



December 14, 2010

ALERT busts marihuana grow operation in Grande Prairie

Grande Prairie... Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT), with assistance from Grande Prairie RCMP Drug Section, have located and dismantled an indoor marihuana grow operation in Grande Prairie.

The Countryside area residence was searched on Dec. 10, and approximately 600 marihuana plants were seized. Some harvested marihuana and growing equipment was also seized. If grown to maturity, the plants would be worth an estimated street value of \$720,000.

The entire basement of the residence had been converted into a growing facility and elaborate venting modifications had been made for that purpose.

Officers from Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment and the ALERT Green Team North assisted with the search.

A 36-year-old male resident was arrested on site and is facing charges of production of a controlled substance and possession of marihuana for the purpose of trafficking. He has a court appearance scheduled for February 2011.

The investigation is continuing.

ALERT wants to remind the public to be on the lookout for signs of a marihuana grow operation in your neighbourhood. Report any suspicious activity to police or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. To learn more about how to spot a grow operation, please visit ALERT's website at www.alert-ab.ca. Never investigate a marihuana grow operation on your own.

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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