



May 17, 2010

ALERT shuts down Calgary house linked to suspected drug and prostitution activity

First time community safety court order has been issued in southern Alberta

Calgary... A Calgary residence linked to drug and prostitution activity has been shut down by the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT).

ALERT requested a community safety order that was issued in a Calgary court, allowing the house at 2001-38 Street SE to be closed and the occupants removed for 90 days effective May 16.

This is the first time ALERT has shut down a property in southern Alberta to help resolve neighbourhood concerns and increase community safety.

The case was investigated by ALERT's Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit. SCAN, which has teams based in Calgary and Edmonton, targets problem properties around the province used for illegal purposes such as prostitution, drug trafficking and gang activity.

"SCAN continues to help neighbourhoods rid themselves of illegal activities," said Frank Oberle, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. "By shutting down this property that has long been associated with safety and security issues, SCAN has helped make another community safer."

SCAN first received complaints about the Calgary property last July. Throughout the investigation, SCAN members worked closely with neighbours in the community and the Calgary Police Service.

As in all cases, SCAN attempted to resolve this complaint informally, including sending a warning letter to the property's owner. Obtaining a court-ordered community safety order to shut the property down is a last resort and used in cases where the landlord or owner is not cooperative.

Since launching on October 1, 2008, SCAN has conducted approximately 565 investigations into problem properties based on public complaints. About 400 of those cases were resolved through informal means such as working with the landlord or owner. This is only the seventh time a CSO has been used to address a problem residence in Alberta. One property was in Edson and the other five were in Edmonton.

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.

ALERT is an umbrella organization established by the Government of Alberta to bring together the province's most sophisticated law enforcement resources to tackle serious and organized crime. Close to 400 municipal police, RCMP and sheriffs work for ALERT.

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Note to News Editors: ALERT investigator Mike Letourneau will be available to speak to reporters at the property (2001-38 Street SE) at 2:30 p.m. today.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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