

# Thousands expected for Ottawa officer’s funeral

**The Canadian Press**

OTTAWA — Up to 10,000 police officers from across Canada will march behind Const. Eric Czapnik's casket Thursday afternoon in a funeral procession that will shut down Bank St.

Thousands of officers will join colleagues of the slain 51-year-old Ottawa police officer for the police funeral procession starting at Carleton University and stretching 2.2 kilometres to the Ottawa Civic Centre, the site of Czapnik's funeral.

Ottawa police expect local residents to

line the procession route to show their respects to Czapnik, who was stabbed to death Dec. 29 as he sat in his police cruiser outside the Ottawa Hospital's Civic campus.

The ceremony itself won't be open to the public due to the overwhelming number of Czapnik's colleagues who are expected to attend.

The Civic Centre holds about 10,000 people.

“For officers, it will feel very emotional but it will also give them the opportunity to show their support for Eric's family and to honour Eric,” said Supt. Charles Bordeleau,

who's leading the team of Ottawa officers organizing Czapnik's funeral.

The memorial service at Lansdowne Park is expected to be the largest police memorial in Ottawa's history.

The funeral of Const. David Utman, a Nepean police officer who was killed in 1983, was attended by about 1,000 officers.

Firefighters and paramedics, along with other police services including the RCMP, will also join the funeral procession, said Bordeleau, adding organizers have received word from police services from Newfoundland, Vancouver and upper New York state.

Details of the service are still in the works, including the speakers who will deliver remembrances of Czapnik, who joined the police service in 2007.

While most of Czapnik's family from Poland will be in Ottawa for the funeral and visitation, his father Stanislaw is unable to make the trip.

Czapnik's father served as a police officer in Warsaw for 30 years and inspired the married father of four to become an officer, but he recently suffered a stroke and is unable to travel, said Steve Boucher, president of the Ottawa Police Association.

## One killed, two hurt in prison brawl

**The Canadian Press**

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. — One prisoner was killed and two others seriously injured Monday in a brawl involving at least 10 inmates at a federal prison in Saskatchewan.

The Correctional Service of Canada says the maximum-security unit at the penitentiary in Prince Albert has been locked down since the fight broke out during the lunch hour in full view of the guards.

Spokesman Darcy Begrand says inmates who usually get along with each other were in the lunch area when seven prisoners turned on three others.

The two injured inmates were being treated in hospital.

Begrand says it's not clear what sparked the fight, if the inmates are gang members or whether weapons were used.

No employees were injured in the assault, and following the attack, guards provided CPR to the hurt inmates until emergency services arrived.

“(Staff) responded immediately. The unfortunate thing is these types of incidents occur very fast, very quick and it sure doesn't take them long to initiate an assault on another inmate,” Begrand said.

RCMP are also investigating.

Begrand couldn't say how long the unit would be locked down.

“What I can tell you is that when we are locked down we try to open up and return to normal as quickly as possible, but at the same time we have to make sure we're doing it in the safest manner possible,” he said.

The dead inmate's name has not been released.

The medium security unit at the prison is unaffected by the lockdown.



**MINOR INJURIES CAUSED BY CRASH** — Three Prince George firefighters and RCMP attend an accident between two cars Monday just before noon at 15th Avenue and Spruce Street. There were only minor injuries to the two drivers and one passenger involved.  
Citizen photo by Brent Braaten

## Judge shows mercy to pot-dealing senior

**The Canadian Press**

TOFINO — A 66-year-old man who says he sold marijuana around Tofino as a way to socialize with others and gave partial profits to Roman Catholic nuns won't be going to jail.

Instead, a judge has ordered Matthew Williams to complete a six-month conditional sentence, follow a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew and complete 10 community work service hours a month.

Provincial Court Judge Brian Klaver also ordered Williams to serve six months' probation and submit a DNA sample to a national database.

“Mr. Williams, if you were a younger person you would be going to jail today,” Klaver said Monday at a sentencing hearing. “There is no doubt in my mind.”

Klaver said he decided on the sentence because Williams pleaded guilty, had an old criminal record and is 66 years old.

Federal Crown lawyer Todd Patola said

Williams was arrested after RCMP Const. Terry Reynolds saw Williams drive around town, make quick stops and pass out baggies through his window in 2008.

On Dec. 15, 2008, Reynolds pulled Williams over during a traffic stop and smelled smoked and bud marijuana.

During a pat down, Reynolds found 5.5 grams of marijuana and \$200 on Williams. He also found 26 bags of marijuana, weighing between 5.5 and 6.5 grams hidden under dog food, and \$1,000 in cash in the vehicle.

Patola said Williams later admitted he knew selling marijuana was against the law and that he always smelled like pot and smoked pot.

“He gives the money to the nuns and that makes him feel better about breaking the law,” Patola said.

Defence lawyer Randy Reiffer said his client has changed his mind about his pot-selling activities.

“He says he is getting too old for this thing.”

Reiffer said Williams is battling stomach cancer, lives alone with his dog on an island in Clayoquot Sound and has given up alcohol.

He said Williams' only son drowned during a canoe accident.

Reiffer said Williams began to sell marijuana to socialize — not because of greed — and suffers from self-esteem problems as a result of attending residential school.

“Real jail would be devastating to Mr. Williams,” he said.

Williams told Klaver he has been ostracized by members of his First Nations band, the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, and doesn't even receive a call on fish day — when members receive a fish allocation.

He said he began to sell marijuana so he could socialize but “picked the wrong game.”

Klaver said he's worried about the number of children who may have ended up smoking the marijuana, and warned Williams that any breach of the court orders would result in jail.

## Snowstorm buries South Korea

**The Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea — Seoul residents slogged through the heaviest snowfall in modern Korean history after a winter storm dumped 26 centimetres Monday, forcing airports to cancel flights and paralyzing traffic in South Korea's bustling capital.

The snow and icy roads snarled traffic in and out of Seoul, and at least three people died in traffic accidents. Many commuters squeezing into packed subway trains to get to work, and a regular cabinet meeting also was delayed Monday because ministers were stuck in traffic. The snowfall, which continued through Monday afternoon, was the worst since Korea began conducting meteorological surveys in 1937, the state weather agency said.

Gimpo International Airport in western Seoul cancelled 224 flights before resuming service Monday afternoon when the snowfall stopped, airport official Choi Choon-ja said.

More than 20 flights between Incheon International Airport, just west of Seoul, and cities in China were cancelled, as China also coped with a snowstorm. More than 100 flights to other regions were delayed, Incheon airport official Kang Soo-kyung said.

Three people were killed in a traffic accident believed caused by icy roads in southern South Korea earlier Monday, according to Yonhap news agency. Yonhap reported the snowfall caused many other traffic accidents throughout South Korea, but officials said no deaths or serious property damages directly related to the snowfall were immediately reported.

## ‘Troubled’ man to plead guilty for Christmas card killing

**The Canadian Press**

KITCHENER, Ont. — A “clearly troubled” young man will plead guilty in the fatal stabbing of an elderly man attacked during his annual tradition of hand-delivering Christmas cards, his lawyer said Monday.

Trevor LaPierre, 24, was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Hunter Brown, 74, but his lawyer indicated in court Monday that LaPierre will plead guilty on Jan. 18 to second-degree murder.

Brown was stabbed on the afternoon of Dec. 15, 2007 with what police described at the time as an “edged weapon.”

The attacker fled, leaving the retired Bell Canada executive and beloved grandfather to bleed to

death on his neighbour's driveway, undelivered cards at his side.

Witnesses described the assailant in the bizarre attack, which horrified and frightened the community, as being clad all in black.

The court had earlier ruled LaPierre was fit to stand trial, but lawyer Brennan Smart said his client has a history of mental illness.

“He's a clearly troubled man,” Smart said outside court. “He's not well. He's very depressed.”

LaPierre was arrested in late 2007 as he and his father were en route to a psychiatric ward.

His family struggled for years before the attack to get their son help for his mental health troubles, Smart said.



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Thumbs Up

*Good News*

Story of the Week



**New Year's baby a boy**

*Brian and Barb Oke rest with newborn Logan Dominic, who came into the world at 2:48 a.m.*

Now that didn't take long. Just a bit less than three hours after the new year was rung in, Prince George's first baby of 2010 was delivered at University Hospital of Northern B.C.

Weighing in at a healthy eight pounds three ounces, Logan Dominic Oke was born at 2:48 a.m. to mother Barb Oke, 29, and father Brian Oke, 31, Logan, who was sleeping peacefully on his mother when the media arrived late New Year's Day morning, is the second child for the couple who have a two-and-a-half-year-old son, Calum.

The elated but tired parents said they were glad Logan was born now rather than a week earlier, which would've made him a Christmas baby.

"I was hoping for a January baby as opposed to a December baby," Barb said.

"Mostly, we just wanted to get it away from Christmas. My father was born two days before Christmas and it just kind of gets lost in the event of Christmas," Brian added. "So it's nice to have a birthday that's at least a week away."

Brian works for the B.C. Forest Service and Barb is a health care environment leader for Northern Health.



The Thumbs Up Good News Story of the Week is sponsored by Pacific Western Brewing Company

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