



October 19, 2009

SCAN unit shuts down another suspected drug house

Judge grants Community Safety Order on long-time problem property

Edmonton... After an in-depth investigation, the northern Alberta Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit has shut down a suspected drug house in west Edmonton through a Community Safety Order (CSO). The CSO orders the house closed and occupants removed effective October 19.

SCAN received numerous complaints that a house at 10231 – 163 Street was being used for suspected drug trafficking. As in all cases, SCAN attempted to resolve this complaint informally, including sending a warning letter. Obtaining a court-ordered CSO to shut the property down is done as a last resort and in cases where the landlord or owner is not cooperative.

“SCAN provides a tool for Albertans to take back their neighbourhoods and feel safe again,” said Fred Lindsay, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. “Ensuring landlords and owners are held accountable for what happens on their properties provides community members with better and safer places to live.”

SCAN is part of the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT), an umbrella organization established by the Government of Alberta to bring together Alberta's most sophisticated law enforcement resources to strategically tackle serious and organized crime. SCAN supports safer communities by investigating, and, if necessary, shutting down properties used for illegal activities such as prostitution, gangs and drugs. Investigators work with property owners and landlords to ensure their properties are maintained in a manner safe to the community and to help hamper illegal behaviour.

Since launching on October 1, 2008, SCAN units have received more than 480 complaints about problem properties and have successfully resolved almost 350 of those complaints.

Albertans who suspect a property in their neighbourhood is being used for illegal activity should never investigate or enter the property themselves. They can contact SCAN toll-free at 1-866-960-SCAN (7226) or online at www.scan.alberta.ca. All complaints are confidential.

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