

Suspended cop on leave paid \$106,000

by UPI

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer on paid suspension for eight years while facing drug charges was paid \$106,000 last year, department documents show. Former Staff Sgt. John Schertzer, a 32-year veteran, was arrested in 1999 along with five other officers, all charged with extortion, assault and obstructing justice. He was placed on paid suspension until his retirement last October, and earlier this year a judge stayed all the charges because prosecution delays had denied the officers their constitutional right to a timely trial, the newspaper said. However, in 2007, Schertzer was paid \$106,614, one of 769 officers and staff who were paid more than \$100,000, the Toronto Star said. In 2006, 708 department staff surpassed the \$100,000 mark, records show. Those figures do not include earnings from "paid duty" events where officers work in a private security setting, such as guarding movie production sites, the report said. The force has an annual budget of nearly \$800 million, 95 percent of which is spent on salaries for its 5,510 uniformed officers, the Star said.

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