



ALERT

ALBERTA LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TEAMS

News release

December 6, 2011

ALERT arrests nine people believed to be trafficking meth in Grande Prairie *Organized crime group also suspected of running "chop shop"*

Grande Prairie... ALERT's Grande Prairie Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) wrapped up an investigation into a group believed to be trafficking methamphetamine in the Grande Prairie area with the arrest of nine people on Friday. Several of the suspects were also involved in alleged property crimes including the theft of vehicles and the operation of a "chop shop". The local ALERT unit worked closely with ALERT's Edmonton CFSEU to bring this investigation to conclusion.

On December 2, CFSEU-Grande Prairie, assisted by ALERT's CFSEU-Edmonton team, the Edmonton RCMP Emergency Response Team, several members of Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment, and Edmonton RCMP Auto Theft Section, executed five search warrants in Grande Prairie and area. Various drugs including methamphetamine, ketamine and marihuana were seized, as well as stolen property, several thousand dollars cash, and prohibited weapons.

Two searches were conducted in Grande Prairie, one in Clairmont, and two on rural properties east and southwest of Grande Prairie. Three of the locations searched had been the subject of several complaints of suspected criminal activity. One of the locations was a commercial building in Grande Prairie where investigators believe the accused were disassembling stolen vehicles and selling the parts.

Some of the items seized by police include \$30,000 cash, 3 ounces of ketamine, 1.5 ounces of methamphetamine, a small quantity of marihuana, the engine and parts from a stolen 2011 Chevrolet truck, a stolen four-wheel, all terrain vehicle, a stolen snowmobile, a stolen dirt bike, a taser, brass knuckles, an extendable baton, and pepper spray.

Five men and four women are facing over 20 charges including possession of methamphetamine and ketamine for the purpose of trafficking, possession of the proceeds of crime over \$5,000, possession of stolen property (over and under \$5,000), possession of methamphetamine, cocaine and marihuana, and several weapons offences. All have been released on bail or on recognizances.

Three of the accused have been formally charged:

William BLACKWOOD, age 34, is charged with possession of the proceeds of crime over \$5,000, and three counts of breach of recognizance. He is scheduled to appear in court on December 7 in Grande Prairie.

Kelly Paul McINNIS, age 49, is charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of marihuana, and is also scheduled to appear in court on December 7 in Grande Prairie.

James HOLLEY, age 37, is charged with possession of ketamine for the purpose of trafficking, possession of stolen property under \$5,000, possession of a vehicle with the serial number removed, and possession of ammunition while prohibited. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

All others facing charges are due in court on January 11, 2012.

[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.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Sgt. Grant Bulford
CFSEU – Grande Prairie
Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT)
Phone: 780-402-6127

Candace Cook
Communications
Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT)
Phone: 780-509-3015