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CACCP Bulletin

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

SPRING 2007



*"...Leading progressive
change in policing"*

CAPE

Chilliwack BC • June 3-6 2007



Conference Objective: Expanding and developing a network of best practices through partnerships with public and private institutions to address the training needs now and in the future.

Target Audience: The conference is directed to curriculum designers, educational institutions, public safety training personnel and partners in industry interested in further partnering and co-delivering training and educational material in various formats including web based training.

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\$95.00 plus taxes for RCMP delegates, and \$105 plus taxes for non-RCMP delegates

Registration Fee: \$400 + G.S.T. (\$424.00) payable in advance of conference by VISA, Master Card or cheque.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police strongly urges delegates to register for the conference online www.cacp.ca. For those without internet access please call 613-233-1106 for further assistance.

For more information please contact: Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, 582 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, ON K1R 5K2 Tel: 613-233-1106, Fax: 613-233-6960 E-mail: register@cacp.ca

Session Topics and Speakers

- **International Crime Organizations and UN Participation**
Dr. Yvon Dandurand, University College of the Fraser Valley
- **Technology and Crime, What Training is Needed?**
Mr. Tom Richie, Chief Legal Officer, Microsoft Canada Corporation
- **Liability as it Relates to Training Issues in Public Safety**
Mr. Paul Ceyssens, Ceyssens & Bauchman Barristers and Solicitors, Employment Lawyers
- **How to Engage in the Accreditation Process with Universities and Colleges**
Dr. Darryl Plecas, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University College of the Fraser Valley
- **Standardization of Instructor Qualifications**
Ms. Romona Morris, Ontario Police College
- **Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR)**
Dr. Curtis Clarke, Athabasca University
- **Emerging Trends in Policing / Public Safety Liability Issues**
Chief Superintendent Bill Dingwall, RCMP
Dr. Darryl Plecas, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University College of the Fraser Valley
Dr. Bud Levine, Police Futurist International
Chief Ian McKenzie, Abbotsford Police Department
Dr. James Alexander, Texas Woman's University
- **Problem Based Learning in Policing**
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- **E-learning, What are the Issues?**
Mr. Simon Pare, RCMP, Learning and Development



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ACP

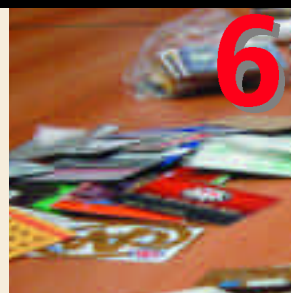
ON THE COVER...

Chief Jack Beaton, Calgary Police Service and Vice-President, CACP, presents Professor Chen Guangzhon, Chair of the China Centre for Criminal Law and Justice with a CACP bag at their meeting in Beijing, China.

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Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Spring 2007



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The recent retirement announcements of police chiefs across Canada prompts me to consider future leaders, and revisit the critical need for police executives to ensure members at all levels develop skills and competencies required to lead our organizations into the future.

Policing is not a simple task. The primary purpose of police is to make and keep Canada and Canadian communities safe from crime and criminals. Secondary and tertiary responsibilities are myriad, ranging from investigation, enforcement of federal, provincial, and local statutes, tackling serious and organized crime, and public order maintenance to protecting the country from terrorism and domestic extremism. When those responsibilities are considered in conjunction with the need to constantly adapt, innovate, and evolve to meet emerging challenges and demands created by changes in legislation, demographics, values and lifestyle, technology, science, the developing world, and security and safety locally, nationally and globally, policing emerges as a complex, fluid, and constantly evolving industry. A multifaceted web of accountabilities, relationships and reporting authorities, increased demands for accountability, calls for assurances of wise investment of public dollars, and involvement of more organizations and individuals in building and enhancing community safety add additional layers of complexity.

Police executives have significant and strategic responsibilities that directly impact every facet of their police organization and their community, currently and in the future. Police executives are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the community receives superior public safety services tailored to their needs, and that the police organization functions effectively and continues to thrive.

These are not responsibilities that can be taken lightly. Failure to lead effectively can result in the police organization faltering, in public trust and confidence in police being eroded, in government and community support diminishing, and in community safety and security being compromised.

Our members need to be confident that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to lead in these challenging and high pressure environments. It is our responsibility to support them in their efforts to prepare to assume increasingly more complex responsibilities. We can't afford not to.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to retiring CACP Vice Presidents, Chief Jack Beaton, Calgary Police Service, and Chief Vince Bevan, Ottawa Police Service, and CACP Secretary-Treasurer, Chief Barry King, Brockville Police Service. You have contributed so generously to the success of this organization. I would also like to say thank you to Commissioner Zaccardelli, RCMP, for his leadership on the national scene and C/Cst. Jamie Graham, Vancouver Police Department for his support on issues important to all of us. Best wishes to all for a long and happy retirement!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack J. Ewatski'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Jack J. Ewatski, President

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NEW MEMBERS

October 2006 - February 2007:

The CACP welcomes the following new Active, Associate, and Associate Corporate Members, and congratulates those who have become Life Members of the Association.

Active Members

D/Chief John Thomas Bates-Stratford Police Service
Ms. Kimberly Carswell- Winnipeg Police Service
Insp. Daniel Cauchy-Surete du Québec
Insp. Roger Chaffin-Calgary Police Service
A/Commr. Bernard Corrigan-RCMP
C/Supt. Denis Constant-RCMP
D/Chief Frank Elsner-Greater Sudbury Police Service
Insp. Kathryn McLellan-Calgary Police Service
Chief Thomas McKenzie-Lethbridge Regional Police Service
Insp. Steve Mendyk-Peel Regional Police
D/Chief Clayton Pecknold-Central Saanich Police
D/Chief Ian Peer-London Police Service
Insp. Martin Prud'Homme-Surete du Québec
D/Chief Brian Sembo-Calgary Police Service
Dir. Gen. Dale Sheehan-RCMP
Insp. Geoffrey Skafffeld-Niagara Regional Police Service
Supt. Gordon Tomlinson- North Vancouver RCMP Detachment

Associate and Associate Corporate Members

Mr. Brian Berube-XWAVE, A Division of Bell Aliant
Mr. Craig Campbell-Total Security Management Inc.
Mr. Robert Chartrand-Service du Renseignement Criminel du Québec
Ms. Michelle Evraire-Microsoft Canada
Ms. Kathryn Gregory-Canadian Criminal Justice Association
Colonel Philippe Guimbert-Ambassade de France au Canada
Mr. Richard Nowakowski-Raytheon JPS Communications Inc.
Mr. Brad Perrin-Atomic Energy of Canada
Mr. Grant Street-Crypto Metrics Canada Inc.

Life Members

D/Chief James Balmain-London Police Service
D/Chief Michael Brown-Sarnia Police Service
Prof. Duncan Chappell-Center for Transitional Crime Prevention
D/Supt. Dennis Alexander Moore, Ontario Provincial Police
D/Chief Wayne Tremble-Belleville Police Service
Commr. Giuliano Zaccardelli-RCMP

CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR 2007

May 6-9, 2007 Canadian Professional Management Executive Leadership Conference – Preparing for Tomorrow Toronto, ON	May 7-9, 2007 Canada's National Pipeline Convoy Workshop Niagara Falls, ON	May 24-26, 2007 Law Amendments and Organized Crime Committee Meetings Quebec City, QC	
June 3-6, 2007 Canadian Association of Police Educators Conference Chilliwack, BC	June 15, 2007 Law Amendments Committee Tele-conference	August 19-22, 2007 CACP Annual Conference Calgary, AB	September 30 – October 3, 2007 Quality Assurance Conference Ottawa, ON
October 13-17, 2007 IACP Conference New Orleans, LA	October 28-31, 2007 International Congress on Street Gangs Montreal, QC	November 19-20, 2007 6th Annual Conference on Mental Health Psychiatrists in Blue Halifax, NS	

CACP BUILDS

Relationships with Chinese Police Association

When he visited the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in 2005, the President of the Chinese Police Association invited members of the CACP to visit the Chinese Police Association in Beijing. When Ruth Montgomery, a retired Superintendent from the Edmonton Police Service, working with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) on a project to further international cooperation and implement international standards related to the UN Conventions on Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption, approached the CACP for presenters for two upcoming workshops in Beijing, the CACP and its members immediately recognized this as an opportunity to contribute to the development of policing internationally, to establish and build relationships with Chinese colleagues, and to meet with the Chinese Police Association.

Chief Jack Beaton, Calgary Police Service and Vice President of the CACP, Assistant Commissioner PY Bourduas, RCMP, Chief Bill Blair, Toronto Police Service, and Superintendent Steve Sweeney, Vancouver Police Department traveled to Beijing in December 2006. There they met with Vincent Yang, the Project Director from the ICCLR, Ruth Montgomery, the Project Leader, Ms Maureen Maloney, QC, former Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria and Director of the International Centre for Dispute Resolution, and Mr. David Winkler a former prosecutor and Assistant Deputy Minister of the BC Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General. For the Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto police services participants, representing cities with large Asian populations, and for the RCMP who address transnational crime, visiting China provided an excellent opportunity to learn first hand about Chinese policing and public safety related issues. Members also viewed this as a great opportunity to establish linkages and begin to build relationships that will enable them to provide



Chief Bill Blair, Toronto Police Service, and Co-chair of the CACP Organized Crime Committee and Mr. Li Ruchuan, Director of the Beijing Municipal Police Academy

improved investigative and support services for their communities in Canada and to work more collaboratively to develop and implement policies and strategies to combat crime.

The first group of lectures and a workshop was held with professors and students from the Research College for Criminal Jurisprudence (RCCJ) at Beijing Normal University and the Beijing Municipal Police Academy. The second was held with professors and doctoral and post graduate students from the Centre for Criminal Law and Justice (CCLJ) at the China University of Political Science and Law and senior police officers. The lectures and workshops addressed issues relating to policing in the context of implementing the UN Conventions on Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption in Canada, China and around the world.

Issues addressed by the Canadian presenters included:

- Witnesses and victim protection, international cooperation and the use of special investigative techniques
- Use of weapons interdiction strategies to tackle organized crime
- Increasing police accountability: internal and external reviews of police conduct
- Special event policing and public order policy and strategy development
- Relationships between the police and prosecutors in the context of the Conventions on Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention Against Corruption
- Gender analyses of transnational organized crime and corruption

In addition, the Beijing Police Academy workshop examined the current status of development of police training in Beijing and included discussions and information exchanges on issues relating to professional ethics, skills, police independence, and accountability. A lively information exchange on issues



Chief Jack Beaton presenting a delighted Professor Cheng Weiwei with Canadian maple syrup and a CACP plaque.



Chief Jack Beaton encouraging workshop participants to consider joining the Calgary Police Service

arising from the newly published draft Law of Criminal Procedure in China, especially as they relate to young offenders, followed the lectures at the CCLJ.

The lectures and workshops demonstrated the value and need to link academic research and practical application in developing and implementing relevant law enforcement and legal reform strategies. As well, blending legal, prosecution, and policing in one activity stimulated discussion and provided opportunity for a more holistic examination of issues, impacts, and implications from academic, legal, and practical perspectives.

On the third day the Canadian police delegation traveled to the Nijiue District Police Station and met with the police executives from that district. An in depth information exchange of policing policies and practices, especially as they relate to policing diverse communities, family violence, and public order maintenance proved interesting and informative to all.

This meeting was followed by a meeting, reception and dinner with the executive of the Chinese Police Association. The Chinese Police Association was established two years ago. It represents all police officers in China. The Association executives were most eager to learn how the CACP operates, its objectives and priorities, and how its work is accomplished. Further discussions focused on how the CACP works with police governance bodies, the Canadian Police Association, and government to provide input into legislation, and accomplish its objective of leading progressive change in policing.

The Chinese repeatedly commented how pleased they were to participate in this first-ever visit of a Canadian delegation of senior police officials, representing the Canadian Association of the Chiefs of Police, to China, in history. All participants hope that continued exchanges on issues of mutual interest will assist both China and Canada in promoting cooperative efforts, and in developing and implementing sound policing and public safety policies and practices.



The ICCLR team and Mr. Li Ruchuan, Director of the Beijing Municipal Police Academy (from L to R front) David Winkler, ICCLR; Assistant Commissioner PY Bourduas, RCMP; Ruth Montgomery, ICCLR; Maureen Maloney, QC, University of Victoria, Faculty of Law; Li Ruchuan, Director of the Beijing Municipal Police Academy, Vincent Chen Yang, Project Director, ICCLR; (Back row) Supt. Steve Sweeney, Vancouver Police Department, Chief Bill Blair, Toronto Police Service, and Chief Jack Beaton, Calgary Police Service



Assistant Commissioner PY Bourduas, RCMP, Co-chair of the CACP Organized Crime Committee and Chief Jack Beaton, Calgary Police Service with Mr. Sun Mingshan, Sr. Vice President of the Chinese Police Association

Organized Crime, Money Laundering: the Rich get Richer

By Superintendent Gord Schumacher, Winnipeg Police Service

When most Canadians think about organized crime or money laundering, they conjure up visions of old black and white movies featuring flamboyant, machine gun toting men dressed in pin stripe suits and broad trimmed fedoras. While to some extent that vision may have been true in the 1920's and 1930's, with time have come changes that not only alter the stereotypical profile of organized criminals but also the way in which they conduct their illegal activities.

Absent all the romantic trappings, the gangsters of that by-gone era had the same objectives as today's transnational criminal organizations: creating power and wealth. Indeed, their modern day counterparts are versatile, efficient and powerful. They have an overwhelming ability to corrupt- absolutely. The transnationalization of finances and the proliferation of a free trade, global economy have given these organizations the option of unrestricted and anonymous mobility of resources. The difference however, is that it is becoming more difficult to dispose of illegal profits today, due in part to the co-operative efforts of law enforcement globally, and the commitment of governments to stem the flow of approximately one trillion dollars in crime profits annually.

Where's the money? The world's law enforcement community is figuring out where the money is and is taking great steps to cut off the life blood of organized crime; but as more countries join the free world, organized crime is continuing to grow in ways never seen before.

With few exceptions, professional criminals are motivated by one thing: profit. Thus, greed drives the criminal and the result is that funds gained illegally must eventually be introduced into the nation's legitimate financial systems. Money laundering involves disguising assets so they can be used without detection of the illegal activity that produced them. A thorough laundering process will result in the perception of a legitimate source, or legitimate ownership of the illicit proceeds. This process, which can involve multiple steps, may result in devastating social consequences and if left unchecked, has the potential to eventually undermine the economic security of some developing countries.

It is clear that organized crime and the derivative money laundering activities can de-stabilize the process of creating democratic, law governed, states and is increasingly infiltrating the economic and social sectors of countries which are in a delicate period of transition. One only has to look at Russia and its economy crippled by the government retreat. The private industry filled the void with large scale, organized and corrupted entrepreneurial ventures to the tune of \$70 billion leaving the country in 1998 alone. Where did much of the money go? To Nauru, the smallest independent republic in the world; a new Russian trade partner? I don't think so.^[1]

Laundered money permeates all sectors of society, subverting local grocery stores, pharmacies, neighborhood auto dealers, banks, factories, real estate, the entertainment industry, law enforcement, accountants, lawyers, judges, legislators and even government itself. Never has so much money been available to so many criminals, supporters and protectors. The techniques of the money launderer range from complex financial transactions carried out through webs of wire transfer and networks of shell companies, or the modern exploitation of new payment technologies, to old fashioned, if increasingly inventive, methods of smuggling. As soon as law enforcement learns the intricacies of a new laundering technique, it is often replaced by yet another, more advanced scheme.

Among the more formidable forces of organized crime contributing to the severe drain of economic wealth from both Canada and the United States are the groups from Eastern Europe in general and Russia in particular. Political, social and economic changes in Russia, Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Republics have provided significant, unintended opportunities for national crime problems in these countries, specifically indigenous organized crime groups and criminal enterprises, to expand internationally. It is

[1] Mathers, C. 2004. *Crime School: Money Laundering* (Toronto, Ontario: Key Porter Books).

now clear that Russian organized crime has infiltrated North America through established, legitimate or perceived legitimate businesses and along with their extreme levels of violence and their diverse portfolios of organized crime activities have subsequently been able to launder billions of dollars annually.

Whether it is Russian organized crime, Eastern European organized crime, Asian organized crime, Italian organized crime, Albanian organized crime, outlaw motor cycle gangs, or any of the other groups, organized crime has gone high tech and global, generating profits like never before. Though there have been attempts in most non-criminal state countries to deal with the issue, the results have not been impressive.

Canada's attempts to deal with organized crime and money laundering have been somewhat encouraging in approach but through judicial interpretation, lack of police resources and financial institutions' failure to meticulously adopt anti-money laundering practices and training, the execution of Canada's response to organized crime has been fraught with difficulties.

Is there hope? At the Federal Government level we are beginning to see a commitment to the urgency we as Canadians face. The message is clear: we have to be serious in our need to balance increased vigilance and monitoring of financial information with the fundamental need to protect the privacy of Canadian citizens.

On December 14, 2006, Bill C-25 received Royal Assent. This legislation is an amendment to the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act and purports to refocus and strengthen our laws at home while at the same time meeting Canada's international commitments to deal with this increasing global monetary threat. Are we on the road to making a substantial impact on money laundering in Canada? Only time will tell if C-25, and our governments' commitments have any real impact at all.



ONTARIO COURT OF APPEAL UPHOLDS SIGNIFICANT SENTENCES FOR MASS MARKETING FRAUD OFFENCES

By William Bradley, Competition Law Officer, Competition Bureau Canada^[2]

In a unanimous decision released on June 8, 2006, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld a lower Superior Court decision that imposed significant fines and jail time for mass marketing offences under the Competition Act.

In October 2004, The Ontario Superior Court had imposed jail sentences of three years and a large fine of \$400,000 each against two brothers, Alan Benlolo (aged 38) and Elliot Benlolo (aged 40), of the Thornhill area of Toronto for their roles in a Yellow Pages scam.^[3]

The sentences were imposed under the False or Misleading Representation provisions of the Competition Act, section 52.(1), which were previously known as the Misleading Advertising Provisions. Significant amendments were made to these provisions of the Competition Act in 1999, making them into full mens rea offences that are designed to deal more seriously with fraudulent activities like this Yellow Pages scam.

This Yellow Pages scam, which ran from May to December 2000, involved sending approximately 900,000 false invoices through the mail

[2] William Bradley, Competition Law Officer, Competition Bureau Canada, was the primary investigator in the Yellow Business Pages file; he can be reached at Bradley.William@cb-bc.gc.ca.

[3] See R. v. Benlolo, Court of Appeal for Ontario, Docket C42553 and C42481. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the third brother involved in the fraud, Simon Benlolo, reducing his fine from \$100,000 to \$35,000.



Example of a fake yellow page logo. Note that the walking finger logo is a mirror image from the proper Yellow Pages logo.



Yellow Pages Team receiving the Commissioner of Competition's Merit Award for their work on the investigation and prosecution. From left to right: William Bradley, Investigator; Valerie Chénard, Crown Counsel; Sheridan Scott, Commissioner of Competition; Tom Rose, Investigator; and Andrew McAlpine, Senior Officer. Absent from the photo: Robert Goldstein, Senior Crown for the Prosecution.

to businesses and non-profit organizations across Canada to promote an online business directory that first went under the name Yellow Business Pages.com but was later changed to Yellow Business Directory.com.

The false invoices were designed to simply pass through the bill payment system of businesses and charities without anyone noticing that they had not ordered the directory listing. The bills demanded that the recipients send in their payments or face late payment and interest charges. Although the amount of the bills were small, ranging from \$25.52 to \$37.40 from the first to the last mailing, the scam was still able to generate over \$1 million in six months due to the large number of mailings sent out. The small amount of the bill and the fact that the mail pieces had the same layout and colour scheme of Bell Canada invoices greatly contributed to render the fake bills inconspicuous. Many of the victims, in fact, thought the bills were from their regular Yellow Pages supplier. The first mailing even had the Yellow Pages walking fingers on the upper left hand corner, but turned 180 degrees facing the other way.

Robert Goldstein, the Federal Crown Prosecutor on the file, argued that crimes like this Yellow Pages scam warranted significant jail time for some of the accused and the trial judge agreed.

Justice Molloy of the Ontario Superior Court said in her Reasons for Sentence:

So-called white-collar crime is still criminal conduct and should be treated as such. A significant sentence is required to denounce this conduct as the criminal conduct it is and to deter others who would seek a similar path to easy money.^[4]

The Appeal Court also took a strong position on fraud in its decision:

In the past, courts have repeated the concern that a fine not be seen just as a licence fee or cost of doing business. However, for some offenders any fine without personal penalty may be viewed as just that.^[5]

The Appeal Court also noted:

The reality of the threat of jail sentences for general deterrence of individuals and corporate executives who commit 'white collar' crime has become an effective and apparently necessary tool in the arsenal of law enforcement agencies...^[6]

The Appeal Court decision and the trial judge decision are a major milestone in the jurisprudence for Competition Act cases since they are the first contested decisions since the 1999 amendments to the Competition Act, which was amended to provide the Competition Bureau with more tools to combat deceptive marketing practices.

The 1999 amendments strengthened the criminal track of the Competition Act, changing it from a strict liability offence into a full mens rea offence, with a knowing and reckless element added. Both the Ontario Superior Court and the Ontario Appeal Court decisions in this case recognized the significant changes Parliament made to the Competition Act and accordingly imposed the significant jail terms and fines on the individuals involved in the Yellow Pages scam. These provisions are now available to law enforcement agencies as another tool to address mass marketing frauds.

The outcome of these Court decisions confirms that Mass Marketing Fraud (MMF) is now recognized as a serious crime not only because it involves the theft of large amounts of money but also because it destroys the very trust and confidence upon which our market system is based. MMF crimes currently investigated in Canada are perpetrated by a wide spectrum of individuals, including career criminals and criminal networks. Indeed, recent intelligence information has shown that MMF is linked to organized crime.^[7]

The Benefits of Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies

The successful prosecution of this Yellow Business Pages case showed the benefits of increased cooperation among law enforcement agencies in combating MMF. In a pre-trial ruling in this case, Madam Justice Molloy of the Ontario Superior Court said that "cooperation between law enforcement agencies is a positive rather than a negative thing."

[4] Page 8, line 25-30 of Reasons for Sentence, see Competition Bureau Web site for copy of this decision for the other pre-trial rulings at www.competitionbureau.gc.ca

[5] See para [33] Court of Appeal for Ontario, Her Majesty the Queen v. Alan Benlolo, et al

[6] See para 32 of *ibid.*

[7] See article "Controlling Mass Marketing Fraud in Canada" p. 31, Canadian Chief of Police Magazine, Winter 2007



Account Summary

Description		
Business listing in Yellow Business Pages.com		23.85
Payments		.00
Adjustments		.00
Balance forward (if already paid please disregard)		25.52

Current changes | Total 25.52

Total amount due 25.52

Please pay upon receipt. To avoid a late payment charge, please ensure we receive your payment on or before June 24, 2000.

Inquiries

Customer Service: 1-877-775-1181
 Local (Toronto): 416-512-7742
 Email: Billing@yellowbusinesspages.com
 Website: www.yellowbusinesspages.com



Please make cheques payable to YellowBusinessPages.com

Account number	Bill date	Amount due	Amount paid
	2000 05 25	25.52	

For YBP.com use 123 4** 1235**4687955422564556

████████████████████
████████████████████ Ave NW
Edmonton AB ██████████

A sample of the fake bills.

1235**46879554225645561235**46879554225645561235**468795542256

Canada Post Corporation assisted the Competition Bureau by enforcing an Interim Prohibitory Order to stop any further mailings being sent out by the Yellow Business scam. The Competition Bureau applied to use the little known section 43 of the Canada Post Corporations Act, under which the Minister Responsible for Canada Post can remove a person's right to use the mail, if they are using the mail to commit an offence.

The Competition Bureau is also grateful for the important assistance it received from its law enforcement partners in this case. The York Regional Police and the Toronto Police Service participated in the execution of numerous search warrants. The Toronto Police, under the auspices of the Toronto Strategic Partnership, also assisted in making the arrests of the individuals charged for the offences.

CACP FEDERAL DIRECTOR, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER RAF SOUCCAR VISITS AFGHANISTAN WITH 'TEAM CANADA'

By Karene Saad

October 2006, a group of prominent Canadians, otherwise known as "Team Canada", departed for Afghanistan to visit with members of the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

Chief of Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier extended the invitation to Canadian notables such as CBC funny man Rick Mercer, hockey legend Guy Lafleur, Olympic gold medalist Catriona Le May Doan and Assistant Commissioner Raf Souccar, Federal and International Operations, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and CACP Federal Director.

The five day visit to Kabul and Kandahar, Afghanistan, provided an opportunity to see firsthand the conditions under which Canadians contribute to the dangerous mission of rebuilding, stabilizing and securing a war ravaged society.

The team visited as many soldiers as possible to build morale and demonstrate national support for the troops. "It was a successful mission," stated Assistant Commissioner Souccar.

From the moment of arrival, Team Canada was set into high gear visiting Camp Mirage, Camp Julien and Camp Nathan Smith. In addition to eating, sleeping and patrolling with soldiers and PRT members, the team received basic training in camp security, mine awareness and weapons training.

Having had the privilege of speaking with numerous soldiers, A/Commr Souccar got a little taste of the life of a soldier in Afghanistan. Recounting the scenes of his memorable patrols with the soldiers, A/Commr Souccar stated, "there was some tense moments especially when we approached the scene of a suicide bombing attack less than 48 hours old. It was a rude awakening to the dangers the soldiers and PRT members face on a daily basis".

Currently the RCMP has six police officers taking part in the PRT. The number will climb to twenty-five by the end of the year. The RCMP also have two senior police officers in Kabul. At the time of his visit, A/Commr Souccar spoke with Supt Wayne Martin and Cpl Bob Hart about their experiences in Afghanistan since August. He states "they are proud to be part of the mission but recognize there are difficult and complicated tasks ahead of them".

Stabilizing Afghanistan is a dangerous task, as proven by the January killing of Foreign Affairs official Glynn Berry — a victim of a suicide bomber. Despite the efforts of the international community, the situation remains volatile.

Despite the dangers, A/Commr Souccar states Canada is doing great work overseas. "I am proud of our soldiers and police officers for making an honorable contribution to securing Afghanistan."



A/Commr Souccar with Guy Lafleur, and Bob Sweet, Mayor, Petawawa, Ontario



A/Commr Souccar on the firing range



A/Commr Souccar with Supt Wayne Martin and Cpl Bob Hart of the RCMP.