

Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta

Annual Report

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Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta 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 A Strategic Impact Analysis Of Organized Crime Trends For The Benefit Of Senior Police Managers And Various Levels Of Government	5
GOAL 3: To Provide Management And Operations Support For Ad-Hoc And Permanent Joint Forces Operations Targeting Organized Or Serious Crime In Alberta	14
GOAL 4: To Provide Management And Operations Support For Ad-Hoc And Permanent Joint Forces Operations Targeting Organized Or Serious Crime In Alberta	18
GOAL 5: To Provide Professional Development For Alberta Law Enforcement Officials In Order To Comprehend And Respond To The Cultural Nuances Of Organized Crime Groups And Serious Criminals And Predators	19
GOAL 6: To Provide Accountability To Both Senior Police Officials And The Government Of Alberta For The Prudent Allocation Of Resources To Combat Organized And Serious Crime In Alberta	21
GOAL 7: To Provide Enhanced Use Of Technology To Combat The Evolution Of Technologically Based Organized Crime	24
GOAL 8: To Establish Partnerships With All Stakeholders To Reduce And Control Organized Crime In Alberta.....	25
CONCLUSION	26



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

As a re-tooled Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta concludes the final year of our initial three-year Business Plan, we can reflect upon numerous enhancements to intelligence sharing, standardization of processes, and successful investigations. Although law enforcement in Alberta can take pride in these accomplishments, we must maintain our vigilance in the face of new multi-faceted and complex challenges on the horizon.

The events of September 11 underscore the need for the various intelligence and enforcement entities to work together toward a common goal. Whether it is organized crime, terrorism, or a hybrid of the two, we must focus on removing any barriers to a seamless, flexible, and unified approach. During the 1990's, Jack Maple, a former deputy commissioner in the New York Police Department, said the biggest lie in law enforcement is that we cooperate. He referred to law enforcement as the most turf-based institution in North America. While there has been some recent evidence this is changing, examples abound that demonstrate this culture still exists.

There are no easy or simple solutions to developing a more effective response to organized crime. In fact, mere cooperation within the current structure is not the answer. Collaboration, defined as the exchanging of information, the altering of activities, the sharing of resources, the enhancement of capacity for the mutual benefit of all, and achieving a common purpose, is where our efforts must be focused. We must also be mindful of the balance individual police agencies must strike to meet increasing local demands for service while attempting to minimize the impact of organized crime in their communities. It is critical therefore to maximize our intelligence gathering capability, analytical resources, enforcement efforts, and technological support dedicated to organized crime suppression.

We must look for solutions that not only meet the needs of today; they must position us to respond to emerging trends and future challenges. Leaders in all levels of government and law enforcement must be committed to erasing the existing silos. Support for creative thinking and risk taking will be a cornerstone for meaningful change. New structures and processes should be developed in an atmosphere of trust and respect, embracing a philosophy that the power of integrated and collaborative solutions greatly exceeds the sum of the individual parts.

CISA is an agency whose purpose is to support and enhance the efforts of law enforcement and government in the prevention and suppression of organized crime. To that end, we will continue to champion efforts directed toward positive change. This will allow all of our partners to build on the successes of the last three years and continue the quest for safe and healthy communities in Alberta.

Inspector Brian Skeet
Director, CISA



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the third and final year of the 1999/02 Organized and Serious Crime Business Plan, Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta (CISA) was actively involved with a number of agencies, in a variety of initiatives, to increase overall effectiveness in the identification and suppression of organized crime groups.

Through the provision of funding and training support by CISA, all five major police services in Alberta have implemented a standardized major case management philosophy and an electronic case management system, Evidence & Reports. Developmental work is underway with Federal and Provincial Crown prosecutors to create a standardized, electronic court presentation package from the information captured in Evidence & Reports during these major investigations.

The Bureau continues to encourage the sharing of intelligence information among member agencies. Between April 1999 and April 2002, the submission of hardcopy intelligence reports to the Bureau has risen by 35%. In addition, the number of intelligence reports directly entered into the national database, Automated Criminal Intelligence Information System (ACIIS), has increased by 245%. A long-range goal of CISA is to greatly reduce or eliminate the requirement for hardcopy reporting by increasing the use of and access to the ACIIS system.

A Joint Forces Analytical Threat Assessment Team was established in 2001 and met in the spring and the fall. Using the RCMP developed Sleipnir Threat Assessment model, this Team analyzed all available intelligence and developed comprehensive assessments for police executives in Alberta. These assessments are designed to inform police executives, who can in turn provide strategic direction to senior and middle management relative to enforcement and intelligence initiatives, based on identified threat levels. The Threat Assessment Team is now a permanent component of the CISA analytical process.

Eight joint forces investigations commenced during this fiscal year, targeting organized crime groups identified as national or provincial priorities. When combined with the projects undertaken in the previous two years, CISA has provided funding and consultative support to a total of 15 investigations during the three-year business plan. While the mainstay of most criminal organizations is the drug trade, CISA continues to promote the concept of focusing on all criminal activities of an organization, not just single commodities. The adoption of that principle is being reflected in the growing variety of charges stemming from recent investigations.

In 2001/02 approximately \$1,675,000 was committed to joint forces investigations throughout Alberta. Between April 1999 and March 2002, a total of \$3,634,000 has been appropriated for 15 investigations. The investigation phase has been completed in nine operations and they are at various stages in the court system, while six other operations are still active.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

The delivery of specialized training to facilitate organized crime investigations continues to increase. A recent Training Needs Assessment clearly demonstrates that identified learning opportunities exceed the current financial capability of the Bureau and must be prioritized. Major Case Management, Evidence & Reports, Advanced Surveillance Techniques, and Source/Agent Development were the primary courses delivered this past year. In addition to those, a number of topic specific one and two day workshops were delivered at various locations in the province.

CISA has participated with stakeholders in several initiatives designed to reduce and control organized crime in Alberta. CISA personnel have been active committee members with Alberta Registries relative to systems and personnel security enhancements; with the Calgary and Edmonton Police Services and the RCMP exploring a more effective process for lawfully intercepting communications during investigations, and with the Alberta Police Information Technology Sub-Committee of the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police researching a software solution that would allow seamless access to the databases of Alberta police services.

Promoting the CISA Bureau and increasing the number of partner agencies has been another area pursued by CISA throughout the last three years. CISA has six new Affiliate members to the Bureau who have either federal or provincial enforcement mandates and some degree of interest in the suppression of organized crime. CISA is also participating in an initiative to promote and standardize service delivery on a national level.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta (CISA) has completed its third and final year of the 1999-2002 business plan. We are pleased to report the majority of performance indicators specified in the original eight goals have been accomplished. Many of the preliminary elements identified within the goals have been accepted as the operating beacons for the Provincial Bureau. In addition to the identified performance indicators, CISA has been the facilitator and financial supporter of numerous other initiatives aimed at standardization that were not part of the Business Plan. The adoption of a major case management protocol and electronic case management system (Evidence & Reports), as well as the promotion of a common informant management system for all major police services in Alberta, are but a few examples of CISA initiatives accepted by the police community.

GOAL 1: To Provide Effective Collection, Analysis, And Dissemination Of Criminal Intelligence.

CISA has been established as an independent entity located in a neutral facility with a human resource complement that is representative of several of the regular member police services. The Bureau is equipped with the basic information data banks of the major police services as well as having direct access to a number of open source and restricted databanks.

Each of the five major police services have an identified Organized Crime Intelligence Liaison Officer equipped with a networked computer capable of transmitting intelligence information electronically using encryption technology. The Liaison Officers attend All Members meetings, training courses, and national conferences, as well as facilitate Joint Forces Operation projects with their own departments. Liaison Officers have increased the awareness of CISA initiatives and the effectiveness of sharing intelligence information, in addition to their regular duties.

The overall effectiveness of agency and inter-agency intelligence reporting procedures and policies were examined during the first year of the Business Plan. A standardized report format was developed, which is now used by member agencies to report intelligence. The collection and reporting of confidential source information was identified as an area requiring enhancement. To that end, CISA has promoted the standardization of this process and these efforts continue. By the end of 2002, it is anticipated all regular member police services will be using a common informant management system, which will greatly enhance the effectiveness of this program.

Intelligence information is the precursor for successful enforcement initiatives; however, for intelligence to be useful, it must be collected, analysed, and shared. As the central clearinghouse for organized crime intelligence in Alberta, CISA has been proactive in increasing the amount of intelligence reported by member agencies. Intelligence is submitted to the Bureau by way of hardcopy reports or



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

by direct entry into the Automated Criminal Intelligence Information System (ACIIS), a national databank for organized crime intelligence.

During the last three years, there has been a 35% increase in the number of hardcopy intelligence reports submitted to CISA, which means that there is considerably more intelligence available in the Bureau for all member agencies to access. More significant is the increase in intelligence reporting directly into the ACIIS system. During this same period there has been a 245% increase in the number of intelligence documents entered onto ACIIS, which means it is immediately available to all police services in Canada. In addition to increasing the quantity of intelligence, a quality control system has also been put in place. This ensures that all intelligence placed on ACIIS has been properly processed and relates specifically to one of the national or provincial enforcement priorities.

During this Business Plan the facilitation of encryption application software and hardware upgrade specifications for the CISA ACIIS membership was completed. The ACIIS Provincial Coordinator has continually upgraded training of data entry personnel within the police services, with a view to increasing the direct entry of intelligence onto this national system. A long-term goal of CISA is to greatly reduce or eliminate the submission of hardcopy reports, through direct entry onto ACIIS.

CISA has developed an intelligence records management system to address storage, retrieval, and sharing of intelligence information. Information is classified and shared in accordance with accepted standards stated in the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC) and CISA constitutions. Additionally, all records held by CISA are managed pursuant to the legislation and regulations stipulated in the Federal Access To Information Act. CISA has also commenced review and vetting procedures to ensure the integrity and validity of intelligence records conform to Federal guidelines.

The identified strategies of Goal 1 in this Business Plan have been satisfied, but it does not end there. The collection, analysis, and sharing of intelligence is a dynamic process that requires continual change and refinement to ensure our effectiveness.

GOAL 2: To Develop A Strategic Impact Analysis Of Organized Crime Trends For The Benefit Of Senior Police Managers And Various Levels Of Government.

During the first year of the Business Plan, five dedicated analysts were seconded to the Bureau: one Research and one Strategic Analyst from the Edmonton Police Service, two Strategic Analysts from the RCMP, and one Strategic Analyst from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. During the past year, circumstances resulted in the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency analyst position becoming



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

vacant and it has yet to be filled. Late in 2001, the Research Analyst took a position at Alberta Justice and CISA is currently undertaking a competition to backfill that position.

Two strategic analytical projects have been completed. The Millennium project was undertaken to inform the CISA Executive Committee of potential policing issues that might surface with the new millennium. Sun Tzu was the second strategic analytical product, which examined the impact of Asian based organized crime on Alberta. A third report, focusing on outlaw motorcycle gangs, has been completed but was reduced in scope because of developing issues related to September 11 and analytical assistance offered for G-8 planning.

In 2001 CISA analysts worked closely with analysts from all of the six regular member agencies to conduct a semi-annual risk assessment of all national and provincial priority groups, using a threat assessment tool developed by the RCMP called the Sleipnir Model. This has been a productive process and the Joint Forces Analytical Threat Assessment Team has now been incorporated into the strategic analysis component of CISA. Other provincial bureaus are assessing this concept with a view to using it in their jurisdictions, as the final product is a fairly accurate comparative analysis of the threat levels based on the intelligence from all participating law enforcement agencies.

The analytical personnel at CISA have noticed an effect from the events of September 11. Because of new and emerging priorities placed on Alberta law enforcement agencies, many of last year's organized crime issues remain similar going into 2002. Specifically, personnel and fiscal resource requirements to address Project Shock and the G-8 Summit have had some effect on the ability of agencies to pursue their normal intelligence gathering activities.

The following summaries on the national priorities of CISC and the provincial priorities of CISA capture activities for the last fiscal year.

Asian Organized Crime

In Edmonton, the prosecution resulting from Project Kachou has been severed into two specific trials; one of nine accused charged with participating in a criminal organization and a second trial of 23 accused persons with conspiracy and other offences. Most of the accused have been released on bail under very strict conditions. No evidence has been called as of yet because of the significant number of pre-trial motions.

Project Kliu, a Joint Forces Operation, commenced in November 2000 and concluded with numerous arrests and searches in January 2002. The project involved the Calgary Police Service and RCMP and targeted Asian organized crime groups involved in credit card counterfeiting offences in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and California. Electronic data was stolen from thousands of



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

legitimate credit cards at over 100 retail merchants throughout North America. The data was used to manufacture counterfeit credit cards that were subsequently used in 34 countries around the world. This 15-month investigation resulted in 478 criminal charges being laid against 63 people, including 124 charges against 18 persons residing in Calgary. It is estimated the enforcement action against this organized crime group has prevented approximately 23 million dollars in credit card fraud in Canada.

Current intelligence indicates a number of new and highly organized groups are filling the void created by the results of Projects Kachou, Katalyst, and Kliu. These new groups are active in drug trafficking, loan sharking, money laundering, and fraud offences on a local, provincial, national, and international scale.

Aboriginal Street Gangs and Organized Crime

There appears to be three predominant aboriginal street gangs in Alberta, the Warriors, Indian Posse, and Redd Alert, although there are a number of smaller gangs in existence in specific geographic areas within the province.

Gang activities continue to be more prevalent in the north, with rivalries frequently occurring in the City of Edmonton; however, last year did not see the open violence that was witnessed in past years. The presence of these gangs is certainly being observed in various correctional facilities in the province.

Eastern European Organized Crime

Intelligence continues to indicate synthetic diamonds are being smuggled into Canada from Russia, resulting in a negative impact on the Canadian industry. A number of Eastern European organized crime figures currently residing in Canada have been seeking a source of Canadian diamonds aside from legitimate means. Intelligence indicates that these subjects have also been involved in money laundering activities on a global basis estimated to exceed \$3 billion.

In addition to the entry of smuggled synthetic diamonds, there are indications the smuggling into Canada of illicit finished diamonds from Russia is also occurring with some frequency.

Other groups of Eastern European origin have also been identified to be involved in drug trafficking, fraud, extortion, prostitution, and auto theft.

Traditional Organized Crime

The extent of Traditional organized crime in the province is not known at this time. Information is limited, yet suggests the presence and influence of more than one group. Recent enforcement efforts have been minimal and reflect a need for more focused and comprehensive intelligence.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

The Hells Angels continue to be active in a number of criminal enterprises including drug trafficking, control of exotic dancers and prostitution, threats and intimidation, and stolen property. By the end of 2001, the three chapters in Alberta (Calgary, Edmonton, and Nomads) had a combined membership of 45, comprised of 38 full patch members, five prospects, and two hangarounds.

Ken Sczerba, ex-president of the Calgary Chapter, was sentenced in June 2001 to one year in prison, with a two-year probation order upon his release, for counselling the offences of wilful damage and common assault on city alderman Dale Hodges and a community activist.

Project Shadow's accused are now proceeding through the courts. Hells Angels member Carl Eric Olesen, aka Kevin Alan Press, has been the first person to be convicted and was sentenced to 3½ years for drug trafficking and received a lifetime prohibition from owning and possessing firearms. John Pilling, an associate to Calgary Hells Angels members, has also been convicted as a result of this investigation and is serving a 6-year sentence.

While the Hells Angels chapters are based in Calgary, Edmonton, and Red Deer, associates of the clubs are known to reside in several outlying areas throughout Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Intelligence indicates these associates are involved in a variety of criminal activities.

Sexual Victimization of Children

There is no current evidence of an organized criminal element actively involved in child prostitution, sex tourism, paedophile groups, or paedophile Internet activity in Alberta. Despite this fact, the sexual victimization of children is a growing problem that is exacerbated by the international accessibility provided by the Internet. CISA has played an active role in the dissemination of intelligence from international sources to local law enforcement agencies.

Illegal Movement of Firearms

Two joint forces investigations, Project Karbine and Project Karotene, pursued by the RCMP and Edmonton Police Service in 2001, have reinforced how easily illegal firearms can be acquired in Alberta. These investigations focussed on the importing, trafficking, possession, and reactivation of illegal firearms. In June 2001, investigators executed search warrants at the business premise of Lock & Load in Edmonton. The investigation culminated in the seizure of over 700 weapons with origins in Canada and the United States. A variety of firearm charges were laid against the targets of these investigations.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

Numerous firearm seizures were made from individual criminals in Alberta urban communities on a daily basis, and police officer safety is an increasing concern. The Edmonton Police Service made a significant seizure in September 2001. Alessandro Petrillo was arrested and charged with careless storage/use of firearms, unauthorized possession of prohibited and restricted weapons, and uttering threats, resulting from the seizure of 10 handguns, 19 long barrel rifles, an assault rifle, a military machine gun, a sniper rifle, 45 ammunition magazines, and numerous other weapons. A total of sixty weapons and over 14,000 rounds of ammunitions were seized.

Open source information suggests that since the September 11 terrorist attacks in the USA, gun sales in that country have soared. Canadian law enforcement officials can expect that a portion of those firearms will ultimately fall into the hands of some Canadians. While current information suggests the federal firearms registration legislation has not curbed illegal firearms trafficking, investigators attached to the National Weapons Enforcement Support Teams are optimistic that, in due course, the provisions of Bill C-68 will begin to curb illegal weapons trafficking. Based on investigative information and human source intelligence, which indicates the apparent ease at which criminals can obtain and traffic in illegal firearms, analysts suspect the true extent of illegal firearms importing and domestic trafficking may be underestimated.

Intimidation

Organized crime groups and individual criminals frequently resort to threats and intimidation to impede or avoid criminal prosecution. The Hells Angels continue to utilize threats and violence in attempts to thwart the judicial process and enhance their criminal profile. Additional investigations and intelligence revealed other groups that have a propensity to use violence and intimidation to affect their purpose.

In 2001, a multi-agency CISA committee was established to provide recommendations and develop best practices to assist all member agencies in investigating and reporting occurrences of threats and intimidation perpetrated by organized crime, and to assist agencies in preparing threat assessments. These recommendations are now being put into place.

Contraband Smuggling

Drugs, firearms, alcohol, jewellery, vehicles, and tobacco remain the commodities of greatest interest. Canada Customs and Revenue Agency seizures between April and October 2001 suggest marihuana and steroids are the most prevalent drugs detected at Alberta customs ports.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

Project Karbine reinforced the extent to which illegal firearms importing and smuggling is occurring in Alberta, and interestingly, revealed that the main communication tool utilized was the Internet.

Project Kathexis, pursued by Edmonton RCMP Customs and Excise Section, focussed on the illegal sale of wine from the Edmonton based Italian Centre Shop Ltd. grocery retail outlet. It resulted in the seizure of 1,920 litres of wine and four individuals being charged under the Excise Act. Losses to both provincial and federal taxes totalled over \$7,700.

The recent increase in federal and provincial tobacco taxes will have the likely effect of increasing inter-provincial and international smuggling of tobacco products.

Technological Crime

It has become increasingly evident from investigations conducted during the past three years that organized crime groups routinely have access to the latest technology and utilized it to further their illegal activities.

In one investigation, a local area computer network was used to place and fill orders for a cocaine trafficking group. Law enforcement faces continual challenges in the lawfully authorized electronic surveillance of computerized communication.

Project Kliu, the long-term counterfeit credit card investigation, clearly provided evidence of the technological sophistication of some organized crime groups. The acquisition of credit card bit data and subsequent manufacture of high quality counterfeit credit cards, complete with security features such as holograms, indicates the extent and ease to which these groups victimize Canadian society.

The use of technology by organized crime groups and individuals to commit the illegal activities of drug trafficking, fraud, and the sexual victimization of children, is evolving at a rapid pace. Police services are being forced to respond to this latest threat, which will require an investment of human and financial resources in order to lawfully intercept the various mediums of technology and undertake enforcement.

Racist/Hate Groups

Literature from The National Alliance, a racist group based out of West Virginia, USA, has surfaced in a small number of communities in Alberta. Local residents, as well as the Internet, were used to distribute this propaganda.

On December 12, 2001, two groups of prisoners at the Edmonton Institution, the Redd Alert and Aryan Resistance, confronted a group of Manitoba Warriors and



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

assaulted them. This confrontation confirmed an alliance between the Redd Alert and the Aryan Resistance within the Edmonton Institution.

Subversive Groups

In June 2001, Daniel Lavigne of Ontario, and his associates from the International Humanity House anti-tax group, attended Edmonton to give a seminar on tax-exempt status cards. Their philosophy is that the tax-exempt status cards signify support of a political statement in that the holders do not believe in governments funding the arms race; therefore, cardholders withhold taxes so as not to further contribute to the destruction of mankind.

Individuals associated with “Freedom Fighters”, “We The People”, and “Patriots on Guard” remain active throughout the province, although lately with a lower profile.

Jamaican Organized Crime

All but two of the accused persons charged during Project Calcium, the Joint Forces Operation between the RCMP and Edmonton Police Service targeting a Jamaican based organized crime group in the Edmonton area, have been dealt with by the courts. The two remaining accused are the subject of Canada-wide arrest warrants. Sentences for those convicted have ranged from four to seven years and most of the illegal proceeds of crime seized have now been forfeited to the Crown.

The organized crime influence posed by Jamaican based groups in Alberta is national and international in scope. The principal criminal activities are cocaine trafficking and money laundering but also include assaults/threats, kidnapping, firearms offences, break and enters, and living off the avails of prostitution.

Jamaican based criminals have demonstrated they can be ruthless and often resort to violence to settle disputes, instil intimidation, circumvent the judicial process, and establish a reputation in the criminal underworld.

Gaming

Internal thefts, cheating at play, and over or underpayments are problematic at casinos in the province. Attempted armed robberies of casinos and licensed facilities housing video lottery terminals occur from time to time, which could pose a threat to public safety, and all venues are ideal for passing forged currency and using fraudulent or stolen credit cards.

In March 2001, casino staff observed a male using multiple credit cards in a number of cash machines. Subsequent investigation by the Edmonton Police Service resulted in the arrest of two men from Quebec. Nine counterfeit credit



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

cards were seized and it was determined that at least \$24,000 in fraud had been committed prior to the arrests.

In September a Joint Forces Operation named Project Payout, involving Calgary Police Service, Calgary Criminal Intelligence Section, Canada Immigration, and the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, commenced in Calgary. It concluded in October with five search warrants being executed on five Asian business locations. Twenty-six illegal electronic gaming machines and \$8,000 cash were seized.

In November 2001, two members of the Edmonton Hells Angels were each fined \$5,000 for running an illegal lottery between November 2000 and February 2001.

Diamond Industry

The first diamond mine near Yellowknife, which opened four years ago, produces about \$1 million worth of high quality diamonds each day. With the Diavik Mine becoming fully operational by 2003, Canada could generate as much as 12.5% of the world revenue in rough diamonds, just behind Russia, Botswana, and South Africa.

With successful production comes the opportunity for criminal infiltration. A package of missing northern diamonds resurfaced in Vancouver in November 2001, after a man attempted to sell a West Coast jeweller four loose, cut and polished gems, laser-etched with polar bears. The diamonds were from a box of 21 finished gems, worth an estimated \$100,000. The box went missing in December 2000 while being shipped by air cargo from the Sirius Diamonds cutting and polishing plant in Yellowknife to the company's head office in Vancouver. Three diamonds are still missing. The diamonds would never have been recovered without an intelligence fan-out and the polar bear trademark.

Organized crime is attempting to make the first tangible inroads into Canada's fledgling and lucrative diamond industry. The potential for substantial illicit profit has criminal syndicates from Eastern Europe and Asia, as well as outlaw motorcycle gangs, attempting to infiltrate the industry directly or through contract agencies.

Middle Eastern Based Organized Crime

Middle Eastern based organized crime is a new provincial priority, approved in early 2001 by the CISA Executive Committee to respond to an identified threat by several groups in Alberta. These organized crime groups have ethnic backgrounds associated to the countries of Lebanon, Iraq, or Iran.

Criminal investigations have included murder, aggravated assault, drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms and weapons offences, auto thefts, home



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

invasions, and forged identification. Although past conflicts between groups created a public safety concern, recent enforcement actions during the past six to eight months have resulted in a decrease of overt, violent acts.

South Asian Based Organized Crime

South Asian based organized crime is another new provincial priority and consists of groups having ethnic backgrounds related to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. There are two predominant groups, known as the Muslim based and the Sikh based factions, whose known focus of activity is predominantly in Edmonton and the surrounding area. Individuals from each group have engaged in many acts of violence including murder, attempted murder, assault causing bodily harm, drive-by shootings, and fire bombings.

The groups resort to the use of firearms and other weapons on a routine basis as they vie for power and influence in the criminal community. Three homicides have been attributed to the ongoing violent confrontations, the most notable being the Mangat / Pervez killings in Edmonton.

The Sikh faction had an association with the International Sikh Youth Federation, an organization reportedly involved in multiple criminal enterprises from local to international levels. Recent information indicates that the International Sikh Youth Federation has disbanded, so time will tell as to what effect that will have on the local situation.

Drugs

Marihuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and ecstasy are the primary illegal drugs sold in Alberta. Virtually all organized crime groups are directly or indirectly involved in the trafficking of illegal drugs, with varying degrees of influence in the province.

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency reports the routine detection of steroids through the postal service.

Raves continue to be popular in urban locations throughout the province and ecstasy is the drug of choice at these functions.

As a result of September 11, authorities can expect to see new and innovative drug smuggling methods develop as a result of heightened security at airports and border crossings.

Terrorism

The events of September 11 have underscored a growing realization that the lines between organized crime and terrorism have blurred. Alberta police officers have



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

conducted a number of subsequent investigations, under the umbrella of Project Shock. Considering these factors, and the understanding CISA could play a significant role in a provincial crisis management plan, the CISA Executive Committee approved Terrorism as a new provincial priority in the fall of 2001.

CISA has begun to work with a variety of partners who all have a mutual interest in this mandate. It is our intention that early in the new Business Plan the appropriate systems will be put in place to ensure that the collection, analysis, and dissemination of timely intelligence will result.

GOAL 3: To Initiate Multi-Agency And Multi-Disciplinary Enforcement Strategies To Detect, Prevent, Combat, And Control The Growth Of Organized And Serious Crime In Alberta.

Between April 1999 and March 2002, the CISA Executive Committee approved a total of 15 Joint Forces Operations targeting a variety of organized crime groups. These multi-agency investigations have all utilized a multi-disciplinary approach, with the ultimate goal of dismantling the groups that were targeted.

The investigational phase of nine of the 15 projects has now been concluded and these matters are in various stages in the court system. The remaining six projects are under active investigation at this time. Financial accountability for these projects is reported under Goal 6. The following is an overview of the projects where investigation is now complete.

1. Project Kancel:

As a result of by-law infractions within the City of Calgary, the Calgary chapter of the Hells Angels was ordered to dismantle their clubhouse. Information was received indicating that Ken Szczerba, then the president of the Calgary chapter of the Hells Angels, was allegedly intent on doing harm to a Calgary alderman and a person involved in a local community group. Subsequent investigation by the Calgary Police Service and RCMP led to the conviction of Szczerba for two counts each of counseling the offence of willful damage and counseling the offence of common assault. In June 2001, Szczerba was sentenced to one year in jail followed by two years probation. Szczerba and one other accused still face drug charges from this investigation.

2. Project Kachou:

This was a year-long investigation conducted by the RCMP and Edmonton Police Service into the alleged illegal activities of an Asian based organized crime group operating out of Edmonton. In excess of 60 accused were subsequently arrested and charged for a variety of drug



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

trafficking and criminal offences. Subsequent to the arrests, the incidents of drive by shootings, threats, and assaults in several areas of Edmonton were noticeably reduced. Approximately \$1.7 million in alleged illegal proceeds of crime have been restrained, of which \$225,000 has been forfeited to the Crown. Significant quantities of illegal drugs were also seized. To date, 18 accused have pled guilty to a variety of offences receiving sentences ranging from fines to five years in jail. Three of these accused have since been deported from Canada. Two different groups of accused, eight in one group and 18 in the second group, are proceeding through the court process.

3. Project Kalcium:

This was six-month investigation conducted by the RCMP and the Edmonton Police Service targeting a Jamaican based organized crime group operating out of Edmonton. A total of 17 persons were charged with a variety of Controlled Drug and Substances Act and Criminal Code offences, significant quantities of illegal drugs were seized, and approximately \$600,000 in cash and property was restrained as illegal proceeds of crime. With the exception of two, all accused have been dealt with in the courts, with sentences ranging from four to seven years. The two remaining accused are no longer in this jurisdiction and Canada-wide warrants for their arrest are in effect. Most of the restrained proceeds of crime have been forfeited to the Crown.

4. Project Katalyst:

During the investigation of Project Kachou, intelligence was gleaned that identified a second Asian based organized crime group operating out of Edmonton. Eleven accused persons were arrested and subsequently charged with a variety of Controlled Drug and Substances Act and Criminal Code offences. During the course of this investigation, in excess of \$300,000 in cash was seized, as well as quantities of illegal drugs and weapons. Three of the accused have been convicted receiving sentences ranging from three to five years, and approximately \$205,000 in illegal proceeds of crime have been forfeited to the Crown. The remaining accused are still before the courts.

5. Project Katchall:

This began as a seven-month investigation by the RCMP and Calgary Police Service targeting an Asian based organized crime group allegedly involved in drug trafficking in the Calgary area. Early in the investigation one of the primary targets was murdered and two other primary targets left the jurisdiction. Consequently, the Joint Management Team made a



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

decision to conclude this investigation as the group was no longer functional.

6. Project Shadow:

Calgary Police Service and RCMP undertook a long-term investigation targeting a group of individuals who are members or associates of the Hells Angels. Intelligence indicated that these persons were involved in a variety of drug and other offences. The investigation phase of the project concluded in March 2001 with the arrest of 51 accused charged with 275 charges under the Controlled Drug and Substances Act and Criminal Code. Of those charged, six were full patch members of the Hells Angels. Also included were one hangaround, one friend, one ex-member, two ex-prospects, and 21 close associates of the Hells Angels. During the course of the investigation, approximately \$2.7 million worth of illegal drugs and numerous weapons including handguns, rifles, and semi-automatic weapons were seized, as well as \$170,000 in alleged illegal proceeds of crime were restrained. One full patch member has subsequently pled guilty and received a sentence of three and one-half (3½) years, while a close associate to some of the Calgary Hells Angels members received six and one-half (6½) years.

7. Project Kliu:

This project was initiated by the Calgary Police Service and RCMP and targeted a group of Asian based individuals that intelligence indicated were operating a fraudulent credit card ring. As the investigation unfolded, evidence was obtained indicating the Calgary subjects were part of a larger group that was active in several centers in Alberta, but was also active in British Columbia, Ontario, and California. Electronic data was being stolen from thousands of legitimate credit cards at over 100 retail merchants in North America. The data was then taken to one of several credit card “factories” in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Toronto where counterfeit credit cards were manufactured. The investigation has shown these fraudulent credit cards were used in at least 34 countries around the world. In January 2002 the investigational phase of this project concluded with 478 Criminal Code charges being laid against 63 persons, including 124 charges against 18 people residing in Calgary. Approximately \$900,000 in cash and property has been restrained as alleged illegal proceeds of crime. One hundred twenty-six counterfeit credit cards were seized while being used in western Canada and 18 forged identifications were seized while being used illegally. A close working relationship with the Canadian Bankers Association was maintained throughout this operation and they estimate this investigation prevented \$23 million in credit card fraud in Canada.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

8. Jessica Koopmans:

In May 2001, Jessica Koopmans disappeared from her home in Lethbridge. Following three days of searches, foul play was suspected and the Lethbridge Police Service entered into a joint forces investigation with the RCMP and Edmonton Police Service. Subsequent investigation by over 30 investigators resulted in the recovery of the body of Koopmans and the arrest and charging of Anthony Gallup. This matter is currently before the courts. CISA would not normally become involved in a single abduction and homicide case, however, at that time CISA was in the process of implementing major case management and electronic case management software (Evidence & Reports) for all major Alberta police services. The timing of this case was such that it was essential that the new systems be deployed and therefore CISA offered assistance to facilitate this component of the investigation.

9. Project Snoop:

This was a two-month project undertaken by Lethbridge and Calgary Police Services and the RCMP targeting an organized crime group with associations to the Hells Angels. Intelligence indicated the group was involved in the movement and sale of illegal drugs. While additional intelligence was generated during this project, there was insufficient evidence to proceed with any criminal charges and the project was concluded.

In summation, the nine completed projects have produced enforcement results as follows:

- Controlled Drug and Substances Act and Criminal Code charges against 203 key figures operating within organized criminal organizations. Of those charged, 37 have already been convicted receiving sentences ranging from fines to seven years in custody. Three of those convicted have since been deported from Canada.
- Approximately \$4,000,000 in street value of illegal drugs seized during the course of these investigations.
- Numerous handguns, rifles, and automatic weapons seized and forfeited.
- Approximately \$3,600,000 in alleged illegal proceeds of crime restrained with over \$500,000 already being forfeited to the Crown.

As noted earlier in this segment, six other organized crime projects are currently underway. These projects range from four to 12 months in duration and are targeting organized crime groups that fall within the national or provincial priorities of CISA. Intelligence that led to the approval of these current projects indicates that there is potential for considerable seizures of illegal proceeds of crime and commodities in at least five of the six projects.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

Timely and competent legal advice has been achieved through the Organized and Serious Crime Special Prosecutor for CISA since the spring of 2000. She has worked very closely with investigators of the various Joint Forces Operations, as well as enhancing partnerships with Federal Department of Justice counsel. In addition to providing advice and guidance during projects, the Special Prosecutor also provides opinions in relation to court decisions, lectures at workshops, attends a variety of meetings, and makes court appearances on behalf of Alberta Justice at organized crime court proceedings.

GOAL 4: To Provide Management And Operations Support For Ad-Hoc And Permanent Joint Forces Operations Targeting Organized Or Serious Crime In Alberta.

During the course of this Business Plan, approximately \$85,000 worth of specialized investigational equipment has been purchased and is subject to inventory control by CISA. While each piece of equipment was purchased for surveillance and undercover aspects of a specific file, most of the equipment has been used on several different operations. To ensure police services are able to share expensive technical equipment, CISA developed an inventory list of all such equipment held by the various police services in Alberta and that inventory has been distributed to the Liaison Officers of each agency. Should a required piece of equipment not be available within this combined inventory, then a request for that equipment can be made in conjunction with operational funding for the project.

During the first year of operation it became evident that the availability of translators for a number of languages being lawfully intercepted was an issue. CISA developed an inventory list of all sworn officers and civilian employees of Alberta police services who had language capabilities suitable for translation and transcription. Again, this inventory list was provided to the Liaison Officers of our member agencies for use as required.

Operational debriefings are now completed on all long-term investigations following the disclosure of evidence for court. A standardized debriefing template was developed by CISA staff for use in these debriefings with a view that as time goes on, best and poor practices will be readily identified and shared with member agencies.

During the last 18 months of the Business Plan, CISA worked with the major Alberta police services and a representative of the Solicitor General of Alberta to initiate and implement major case management and electronic case file management in Alberta. With the consent of the Solicitor General, CISA committed in excess of \$125,000 of surplus Administrative funds from the year one budget to undertake this project. These funds were used to train police



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

officers and support staff in the principles of major case management and the use of Evidence & Reports. Additionally, \$125,000 was received from the Law Enforcement Grant Proceeds of Crime program last year to provide support to the police services as they began utilizing these new systems. All five CISA regular member police services are now committed to and using the systems and in 2002 one associate member police service will also implement Evidence & Reports. Alberta is a national leader in the development and use of these standard practices and CISA is presently working with Federal and Provincial Crown to develop electronic briefing and disclosure capabilities from Evidence & Reports.

CISA has always taken the position there should be a concurrent proceeds of crime investigation during the vast majority of organized crime investigations as one of the main goals is to eliminate profit for criminals. In the fall of 2000, a significant investigation was being proposed that would require a proceeds component, however, proceeds of crime investigators were committed to other duties and could not participate. A solution to the problem was contracting the services of a forensic accountant, but this was not an approved item in the Business Plan for operational funding. A submission made to the Solicitor General resulted in approval for the contracting of forensic accountants and since that date, four Joint Forces Operations have been initiated that otherwise would not have commenced. Of those four, Project Klu has now completed the investigational phase and approximately \$879,000 in alleged illegal proceeds has been restrained for court hearings to determine forfeiture.

GOAL 5: To Provide Professional Development For Alberta Law Enforcement Officials In Order To Comprehend And Respond To The Cultural Nuances Of Organized Crime Groups And Serious Criminals And Predators.

Over the past year CISA provided its membership with intelligence and enforcement specific training in eight different subject areas. Many of the courses offered by CISA deal directly with establishing standards across the province in training organized crime investigators. The main focus has been in the Introduction to Major Case Management (MCM) and Evidence & Reports III (E&R III) training. Eight MCM workshops were held in Calgary and Edmonton, as well as 12 E&R III workshops. The MCM portion is a two-day workshop focused on the principles of major case management as taught at the Canadian Police College. The E&R III course is a hands-on computer course using a portable computer lab. Two E&R III Database Administrators Courses, designed for administrating the program, setting up users, passwords, and files were delivered to 30 candidates. This training will continue in 2002.

In June 2001, CISA organized an Asian Investigators Meeting in Red Deer where analysts and investigators from across the province discussed ongoing investigations.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

CISA, along with Calgary Police Service Vice Unit, organized a one-day workshop in July at Calgary on Internet Gaming. Two members from the Ontario Joint Forces Investigative Team presented to 30 investigators from across the province.

CISA hosted a two-day Drug Investigator Workshop in Red Deer in October. Two hundred and thirty-eight candidates, including many frontline police officers from across the province, attended the workshop and heard presentations on Clandestine Drug Laboratories, Designer Drugs and Raves, Fortified Drug Houses, Marijuana Cultivation, and Operation Pipeline. The presenters were drug investigators from various police agencies in Alberta and British Columbia.

A two-day workshop on Informant Handling was held at Red Deer in November and was attended by 226 candidates from various CISA agencies. The workshop was designed for frontline police and investigators who may use confidential human sources in their jobs. The workshop was so popular a second one is planned for April 2002.

A three-week course on Advanced Mobile Surveillance was held at Penhold in October. Instructors from Calgary Police Service, Edmonton Police Service, RCMP, and Department of National Defence delivered the course to 36 candidates. The course included a variety of related topics including foot surveillance, and vehicle and aircraft surveillance. In January 2002, the twelve instructors from the course attended a two-day workshop in Calgary. The purpose was to fine tune the course and develop provincial standards for surveillance methods and techniques. The course training materials were updated, and a CD-ROM with the complete course presentations will be distributed to each instructor in the near future.

The CISA Source Agent Workshop was held at Calgary in February, with 30 candidates attending. This training has become one of the flagship courses offered by CISA and was once again very well received. The candidates came from six different police agencies in the province. The candidates work in syndicates of six with an experienced syndicate leader who has attended the workshop in the past. The workshop includes evening scenarios utilizing undercover operators from the RCMP and Calgary Police Service. Presenters included Gary McCuaig from Alberta Justice, psychologist Dr. Mike Webster, Geoff Frisby (RCMP retired), and Detective Chris Reid from the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The results of the Training Needs Assessment contributed greatly to the types of training offered by CISA. Through regular discussions with CISA member agencies, a number of suitable courses have been identified and CISA has participated in some of these on a cost shared basis. In addition, candidates complete evaluations at the end of each workshop, which assist in developing new



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

training initiatives. CISA will continue to examine new and innovative training initiatives in this unique area of police training. A second Training Needs Assessment was completed in the fall of 2001, in order to prepare for course delivery under the new 2002-2005 Business Plan.

A CISA Training Advisory Committee was set up with representatives from the five CISA regular member police agencies. The committee's mandate will be to:

- develop or solicit topic suggestions for CISA courses, workshops, and seminars,
- examine the results of the CISA Training Needs Assessment Surveys,
- provide names of subject matter experts from their agencies or others, and
- assist in locating training sites and accommodation at their location.

A second less formal committee has been struck to develop policy on the sharing of undercover operators between agencies. CISA has set up a secure encrypted database of trained undercover operators that will be kept at CISA. It will be used to assist in selecting undercover operators with special skills, attributes, and experiences, for both long-term and short-term undercover operations across the province. Each agency is currently collecting a detailed profile sheet on each operator and forwarding it to CISA. The CISA Training Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining and updating the database.

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

<u>Course Name</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>Duration in Days</u>	<u>Student Training Days</u>
Informant Handling	226	2	452
Drug Investigators Workshop	238	2	476
Advanced Mobile Surveillance	36	15	540
Intro to Major Case Management	164	2	328
Evidence & Reports III	180	3	540
Database Administrator	30	2	60
Source Agent Workshop	30	10	300
Internet Gaming Workshop	30	1	30
TOTAL	934		2,726

GOAL 6: To Provide Accountability To Both Senior Police Officials And The Government Of Alberta For The Prudent Allocation Of Resources To Combat Organized And Serious Crime In Alberta.

The 1999-2002 Business Plan provided for \$2,410,000 in Administrative and Training funds for the operation of the Bureau and \$4,790,000 in Operational funds for joint forces investigations. Criminal Intelligence Service Canada also



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

provided \$5,000 for training. In addition to these funds being provided to CISA, an additional \$200,000 was provided directly to Special Prosecutions of Alberta Justice for the services of a dedicated prosecutor. In December 2001, the final Operational funds installment from the Solicitor General of \$500,000 was withheld as part of each government department's commitment toward a balanced provincial budget.

The following provides an overview of Administrative/Training and Operational expenditures for the Bureau during the 1999/02 Business Plan.

Administration and Training:

Year	Appropriation	Actual Expense	Variance
1999/00	900,000.00	575,800.00*	324,200.00
2000/01	755,000.00	802,600.00**	(47,400.00)
2001/02	755,000.00	714,000.00	41,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,410,000.00	\$2,092,400.00	\$317,600.00***

* CISA completed staffing throughout year one; consequently there were significant Administrative and Training funds unspent.

** While the RCMP paid year one office lease costs, CISA was not billed during that year; therefore, two years of lease costs were paid during this fiscal year. Some additional funds were spent on Major Case Management.

*** Amount of Administration funds to be carried forward into the 2002/05 Organized and Serious Crime Business Plan as approved by the Solicitor General.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

Joint Forces Operations - April 1999 to March 2002:

Projects	Approved Funding	Actual Expended To Date	Balance Remaining
Nine Concluded Projects	2,050,780.00	1,709,016.00	341,764.00
Six Projects Under Investigation	1,583,640.00	119,314.00	1,464,326.00
TOTAL OF ALL PROJECTS	\$3,634,420.00	\$1,828,330.00	\$1,806,090.00

Total Administrative and Training Funds:	\$ 2,410,000.00
Total Operational Funds:	\$ 4,290,000.00
Criminal Intelligence Service Canada Training Grant:	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
Total of all Grant Funds:	\$ 6,705,000.00

Total Administrative and Training Expended:	\$ 2,092,400.00
Total Operational Funds Expended or Committed:	<u>\$ 3,634,420.00</u>
Total of all Funds Expended or Committed:	\$ 5,726,820.00

Total of Actual Uncommitted Funds:	\$ 978,180.00
Projected Surplus from Current Operational Projects:	<u>\$ 340,000.00</u>
Total of Uncommitted Funds Available for 2002/2005 Business Plan as Approved by Solicitor General Alberta:	\$ 1,318,180.00

Notes:

1. 1999/00, five projects initiated with budget appropriations of: \$1,465,920
 2000/01, two projects initiated with budget appropriations of: \$ 490,440
 2001/02, eight projects initiated with budget appropriations of: \$1,678,060
2. Year two project approval was low because of the heavy human resource use in the long-term projects Kachou, Kalcium, and Katalyst that were approved in year one.
3. Year three project approvals are significant in that the budget appropriations actually exceed the annual Operational funds appropriation. Additionally, many Calgary Police Service and RCMP members have been seconded to Project Shock and G-8 and are not available to work on organized crime files.



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

The CISA Executive Committee has reviewed each of the 15 operational projects seeking funding support to ensure compliance to funding criteria. A Joint Management Team provides ongoing accountability and support for these projects.

Public surveys were completed during the month of January in each year of 2000 and 2001. These instruments assist both CISA and individual police agencies in gauging and responding to public opinion on organized crime.

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. This may be more a reaction to cultural and media stereotypes than by hard information.

Respondents believed that getting more police officers on the streets, getting the courts to give out tougher sentences, and crime prevention programs were the most effective ways to deal with organized crime. The passing of more legislation was seen as the least effective strategy.

The public believes organized crime is increasing at the national, provincial, and municipal levels far more than at the neighborhood level. Respondents do not necessarily attribute neighborhood crime with organized crime. Albertans need to be better informed about the capacity of organized crime to penetrate day-to-day life and about the impact this may have. Strategies to assist the public in understanding the far-reaching effects of organized crime in their neighborhoods are currently in the process of being developed.

CISA, in partnership with the regular member police services, has initiated research focused at finding the most effective and efficient model to combat the effects of organized crime in Alberta. While considerable success has resulted in the past three years from Joint Forces Operations, we have also learned the creation of “ad hoc” investigational teams may not be the most effective enforcement model to address a multi-faceted and complex problem like organized crime.

GOAL 7: To Provide Enhanced Use Of Technology To Combat The Evolution Of Technologically Based Organized Crime.

Cyber crime issues, relative to organized and serious crime, have become readily apparent in several recent investigations, as well as throughout other aspects of society. CISA has secured direct access to most Alberta law enforcement databases and continue efforts to enhance this capability. Internet access has been established for open source information and CISA analysts are utilizing this medium to assist in their work. Limited research has been conducted regarding the extent to which organized crime groups in Alberta are using technology to



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

further their illegal activities; however, CISA did participate in a national research project focused on identifying the use of technology by outlaw motorcycle gangs. Expertise to conduct effective research and enforcement strategies in this area is not readily available within the Bureau at this time. The RCMP is in the process of establishing a Technological Crime Section in Alberta and CISA will be monitoring this developing initiative to assess our future involvement in this area.

GOAL 8: To Establish Partnerships With All Stakeholders To Reduce And Control Organized Crime In Alberta.

All Joint Forces Operations have consisted of at least two, and sometimes three, CISA member agencies. Each investigation has pursued substantive offences such as narcotics trafficking, credit card fraud, and other Criminal Code activities, but has also included proceeds of crime components, intelligence gathering components, criminal analysis, and sometimes other issues such as immigration, personal injury, and weapons offences.

Member agencies have realized the only way to combat organized crime in the province of Alberta is through Joint Forces Operations, focused on dismantling all aspects of a criminal organization. However, as evidenced in Project Kachou, this has not always been possible as the numbers of accused can become unmanageable. Consequently, investigators continue to target the upper echelons of these groups, not only for commodities, but also for illegal proceeds of crime and personal harm offences.

Between April 1999 and March 2002, CISA has received applications for membership in the Bureau from seven different Federal or Provincial agencies. Six of these applications were successful, which has created new partnerships within the law enforcement milieu in Alberta. Semi-annual meetings are held each year during which representatives of all CISA member agencies get together to discuss and share information about topics and cases of mutual interest.

During 2000/01, CISA participated in a multi-agency working group that was chaired by Mr. Mike Reynolds, Director of Alberta Registries. The group consisted of representatives from various Alberta Government departments, the Private Registries Association, Alberta Motor Associations, and a number of police services. Initially the group began looking at areas in the private registry system where information may be compromised or acquired for illegal purposes, as well as the generation of false identification such as drivers' licenses, birth certificates, or health insurance cards. The events of September 11 solidified a resolve in the working group that changes were required. A report was completed and is proceeding through the applicable government channels at this time.

CISA is participating with the Calgary and Edmonton Police Services and the RCMP in a research project aimed at determining the most effective way to deal



Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta Annual Report

with the lawful interception of communications during investigations. The goal is to increase capacity by maximizing the use of current and future resources, standardize processes, and integrate technical research and training.

Law enforcement agencies in Alberta have a variety of operational and intelligence data banks that for the most part are not capable of communicating with each other. While the CISA Bureau has a number of these databases, there is a real need for a software application allowing total communication between agencies. CISA has been participating with the Alberta Police Information Technology Sub-Committee of the Alberta Chiefs of Police Association in researching this issue.

CISA has also participated with the Alberta Justice Working Committee into researching and developing standardized policing practices for Alberta.

CONCLUSION

Although still very much in the formative stages, during the past three years the reorganized CISA has made significant progress in developing a strategic response to organized crime. We now also have a more clear understanding of the resource issues related to the suppression of organized crime, from enforcement to prosecution.

As we begin our second three-year business cycle, we must develop a long-term vision for CISA that builds on our current goals and strategies and incorporate new initiatives to enhance our capacity to keep pace with organized crime. We must also work with our various partners to reduce the impact of these criminal enterprises on the provincial justice, health, and social services systems.