussion about "public safety" that focuses on a policing task force's recommendation to cut spending by \$100 million over three years.

On Monday night, listeners were told repeatedly that the number of uniform officers will shrink from 5,650 in 2010 to 5,235 positions this year to about 4,800 by 2019.

During the one-hour session, association president Mike McCormack, a B.C. criminologist, and two retired Toronto police officers presented a grim forecast of what could happen with fewer uniform officers on the street.

"These kind of cuts impact crime, they impact community safety and these impact our officers. They can lead to lower response times, less success in reducing and preventing crime and low morale among our officers," McCormack said in his preamble.

Toronto police spokeswoman Meaghan Gray said the task force is creating a police service that will be where the public needs it most. "Through attrition and a moratorium on hiring, efficiencies will be found to sustain this modernization process. No cuts are being made."

Residents participating in the event Monday evening were also asked several questions, including whether they would contact their councillor to "tell how you feel about police cuts." They were instructed to press a number on the phone.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 people have participated in three of the nine tele-townhalls planned for this week, McCormack said Tuesday. The association has hired top political strategist Don Guy to quarterback the public relations campaign.

McCormack denied the association - which represents about 8,000 uniform and civilian members - is using fear to marshal support. "We just think that the public need to be involved in the future of policing."

(Toronto Star)

Dec 06 2016

Lawrence McLarty, who overcame discrimination and "paved the road" for African-Canadians to join Toronto police by becoming the city's first black officer, has died at the age of 87.



McLarty, who went by Larry, joined the Toronto police in 1960 after moving to Canada from Jamaica.

In his 32 years on the police force, he rose from walking the beat on streets such as Bloor and College to being one of the initial members of Toronto's emergency task force. He retired as a detective sergeant in 1992.

"He was very proud about being the first black police officer in Toronto," said his son, Michael McLarty. "On a personal level, it was an achievement. But on another level, it represented a secure job with steady income, that he could provide for his family."

McLarty's first application to the Toronto

police was rejected, despite his eight years of experience as a police constable in Jamaica.

"He was told he was one-eighth of an inch too short for the job," Michael McLarty said. "A few months later he went to buy a suit, and the tailor measured his height, and he discovered he actually did meet the requirement of 5-foot-10, at least by half-an-inch."

McLarty applied again and was successful.

An article published by the Globe and Mail at the time of his hiring quotes the police commissioner as saying that McLarty joining the service did not represent a change in hiring practices - he was simply "the first of his race to meet requirements."

Michael McLarty said his father faced some discrimination inside and outside of the office as he moved forward in his career.

"There were certainly instances of prejudice or resentment by other police officers and from the public, not used to seeing a black police officer with authority," he said. "But I will say, overall, many of his fellow police officers were very supportive."

McLarty doesn't think his father spent much time thinking about being a trailblazer.

"My dad is more an action-guy, let's get it done, let's move forward. I don't think he was very reflective on what he'd done. But certainly, from meeting other black police officers now, they've been very appreciative about what my dad did and supported him even in retirement."

A scholarship award for black youth interested in police work was created in McLarty's name, and until his health declined, McLarty was there each year to present it.

(CBC News)

Dec 06 2016

Scott Sheppard, a 27-year veteran with the RCMP, has taken over as head of Yukon's police force. The territorial government made the announcement Tuesday.

Sheppard replaces Peter Clark, who announced earlier this year that he was stepping down as Yukon's commanding officer.

A government release says Sheppard has worked "in a variety of locations", including municipal detachments in B.C.'s lower mainland, and rural and First Nations communities in B.C. and Manitoba.

He was also involved in the RCMP's Olympic security program for the 2010 Games in Vancouver, and received a Queen's Jubilee medal for that work. He's also received a commendation for his work on long-term undercover operations.

Sheppard has also assisted the Canadian Forces involved in counterinsurgency investigations in Afghanistan.

In a statement, he says he is "pleased and proud" to head up the Yukon force, and has already learned a "great deal about the challenges our communities are facing."

(CBC News)

FREDERICTON - The firing of a constable on the Fredericton Police Force after a shoplifting attempt in Maine has been upheld in a ruling from the Court of Queen's Bench.

Cherie Campbell was ordered fired in a Jan. 6, 2016, ruling by arbitrator Cedric Haines following a disciplinary hearing.

Campbell asked for a judicial review of that decision. But in a ruling Tuesday by Justice Paulette Garnett of the Court of Queen's Bench, the arbitrator's ruling was found to be reasonable and the decision upheld.

The case focused around a shoplifting attempt at Marden's in Houlton, Maine, in December 2014. Campbell's trial in Houlton ended without the jury being able to reach a verdict.

Campbell's disciplinary hearing also heard she "repeatedly told" investigating police officers in Houlton that she was a police officer in Fredericton, Garnett said.

"There is only one motive for doing so and that is to exert influence on what the arresting officer decides to do," states Garnett.

"Most people object to offers of bribes but some have difficulty understanding that exerting other forms of influence is also objectionable."

Garnett says that by attempting to curry favour as a fellow police officer, Campbell was "engaging in 'discreditable conduct,' which was likely to bring the police force into disrepute."

"She wanted the Houlton Police Force to treat her differently because she was a police officer and because a criminal charge could affect her employment."

The arbitrator found none of the alternative disciplinary measures - such as suspension without pay, reduction in rank, and so on - would "restore the trust which she has breached," and Garnett states that was a reasonable conclusion for him to reach.

(CBC News)

With a deadly punch packed in a dose the size of a grain of sand, fentanyl is both lethal for its users and irresistible for traffickers looking to use Canada's postal service as a drug mule.

As the death toll from the illicit opioid rises in Canada, police chiefs across the country are renewing calls for an unprecedented change to the law that forbids police agencies from searching mail in transit with Canada Post.

The push to allow law enforcement to search mail and intercept illegal drugs before they arrive at their destination isn't new, but fentanyl's pervasiveness has made it more critical than ever, the CACP said.

"In light of the current crisis we're facing with fentanyl, there is a renewed sense of urgency for this to be addressed," said Mike Serr, co-chairman of the association's drug abuse committee and deputy police chief in Abbotsford, B.C.

Police are only allowed to search mail when it arrives at its destination, meaning law enforcement's hands are often tied, said Serr, whose association represents more than of 90 per cent of the police community in Canada.

He said recent court rulings have determined that postal workers cannot act as agents of the state when police ask them to intercept contraband during the postal delivery process.

"If we had the intelligence, we could not advise a Canada Post employee to search it on our behalf ... we would have to wait until it makes it to its final destination."

However, the Canada Border Services Agency and Canada Post staff can search mail on their own if a package appears to be suspicious.

If the Canada Post Corporation Act is changed, police would still need judicial authorization such as a search warrant to go through mail in the process of being delivered by Canada Post. Police would have to convince a judge that a crime has taken place and a particular piece of mail is evidence of that crime to gain access.

The CACP adopted a resolution at its annual general meeting last year saying it would lobby for changes to the act.

The Justice Department said in an email that it is aware of the concerns expressed by law enforcement.

"Federal officials, alongside their provincial and territorial partners, are presently examining ways to strengthen the integrity of the postal system and prevent the shipment of contraband through it," it said.

"It would be premature to speculate on whether specific legislative reform is required at this point."

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 7, 2016

Dec 07 2016

The chief of the Saugeen Shores Police Service has announced his retirement plans.



Dan Rivett submitted his resignation to Saugeen Shores council effective November of 2017, which will wrap up just over 11 years as chief when he hands over the reigns.

He says it's in the best interest of both the police service and the municipality that a new chief comes on board, adding he believes a chief should stay on no longer than 10 years, joking that he's violating his own belief.

With big decisions looming in Saugeen Shores regarding its policing; with

the police service board proposing a new \$5.2-million police building; and calls from within the community to investigate using the OPP, Rivett believes council will make the right decisions.

"My true belief is with this council, given the appropriate information, facts not fiction, they'll make the proper decisions," says Rivett. "Both is retaining its local municipal police service and providing a proper facility," says Rivett.

(BlackBurn News)

Dec 07 2016

SASKATOON - Premier Brad Wall says he is concerned about reports of serious RCMP staff shortages in some communities in northern Saskatchewan.

Wall was responding to internal RCMP emails obtained by radio station CKOM that indicate some Mountie detachments in the region are operating well below full strength.

One memo says they are running out of people and are in "dire straits."

RCMP Supt. Kris Vibe says they sometimes operate with fewer officers due to retirements, people being away on leave or training courses and redeployment.

He says the RCMP does the best it can with the people they have and that staffing levels are ultimately a provincial and municipal funding responsibility.

Wall says with crime rates up his government plans to speak with the RCMP about staffing levels.

"The provincial government has as its provincial police force the RCMP - there is a contract between the government on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan and the RCMP," Wall said in Regina Wednesday.

"If that contract is not being able to be fulfilled for whatever reason in terms of numbers, in terms of officers, you bet that that is a concern."

(CKOM,)

Dec 07 2016

CALGARY - The Alberta Securities Commission and RCMP are teaming up to prevent individuals from slipping through the cracks on securities-related criminal offences.

The Joint Serious Offences Team will investigate what it calls quasi-criminal cases under Alberta's Securities Act and related offences that fall under the Criminal Code.

Stan Magidson, chair of the securities commission, says the new unit will target repeat offenders, serious frauds and breaches of securities legislation.

He says the two bodies will share information and work together at an earlier stage, reducing the chances of parallel investigations and prosecutions.

The nine-person team, which is already up and running, is made up of investigators, forensic accountants, legal professionals and RCMP officers.

Magidson says the RCMP involvement should make tougher sentences more likely for those convicted of white collar crimes.

QUEBEC - The Quebec government is investing \$175 million to recruit new judges, prosecutors and other staff to help ease the burden on the province's overloaded justice system.

The plan is to hire nearly two dozen new judges and more than 50 prosecutors by next September as well as adding courtrooms in Montreal, Sherbrooke and Gatineau.

Justice Minister Stephanie Vallee tabled a bill outlining the government's plan Wednesday and said the dollar amount would be spread over four years.

The bill comes as the province deals with a crisis due to a Supreme Court judgment in July known as the Jordan decision, which stated that a reasonable delay for a case to reach trial from the time an accused is charged is 18 months in a provincial court or 30 months in a Superior Court.

A spokeswoman for Vallee said Tuesday that 288 accused are seeking a stay of proceedings in the province - a number that is rising.

Earlier this month, senior Quebec judges broke tradition by speaking out publicly in the media about the backlog and the need for support and funding.

Quebec's legislative session ends Friday, but both the Opposition Parti Quebecois and Coalition for Quebec's Future seemed open to helping the government.

PQ Leader Jean-Francois Lisee said his party will support the bill if the legal community is satisfied with the measures.

Dec 07 2016

OTTAWA - Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says it's "unacceptable" that an RCMP employee fabricated a response to an access-to-information request.

Goodale says the individual involved was "at a very junior level" and has been disciplined.

The fabrication was revealed last week in a letter from RCMP Supt. David Vautour to Bruce Cheadle, a reporter for who in May 2015 had requested information regarding the now-defunct long-gun registry.

Cheadle did not receive a response to his access request until March 1, 2016, but that letter was backdated almost five months.

Vautour said a note included with the tardy response claimed that the letter had originally been sent to Cheadle in October 2015, but was returned to the RCMP by Canada Post due to an incorrect postal code.

He said the Mounties have since determined that the backdated letter and the explanatory note were fabricated to avoid a possible complaint about the delay in responding to the request.

Goodale noted that it was the RCMP itself that discovered the fabrication and informed both Cheadle and the access-to-information watchdog.

"This behaviour is not tolerated and discipline has been delivered," Goodale said Wednesday.

Dec 07 2016

TORONTO - Police say they have thwarted an attack on a high school in Toronto on the 27th anniversary of the massacre at Polytechnique Montreal.

Toronto police say they received a tip from the public about a threat against a school, which they later identified as Oakwood Collegiate Institute.

They say they seized a machete, a hatchet, two swords, four knives and arrows after conducting a search warrant on a home on Tuesday.

They allege the plan was to take place later that day at the school.

A 17-year-old boy has been charged with uttering threats of bodily harm and uttering death threats.

Police say the teen appeared in court on Tuesday.

Dec 07 2016

TORONTO - Police in Toronto say they've made their first confirmed seizure of the deadly drug carfentanil.

They said Wednesday in a release that analysis of recently seized substances purported to be heroin tested positive for carfentanil, cocaine and caffeine.

Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is used to sedate large animals and is not for human consumption.

The drug is fatal in small doses and has a potency approximately 10,000 times that of morphine and 100 times that of fentanyl.

Carfentanil cannot be detected by sight, smell or taste, and has been associated to overdose deaths across Canada.

A warning was issued Tuesday in Waterloo Region, west of Toronto, after Health Canada found carfentanil in counterfeit pills seized by police.

Dec 07 2016

RCMP in Whistler will launch a review after a Vancouver woman filed a complaint, alleging officers seized her cellphone after she used it to film an arrest.

The officer in charge of Sea-to-Sky RCMP, said she found - in her initial review of the incident - that parts of the complaint from Valerie Connelly and the corresponding police report were "unclear."

"For this reason, I have initiated a comprehensive review of the matter in addition to the public complaint," said Insp. Kara Triance in a statement.

Connelly told CBC News she was capturing what she believed to be an undercover arrest on Saturday, Nov. 19.

As Mounties wrapped up the arrest, she says a uniformed officer grabbed the phone out of her hands and said he was taking it for evidence.

When she refused to give officers the passcode to her phone, she herself was arrested.

She was eventually released without charges, but without her phone. Connelly said she was told she could come back to

retrieve it during regular business hours.

Triance said her investigation will involve interviewing Connelly, the officers, witnesses as well as looking at all footage, including from nearby closed circuit cameras.

On Wednesday, Whistler RCMP didn't respond to CBC's request for comment directly.

"E" Division, the provincial body governing RCMP in B.C., responded with a statement but wouldn't comment on the specifics of this case.

(CBC News)

Dec 07 2016

EDMONTON - They were wearing regular police uniforms, but members of the Edmonton Police Service were actually playing the role of Santa's helpers Wednesday as they took a handful of youngsters on a Christmas shopping spree.

The CopShop event paired EPS officers with kids from high-need schools in the city's northeast to hang out and shop for \$200 worth of Christmas presents at Londonderry Mall for themselves and their families.

For nine-year-old Donnie Quinn and six-year-old Nardos Gezay, both from St. Francis of Assisi school in northeast Edmonton, it was an opportunity to buy things for themselves and their families they might otherwise not have had the chance to.

"My mom wants a mom book, my sister she wants a Mod Sun book and then my sister, she's asking for chips, but I'm telling her those are a waste so I'm going to get her a book," said Quinn, who was excited to hit the shops.

The event is a first for Edmonton, but has been going on in cities across Canada since 2008 and aims at celebrating the successes of kids in higher-needs communities.

(Edmonton Journal)

Dec 07 2016

CALGARY - Authorities say they have taken apart an organized crime group, arresting ten people and laying over 100 charges as a result of a year-long investigation.

The Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team, with help from the Calgary Police Service, RCMP, Public Prosecution Services Canada, RCMP Vernon, RCMP Sicamous, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit British Columbia, Canada Border Services Agency, Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre, began an investigation in November 2015 and wrapped up work with the arrest of 40-year-old Timothy Varga on November 21, 2016.

LERT says Varga was the prime figure in a crime ring that extended from Alberta to B.C., with ties to Manitoba.

"He actually turned himself in with a lawyer here at Westwinds CPS building," said Staff Sgt. Barry McCurdy of the RCMP. "The group that we dealt with were basically selling drugs at the street level in the city of

Calgary. We worked at that level right up to Timothy Varga as the leader of that group.”

“Timothy Varga was the main target of our investigation from the beginning and to be able to gather enough evidence to charge him with the organized crime charges is significant, I believe,” said McCurdy.

Police also arrested nine associates, many of whom faced charges in connection with a bust earlier this year.

(CTV News)

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 8, 2016

Dec 08 2016

LAC SAINT-FRANCOIS, Que. - RCMP say they have seized 127 kilograms of cocaine and made three arrests in a drug smuggling investigation in southwestern Quebec.

Investigators say they uncovered a scheme to import large quantities of cocaine destined for the Montreal market by routing it through Los Angeles and Houston.

They say the accused were also involved trafficking cannabis and illegal tobacco.

Dec 08 2016

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has paid its members more than \$1 billion of overtime since 2009, according to documents obtained by CBC News.

Recent retirees from the force say the costs confirm anecdotes that many officers are stressed, overworked and depressed.

“The rank and file - especially the patrol guys and girls - are burnt out,” said Derek Snow, a recently retired RCMP member with 29 years of policing experience.

“You want to do a good job and you want to do extra,” Snow said, who lives in Shediac, N.B. “But there’s only so much anybody can take.”

Between April 2009 and June 2015, the RCMP paid \$1.01 billion in overtime, according to documents obtained via access to information requests.

2009: \$153,000,000
2010: \$170,000,000
2011: \$166,000,000
2012: \$145,000,000
2013: \$170,418,985
2014: \$189,806,887
2015: \$21,497,546 (Q1 only; April to June)
TOTAL: \$1,015,723,418

“There’s unlimited overtime,” Snow said. “You notice a lot of the members would start working overtime. A lot of overtime.

“And then they’d get burnt out.”

Terry McKee advocates for RCMP members and acts as a spokesperson for the Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada (MPPAC).

He says the money spent on overtime

should instead be used to hire more officers.

“You’re putting members’ health at risk because they’re always being called to supplement for shifts that are not staffed properly,” McKee said, who is based in Moncton.

“If you’ve got exhausted members trying to protect and serve, you’ve got an issue with them being alert and effective,” he said.

“And the public is at risk as well.”

Internal reports obtained by CBC News reveal how overtime is managed across the force.

“Over 90 per cent of regular members received EDP [extra duty pay] compensation during the fiscal year 2014/15,” said a report on RCMP work-life balance completed in May 2016.

“Relief units are not available to all small units in all divisions,” the report says.

“As a result, demands on members at these units increase significantly.”

The report also confirms a sentiment shared by many members - a presumed duty to work long hours when the need arises, such as when a shift is short-staffed because someone is absent.

While overtime is voluntary, “some members may feel obligated to work overtime” in order to provide support for colleagues on shift, the report says.”

CBC News requested an interview with the RCMP’s chief human resources officer, or any member of the senior executive committee. A media relations officer declined the offer.

The RCMP also declined to provide a written statement to address or explain the overtime costs.

Snow said he didn’t see any attempts to reduce or manage overtime when he left the force earlier this year.

“I’m surprised it’s not more,” he said.

(CBC News)

Dec 08 2016

CHARLOTTETOWN - Police in Prince Edward Island are warning drivers to stop being so nice to each other, after a number of accidents caused by motorists trying to be kind.

Charlottetown Police Chief Paul Smith says there have been at least two accidents on the city’s busy University Avenue in the past week caused by one driver stopping and waving another in.

He says a good Samaritan gesture can sometimes have devastating consequences, when you are looking at t-bone accidents.

He says someone trying to be courteous could be tagged by an insurance company as one of the causes of a crash.

University Avenue is one of Charlottetown’s busiest four-lane thoroughfares, with businesses lining both sides of the street.

Smith says if someone stops in the inside lane to allow an oncoming car to cross, they may be unaware of potential traffic in the curb lane.

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DISPATCHES

**PROMOTIONS
RETIREMENTS
RECOGNITION**

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