



ALERT

ALBERTA LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TEAMS

News release



January 31, 2011

ALERT and RCMP target drug trafficking in Peace River

Peace River... Twenty-seven Peace River residents are facing over 90 criminal charges following an investigation by members of Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams and Peace Regional RCMP detachment.

ALERT Combined Forces Special Enforcement Units (CFSEU) from Grande Prairie and Edmonton worked with Peace Regional RCMP detachment to conclude this three-week investigation on January 29.

Investigators executed five search warrants at residences in Peace River and located crack cocaine, powder cocaine, marihuana, cash, and a prohibited weapon. Evidence was also located at one residence to support charges of operating a common bawdy house. Twenty-one people were arrested at these five locations; 12 males and 9 females. Two were young offenders; one male aged 16 and one female aged 17. Two people were arrested later at other locations not related to the search and four additional people are yet to be arrested.

The majority of charges relate to drug trafficking and possessing drugs for the purpose of trafficking. Other charges are for keeping a common bawdy house, possessing property obtained by crime, possessing prohibited weapons, and breaching court orders.

Two ounces of crack and powder cocaine and four pounds of marihuana were seized with an estimated street value of \$20,000. Investigators also seized approximately \$22,000 in cash and four vehicles.

This project is expected to have a significant impact on the availability of drugs and on drug trafficking activity in Peace River and surrounding communities. It also demonstrates what can be achieved through cooperation between ALERT and local police, in this case, Peace Regional RCMP detachment.

ALERT also wrapped up a similar project in Manning this weekend in a joint effort with the Manning RCMP detachment. In that investigation, two search warrants were executed at Manning residences and 18 drug related offences were laid against four people. Four pounds of marihuana, \$2,000 cash, and three vehicles were seized.

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.

NOTE: See attached backgrounder for names of accused and charges

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