

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

[News Release](#)

Les Cèdres, Quebec - On January 10th, 2008, at 2:55 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 2001 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 and registered owner of the truck, a 38 year old male resident of Bray Street in South Glengarry, 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*. He will also face charges by the Quebec Provincial Police under authority of the *Tobacco Tax Act*. He was released to appear in the Valleyfield court on March 20th, 2008. The truck, valued at \$10,000, was also seized by the RCMP.

Organized crime is often involved in the illegal tobacco trade and as a result, public safety is undermined. Investigations have linked contraband tobacco distribution networks to drug and arms trafficking and money laundering.

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