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CACP Organized Crime Committee 2005-06 Annual Report

Message/ Executive Message from the co-chairs

Organized crime is one of the biggest challenges faced by Canada. It affects every citizen whether through higher prices at local stores to cover the cost of fraud or through their tax bill to cover the increasing costs of law enforcement. Just as organized crime operates at many levels – on the streets, in the communities, provincially, nationally and internationally – so must our response. Over the recent past, as a law enforcement community, we have evolved and have combined our efforts against Organized crime. Our goal is to improve on our knowledge and understanding of criminal organizations and those who are involved so that we know better when, where and how to strike for a greater impact.

Committee Mandate/Objective

The CACP Organized Crime Committee (OCC) accomplished an overwhelming amount of work during its meetings in 2005-06. Under the leadership of the co-chairs, D/Commissioner P.-Y. Bourduas and Chief William Blair, and, in consultation with Committee members, a mandate, with clear objectives, was adopted on February 27, 2006, as follows:.

“Led by intelligence, the CACP Organized Crime Committee strengthens cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies, promotes innovative law enforcement initiatives and advocates for public policy and legislative change thereby contributing as a meaningful partner to the safety and security of Canadians and our international partners.”

Dates - Overview of Meetings held

The CACP OCC met on October 31, 2005 in Ottawa, on February 27, 2006 Toronto, on May 25,26, 2006 in Halifax, on August 20 in Newfoundland and will meet in Ottawa on November 27, 2006.

During the course of these meetings, members worked in an integrated fashion with a common goal. As such, membership provided valuable insight into the emerging/prevalent issues in their province.

Five working groups were established to deal with strategic priorities agreed upon by the Committee. The five working groups comprise Legislative Reform; Governance; Information/Intelligence Sharing; a National Strategy to Combat Organized Crime; and Communications. Two members of the Committee were selected to champion each and everyone of these strategic priorities. As champions of the working groups, the owners were assigned responsibility for developing a strategy and for ensuring that progress reports were submitted, on a regular basis, either verbally or in writing at Committee meetings or by electronic mail.

Furthermore, Committee members resolved to establish a link with other committees of the CACP and the NCC on Organized Crime so that key issues focusing on reducing the threat and impact of organized crime could be brought to the Government's attention. As for issues/decisions/resolutions having a direct impact on other CACP Committees, these issues would be brought to the attention of the appropriate committee by the respective champions of the strategic priorities, as required. These champions in turn would ensure that the CACP OCC was kept abreast of developments in other CACP committees and NCC on OC,

Progress on Five Strategic Priorities

First, let me say that great strides were made by each working group thanks to highly committed members that focused their energy in advancing the priorities and laying a solid foundation for the work ahead.

Legislative Reform

Meetings were held with Justice Minister Vic Toews to give him a in-depth appreciation of the impact of organized crime on our society. In addition, discussions around issues such as bail for violent crimes, legislative reforms were raised and comments were well received by the Minister.

Innovative ideas were also brought to the attention of members in an effort to find new ways to

disrupt and attack criminal organizations.

Governance

A Governance Framework document was submitted to the CACP OCC members for review and comment on August 20, 2006. Unfortunately, the document has yet to be approved given the fact that other issues were raised at the meeting and insufficient time remained to discuss this issue. As such, this item was postponed to the November 27, 2006 meeting.

Information/Intelligence Sharing

Discussions were held about building a new intelligence gateway. At this time, there are 651 users anticipated from west to east coast. ACIIS is connected to the Montreal Police Service and the Sûreté du Québec will be connected in the Fall.

CISC was tasked during one of the CACP OC meetings with putting together a situation overview on street gangs in Canada. A draft document was circulated to members for feedback. A final report was distributed to members at the August CACP OC meeting.

National Strategy for Organized Crime Enforcement

At its discussions in May 2006, Committee members agreed that in 2006-07, the use of a spreadsheet would be implemented identifying CACP OC objectives and their owners/champion, and initiatives that will be put in place to achieve the objectives. A strategy map was also adopted at this meeting where objective owners will be identified(over and above those selected for the priority working groups identified earlier). The strategy map addressed a number of areas including Bridge Building, Management, Operations, People Learning and Development.

To advance the development of an intelligence-led law enforcement strategy to more effectively

combat organized crime affecting Canada, a video-conference was held with a representative from each province to discuss the operationalization of intelligence. These representatives raised a number of initiatives that will be examined and evaluated in order to achieve our objective of disrupting organized crime activities in Canada. The latest development regarding CACP OCC is a draft position paper for the Canadian Law Enforcement Strategy to Combat Organized crime that was distributed to the membership for comment. The objective of the position paper is to move forward in a timely manner with the design and subsequent implementation of the CACP OCC OC Strategy to more effectively and efficiently combat organized crime in all communities across Canada. This strategy will be built upon a foundation of integration and intelligence-led policing.

Communications

The owners of this strategic priority submitted an action plan for members' review at their August 20, 2006 meeting. The issue was briefly discussed and members were asked to submit their comments in writing to the champion. The Committee was also provided with a "poster" which depicted the effects of organized crime in our communities. Key messaging is also included in the communications plan.

Guest Speakers

- FINTRAC was invited to a meeting to give an overview of their role and responsibilities and to discuss ways and means to improve the sharing of information.
- A presentation was provided on the Probe Team concept and the operations cycle which deals with operational tactical threat assessments and the development of aggressive policing mindset that advances tactical intelligence in support of enforcement opportunities and the development of protocols that transition intelligence to enforcement.
- A presentation was provided on an Organized crime Course which will be available in early

Jan/Feb. 07 at the Canadian Police College. The purpose of this course is to enhance the working relationship between the investigative and prosecutorial functions and to expand on the collection/presentation of evidence.

Resolutions

- Scheduling of Criminal Organizations (Resolution 04 - 2006)

Next Steps

- The Committee is in the process of developing a two-day workshop in Toronto to develop a national strategy on Gang violence. The first day will be used to identify strategies and best practices for gang repression, enforcement and investigation while the second day will focus on identifying strategies and best practices for education, prevention intervention and research.

This committee comprises representatives (list attached at Appendix A) from across Canada,

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