

1.3 Million Contraband Cigarettes Seized by the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment- Valleyfield Office

[News Release](#)

Les Cèdres, Quebec - On January 15th, 2008, intelligence officers from the Canada Border Services Agency working with officers from the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment- Valleyfield Office stopped four vehicles that were transporting over one million contraband cigarettes and arrested four individuals. The RCMP seized four vehicles and 6,550 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes that were manufactured in the United States and smuggled into Canada. This represents 1,310, 000 contraband cigarettes worth \$144,100 that were not properly packaged or stamped and were destined to be sold illegally. The total value of the vehicles seized is \$54,900.

At 6:42 p.m., officers stopped a 2003 Dodge Ram 3500 on Highway 40 eastbound in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Quebec and seized 1,750 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes and the vehicle. The driver and registered owner of the vehicle, a 50 year old male resident of Highway 2 in Glen Walter, Ontario was arrested and may 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 may also be charged by the Quebec Provincial Police under authority of the *Tobacco Tax Act*. He was released and will appear at the Valleyfield court on March 28th, 2008. The truck is valued at \$13,000 and the cigarettes are valued at \$38,500.

Shortly after at 7:00 p.m., officers stopped a 2005 Pontiac Montana van on Highway 20 eastbound in Les Cèdres, Quebec and seized 1,350 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes and the van. The driver, a 25 year old male resident of Kahnawake, Quebec was arrested and may 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 may also be charged by the Quebec Provincial Police under authority of the *Tobacco Tax Act*. He was released and will appear at the Valleyfield court on March 28th, 2008. The van is registered to a 21 year old male resident of Kahnawake, Quebec and is valued at \$17,000. The value of the cigarettes is \$29,700.

At 7:36 p.m., officers stopped a 2003 Chevrolet Venture van on Highway 20 eastbound in Les Cèdres, Quebec and seized 1,350 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes and the van. The driver, a 22 year old male resident of Kahnawake, Quebec was arrested and may 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 may also be charged by the Quebec Provincial Police under authority of the *Tobacco Tax Act*. He was released and will appear at the Valleyfield court on March 28th, 2008. The registered owner of the van is the Kahnawake resident who owned the other van officers seized at 7:00 p.m. and is valued at \$10,000. The value of the cigarettes is \$29,700.

The final stop took place at 7:40 p.m. when officers stopped a 2001 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck on Highway 20 eastbound in Les Cèdres, Quebec and seized 2,100 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes and the van. The driver, a 33 year old male resident of Cornwall, Ontario identified as Gaston Poirier was arrested and 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 may also be charged by the Quebec Provincial Police under authority of the *Tobacco Tax Act*. He was held for a bail hearing that took place on January 17th, 2008 at the Valleyfield court. The truck is registered to a 59 year old male resident of Kahnawake, Quebec and is valued at \$14,900. The value of the cigarettes is \$46,200.

Contraband cigarettes that are smuggled from the United States end up largely in the smoke shacks found in some Canadian Aboriginal communities. Smoke shacks are designed to handle large volume cigarette sales and they are increasing in numbers. They attract both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal consumers. Street dealers also partake in the process and increasingly concerning is that certain retailers have been involved in the distribution of contraband cigarettes.

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