

Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta

Annual Report

April 2004 - March 2005



Unrestricted

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Reporting Period April 2004 – March 2005

INTRODUCTION

CISA has positioned itself as an innovative and action-oriented organization. The teamwork and commitment of all partnership agencies and the provincial government have resulted in the Bureau breaking down numerous barriers in the sharing of criminal intelligence. CISA will continue to evolve to enhance our client support.

CISA has made considerable strides in achieving or exceeding the goals set during the previous business plan. During 2004, several investigations were brought to a successful conclusion, and new and ongoing challenges presented themselves.

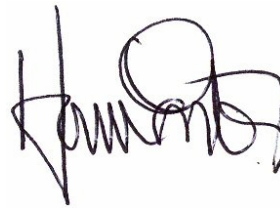
We are veering away from the traditional intelligence reporting method of categorizing individual groups into silos. The Bureau analysts are scrutinizing organized crime groups on a case-by-case basis, which is based on best practices from other Provincial Bureaus in Canada. This change is reflective of the cultural shift that is occurring within the intelligence community.

The Alberta Government, CISA, and all partner agencies continue to create inroads in dealing with the threat of organized crime in our communities. One initiative is the sharing of information among police agencies through a common computer interface utilizing the Alberta Public Safety Network (APSNet), which is only a few steps away from completion. Successful investigations by the Integrated Response to Organized Crime (IROC) unit are also included in this report.

Criminal activities, such as auto theft, marihuana grow operations and drug trafficking generate large profits for organized crime. While these groups are reaping the illegal proceeds of crime, they are also creating considerable additional costs to the public, private enterprise and government agencies as they impact

services such as insurance, health and emergency services.

With technological developments in a number of areas, the methods utilized by organized crime groups continue to change and are increasing in complexity. CISA and the Alberta Solicitor General are committed to ensuring stronger and safer communities in which citizens can live and raise their families.



Inspector Harv Emter
Director, CISA



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CISA has completed the final year of the 2002/05 Business Plan. CISA continues to work with its member agencies to secure partnerships in the endeavour to disrupt and dismantle organized crime.

ACIIS (Automated Criminal Intelligence Information System) is one of the most sophisticated computer applications available to the law enforcement community. It supports the sharing of intelligence and information, between member agencies, on criminal activities of interest to the police community. This past year, ACIIS terminals have been installed in member agencies and training has been provided to the users.

Currently, the threat assessment is in the process of immense change. As criminal groups evolve to include members of different ethnicities, the method of classifying these groups needs to change from classifying them into silos to analyzing them on a case-by-case basis.

CISA participated in 13 Joint Forces Operations this past year. Activities involved in these operations included homicides of sex trade workers, trafficking of controlled substances, marihuana operations, cocaine, money laundering, and trafficking methamphetamine.

Throughout the year CISA offered a number of courses and seminars to law enforcement agencies. These courses increase investigator professionalism and knowledge. Courses included Human Source Management, Bill C-24 Training, First Responders to Cyber Crime, Advanced Mobile Surveillance, among others. As well, a number of topic-specific workshops were delivered throughout the province.

CISA's website is fully operational as of the summer of 2004. The first domain of

the site is for the general public. This side contains information about CISA, its members and our responsibilities as a Bureau. The site also contains information about the impacts of organized crime and interest stories related to this issue. The private side is only accessible by law enforcement agencies. It contains information on officer safety, training and general organized crime information.

CISA conducted its annual public opinion survey of Albertan's perceptions of organized crime. Sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, coercion into the sex trade, and child pornography was viewed as the most serious example of organized crime in 2004.

Twelve operational initiatives were approved for financial assistance between April 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005. CISA committed \$4,300,992 to those projects for specific investigational costs and the police services involved have committed another \$13,248,991 for salaries, benefits, operating expenses and some investigational costs.

In February 2005, five initiatives were approved for financial support through the Proceeds of Crime Law Enforcement Grant Program. The total assistance afforded these initiatives was \$120,410. This past year, four police services directly benefited from the disbursement of these funds.

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

CISA continues to be the primary database query centre for Alberta police and member agencies, presently having access to thirteen systems from a variety of services. The Information Management Unit has been tasked with receiving, assessing and responding to requests for information from members of CISA. Since its inception, this unit has been staffed with one resource that has been solely responsible with providing this service. Since October 2004, CISA and the RCMP 'K' Division have been involved in discussions to amalgamate and integrate resources for the providing of information management services at CISA. Agreement for this initiative has been reached and logistics are currently being finalized with an anticipated implementation by July 2005. The new Integrated Information Resource Centre will enhance the ability of CISA to provide timely and accurate assistance to investigators for all member agencies.

The expansion of the Automated Criminal Intelligence Information System (ACIIS) continues in Alberta. This past year, terminals have been placed in both IROC North and South and the Grande Prairie GIS/Drugs Unit. ACIIS continues to be the only database available to all police services nationally for the storage and sharing of criminal intelligence. CISA continues to work diligently with all agencies to promote use and compliance with this system in addition to providing training for all users.

The Alberta Public Safety Network (APSNet) is continuing to rollout through all municipal police agencies province wide. This system is designed to provide Alberta police agencies the ability to directly query the records management system of another Alberta police agency via their home agency computer. The implementation schedule has experienced several delays, however it is

now progressing favourably with the final testing being conducted between Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge Police Services. It is anticipated that Medicine Hat Police Service will be online by this summer. The RCMP is currently in rollout of their new records management system, PROS, which hopefully will be added to the APSNet network in the near future.

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

The CISA Threat Assessment is a comprehensive report on organized crime covering both Alberta and the Northwest Territories. This year's integrated threat assessment process witnessed a number of changes, which were easily adopted as they helped to improve the process. A cultural shift is occurring within the law enforcement community to a 21st century understanding of organized crime. Specifically, the gathering and reporting of information on the criminal activities of organized crime groups is receiving careful scrutiny on a case-by-case basis versus the traditional method of categorizing individual groups into broad topics often referred to as "silos." Additionally, each region's unique profile - from its policing environment to its unique threats and priorities - is addressed individually so that their importance is not lost.

In terms of process, the provincial Bureau has implemented an Intelligence Review Board (IRB) comprised of intelligence managers and senior operations managers who are briefed on the state of organized crime with a view to directing further investigation and research. Additionally, the Bureau is in the process of developing Joint Analytical Working Groups (JAWG's), which function as central points of intelligence sharing and analysis on a range of organized crime topics. Finally, the Bureau is disseminating an Integrated Provincial Collection Questionnaire package, which solicits information on organized crime activities from all law enforcement agencies.

Regional Policing Environments

Northern Canada is the site of one quarter of the country's discovered petroleum resources. A growing labour force in the Northwest Territories is accommodating increasing numbers of transient workers who are earning large incomes. The expanding labour force presents both short and long-term challenges. Currently, law enforcement efforts are dealing with drug and alcohol related issues. Health officials have noted a rise in incidents of sexually transmitted disease and family violence. Both violent and property crimes have risen over the past year, the majority of which are related to alcohol abuse. The Northwest Territories continues to have one of the highest overall crime rates in Canada at six times the national average.

Over the past year, the city of Fort McMurray has experienced an influx of organized crime groups linked to the growing drug trade. The population is estimated at 60,000 residents with an additional 10,000 to 15,000 trades people and labourers employed at oil sands operations that are being lodged just north of the city. With a young, vibrant citizen base and net incomes almost double the national average, Fort McMurray represents a tremendous market for illegal substances. The influence of an Edmonton-based criminal Asian group is evident in Fort McMurray as well as that of criminally active Aboriginal males and outlaw motorcycle gang members.

Three major issues for police in Edmonton are the distribution and use of cocaine and methamphetamine, the manufacturing of methamphetamine, and the gang situation with its related violence. A correlation has been established between methamphetamine users and fraud, credit card fraud and Internet "phishing" fraud. Methamphetamine produced in and around Edmonton is being distributed in Saskatchewan, causing concern about cross-gang activity and mobility. Chemicals used in the manufacturing process are secretly and improperly disposed of, draining into the ground and water system.

GOAL 2

The profits from gang activity are derived from the sale of drugs. Competition for resources and customers has had a direct effect on the degree of violence that is occurring. Price wars, territory and loyalty are the primary causes of violence and fear among gang members. This state of affairs, coupled with police pressure, has resulted in the expansion of several Edmonton gangs to smaller communities within the province.

Although no identified organized crime groups appear to maintain a centre of operations in the city of Camrose, the criminal activities of Edmonton-based Asian groups, outlaw motorcycle gang members and street gangs are present there. The primary criminal activity involves the distribution of cocaine and methamphetamine with additional crimes such as credit card theft and fraud, and fencing of stolen property.

Red Deer is situated roughly mid-way between Edmonton and Calgary in a corridor that is one of the four strongest urban growth regions in Canada. Its population has doubled over the past ten years and has a trade influence of over 200,000 people. It is believed that over the past year the number of armed robberies is directly related to crack cocaine and methamphetamine addictions. The level of assaults, especially with weapons, and the rate of property crimes has increased. Police believe that “dial-a-dope” activities involving traffickers from Edmonton and Calgary will continue to occur.

The organized crime environment in the Calgary area is driven by the production, import, export and sale of illegal drugs. Trafficking of cocaine is a substantial issue as is the violence associated with the establishment and maintenance of markets by organized crime groups. The proliferation of marihuana growing operations is also a very important issue. Mortgage fraud is often associated to marihuana growing operations as a means for organized crime groups to diversify and launder the proceeds of crime. Calgary-based drug trafficking groups are having an impact upon communities such as Brooks, Canmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Taber.

The city of Brooks is situated almost halfway between Calgary and Medicine Hat on the TransCanada Highway. Its economy is primarily agricultural, including a significant feed lot operation and packing plant, along with oil and gas industries, which account for large, transient worker populations. As a result, policing issues facing the community over the past two or three years have skyrocketed. For example, between 2003 and 2004, offences for possessing cocaine have risen by 350 percent and family relations incidents have risen by 211 percent. Of particular concern are the large increases in armed robberies, home invasions, assaults with a weapon and property crimes. Some of the supply of cocaine and crack cocaine is from criminal Asian groups based in Calgary.

Police in Medicine Hat have identified a significant crack cocaine problem in the city along with the accompanying increases in violent and property crimes. This drug is being supplied by a number of organized crime groups including outlaw motorcycle gangs, Asian criminals and street gangs.

The city of Lethbridge, which is situated approximately 100 km north of the American border, appears to be a meeting place for criminals who export large quantities of marihuana to the United States and import cocaine. People associated to Asian criminal groups, as well as outlaw motorcycle gangs, fuel the city’s drug problem (cocaine, marihuana and methamphetamine). Members of Aboriginal criminal groups are selling illicit drugs at the street level and street gangs have been identified on the Blood Reserve.

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GOAL 2

Organized Crime and the Diamond Industry

In January 2004, Statistics Canada reported that Canada is the world's third largest diamond producer, behind Botswana and Russia. Two mines in the Northwest Territories are in full operation (Diavik and Ekati) with the Diavik mine producing six percent of the global value of diamonds. It is estimated that by 2007, Canada will be mining 15 percent of the annual global production of diamonds.

DeBeers is on target to begin mining next year (2006) with their Snap Lake/Gahcho Kue Projects and the Tahera Jericho Project in Nunavut is set to begin mining in 2007.

To date, the companies that are mining or building up to the mining stage have not experienced any financial difficulties. This cannot be said for the secondary industry that has emerged alongside. Even with government subsidies, some companies are still unable to function. There are two cutting facilities in the Northwest Territories that have declared bankruptcy; one of them is currently in receivership. From financial difficulties, both companies and the diamond industry are open to infiltration by organized crime groups from abroad. There are many advantages for a group to invest in cutting facilities as they would be guaranteed access to Canadian diamonds, which are not tainted by conflict or bloodshed as occurs in some countries where illegal mining funds guerrilla warfare or terrorism, and legitimization of "blood diamonds" would be possible. Other diamond producing countries have reportedly lost between seven and 30 percent of production value to organized crime. At this point in time, it is not known how much production value has been lost in Canada to organized crime.

The diamond industry continues to attract a significant number of foreign workers, increasing potential exposure to international organized crime elements. Citizenship and Immigration Canada currently estimates that more than 200 foreign nationals are working legally in Yellowknife, primarily in the diamond cutting and polishing industry. There has been an increase in the number of unsuccessful refugee claimants who are working in the Northwest Territories with open work permits while awaiting deportation.

Jamaican Organized Crime

In 1999/2000, a CISA funded Joint Forces Operation in Edmonton, Project Kalcium, revealed that groups of Jamaican males were bringing cocaine from Jamaica to sell in the city. One of the individuals who was convicted will complete his prison term this year and will be extradited to New York to face drug charges. Internationally, Jamaican organized crime is comprised of networks with ties to Colombia, South America and the United States.

Italian Organized Crime

Italian organized crime groups of concern to police in Calgary are involved in criminal activities such as drug trafficking, fraud, illegal gaming, fencing stolen property, loan sharking and money laundering. The accumulation of legitimate businesses and real estate continues to offer legitimacy and provide opportunities for further criminal activity.

GOAL 2

Criminal Groups

Criminal milieus formerly known by titles such as Asian, Eastern European, Middle Eastern and South Asian organized crime have served as convenient groupings in the past, however, further analysis of these categories will provide new insight and a common understanding in confirming whether local ethnic criminal groups should be thus identified. It is, therefore, appropriate to report upon each group according to what is currently known about them.

Asian Criminal Groups

There are a large number of groups comprised of Asian criminals who, collectively, dominate the distribution of cocaine and marihuana. Numerous cells and splinter groups, and continual recruitment of youths of all ethnicities to distribute drugs exist. The groups cooperate with one another and violence appears to be the by-product of allegiances among individuals. The sophistication exhibited by some groups is considered to be very high. Much of the drug supply in Alberta and the Northwest Territories may be traced to the British Columbia Lower Mainland. It is not known whether the criminal Asian groups are part of a larger cartel.

It is noted that provincial and federal correctional facilities are active locations for the recruitment of gang members. Correctional facilities unfortunately also provide an opportunity for the strengthening of interpersonal bonds between inmates as well as the forging of strategic alliances among criminal groups in terms of cooperation.

Miscellaneous Criminal Groups

There are no reported links between criminally active persons of Eastern European, Middle Eastern and South Asian descent to trans-national organized crime, rather these are Canadian citizens who are involved in crime and either have connections to other criminal groups or operate on their own.

Two criminal groups led by males of apparent Eastern European descent have been identified as being of concern to law enforcement in Calgary. Their criminal activities involve the drug trade and movement of vehicles.

The investigation of organized criminal activities involving suspects of Middle Eastern descent could potentially uncover national security concerns but so far this has not been reported. It's possible that organized crime investigators and national security investigators are exploring the same criminally active persons.

Over the past few years, the primary focus of reporting on criminally active persons of South Asian descent revolved around two groups in Edmonton's Millwoods district who were engaged in street violence in 2000 and 2001, culminating in the murders of one person from each group. One of the more prominent members was the subject of a CISA-funded Joint Forces Operation, Project Dingo, in 2003 in which he and two primary associates were criminally charged with 48 offences including credit and debit card skimming and counterfeiting, weapons offences, fabricating evidence presented to a judge and obstructing justice.

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GOAL 2

There are indications that some of the cocaine supply in Calgary originates from Indo-Canadian groups in British Columbia. As with all drug activity, criminal groups avail themselves of various suppliers when the need arises, therefore, it is important to identify the mechanics of drug flows more than the ethnicity or gang culture of suppliers and purchasers.

Street violence can arise from differences in religious beliefs (for example, between SIKHS and MUSLIMS) or much less important issues. Factors contributing to criminal behaviour include poverty, which for children of recent immigrants to Canada is more than twice the national rate, and unemployment, likewise approximately twice that of the Canadian population for recent immigrants. In Alberta and Canada, the second-highest source country of immigrants is South Asia (behind China).

Self-Identified Criminal Groups

Four criminal groups, which identify themselves by name, are of concern to law enforcement agencies.

The Indian Posse and Redd Alert are comprised largely of Aboriginal males who carry out criminal activities relating to drug trafficking and violence at the street level. These groups cause considerable harm to rural and First Nation communities.

The Indian Posse group has established drug networks on the Hobbema Reserve and in the Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie and Peace regions.

The Redd Alert, the youngest of the groups, has grown to dominate in numbers and brutality. Their criminal activities occur in the Edmonton area and nearby Enoch and Hobbema reserves as well as in Fort McMurray. They have also made their presence known in North Battleford and Regina. Some members of the Redd Alert deal in stolen property obtained by theft or as payment for debts; the property is sold on the reserves.

According to statistics, single-parent families (with children under 18 years of age) in Canada are earning 40 percent less than two-parent families. This is disproportionately impacting Aboriginal children where 32 percent on reserves live in single-parent families and 46 percent in urban areas. Forty-one percent of Aboriginal children in Canada live in poverty (as do 42.4 percent of immigrant children).

Aboriginal people are disproportionately impacted in the criminal justice system. They represent three percent of the population but 18 percent of the federally incarcerated population - an increase of nine percent in 20 years. They are more likely than the average Canadian offender to be incarcerated for violent crimes.

The Aboriginal “baby boom” will have a profound impact on gang activity and incarceration rates. Aboriginal people are targeted by organized crime and many Aboriginal youth are feeding organized crime groups in Alberta.

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GOAL 2

The Hell's Angels motorcycle club in Alberta recently increased its visibility. With the absorption of the Bandidos chapter (an American-based motorcycle club) and establishment of three affiliated clubs (Devil's Henchmen, Iron Steed and Red Demons), they have retained control of biker gangs in the province. Currently, the number of Hell's Angels members remains at 49; with the addition of 35 support club members, the provincial total stands at 84. There is currently a push by the Hell's Angels to secure drug markets, particularly in southern Alberta.

Criminally active members in all Hell's Angels chapters and their support clubs are primarily involved in the sale of cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine. There are no reports of other significant criminal pursuits with the exception of threats, extortion and violence, which normally accompany the drug trade.

A street gang in southern Alberta, known as The Kids, is comprised of a dozen males selling crack cocaine in Medicine Hat, Brooks and the Lethbridge area.

Emerging Threats

The escalation of violence among Asian criminals, apparent intentions of the Hell's Angels organization to move into drug territories and the presence of a number of street gangs are seen as emerging threats of concern to law enforcement.

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 the 2004 fiscal year CISA supported 12 Joint Forces Operations targeting serious and organized crime in Alberta. The Integrated Response to Organized Crime (IROC) led many of these investigations, while ad hoc teams formed to deal with specific issues investigated others.

The projects approved for the Joint Forces Funding Program targeted organized crime with the exception of Project 'KARE', which was dedicated to investigating serial or predator crimes. The total funds committed by CISA to these initiatives in this period was \$4,300,992, while contributions from police services was in excess of \$13,000,000. The investigations into several of the approved projects continues, therefore will not be reported on at this time. The following is a brief summary of projects, which occurred during the past year.

Project KARE:

This project was initiated by the RCMP to actively investigate the disappearance and homicides of several sex trade workers in Edmonton and the Capital Region. Over the past year, the Edmonton Police Service has joined the project as a fully integrated partner, which has greatly enhanced the investigative ability of the team. Members of other Alberta police services have contributed resources on a temporary basis to provide assistance and gain experience working in a complex task force environment. CISA continues to monitor this investigation and expenditures through participation in a Joint Management Team.

Project ILIAD:

This was a Joint Forces Operation combining resources from IROC, Integrated Proceeds of Crime Unit and the RCMP Commercial Crime Unit. This project targeted a cocaine distribution network and money-laundering ring with connections to Barbados. As a result, seven subjects were arrested and charged with Trafficking, Conspiracy to Traffic and Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking offences. Additionally, two of the six were also charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. The investigation resulted in the seizure of 1.7 kilograms of powder and rock cocaine, 800 tablets of "ecstasy" and one ounce of methamphetamine. The Proceeds of Crime investigation has led to the seizure/restraint of assets in excess of \$836,000.

GOAL 3

Project KEYSTONE:

Project 'KEYSTONE' has operated as a joint forces undercover team comprised of Edmonton Police Service and RCMP members. The objective of the team was to target the trafficking of controlled substances in Edmonton and northern Alberta. This past year the team conducted street-level drug operations in Edmonton, St. Albert, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Camrose, Peace River, McLennan, Fairview, High Prairie, High Level, Assumption, Rainbow Lake and Manning. In the fall of 2004, systemic differences led to the dissolution of the integration of this project team. Both the RCMP and the Edmonton Police Service will be continuing the efforts of Project 'KEYSTONE' independently, to better respond to their communities.

Project IMAX:

This IROC project targeted a group responsible for the importation and distribution of cocaine in Southern Alberta and the exportation of marihuana to the United States. The investigation also involved the Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs in both Montana and California. Project IMAX led to arrests in Alberta, British Columbia and the United States. In total five individuals were charged with over 20 offences in Alberta. Seizures included two kilograms of cocaine, 60 pounds of marihuana, 43 pounds of methamphetamine and 110 pounds of ephedrine (a precursor in the production of methamphetamine). In addition, assets seized or restrained include a house, a BMW SUV and a Peterbuilt transport truck.

Project SAMIT:

The RCMP and Calgary Police Service's joint forces marihuana team, Southern Alberta Marijuana Investigation Team (SAMIT), completed their first full year of operation. This unit reports they are extremely busy and do not have the resource capacity to respond to all reports and tips received. For the past fiscal year, SAMIT reported that 224 search warrants were executed on suspected marihuana grow operations. These warrants led to 284 charges being laid against 102 people. The following information was reported:

Seizure Type	2004
# of Marihuana Plants	85,252
Value of Plants (\$)	101,600,525
Value of Grow Equipment (\$)	2,126,950
Tips Received	971
# of Charges	284

GOAL 3

Project GREEN TEAM:

The RCMP and Edmonton Police Service's joint forces marihuana team have maintained a heavy level of enforcement of indoor cultivation operations in Edmonton and communities across northern Alberta. Over the past year, 'Green Team' members executed 105 search warrants on suspected marihuana grow operations. These warrants led to 375 charges being laid towards 133 people. The following information was also reported:

Seizure Type	2002	2003	2004
# of Marihuana Plants	12,000	28,200	31,316
Value of Plants (\$)	12,000,000	28,200,000	31,316,000
Processed Marihuana (lbs)	70	126	355
Value of Grow Equipment (\$)	326,500	620,750	1,114,000
Cash (\$)	94,200	60,500	235,340
# of Weapons	15	34	22
# of Charges	302	204	375

Project IMMINENT:

This IROC project focused on a methamphetamine trafficking organization with a network spanning from British Columbia to Saskatchewan and included Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Spruce Grove, Drayton Valley, Edson, Hinton and Westlock. This project led to the arrests of nine individuals and 72 Controlled Drug and Substance Act and Criminal Code charges. Over the course of this project investigators discussed and seized methamphetamine, cocaine, hashish, marihuana and ecstasy with a total value of \$376,380.

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

CISA continues its commitment to provide the best training possible to the law enforcement community and with establishing standards across the province for training organized crime investigators. Over the past year, CISA provided its' membership with intelligence and enforcement specific training in several areas.

CISA offered the *Human Source Management* seven-day course this past April at the RCMP 'K' Division and again in February 2005 in Calgary. The course replaced the two-week *Source Agent Workshop* in an effort to condense and standardize our training with that of the RCMP. A total of 30 candidates attended each course, which focused on investigators improving their work with human sources to enhance their investigations. The Edmonton Police Service and the Calgary Police Service supplied many volunteer quarries to portray informants in numerous scenarios, and the RCMP supplied several instructors and the facility to host the Edmonton training. The Training Branch at RCMP Ottawa have given CISA their approval for their standards for this course and as a result, RCMP members attending the CISA course will now get credit nationally.

Fifty-one candidates attended the *Drug Expert Workshop* that CISA held at the RCMP 'K' Division from April 13-15, 2004. Multiple agency drug investigators were able to network with other investigators within the province while learning new information and agency drug pricing. The three-day workshop included topics such as Methamphetamine Precursors and Cooking, Drugs in Institutions, Cocaine Cooking, and Marijuana Grows. The workshop included members from correctional facilities for the first time.

CISA's *Informant Workshops* have been well received in the past and as a result, three two-day workshops were held in Edmonton on May 6-7, in Lethbridge on May 10-11, and in Calgary on May 13-14. A total of 237 candidates from across the province attended the three consecutive training sessions.

In June, CISA offered a two-day *Surveillance Workshop* in Red Deer for those involved in surveillance within their agencies. The workshop covered regional updates and topics such as Digital Video Photography, Rural Surveillance, and Cast-off DNA. Eighty-seven candidates participated in the workshop from all partner agencies.

CISA partnered with the RCMP, the Calgary Police Service, and the Asian Special Investigators Association to host the International *ASIA Conference* in Calgary from September 8-10, 2004. Two hundred and seven candidates from across the United States and Canada attended along with the organizing committee and instructors. Some of the topics included Rising Trends in Methamphetamine Labs, Operation Synergy, Black Dragons, and Asian Culture.

CISA worked with instructors from the *Advanced Mobile Surveillance Course* to assist in standardizing methods and techniques across the province. The course was held in October 2003, with instructors from the Calgary Police Service, the Edmonton Police Service and the RCMP delivering instruction to 42 candidates. The standardized lesson plan for the three-week course was expanded by three topics and the detailed Course Training Standard updated accordingly.

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GOAL 4

Bill C-24 gives police officers limited protection from criminal liability for specific, otherwise illegal acts. In order for officers to be designated to use Bill C-24, they must attend a two-day course designed by Justice Canada and the RCMP in Ottawa. During the past year, 69 candidates were trained in the Law Enforcement Justifications Provisions (Bill C-24 Legislation) course in Edmonton and Calgary. Provincial prosecutors, federal prosecutors and police officers provided instruction on the legal and practical understanding of Bill C-24. The CISA Training Coordinator is a member of the Alberta Justice committee that monitors C-24 issues.

In November 2005, CISA and the Calgary Police Services' Serious Habitual Offender Program Unit hosted a two-day workshop. One hundred twenty-nine candidates from law enforcement, Youth Probation, Youth Corrections, Child Welfare, school boards, and Crown prosecutors who work with young persons in conflict with the law attended the workshop. In April 1997, Alberta Justice, municipal and First Nation police services and the RCMP, introduced the provincial Serious Habitual/Significant Harm Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP). As a comprehensive action program, SHOCAP targets serious, habitual and significant harm offenders. The program provides an integrated approach to the early identification, investigation, prosecution, incarceration and intensive community supervision of targeted offenders. The primary activities of SHOCAP investigators are to monitor and apprehend SHOCAP offenders and assist in their prosecution. CISA took over the program from the Public Security Division of Alberta Justice in March 2004.

CISA teamed up with RCMP members from Project KARE to host a two-day workshop on Major Case Management Best Practices. The

workshop brought in investigators from the U.S. and Canada who have investigated and prosecuted serial killers in their locations. Over 100 investigators from homicide units, major crimes units, and Project KARE heard presentations regarding the Green River Task Force in Washington; Sean Vincent Gillis in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Arthur Shawcross in Rochester, New York; and Paul Bernardo in Ontario.

In early 2005, CISA offered a two-day workshop, *First Responders to Cyber Crime*, 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, Officer Safety at Electronic Crime Scenes, Computer Forensics, Internet Undercover Operations, and Legal Aspects (Case Studies and Search Warrants). A total of 357 candidates attended from CISA agencies.

The biggest event on the CISA training calendar in 2004/05 was the *Western Canada Organized Crime and Street Gang Workshop* that was held in Red Deer in March 2005. The three-day course brought in subject matter experts in organized crime groups and street gangs from Edmonton, Calgary, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. Three hundred and two candidates from across western Canada attended the workshop.

The following table summarizes the courses and workshops that were offered throughout the past year under the direction of the CISA Training Coordinator and Training Assistant.

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GOAL 4

<u>Course/Workshop Name</u>	Number of Students	Duration (In Days)	Student Training Days
Human Source Management Course X 2	60	7	420
Drug Expert Workshop	51	2	102
Informant Handling Workshop X 3	237	2	474
Surveillance Workshop	87	2	174
Asian Special Investigator Workshop	207	2	414
Law Enforcement Justification (C-24) Training	69	2	138
Advanced Mobile Surveillance	42	15	630
SHOCAP Workshop	129	2	258
Major Case Management Best Practices Workshop	104	2	208
First Responders to Cyber Crime Workshop X 2	357	2	714
Western Canada Organized Crime & Street Gang Workshop	303	3	909
Total	1,646		4,441

The total number of student training days increased over 35 percent this past year from 3,250 days to 4,441 days. Training levels continue to rise substantially as a result of CISA hiring a Training Assistant. Plans are being made to deliver Search Warrant courses in 2005 and 2006 in several locations across the province along with courses on Major Case Management and a Wire Tap Writing course.

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 a public site with information about the organization, who the members are, what responsibilities the Bureau has, what impact organized crime has on Albertans, as well as interest stories about organized crime. The second phase is the private domain site, which is now operational and is accessible by law enforcement agencies that have been provided with a username and password from CISA. It contains officer safety items, training opportunities, and general organized crime information.

In an effort to educate investigators about the methods used to combat technologically-based organized crime, CISA offered a two-day workshop, *First Responders to Cyber Crime*, 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.

We are currently in the process of setting up additional stand-alone PC's with Internet access at the CISA office. This will give analysts and other staff more access to open source information on the Internet.

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

Twelve operational initiatives were approved for financial assistance between April 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005. CISA committed \$4,300,992 to those projects for specific investigational costs and the police services involved have committed another \$13,248,991 for salaries, benefits, operating expenses and some investigational costs. Goal 3 describes the results of some of those projects completed in the past year, but the majority of the initiatives are still ongoing.

The Joint Forces Organized Crime Threat Assessment is a product of intelligence from all Level One Alberta police agencies. This document has become the primary function of the CISA analytical team and is utilized by the Executive Committee in planning initiatives targeting organized crime. This year, the Threat Assessment has undergone a number of format changes, which were identified as best practices during a national meeting of analysts in Ottawa last November. The assessment is a collaborative effort involving analysts from across the province during a week-long meeting in Edmonton with the strategic comments being compiled by the CISA analysts. The assessment continues to evolve to meet the needs of the police environment as was seen with the changes implemented this year. Over the next year, it is the objective of CISA to involve the Level Two members, as many of these agencies identify instances of organized crime operating within their individual areas of expertise. It is anticipated that this additional input will continue to improve the quality and accuracy of the assessment.

CISA continues to support eight Level One members and 21 Level Two members. Currently, we are processing one application for a Level Two membership.

The RCMP 'K' Division recently provided CISA with a complete financial statement for activities during the past fiscal year. The following information has been taken from that financial statement and portrays actual income and disbursements.

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GOAL 6

Carry Forward from March 31, 2003	\$ 3,006,299.26
Alberta Public Safety Network Grant (APSNet)	\$ 997,334.93
2004/05 CISA Annual Funding	\$ 2,400,000.00

Total Funds for 2004/05	\$ 6,403,634.19
2004/05 Admin. & Training Expenses	\$1,046,327.70
2004/05 Operational Initiatives Expenses	\$1,632,167.53
2003/04 APSNet Expenses	\$ 98,728.65
Total Expenditures for 2004/05	\$ 2,777,223.88
2004/05 Unspent Funds for Carry Forward to 2005/06	\$ 3,626,410.31

Of the carry forward identified, the Executive Committee has made the following financial commitments:

APSNet Rollout:	\$ 898,606.28
Eight Ongoing Organized Crime Projects:	\$3,002,321.75

Total:	\$ 3,900,928.03

While the current financial commitment slightly exceeds the carry forward, there are usually some residual funds from operational projects. Additionally, as of April 1, 2005, CISA concluded the 2002/2005 Business Plan and new funding is anticipated for the 2005/2008 Organized and Serious Crime Business Plan.

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

During June of 2004, CISA conducted its fifth annual public opinion survey of 1,200 Albertans. The final report analyzes their perception of organized crime within the province. The goal of the Provincial Public Opinion Survey is to provide the CISA Bureau, its Executive, and Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General with benchmark measures on the public's perception on the extent and severity of organized and serious crime in the province of Alberta. A summary of the results from the 2004 Public Opinion Survey on Organized Crime is attached to this document as Appendix 'A'.

CISA's website, <http://www.cisalberta.ca/>, is complete. The website consists of a public domain as well as a private domain. The public domain is accessible by the public and has been online since the fall of 2002. The private side went online in the summer of 2004. It is accessible only by law enforcement agencies and contains issues such as officer safety, training opportunities, and general organized crime information.

The Bureau maintains the website and updates it with current information on organized crime that both the public and law enforcement can access. CISA will continue to explore alternative methods that would assist in an effective communications program.

It is important that as policy makers and elected officials in Alberta make decisions regarding the peace and security of our citizens, that they have a clear understanding of the negative impact that organized crime is having on the people of this province. The Director of CISA has developed a presentation suitable for municipal and provincial government officials that outlines

this impact. This information has been provided to police commissions and can be given to a variety of public or private sector groups.

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

A total of six applications for financial assistance were received through the Proceeds of Crime Law Enforcement Grant Program, however, only five of these could be accommodated as sufficient funds were not available. In February 2005, five of the six initiatives were approved for financial support. The total assistance afforded these initiatives was \$120,410.00, which included the \$96,086.07 in new funding for this year, in addition to residual funds from the previous. Four separate police services directly benefited from the disbursement of these funds.

Two of the approved initiatives were to support Joint Forces Operations targeting street level traffickers; one was to provide specialized training and two contributed to the purchase of specialized equipment.

One of the street level enforcement projects involving Camrose Police Service, Edmonton Police Service and the RCMP and targeting methamphetamine traffickers, has concluded. This project resulted in the arrests of 11 subjects and over 20 charges being laid.

The specialized training related to a Level II Fraud Investigators course organized and hosted by the Edmonton Police Service. This training received candidates from Alberta Government Services, and Alberta Human Resources & Employment, in addition to five Alberta police services.

Several pieces of high-tech surveillance equipment were purchased to support operations in southern Alberta, while specialized equipment was purchased to assist a methamphetamine investigative team in Edmonton.

Since the inception of this program in 1998, every police service in Alberta has benefited from Proceeds of Crime Law Enforcement Grant support. It can also be stated that the applications for assistance from this program consistently exceed the available funds.

CONCLUSION

CISA has made significant strides in supporting and enhancing the efforts of law enforcement and government in the prevention and suppression of organized crime.

Participating in a provincial threat assessment, establishing partnerships with stakeholders, communicating with the public, collecting intelligence, and providing dynamic courses and workshops are just a few ways in which CISA is making a significant contribution to the disruption and dismantling of criminal enterprises.

Organized crime affects all Canadians, undermines our economy, reduces our security, and threatens the integrity of our government. CISA is committed to nourishing our existing partnerships while looking to develop new ones within the community in order to share intelligence that will positively affect the impact that organized crime groups have on Albertans.

Appendix 'A'

Highlights of the Provincial Public Opinion Survey on Organized Crime

The goal of the Provincial Public Opinion Survey is to provide the CISA Bureau, its Executive, Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General with benchmark measures on the public's perception on the extent and severity of organized and serious crime in the province of Alberta. The following is a summary of results from the 2004 survey.

Organized crime is most frequently viewed as being involved in drug related activities – namely trafficking and importing. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and Asian-based groups are perceived to be the most active examples of organized crime operating in the province of Alberta. Running an illegal gambling operation and bringing illegal immigrants into Canada were seen as definite examples of organized crime, but by a smaller percentage of individuals.

According to the survey results, crimes most often associated to white collar or corporate crimes (credit card fraud, cheating on the stock market, illegally disposing of dangerous waste) were less likely to be identified as definite examples of organized crime. Other criminal activities that were least likely to be seen as examples of organized crime included homicide, armed robbery, marihuana grow operations, break and enter, theft and intimidation. Anti-government activism, while not necessarily viewed as an example of organized crime, is perceived to be the most serious criminal activity of those identified.

While running an illegal gambling operation was ranked third as an example of organized crime, it is perceived to be one of the least serious criminal activities identified. Similarly, while anti-government activism was ranked as one of the lowest examples of organized crime activity, it ranked number two in terms of serious types of crime.

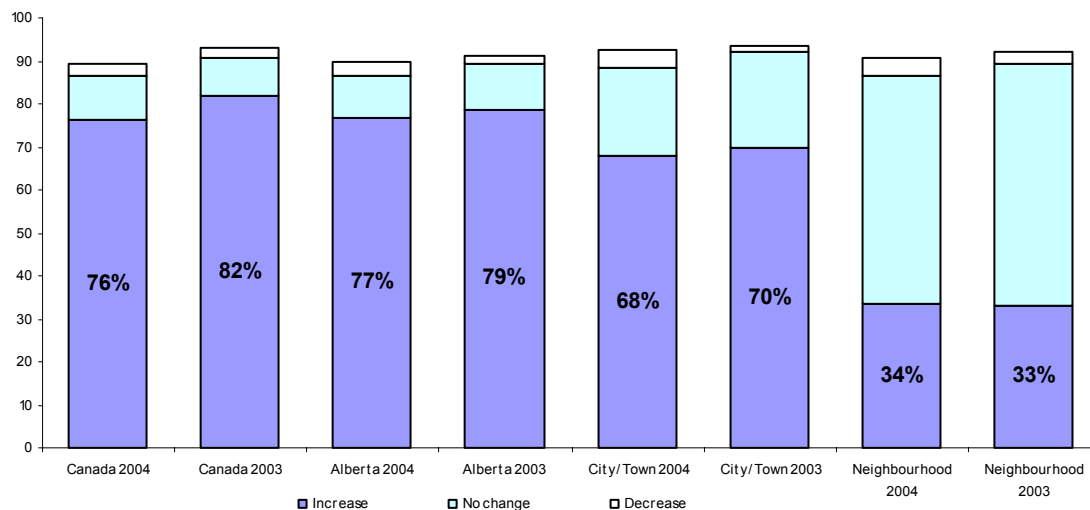
The majority of respondents believe there was a decrease in the amount of organized crime in the past year. In general, the closer to “home” the question of organized crime activity comes, the higher the probability that people see “no change” in organized crime activity. This finding supports the idea that people believe that organized crime is something that does not impact them personally.

There was a slight decrease from 2003 in the overall perception of Albertans as to the relative increase in organized crime occurring within their city of residence, and a minimal increase in organized crime occurring within their neighbourhoods.

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Appendix 'A'

Graph 1: Perceived Change in Organized Crime



From the public's point of view there is not much variation between organized crime groups in the province as compared to the rest of the country.

The young and the elderly were identified as the most vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime. Other groups believed to be particularly vulnerable included women and ethnic groups.

The perceived abilities of police agencies to effectively deal with organized crime is influenced, in part, by the media reports of incidents and the public's interpretation of them. Respondents believed that tougher sentences, getting more police officers on the streets, increasing crime prevention practices, and increasing training for police officers were the most effective ways to deal with organized crime. The passing of more legislation was seen as the least effective strategy. Respondents did not view social or rehabilitation programs to be as effective when applied to organized crime as when applied to crime in general.

The results tend to suggest that while Albertans differentiate certain organized crime activities from serious crime activities, people primarily associate importing and trafficking of drugs to organized crime. The public believes that organized crime is increasing at the national, provincial and municipal levels far more than at the neighbourhood level. Respondents do not necessarily attribute neighbourhood crime with organized crime.

While organized crime is seen to have increased significantly over the years, both in terms of media reporting on crime and political attention, the term is generally not well understood and its impact is not appreciated. This distortion could quite conceivably give organized crime groups an advantage.