

Montreal's gang squad to go year-round

by UPI

MONTREAL -- The Canadian city of Montreal has allocated more than \$35 million to make a special anti-gang squad a year-round operation, officials said. For the past four years, about 50 police officers worked the program from summer through fall but Claude Dauphin, public-security chairman for Montreal Island, told reporters it will become a full-time operation within two weeks, The Gazette reported. The \$35.5 million covers the operation for five years, he said. Montreal police estimate there are about 20 gangs in the city, with 400-500 hard-core members. So far this year, police attribute five killings and 12 attempted slayings to street-gang activities, while last year, 54 of 99 attempted murders were listed as gang-related, the newspaper said. Police said 14 of last year's homicides were related to street gangs.

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