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Okanagan College marks 50 years — C1



Health

Birds do it, bees do it, people of 83 do it — C4

B.C. LAWS

Senate reform requires provincial referendum

OTTAWA (CP) — British

Columbia says a provincial referendum on Senate reform would be required by law before it could approve any reforms to the upper chamber in Ottawa.

The B.C. government was the last to submit its factum to the Supreme Court of Canada in a reference case proposed last winter by the Harper Conservatives. Like other provincial and territorial governments, B.C. says any significant reforms — such as term limits for senators or Senate elections — must follow the amending formula laid out in the 1982 Constitution Act.

That means the approval of seven provinces representing at least 50 per cent of the population.

But a release late on Friday from the B.C. Justice minister's office added another caveat:

"In British Columbia, a referendum is required by law before the Legislative Assembly can consider constitutional amendments that need the province's approval."

All arguments from interested parties were supposed to be submitted to the court by the end of August, but B.C. was granted a one-week extension.

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WEST KELOWNA

Bomb-making equipment found, man arrested

By Okanagan Saturday Staff

An Okanagan man has been arrested and a variety of explosives-related charges are expected, following a Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit investigation.

Early last week, police received a tip that a 36-year-old man was making explosive devices in his West Kelowna home and was in the process of moving to Oyanama. Investigators arrested the man

without incident at his home on Aug. 29 and search warrants were executed at both the West Kelowna and Oyanama residences.

Officers found what is being described as "bomb-making equipment" in the Oyanama home — modified timers, batteries, igniters, dismantled shotgun shells, a container of black powder and small wooden boxes fitted with wiring. No full-blown bombs or explosive devices were found.

Also found in the searches were several compound bows, a crossbow, brass knuckles, two semi-automatic assault-style rifles with over-capacity magazines, as well as a small amount of marijuana.

The man is bound by a prohibition order involving explosive materials, devices and weapons. In addition to breach of the order, charges of possession of an explosive substance, firearms and controlled substance-related charges

are being considered.

The man has a criminal record and has been remanded into custody and transported to Alberta regarding an unrelated criminal matter.

Investigators are exploring the man's connections to gang activity. It is unknown if any devices made by the man have been used in criminal acts.

There is no indication he was involved in terrorist activity.

Extreme weather in the forecast



Okanagan Saturday Staff photo

Okanagan water conference delegates warn that more intense and destructive rainstorms are likely around the world unless greenhouse gas emissions are curbed. See story on page A3.