

BEST FEATURE SERIES

This was the strongest category I've ever judged. Every entry told an interesting and compelling story. The imagination of the writers and editors for coming up with some of the more creative series is to be applauded as well.

J. BARDE, J. STANIFORTH, L. STEWART, P. WHEELAND

the Nation

This series about the community reaction to the abuse of Native women by the SQ in Val-d'Or is powerful and thorough. The difficult topic is handled with dignity without sacrificing the hard-hittingness of the piece or skirting the tensions between the Native and non-Native populations within the community.

THOMAS ROHNER

Nunatsiaq News

Reporter Thomas Rohner deftly uses his talent for language to accurately describe videos of men being beaten by members of the RCMP while in custody without being salacious or overly dramatic. The stories are clear and concise while outlining all of the relevant legal and moral issues.

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Tensions boil over

Val-d'Or allegations throw Quebec into a crisis over relations with Aboriginal communities

by Jesse Staniforth

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ARCTIC



Ottawa police to review RCMP cell-block scuffle

Nunavut court bans media broadcast of police restraining distraught Iqaluit man

A story published by Nunatsiaq News on Feb. 16 describing the video prompted Ottawa Police Service to issue a press release, disagreeing with how the video was characterized in that article.

But the release said the RCMP would conduct a review of the incident, "to be accountable and transparent to the people of Nunavut."

The RCMP did not say when the review would be conducted or how long it would take.

The video became public after defence lawyer Joseph Murdoch-Flowers showed it in court to support an argument that Ejesiak deserves special consideration under the Supreme Court of Canada's Gladue principles—relevant when sentencing Aboriginal offenders.

Three RCMP members are seen in the footage—some of them pointing a taser gun at the prisoner's chest. They enter Ejesiak's cell as he sits on a cell bench with his shirt wrapped around his neck. The officers remove all of Ejesiak's clothing.

As the officers slowly back up towards the cell door, Ejesiak stands up and appears to try to kick one of the officers, but misses.

At that point the three officers jump on Ejesiak and appear to punch him until he's lying on the cell floor with a pool of blood beneath his head.

RCMP escorted Ejesiak to the hospital later that night where he received stitches on his face.

Murdoch-Flowers and Crown prosecutor Zachary Horricks made a joint sentencing submission of 36 months in prison for Ejesiak and a one count of assault with a weapon.

"I'd like to be sentenced for all the charges. I'm pleading guilty to every one of them," Ejesiak told Tulloch at the hearing.

"I don't want to sit in BCC and wait for another trial date."

With the submission, Murdoch-Flowers said he no longer held a position on the relevance of the video in Tulloch's sentencing decision.

Had Murdoch-Flowers argued the video should still be relevant in sentencing, Tulloch said the Crown would have been permitted to provide context for the video, which likely would have included testimony from the police officers in question.

Horricks said he also would have called an expert on the use of force to "explain why it was appropriate for [the officers] to deal with the accused in the fashion that they did."

The Nunavut Court of Justice's access restriction to the video includes a ban on publishing it on any electronic or online platform, but "does not pertain to written or verbal references to the exhibit."

"There are no alternative remedies other than restricting access that will prevent the detrimental effects to this citizen's personal integrity and privacy interests," Henderson wrote.

Those who wish to view the video may do so at the Iqaluit courthouse, in the presence of the court records officer or her designate.

"I must consider the compelling privacy interest that is present on the face of the materials"

— Clare Henderson

Nunavut Youth Hockey Development Program coach Gary Joe Angnatauk, left and its Pee-wee team captain Jimmy Kasudluak show off their new gold medals Feb. 23 at the Kuujuaq airport, where they received a warm welcome home. Both Angnatauk and Kasudluak helped lead the Nunavut Nordiks Pee-wee team to victory at an International Pee-wee tournament held in Lévis, Quebec Feb. 22 — another championship for the NYHDP in 2015. See story on page 12. (PHOTO BY SARAH ROGERS)

Shelter says murder suspect abused by deceased man

Staff at the Montreal women's shelter Chez Doris were in the process of helping an Inuk woman find a place to live when she was arrested and charged with killing her boyfriend last week.

Jessie Quannaakuk, originally from Iuvjivik, was charged with the second degree murder Feb. 18 in the stabbing death of Paul Brown, with whom she'd been in a relationship for some time.

Quannaakuk had been a long-time client at Chez Doris, which offers a support program targeted at Inuit women on the streets and in difficulty.

Staff at the centre say Quannaakuk herself was the victim of abuse by the man she's accused of killing.

Reports also say Brown had been in court on the day he was killed to respond to allegations that he sexually assaulted two minors.

"For years, our caseworkers had witnessed the physical and emotional trauma inflicted on her by the deceased, Paul Brown," said Marina Boulos-Winton, the interim executive director at Chez Doris. "In and out of homelessness, we were in the process of placing Jessie Quannaakuk in her own apartment."

But contrary to a couple of reports in Montreal's French-language media, Boulos-Winton said that Quannaakuk has not been arrested at the shelter.

"It is indeed a very sad story," Boulos-Winton said. "The staff at Chez Doris are very much chagrined by the whole situation."

Chez Doris, whose Inuit-focused program is funded through Makivik Corp., continues to offer support to Quannaakuk while she's detained at Montreal's Tanguay detention centre, by providing her visitation, clothing and spending money.

Quannaakuk is being represented by a lawyer from the native para-judicial service of Quebec. She appears in court again March 6.

Staff at the Montreal women's shelter Chez Doris were in the process of helping an Inuk woman find a place to live when she was arrested and charged with killing her boyfriend last week.

MATTHEW McCULLY

The Record

A good look at all aspects of modern agriculture and how it's expressed within the local community. The variety of topics and interview subjects make it a good read even for a city slicker.

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FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015

Sawyerville United Church bell stolen

By Rachel Garber SAWYERVILLE

The big bell in front of the Sawyerville United Church is there no more.

"We had church in Sawyerville on Sunday morning at 10:30, and the bell was there," said pastor Tami Spires.

On Monday, Bonnie and Alton Fowler noticed it was missing, said Daniel Bousquet. "But they thought it had been taken to be cleaned, so they didn't report it. On Wednesday, when I went to mow the lawn, I saw it wasn't there, and I reported it to Tami."

Spires continued the story. "On Wednesday afternoon when I pulled up in the church yard, sure enough, it was gone. Stolen."

She notified Ian McBurney, and he notified the police that afternoon. McBurney is president of the board of trustees.

In the past six years, the bell had been suspended from two metal supports protruding from a cement platform in front of the Sawyerville church.

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

Farming from A to Z

Which farm to whose table?

This relaxed Huntingville herd may make it look easy, but do you think you have what it takes to run a farm?

By Matthew McCully SHERBROOKE

To fully understand the great responsibility that farmers and the agricultural industry have — simply put, feeding the general public — this reporter felt it would be worthwhile to walk a mile in a farmer's shoes, and look at what being a farmer really entails.

So you wanna be a farmer?

No problem, says François Bourassa, president of the Townships branch of the Quebec farmers union, known as the UPA.

All you need is the know-how, the where-to, the what-with, and the who-for.

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