



September 1, 2010

## **ALERT shuts down Beverly Motel in Edmonton** ***First motel in Canada to be closed using SCAN legislation***

*Edmonton...* Following a year-long investigation into complaints about illegal activity occurring at the Beverly Motel, Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) has shut down the Edmonton property for a period of 30 days effective today.

The case was investigated by ALERT's Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit. SCAN began the probe after receiving numerous public complaints that the 17-room motel located at 4403-118 Avenue was allegedly being used for drug trafficking and prostitution.

This is the first time a motel has been shut down using SCAN legislation in Canada.

"Residents in this particular neighbourhood had a daily, front-row seat to public displays of drug-use, violence and prostitution," said Chip Sawchuk, acting manager of the SCAN unit. "When activity like that threatens the safety and enjoyment of a neighbourhood, SCAN will target the problem property and shut it down if necessary, whether it is a private residence or a business."

During the investigation, SCAN attempted to resolve the matter informally, including sending a warning letter to the property owners. Following the warning, the alleged activity continued and SCAN then took steps to obtain a community safety order. Earlier this summer, SCAN met with the owners of the property and their lawyer to discuss conditions of the order. An agreement was reached by both parties and a consensual community safety order was issued by the Court on July 8, 2010.

During the 30-day closure period, the owners of the motel and one long-term resident, an elderly woman, will be allowed to continue living on the premise.

The community safety order sets out a number of conditions that must be met by the owners, including:

- completing renovations that will bring the property up to Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association standards;
- requiring a credit card deposit on all rooms rented along with government photo identification; and
- keeping a proper guest registry.

If the conditions are not met, further legal action will be taken, including applying to the courts to close the property for 90 days.

Throughout the investigation, SCAN members worked closely with residents of the community and

the Edmonton Police Service. For more than thirty years, police have visited or responded to problems at this motel. Close to 800 occurrences have been reported since May 1996.

SCAN, which has teams based in Calgary and Edmonton, uses civil legislation to target problem properties around the province used for illegal purposes such as prostitution, drug trafficking and gang activity.

Since launching on October 1, 2008, SCAN has concluded 618 investigations. The majority of those cases were resolved through informal means such as working with the landlord or owner. This is the tenth time a community safety order has been used to shut-down a problem property in Alberta.

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.alert-ab.ca](http://www.alert-ab.ca) to report suspicious activity. All complaints remain 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 collaboratively for ALERT.

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**Note to News Editors:** Acting Manager Chip Sawchuk will be available to speak to reporters at the property (4403-118 Ave. NW)) at 1 p.m. today.

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Candace Cook  
Communications  
Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams  
Phone: 780-453-0728

Chip Sawchuk  
Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods  
Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams  
Phone: 780-699-8496