

Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta

Semi Annual Report

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Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
GOAL 1: To Provide Effective Collection, Analysis and Dissemination of Criminal Intelligence	4
GOAL 2: To Develop Intelligence-Based Analytical Products and Participate in the Preparation of Provincial Threat Assessments on Organized Crime for the Benefit of Senior Police Managers and Various Levels of Government.....	5
GOAL 3: Participate in Multi-Agency and Multi-Disciplinary Joint Forces Operational Enforcement Strategies for Targeting Organized and Serious Crime in Alberta Through the Prudent Allocation of Resources.....	10
GOAL 4: To Provide Professional Development for Alberta Law Enforcement Personnel in Order to Comprehend and Respond to the Criminal Activities of Organized Crime Groups and Serious Criminal Predators.....	13
GOAL 5: To Provide Enhanced Use of Technology to Combat the Evolution of Technologically Based Organized Crime	15
GOAL 6: To Establish and Enhance Partnerships with all Stakeholders to Reduce and Control Organized Crime and to be Accountable to all CISA Partners	15
GOAL 7: To Develop a Communications Strategy that Assists in Delivering an Accurate Message of the Scope and Impact of Organized Crime in Our Communities and to Assist in the Building of a Preventative Culture	17
GOAL 8: To Facilitate and Manage the Proceeds of Crime Law Enforcement Grant Program on Behalf of the Ministry of the Solicitor General	18
CONCLUSION	18



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

We have reached the mid point of the current business plan and there are many success stories emanating from CISA that have been achieved with our partner agencies. CISA, in and of itself, could not be successful without this strong network of partnerships within the police community, government, and most importantly the public. Communication is the key to ensuring that all segments of Alberta society are in-tune with the efforts being made on their behalf, and the extent to which organized crime is operating in the province.

In this regard, CISA has launched a web site that is accessible to the public. It has been accessed over 12,000 times in the first six months of operation. Further enhancements will be made in the near future to this technology, with the establishment of a secure side to the site for direct communication with our member agencies. This will enable updated confidential information to be transmitted to those agencies cleared for access. The assembly of these various communication planks is essential to provide a sound communications strategy base. CISA must have the ability to carry a message to both the public and law enforcement sectors that contains pertinent and factual information for those audiences, while maintaining the obvious need for security of sensitive information.

The most recent public opinion survey conducted by CISA revealed that while the public is aware and concerned about organized crime, they do not draw a direct linkage to their personal circumstance. This is a repeated theme from prior public opinion surveys, and it remains a challenge to better inform the general public of the true impact, both economically and socially, that organized crime has on all of our daily lives. While overt acts of violence associated to organized criminal groups cause the public to express concern, the more hidden and secreted aspects of organized crime go largely unnoticed, and under reported. Law enforcement must have the benefit of an informed public that is willing to provide it with information that can be correlated into a full strategic view, that in turn will lead to investigational and enforcement activities.

The efforts of the CISA Bureau are beginning to have the desired affect on crime groups in the province. Numerous investigations have been successfully completed with charges being laid against members of organized crime. The Bureau, with the input of all the partner agencies, will continue to amass intelligence on criminal activity and provide police executives and operational units with updated strategic and tactical-based information for use in their investigational and planning functions.

Inspector Ian Cameron
Director, CISA



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an effort to provide effective collection, analysis and dissemination of criminal intelligence, a number of initiatives have been completed or are in progress. Hardware and software for the database that CISA promoted that would electronically standardize the information sharing process have been implemented within Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat police services. Middleware for the Alberta Public Safety Network (APSNET) will be developed by the spring of 2004.

ACIIS III became operational in Alberta during this reporting period. Training was provided to various users of the system, which will result in the input and sharing of more intelligence between agencies.

CISA is involved in developing a standardized threat assessment process to be used in cases where organized crime threatens or intimidates components of the judicial system or government leaders during the course of their duties.

The size, sophistication and number of marihuana grow operations in the province appears to be on the rise. CISA has commenced a long-term strategic analysis project examining the marihuana grow situation in Alberta to determine the extent of organized crime involvement, as well as to ascertain the impact these grows may have on the community.

There have been modifications made to the threat assessment process; the CISA JFO Threat Assessment Team will meet once a year, an environmental scan of Alberta will be included in the document, and there will be a more strategic assessment, devoid of sensitive information, which will be made available to all CISA members and other intelligence bureaux in Canada.

CISA is an active partner in the Alberta Anti-Terrorism Crisis Management Plan and is the conduit for information sharing between CISA member agencies, the RCMP National Security Investigation Section (NSIS), and the Security and Information Management (SIM) Unit of the Solicitor General.

During this reporting period, court proceedings continued for a number of organized crime projects that had been completed earlier and were before the courts. Project Shadow investigated the Calgary Hells Angels; trials are scheduled for the remainder of the accused this fall and early in 2004. Project Brandy targeted a South Asian based organized crime group. In June 2003, the two primary targets of the investigation were found guilty of first-degree murder. Project Rush Hour investigated an Asian based organized crime group that was involved in trafficking cocaine and has since been dismantled. Project Klan investigated the illegal production and trafficking of large quantities of crystal methamphetamine by an organized crime group in Edmonton and surrounding areas. Over twelve pounds of crystal methamphetamine, \$64,000 cash and over \$400,000 in stolen property were seized. Project Keystone targeted street level drug



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

trafficking, which resulted in over 500 charges of trafficking or possession and over 60 charges for weapons and assaults were sworn. Project Green Team targeted marihuana grow operations, which resulted in 120 persons being charged with over 230 drug and criminal code offences. Project Dingo investigated an organized crime group that was involved in credit/debit card frauds and auto thefts. This investigation concluded in August with the arrest of two suspects and warrants being issued for two others.

CISA offered a number of training opportunities to law enforcement personnel including: First Responders to Cyber Crime, Bill C-24 Legislation, Informant Handling Workshops, i2 Analyst's Notebook Training, Drug Investigation Workshop, and the Clandestine Laboratory Investigators Association Annual Training Conference.

The CISA website is complete and provides the public with information concerning the impact of organized crime, ideas for prevention strategies, and information on the organization itself. The first phase of the website, which is the public site, has had over 12,000 visits within the first six months of operation.

CISA continues to establish and enhance partnerships with stakeholders to reduce and control organized crime and to be accountable to all CISA partners. As such, CISA is a member of a Provincial Steering Committee to pursue the correlation between illicit drug activity and crime. CISA is also involved in the Alberta Counter Terrorism Crisis Management, where we have the responsibility for being the conduit for the sharing of intelligence between the RCMP National Security Intelligence Sections in Alberta and other members of CISA, including the Security Information Management Unit of the Alberta Solicitor General. CISA is also participating with the National Coordinating Committee on Organized Crime Policy Priorities Working Group.

Work has begun on an overall Communications Strategy. Presentations suitable for the general public, as well as CISA's partner agencies, are well underway and should be in place some time in the fall.

The Proceeds of Crime Law Enforcement Grant Program continues to be an excellent source of investigational funding for the nine Alberta police services. Six initiatives have been approved, funding provided, and are currently underway. There are three additional applications for funding, however, they are being held in abeyance as CISA has not yet received the 2003 Proceeds of Crime Law Enforcement Grant funds.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

CISA continues to actively pursue the eight goals of the second three-year business plan. Our performance will demonstrate the continued commitment of the Alberta Government and police services in providing safe communities in which citizens can live and raise their families.

GOAL 1: To Provide Effective Collection, Analysis and Dissemination of Criminal Intelligence

In the most recent annual report, we advised that CISA was promoting the electronic standardization of collecting, reporting and sharing of confidential source information between the five major Alberta police services. The RCMP has been utilizing a database nationally for several years and therefore it was essential to develop a system for the municipal police services in Alberta, which was capable of sharing certain aspects of collected data between the five services. Considerable progress has been made since that time, with the hardware and software being implemented within the Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat police services. Key people in each of those services are now trained in the use of that system and it has become operational. While the system is functional, there is still a need to develop business rules for consistency purposes, as well as deal with any problems that may arise. A working committee with representatives from the five services and CISA exists to facilitate this process.

ACIIS III became operational in Alberta during this reporting period. All of the new hardware and software has been installed and a number of specific intelligence and operational units within the five major Alberta police services have direct access to the new version. Other members of CISA have indirect access to the intelligence on ACIIS, either through CISA or one of the Level One member services. During the months of May and June, the CISA Provincial ACIIS Co-ordinator and Data Entry Clerk provided training for the various users of the system in Alberta. CISA is currently consulting several other investigative units regarding the feasibility of installing ACIIS III terminals. The Camrose Police Service, the Rocky Mountain Integrated Enforcement Border Team and Fort McMurray Detachment have applied for ACIIS terminals, and it is anticipated that they will be coming on-line by the end of the year. Additional users of the system will result in the input and sharing of more intelligence between agencies.

The development of the Alberta Public Safety Network (APSNET), as introduced in the last annual report, continues to move forward. The Edmonton Police Service, through the Corporation of the City of Edmonton, has tendered the Request For Proposals and there has been a good response. It is anticipated that a contractor will be selected this fall with a goal of having the middleware developed by the spring of 2004.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

CISA is participating with representatives from the Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat police services and the RCMP to develop a standardized threat assessment process in Alberta to be used in cases where organized crime threatens or intimidates components of the judicial system or government leaders during the course of their duties. The Security Information Management Unit of the Alberta Solicitor General has also been involved in this initiative. While currently in the development stage, the goal for this project is for any incidents of threat or intimidation by organized crime against the previously mentioned public officials would be reported to an Alberta police service and would be assessed in accordance with accepted criteria, after which appropriate and consistent follow-up would be conducted dependant on the threat level. Additionally, all such incidents would be entered into the national ACIIS III intelligence system so that it will be available to law enforcement for future cases. It is hoped that this process will be completed and accepted within the next six months, following which an education process would be implemented for the various components of the judicial and government departments that may need to avail themselves thereof.

GOAL 2: To Develop Intelligence-Based Analytical Products and Participate in the Preparation of Provincial Threat Assessments on Organized Crime for the Benefit of Senior Police Managers and Various Levels of Government

During the late fall of 2002, there was concern expressed that a significant number of Aboriginal gang members in custody in Federal and Provincial correctional institutions were due for release during 2003. CISA conducted a research project to determine what impact, if any, there would be to Alberta communities by the impending release of those inmates. Information acquired from Correctional Services Canada and Alberta Justice Provincial Corrections was collated with intelligence from the various databases that CISA has access to. A total of 153 Federal or Provincial inmates with Aboriginal gang affiliations were identified as being eligible for release to Alberta communities during 2003. Based on the collective information obtained, a restricted report was distributed in May 2003 to all Level One police services in Alberta. Some of the information provided to police was as follows:

- Identity of inmate, age, and any known or suspected gang affiliation
- Location of last offence for which the inmate was incarcerated
- Release date and community being released to
- An assessment of the risk to re-offend

Several years ago, British Columbia experienced a dramatic increase in the number of marihuana grow operations in various parts of the province. That



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

problem continues to escalate and it is estimated that there are in excess of 20,000 grow operations in the Lower Mainland at any given time. Many of these grows are controlled by organized crime and there has been considerable evidence and intelligence to show that this phenomenon is moving across Canada. CISA has commenced a long-term strategic analysis project examining the marihuana grow situation in Alberta. The two primary goals of this project are to determine the extent of organized crime involvement, as well as to ascertain the impact these grows may have on the community. In relation to the public impact, the project will examine:

- The potential for increased fire or other safety hazards due to electrical bypasses, heavy power consumption and the use of chemicals.
- The potential impact to landlords, utility providers, insurance companies and financial institutions due to the loss or damage that may result to residential and commercial properties that house marihuana grows.

In April 2003, the CISA Joint Forces Organized Crime Threat Assessment Team convened at the Bureau and prepared the classified threat assessment for dissemination to the senior managers of the CISA Level One services. Following this meeting and the national threat assessment meeting that CISA participated in, it was felt that some modifications were needed to our current process. As the Sleipnir classified threat assessment has been ongoing for almost three years, there is a certain amount of duplication of information and effort in completing the process every six months. CISA and the police services currently have the ability to identify and classify newly identified groups in accordance with the Sleipnir criteria at anytime throughout the year. There is also a need to include an environmental scan in the classified threat assessment. As the distribution of this classified report is very restricted due to the sensitive information contained therein, there needs to be a more strategic document that can be made available to all frontline law enforcement in Alberta.

In May 2003, a presentation was made to the CISA Executive Committee and approval was given for the following:

- The CISA JFO Threat Assessment Team will meet once a year and complete the classified threat assessment for senior managers of the Level One services.
- Research will be conducted in order to include an environmental scan of Alberta in the threat assessment.
- Following the distribution of the classified threat assessment, a strategic assessment of organized crime in Alberta, devoid of sensitive information, will be prepared and distributed to all CISA members and the other intelligence bureaux in Canada.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

This amended process will commence in November 2003, with the classified threat assessment being produced in February 2004, and the strategic document finalized in March 2004. CISA is confident that these changes will ensure that senior police managers have the most current intelligence information to make decisions regarding organized crime enforcement, but it will also provide more feedback to the frontline personnel as to what organized crime groups are active in Alberta.

Following are summaries of the current situation in Alberta for each of the national and provincial organized crime priorities:

Asian Organized Crime

Asian criminal groups continue to be the most serious organized crime threat in Alberta. The level of sophistication and the overt violence displayed by them has increased, and their operations are now being found in rural communities. Ten groups are considered to be significant, with an additional eleven being of potential law enforcement interest. Their trade is drug trafficking and the violence that is associated with it. Over the past year, the city of Calgary, in particular, was plagued by street violence among competing groups. A number of marihuana grow operations that have been dismantled in the Calgary area can be attributed to Asian criminals.

Eastern European Organized Crime

At least five Eastern European criminal groups remain active in Alberta. All appear to have international connections and are worthy of further investigation.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

There are three Hells Angels chapters in Alberta comprised of 39 members, the lowest membership ever. The practice within the Hells Angels organization is that full members may, if they choose, direct personal networks of criminal activity. Many of these members are currently involved in the supply of cocaine and methamphetamine (speed).

With the arrests in eastern Canada of most of the Bandidos (formerly known as Rock Machine, and enemies of the Hells Angels), the potential for the Bandidos to open a chapter in Alberta was studied. It was concluded that there was no significant illicit territory to attract the Bandidos to Alberta at the present time. In the northwestern United States, members of the Bandidos and Hells Angels have been observed together in public. The situation continues to be monitored.

In April of this year, police observed a new motorcycle club in Calgary called Death's Hand. Since then, a bulletin has been issued concerning the



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

disappearance of the club's president. It appears that this group may now be disbanded.

Traditional Organized Crime

Three criminal groups have been identified so far with primary involvement in illegal drug activity, illegal gambling, extortion and money laundering.

Jamaican Organized Crime

At least three of the four identified Jamaican organized crime groups have experienced internal changes following the arrests and incarcerations of some members. The primary criminal activities continue to be drug trafficking and violence.

Middle Eastern Organized Crime

Three criminal groups have been identified so far, all of which are described as being violent; they are active in the drug trade.

South Asian Organized Crime

There is ongoing interest in criminals of South Asian descent who have a history of violence and criminal activity that spans many jurisdictions. Drug trafficking, vehicle thefts and credit/debit card skimming are the most prevalent illegal activities perpetrated by these groups.

Terrorism

The law enforcement community in Alberta continues to provide assistance to the National Security Intelligence Sections when requested to do so. CISA is an active partner in the Alberta Anti-Terrorism Crisis Management Plan and the Bureau is the conduit for information sharing between CISA member agencies, the RCMP National Security Investigation Section (NSIS), and the Security and Information Management (SIM) Unit of the Alberta Solicitor General. CISA is also being used to disseminate threat assessment documents to the various Alberta enforcement entities.

Drugs

The size, sophistication and number of marijuana grow operations in the province appears to be on the rise and, like British Columbia, it appears the majority of these illegal ventures are operated by persons of Vietnamese descent. British Columbia is experiencing a disproportionate number of hydroponics stores and this trend appears to be also occurring in Alberta.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

Each year, more clandestine methamphetamine (speed) laboratories are being discovered in Alberta. The dangers posed to the general public (including children of “meth parents”), response personnel and the environment are extreme. Police report that meth availability, trafficking and production data show that the problem is increasing and will continue to increase unabated without a significant counter-strategy. Organized crime groups are involved in the production of this illicit drug and the daily manufacturing capacities of meth labs have been found to range from one ounce to multi-kilo outputs. Several Alberta communities are experiencing negative impacts from the production and use of this drug. Social issues, property offences and frauds appear to increase in those areas where methamphetamine is readily available. In the spring of 2003, a workshop entitled “Drug Endangered Children” was well attended by a variety of agencies, services and government personnel. One third of the Child and Family Services workers in attendance from various communities in Alberta advised that the use of crystal methamphetamine has had a definite negative impact on their work. While there are no specific indicators to show whether the problem is decreasing or on the rise, if one looks to our neighbors to the south, it would appear that the problem will get worse before it gets better.

CISA provided assistance to the Clandestine Laboratory Investigators Association (CLIA), which convened its annual training conference in Calgary, and was attended by law enforcement personnel and other professionals from across North America.

Diamond Industry

The diamond/jewelry industry in Alberta is growing substantially, and quite significantly in the area of exploration for rough diamonds. The Alberta government is reviewing the possibility of offering tax concessions to exploration companies to further the chances of developing a viable diamond mine in Alberta. It is estimated that Canada will be the leading supplier of rough diamonds by 2015, and government is encouraging secondary industry growth (cutting facilities, etc.) in the provinces as well as the Northern Territories.

Ultimately, as the secondary industries grow in number and into southern locations, the opportunity for criminals to engage in this industry will increase. Organized crime involvement has already started and they will continue to look for the right opportunities to become further entrenched.

The involvement of criminals in the world of finished diamonds is quite apparent, and has been for several decades. A criminal’s desire for property that is small, valuable, and untraceable is fundamental and all of that can be found in a diamond. From the small-time criminal committing residential break and enters to the international organized crime syndicates that need to move large quantities



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

of cash over borders or to launder money by other means, the involvement of organized crime in the diamond industry, and the use of diamonds for the advancement of respective criminal organizations, cannot be understated.

GOAL 3: Participate in Multi-Agency and Multi-Disciplinary Joint Forces Operational Enforcement Strategies for Targeting Organized and Serious Crime in Alberta Through the Prudent Allocation of Resources

During this reporting period, court proceedings continued for a number of organized crime projects that had been completed earlier and were before the courts. The following is a brief summary of those projects:

Project SHADOW:

In 2001, the Calgary Police Service, partnering with the RCMP and supported by CISA, investigated numerous members and associates of the Calgary Hells Angels, which resulted in the arrest of approximately 50 persons. While some persons pled guilty early in the proceedings, others opted for trials. During the past year, another 12 members or associates of the Calgary Hells Angels have been convicted for a variety of charges from this investigation and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 15 months to six years. Other guilty pleas have been tendered recently and trials are scheduled for the remainder of the accused this fall and early in 2004.

Project BRANDY:

In late 2001 and early 2002, the Edmonton Police Service partnered with the RCMP to target a South Asian based organized crime group alleged to be involved in a variety of criminal activities including at least one homicide. In June 2003, the two primary targets of this investigation, Usman Pervez and Michael Debrocke, were found guilty of the first-degree murder of Ranjit Mangat and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years. Warrants are outstanding for two other accused that fled from Canada.

Project RUSH HOUR:

At the conclusion of the investigation by the Calgary and Edmonton Police Services and the RCMP, 21 members of an Asian based organized crime group were arrested and charged; court proceedings against them continue. Four more accused recently pled guilty, bringing the total to six members of the group who have received prison terms ranging from two to five years. In excess of \$850,000 of cocaine was seized, as well as approximately \$1.5 million in alleged proceeds of crime and other offence related property. Based on the evidence gleaned



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

during this investigation, this group was responsible for delivering a minimum of 125 kilograms of cocaine to Calgary and Edmonton in an eight-month period; this criminal organization has been dismantled.

Project KLAN:

During the latter part of 2002, the RCMP, partnering with the Edmonton Police Service and supported by CISA, conducted a joint force operation into the alleged illegal production and trafficking of large quantities of crystal methamphetamine by an organized crime group operating in the Edmonton and surrounding area. The operation culminated in the arrest of three members of the group and the search of five separate properties. Over 12 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, \$64,000 cash, glassware and paraphernalia used to make meth were seized. During the searches it was apparent that this group was also in possession of a great deal of stolen property and follow-up by Stony Plain RCMP resulted in the seizure of more than \$400,000 in stolen property. Vehicles, tractors, snowmobiles, auto parts and power tools stolen from various locations in Alberta and Saskatchewan have been recovered and charges have been laid. This joint forces investigation clearly demonstrates the impact that organized crime groups can have on various segments of our communities.

Projects KEYSTONE and GREEN TEAM:

The RCMP and the Edmonton Police Service have set up two small joint forces operations specifically to target street level drug trafficking (Keystone) and marihuana grow operations (Green Team). During the past year, CISA supported these teams in order that they could operate throughout northern Alberta.

The Keystone team was able to target the lower levels of organized crime groups, which resulted in excess of 500 charges of trafficking or possession for the purpose of trafficking charges being laid. In addition to the drug charges, over 60 charges for weapons and assaults, etc., were sworn.

The Green Team focused on commercial marihuana grow operations in Edmonton and surrounding areas. Investigations resulted in seventy-five search warrants being executed. Twelve thousand marihuana plants, almost 70 pounds of processed marihuana, \$326,000 in grow equipment, \$96,000 cash, and \$34,000 in stolen property was seized. One hundred and twenty persons were charged with over 230 drug and criminal code offences.

It is clear to see that a significant number of arrests, seizures and prosecutions resulted from the work of these two small teams. What is equally important to the arrests is the amount of intelligence that is gleaned at this level, which lends to the identification of the upper echelons of some organized crime groups.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

Project DINGO:

During the past eight months, the Edmonton Police Service, partnering with the RCMP and supported by CISA, conducted an investigation into an organized crime group that was allegedly involved in credit/debit card frauds and auto thefts. This investigation concluded in August with the arrest of two suspects and warrants being issued for two others. The following items were seized through searches of a number of locations:

- Approximately \$300,000 in stolen vehicles
- Computer equipment that had been stolen from an Edmonton motor vehicles registry office
- Counterfeit personal identification
- Hardware/software capable of producing fraudulent credit and debit cards and false identification
- 130 different pieces of personal identification
- 10 lbs of marihuana

A total of 69 charges have been laid against the members of this organized crime group.

CISA continues to provide financial resources, equipment and support in one or more of the areas of Part VI interceptions, sensitive expenditures, overtime, operational travel, purchase of evidence, specialized investigative equipment and forensic accounting fees. Of the \$1.6 million that CISA received for operational initiatives for 2003/04, only \$235,000 has been approved and committed to date for three new operational initiatives. Just prior to April 2003, four major long-term joint forces projects were approved that required significant numbers of investigators and they will not be concluded until at least this fall. As a result of that human resource commitment, new projects will not be initiated until investigators become available. It is expected that the new permanent Integrated Response to Organized Crime Unit will be starting up near the end of 2003 and will require operational funding for projects.

CISA continues to convene a monthly meeting with the Alberta Justice Director of Organized Crime Strategy, the Alberta Justice Special Prosecutor for Organized Crime and the Director of Prosecutions for the Federal Department of Justice. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss ongoing and proposed organized crime investigations in Alberta to ensure that timely and competent legal advice is available during the operation and following through to the conclusion in court. During this reporting period, both the Alberta Justice Special Prosecutor and the Director of Prosecutions for the Federal Department of Justice were appointed to other positions. Both Alberta Justice and the Federal Department of Justice have appointed new personnel into these positions and these meetings will continue in the fall. In the past three years, CISA and the



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

Alberta police community have worked closely with these two levels of prosecution and are very confident that the transition between the outgoing personnel and the new appointments will not be problematic.

In the past six months, CISA has participated in the operational debriefings of two concluded joint forces operations. The purpose of these debriefings is to identify investigational avenues that worked very well in order to incorporate them as best practices, but also to identify any weaknesses with a view to making other Alberta police services aware of those potential pitfalls. CISA has developed a living Best Practices model for organized crime investigations, which has been provided to the operational managers in the various police services. After every operational debriefing that CISA participates in, the Best Practices model is updated and disseminated. The findings from the most recent debriefings have been provided to the operational managers of the police services.

All CISA supported Joint Forces Operations continue to be managed by a Joint Management Team (JMT) comprised of senior officers of the participating police services. Either the Director or the Operations Coordinator attends all JMT meetings. CISA operates in support of the police services and is not a decision maker, but as we participate in all Joint Forces Operations we are able to provide information and suggestions from what has been learned during other investigations.

GOAL 4: To Provide Professional Development for Alberta Law Enforcement Personnel in Order to Comprehend and Respond to the Criminal Activities of Organized Crime Groups and Serious Criminal Predators

Over the past six months, CISA has provided its membership with intelligence and enforcement specific training in several different subject areas. The courses deal with establishing standards across the province in training organized crime investigators and other law enforcement members.

CISA offered the *First Responders to Cyber Crime* two-day workshop this past May. In an effort to allow more CISA members to attend, the workshops were held in Edmonton and Calgary rather than a single workshop in Red Deer. A total of 314 candidates attended the workshop that focused on assisting investigators at crime scenes and during investigations where any electronic evidence may be found.

Fifty-one candidates were trained in the *Bill C-24 Legislation* course that CISA provided in Edmonton and Calgary during the months of May and June. The legislation provides police officers with limited protection from criminal liability for certain otherwise illegal acts once they have received the training and become



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

designated. Instruction was provided by Provincial Prosecutors, Federal Prosecutors and police officers on the legal and practical understanding of Bill C-24.

CISA's *Informant Handling Workshops* have been well received in the past and as a result, a two-day workshop in Red Deer was offered in May. One hundred and thirty-one candidates from law enforcement agencies across the province attended the workshop.

Four two-day courses regarding *i2 Analyst's Notebook Training* were offered in Edmonton and Calgary in May. The courses trained a total of 32 crime analysts in upgrading from version 5 to version 6 of the program. The *i2 Analyst's Notebook* is now the standard analytical software used by police agencies in the province.

In June, CISA offered a two-day *Drug Investigation Workshop* in Red Deer. The workshop was designed for anyone who may be involved in arrests, searches, and seizures of evidence at drug investigations including drug investigators, surveillance, tactical, forensic, and front-line members. The workshop focused on marijuana grow operations and clandestine methamphetamine labs. One hundred fifty candidates heard presentations on a number of related topics and participated in round table discussions.

CISA partnered with the RCMP and the Calgary Police Service to host the International *Clandestine Laboratory Investigators Association Annual Training Conference* in Calgary from August 11-15, 2003. Three hundred and twenty-four candidates from across the United States and Canada attended along with trade show vendors, the organizing committee and volunteers. The conference included several break-out sessions in laboratories at the University of Calgary, confined space training at the Calgary Fire Department, and certification, supervisory and related sessions at the Westin Hotel.

In early September, CISA assisted the Edmonton Police Service in hosting the four-day Western Canada Officer Safety Conference. One hundred forty delegates attended sessions on a number of officer safety topics and related sessions on terrorism and clandestine laboratories.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

GOAL 5: To Provide Enhanced Use of Technology to Combat the Evolution of Technologically Based Organized Crime

CISA continues to use technology to combat organized crime in a number of areas. The first phase of the CISA website is complete; it is a public site that contains information about what CISA is, who the members are, what responsibilities the Bureau has, what impact organized crime has on Albertans, and also contains interest stories about organized crime. Within the first six months of operation, there have been over 12,000 visits to the site. The second phase is the private domain site, which is nearing completion and will only be accessible by law enforcement agencies. It will contain officer safety items, training opportunities, and general organized crime information.

In an effort to educate investigators in the methods used to combat technologically based organized crime, CISA offered a two-day workshop, *First Responders to Cyber Crime*, in May of 2003 in both Edmonton and Calgary. It was designed for anyone who may encounter electronic evidence of any type at a crime scene, subsequent to an arrest, or during a search. Senior police computer forensic experts presented a number of topics including; First Response to Crime Scenes/Arrest, Internet - The Dark Side, Identifying Targets (Open Source), Officer Safety at Electronic Crime Scenes, Computer Forensics, Internet Undercover Operations, Encryption and Steganography (the hiding of a secret message within an ordinary message), and Legal Aspects (Case Studies and Search Warrants).

GOAL 6: To Establish and Enhance Partnerships with all Stakeholders to Reduce and Control Organized Crime and to be Accountable to all CISA Partners

Three operational initiatives have been approved for CISA funding support to date during 2003/04. One of the measurement criteria for this goal is to capture the total costs of these operational projects. The table below depicts the total investment of all partners for the current projects:

Projects	Funds Committed by CISA	Funds Committed by Police Services	Police Salaries, Fuel, Supplies, etc.	Total Cost
Three initiatives	235,000	125,000	1,093,000	1,453,000

In addition to what has been approved for the new projects, another \$2 million is still committed for organized crime projects currently being pursued by the police that were approved in the previous fiscal year.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

CISA conducted the third annual Public Opinion Survey on Organized Crime in June of this year and copies of the final report have been provided to the Department of the Solicitor General, the CISA community and the other provincial bureaux.

Early in 2003, CISA personnel prepared a draft submission for the Chiefs of the Calgary and Edmonton Police Services and the Commanding Officer for 'K' Division RCMP following considerable research on a project entitled "More Effective Response to Organized Crime (MEROC)".

Subsequent to that research document, the three police services presented a business plan for a fully integrated organized crime policing model to the Solicitor General of Alberta. The business plan has been approved, start-up funding has been secured and an implementation team, comprised of police officers from the three police services, has been assembled to develop the Integrated Response to Organized Crime (IROC) unit. This permanent joint forces unit will be under the command of an Inspector from one of the three police services who will report to a Joint Management Team of Senior Operations Officers of the three services. CISA will not have any functional responsibility for this unit, but will provide the same type of financial, equipment and other support as necessary, as have been given to the ad hoc joint forces operations undertaken in the past four years.

While there have not been any new applications for membership in CISA in the past six months, an information package has recently been provided to one interested entity.

CISA convenes All Members meetings every April and October. These meetings are normally two days long, during which several presentations are given concerning topical organized crime issues. Additionally, each CISA member agency in attendance gives an overview of organized crime activities that they are involved in. The forum provides an excellent opportunity for the sharing of information and the development of contacts.

One of the keys to developing effective strategic planning involves the use of timely strategic intelligence, and one of the primary areas of research is the correlation between illicit drug activity and crime. Unlike the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) system used in the USA, there is no system in Canada for such determination. Dr. Cameron Wild of the University of Alberta and Sgt. Ian Sanderson of the 'K' Division RCMP Drug Awareness Section have begun exploring this shortfall and approached CISA with a proposal. Consequently, CISA has agreed to be a member of a Provincial Steering Committee to pursue this matter. While the full extent of the Bureau's



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

participation is unknown at this stage, CISA is committed to offering whatever support is possible within our mandate.

CISA's role with respect to the Alberta Counter Terrorism Crisis Management Plan has now been defined. CISA has been given the responsibility for being the conduit for the sharing of intelligence between the RCMP National Security Intelligence Sections in Alberta and other members of CISA, including the Security Information Management Unit of the Alberta Solicitor General. As CISA is equipped with the capability for the electronic distribution of information in either protected or encrypted format to our membership, this responsibility has fit nicely into our daily operations. The RCMP NSIS Sections have maintained the mandate to prepare Terrorism Threat Assessments and use the Bureau to distribute those as and when required.

The National Coordinating Committee on Organized Crime Policy Priorities Working Group has begun a process to develop a structured approach to setting policy priorities to combat organized crime. This approach will adopt a modified Sleipnir (RCMP Organized Crime Threat Assessment Process), and in this regard a research company has been contracted to conduct a Delphi survey of experts. Each of the Regional Coordinating Committees was asked to participate, or nominate a representative, for the Delphi process and CISA was nominated by the Department of the Solicitor General for Alberta. The first developmental questionnaire has been received, completed and returned with at least one other questionnaire to follow.

GOAL 7: To Develop a Communications Strategy that Assists in Delivering an Accurate Message of the Scope and Impact of Organized Crime in Our Communities and to Assist in the Building of a Preventative Culture

CISA launched its web site in April of this year and to date there have been 12,000 visits by users of the World Wide Web. The site provides an overview of CISA and the activities we are involved in, as well as summaries of recent successful Joint Forces Investigations. The use of this technology will be expanded in the next several weeks, with the launch of the secure side to this web site, accessible by our partner police services, and agencies. With the addition of our Research Analyst, and the assistance of the Solicitor General Communications Director, work has begun on an over all Communications Strategy. Work on presentations suitable for the general public, as well as our partner agencies, is well underway and should be in place later this fall.

Results from our most recent Public Opinion Survey reveals that this is an area that considerable work is required to better inform the public on the true impact, both socially and economically, that organized crime has on all communities in



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 2003 Semi-Annual Report

Alberta. This will require the joint effort of all of our partners to speak out in an informative way whenever the opportunity to do so arises.

GOAL 8: To Facilitate and Manage the Proceeds of Crime Law Enforcement Grant Program on Behalf of the Ministry of the Solicitor General

Eight operational initiatives were approved for 2002, and upon conclusion of these projects, a surplus of **\$110,787.51** remained available for 2003 applications. Six applications have been approved from the 2002 surplus and are being undertaken by four of the nine Alberta police services. Of these six initiatives, two are joint forces investigations, one is for a single service investigation, two are for the delivery of specialized investigative training, and the sixth initiative is for the purchase of specialized investigational equipment.

Three additional applications totaling **\$71,290.00** have been received at CISA, however they are being held in abeyance as 2003 Proceeds Of Crime Law Enforcement Grant Program (POC LEG) funds have not yet been received by the Alberta Solicitor General from the Federal Government.

The Proceeds Of Crime Law Enforcement Grant Program continues to be an excellent source of investigational funding for the nine Alberta police services, especially for those local crime problems that do not fall within the mandate and guidelines of the Organized and Serious Crime Business Plan.

CONCLUSION

Reporting best practices, expanding the training curriculum, participating in a province wide threat assessment, and promoting the sharing of information amongst partner agencies form the solid foundation for innovative policing of organized crime.

CISA will continue to work closely with law enforcement to develop long-term strategies to battle organized crime in Alberta. Without this group of partner agencies and the network of partnerships within government and the public, CISA could not have achieved all that it has. It is through clear communication and the sharing of intelligence that enables the Bureau to positively affect the impact that organized crime groups have on the citizens of Alberta.