

250,000 Contraband Cigarettes Seized by the Central St. Lawrence Valley Regional Task Force

[News Release](#)

Les Cèdres, Quebec - On January 10th, 2008, at 2:50 p.m., intelligence officers from the Canada Border Services Agency working with officers from the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment- Valleyfield Office stopped a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado on Highway 20 eastbound in Les Cèdres, Quebec and seized a total of 1,250 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes that were manufactured in the United States and smuggled into Canada. This represents 250,000 contraband cigarettes worth \$27,500 that were not properly stamped and were destined to be sold illegally.

The driver, a 19 year old female resident of Island Road in Akwesasne, Ontario was arrested and will be charged by the RCMP under Section 32(1) of the *Excise Act 2001* for possession of a tobacco product not properly stamped according to the *Excise Act 2001*. She will also face charges by the Quebec Provincial Police under authority of the *Tobacco Tax Act*. She was released to appear in the Valleyfield court on March 20th, 2008. The truck, which is registered to a 28 year old resident of Seventh Street West in Cornwall, Ontario and valued at \$10,000, was also seized by the RCMP.

One of the main reasons we are seeing more seizures is because law enforcement on both sides of the border and within Canada are partnering more. We have better integrated intelligence and more integrated operations. In the Central St. Lawrence Valley Region, the RCMP is part of an integrated criminal intelligence section that involves partners from Canada and the United States working together and jointly selecting targets. We are seeing the benefits of this integrated policing.

- 30 -

Sgt. Michael Harvey

Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment

613-937-2831

