

Message from CAPB President



I would like to thank our members for the honour of serving as your President for another term. Representing CAPB on the national level is a challenge my fellow directors and I look forward to. With the amount of change to the Board and Executive we have experienced in recent years, I believe you will be better served by providing this consistency in leadership. I am very pleased to report that our Executive Committee and other Committees will keep you abreast of emerging and ongoing issues within policing, police governance, legislative changes and other issues impacting policing in Canada. We are also taking an active role in updating the strategic direction of the national association.

As we approach the end of 2009, I would like to reflect on a year that celebrated significant milestones. CAPB marked 20 years of serving a growing membership as the national voice for civilian oversight of police in Canada. Our 20th Anniversary Conference in Sydney was not only the biggest and best on record for CAPB; it was also a chance to commemorate our community of origin, captured by the inspiring

closing presentation delivered by CAPB founding president, Dr. Zaheer Lakhani.

Our partnerships with national organizations and institutions continues to grow and strengthen; witness the participation of Paul Kennedy and the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP; Geoff Gruson, Executive Director of the Police Sector Council and Cal Corley, Chief Superintendent of the Canadian Police College at the 2009 Conference. And to top off a very busy year, CAPB is moving into new office space in downtown Ottawa. The new office is close to Parliament Hill, our partners and stakeholders and this represents a huge step forward in establishing our independence and stability as a national police association.

CAPB has been working with Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) and Canadian Police Association (CPA) since last May to develop a Coalition on Sustainable Policing. CAPB Board members Alok Mukherjee and Emil Kolb together with Fred Biro, Executive Director of Peel Police Services Board, are the champions of this issue on behalf of the association.

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The hypothesis for the Coalition is that a clear point should exist where community needs, government policy, funding sources and policing responses intersect. In the current situation, due largely to changes in all of these related sub-systems, there exists a basic disconnect among these and other elements which comprise the criminal justice system, including judicial processes and decisions, legislation and regulations, special interests and community expectations, and the roles of other actors in prevention and root cause solutions. It is the intention of the Coalition to address these disconnections and to bring the system closer to an intersection among these elements.

To put it in more simple terms, the Coalition's function is to understand, define and achieve agreement on the degree and causes of misalignment in the current policing system. There have been several meetings held and at a meeting at FCM on November 30th in Ottawa, Alok

Mukherjee and Fred Biro made a presentation called "Mixed Messages": Barriers to Sustainable and Effective Policing in Canada. A copy of this presentation will be posted to the CAPB website.

In March 2010, when the CACCP, CPA and CAPB get together in Ottawa for the 9th Annual Joint Meeting; we expect the Sustainability of Policing to be a topic for discussion and that FCM will be invited to take part.

We are receiving responses to the resolutions that were ratified at the AGM in August and sent to federal and provincial ministers and in the next newsletter we will publish these for you. These resolutions form the foundation of our dialogue with politicians, senior bureaucrats and other stakeholders through-out the year.

When we gather in Ottawa in March, we have a meeting set with the Minister of Justice on March 11th and are waiting for a time to be confirmed with the Minister of Public Safety. We will also be meeting the opposition critics and we hope to meet with the leaders of the NDP and Liberal parties.

The House of Commons and Senate are very busy places. When the House adjourned for the winter break, there were 63 Government Bills and 295 Private Members Bills before the House of Commons. The Senate has 7 Government Bills and 44 Senate Public Bills on its agenda. We will continue to monitor legislation and reports and provide updates through our Bulletins and the CAPB website.

We can report that CAPB Resolution 09-04: Reducing Remand Credit And Dead-Time Sentencing that encouraged all political parties to pass Bill C-25; to amend the *Criminal Code of Canada* to prohibit 'two for one' and 'three for one' credit for pre-trial custodial time; received Royal Assent on October 22, 2009 and a date for coming to force should be announced shortly.

CAPB has been active in opposing Bill C-391, a private members bill that is calling for the dismantling of the long-gun registry and all the records it has stored. We lobbied all Members of Parliament prior to the Bill's second reading, and I would like to share with you part of the letter sent to every Member of Parliament.

Today we write to you to express our opposition to Bill C-391. As civilian oversight bodies of municipal policing, we cannot support any attempt to weaken police ability to deal with gun violence, as this bill will surely do, if passed. At a time when gun crime is a serious concern in communities across the country, such an act will be irresponsible and a disservice to the cause of building safe communities. We, therefore, urge you to not treat the bill lightly and to consider the consequences of your action if you are considering supporting it.

This legislation will not only eliminate the need to register more than 8 million rifles and shotguns but it will also require that the existing registration records on long guns be destroyed. CAPB will not stand by legislation that increases the risk for frontline police officers and undermines public safety. We therefore ask you to vote against Bill C-391.

The federal firearms program is considered a vital tool for effective policing. The registry is consulted thousands of times on a daily basis by police services across the country. The point is all firearms are potentially lethal and gun control is a necessary part of an integrated strategy to address violence. The CAPB is proud of Canada's international reputation as a country with effective gun-control legislation and strenuously opposes any legislation that weakens Canada's current firearms registry.

Simply put, without information about who owns guns and the guns they own, there is no efficient way to stop dangerous people from getting firearms.

We reject the notion promoted by certain special interest groups that the gun registry is somehow an intrusion on the rights and freedoms of law abiding Canadians. With respect, there is no right to bear arms in Canada; the ability to do so is a privilege. Like innumerable other laws, regulations and practices that Canadians readily accept, the gun registry provides a reasonable balance between the exercise of an individual privilege and the broader right of the society to be safe.

Please consider this an official request for you to show your leadership by not supporting Bill C-391. There are lives depending on it.

Thanks to CAPB Director Alok Mukherjee and Executive Director Jennifer Lanzon for their work on pulling this together. Subsequent to sending out these letters and media release nationally, Dr. Mukherjee and I both conducted several interviews with the media and as recently as last week, Dr. Mukherjee was part of a podcast debate on the issue that Capital News produced in Ottawa.

A submission is being prepared by CAPB's Law Reform Committee on Bill C-391 and CAPB has asked to appear before the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) when it convenes. The Committee is also having a brief prepared on Bill C-43, An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Criminal Code. We have also made a request to appear before the SECU Committee on this Bill.

Conference planning for the 2010 'Navigating the Future' in Saint John, New Brunswick has been underway since early September. You can expect to see many changes to format, content and style. Our intent is to design sessions so that delegates significantly develop their learning to handle real-life situations, solving problems and building solutions. The 2010 Committee has listened to your feedback and we hope you'll be happy with the results. Draft programs will be sent out in early February.

2010 marks the final year of the CAPB 5 year strategic plan. Strategic planning is a crucial exercise for every organization to measure its effectiveness. In order to assess where the organization is in terms of the goals and directions set in the plan, a board retreat is taking place in Toronto on February 5 and 6th.

One area that CAPB needs to review is the impact of Bill C-4, the Canada Not for Profit Corporations Act, will have on the current By-Laws, Nomination process and board composition. The Bill received Royal Assent in June but is not yet in force. Once it comes into force all non profit organizations will have to comply. We are fortunate to have Barbara Hume-Wright facilitate this exercise and we look forward to sharing a detailed update with you in the spring and at the Annual General Meeting in Saint John.

In closing, I thank you again for allowing my fellow board members and I to serve a second term and I wish you health, happiness and joy in the New Year.



Greg Dionne
CAPB President

CAPB'S NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS



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CAPB'S NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: BILLS UNDER REVIEW BY CAPB LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Justice and Human Rights

**C-42 An Act to amend the Criminal Code
(Ending Conditional Sentences for Property and
Other Serious Crimes Act)**

Bill C-42, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Ending Conditional Sentences for Property and Other Serious Crimes Act) was given first reading in the House of Commons on 15 June 2009.

The bill amends section 742.1 of the *Criminal Code*,⁽¹⁾ which deals with conditional sentencing, to eliminate the reference to serious personal injury offences.

It also restricts the availability of conditional sentences for all offences for which the maximum term of imprisonment is 14 years or life and for specified offences, prosecuted by way of indictment, for which the maximum term of imprisonment is 10 years.

**C-58 An Act respecting the mandatory reporting of
Internet child pornography by persons who provide
an Internet service
Child Protection Act (Online Sexual Exploitation)**

CAPB will review this new legislation with a view to preparing a brief and request standing at the Committee when it meets.

The Government of Canada has tabled legislation that would help enhance Canada's capacity to better protect children against sexual exploitation by making it mandatory for those who supply an Internet service to the public to report online child pornography.

The legislation would help safeguard children by improving law enforcement's ability to detect offences and reduce the availability of child pornography on the Internet.

Under the proposed legislation, suppliers of Internet services to the public would be required to:

- report, to a designated agency, tips that they might receive regarding websites where child pornography may be available to the public.
- notify police and safeguard evidence if they believe that a child pornography offence has been committed using an Internet service that they provide.

Failure to comply with the duties under this Act would constitute an offence punishable by graduated fines of: up to \$1,000 for a first offence; \$5,000 for a second offence; and for subsequent offences the possibility of a

fine up to \$10,000 or six months imprisonment; or both for sole proprietorships. If a corporation fails to comply with its duties under this Act the graduated fine scheme would be up to \$10,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Child Pornography

Child pornography constitutes a serious form of child victimization. Not only are children sexually abused and exploited, but the continuing demand for production and use of child pornography objectifies all children as sexual objects for the sexual gratification of adult predators.

The World Wide Web provides new and easier means for offenders to make, view and distribute child pornography, resulting in a significant increase in the availability and volume of child pornography. There are also reports of an increased demand as well as an increase in material with violent content and/or showing children who are very young.

The *Criminal Code's* existing child pornography provisions prohibit all forms of making, distributing, making available, accessing and possessing child pornography, including through the use of the Internet.

Children are also protected from sexual exploitation through provincial and territorial child welfare legislation, which permits the voluntary reporting of child pornography. The provincial approach adopted in Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia requires all citizens to report all forms of child pornography. The new federal legislation being proposed would provide for a uniform mandatory reporting regime across the country, one that would complement provincial and territorial efforts under their child welfare legislation.

ISPs and other providers of Internet services

The legislation covers more than just "Internet service providers" or "ISPs", terms that are commonly used in relation to those who provide access to the Internet. The legislation would apply to all persons who provide an Internet service to the public. While this does include ISPs, it also includes those who provide electronic mail services, Internet content hosting services and social networking sites.

C-464 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (justification for detention in custody)

This enactment amends the *Criminal Code* to provide that the detention of an accused in custody may be justified where it is necessary for the protection or safety of the accused's minor children. Paragraph 515(10)(b) of the *Criminal Code* is to be replaced by the following: where the detention is necessary for the protection or safety of the public, including any victim of or witness to the offence, or minor children of the accused, having regard to all the circumstances including any substantial likelihood that the accused will, if released from custody, commit a criminal offence or interfere with the administration of justice.

Public Safety and National Security

C-43 An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Criminal Code (Strengthening Canada's Corrections System Act)

Bill C-43 amends the Corrections and Conditional Release Act • to clarify that the protection of society is the paramount consideration for the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) in the corrections process and for the National Parole Board (NPB) and the provincial parole boards in the determination of all cases; • to establish the right of a victim to make a statement at parole hearings; • to expand the information permitted to be disclosed to a victim by the CSC and the NPB including: the name and location of the institution to which the offender is transferred, the reason for a transfer, information about the offender's participation in programs and convictions for serious disciplinary offences and the reason for a temporary absence or a hearing waiver; • to provide that a correctional plan is to include the level of intervention by the CSC in respect of the offender's needs and the objectives for the offender's behaviour, their participation in programs and the meeting of their court-ordered obligations; • expand the range of disciplinary offences to include intimidation, false claims and throwing a bodily substance; • provide consistency as to which offenders are excluded from accelerated parole review; • provide for the automatic suspension of the parole or statutory release of offenders who receive a new custodial sentence and require the NRB to review their case within a prescribed period; and • authorize police officer to arrest without warrant an offender for a breach of a condition of their conditional release. Bill C-43 also makes a consequential amendment to the Criminal Code.

CAPB is currently having a submission prepared in support of Bill C-43 with minor revisions. A copy of this brief will be posted on the CAPB website when it is complete.

C-46 An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Competition Act and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act (Investigative Powers for the 21st Century Act)

CAPB is studying Bill C-46 and C-47 in light of Resolutions approved beginning in 1996 that have dealt with technological change and policing, Lawful Access and the impact of Cybercrime.

While technology has advanced rapidly in the past two decades, law enforcement and national security agencies have faced increased difficulty in protecting the safety and security of Canadians. The *Investigative Powers for the 21st Century (IP21C) Act* will ensure that law enforcement officials have the tools they need to fight crime in today's modern environment by updating certain existing offences as well as creating new investigative powers to effectively deal with crime in today's computer and telecommunications environment.

C-47 An Act regulating telecommunications facilities to support investigations (Technical Assistance for Law Enforcement in the 21st Century Act)

The *Technical Assistance for Law Enforcement in the 21st Century Act* will require service providers to include interception capability in their networks. Requirements to obtain court orders to intercept communications will not be changed by this Act, which will require service providers to supply basic subscriber information to law enforcement agencies and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service on request.

At the Canadian Association of Police Boards meeting in August, Resolution 09-06: Reducing Lawful Access And Electronic Surveillance Deficiencies And Obsolescence was approved requesting the Federal Government pass legislation to amend the *Criminal Code* to require new telecommunications technologies to be intercept-capable, to inhibit intercept 'safe havens' and to modernize electronic intercept provisions. CAPB will be following this legislation closely.

C-391 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act (repeal of long-gun registry)

CAPB is currently preparing a brief against the passing of Bill C-391 and a copy will be posted on the CAPB website when it is complete.

SENATE

Legal and Constitutional Affairs

C-26 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (auto theft and trafficking in property obtained by crime)

Trafficking in stolen property, along with other for-profit criminal activities such as drug trafficking and fraud, has been identified as a primary activity for organized crime.

Auto theft, one form of property crime, impacts more individual Canadians and businesses than any other. The Insurance Bureau of Canada estimates that auto theft costs more than \$1 billion each year, taking into account health care, court, policing, legal and out-of-pocket costs, such as deductibles.

Bill C-26 will give law enforcement authorities and the courts better tools to fight this kind of crime, along with the entire range of activities involved in the trafficking of all types of stolen or fraudulently obtained property.

CANADA-U.S. FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON INTEGRATED CROSS-BORDER MARITIME LAW

ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, ALSO KNOWN AS "SHIPRIDER".

The Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada on behalf of the Honourable Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety, introduced in the House of Commons on November 27, 2009, legislation to implement the Canada-U.S. Framework Agreement on Integrated Cross-Border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations, also known as "Shiprider". The *Keeping Canadians Safe (Protecting Borders) Act* will strengthen cooperative bilateral policing efforts to stem the flow of cross-border criminal activity in shared waterways and further protect community safety and security in Canada.

The coming to force of this legislation will permit specially designated Canadian and American law enforcement personnel to jointly work on marine law enforcement vessels in boundary waters, such as the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, and off both east and west coasts. Working together, these officers will be authorized to enforce the law on both sides of the border to help ensure that criminal organizations no longer exploit shared waterways.

SKEENA-BULKLEY MP NATHAN CULLEN INTRODUCES PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL: "THE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT ACT"

The Civilian Oversight Act would create a Civilian Investigation Service that would be responsible for conducting investigations into cases involving death or serious bodily harm occurring in RCMP custody.

The bill is an attempt to respond to an increasing demand for an independent civilian investigating body, a concern expressed by all corners of society. Civil liberties groups have long called for an end to police self-investigating procedures because of the problems involved, a concern echoed by many police forces, Cullen says.

"We're hearing this from a lot of police officers and people associated with the force now, that in order to maintain and actually rebuild some of the public trust there needs to be greater openness and accountability. Police investigating police has always been problematic, and I think it's been problematic for the force and the public.

Paul Kennedy, the police complaints commissioner, found that, in more than one fifth of the cases he reviewed, officers doing the investigation knew personally the person they were investigating."

NATIONAL NEWS

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PARTICIPATES IN MAJOR SECURITY EXERCISE

Canadian federal officials participated in a large scale security exercise known as National Level Exercise 09 (NLE 09), led by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Canadian officials worked with their international counterparts in an exercise responding to a simulated terrorist attack.

"NLE 09 offered a valuable opportunity to confirm intelligence and information sharing protocols with our partners and strengthen our response to potential threats," said the Honourable Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety. "Participation in this exercise is an example of our government's on-going commitment to the security and safety of Canadians, and making our communities safer. We are pleased to work with our allies on this important exercise."

This exercise involved senior officials of the United States government, as well as participants from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and, for the first time, Mexico. The objective for this exercise differs from previous exercises that practised disaster response and recovery. For NLE 09, the objective was to demonstrate the capability to prevent a terrorist attack from occurring through effective information-sharing and coordination.

Canada has participated in the U.S. National Level Exercises since 2003. It is one of the many preparedness activities that Public Safety Canada organizes across the country on an ongoing basis. Participating in exercises such as this one, and applying the observations and lessons learned, enhances Canada's ability to prevent, manage or mitigate emergencies of all kinds.

TORIES TO FORCE SEX OFFENDERS TO REGISTER LICENCE PLATES

The Harper government, facing complaints that a bill to overhaul the national sex offender registry is too lenient, says it will amend the proposed legislation to force offenders to give police their licence plate numbers upon release from custody.

Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan told a House of Commons committee Thursday that he has changed his mind about excluding vehicle descriptions from his bill, which requires all offenders to automatically sign up upon release from custody, rather than leave it to a judge's discretion.

"The government would accept amendments like that," Van Loan told Liberals and New Democrats who accused him of not going far enough. "When we put forward our bill we chose not to take that step but we also believe taking that step is very legitimate."

Created by the former Liberal government in 2004, the registry requires that sex offenders give police personal information — including their address, phone number, and other contact details — within 15 days of being freed from custody. However, the government said only 58 per cent of offenders are currently required to divulge such information, either because a judge deems they're not a threat or prosecutors forget to ask for registration, the committee heard.

The proposed legislation, which appears to have enough opposition support to pass, would also allow police to tap into the registry for crime prevention, removing current limitations that allows them only to use the database to solve crimes once they have happened.

The public safety committee, which conducted a study earlier this year on the registry before the government tabled its bill, heard repeatedly during public hearings that police are powerless to chase leads arising from car descriptions because vehicle information is excluded from the database.

Van Loan said that while he has misgivings about including vehicle descriptions, he understands the need for police to check out suspicious vehicles that they see cruising around suspicious places, such as schools.

"The pros are that police believe there would be greater ability to deal with urgent situations by having all that information consolidated in one place," he told Canwest News Service.

The federal privacy commissioner's office expressed skepticism, saying that tracking vehicle information would also permit police to keep tabs on innocent bystanders.

"What if someone else is driving the car?" asked spokeswoman Anne-Marie Hayden. She said she expects the office will examine the prospect more closely.

Van Loan acknowledged that including vehicle information could be "casting the net potentially too wide" because vehicles are often driven by several people other than the owner. Also, an offender could resort to registering a car in a family member's name to avoid being tracked, he said.

But he said that the government will amend the bill nonetheless, upon the committee's recommendation, after lobbying from all sides of the political spectrum, including the NDP, Liberals and MPs in his own party.

During hearings last winter, the public safety committee was told that the national registry is turning out to be a bust because it has not been responsible for solving a single crime.

Opponents of the registry say there is no evidence that mandatory inclusion in the registry will make it work better.

The privacy commissioner's office contends that the dismal results thus far raise questions about whether the intrusion on privacy rights is justified in order to protect the public.

There are about 19,000 offenders listed in the database, more than 11,000 from Ontario, which transferred the names from its own provincial registry.

Canwest News Service

TORIES WANT REGISTRY MANDATORY FOR SEX OFFENDERS

The Conservative government fired another broadside at Canada's judges Monday by proposing a new law that removes their discretion to decide whether a convicted sex offender should be listed in the national sex offender registry.

Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan — who denounced the registry as "half useless" because he said it includes only 58 per cent of Canada's sex offenders — said that it will become mandatory for everyone to register with police after serving a sentence.

"I think this is more about sending a message that they mistrust judges," said Frank Addario, president of the Criminal Lawyers Association. "It's a constant drumbeat from this government."

Addario's concerns were echoed by the federal privacy commissioner's office and the Canadian Council of Criminal Defence Lawyers, which said that there is no evidence that registering all sex offenders will make the registry work better.

Moreover, not all sex crimes are equal and somebody could end up having to register with police for life for one misplaced "office kiss" at the company Christmas party, said Brydie Bethell, a lawyer for the CCCDL.

"The proposed automatic inclusions provisions are an incremental attack on judicial and prosecutorial discretion," said Bethell.

"Is it appropriate balance to have somebody on the registry for the rest of their life for committing a sexual assault — that sexual assault being an office kiss?"

Under the existing system, the Crown can make application to a judge for an offender to be included in the registry.

The overhaul of the five-year-old registry comes only months after the Conservatives introduced another bill to eliminate judicial discretion by imposing mandatory minimum prison terms for a variety of drug related crimes. The government also shepherded a bill through the last Parliament to remove judicial discretion when sentencing for gun related crimes.

Addario said that the 58 per cent figure cited by the federal government probably represents all of the serious sex offenders who are in danger of reoffending.

"In my experience, judges are doing a very good job of identifying those cases where there are likely to be repeat offenders or a danger to the public," he said.

Van Loan, while placing blame on judges, also fingered prosecutors, who he said sometimes forget to ask for a sex offender's inclusion on the registry or trade it away as part of a plea bargain.

The bill for automatic inclusion follows a mandatory review of the existing registry at the House of Commons public safety committee, where police told MPs last month that the list has not been responsible for solving a single sex crime since its creation five years ago.

Furthermore, the committee also heard that there is no clear evidence that Ontario's registry, which requires all sex offenders to sign up when they complete their sentences, has made much of a difference either.

A spokesman for the federal privacy commissioner's office said the dismal results thus far raise questions about whether the intrusion on privacy rights is justified in order to protect the public.

"The issue of whether there is demonstrable public safety benefit is very much up in the air," said senior policy adviser Carman Baggaley.

The proposed changes to the national registry also would allow police to tap information if they suspect a crime is about to occur — replacing the current requirement that a crime must already have occurred.

"If police see an individual behaving suspiciously, near a school ground for example, they'll be able to request information from the database," said Van Loan.

The registry, created by the former Liberal government, requires sex offenders to file personal information with police, including their addresses, phone numbers, and other information that allows police to contact them. **Canwest News Service**

PROVINCES WANT FEDS TO HELP PAY FOR OVERCROWDED JAILS

The provinces have asked the Harper government to help them pay for the federal law-and-order agenda, which they say will put extra strain on their overcrowded jails.

Provincial public safety ministers and justice ministers, who gathered in Fredericton for their annual meeting this fall, made the pitch to Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan.

"Any and all of their agenda will have an impact on our jails," said New Brunswick Justice Minister Michael Murphy, the meeting's chairman.

The provinces run jails, which house offenders serving sentences of less than two years. The federal government is responsible for prisons, reserved for terms of two years or more.

Ontario, which has been scrambling to calculate how much federal tough-on-crime initiatives will cost the province, also will push Van Loan for funding. British Columbia is expected to raise concerns, as well.

"It's very important to understand that Ontario has supported many, many of the initiatives of the federal government," said Rick Bartolucci, Ontario's community safety minister, echoing the sentiment of most provinces. "But Ontario has advocated for resources to implement those changes, because they do cost money."

Bartolucci said Ontario estimates its bill at \$19 million for one federal initiative alone: an omnibus bill, passed last year, that would make it more difficult to get bail, and would impose mandatory incarceration for a variety of gun-related crimes.

Van Loan has refused to reveal the total tab for the federal law-and-order agenda, which would put more people in jails and prisons and keep them there longer.

OPINION

CANADA'S LONG-GUN REGISTRY PROTECTS PUBLIC SAFETY, DON'T PASS PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

BY ONTARIO ATTORNEY GENERAL CHRIS BENTLEY *Published December 14, 2009 Hill Times*

Canada's long-gun registry helps to save lives, protect communities, and prevent crime. It is an important public safety resource that our police use every day in the important work they do.

This fall a federal private member's bill to eliminate Canada's long-gun registry has been working its way through Parliament and will soon be considered by a House of Commons committee. As a government that is doing everything in its power to stop the agony caused by gun violence, Ontario urges all federal Members of Parliament to support public safety and stop the bill.

Before a police officer knocks on a door, they want and need to know whether the person behind that door owns a gun. The gun-registry provides police with that valuable and sometimes life-saving knowledge and is one of the reasons why police support keeping it.

Bill Blair, chief of the Toronto Police Service and president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, estimates police in Canada check the gun registry more than 10,000

times a day and that since the gun registry was created in 1998, police have used it over seven million times.

Recently, the registry helped Toronto police uncover a stash of 58 unregistered firearms, including a machine gun and submachine gun. This is just one example of many that underlines the value of the gun registry.

The gun registry has provided over 7,000 sworn statements to support the prosecution of firearms-related crime. These documents help support the arrest of criminals, often before they commit violence. They can also support the seizure of illegal guns, disrupt gang activity, and help prevent theft, violence and home invasions. If this information disappears, judges and justices of the peace will have less information before them, which will mean less support for arrest and search warrants that police need to keep our communities safe.

Support for the gun registry is not limited to the McGuinty government and police. In the past 12 years, eight Ontario coroner's inquests have made recommendations to the federal government calling for gun licensing and registration.

It is important that we track guns in order to know where they are. But the federal government's repeated extensions to the amnesty on long-gun registration means that every year the database becomes less comprehensive and reliable. The amnesty needs to end to ensure police have access to the strongest, most reliable database possible.

The gun registry allows us to trace the origins of guns. It allows us to ensure that all gun owners in Canada are acting responsibly by storing their guns safely and using them appropriately. When guns do get into the hands of criminals, the registry helps us deal with them by identifying the guns as illegal. The result is increased public safety.

As Canadians, we must ensure that we have the best laws in place to allow us to prosecute those who do us harm. In addition, we must ensure that the necessary supports are in place to support those who are victimized by violent crime. The gun registry helps to prevent crime and prevent victimization.

The gun registry does not deny long gun ownership. It only asks that you register. We register our pets, why not our guns. As we mark the 20th anniversary of the terrible tragedy at Ecole Polytechnique and the loss of 14 female students, it is disheartening that the federal government is moving to eliminate the gun registry at the same time.

Now is the time for all who believe in a safe society, all who believe in preventing gun violence, to speak with one loud, clear, resolute voice. Stand up for safe communities. Keep the registry

PROVINCIAL NEWS

NOVA SCOTIA

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE UNIT FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S POLICE SYSTEM

Nova Scotia is developing an independent investigative unit for Nova Scotia's police system, Justice Minister Ross Landry announced today, Nov. 24.

"We are ready to move forward developing a program to bring our justice system to the level of accountability that Nova Scotians have asked for," said Mr. Landry. "We want a model that Nova Scotians trust and can be proud of. Pride in our justice system and accountability to those we serve is what this government continues to strive for."

The province is improving its supervision of the police system and will develop a more accountable and transparent model to investigating police actions when necessary.

"It is our intent to support this new program by funding up to seven positions to ensure a faster process and a team of investigators that can cover all of Nova Scotia," said Mr. Landry.

The province is consulting with the other Atlantic provinces, police agencies and interested groups to develop a model for an Atlantic or a provincial special investigative unit that is arms length from law enforcement agencies.

"From a provincial police perspective, this is a step in the right direction," said Nova Scotia RCMP Chief Superintendent Blair McKnight. "The RCMP is very supportive of enhanced independent review. We look forward to working with the province in developing a model that works for Nova Scotians and ensures a process that is both accountable and transparent."

"Halifax Regional Police fully supports the concept of an independent investigative unit, which will place investigations of serious incidents involving police at arm's length and provide a board that is independent of police agencies," said Halifax Regional Police Chief Frank Beazley. "This process will help to ensure impartiality and transparency and bolster the public's confidence in police."

Many other provinces have independent investigative units that investigate serious incidents, including death or serious injury or public interest concern, resulting from the actions of a police officer, and possibly of correctional officers and sheriffs.

BRIDGEWATER POLITICIAN NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE NOVA SCOTIA POLICE BOARD

Nova Scotia's Association of Police Boards has named Bridgewater's deputy mayor its new president.

David Walker assumed the role during the association's annual meeting in late September. His appointment is a one-year term but he can seek re-election when the term expires. Deputy Mayor Walker previously was the association's vice-president and treasurer.

As president he also becomes one of the province's representatives on the Canadian Association of Police Boards. Deputy Mayor Walker said his new role allows him to provide leadership to the province's 12 municipal police boards and to keep them up to speed on what's happening on the national level.

He said he also expects to make Nova Scotia's justice minister aware of policing concerns and issues on the agendas of the provincial boards.

HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE'S MCNEIL NAMED PRESIDENT OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

Halifax Regional Police's deputy chief has been appointed president of the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association.

Chris McNeil was named to the role last month and will correspond with all members of the association to get their views on mutual issues and will represent their interests in dealings with government, including the Department of Justice. "I am confident Deputy McNeil will serve the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association very well during his tenure, and represent the interests of all of its members with vigour," Halifax Regional Police Chief Frank A. Beazley said in a release.

McNeil has been an executive committee member for the past four years, first a secretary then vice-president. He's been a police officer for the past 27 years.

NEW BRUNSWICK

INTELLIGENCE-LED POLICING HAS ALLOWED THE SAINT JOHN POLICE FORCE TO ACHIEVE DOUBLE-DIGIT DROPS IN CAR THEFTS AND BREAK AND ENTERS THIS YEAR.

A report on a new program called intelligence-led policing, a crime reduction business model, was presented to the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners Wednesday night. Car thefts for 2009 are projected to be down 15.5 per cent over last year and break and enters by 27.4 per cent, both 10-year lows, said Deputy Chief Darrell Scribner. "We are so pleased that at this point in time this is what our report card looks like," he said.

While stealing cars and break and enters were the only two areas targeted by the new program, there was an unexpected benefit in another crime category, arsons, which are down 31 per cent. "The fact that the cars aren't stolen means they are not burned, so arsons are down," Scribner said.

Police departments collect huge amounts of data and now they have found ways to use it to help prevent crime, instead of just reacting when crime occurs. "My job is to add meaning to data," said James Stewart, a crime analyst with the police department.

One of the tools he uses is crime mapping and a computer program that takes into account that once a property is broken into, the probability of another crime in the area rises. Stewart showed the commissioners a map he created last summer during a rash of robberies of bars and convenience stores that took place over a couple of weeks. "We looked at all the data, we looked at all the patterns," he said. "We actually went out and looked at the targets that were hit." That allowed him to come up with a pattern for how the victims were chosen, so he filed a report predicting where the next crime would be.

"We were able to predict the day, the time and the location of the last robbery and we made a prediction of where we believed the offender lived and we were right," he said. The kind of analysis he uses is also helpful for reducing traffic accidents. By tracking accidents according to time of day and location, the police department can now send officers out to patrol the trouble spots and reduce the number of incidents.

Another prediction Scribner made as a result of the new focus on data and sharing of information throughout the police department is that domestic crimes will drop this year. Earlier this fall the officer in charge of the family protection section of the department viewed a list of people about to be arrested as part of the drug bust called Operation Portland, and noted many of them were the same people his section dealt with on a regular basis, Scribner said.

"So we ran this operation, which was a drug operation, and we are going to reduce our crimes of family violence over this year, which is something we don't normally do," Scribner said. "It's a collateral plus, plus, plus."

Police were able to reduce the number of car thefts by observing that the vast majority happen to people who leave their keys in their cars and don't lock their doors. They may not leave the key in the ignition but an extra set is somewhere in the car so that criminals who roam around and go through open cars find them.

Police promoted the lock-it and pocket-it program in Saint John this year, encouraging people to take their keys and this has resulted in a drop in car thefts.

The break and enters were reduced by looking at the patterns of where they were occurring and sharing with people the need to get extra security because of the fact that once a break in occurs another is likely.

Police Chief Bill Reid also gave credit to the fact that the methadone drug treatment program was made more widely available in the city, allowing more people to get off the addiction roller coaster that leads them to commit crimes to pay for drugs.

Telegraph-Journal

ONTARIO

GROUND BREAKS ON NEW TRAINING COLLEGE IN TORONTO

Shovels broke ground in October for the new state-of-the-art TPS Training & Education facility in south Etobicoke. The \$60 million facility will train new recruits and those already on the job on everything from tactical to investigative training.



Construction on the 300,000-square-foot training centre at 70 Birmingham St., near Islington Ave. and Lake Shore Blvd., is slated to start in early 2007. The new facility will replace the existing Charles O. Bick College when it's completed in 2009.

Chief Bill Blair said a great neighbourhood is about to inherit an extraordinary facility. "It tells the people of Toronto of our commitment to keep Toronto safe," the Chief said, during the Oct. 6 ground-breaking ceremony.

Supt. Kenneth Cenzura, Chief William Blair, TPSB Chair Alok Mukherjee and Mayor David Miller break ground for the new training facility

"We intend to be good neighbours," he said, of the hundreds of officers who will come to the building daily for the latest in police training. Part of the facility will also be a substation for 22 Division. Three firing ranges, 50 to 100 metres in length, will draw officers from other police agencies to train. The facility will also boast a 300-person auditorium, 28 classrooms, two gymnasiums and a tactical training village for real-life scenarios.

Training & Education unit commander Supt. Ken Cenzura said his staff have contributed greatly to the design so that the building suits the Service's future needs. "In my view, it's not only going to be state-of-the-art, but very practical because it's designed by the people who work in training," Cenzura said. "It will be seen as a beacon for police training in Ontario and across Canada."

Mayor Miller said the new college will guide new officers to the job. "This training facility is of critical importance so that those new officers receive the extensive training they need," Mayor Miller said. "It will ensure the Toronto Police Service stays in the forefront of policing."

Scarborough's Charles O. Bick College, named after the first chair of the Metropolitan Board of Commissioners of Police, was an exceptional training ground for 30 years but the needs of policing have evolved, said current TPSB chair Alok Mukherjee. "There is an ever-increasing demand for skills and knowledge," said Mukherjee, of the job of policing that grows more complicated with the advent of better technology. "This building represents one of the most important investments we can ever make."

ONTARIO LEGISLATION TO EASE CROSS-BORDER POLICING

Police officers looking to visit Ontario as part of an investigation will have an easier time if legislation introduced Wednesday is passed, said the province's public safety minister, who is touting "seamless policing" across provincial barriers. Rick Bartolucci said the new law, if passed, will streamline a "cumbersome" process.

Out-of-province officers now have to jump through bureaucratic hoops if they wish to come into Ontario to work. The process involves applying to a police services board or the Ontario Provincial Police commissioner then obtaining personal approval from the minister. They are then sworn to an oath.

The new legislation doesn't apply to car or foot pursuits that cross into neighbouring provinces. A 1983 Supreme Court decision gave police the power to continue chases across provincial borders.

However, police conducting ordinary criminal investigations are not automatically recognized as peace officers in host provinces. They must, therefore, go without additional powers and protections granted to police under the Criminal Code. Those powers include the use of force, as well as the ability to break the law under certain circumstances, including, for example, allowing undercover agents to carry drugs, said University of Ottawa law professor David Paciocco.

The changes to the law will mean additional oversight for visiting officers. They would be subject to investigation by the Special Investigations Unit as well as the public complaints process.

Similar legislation exists in Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. Quebec will pass its own bill this fall, according to officials.

NEW FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION UNIT OPENS

A new Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) forensic identification services unit officially opened in Thunder Bay last month. The state-of-the-art, 13,500-square-foot building provides the OPP and Thunder Bay police with advanced tools to analyse evidence, solve crimes and keep northern communities safe. It includes:

- A biohazard/chemical laboratory and bloodstain room for blood spatter examination

- Modern fingerprinting technologies
- A specially designed heating, ventilation and air conditioning system to reduce exposure of personnel to harmful chemicals.

VETERAN TORONTO OFFICER HAMILTON'S NEW POLICE CHIEF

Glenn De Caire was recently sworn-in as the 34th Chief of Hamilton Police Service. Chief De Caire takes over as head of the six largest police service in the province and becomes the 34th Chief of Hamilton Police. A 29-year veteran of Toronto Police, the 47 year-old was the Staff Superintendent in Central Field Command. In this role, he manages the operation of nine police stations delivering front line services in the City of Toronto. He oversees 2,000 officers and civilians and a \$205 million budget.

Chief De Caire has progressed through the ranks of the Toronto Police Service. Since 2001 he has been a Senior Officer and it was in 2005 when he was appointed as a Staff Superintendent.

Glenn De Caire is a graduate of York University holding a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies. He also holds two university certificates; Human Resources Management from York University and Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia. In 2001, Glenn graduated from the 207th Session of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. He is a Level III, Certified Municipal Manager from the Ontario Municipal Managers Institute and also holds the designation of Professional Manager from the Canadian Institute of Management. He also completed the University of Toronto - Rotman School of Business – Police Leadership certificate in 2008. He is a member of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police.

Hamilton Police Service provides policing services to over 518,000 residents. As the sixth largest police service in Ontario, it deploys 787 police officers and 273 civilian members. In 2008, HPS responded to over 80,000 calls for service. The Hamilton Police Services Board is the civilian body responsible for governing the Hamilton Police Service. It works with its Chief to assure a strong and clear commitment to the provision of responsive police service to the over 518,000 residents of the Hamilton community it serves.

THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW DIRECTOR (OIPRD)

The Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) opened in Ontario on October 19, 2009. The OIPRD is an arms-length agency of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, staffed entirely by civilians. The OIPRD is accountable to the Attorney General, but the Independent Police Review Director is responsible for the day-to-day decisions.

This means their decisions are independent, and they are separate from the government, the police and the community.

The OIPRD's goal is to provide an objective, impartial office to accept, process and oversee the investigation of public complaints against Ontario's police. In some cases the OIPRD will also investigate a public complaint.

Want to know more about the OIPRD?

In addition to processing and investigating public complaints, the OIPRD is responsible for setting up and administering the public complaints system. This includes:

Oversight

The OIPRD's oversight role begins with the receipt of a public complaint and continues to the end of the investigation. The Chiefs of Police and Commissioner of the OPP are still responsible for discipline of police officers and holding disciplinary hearings.

Systemic Reviews and Audits

The OIPRD will work to identify and offer solutions to systemic or ongoing issues within the police service and will be responsible for performing audits to ensure the complaints system is being administered effectively.

Education and Outreach

The office is responsible for teaching the public and the police about the complaints system. The OIPRD also needs feedback from the public – both community members and police – who have been involved in the public complaints process.

OPP STAFFING MODEL WINS INTERNATIONAL PRAISE

The OPP Career Development Bureau was the recipient of an award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) at its annual conference recognizing a partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

The OPP and RCMP were jointly honoured with the IACP 2009 Excellence in Law Enforcement Research Award for the research and development of a Police Resourcing Model (PRM), which is currently being utilized by both agencies.

"The RCMP and OPP committed to cooperating to develop and implement a new human resource methodology to enhance front line service delivery", says OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino. "A key aspect of this commitment was built upon our existing partnership to create the staffing model that ensures we can best allocate our limited human resources.

"IACP recognition confirms that the OPP successfully collaborates with our law enforcement partners, while doing what is necessary to deliver on our public safety mandate," adds Commissioner Fantino. "The Police Resourcing Model has been an organizational priority for the OPP, and has been met with support from contracting partners, police associations and front line officers."

The OPP was also presented with two IACP awards for its Provincial Traffic Safety Program at the IACP Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado.

HUGE IMPROVEMENT FOR OTTAWA POLICE NEW STATSCAN REPORT FINDS FORCE NO. 2 IN CRIME-SOLVING AMONG BIG CITY DEPARTMENTS

BY IAN MACLEOD, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

An overhaul of the way Ottawa police work has elevated the department to the No. 2 spot among big city police at solving crimes, a new national policing report is expected to show.

The first-ever "weighted clearance index" to be released today by Statistics Canada calculates not only the percentage of crimes solved or "cleared," but assigns credit for the severity of offences knocked off police books by charge or otherwise.

By that yardstick, Ottawa is expected to place second among nine major departments for 2008. It ranks 14th among 17 urban Ontario forces. Still, that's up from a dead-last urban Ontario finish in 2007 under the old system, based solely on the percentage of crimes solved. The upswings are credited to new ways police in Ottawa investigate and tabulate certain crimes.

Robbery investigations, for example, previously belonged to the major crime squad, but would be pushed aside by homicides and the like. Now, robbery cases go to a dedicated unit and the clearance-rate has soared to 39 per cent for 2009 year-to-date third quarter, from 23 per cent in 2006.

The biggest change is yet to come. If approved by Chief Vern White, minor offences that do not meet new "solvability" criteria will no longer be counted in the crime statistics supplied to Statistics Canada's for its annual benchmark report on crime and police performance. In other words, Ottawa police want to be judged on the crimes they at least try to solve, not every two-bit incident reported to them. Other police forces do the same.

Ottawa traditionally has an enviable crime rate and police have a good reputation for solving violent crimes.

But with 52 per cent of Criminal Code offences here falling into the relatively minor categories of mischief and theft under \$5,000, including thefts from vehicles, thousands of crimes that police typically do not even investigate are counted against them in the clearance-rate sweepstakes, a crucial measure of police efficiency.

Under the proposed switch to solvability criteria, a homeowner complaint about stolen Christmas lights, for example, would no longer automatically be reported as a crime to Statistics Canada's Centre for Justice Statistics, which publishes an annual Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. The same goes for random minor thefts from vehicles that aren't assigned to investigators unless a neighbourhood trend or some other "solvability factor" surfaces.

What's more, police are expecting to soon develop a protocol with gas companies requiring all customers to pre-pay before filling up. There have been about 600 non-payment "drive-offs" this year and cases where the motorist can be identified and contacted typically consume an average of four hours of police time. The majority, say police, are people who simply forgot to pay.

Under the proposed plan to use solvability factors to "triage" crime calls to the department's call centre, all incidents, no matter how minor, will continue to be documented with an occurrence report for possible investigation, insurance claims and reviewed for crime analysis purposes.

For Kevin Mason, manager of the department's Problem Crime Analysis Unit, such information is gold. "And from a community perspective, it's very important to validate the fact that there is crime occurring, whether it's solvable or not," he says. Clearance-rate controversies have dogged Ottawa police since 1987 when the Ontario government ordered a

review of the department's dismal 11-per-cent record at solving a high number of break-ins, half the national clearance-rate average.

Through the early and middle years of this decade, police continued to have the lowest, or near-lowest, rates of solving crimes among major Ontario force and middling performances compared to major police forces nationally. Beginning in 2003, then-chief Vince Bevan became concerned and suggested part of the problem was that Ottawa made it too convenient to report minor crimes.

As one of the few force's with a dedicated call centre, the higher volume of crime complaints left the service in an unfavourable position compared to forces with no call centres and lower crime volumes. For example, Ottawa recently had 22,000 reports of mischief, theft under \$5,000 and thefts from vehicles, the highest in the province. Peel Regional Police, in second place, recorded 4,000 fewer such calls. By 2005, the overall clearance rate in Ottawa slumped to 27 per cent, down three percentage points from 2004 and one of the lowest in the province and the country. Again a year later, "we were in very bad shape" recalls Skinner. Police then launched a "solvency project" to improve crime-fighting efficiency.

One of the first moves was to review 36,000 "unsolved" cases. A common issue that surfaced was the way call centre operators classified some complaints. A report of a missing wallet, for example, would be recorded as a theft when, in fact, it may simply have been lost. The review caught enough reporting errors to boost the overall clearance rate by three percentage points. Problems with delayed paperwork, especially instances of solved cases being recorded as unsolved, also have been fixed.

The solvency project went on to issue 34 recommendations, with favourable results:

The overall clearance rate for the first three quarters of 2009 stood at 35 per cent, down one percentage point from 2008, but up from 31 per cent in 2007. Break-in investigations are now handled by specialized investigators stationed in the different police divisions across town.

In October, they came under the centralized command of a single senior officer. Burglars don't respect geographical boundaries and police say a central command will improve their ability to spot problems and deploy investigators and surveillance teams accordingly.

The B&E clearance rate for the first three-quarters of this year was 22 per cent, up from a meagre 12 per cent in 2006. The volume of crimes such as prostitution, gambling and drug possession are all largely enforcement driven, with the number of such crimes directly correlating to the number of arrests. They should also, therefore, have a 100-per-cent clearance rate.

Yet for various reason, some weren't being cleared. The same was happening with some complaints of partner assault, which by definition involve a victim and an assailant, and should be straightforward to classify as solved, even if charges aren't laid. When an individual is charged with a crime and fails to appear in court, a bench warrant is issued and a charge of failing to appear is laid. Unlike the past, police now categorize the incidents as "solved," since it is obvious there has been a crime and by whom. There were 2,065 failures to appear last year, which will translate into a four percentage point increase in the clearance-rate.

Statistics Canada's new severity weighting is an extension of the crime severity index (CSI) introduced this year by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The CSI tracks changes in the severity of crime reported to police by accounting for both the volume of crimes and their relative seriousness. By comparison, the old traditional crime rate, the overall number of crimes divided by population, counted a homicide the same as a theft.

MANITOBA

CITY DISSOLVES POLICE ADVISORY BOARD, PAVING WAY FOR NEW COMMISSION

City council has voted to dissolve the Winnipeg Police Advisory Board to make way for a new police commission that will be created as soon as next year. Mayor Sam Katz announced the creation of the police board during his State of the City address in 2007, but it will become redundant once the police commission starts up. The province ordered Manitoba municipalities to set up civilian police commissions as part of the rewriting of the Manitoba Police Act. The council vote was unanimous. St. Vital Coun. Gord Steeves, who sat on the police advisory board, praised the body for its work over the past two years.

PROVINCE PROCLAIMS BODILY FLUIDS ACT TO PROVIDE NEW PROTECTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Emergency responders, health-care providers and good Samaritans have new protection and peace of mind when providing medical care or responding to a crime scene, fire or accident following the proclamation of the Testing of Bodily Fluids and Disclosure Act, Health Minister Theresa Oswald announced in September.

"This new act supports Manitobans who put their own safety at risk to help others," said Oswald. "Our front-line workers in health care and emergency response, good Samaritans and victims of crime now have a new tool to quickly determine if their own health has been put at risk." "We appreciate the Doer government's leadership role in recognizing the situation firefighters are put in on a daily basis," said Alex Forrest, president of the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg. "Passage of this bill goes a long way toward giving us peace of mind when we're facing situations where infectious diseases pose a real threat."

"This act will help protect the health and safety of our emergency services personnel," said Winnipeg Police Service Chief Keith McCaskill. "It is vitally important to assure the health of our employees when they've potentially been exposed to infectious diseases." "Every day, paramedics and other emergency workers face the very real possibility of personal exposure to bodily fluids as a result of trying to help people in need," said Eric Glass, chair of the Paramedic Association of Manitoba. "While the chance of infection following such exposures may be small, it is not insignificant. The uncertainty and potential health risks faced by emergency services personnel and their families following these exposures can have serious consequences. This legislation will help address these issues and allow paramedics to make more informed decisions."

An individual can apply for a testing order if they are exposed to the bodily fluids of another person:

- while performing duties as a firefighter, paramedic or peace officer;
- while performing duties as a nurse or health-care aide;
- while providing emergency health services or first aid; or
- as a result of being a victim of crime.

This act creates a faster process to allow a judicial justice of the peace to determine if a testing order is warranted. A testing order can be issued if a judicial justice of the peace believes the applicant has been exposed to a bodily fluid from someone they have treated or dealt with who has refused to volunteer for testing. For an order to be issued, the applicant's health must be considered to be at risk due to the nature of the exposure. Once the order is issued, the source individual will have 24 hours to register an objection to the order. Manitoba is the only province with a process for an expedited order.

Testing will be done to determine if there has been an exposure to communicable diseases including HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Results will be provided to the applicant's physician and the source person's physician to communicate to their patient. If either the source person's or the applicant's physician is unknown, the result will be sent to the appropriate medical officer of health.

WINNIPEG ANTI-AUTO THEFT INITIATIVE EARNS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Winnipeg Auto Theft Suppression Strategy (WATSS) was a finalist for the 2009 Centre for Problem-Oriented Policing Goldstein Award, Attorney General Andrew Swan, Winnipeg Police Service Chief Keith McCaskill and Manitoba Public Insurance president and CEO Marilyn McLaren announced today.

"This recognition is a tribute to everyone whose ideas, dedication and professionalism made this unique partnership succeed beyond all expectations," said Swan. "Working together, a serious crime has been curbed significantly, our streets have been made safer and justice comes more swiftly to those who offend."

"Exceptional work has been done within WATSS and I am really glad to see that this has been acknowledged in such a meaningful way,"

said McCaskill. "Auto theft is not just a property crime. It's an important public safety issue that requires continued attention and we remain committed to addressing auto theft."

"Manitoba Public Insurance's immobilizer program is a key part of WATSS and we estimate the strategy has helped save our customers more than \$102 million in claims, making it possible to reduce premiums for rate payers," said McLaren.

The award is named for Prof. Herman Goldstein of the University of Wisconsin Law School. He conceived of and developed the theory of problem-oriented policing, which consists of innovative and effective policing projects that have achieved

measurable success in resolving recurring specific crime, disorder or public safety problems faced by police and the community.

Since 2005, WATSS has reduced auto theft in Winnipeg by over 70 per cent, resulting in 9,000 fewer vehicle thefts and attempts in 2009 than took place in 2004. The result is improved safety on Winnipeg streets, reduced strain on police resources and substantial reductions in auto theft claims. Keeping 9,000 vehicles from being stolen saved MPI approximately \$25 million in claims in just one year, said McLaren.

Partners in the program said high levels of co-ordination and co-operation between partner agencies are critical to achieving success in the WATSS model. Components of WATSS include intensive community supervision by probation workers, strict enforcement by the Winnipeg Police Service and its stolen auto unit, swift action in court through specialized Crown attorneys, compulsory vehicle immobilizers and programs for youth.

There were 44 submissions for this year's award. WATSS was one of six finalists in the worldwide competition. The winner was the Chula Vista Police Department in San Diego County, Calif. Remaining finalists do not receive further rankings. The last time a Canadian submission was selected as a finalist for the award was in 2002.

DRIVING PRIVILEGES FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS WOULD BE CURBED WITH PROPOSED HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT CHANGES

People convicted of drug trafficking who drove a motor vehicle to commit the offence would face suspensions of their licence to drive under a proposed new provision of the Highway Traffic Act introduced today by Attorney General Andrew Swan.

"The police tell us the use of motor vehicles has become an integral part of drug trafficking, especially in what is known as dial-a-dealer operations," said Swan. "This legislative change would see the licences suspended of those who have abused the privilege of driving in order to deal drugs."

Under the proposed legislation, those convicted of a drug-trafficking offence involving driving would have their driver's licence suspended for one year for a first conviction, five years for a second conviction, 10 years for a third conviction and for life on a fourth or subsequent conviction. Not all of the previous convictions would need to be for drug trafficking. Under existing licence suspension provisions, certain other offences such as impaired driving or driving while disqualified count in determining who is a repeat violator.

The suspension would combat drug crime not only by keeping a person from driving, but also by preventing them from renting a vehicle, said Swan. A valid licence is required to rent a vehicle, and this would prevent drug traffickers from using rental cars to maintain their anonymity and to avoid vehicle forfeiture provisions of existing laws.

Police checking the licence plate of a vehicle will know if the registered owner is a suspended driver, providing an opportunity for police to stop someone suspended for drug trafficking from driving his or her vehicle to commit further drug-trafficking offences, the minister added.

No other federal or provincial law allows for driver's licence suspensions as a consequence for drug trafficking where the offence is committed using a vehicle.

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES MILESTONE MARKED IN SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

A program that helps shut down activities at drug dens, sniff houses and prostitution operations has now taken action on more than 400 properties, Manitoba Attorney General Andrew Swan announced today.

"This program has been instrumental in putting an end to entrenched behaviour that robs people of a sense of safety. It helps citizens reclaim ownership of their neighbourhoods and returns to them a sense of pride," said Swan.

The Public Safety Investigations (PSI) unit deals with complaints made under the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act and the Fortified Buildings Act. The acts make property owners accountable for specific activities that threaten safety and security in Manitoba neighbourhoods.

The legislation was the first of its kind in Canada and is the standard upon which a number of other provinces and territories have modelled programs of their own.

The 11-person unit works closely with police and other agencies. Along with shutting down properties that have been the base of drug trafficking, prostitution, sniff sales and other serious crimes, PSI's work has helped lead to 122 police arrests, the rescue of a number of vulnerable children, the seizure of more than \$2 million in illegal drugs and the dismantling of five marijuana grow operations and drug production facilities. Thirty-five operations were closed by other agencies and 28 complaints were referred to other agencies for action.

PSI has also successfully pursued action under the Fortified Buildings Act. Forty inspections have led to the removal of fortifications that pose a threat to public safety at 34 buildings including gang hangouts and drug houses.

SASKATCHEWAN

SASKATCHEWAN TO GET NEW CANINE OFFICER POSITION

On December 1, 2009, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing Minister D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert signed a Letter of Understanding with the RCMP for the use of a full-time drug dog in our provincial correctional centres.

The province has agreed to provide the RCMP with funding for a new canine officer position to be based out of Meadow Lake. In turn, the ministry will then have access to full-time drug dog services from that position, and others based out of Regina, Prince Albert and the Battlefords. These RCMP Police Service dog teams will conduct regular, routine searches in our correctional facilities and seize any illegal drugs discovered during those searches.

Since late 2007, the ministry has been using the services of trained dogs to conduct periodic, random searches of our correctional facilities to crack down on drug use and trafficking. This partnership with the RCMP will enhance those services and allow for the use of drug dogs on a regular full-time basis.

"Over the past two years this Government has made much progress in reducing the flow of illegal drugs in our correctional facilities," Huyghebaert said. "The regular use of a fully trained police dog will continue to help us to meet our mandate commitment of cracking down on drugs in jails."

"This initiative will allow the RCMP to strategically place a Police Service Dog team in an area of the province that requires this resource," Provincial Support Services Officer, RCMP 'F' Division Inspector Garth Patterson said. "The trained team will be able to assist the Correctional Facilities, as well as respond to calls for service to the RCMP detachments and communities in the area. This specialized resource will enhance our service delivery regarding safe homes and safe communities."

This new position is expected to be staffed by spring 2010 with a yearly operating cost of \$130,000 dollars.

GOVERNMENT HELPS VICTIMS OF CRIME COLLECT RESTITUTION

The Government of Saskatchewan has launched a pilot program to help victims of crime collect restitution from offenders. The voluntary Restitution Civil Enforcement Program (RCEP), the first program of its kind in Canada, is being run by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General as a six-month pilot project in the Regina and Yorkton areas. Restitution is compensation that the courts have ordered paid to an individual or business that has been the victim of a crime.

"We believe this program will help victims of crime, while sending a strong message to offenders," Justice Minister and Attorney General Don Morgan said. "The goal is to get victims the money they're entitled to, according to a court order."

Notices offering assistance in collecting court-ordered restitution are being sent out to eligible victims of crime in Regina and Yorkton. Once victims register their restitution orders with the Ministry's Fine Collection Branch, collection officers will be assigned to help collect unpaid restitution. Enforcement may include garnishment of wages, seizure of property or reporting of offenders to credit bureaus.

"Being a victim of crime is a traumatic enough experience," Morgan said. "Our government wants to ensure Saskatchewan people are not victimized a second time by offenders who are unwilling to comply with the restitution orders handed down by the courts."

The pilot program will run until the end of April, 2010, at which time a decision will be made whether to implement RCEP province-wide.

POLICY TOUGHENED ON PROSECUTION OF REPEAT DRUNK DRIVERS

Effective December 11, more repeat drunk drivers will be looking at jail terms. The Public Prosecutions Division of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General in Saskatchewan has revised their policy on when jail time would be sought in cases of repeat drunk drivers. Current policy states that if someone has had a prior conviction within two years, or two

convictions within the four previous years, Prosecutions would proceed by "second conviction" which includes a minimum 30-days jail term. Two prior convictions within two years or three within four would lead to "subsequent conviction" proceedings, which includes a minimum 120-day jail term.

The new policy would extend the history of offenses back to include one prior conviction within five years or two within ten for "second conviction", and two prior convictions within five years or three within ten to bring the longer jail term associated with "subsequent conviction". The policy change casts a wider net if either the new or the previous incidents of drunk driving caused bodily harm or death, as well as covering driving while disqualified offences. "Drinking and driving causes great pain and loss and the greater deterrence measures are welcome," Justice Minister and Attorney General Don Morgan said.

A committee of prosecutors headed by Mr. Glen Herman, Q.C., Regional Crown Prosecutor for Swift Current, examined policies in effect in other provinces and territories, and subsequently recommended this approach. This approach would be among the strictest in the country

CHILD PROTECTION UNIT MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PRINCE ALBERT

Prince Albert police and child protection workers say the city's new integrated child protection unit has been making a difference in the lives of at-risk children and families.

The unit was established in May at the headquarters of the Prince Albert Police Service, and is staffed by two police officers and two child protection workers from the Ministry of Social Services. The unit responds immediately to reports of physical and sexual abuse of children, and unit staff members remain the lead investigators and child protection workers. Joint case planning and decision-making is also immediate and ongoing.

"We are extremely pleased to have partnered with the Prince Albert Police on this important initiative on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society," Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer said. "There is no greater concern than the protection of our children, and our government is committed to ensuring that children across Saskatchewan are able to grow up in safe, nurturing homes and communities."

"The creation of this unit has led to enhanced communication and co-operation between city police and the Ministry of Social Services," Prince Albert Chief of Police Dale R. McFee said. "The result is more prompt, thorough, and comprehensive investigations of child protection issues in Prince Albert, and enhanced child welfare services to the people of our community."

Prince Albert became the third city in the province to establish an integrated child protection unit, following Regina and Saskatoon. Since its establishment four months ago, the unit has expanded to include a dedicated prosecutor. Prince Albert's integrated child protection unit is the first in Saskatchewan to be located in a police building.

ALBERTA

LETHBRIDGE OFFICER TO HEAD INTELLIGENCE NETWORK

A veteran local police officer has been placed in charge of the provincial intelligence-sharing network which helps police throughout Alberta combat organized crime.

Sgt. Dave Maze, a 23-year Lethbridge regional police officer will assume his new position Nov. 2 as director of the Criminal Intelligence Service of Alberta (CISA). During the past seven years as head of the local police intelligence unit, Maze has been involved in the establishment of a joint-force intelligence unit for all of southwest Alberta including officers from 13 regional RCMP detachments, Blood Tribe Police and Taber police.

The joint intelligence unit has since become a model for police agencies in and around other Alberta cities including Medicine Hat and Fort McMurray, he said. "We've been able to set it up as a broad model for how an intelligence unit should be developed in a city this size," he said. Maze has been appointed on a two-year secondment, which means he will remain a member of local police but his salary will be covered by CISA. He will be based in Edmonton but plans to commute to his home in Lethbridge on weekends.

A provincial branch of the Canadian Intelligence Service, CISA is a partnership between the provincial solicitor general's department and municipal police services in Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Camrose as well as RCMP in communities across the province.

In 2004, CISA launched the Alberta Public Safety Network (APSNet), a computer database which provides local cops with access to the investigative files of their counterparts in other communities. CISA also prepares intelligence reports which, for example, can help police recognize members of organized crime groups who show up in their communities and can

provide details on how particular groups typically operate.

"We cannot work in isolation. The organized crime groups don't work in isolation, and we can't either," he said.

"Investigators can get a full picture of who they're dealing with very quickly. The more complete picture we have . . . the more effective we can be in disrupting the illegal activities they're involved in."

Maze is the second Lethbridge regional police officer to be named to the post. In 2003, then Insp. Ian Cameron became the first officer from outside Calgary or Edmonton appointed CISA director. Cameron returned to the local police service in 2005 and retired from policing in 2006.

"The next logical step for me . . . was to have an effect on intelligence services at a provincial level," Maze said. "I feel very fortunate to be able to represent southern Alberta and especially the Lethbridge Regional Police Service at the provincial level."

SPECIAL CALGARY POLICE SQUAD TO TARGET FAMILY VIOLENCE

Calgary police are teaming up with social workers in a new squad designed to intervene with families struggling with domestic conflict before it tears them apart. The recently formed domestic conflict response team has domestic violence and child welfare workers who can connect willing families with agencies and programs and follow up with them to ensure they're getting the support they need. But for families that can't or won't put their troubles behind, the police are there to charge the offenders and protect the victims.

"The law works best as a velvet glove --not as a hammer," Calgary police Chief Rick Hanson said Friday.

In 2008, police fielded about 12,000 domestic calls, of which only 4,000 were criminal in nature. The remaining 8,000 are calls for help where no charges are laid --and these are the cases the new team will tackle, with the aim of ending family strife before it escalates to violence.

The unit is funded with \$1.5 million over three years from the provincial government and is made up of three police officers and caseworkers from Children and Youth Services and HomeFront, a coalition of Calgary agencies that provide support for families experiencing domestic violence.

Within three days of an initial visit from the police, the team will return to families deemed high risk or potentially chronic cases to offer them help. For instance, a household with an abusive alcoholic may need referrals to treatment programs; a family fighting over money may need debt relief. After the team makes those referrals, they will then get back in touch with the family to ensure they got the help they were seeking.

ROADSIDE CHECKS NOW INCLUDE MANDATORY DRUG TESTING

Police have a new tool in their fight against impaired drivers in Alberta. Starting in mid-October, it became easier for officers to check drivers they suspect are under the influence of drugs. Previously, drivers do not have to submit to a drug test. But that changed when the province aligned its regulations with the criminal code.

"This is another tool to help us to keep the public safe in regards to people driving on the streets that shouldn't be behind the wheel of a motor vehicle," said Calgary Police Acting Duty Inspector Geoff Gawlinski.

Police say drugs can impair a person's judgment behind the wheel just as much as alcohol. Gawlinski says Calgary Police are ready for the change.

"If an investigating officer stops somebody in the field who they think is impaired by a drug, not alcohol, we have accredited drug recognition experts who are police officers who come out and will do a sobriety test that they've been trained to give to that person." Gawlinski says Calgary Police will also look at training more officers in the future to detect drug impairment.

Police are now able to check for both illegal and legal drugs, both prescription and over the counter.

ALBERTA HOSPITAL PLANS WORRY EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER

An Edmonton police commissioner appears worried that officers will be hard-pressed to deal with the number of mentally ill people who end up on the streets because of bed closures at Alberta Hospital.

Of the approximately 200,000 calls the police department gets each year, Murray Billett said that he estimates one-third are related to mental health. "It's not the acutely ill that I'm concerned about, it's the rest that are going to fall through the cracks. It's the people that are going to be on the streets."

The province has announced plans to close 246 mental-health beds at the Alberta Hospital.

Mark Snaterse, Alberta Health Services' Edmonton executive director of addiction and mental health, told the commission that he understands there is public skepticism about the bed closures. He reassured the commission health services would be careful not to let people fall through the cracks.

"We absolutely will not move someone until we have somewhere to place them," said Marianne Stewart, vice-president of Alberta Health Services' Edmonton zone. Snaterse said acute-care beds at the Alberta Hospital will be moved to other hospitals and geriatric beds will be moved to Covenant Health's Villa Caritas. However, he also said that there are some beds that will close that need to be moved to places that do not currently exist. "We realize that a lot of this community capacity needs to be built. We need to create programs and supports that don't exist," he said. In a later interview, Snaterse could not say exactly how many current patients need to be moved to places that haven't been built yet, nor who would build and pay for the facilities.

In the end, Billett said he still had serious concerns about the reality of the cuts. "The kinds of cuts we're looking at doesn't equal the kind of stuff I'm hearing. Sorry." Edmonton Police Association president Tony Simioni, who expressed his concern about the effects of the cuts on the safety of officers, also said Snaterse's presentation did nothing to allay his concerns. A small group of union members were also at the commission meeting and left as worried as when they came.

"When they let these people out, is there going to be havoc? You bet there's going to be havoc," Alberta Union of Provincial Employees' member Joanne Spencer said.

CALGARY FEARS PROVINCE WILL CUT POLICING

Aldermen are urging the provincial government to keep police funding off the chopping block during upcoming budget discussions. Amid reports Solicitor General Fred Lindsay is reexamining budgets for policing, Calgary's mayor says this is no time for funding cuts, despite a tough economy.

"There's no question that funding crunches always mean looking at your priorities," Mayor Dave Bronconnier said. "But I can't think of a higher priority than public safety."

Bronconnier, who spent some months last year encouraging the province to increase its funding for additional police, said boosting the number of officers downtown has already shown an impact, decreasing crime by as much as 50 per cent. "Now is not the time to consider redirecting funding for front-line officers," he said.

The Stelmach government last year promised to add another 300 officers across the province. The City of Calgary has received funding for 82 officers and was counting on another 41 in the future.

Justice Minister Alison Redford says budgets are getting a review, but she has no reason to believe police funding will be pulled.

"We're going through some very serious and specific budget deliberations. From the perspective of my department, we haven't been given clear direction yet as to how significant our cuts will need to be," Redford told reporters following a joint address with police Chief Rick Hanson at a Calgary Chamber of Commerce luncheon Monday.

"Every government department is going through this process right now. It's a fairly rigorous process. . . . We're very concerned about making sure that in the next couple of years, we're making the right decisions that will allow us to come out of this economic downturn in good shape." Redford added the safe communities program has made "tremendous strides" and it's important to the premier. "I'm very confident we'll be able to continue to be able to build on that program."

Hanson said he's hopeful the three-year policing plan will continue and Calgary will receive a third instalment of 41 officers. Without that money, it would mean fewer officers on the street, he said. "Obviously, we'll have to look at our plan and see where the impact would be," the chief said. "It's too early to say. Right now, I'm still optimistic that they'll still continue that support."

"It's very important to continue with the plan, to continue to finish off with the extra police officer bodies that were spoken about two years ago. "The urgency, the need's still there." Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, a member of the Calgary police commission, said she doesn't want to see any funding cuts. "We need more police officers, not less," she said.

On top of the agreement that has seen Calgary receive funding for 41 new officers over the past two years, at a rate of \$100,000 for each position, the city also gets a grant of \$16 per capita for police operations. That agreement, in effect until 2012, paid the city \$16.9 million for 2009-2010. Extra officers launched in the downtown core last May have had a significant effect on crime, police say. During the months of June and July, beat officers laid 134 Criminal Code charges, executed 1,223 warrants and submitted 1,670 checkups.

MURRAY BILLETT TO RESIGN FROM EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION ON DEC. 31

Murray Billett says he will step down from the Edmonton Police Commission at the end of the year. Billett says he is leaving the commission after five years to pursue growing work and personal commitments. He says during his tenure he helped increase the number of police in Edmonton. Billett is a labour relations officer with the United Nurses of Alberta and a human rights activist. Edmonton City Council is already looking to find a replacement.

EDMONTON CITY COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER

Edmonton City Council has appointed Shami Sandhu to the Edmonton Police Commission effective January 1, 2010. Mr. Sandhu is a licensed realtor, broker and owner of Re/Max River City. He is current president of the Heritage Point Community League, established in southwest Edmonton in 2006, and a director with Edmonton's Food Bank.

CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION ELECTS NEW CHAIR

The Calgary Police Commission has elected Mike Shaikh to succeed Denis Painchaud as Chair for the 2010 Commission year. The annual organizational meeting occurred Tuesday, November 24, 2009, in the Calgary Police Commission boardroom. Mike Shaikh was appointed to the Calgary Police Commission in November 2005 and has served as Vice-Chair of the Commission and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee since 2006. Mr. Shaikh brings a wealth of experience to his role as Commission Chair. He is a chartered accountant and serves as a director on a number of private, public and not-for-profit organizations. Mr. Shaikh has been an active member of the Calgary Police Commission, attending a variety of functions on behalf of the Commission, seeking out training and educational opportunities and becoming involved in various police oversight organizations. He is a director of the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) and a board member of the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB). "I would like to thank Denis Painchaud for his years of service to the Calgary Police Commission," said Mr. Shaikh. "His strong leadership has been invaluable and set a firm foundation for the work of the Commission."

"The role of the Calgary Police Commission is an important one, as we are responsible for ensuring the public safety of all Calgaryans through the provision of an efficient and effective police service," said Mr. Shaikh. "I intend to work with Chief Hanson to continue progress made implementing initiatives on his Crime Prevention & Reduction Continuum and to further enhance the Commission's advocacy work on public safety issues."

Appointments to the Calgary Police Commission are made by City Council. This year's Commission members, along with Mr. Shaikh, are: Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart; Steve Edwards; Brian Edy; Stephanie Felesky; Daryl Fridhandler; Alderman John Mar; Charles Pratt; and David Younggren.

The Calgary Police Commission provides civilian oversight to the Calgary Police Service. Under the Police Act the Calgary Police Commission establishes policies to provide for efficient and effective policing; in consultation with the chief of police, allocates funds provided by City Council; and monitors the complaint process.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT HELPS VICTIMS OF CRIME COLLECT RESTITUTION

Police in Vancouver are getting \$30 million to build a new forensic centre and expand facilities used to store evidence.

The federal, provincial and city governments are each contributing one-third of the funding for the project.

The money will be used to build a forensic facility, including a special vehicle lab, and to expand existing storage rooms for seized property and other evidence.

Vancouver Police Chief Jim Chu says the project will help in police work involving gang members because those cases produce large volumes of evidence.

He also says having a climate-controlled vehicle storage facility will increase the chances of getting forensic evidence from vehicles involved in crimes.

STAN LOWE, B.C.'S POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER

B.C.'s police complaint commissioner launched a program to increase the public's awareness of what his office does. Stan Lowe, was appointed to the position in February, says that one of his goals is to increase public awareness of the office of the police complaint commissioner (OPCC).

"People don't know enough about the OPCC," he said. "A well informed public really makes for a sturdy society at the end of the day."

The OPCC deals with three types of complaints: those involving an allegation of a breach of the public trust or misconduct by an officer, those against a department's policies and procedures, or those involving a department's internal discipline. The B.C. OPCC only deals with complaints involving municipal police forces. The RCMP has its own system of investigating complaints against its officers.

Most of the complaints received by the OPCC involve allegations that an officer violated the public trust, Lowe said, adding 96 per cent of complaints lodged last year involved accusations of misconduct.

"Time and time again, misconduct is just a result of poor judgment," he said, and in many cases can be addressed through additional officer training, and advice and guidance from a superior.

Earlier this fall, Solicitor General Kash Heed announced changes to the legislation aimed at making the complaint process easier for the public and strengthening the oversight powers of the OPCC. The changes are based on a report tabled by former judge Joe Wood following his review of the process.

"While this legislation is new, the scrutiny it reflects and responds to is not," Heed said.

"Police accountability is the theme of Judge Joe Wood's review of B.C.'s complaint process, but it is also reflected in the recent Braidwood commission report. That's why this legislation paves the way for broad, independent oversight by B.C.'s police complaint commissioner, which means he will oversee complaint handling from the time it is submitted -- and provide advice and direction throughout to ensure the public interest is protected."

So far, the changes have received preliminary approval in the legislature.

Under the current system, the OPCC does not look at a complaint until after the initial investigation is complete and the discipline authority, usually a police chief, has made a decision. With the proposed changes, the OPCC will oversee the investigation as it unfolds.

If the legislation is successfully changed, it will order municipal police officers under investigation to provide statements and submit to interviews by investigating officers within five days of a request; increase the maximum suspension without pay for misconduct to 30 days from five; and will compel the OPCC to arrange a public hearing or review of the record in certain circumstances -- for example, if the commissioner believes a police chief has erred in findings or applying discipline.

As well, the proposed changes will make it easier for a member of the public to file a complaint. Currently, a complainant must fill out a form to officially launch a complaint against an officer or department.

Lowe said this can deter some people from making a complaint, and giving more filing options will make the process more accessible. With the changes, Lowe said, police will have a duty to the OPCC. "I think that's a level of independence that is needed in the process," he said.

Delta police spokesperson Const. Sharlene Brooks said this week the department, along with other stakeholders, was consulted and had input into the proposed changes. "The Delta police supports civilian oversight and we support the changes," she said. "We can work within the act."

WEST VANCOUVER POLICE CHIEF SWORN IN

Peter Lepine, a 30-year veteran with the RCMP, was sworn in last month as the chief constable of the West Vancouver Police Department. He's the district's third police chief in three years.

In a speech following his swearing in, Lepine said not all public safety issues are policing issues and vowed to work with community, corporate and volunteer organizations. He told officers that he would not stand in their way if they had new ideas.

"As Mahatma Ghandi would often say, 'There go my people. I must follow them, for I am their leader.' As your chief, there are times when I need to stand clear out of your way so that you can have the freedom to try new ideas that potentially could be the next big strategy," he said.

Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones praised Lepine's dedication to reaching out to the community and approach to policing. "He doesn't believe every problem is a policing problem," she said.

ABBOTSFORD POLICE BOARD ADDS TWO NEW FACES

Ted Strocel and Deborah Lehmann are the newest members to join the Abbotsford Police Board. The pair joins the current lineup of Mayor George Peary, Gerri Charles, Dorothy Dyck, Jon Eaton and Jatinder Sidhu.

As an unpaid, civilian governing body, the board is authorized under the Police Act to oversee staff, set policy and direction for the department in consultation with the police chief, direct finances, act as a disciplinary authority, approve budgets for council submission and negotiate and approve collective agreements.

Lehmann comes to the board specializing in the field of human resources, with a focus on organizational effectiveness and employee development and training. In 2004, Lehmann joined the Abbotsford Hospice Society and served as the vice-chair. In 2006 she was elected chair and in 2007 she accepted the position of executive director for the society. Lehmann is a Rotarian, a board member of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce and is part of the B.C. Human Resources Management Association Professional Mentoring Program for the Fraser Valley region.

Strocel is a lawyer with 31 years experience and has developed a predominately corporate and commercial practice in the past 20 years. He is a member of Cascade Law Corporation, a firm with offices in Aldergrove, Abbotsford and Agassiz. Strocel is a member of the board for the Schmidt Family Foundation, a charitable organization that has built orphanages in the Ukraine, India and Philippines. Strocel is also a member of the board for The Reach, Abbotsford's Cultural Centre.

TRANSIT POLICE CHANGES

New Westminster's Chief Const. Lorne Zapotichny is wrapping up five years as police board chair for the South Coast B.C. Transportation Authority Police Service - known as the Transit Police - and will be replaced by a civilian, the first to hold this position. Peter W. Webster, who has been a member of the transit police board for several years and served on the Vancouver Police Board, was sworn in on Sept. 8.

He was appointed to the position by Kash Heed, B.C.'s minister of public safety and solicitor general.

The board is made up of five civilians and two sworn senior police administrators, including two new members: Virginia Hasselfield, a former board member and governance chair of the Fraser River Port Authority; and R. William Brown, a former Port Moody police board member.

Four members were reappointed to the board: New Westminster's Baj Puri, a former New Westminster police board member and current chair of the B.C. Association of Police Boards; RCMP assistant commissioner Peter German; Vancouver Police deputy chief Doug LePard; and TransLink chief financial officer Ian Jarvis.

Transit officers, headquartered in New Westminster, police the regional transit system: SkyTrain, West Coast Express, buses and the SeaBus, working with the RCMP and municipal police in each community.

BIGGEST SECURITY OPERATION IN CANADIAN HISTORY FOR GAMES IN VANCOUVER

Should terrorists plan to attack Canadian targets during the Olympic Winter Games they can expect a security team of 17,000 waiting for them when they get here.

In what is billed as the biggest security operation in Canadian history, the federal and British Columbia governments are spending \$900 million to help ensure Canada's games are incident-free.

"The most important thing is that security is not what the Games are about," says John Furlong, the Vancouver Organizing Committee's CEO. "For Canada and for the RCMP and for the Canadian Armed Forces, security represents an opportunity to show the world a good way to organize this -- a Canadian way." For Furlong the "Canadian way" means ensuring everyone is safe while at the same time not being heavy-handed, pushy or over-zealous. This won't be an easy task. The Olympics are a major target for international terrorists.

According to documents obtained by Sun Media in 2007, the RCMP had identified Canada as the fifth most important "Christian" target behind the U.S., Britain, Spain and Australia, in a 2004 al-Qaida document. We also remain the only listed country that has not been attacked.

Documents obtained by Sun Media the following year reveal RCMP concerns the Games could prompt an increase in demand for sex-trade workers that may lead to the human trafficking victims into Canada.

The Integrated Security Unit, under command of the RCMP, will be responsible for policing these threats. It means coordinating the 4,500 Canadian Forces troops, 7,000 RCMP and municipal police officers from jurisdictions around the country and another 5,000 private security guards.

"It's like setting up two Super Bowls every day for a month," says the ISU's Sgt. Mike Cote. "This is by far the most complex and largest security operation the RCMP has ever undertaken."

The private security contract alone is worth almost \$100 million. Contemporary Security Canada is currently hiring people by the thousands at its Vancouver recruiting centre for jobs that pay from \$16 to \$30 an hour with \$2.50 per hour bonus for guards that stay until the Games are over.

"People need to pass the security training as well as provincial exams and become licensed security guards in the province of British Columbia to work for us at the Games," said Derek Gagne of Contemporary Security Canada.

The private guards will be responsible for running the airport-style security checkpoints at venues but will be under the supervision of police officers.

The RCMP's job is to provide security at all of the venues, regardless of whether they're competitive or not, it will be responsible for vetting each of the 5,000 private guards hired for the Games. It also means that aside from securing the mountainsides in Whistler and the Richmond Olympic Oval outside Vancouver, the RCMP's ISU will provide security for Vancouver's waterfront where the athlete's village, BC Place stadium and international media centre is located.

Aside from marshalling tens of thousands of spectators, it means keeping the athletes safe. When the competitors board their team bus in the athlete's village the bus will be sealed. When the bus arrives at a checkpoint it will be swept with mirrors for bombs. The seal will be checked, and if it has been broken, all of the athletes will be ordered off the bus and made to pass through airport-style security before being allowed to enter the venue.

Just south of the border, in Bellingham, Wash., the U.S. government has spent \$4.5 million US to build and run the Olympic Co-ordination Centre. The centre will co-ordinate the security efforts for over 40 U.S. federal, state and local police agencies to respond to natural or man-made disasters during the Games.

From the beginning, there were always fears the cost of providing this type of security would grow uncontrollably, and so far, those fears have been justified. In 2003 security costs were estimated at \$175 million, but by February of 2009 that had risen to \$900 million. Under the updated security agreement the B.C. government will pick up \$85 million of that and agree to forgo \$165 million in federal infrastructure money slated for the province in exchange for the feds picking up the rest of the tab.

The budget includes a \$137-million contingency fund that organizers hope will be enough to secure the Games. Premier Gordon Campbell says he is very excited to be hosting the Olympics and is not worried about the rising costs of security during an economic downturn. "It's pretty clear that the federal government will provide the security that is required regardless of what's happening with the economy," Campbell said.

Sun

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF POLICE GOVERNANCE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (AAPG) 2010: April 30 to May 1, 2010 - Calgary, Alberta

AAPG Spring Conference will be held in Calgary, Alberta at the Delta Airport Hotel on April 30 and May 1st, 2010. The theme of next year's conference is "Best Practices in Police Governance". Plan to attend and hear presentations about different approaches to police governance, the proposed Law Enforcement Framework, projects made possible with Safe Community Innovation Funds (SCIF), the mental health of police officers, how offenders qualify for parole, and more. Visit the AAPG website for details on how to register. www.aapg.ca.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF POLICE SERVICE BOARDS (OAPSB)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010: April 29 to May 1, 2010 -Village Of Point Edward, Ontario

OAPSB Spring Conference will be held in the Village of Point Edward on April 29 to May 1, 2010. Contact the OAPSB office or website for more information on the conference and how to register. www.oapSB.ca

2010 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR POLICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

May 2 to 4, 2010 – Richmond Hill, Ontario

The 2010 International Conference for Police & Law Enforcement Executives will take place in Richmond Hill, Ontario, on May 2nd to 4th. This is the sixth annual conference and this year's theme is "Strategic Policing: The Future in the Present." The conference will be hosted by Chief Armand La Barge of the York Regional Police. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Association of Police Boards and Canadian Professional Management Services will be among the sponsors of this year's conference. www.internationalpoliceconference.com



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SAINT JOHN, NB
AUGUST 19 - 21, 2010
'NAVIGATING THE FUTURE'

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Linda Duxbury, Phil Fontaine, Dr./Sgt. Amy Ramsay, Jennifer Freund, Pat Knoll, and Andrew Graham are just a few of the presenters we have lined up.

Planned sessions will include:

- Pre-conference half day workshop with a session to introduce new members to police board governance and an advanced session in the afternoon for veteran board members;
- Negligent police investigation and the cost of liability it produces;
- Harassment and Discrimination in Police Agencies;
- Escalating cost of jurisprudence and standards of law enforcement;
- The underlying economics of crime reduction plans;
- Managing community expectations;
- Capitalizing projects;
- Collective bargaining processes;
- Strategic Planning and budgeting;
- Evaluating your Board.



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