

**Cutler, Rachelle**

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**From:** MacLean, Heather  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2015 9:41 AM  
**To:** Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail); Browne, Joe; Morris, Peter; Hayden, Veronica  
**Subject:** Media: Telegram - Police silence shows contempt for public, Dunphy

Police silence shows contempt for public, Dunphy

- *10 Apr 2015, The Telegram (St. John's)*
- *Brian Jones is a copy editor at The Telegram. He can be reached at [bjones@thetelegram.com](mailto:bjones@thetelegram.com). Brian Jones*

The powers that be in Newfoundland (and Labrador) just can't kick their foul habit of treating the public with contempt, even when a plainclothes cop shoots an unemployed widower dead in the latter's own house.

After Don Dunphy was killed in his home in Mitchell's Brook, the RNC, RCMP and premier's office should have revealed details of the tragic event as soon as possible.

Instead, what the public got was the usual obfuscation and evasion.

In news reports after the shooting, RNC police Chief Bill Janes and the RCMP both said they could not provide details about the incident because it is under investigation. Premier Paul Davis also declined to give specific information.

Strangely, their vow of silence, supposedly due to an ongoing investigation, did not apply to the unnamed officer who shot Dunphy — both Davis and Janes told the media they had contacted the officer to offer support.

There is something seriously incongruous about this. The premier and chief of police imply they can't say anything until all the facts are discovered. Yet, before all the facts are known, they talk to the RNC officer involved to "offer support."

Here's one fact that is known, although not admitted by the premier or the police: there was no threat.

There was no "potential" threat, or "possible" threat. There was no statement sent out on Twitter that an intelligent person could interpret as a "perceived" threat.

As some people pointed out on social media, the tweets sent by Dunphy did not threaten the premier or any MHA.

As has been reported in the media, Dunphy suffered an injury at work years ago and had ongoing trouble with the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission. He was jobless and apparently in financial straits. And he was vocal, expressing his opinions via Twitter and call-in radio shows.

These are reportedly Dunphy's tweets that apparently prompted a plainclothes police officer to knock on his door on Easter Sunday (spelled out fully):

- "I hope there is a God. I think I see him work on two garbage MHAs who laughed at poor people."
- "Won't mention names this time. Two prick dead MHAs might have good family members I may hurt."

It sounds as if Dunphy had approached the referred-to MHAs for help, but didn't receive it to his satisfaction. The two MHAs are now deceased. Dunphy said he wouldn't name them, so as not to hurt their families.

Anyone who interpreted these tweets as a threat to the premier or any other politician should be fired for sheer stupidity.

Davis could have, and should have, declared this fact Monday: "The person on my staff who told my security detail that a threat had been made has been fired."

As of this writing Thursday, the RCMP hasn't revealed what Dunphy and the unnamed RNC officer spoke about during their 15-minute conversation in his house before there was a "sudden and dramatic change in the demeanor of the visit," and Dunphy allegedly pointed a rifle at the officer and was shot dead.

Deprived of details, the public is left with rational conjecture. The phrases "pushed too far" or "pushed over the edge" reasonably come to mind. Perhaps the officer told Dunphy he would be charged. Perhaps he told Dunphy he was under arrest. Perhaps Dunphy snapped due to the utter, thorough stupidity of having a cop knock on his door because of an innocuous tweet.

The police have the answers. They just aren't saying. Their silence is unjustified, and unacceptable. It shows contempt for the public, and for Dunphy. In a free and open society, the police are answerable for their actions — ongoing investigation or not.

Also, in a free and open society, the police do not come calling because of an opinionated tweet.

**Browne, Joe**

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**From:** MacLean, Heather  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2015 1:49 PM  
**To:** Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail); Browne, Joe; Morris, Peter; Ivey, Donna; Hayden, Veronica  
**Subject:** Media: Telegram- Premier says he was shocked, saddened by shooting death

**Premier says he was shocked, saddened by shooting death**

James McLeod

Published on April 06, 2015

Premier Paul Davis says he was shocked and saddened by Sunday's shooting death of a man on Salmonier Line and has offered condolences to Don Dunphy's family. Davis, speaking to reporters this morning about the incident, said he wasn't aware of a tweet by Dunphy or the investigation by the RNC until after the shooting happened yesterday.

**Browne, Joe**

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**From:** MacLean, Heather  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2015 1:50 PM  
**To:** Ivey, Donna; Morris, Peter; Hayden, Veronica; Browne, Joe; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail)  
**Subject:** Media: VOCM- Premier Davis Unaware of Threat Investigation Until After Shooting

**UPDATE** Premier Davis Unaware of Threat Investigation Until After Shooting  
Monday, April 6 2015 | 1:05:11 PM

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has addressed a fatal shooting in St. Mary's Bay yesterday by one of their members.

RCMP are conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident, during which an RNC officer shot and killed a 59-year old Mitchell's Brook man. The dead man, identified by people in the community as Don Dunphy, had apparently engaged a provincial cabinet minister in a public conversation on Twitter that at one point used threatening language in reference to political figures.

An RNC officer, who was part of the Premier's security detail, was in Mitchell's Brook yesterday to follow up on an investigation, and had attended the man's residence alone.

RNC Chief Bill Janes addressed the media this morning at RNC Headquarters.

He offered his condolences to the family of Don Dunphy but could not say much on what lead the RNC officer to the man's home, or the subsequent shooting.

He says it's all part of the RCMP's investigation into the incident.

The officer involved is off for the time being. Chief Janes says he's been speaking with the officer, who is being offered assistance in dealing with the situation.

He says he believes the officer's feelings will change over time, and they have an employee assistance program to help them with the situation.

### Premier Was Unaware of Investigation Leading Up to Shooting

Premier Paul Davis says he was unaware of the matter leading up to the RNC investigation and shooting.

Davis told reporters today that he's spoken with the officer involved, a man he's known for some time, and offered him his best regards. The Premier, who is a former RNC officer, says the matter is upsetting.

Davis says there are no immediate plans to change policy surrounding the way in which elected officials engage with the public.

He says for now, he's leaving that up to individual members.

Davis says things have changed, and while he likes to attend some functions without security, that may need to change.

He says just yesterday he attended a hockey game with his wife in Paradise with no security. He says he's had that conversation with his security staff and his family and he may need to change the way he does things.)

Davis says he has not yet contacted the Dunphy family to offer his condolences.

### ***Earlier Story***

VOCM News has uncovered more details about the fatal shooting in Mitchell's Brook yesterday and its connection to the Premier.

Officials with Paul Davis' office and the RNC are not commenting, but sources have told VOCM News that the fatal shot was fired by a member of the Premier's security detail, who is also a member of the RNC.

People who live in the area have told VOCM that the man who was killed was 59-year-old Donald Dunphy.

Dunphy had an exchange on Twitter with Cabinet Minister Sandy Collins on Friday that stated "won't mention any names this time, 2 prick MHAs might have good family members I may hurt." It's not known if that was the exchange that prompted the visit by the officer who went to the home yesterday afternoon at about 2:30 to investigate a 'perceived threat'.

VOCM News has been told the officer was only inside the home for a few minutes when the man he was questioning pulled a shotgun. That's when the officer fired his weapon.

At this point, its not clear if Dunphy fired his gun at any point during the incident. The officer was not injured. The 59-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The RCMP have confirmed that the RNC officer was in the area of Mount Carmel yesterday afternoon conducting follow-up inquiries as part of an investigation when the shooting happened.

But RCMP Sgt. Greg Hicks wouldn't get into the specifics as to why.

Hicks says it's not uncommon for an RNC investigation to overlap RCMP jurisdiction. Because it's so early in the investigation Hicks says he's not in a position to release the duties of the RNC officer.

An autopsy will be conducted today on the victim.

In cases when an officer discharges a weapon, generally an outside police force is called in to investigate the circumstances. The RNC has not yet made any public comment about that possibility

**Walsh, Doris A.**

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**From:** Scott, Brian  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2015 10:45 AM  
**To:** Barfoot, Scott; Brown, Milly; Ivey, Donna; Donnan, Hugh; Hayden, Veronica; Hynes, Darrell; MacLean, Heather; Paddock, Jeff; Morris, Peter  
**Subject:** Morning roll up for Friday, April 24, 2015,  
**Attachments:** April 24 Morning Roll Up.doc

Good morning,

The morning roll up for Friday, April 24, 2015, is below and attached.

Brian

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015

**Top News Stories****Justice Minister says he can't and won't influence Dunphy shooting investigation**

Summary: Justice and Public Safety Minister Darin King says he can't remove RCMP from the investigation into Don Dunphy's shooting, even if he wants to. After being pressured by the opposition in the House of Assembly Thursday, King said he wanted to make it clear he doesn't have the authority to get an outside police force to investigate the fatal shooting that happened Easter weekend in Mitchells Brook. Quoting from the Luther inquiry report into two other men killed by police, MHA Andrew Parsons said King has the authority to call in an outside police force to investigate. "I am shocked to hear in this House today that the minister of justice is abrogating his duty to the people of this province as the administrator of the Department of Justice," he said. "You have the authority. The Luther inquiry says to do it. Why will you not call in an outside police force, as you have the authority and the power to do so?" King told reporters Thursday, "I have no mandate whatsoever to walk into an ongoing investigation and say to a police force that, 'I'm taking it from you and giving it to somebody else.'" King acknowledges the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and RCMP have a professional relationship. However, he reiterated he has confidence in the RCMP to investigate Dunphy's shooting death. King believes even if he could call on an independent force to investigate, it wouldn't necessarily be the best course of action. "I don't believe for one minute that people in Newfoundland and Labrador want our province to turn into that kind of a situation where you have politicians dictating what the police investigate and what they don't and how they do it." Meanwhile, Premier Davis backpedalled Thursday after telling the legislature he directed the RCMP in its probe of a deadly shooting involving an officer on his security team. He now says he misspoke when he discussed what he expects from the investigation into the Easter Sunday incident in tiny Mitchells Brook. "I asked them to do a full, fair and frank investigation," Davis said of the Mounties during question period Wednesday. Liberal Opposition Leader Dwight Ball said the words were clear and pressed Davis on Thursday to explain why he would get personally involved with the RCMP's work. Davis, a former constable with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, told the legislature he has had no direct involvement and does not know if his office is under investigation. "If I misspoke, or if my words were misconstrued or misunderstood, I fully apologize to the house and want to correct it," he said. "In no way have I directed the RCMP or the RNC or any police service to do an investigation, Mr. Speaker. It's not my

place to do that. I've never done that, and I will not do that as premier." NDP House leader Lorraine Michael wants the government to call a public inquiry once the police investigation is finished. Premier Davis said that's something the government will consider. "Just to be clear, at no time did we ever say or are we saying that we are opposed to a public inquiry," Davis said. "What we are saying is let's get the information first, then we will make our decision before we can move forward."

Spokespersons Featured: Premier Davis, Andrew Parsons, Darin King, Lorraine Michael

Tone: balanced

Coverage: VOXM online, VOXM Radio, Telegram, NTV, CBC Radio, CBC TV, CBC online

### **RNC defends missing man search; family upset more wasn't done**

Summary: The RNC defended its search of Sheldon Quinton, missing since Monday, saying police officers used a variety of methods to try to locate Quinton, who was found dead in his pickup off the highway yesterday morning by friends. A missing persons report was filed for the 42-year-old St. John's man when he failed to show up for work at Bull Arm Monday morning. Friends, frustrated by police efforts, took to the highway themselves yesterday morning and found his pickup, over an embankment, near Foxtrap yesterday morning. Friend Kim Carter says they pleaded with officials to check the highway and claims police didn't have any indication that he would be on the highway, but that's exactly where he was. Another friend, Duane Andrews, says they knew he was somewhere along the highway. Carter and Andrews said they are unsatisfied with the RNC's efforts to find Quinton. "It was an hour into it and we found [him]," Carter told CBC. "The RNC [and] RCMP were not there for us to help us find him ... he was there three days." The RNC say officers followed up on leads and checked hospitals, internal records and spoke with family and friends. The Constabulary also used news reports and social media to get the word out in an attempt to locate Quinton. In a release sent out yesterday, the RNC also says it was in contact with RCMP about keeping a check along the highway, but unfortunately, they were unsuccessful.

Spokespersons Featured: Kim Carter, Duane Andrews, RNC

Tone: moderately critical

Coverage: VOXM online, VOXM Radio, Telegram, NTV, CBC Radio, CBC TV

### **Saunders family relieved with guilty plea, will set up scholarship**

Summary: The family of Loretta Saunders has some closure after the two people accused of her murder pleaded guilty this week. The Saunders family spoke to the media in Halifax Thursday about their prayers being answered. Saunders' parents, Miriam and Clint, went before the microphones in Halifax this morning along with her sisters Delilah and Audrey, brother Garrett, and aunts Barb and Isabella. They expressed relief with the guilty pleas, but Miriam says nothing will bring back Loretta or her unborn baby. Miriam Saunders said she hopes to begin advocating on behalf of pregnant women who are murdered. Miriam joined other members of Loretta's family in Halifax yesterday to express their relief at the change in plea and express their pride in the work their daughter was doing. Scholarships in Loretta's name have been set up since her death. Miriam says the scholarships are appropriate because her daughter allowed strangers in her home to meet the bills. A number of students, including two young girls from Nunatsiavut, have already benefited from Loretta's legacy. Meanwhile, there's a sense of relief among people in Labrador who knew Loretta Saunders — relief that her family won't be dealing with a lengthy trial after her killers confessed earlier this week. Bernice Earle works at the Mokami Status of Women Council in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and last saw Saunders on New Year's Eve when they rang in 2014 together. They spent the night talking about growing up in the Labrador community and their plans for the future. "Her family shouldn't have to hear all that kind of stuff. They've gone through enough."

Spokespersons Featured: Miriam Saunders, Bernice Earle

Tone: neutral

Coverage: VOXM online, VOXM Radio, Telegram, NTV, CBC Radio, CBC TV, CBC online

**Walsh, Doris A.**

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**From:** Scott, Brian  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 10:26 AM  
**To:** Barfoot, Scott; Brown, Milly; Ivey, Donna; Donnan, Hugh; Hayden, Veronica; Hynes, Darrell; MacLean, Heather; Paddock, Jeff; Morris, Peter  
**Subject:** Morning roll up for Wednesday, May 27, 2015  
**Attachments:** May 27 Morning Roll up.doc

Good morning,

The morning roll up for Wednesday, May 27, 2015, is below and attached.

Brian

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Top News Stories**Province won't drop MPR to comply with CETA**

Summary: The province has given up trying to change Ottawa's mind in the dispute over the CETA fishery fund. The provincial government formally gave notice Tuesday that it won't give up minimum processing requirements in the fishery, but in the same breath, the province is softening its position on dealing with Ottawa in other international trade talks. "We unequivocally support CETA. We feel that CETA is a good deal for the province," King said. "Whether the federal government runs into any complications as a result of now having to tell the European Union that they do not have the processing requirements removed from Newfoundland and Labrador, I mean, that's really their issue to carry." Liberal finance critic Cathy Bennett was said she really doesn't know whether maintaining the MPRs is a good idea or not, because she doesn't have sufficient information and by not assessing their value, government couldn't sensibly enter into a negotiation over dropping MPRs. New Democratic Party Leader Earle McCurdy said the provincial government did the best it could. "What the federal government did was an absolute doublecross," he said. "I think they were boxed into a corner and they had no real choice." In an emailed statement, Rob Moore, the federal minister responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador, reiterated the position that government has been repeating for months. "As we have indicated to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, we remain open to a transition initiative that includes support for displaced workers, research and development, and innovation," he said. "However, the fund was always intended to compensate hardworking Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for actual losses arising out of the removal of MPRs."

Spokespersons Featured: Minister King, Cathy Bennett, Earle McCurdy, Rob Moore

Tone: balanced

Coverage: VOXM online, VOXM Radio, CBC online, CBC Radio, CBC TV, NTV, Telegram

**Dunphy forensic results to be released after August 15**

Summary: Erin Breen, the lawyer for the family of Don Dunphy, shot dead by a member of the premier's security team, says police findings won't be released for months. Breen says the RCMP told Don Dunphy's family forensic results are not expected until after August 15. Dunphy was killed by an unnamed RNC officer investigating perceived threats against provincial politicians on Twitter. Premier Paul Davis has fended off calls for a public inquiry, saying police should finish their work first. The RCMP has said a

loaded .22-calibre rifle was seized from Dunphy's home and that the officer involved says Dunphy pointed a long-barrel gun at him before the fatal shot was fired.

Spokespersons Featured: Erin Breen

Tone: balanced

Coverage: VOCM online, CBC online, CBC Radio, VOCM Radio

### **Teachers support but frustrated with inclusive education**

Summary: Inclusive education is not only placing a financial strain on some parents of children with special needs, but it is also causing frustration for teachers. "They're being asked, they feel, to do an impossible job, with too few resources," NLTA president Jim Dinn told CBC. Dinn says the NLTA supports inclusive education overall, but he says there aren't enough trained personnel to assist teachers in these diverse classrooms. "Now you have, next year, a reduction of 77 units in teachers, and you have an increase in class cap. So it's going to make the challenge that much greater for them," he said. The inclusion model sees all students, of all learning capabilities, being taught in one classroom. Dinn says additional personnel in an inclusive classroom are often pulled to deal with more severe students. "That teacher's left there then to deal with, to deliver that lesson to the students who don't need the support, who can get by without it; to the students who might need that little bit of extra help; to the ones who are struggling in the class," he said. A joint committee on inclusive education was formed with the province in September, to try to address some of these issues. The group is currently working on recommendations on how to best use available resources to deliver the best possible education for all students. A report is expected to be released in early 2016.

Spokespersons Featured: Jim Dinn

Tone: critical

Coverage: CBC online, CBC TV, CBC Radio

### **RNC completes internal review of privacy breach**

Summary: The RNC has completed an internal review into a privacy breach that spanned several years and impacted 12 people whose private information was accessed by a civilian employee of the force on the northeast Avalon. Several privacy breaches involving one staffer that began in March 2010 and was halted when a member of the public complained to the police on Dec. 9, 2014. RNC Chief Bill Janes said the employee inappropriately accessed the Integrated Constabulary Automated Network (ICAN), which the staff member had access to for work, on 33 different occasions. The system is used to store information in relation to incidents the RNC responds to, Janes said. "It will include personal identifiers, such as a people's names, dates of birth and their address," he said. The 12 people whose information had been accessed were sent letters from the RNC notifying them of the breach, Janes said. Further details as to why the breaches happened are unknown, but Janes said it did not impact any criminal investigations. The outcome of the internal disciplinary review is not being released.

Spokespersons Featured: Bill Janes

Tone: moderately critical

Coverage: CBC online, CBC TV, CBC Radio

### **MP Byrne questions Marine Atlantic purchase of ferries**

Summary: Marine Atlantic is buying the two ferries it uses for the Gulf service. The Blue Puttees and the Highlanders were being leased, but now will be purchased for about \$100 million each. Liberal MP Byrne said owning the vessels is certainly preferable to leasing, but he's not sure the 200-metre boats are the right ones. He said after studies were done about a decade ago measuring the efficiency of vessels with 175-, 185 and 200-metre hulls, it was recommended that Marine Atlantic buy four 175-metre boats. "That's a very specific recommendation that came following receipt of those reports. It's a pretty good indicator that those reports favoured, as the most optimal and most efficient and most effective vessel