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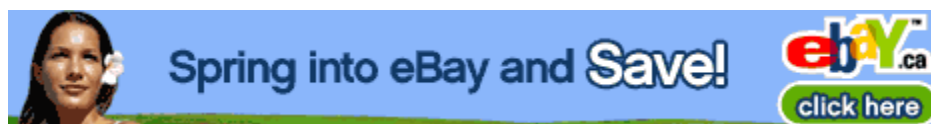
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Tue, May 17, 2005

**Mounties want more cash**

By **BILL RODGERS, OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF**

Mounties say their salaries are falling behind those of other police services across the country.

Staff Sgt. Roy Hill said Mountie paycheques and benefits trail other services including Toronto's cops and the Ontario Provincial Police. "It's our position we should be in the top-three of police forces in Canada, and Canadians, I think, feel the same way," he said.

Hill, who is the chairman of the Mounted Police Members' Legal Fund which helps resolve issues with management and the Treasury Board, commissioned a poll that backs up his statement. The SES Research survey of 1,000 people found 60.9% felt RCMP officers should be paid the same as the major police services across Canada.

Another 23.3% thought they should be the highest-paid cops in the country, while 3.5% said their pay should be lower than other big police departments and 12.3% were unsure. The average RCMP constable now earns \$65,000 a year, excluding benefits.

Discussions are now underway with the Treasury Board to consider a new compensation package for rank-and-file officers.

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