

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Merry Christmas*

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First Nations police funding needs overhaul

Current Program 'does not cut the mustard,' public safety minister says



*The Honourable Ralph Goodale
 Minister of Public Safety and
 Emergency Preparedness*

Dec 21, 2016
OTTAWA - Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says Ottawa's First Nations Policing Program — in place since the early 1990s — is out of date and needs reform.

"Clearly what is there now does not cut the mustard," Goodale said Tuesday. "It is going to take more funds, but it is also going to take restructuring."
 Goodale's comments come in the wake of an internal report by Public Safety Canada that details persistent problems with the program, which helps fund police services in more than 450 First Nation and Inuit communities.
 "The status quo is not a viable option,"

says the report, which was published online this month. "There is a need to look at alternative models for funding policing in Indigenous communities that can result in better value for money and public safety in First Nations and Inuit communities."

The report chronicles some of the long-standing complaints from police detach-



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ments in Indigenous communities — chief among them, crumbling infrastructure.

“In many cases, the detachments are converted houses or trailers placed on gravel or concrete pads. The pads are subject to heaving and cracking and the trailers subject to leaks and mould,” the report reads.

“Concerns were raised by a majority of respondents that the [First Nations Policing Program] does not adequately address infrastructure needs for policing these communities.”

The report recommends that the federal government establish a new model of long-term, stable funding. It says Ottawa must deal with the infrastructure issues raised by police and also do more to resolve issues such as a lack of adequate housing for officers in communities that are often struggling with chronic housing shortages.

Track record of lacking resources

This isn't the first time the policing program has come under scrutiny. In 2014, Canada's auditor general visited 16 First Nations communities and found the policing program was not working as intended.

The resulting report noted that in Ontario, the program was not ensuring that policing services on First Nations reserves met standards set in the rest of the province.

The issue of First Nations police funding also came under fire earlier this year during an inquest into a 2013 death in the northern Ontario's Kasabonika Lake First Nation.

A young woman took her own life in the back of a police truck. She had been confined there by officers who had no holding cell in which to place her.

The Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, which patrols more than 30 First Nations in northern Ontario, told an inquest into the woman's death it did not have the resources to do its job properly.

Goodale said he is consulting with First Nations leaders and the provinces on a “complete review” of the First Nations Policing Program, to make sure communities receive “top-notch policing services” that are “properly and sustainably funded for the long term.”

The minister said he hopes to have a proposal for a new funding model ready by early next year. He did not provide any further detail or a potential price tag.

The First Nations Policing Program provided \$120 million in 2014-15 for 1,299 police officers working in 455 First Nations and Inuit communities, Public Safety Canada says.

Northern Ontario NDP MP Charlie Angus said changes to policing in Indigenous communities are long past due.

“They're working without proper backup, they're working without proper radios, they're working without even police stations to hold prisoners in,” Angus said in an interview with CBC News.

“It puts not just the police officers themselves at risk, but it puts the communities at serious, serious risk.”

If the government is serious about reforming the funding model for policing, Angus said, he would welcome it. But he first wants to see proof.

“This is a serious funding issue, so I'd say to Ralph [Goodale], show us the money.”

Dwayne Zacharie, chief peacekeeper in the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, Que., and president of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association, said he and other First Nations police representatives have met with Goodale to voice their concerns about the policing program.

“We said that we wanted to be recognized as an essential service. We said that we need to have funding that's appropriate for our needs. We said that we need to get better training,” Zacharie said.

Zacharie said he hopes Goodale got the message. He's curious to see what the government comes up with in the new year.

“I'm encouraged, but at the same time, I want to see what the new plan is or what the proposal will be,” he said. (CBC)

mestic violence and improper use of firearms.

In a court decision Tuesday, Court of Queen's Bench Justice Terrance Morrison ordered Smiley's pay and employment benefits be reinstated by Fitch by Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. He also ordered Smiley's wages and benefits be paid retroactively to Dec. 2, 2015.

The original arbitration in December, 2015 was eventually quashed by Justice Judy Clendening last month.

In Morrison's decision, obtained by Global News, he said the recent court action by Smiley was “unnecessary” and questioned why Fitch had not authorized Smiley's pay, benefits and back-pay when Clendening made her ruling Nov. 18.

But a statement received by Global News from police spokesperson Alycia Bartlett said Smiley won't be returning to active duty yet.

“Now that a court has specifically directed the Chief to take action, the court order will be complied with,” Bartlett wrote. “Mr. Smiley will return to his former status as an officer on a paid suspension. He will not be returned to active duty with the Force while awaiting the outcome of the Police Commission appeal of Justice Clendening's decision.”

Morrison also ordered Smiley be awarded \$5,000 for legal costs.

(Global News)

Dec 14 2016

CALGARY - Three Calgary police officers charged in connection with the assault of a traffic stop suspect had no guilty pleas entered on their behalf Wednesday.

Lawyers appeared in provincial court for constables Mike Sandalack, Kevin Humfrey and James Othen to set a five-day trial beginning March 28. None of the officers were present in court.

All three face a charge of assault causing bodily harm in connection with a July 30 incident.

Othen and Humfrey also face two charges each of public mischief, and Othen faces an additional charge of assault with a weapon, a key.

During an appearance in October, Calgary Crown prosecutor Steven Johnson, appearing for the Edmonton Crown which will prosecute the case, confirmed the case will proceed by summary conviction.

(Calgary Herald)

Dec 14 2016

A new report from Statistics Canada breaks down drunk driving numbers from across the country, and Alberta does not fare well.

Overall, drunk driving numbers are down in Canada. Last year there were 72,039 incidents, an average of 201 per 100,000 people.

But Alberta had 314 incidents per 100,000, and in Saskatchewan, it's even higher.

Alcohol use isn't the only thing that worries police, who are seeing a growing trend of driving while high on drugs.

“The drug numbers are going through the

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2016

Dec 14 2016

FREDERICTON - A fired Fredericton police officer is set to receive more than a year's worth of back-pay and benefits and reinstatement into the force following a judge's decision this week.

Const. Jeffrey Smiley was fired from the Fredericton Police Force over a year ago following an arbitration hearing initiated by a “conduct complaint” by Fredericton Police Chief Leanne Fitch.

Local media reports say the complaint involved charges of misconduct relating to do-

roof, they are forty per cent greater than the alcohol numbers in presence and fatalities and with the whole impending legalization of cannabis we're very concerned that the provinces aren't ready for this and don't have all the sanctions in place for young drivers when it comes to drugs," said Calgary Police Chief Roger Chaffin.

The RCMP is teaming up with Public Safety Canada to run a pilot project to test new roadside drug testing devices, but police say that is putting the cart before the horse.

"How is it going to be operationalized, and that's one of the aspects is that there isn't any particular per se limits set yet, there aren't any devices yet we can use to help identify when impairment occurs," said Chaffin. "I think as we are racing along to this, chances are legalization is going to occur before we've even begun to answer those questions."

(CTV News)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15, 2016

Dec 15 2016

TORONTO - Ontario is hiring more corrections staff, including officers, nurses, psychologists and segregation managers in an attempt to address issues with solitary confinement and inmates with mental-health challenges.

The dedicated segregation managers will work at institutions with higher segregation rates to try to reduce the use of isolation and help inmates who have been in solitary transition back to the general population.

"This is a first step towards implementing dedicated segregation teams across the system," said Correctional Services Minister David Orzietti.

The announcement comes shortly before federal correctional investigator Howard Sapers is set to officially lead an Ontario review into the use of segregation.

In total, the province is hiring 239 staff for its 26 adult correctional facilities, including 24 correctional officers, which are in addition to a previous commitment to hire 2,000 officers over the next three years. The hires also include correctional supervisors, nurses, mental-health nurses, psychologists, recreational staff, chaplains, librarians and administrators.

Thursday's announcement comes with a \$33-million price tag, with about \$14.8 million for capital work, such as retrofitting and repurposing common rooms, upgrading doors and repainting.

To support inmates with mental-health issues, the province is also looking to hire release-from-custody workers to help offenders reintegrate into the community and mental-health court support workers.

Ontario will fund pilot programs in Toronto and Hamilton to provide specialty psychiatric beds for inmates whose mental-health needs are too complex for general hospitals.

The province is also adding six "safe bed" sites over the next two years. They provide emergency housing for people in a mental-health crisis to help them avoid incarceration.

Dec 15 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating the circumstances involving the death of a man near North Bay.

The Special Investigations Unit says Ontario Provincial Police pulled over a vehicle in the community of Bonfield on Thursday.

The SIU says the driver was arrested but shortly after he suffered some form of medical distress in the back seat of a police cruiser.

The 49-year-old man was later pronounced dead.

Dec 15 2016

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief says the efforts of his force to end distracted driving have not worked.

In a year-end interview with CBC, Chief Rod Knecht said the incidents of distracted driving have not been decreasing.

"As the police there's not a heckuva lot we can do," said Knecht. "We probably see one per cent of one per cent that we give a ticket to."

New legislation that took effect in January, adding demerits to a distracted driving ticket, haven't had much of an effect, he said.

It will likely take a change in societal attitude for there to be any real difference, he said.

"We've almost exhausted it from a policing perspective," Knecht said. "I really do think the conversation is with the public, with the community, in saying look, I'm being endangered by this."

He's looking to changes in technology to provide the breakthrough that will reduce the problem of distracted driving. He envisions a device that will shut down a phone while the car is being driven, unless it's connected via Bluetooth.

"I'm sure that's coming in the future. Technology will solve our problems, but right now it's a huge public safety problem I think," Knecht said.

(CBC News)

Dec 15 2016

A new report says more than 530 members of Canada's federal police force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, were injured last year as a result of assaults and other violent acts.

The RCMP's 2015 report, obtained by CBC News, says the injuries usually occurred when officers needed to use force to subdue someone.

The report finds that that effective physical control is better at subduing suspects that using so-called "intermediate weapons" such as a baton or a stun gun.

It adds that the RCMP is "working to make improvements to several intermediate weapons," including testing more potent pepper spray that can be sprayed farther, testing the

newest generation of Taser and piloting a "general duty 40 mm extended-range impact weapon."

The report also found that 699 Mounties and civilian employees were injured in slips and falls, resulting in 98 "disabling" accidents that prevented victims from going to work the following day.

The report says the majority of the falls took place on RCMP controlled property and were the result of slippery surfaces (lobby floors during and after rainfall and icy and/or snowy sidewalks).

Another 216 Mounties sustained injuries while driving.

Most of those accidents, the report says, took place during the day in cities where officers were driving at or below speed limits on dry pavement during routine operations and not during emergency calls.

The report also examined injuries to civilians who work for the RCMP.

Exposure to traumatic events, such as answering emergency calls, is responsible for most work-related health problems for those civilians.

(RCI)

Dec 15 2016

New Brunswick municipalities recently found out how much they'll be paying for RCMP services next year and some are wondering where they'll find the extra cash.

The cost of RCMP coverage is increasing 5.5 per cent because of a salary increase and the purchase of equipment.

The annual bill for RCMP service in the Greater Moncton area is going up by \$1.1 million

Municipalities say the increases range from three per cent to 11 per cent, and for some, the cost of using the RCMP for policing is approaching unsustainable levels.

Over the past 15 years, the annual increase in policing costs has been about five per cent.

In an email to CBC News, the provincial government said the community funding and equalization grant increased by \$285,000 for 2017 and now represents a total envelope of almost \$74.7 million provided to municipalities, rural communities and local service districts.

"You're looking at 107 municipalities that will be affected by this and in some areas, very limited growth," said Raymond Murphy, who is with the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick. "Those are the municipalities that are really hurting."

(CBC News)

Dec 15 2016

The Quebec government is proposing a public inquiry into police relations in Val-d'Or, Que., more than a year after police officers there were accused of sexually assaulting aboriginal women.

The news comes as the federal inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women says its two-year mandate isn't long enough to

delve into Val-d'Or.

In a letter obtained by Radio-Canada, the commission's executive director, Michèle Moreau, said that while the events in Val-d'Or will be part of the national narrative, the mandate of the federal inquiry does not allow for a thorough factual investigations into specific cases.

But the commission said that nothing is stopping the province of Quebec from conducting its own public inquiry.

"Such a move would be highly complementary to the mandate and work of the national inquiry."

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard met with Indigenous leaders Thursday and proposed to do just that.

According to Radio-Canada's sources, the commission won't repeat the criminal investigation into some police officers. Instead, it'll focus on systemic racism and its causes.

(CBC News)

Dec 15 2016

CALGARY - Guidelines on pot legalization aren't guaranteed to snuff out organized crime or roll back cops' work, Calgary's police chief said Thursday.

While Chief Roger Chaffin said that while federal task force did a comprehensive job in crafting 80 recommendations for ending 93 years of marijuana prohibition, numerous uncertainties remain, including what role police would play.

"There's still many unanswered elements yet to be determined such as how much is to be mandated to which levels of government," he said.

On the overall prospect of pot legalization that's expected to be tabled in Parliament next spring, Chaffin said that trend and its medical marijuana cousin has already led to police reduce their work in closing down grow operations.

But he said new complexities arising from legalization could mean little relief for police that would enable them to focus on other policing areas.

"A lot of that grow-op work has gone away but we haven't seen it create a massive human resource efficiency," said Chaffin.

"It will still be an issue beyond the regulated legal amount...it may create new work."

And he said hopes legalization will snuff out organized crime's role in the marijuana trade aren't a sure bet, either.

"We have to see how that works, whether the black market has a role or doesn't," he said.

After two years of legalization in Colorado, pot-related arrests there have fallen but Latin American drug cartels have moved into the state to grow cannabis that's then exported.

Chaffin said there are more technical-legal questions that'll also need to be addressed.

What will be the permissible THC-blood level for driving isn't yet known, nor how a recommended four-plant per home grow limit would be enforced, he said.

The same goes for a 30-gram legal canna-

bis possession limit favoured by the task force, said Chaffin.

"What's the difference between 30 or 35 grams and is it a bylaw or police issue?" he said.

"I'd rather they do it right than fast, that there's a little less speed."

Drug law enforcement culture shock has been reduced by the lengthy discussion on legalization, said Howard Burns, President of the Calgary Police Association.

But he said a total adjustment will take some time.

"We've been trained to hunt down marijuana and we've spent an incredible amount of resources trying to eliminate things that will be sold in legal outlets," said Burns.

He said the prospect of cannabis legalization brings some relief for police, who've already turned more of their focus onto battling deadly drugs like fentanyl.

But he insisted the campaign against pot hasn't been a waste.

"I would certainly say the war was never won but perhaps it prevented some people from being exposed to it," he said.

A recommendation to allow home-grows of four plants, said Burns, doesn't seem compatible with Ottawa's intention of protecting youth from the drug.

"It might be counter-intuitive...allowing people to grow it probably isn't going to be helpful," he said.

(Calgary Sun)

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

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An activity, not a position

EDMONTON - Patrol officers are conducting street checks based on a new policy adopted in August, the Edmonton Police Service has confirmed.

Since then, recruits, supervisors and frontline members have all undergone training on the new policy, whose details were made public for the first time Thursday.

According to a written statement provided to CBC News by Staff Sgt. Warren Driechel of the intelligence branch, the policy lays out rules for officers carrying out a street check while clarifying the rights of individuals involved in one.

"It defined what a street check is, how it differs from detention and arrests, a member's responsibilities when conducting and reporting a street check," said Driechel.

EPS turned down CBC's request to see a copy of the policy. A spokesperson said an application would have to be made.

But Driechel said officers involved in the training review the purpose of a street check, with a focus on understanding bias, while clarifying rules around detention. It is hoped the training will "reinforce the need for proper articulation of why they are conducting" street checks, he added.

Driechel said the new policy arose after police initiated a formal review of street checks in October 2015. The review was not initiated due to a complaint, but rather "as a result of recognizing a need to examine our practices due to the discussion that was occurring within the community and at a national level," he said.

Driechel's statement said there were general street check policies and training in place previously. But the review "also recognized that although members were conducting themselves appropriately, Street Checks should be better defined with additional policy and training," he said.

(CBC News)

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 16, 2016

Dec 16 2016

THUNDER BAY - The suspension is over, but the investigation continues into the conduct of a Thunder Bay police officer who posted offensive comments on Facebook in September.

Thunder Bay police confirmed on Thursday that Const. Rob Steudle returned to work this week, on administrative duties.

Steudle's comments that "Natives are killing Natives" were posted in response to a letter to the editor of the local paper from Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler.

The comments prompted Thunder Bay police to launch a professional standards investigation, which was handed over to the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) in October.

The request to the OIPRD was made to ensure public confidence and transparency in

this process, and to recognize the compelling public interest in this matter, Thunder Bay police said in a statement at the time.

The OIPRD investigation is expected to be wrapped up in the new year. It is a separate investigation from the systemic review the watchdog is undertaking to examine allegations of racism within the police service.

The decision to allow an officer who is under investigation by the OIPRD to return to work lays with the chief of police, said OIPRD spokesperson Rosemary Parker.

The investigation into Steudle's conduct could result in an informal resolution or, if it is deemed more serious, discipline could be pursued under the Police Services Act, according to the OIPRD.

Four other police officers were assigned to administrative duties in connection with the investigation into the Facebook comments.

Those officers have returned to regular duties.

"Their matters have been dealt with internally," said Thunder Bay police executive officer, Chris Adams. "We cannot discuss that process due to issues of privacy."

(CBC News)

Dec 16 2016

BRADFORD - After 42 years of service, it's time to hang up the uniform. Well, in four months, to be exact.



On Dec. 12, South Simcoe Police Chief Rick Beazley announced he will be retiring as of April 17, 2017, after numerous years of dedicated service in policing.

Beazley began his long career with the Winnipeg Police Service as a constable in November 1974. Years later, in 2000, he was appointed deputy chief of the Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service and later become their chief in 2009.

It wasn't until 2012 that he joined SSP as chief, at a time when the service was undergoing a costing exercise. Beazley undertook the difficult task to find cost efficiencies, improve the reputation of the service and ensure its financial sustainability moving forward.

Since then, SSP has introduced fiscally responsible budgets, improved the delivery of service and continues to be recognized around the province as a leading community-based policing organization.

In his five years with SSP, he has helped build a strong reputation as a relationship builder, and is known throughout the service and in the community for his open door policy.

"We thank Chief Beazley for his years with South Simcoe," said SSP board chair Rod Hicks.

"Chief Beazley is recognized as an excellent police leader, not just in South Simcoe, but around Ontario. He will be missed, and leaves behind a legacy of a service of which we can be proud and is poised for the future."

Beazley spoke to his passionate career, saying he is very proud of his profession and what it has become.

"Policing has evolved from the cop-on-the-beat with a call box, a portable radio and with their wits as a guide to today's highly-trained officers who are supported by modern technology and contemporary strategies that make communities safer."

But he says he is most proud of the work of the members of SSP.

"These women and men who have been my colleagues for almost five years have worked hard to exemplify our motto, 'Protect with Courage, Serve with Compassion.'"

The SSP Board anticipates making an announcement regarding his replacement in the near future.

(Simcoe.com)

Dec 16 2016

OTTAWA - Ottawa's police chief is concerned the number of drivers impaired by drugs will rise when the federal government moves to legalize marijuana in the spring.

Chief Charles Bordeleau said in jurisdictions where pot has already been legalized there are more problems on the roads.

"The number of collisions, the number of charges have risen, the number of injuries and sadly the number of fatalities," said Bordeleau.

"So that's a concern for law enforcement to see exactly what impact the legalization is going to have on driving in our communities."

Bordeleau said legislation is the first step to helping officers do their job, followed by the proper tools and training.

"They have to be able to from a legislative perspective identify what is that limit. And the other concern we have is the mixture," said Bordeleau.

"What's the limit from a drug perspective, and then combine that with alcohol, it's a deadly combination."

(CBC News)

Dec 16 2016

EDMONTON - A Saskatchewan Mountie is facing firearms charges in Alberta.

Const. Dale Malbeuf of the Morse detachment in southern Saskatchewan was arrested this week at a home in Edmonton.

Police allege the officer produced and pointed a firearm at a woman in the home.

Malbeuf appeared in Edmonton court Wednesday on charges of pointing a firearm and careless use of a firearm.

He was released on conditions and is to attend court again Jan. 6.

RCMP say Malbeuf, on the force for 12 years, has been suspended with pay.

Dec 16 2016

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - A Saskatchewan prison where a major riot took place this week had the most complaints of any penitentiaries in the country last year, according to Canada's prisoners' ombudsman.

Howard Sapers, the Correctional Investigator of Canada, says there were 413 complaints about things including food, health care, family visits and access to parole hearings from inmates at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert.

One inmate was killed during the riot Wednesday, as prisoners set fires, smashed windows and pulled heat registers off walls.

Sapers says it's extremely troubling to hear about the incident because it speaks to a real dysfunction in an institution.

He has sent a team from his office to investigate, along with RCMP, the Union of Canadian Correctional Officers and Correctional Service Canada.

Dec 16 2016

JOHNSTOWN, Ont. - An Ontario provincial police officer has been charged in a collision southeast of Smiths Falls, Ont., that injured a man this summer.

The province's police watchdog says it has reasonable grounds to believe that OPP Const. Timothy Jackson committed a criminal offence in the June 10 crash.

The Special Investigations Unit says a police cruiser and a civilian vehicle collided in the community of Johnstown.

Jackson is charged with dangerous driving causing bodily harm.

He is due in court on Jan. 6.

Dec 16 2016

VANCOUVER - An urgent warning has been sent out to illicit drug users in British Columbia after at least 11 people died in the province on Thursday alone, six of them in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

The warning from B.C.'s coroners' service on Friday comes at the same time police, firefighters, politicians and health officials in Vancouver joined forces to call on the provincial government to provide treatment on demand for drug users as the death toll reaches staggering proportions.

"At least six persons died after using drugs in the Downtown Eastside in a span of only eight hours," said the coroners' service in a news release. Five more people died throughout the rest of the province, the service said.

Vancouver Police Chief Adam Palmer said his department counted nine overdose fatalities on Thursday night alone, but there's nowhere for drug users to turn when they ask for help in quitting their addiction.

Palmer said that while the city led the way in 2003 by opening North America's first supervised-injection site, treatment options are not available, and if they're found wait lists are too long.

Mayor Gregor Robertson said repeatedly

giving some people the overdose-reversing drug naloxone isn't good enough because what they need is treatment to turn their lives around when

Robertson said treatment for addicts has been woefully inadequate and the city and its emergency workers can't continue to indefinitely react the crisis.

He said figures show there are about 1,300 people using illicit opioids every day in the city who are at immediate risk and "playing roulette" with fentanyl every day.

The coroners' service says from January to the end of October, 622 people died of illicit overdose deaths in the province and most of those deaths were related to the opioid fentanyl.

Dec 16 2016

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg's new police headquarters may be stuck with temporary protection against drive-up vehicle attacks for another two years, according to a plan to replace concrete slabs with a more permanent and esthetically pleasing alternative.

A city plan to improve downtown streetscaping calls for permanent bollards to replace temporary Jersey barriers - upright concrete slabs - around the police headquarters by 2019.

That will be four years after the city disclosed the police headquarters has no protection against drive-up vehicle attacks and requires the installation of bollards at a cost of up to \$1.9 million.

In 2015, the city installed Jersey barriers around the police headquarters as a temporary measure until money for bollards could be secured.

Earlier this year, Supt. Scot Halley said the police service hopes to work with the city's public works department as well as planning, property and development to see whether the security measures could be combined with other downtown projects.

A city search for a consulting firm capable of designing downtown streetscaping improvements and bike corridors suggests the city plans on doing just that, by incorporating bollards into a protected bike lane on Garry Street and new pavement around the headquarters.

The city also wants a consulting firm to design security bollards for all sides of the building, which originally served as a Canada Post complex.

"The headquarters was not designed or built to withstand large-scale attacks," reads a request for proposals from consulting firms.

"The increased level of global terrorism against government institutions, including emergency services, dictate basic and affordable security measures be considered to ensure essential services are maintained."

The proposal says those bollards must be able to withstand the impact of a 6,800-kilogram truck travelling 80 kilometres an hour. It also calls for the protection of the 911 emergency call centre.

The police headquarters opened in June, seven years after council approved a \$135-million purchase and renovation project. It wound up costing \$214 million, including the as yet unbudgeted bollards.

The project has been the subject of two external audits as well as an RCMP investigation into fraud and forgery allegations pertaining to its construction. That investigation is now two years old.

(CBC News)

Dec 16 2016

The cabinet minister in charge of Ontario's troubled prison system has abruptly resigned six turbulent months into the job.

David Oraziotti, the province's minister of community safety and correctional services, announced his immediate resignation from cabinet Friday afternoon in his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Oraziotti said he would leave cabinet immediately and quit his Sault Ste. Marie seat at the end of the month. In a phone interview with The Globe, he said he resigned for his family's sake and rejected any suggestion that the prison controversy or differences within cabinet led to his departure.

"It's fair to say that none of that played a role in anything," he said from his constituency office in Sault Ste. Marie. "In fact, the progress we've made over the last six months made the decision more difficult in that I can see us moving forward. Quite frankly, I think we've turned the corner in this ministry in many respects."

(Globe and Mail)

Dec 16 2016

Jennifer Whyte, one of the Peel Regional Police officers involved in a deadly shooting on Queen Frederica Drive last year that left a man dead, two officers injured and an innocent bystander with a bullet in her back, is no longer a police officer.

The News has learned the former constable, the daughter of Peel's retired high-ranking Supt. Kim Whyte, is now a civilian member of the force.

Peel Sgt. Josh Colley would neither confirm nor deny that Whyte is no longer a police officer.

"She is still employed and has never resigned from Peel Regional Police," he said.

Efforts to reach Whyte via email and phone were unsuccessful.

Whyte is named in a \$21-million lawsuit launched by victim Suzan Zreik and her lawyer, Michael Moon.

Zreik, then 22, was cutting a lime in her kitchen on Queen Frederica Drive the evening of March 20, 2015 when she was accidentally shot by police.

A stray bullet hit her in the back, narrowly missing her spine.

The document alleges three officers - constables Whyte, Adam Paiement and Branden Dary - were at the centre of the violence, along

with 22-year-old Marc Ekamba-Boekwa and his mother, Boketsu Boekwa. The elder Boekwa is before the courts on several charges relating to the incident.

During the encounter, Marc Ekamba-Boekwa was shot dead and two officers wounded along with Zreik.

The SIU announced a year ago that the violent encounter was “legally justified” as police were dealing with a man armed with a knife who was closing in on them as they restrained his mother.

A struggle ensued, prompting the officers to fire a total of 19 bullets. Ekamba-Boekwa was hit with 11 bullets, the SIU ruled.

(Mississauga News)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17, 2016

Dec 17 2016

PETERBOROUGH - One of Canada's top criminal defence lawyers is the new administrator of the “dysfunctional” Peterborough Police Services Board.

Mark Sandler was appointed on Friday, said a spokesman for the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC).

Sandler practises law in Toronto.

On Thursday, the OCPC filed a damning report on Peterborough's police board, stating that the board was so dysfunctional it needs an administrator to step in.

The OCPC said the dysfunction constitutes an emergency. Sandler's appointment came into effect Friday and will hold until July 1.

Chris Popovich, a spokesman for the OCPC, said Sandler will be paid by the OCPC - not by the city.

Popovich said the lawyer will work part-time and be paid by the hour; the total cost for his services will only be known when the work ends.

Sandler couldn't be reached for comment Friday.

The administrator has the authority to make any changes to the police board's procedures. He can also suspend any or all of the board's members.

The OCPC stated in its orders that the board has been “in a state of perpetual crisis” since 2015.

The orders state that the board has been struggling with a series of “highly public disputes”, including a contractual dispute between the board and the chief and deputy chief of police.

The chief and deputy chief sought a year's compensation pay apiece from the board after a reorganization of the police force - even though they kept their jobs.

Although the dispute's been settled, nobody involved will say whether they got the

\$486,000 they were seeking.

When asked how this is an emergency situation, Popovich said the order speaks for itself.

“During the course of the current and ongoing investigation, it became apparent to the OCPC that there is an ongoing dysfunction of the Peterborough police services board, and that this dysfunction constitutes a real and ongoing impediment to police services in Peterborough,” it states.

“This dysfunction, together with its effect of undermining public confidence in the delivery of police services, constitutes an emergency under subsection 24(1) (of the Police Services Act).”

The order points out how the board has failed to complete a series of routine duties such as finalize a business plan.

The board also hasn't established a policy to indemnify the chief of police for legal costs, says the order.

Chief Murray Rodd did not wish to comment for this article.

(Peterborough Examiner)

Dec 17 2016

MONTREAL - Montreal's mayor says police were doing their jobs and upholding the law when they launched raids against Montreal's mayor said Saturday that police were doing their jobs and upholding the law when they launched raids against newly opened illegal cannabis stores.

Denis Coderre said that opening the stores was a pointless stunt since federal legislation to legalize marijuana is expected in the spring.

“What I don't understand is, legalization of marijuana is going to happen, so why do this kind of stunt?” he told reporters at an unrelated event in Montreal.

Police said they arrested 10 people Friday in the raids on the cannabis stores that opened one day before by the self-styled “Prince of Pot,” Marc Emery, and his wife, Jodie.

All but one person, who refused to sign the release documents, were released on a promise to appear in court.

Cannabis Culture, the brand owned by the Emerys, already has a dozen shops across Canada.

On Friday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters in Montreal “until we've changed the law, the current laws exist and apply.”

Ottawa is moving “properly and responsibly,” to legalize marijuana, Trudeau said, but the current law governing cannabis will stand until new legislation is ratified.

Coderre reiterated that message on Saturday, saying that marijuana advocates need to be patient and respect the law until it is changed.

“Police did their jobs, as they should, and we have to send a message to the community that this is not the right way to do (civil) disobedience,” he said.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 2016

Dec 18 2016

OTTAWA - The federal government is being asked to speed up the pace of redevelopment of the land and buildings that once comprised Canada's most notorious prison to make room for a top-notch sailing school.

A local group has put forward a \$300-million redevelopment plan for Kingston Penitentiary that would see the jail along the shores of Lake Ontario turned into an elite training centre for Canadian sailors, alongside a new wind power research institute.

The group has been working on the idea since the last inmate left Kingston Pen in 2013.

The proposal would open up the facility to the water by tearing down all but the northern wall with the large, heavy, barred doors at the prison's entrance. Inside the sprawling property would be two museums documenting the jail's controversial history, as well as new commercial space and condominiums.

The group isn't asking for any financial help from federal or municipal coffers. What they are asking is for the federal government to sell them the land - and soon.

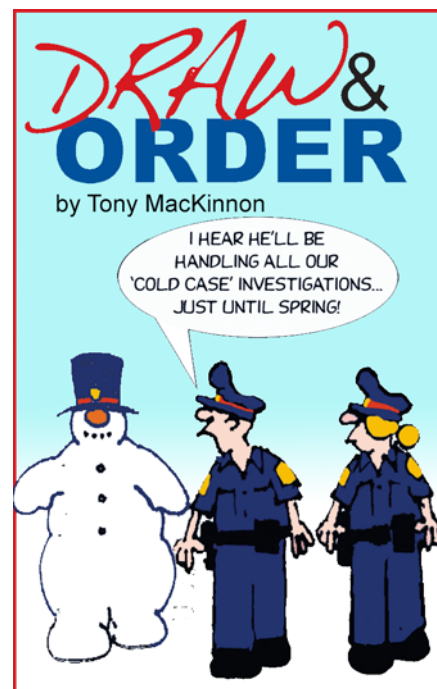
Dec 18 2016

OTTAWA - Drug-impaired drivers are often being let off the hook, according to Statistics Canada.

A report released last week was the first to contain national drug-impaired driving numbers and court data.

And it revealed some startling stats when it comes to drug-impaired driving.

“It's interesting to see that (drug-impaired driving cases) usually take twice as long to be



completed in courts, and less likely to result in a guilty finding,” said Statistics Canada analyst Samuel Perreault.

About 3,000 of 75,000 impaired driving incidents reported by police across Canada in 2015 involved drugs, including seven that were fatal.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Canada CEO Andrew Murie says the real numbers are way higher, however, and drug-impaired drivers are not being detected.

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse data seems to support that.

A roadside survey conducted in British Columbia in 2012, which collected voluntary saliva samples and breathalyzer tests from drivers, found 7.4 per cent were impaired by drugs while 5.4 per cent were impaired by alcohol.

MADD is pushing for the implementation of oral fluid tests to detect levels of illicit drugs like cannabis, opioids and cocaine, through a tongue swab.

Murie said the simple testing devices, which are used in Australia and some parts of Europe, could lead to more court convictions.

“Until we get that type of technology approved in the criminal code, we’re going to do a poor job of detecting drug-impaired drivers and a lot more people are going to be in crashes with drug-impaired drivers,” he said.

Edmonton police warned motorists earlier this month about the dangers of drug-impaired driving, saying drugs have been a factor in more than a third of Edmonton’s 23 fatal collisions in 2016.

Police said 40 to 50 per cent of impaired fatalities generally have a link to drugs, with many being a mixture of drugs and alcohol. (Metro)

MONDAY DECEMBER 19, 2016

Dec 19 2016

TORONTO - In response to criticism about the dearth of data, Chief Mark Saunders must now report back to the police board early next year on the prospect of providing detailed numbers - broken down by race, gender, spoken language and more - about use-of-force incidents between Toronto officers and people with mental health challenges.

A panel of more than two dozen mental-health experts joined a chorus of groups calling for the collection of in-depth statistics regarding police use-of-force incidents.

“What gets measured gets change,” said Dorothy Cotton, a psychologist from Kingston, Ont., told the meeting of the Toronto police board Monday.

Alongside ex-police board member Hamlin Grange, Cotton co-chaired the board’s mental health external advisory committee, a group of experts and hospital leaders which independently evaluated how the force and its board deals with mentally ill people.

Among their conclusions: that police have insufficient data to show whether the many initiatives put in place - including additional training and education - have “a meaningful and measurable effect.”

Grange, now the president of a diversity training and consulting company, said the service must pay greater attention to the intersection of mental health and race, gender and other factors.

“Intersectionality should not and cannot be ignored by the service because it can lead to discrimination,” he told the board. “This means collecting data to identify if certain individuals are being treated differently when they are undergoing mental stress.”

In 2015, Toronto police had an estimated 24,000 interactions with people experiencing a mental health crisis, and year-to-date statistics indicate that number will jump by 10 per cent by the end of 2016.

“Encounters with people in crisis is a pressing issue for this service,” deputy chief Mike Federico told reporters after the meeting. He stressed that of about 23,000 interactions annually between police and people in crisis, only roughly 1,000 result in use of force.

However, when pressed by board member Shelley Carroll, a city councillor, to provide data such as the race, gender and spoken language of the people in crisis involved, Federico said that information is hard to obtain because it is often not recorded.

For instance, the provincial report Toronto police must fill out after a use-of-force incident does not record race or language, nor does Toronto police’s form for reporting use of tasers.

“You need to appreciate that we have limits to the type of data that we can actually collect and retrieve. Right now we don’t collect this data,” Federico said.

Asked after the meeting whether he believes the use-of-force report should capture race data, Federico said: “The committee believes we should and we are going to take that under serious consideration.”

The board asked Saunders to report back in February on the service’s ability to “detailed disaggregated statistical information,” including information about race, gender and language, regarding use of force incidents involving people with mental health problems.

Saunders was also asked to provide a report on whether such data could be included in Toronto police’s annual report on taser usage. (Toronto Star)

Dec 19 2016

REGINA - Regina’s mayor is expressing concern about provincial government cuts to the police budget that could hurt efforts to recruit Indigenous officers.

“Well, this is not helpful, this change,” Mayor Michael Fougere said in an interview with CBC News.

According to the city police budget documents that will be submitted to Regina city

council Monday night, provincial programs are providing \$6.27 million in 2017 - \$540,000 less than the previous budget.

Provincial funding for three positions is being cut:

The city appreciates the support it gets from the federal and provincial governments, but will have to reallocate resources to keep these positions going, he said.

“These are priority areas, particular for recruiting for Indigenous people,” he said.

“We’re backfilling because this is a critical component for police services recruitment. We don’t want to miss that activity. One way or another we will fill that position.”

Provincial funding accounts for only about 7.3 per cent of the total Regina police budget.

The gross operating budget for the police for 2017 is pegged at \$84.5 million. (CBC News)

Dec 19 2016

CALGARY - Calgary’s police chief says there may be changes within his department before an independent review into the number of police shootings in the city this year.

There have been 10 police-involved shootings in Calgary in 2016 — and five of them were fatal.

It’s the highest number of police shootings in any city in Canada.

Police Chief Roger Chaffin says the service will work with an outside consultant to see if it can identify why things have changed for the worst in the past year.

He says it’s obvious something is wrong and he doesn’t intend to sit on his hands waiting for the report if the service can identify any changes that need to be made.

The president of the Calgary Police Association says the number is unusual but believes it’s likely an anomaly and that things will return to normal in 2017.

Dec 19 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - An officer with Peel Regional Police is facing a criminal charge in connection with the death of a man earlier this year.

Ontario’s Special Investigations Unit began probing the case on June 19 after a collision between a police cruiser and a motorcycle in Mississauga, just west of Toronto.

The 41-year-old motorcycle driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

The SIU says it has probable cause to believe the officer committed a criminal offence in connection with the death, but did not release details.

Const. Brandon Strain is charged with one count of dangerous driving causing death.

Dec 19 2016

WINNIPEG - The Manitoba government is spending nearly \$30,000 to purchase naloxone kits for police officers in Winnipeg and other municipal and First Nation police services across the province.

Naloxone is a medication used to reverse the effects of opioids and prevent fatal overdoses.

The Winnipeg Police Service will receive 1,300 naloxone kits, while another 200 kits will be distributed to municipal and First Nations police services.

Officers will be trained to use the naloxone kits if they encounter someone on a call who may be experiencing an opioid overdose or if another officer has been exposed while at work.

Funding for the kits has been provided from the Federal Proceeds of Crime Fund.

Dec 19 2016

MONTREAL - The city of Montreal's public safety committee released its report on the Montreal police's spying on journalists Monday but its conclusions were far from unanimous.

In an 11-page report, the committee, led by Villeray - Saint-Michel - Park Extension borough mayor Anie Samson, said it was "re-assured" and "satisfied" by the rigour and quality of Montreal police practices.

As such, it had no formal recommendations to make and only suggested that there was a need to establish a definition of "journalist" and look at best practices elsewhere in the world to make police processes more compatible with the protection of journalistic sources.

Projet Montréal, the official opposition at city hall, was not reassured, however.

Its minority report points out that the committee heard only from the Montreal police itself before drawing its conclusions after three work sessions. It did not hear from any journalists, experts or impartial observers.

In fact, what the committee takes as proof of rigour on the part of the police - that between 97.5 per cent and 99.2 per cent of warrants they requested over the last three years were approved by a justice of the peace - is what Projet Montréal deems proof of bias toward the state on the part of those justices.

"When I was a journalist I was told a one-source story was not worth much - that's true for this report too," said city councillor Alex Norris, who is vice-president of the public safety committee and wrote the minority report.

(Montreal Gazette)

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 20, 2016

Dec 20 2016

HALIFAX - A man accused of killing an off-duty Nova Scotia police officer has been released on bail.

The province's Public Prosecution Service says Christopher Calvin Garnier was granted bail today in Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Garnier is facing a charge of second-degree murder in the death of Truro police officer Catherine Campbell.

The 28-year-old Halifax resident was also charged with interfering with a dead body after Campbell's remains were found in Septem-

ber 2015 near the base of an overpass in Halifax.

Campbell served as a Truro police constable for six years.

Garnier's trial is scheduled to begin on Nov. 20, 2017.

Dec 20 2016

RED DEER, Alta. - A judge who was chastised by Alberta's Appeal Court in 2014 for his handling of a sexual assault case has decided to take early retirement.



The Alberta Court of Appeal criticized Court of Queen's Bench Justice Kirk Sisson for acquitting a suspect in a sexual assault case.

The court said Sisson made a mistake when he ruled the woman consented after trying to fend off her attacker for 20 minutes.

The Appeal Court said submitting to a sexual act was not the same as consent and it substituted the acquittal for a conviction.

Sisson will take an early retirement beginning Jan. 3 but could have remained on the bench for another 10 years.

He will receive an annual pension payout of \$142,000.

Dec 20 2016

OTTAWA - A series of focus groups on perceptions of marijuana legalization found that the youngest teenaged participants were the most cautious about the policy shift.

The work, commissioned last spring by Health Canada, was targeted at younger Canadians and the parents of teens as a prelude to the Trudeau government's promised 2017 legalization legislation.

The public opinion research was designed to help inform an "evidence-based" public education and awareness campaign that has yet to be rolled out.

A total of 24 focus groups conducted last June in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax by Earncliffe Strategy Group found an overwhelming majority of participants were aware of the promised end to pot prohibition and "most were generally comfortable with the idea."

However, focus groups involving 13-to-15 year olds were noticeably less positive and struggled to identify advantages perceived by older participants - such as an end to black-market activity, standardized marijuana quality and economic benefits.

The focus groups also provided sobering perceptions of cannabis-impaired driving, with most saying it was less dangerous than drunk driving and a few suggesting marijuana use can improve driving skills.

Dec 20 2016

GJOA HAVEN, Nunavut - A 21-year-old man has died after being shot by RCMP in Nunavut.

RCMP in Gjoa Haven say they got a call Monday afternoon about a suicidal man with a firearm who went to the airport.

They then got a call about the man walking around the community with a rifle.

Police say they got information that the individual may have been in a conflict with another person and was attempting to prevent that person from leaving the community.

Two officers found the man and told him to put the firearm down, but say the man didn't comply, and one of the officers shot the man.

Mounties say Charles Qirngnirq died from his injuries around 6 p.m.

The Ottawa Police Service will conduct an investigation of what happened and the police actions.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, community of Gjoa Haven and the RCMP members involved during this difficult time," the RCMP said in a release Tuesday.

Dec 20 2016

REGINA - A joint RCMP-Regina police team has seized drugs, firearms and stolen property in a targeted effort over the 90 days.

RCMP Insp. Rob Thorarinson says as a result of the team's work, police have arrested 60 people and laid 443 charges.

He says cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, ecstasy and heroin were seized, as well as five sawed-off shotguns and six handguns.

Stolen property worth \$40,000 and more than \$100,000 were also seized.

Thorarinson says this investigation has taken significant amounts of illegal drugs and firearms off the streets.

He also says it show how effective police can be when different forces combine resources and expertise to work together.

The combined forces teams operate in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert and are funded by the province.

The mandate of the teams is to "expose, investigate, prosecute, dismantle and disrupt organized crime enterprises," Thorarinson said Tuesday in a news release.

Dec 20 2016

WINNIPEG - The RCMP investigation into Winnipeg's police headquarters has expanded into allegations of a plan to offer a \$600,000 secret commission to the project director responsible for looking after the city's interests in the construction project.

In information presented to a judge in order to obtain financial records, the Mounties elaborate upon invoice-padding allegations against Caspian Construction owner Armik Babakhanians, the primary contractor for Winnipeg's police headquarters project, which council approved at a price of \$135 million in 2009 but has cost \$214 million to date.

"To date, police have identified that Armik

[Babakhanians] used inflated and altered subtrade invoices and quotes to defraud the city of millions of dollars for work that was done at costs less than his fraudulent submitted costs. In addition to these frauds, police are investigating the use of a secret commission for the hiring of key project personnel,” RCMP Const. Christopher Haskins says in an affidavit submitted to a judge in February in order to obtain bank records.

Before police are allowed to search financial records, they are required to present evidence to support their allegations. The Mounties have not disclosed whether they obtained anything of interest through their request for banking information.

The order is part of what the RCMP call Project Dalton, the criminal investigation into Winnipeg’s police headquarters project, which involved purchase and renovation of Canada Post’s former downtown complex.

The project was completed four years late this June at \$79 million over budget. It has also been subject to two external audits as well as an RCMP investigation.

The RCMP have not said anything about their investigation into the police headquarters, other than it remains active.

(CBC News)

Dec 20 2016

Rogers, TekSavvy and a consortium of Canadian information technology companies are pushing back against proposed changes to Canada’s national security legislation.



In comments to the federal government, submitted last Thursday as part of a public consultation on national security reforms, the companies argue that Canada’s existing laws governing police powers are adequate, and that the government has not provided enough evidence to justify expanding those powers.

The companies also say the government has not provided specific details on how telecommunications companies would be required to implement some of its most contentious proposals - specifically, systems designed to intercept communications and retain user data long term.

“The Government’s Green Paper has not provided significant evidence of a particular problem that cannot be addressed in the existing legislative framework,” Rogers’s submission reads, adding “there are no concrete proposals for new legislative requirements.”

Rogers and TekSavvy submitted their comments independently, as did the Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC), and share similar albeit nuanced po-

sitions.

Neither Bell nor Videotron submitted their own comments, but pointed CBC News to a submission made by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA), which focuses less on specific policy proposals than on general comments about privacy and cost.

Telus and Shaw did not participate in the consultation.

In September, the government announced a public review of the country’s controversial national security legislation, Bill C-51, introduced under the previous Conservative government.

One of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s campaign promises was to repeal the “problematic elements” of the bill.

However, as part of the consultation process, the Liberal government released a discussion paper that actually considers an expansion of existing police powers.

One possible scenario, which has been endorsed by police, is warrantless access to Basic Subscriber Information (BSI), which can include a customer’s name, address, telephone number, IP address - information that police say is presently difficult to obtain in a timely manner.

Rogers argues that there is “no evidence to date” to support the police’s claim, while TekSavvy says it is not clear to them that such a power is “justified.”

Another possibility is a “general requirement” that phone and internet companies be required to retain data for an unspecified amount of time to assist police in criminal investigations.

In the submissions reviewed by CBC News, Rogers, TekSavvy and ITAC argued that companies should not have to retain information any longer than is required for business practices, in keeping with the spirit of Canada’s existing privacy legislation.

“We are concerned that a mandated data retention requirement would place all of a service provider’s customers under a generalized air of suspicion of prospective wrongdoing,” TekSavvy wrote in its submission.

“It would communicate that the government wants records kept on all citizens ‘just in case’ they engage in inappropriate activities.”

The companies have also expressed concern that retaining user information for long term periods of time would pose additional privacy and security risks, requiring additional protection from hackers and unauthorized users than if data was deleted more quickly, or not retained at all.

For more than a decade, police and government officials have sought to pass legislation that would require telecommunications providers - and in some cases, application service providers such as Facebook and Google - to build systems capable of intercepting digital communication.

At present, only wiretaps of phone, fax, and text messages are required - and not by law, but as a condition of their licences. The

government argued in its discussion paper this fall that given a current lack of technical interception equipment at many communication providers, the police suffer an “inability to intercept communications [that] can cause key intelligence and evidence to be missed” in the course of investigations.

However, TekSavvy and ITAC say the potential privacy and security risks of lawfully mandated interception systems would be significant, pointing to the potential for such systems to be accessed by hackers, criminals, and other unauthorized parties, which has happened in other jurisdictions in the past.

“To be clear, we do not recommend any expansion of mandated interception capabilities,” TekSavvy wrote.

More so, Rogers, TekSavvy, ITAC, and CWTA say the cost of implementing such systems would be significant and have the potential to stifle innovation and ongoing quality of service. They say the government has provided no technical guidance on how such a system should be implemented, or what its capabilities would have to be.

“It would be critical that the government identify how the related costs, including risks to Canadians in respect of privacy and network security, are justified,” according to ITAC.

Rogers and ITAC also specifically voiced their disapproval of so-called “backdoors” in encryption - secret software modifications designed to give law enforcement access to communications when necessary, but can be exploited by anyone if discovered, thus weakening the security of the software overall.

Notably, Rogers in its submission to the government consultation directly addressed the use of police surveillance devices known as Stingrays, or IMSI catchers, in its submission - the first time the company has spoken publicly about the technique at length.

An IMSI catcher collects information about nearby cellphones and their owners by pretending to be legitimate cellphone towers, tricking those phones into connecting to the fake tower.

For telecommunications companies, the devices can interfere with the normal operating of a network, and in some cases prevent the connection of 9-1-1 calls, which Rogers lists amongst its concerns.

According to Rogers, “it remains unclear as to whether such new tools and devices are permissible under the current legislative framework,” and whether “the use of this technology is in [the] best interest of protecting Canadians.”

The company notes that such devices are not detectable on wireless networks “at this time.” Rogers’s submission calls for “specific consultation” on issues relating to transparency and judicial oversight as it relates to Stingray technology.

Similarly, ITAC highlighted the negative impact such devices can have on telecom networks.

“Prior to introducing these technologies, law enforcement should work with industry

and privacy experts to fully understand impacts and address potential risks,” ITAC’s submission reads.
(CBC News)

Dec 20 2016

VANCOUVER - Allegations of misconduct have been withdrawn against RCMP Const. Amit Goyal more than three years after he was suspended with pay.

Goyal was serving in Osoyoos, B.C., when he was accused of five allegations under the RCMP Act, including making false or misleading statements to a member of a superior rank.

A statement from E Division Deputy Cmdr. Craig Callens says he withdrew the allegations after reviewing information from Goyal’s lawyer that provided different theories that couldn’t be disputed because of contradictory expert information.

Callens says the information hadn’t been available before, and once reviewed he made the decision that there wasn’t a likelihood of proving the allegations against Goyal.

Callens doesn’t say what the allegations were against the officer.

Goyal remains a member of the RCMP, and Callens says given his prolonged absence, efforts will now focus on making sure he meets the required standards and training before his return to duty.

Dec 20 2016

The Canadian government needs to fill more than 200 federal RCMP vacancies in B.C. to help the province deal with its drug overdose crisis, B.C.’s director of police services said Monday.

Clayton Pecknold, who co-chairs the province’s task force on overdose response, credited the federal government with introducing legislation to ease the way for safe consumption sites and prevent the smuggling of opioids into Canada.

“But there’s more they can do,” he said. “We are still down in the number of RCMP officers that we have doing federal drug enforcement in this province. We’d like to see the federal government act quickly on filling those positions.”

Pecknold said the RCMP is supposed to have more than 900 federal officers and civilians handling drug investigations, counter-terrorism and other federal duties in province. As of October, there were only about 700, he said.

The province, meanwhile, has devoted “a considerable amount of money” to its anti-gang Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit and the Organized Crime Agency of B.C., Pecknold said. “So we’re doing our part.”

The RCMP was unavailable for comment, but Scott Bardsley, a spokesperson for federal Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, blamed the problem on the former Conservative government for cutting half a billion dollars from the RCMP’s budget over the past four years.

(Victoria Times Colonist)

Dec 20 2016

ORILLIA - The Orillia OPP detachment is one of five units in the province involved in a pilot project to train officers on how to best use smart technology to build cases against those using websites like Kijiji for criminal purposes.



Insp. Pat Morris told the city’s police services board Tuesday the training will focus on extracting evidence from a site, saving it and data-stamping it so the evidence will be able to be used in court should they be called to testify.

“They’re all technologically savvy,” he said. “This is an investigative tool. It will impact our clearance rates. We’ll be able to extract that data on 22 devices.”

Morris said since the program has just started, it’s too early to identify concrete statistics in terms of the number of perpetrators nabbed thus far under the initiative.

“We are working hard in advising our members on how crime is currently performed,” he said, noting death threats and criminally harassing behaviour are also occurring via the Internet and social media sites more so than in the past.

(Orillia Packet)

Dec 20 2016

BRANDON - Brandon’s police chief is retiring after more than three decades with the Brandon Police Service.



Chief Ian Grant announced at a city council meeting Monday evening that he will retire from the police force on July 3.

Grant joined the Brandon Police Service in 1985 after five years with the RCMP in Manitoba and worked in several units, including traffic, community services and the crime division, Brandon police said.

Grant was also one of the original members of the city’s tactical response unit and led it for seven years, a bio on the police website says.

He has been the city’s police chief since January 2013.

(CBC News)

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 21, 2016**

Dec 21 2016

OTTAWA - Justin Trudeau says his government will ensure security and spy agencies follow the “letter and spirit” of the law, amid mounting concerns they have trampled the privacy of journalists and other Canadians.

In a roundtable interview this week with , the prime minister stressed that national security agencies must protect Canadians but also safeguard the laws and values the public cherishes.

Trudeau’s words come as the Liberal government wraps up a national consultation on federal security policy and they follow two recent episodes that heightened public concern about unwarranted surveillance.

It emerged last month that the Montreal and Quebec provincial police forces had been tracking the communications of several journalists. Only days later, a Federal Court judge found the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had broken the law by keeping and analyzing information about the communications of innocent people - potentially revealing data that was collected during investigations into actual suspects.

There are also nagging questions about whether CSIS has used its considerable powers to monitor media members.

In the interview, Trudeau said the Liberals would “make sure that our security agencies and intelligence agencies obey the letter and the spirit of the laws that frame them.”

Dec 21 2016

CALGARY - Calgary police deputy chief Sat Parhar has been cleared following and ASIRT investigation into allegations of obstruction of justice-and he says he’s glad the nearly two-year investigation has wrapped up.

“Twenty-three months is a long time for something like this and it really reflected on our people,” said Parhar. “It’s a horrible thing because your family is dragged through it, especially when you’re name is made public like that, it’s a hard thing for families to see, friends-I had calls from all over the place.”

Parhar said the length of the investigation speaks to some of the reforms Alberta law enforcement hopes to see with ASIRT in the near future.

In a news release Wednesday, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team said that following an investigation that began in April of this year, Parhar , who was a superintendent at the time of the allegations, has been cleared of “serious and sensitive allegations,” essentially amounting to obstruction of justice.

ASIRT said that in 2015, a CPS member made a formal complaint that on Feb. 19, 2013, they disclosed possible police misconduct to Parhar. The officer claimed that Parhar “deliberately failed to act on the report of mis-

conduct” until a time that an investigation or any disciplinary action would be barred.

The release said Susan Hughson, executive director of ASIRT, had reviewed the evidence and concluded that the allegations were unfounded.

“There is no evidence that the subject of officer deliberately acted to obstruct an investigation,” said ASIRT, adding that an investigation was in fact started and pursued. “There are no reasonable grounds, nor even reasonable suspicion, to believe on the evidence that the subject officer committed any criminal offence.”

ASIRT said its investigation led it to collect evidence that included documenting evidence and GPS data from respective vehicles, which provided “unequivocal and irrefutable evidence,” that there had been a meeting on July 9, 2013, as Parhar had said.

In 2016 ASIRT opened approximately 10 investigations into CPS officer involved shootings. Parhar said he hopes those who are in similar positions to him know they can come to him.

“I hope they can always come to me, but going through it really humbles a person and you really start to understand that this is a tough thing to go through. I’m glad it’s over,” he said.

During Parhar’s ordeal CPS chief, Roger Chaffin, publically stood by and promoted Parhar from superintendent to deputy chief. Parhar said his support was invaluable.

(Metro)

Dec 21 2016

Former constable Patrick Robin will not be getting his job back with the Prince Albert Police Service, Saskatchewan’s highest court has ruled.

The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal’s Dec. 6 decision, made public this week on an online legal database, brings to an end a case that has been winding its way through various hearings and trials for the last six years.

The matter started in 2009 with a complaint about an erratic driver near a soccer field.

After Robin ticketed the man for driving without reasonable consideration for others, the driver complained that he had been rude, which got back to Robin’s boss and upset the officer.

The police wanted Robin to take some coaching from another officer. He went on sick leave for three weeks.

When the traffic court prosecutor decided not to go ahead with the erratic driving case, Robin tried to prosecute it himself without telling his supervisors.

The plan unravelled when Robin tried to claim overtime after subpoenaing himself as a witness.

“The appellant employed subterfuge,” the decision said. “He actively misled his supervisor regarding discussions with the Crown and proceeded without permission, and without advising his superiors of his actions.”

Concerns about Robin went to the Public

Complaints Commission, which handles complaints about police.

When the commission’s investigation concluded, the Prince Albert police chief fired Robin.

He appealed, the case went to a hearing officer and Robin got his job back - although he wasn’t exonerated. He was found guilty under the Police Act of disregarding policies, disclosing confidential information, insubordination, and making false and misleading statements to an investigator.

He was also cited for “wrongfully accusing superior officers and the chief of police of obstructing justice.”

But instead of being fired, he was given a nine-month suspension without pay.

The police chief appealed that decision to the police commission, which reinstated the dismissal, saying Robin was unsuitable for service.

Then Robin appealed, first to the Court of Queen’s Bench and finally to the appeal court. He said the lower court judge had made errors.

In a 22-page decision, appeal court Justice Jacelyn Ryan-Froslic dismissed Robin’s appeal and upheld his firing. Justices Ysanne Wilkinson and Maurice Herauf concurred.

The lower court judge “made no reviewable error in coming to the conclusion that the [police commission’s] decision on penalty was reasonable, that its line of analysis was transparent and intelligible, and that its decision fell within a range of possible, acceptable outcomes,” Ryan-Froslic’s decision concluded.

(CBC News)

Dec 21 2016

DAYTON - Police in Dayton say doctors believe quick thinking by an officer and a tourniquet kit likely saved the life of another officer struck by a motorist on Interstate 75 last week.

Police say Officer Byron Branch is still recovering from extensive injuries he suffered on Friday.

Branch was outside of his cruiser responding to a crash when a driver lost control and struck the rookie officer’s vehicle.

Police Chief Richard Biehl says another Dayton officer used a tourniquet kit on the bleeding officer, saving his life.

Biehl says the kits have been carried by Dayton police officers since 2014 and have been used a handful but never on an injured officer.

(AP)

Dec 21 2016

Quebec announced on Wednesday the creation of a provincial inquiry into relations between First Nations peoples and various government-run bodies.

The inquiry will be led by retired Superior Court justice Jacques Viens and will look into the way indigenous peoples are treated by the police, the province’s youth protection agency, public health department as well as the justice and correctional systems.

Premier Philippe Couillard’s government had been under pressure from the opposition and native groups to launch an independent probe after native women in Val-d’Or accused six provincial police officers of sexual abuse.

A Montreal police investigation into the allegations did not result in any charges against the officers in Val-d’Or, about 530 kilometres northwest of Montreal.

The commission of inquiry will be required to produce a report by Nov. 30, 2018 and will cover the past 15 years.

Testimony will be closed to the public in order to protect witnesses and personal information, said Quebec Justice Minister Stephanie Vallee.

Quebec’s provincial inquiry will run in parallel to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Dec 21 2016

VANCOUVER - Transit Police Chief Doug LePard is ordering a three-fold increase in the number of officers equipped with Tasers as a way of providing an alternative to using guns during critical incidents.



LePard said Wednesday that there are currently about 20 officers trained and equipped with Tasers among the force’s 120 front-line officers. That number should reach 60 during the coming year.

“I want police officers to have that option if it’s appropriate,” he said in an extensive year-end interview. “You never want to be forced to use deadly force if there is an option.”

The directive would mean one officer in every pair would be equipped with a Taser that could be used to subdue a person acting dangerously, while the other officer would stand “lethal overwatch” with a standard-issue Glock handgun.

LePard made the comment in response to the shooting earlier this week of a man armed with a machete-like weapon at the 29th Avenue SkyTrain Station. Transit officers had locked the man inside a train, but he escaped after kicking out a window and was shot by Vancouver police. The man remains in serious condition in hospital but is expected to survive.

Metro Vancouver is the only region in Canada with dedicated transit police.

“I want to ensure there is never a situation in which a transit police officer is dealing with a critical incident like that where they do not have rapid access to a less-lethal option,” LePard said.

(Vancouver Sun)

TORONTO - Ontario Provincial Police are joining the fight to educate the public about the dangers of fentanyl, which has been linked to more than 500 deaths in the province over the past five years.

The force is releasing public service announcements and says it will post or link content to its Facebook and Twitter accounts in an effort to make the public aware of the threats posed by fentanyl and similar opioids.

Police say drug dealers are adding illegally obtained fentanyl to other drugs they sell - like cocaine and counterfeit oxycodone tablets - to increase their profits and this is increasing the number of overdoses and deaths.

An online awareness campaign supported by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police offers information about short-term fentanyl antidotes at www.facethefentanyl.ca.

"OPP members and other first response agencies recognize the devastating impacts of misuse, abuse and distribution of illegal drugs and the growing toll this is taking on the communities we serve," Chief Supt. John Sullivan, commander of the OPP organized crime enforcement bureau, said in a release.

"We continue to do our part to communicate the potentially deadly risks to the public at every opportunity."

The Mounties reached an agreement with China late last month to try and halt the trans-pacific flow of fentanyl into Canada.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson and Chen Zhimin, the vice-minister of China's public security ministry, have agreed to boost efforts to disrupt the flow of the drug and other opioids.

Dec 21 2016

TERRACE, B.C. - A RCMP officer will not spend time in jail for assaulting a teenager in Terrace, B.C., during a violent arrest more than two years ago.

However the suspended sentence handed to Const. Bruce Lofroth by a provincial court judge on Wednesday will mean he'll have a conviction registered against him.

Lofroth must also serve 12 months probation, 100 hours of community service, attend counselling and pay a \$200 fine.

Lofroth pleaded guilty in August to an assault charge after footage of the arrest in May 2014 surfaced online.

The video shows two Mounties kneeling beside the teen who was lying on a sidewalk in the northwestern B.C. city.

An officer wearing black leather gloves punches the young man's body and head and once the boy is handcuffed, the same officer strikes him in the face.

Judge Edmond de Walle said the conviction of the officer was in the public interest so First Nations youth won't fear being abused by other law enforcement officers.

De Walle said he didn't condone the actions Lofroth took during the arrest.

The judge ordered that Lofroth serve his community service by working with First Nations youth.

However, de Walle said a firearms prohibition for the officer was inappropriate.

A spokeswoman from RCMP headquarters in B.C. said she didn't have immediate information on Lofroth's status as an officer.

The Independent Investigations Office, which investigates police-involved deaths and serious injuries, was called in by the commanding officer of the Terrace detachment after video of the incident was revealed.

De Walle was brought into Terrace from out of town to sentence the officer.

(CFMK)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 22, 2016

Dec 22 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police say they've arrested 16 people and laid dozens of charges in a multi-jurisdictional robbery investigation involving two gangs.

Police say the charges pertain to 37 armed robberies of banks and retail stores that took place in and around the Toronto area between May and November.

They say the arrests are also related to 18 vehicle thefts from Toronto, Guelph, Halton and Peel regions.

Police allege the Complex Cripp Gang and Trey Money Gang worked together on the robberies, with members frequently rotating roles in the robberies to avoid detection.

Police say they're continuing to investigate a dozen more robberies and are still hunting for three suspects.

The robbery ring was particularly sophisticated, police alleged, adding that the two gangs joined forces and intermingled freely on the operation.

Dec 22 2016

SURREY, B.C. - The Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia has sent two reports to the Crown for consideration of charges about separate and unrelated deaths involving RCMP officers.

The office says one case involves the Jan. 29, 2015, shooting of 39-year-old Waylon Edey, who lived in Yahk.

He died during a traffic stop at the Kinnaird Bridge in Castlegar.

The other case involves the death of 53-year-old Jacobus Jonker, who died six days after an incident while he was in custody in Smithers on Feb. 15, 2015.

He had been arrested at his home in Smithers a day earlier, but the Independent Investigations Office says he became uncooperative while in custody and lost consciousness during a struggle with officers.

He died in a Victoria hospital on Feb. 21, 2015.

The consideration of charges is a step taken by the Crown when the office's civilian director considers an offence may have been committed under the Police Act or any other legislation.

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DISPATCHES

PROMOTIONS RETIREMENTS RECOGNITION

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