



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Negative Impacts of organized and serious crime on Canadians the focus of Criminal Intelligence Service Canada's 2005 Annual Report**

**August 19, 2005**

**OTTAWA-** Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC) today released its "*2005 Annual Report on Organized Crime in Canada*" at an Ottawa news conference. The report informs Canadians about the significant problem of organized crime and its negative social and economic effects on the lives of Canadians.

The Report was presented by CISC Executive Committee Co-Vice Chair, Peter D. Martin (Deputy Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police), who was joined by CISC Executive Committee Co-Vice Chair, Normand Proulx (Chief, Sûreté du Québec), CISC Executive Committee member, Chief Vince Bevan (Ottawa Police Service), and Chief Edgar McLeod (Cape Breton Police Service), President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP).

The purpose of the *Annual Report* is to inform Canadians about the threat posed by organized crime to public safety and security and to enlist their support in protecting their communities by reporting crime. The understanding and involvement of citizens is crucial to the collective efforts of law enforcement to detect, reduce and prevent organized and serious crime in Canada.

The Report highlights the direct and indirect harmful effects that organized crime has on communities and individual Canadians, whether it be the person faced with rebuilding a damaged reputation and credit rating as a result of identity theft, to the person who inadvertently purchases counterfeit goods, to communities who must deal with the problems associated with the illicit drug market or the violent actions of local street gangs.

"Recent events involving the seizure of counterfeit prescription drugs demonstrate how every Canadian is a possible target for organized criminals," said Deputy Commissioner Martin, CISC Executive Committee Co-Vice Chair. "Criminals threaten the very fabric of our society and we can only counter that threat by partnering to combat organized crime."

The 2005 Report has a new format that focuses on criminal activities favoured by organized crime and the negative social and economic effects of the various criminal activities undertaken by organized crime groups. It describes how organized crime groups seek opportunities for profit in various criminal markets and use innovative methods that further their acquisition and distribution of illicit goods and services at the expense of public safety.

The efforts of CISC are critical to helping law enforcement fight organized crime in Canada. As a national network and the voice of Canada's criminal intelligence community, CISC demonstrates a coordinated and integrated approach to intelligence-led policing. CISC's member agencies are comprised of federal, provincial, regional and municipal police departments and various law enforcement, intelligence and regulatory agencies working through nine Provincial Bureaus and a Central Bureau located in Ottawa. They work together to gather and share information and intelligence to prevent, detect and reduce organized and serious crime in Canada..

“Organized crime groups prey on many segments of society, from individuals to investors to financial institutions,” said Sureté du Québec Chief Normand Proulx. “The intelligence on organized and serious crime gathered and shared through CISC helps law enforcement to reduce illicit profit-making opportunities, and to protect citizens from being victimized.”

The scope of activities undertaken by organized crime groups is broad and evolving, ranging from marijuana grow operations, vehicle theft, and migrant smuggling, to identity theft and various financial crimes, such as money laundering. Many of these activities involve intimidation and the threat or use of violence. Canada's law enforcement community is working collaboratively across jurisdictions, using intelligence and technology to provide an organized, coordinated response that creates safer homes and communities.

CISC Director General Sandra Conlin said, “The entire CISC community's commitment to working together is an essential factor in successfully collecting and disseminating intelligence on organized and serious crime in Canada. The CISC network continues to be instrumental to law enforcement efforts in dismantling organized crime groups across the country.”

The *2005 Annual Report on Organized Crime in Canada* can be obtained from CISC's website at [www.cisc.gc.ca](http://www.cisc.gc.ca). Enquiries about the Report should be directed to the CISC Central Bureau at (613) 993-9061 or by e-mail at [webmaster@cisc.gc.ca](mailto:webmaster@cisc.gc.ca). General inquiries may also be directed to the nearest Provincial Bureau at the coordinates on the attached list.

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