



October 21, 2009

## **ALERT arrests nine on drug trafficking charges** ***Integrated teams showing great success with third major bust in two months***

*Calgary...* The suspected head of a major drug trafficking network that supplied several criminal organizations and street gangs in Alberta with large quantities of cocaine has been arrested in Calgary. Eight other individuals have also been charged following a year-long investigation by the Calgary Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU).

“This event strikes a blow to organized crime in our province,” said Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security Fred Lindsay. “Investigations like this demonstrate the effectiveness of integrated policing as modeled by ALERT, that combines the efforts of police agencies throughout Alberta to tackle serious and organized crime to create safer communities.”

Over the last month, CFSEU investigators executed 3 search warrants on residential properties in Calgary, Red Deer, and Lethbridge. As a result of these searches, investigators arrested nine people and seized 11 kilograms of cocaine with an estimated street value of nearly \$1.5 million. That translates into approximately 33,000 individual doses of cocaine taken off of the streets.

The accused are believed to have transported multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine from Vancouver to other points in Canada, extending as far as St. John's, N.L. They all face numerous drug trafficking, firearms and proceeds of crime charges.

Inspector Kevin Forsen, officer in charge of the Calgary CFSEU, said that these individuals are believed to have operated in a highly sophisticated way, supplying violent street gangs in the city of Calgary with drugs.

“We believe that these arrests will hinder the criminal activities of the gangs who were once supplied by these individuals,” said Forsen. “No doubt, this will ultimately help to reduce the level of violence on Calgary streets and throughout the province.”

The Calgary CFSEU is an integrated police team made up of investigators from the Calgary Police Service and the RCMP. CFSEU 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.

This latest drug bust brings to three the number ALERT CFSEU teams have been responsible for in the past two months. The other two were in Edmonton, and the Medicine Hat area.

“The type of police work we do is highly sophisticated and time-consuming, but all of the hard work pays off big when we reach the end of an investigation and can say we have taken some big players and large quantities of drugs and weapons off of the streets. We are winning some pretty big battles these days and it just goes to show that this type of integrated policing really works,” said Superintendent Ted Miles, Chief Executive Officer for ALERT.

Since its establishment in 2006, ALERT has arrested over 2,300 individuals on 5,600 charges related to drugs, weapons and violent crime. The units have seized nearly \$4 million in cash and have been responsible for taking approximately 600 kilograms of drugs and over 300 firearms off the streets.

- 30 -

**Backgrounder:** names of charged attached

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Candace Cook  
Communications  
Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams  
Phone: 780-453-0728  
candace.cook@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Christine Nardella  
Communications  
Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security  
Phone: 780-427-7431  
christine.nardella@gov.ab.ca

Inspector Kevin Forsen  
Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit  
- Calgary  
Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams  
Phone: 403-769-6500

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.