

**Two Young Persons Stopped in a Van by the Akwesasne
Mohawk Police Service leads to the Seizure of 60,000
Contraband Cigarettes by the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP**

[News Release](#)

Akwesasne, Ontario - On January 15th, 2008, at 7:07 p.m., an officer from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service stopped a 1995 Ford Econoline 150 van on Island Road in Akwesasne, Ontario under authority of the *Highway Traffic Act* as the van had no licence plates and appeared to be unsafe to drive. Upon verifying the identity of the driver and passenger, the officer observed boxes of tobacco in the rear of the van. Officers from Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment- Cornwall Office were contacted and attended. The RCMP officers seized 250 cartons of Putter's brand cigarettes, 50 cartons of Discount Menthol Flavor brand cigarettes and 50 cartons of Discount Full Flavor brand cigarettes that were all manufactured in the United States. This represents 60,000 cigarettes worth \$7,700 that were not properly stamped and were destined to be sold illegally.

The driver and passenger, both young persons as defined under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* were 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*. They were released to appear at the Cornwall court on February 28th, 2008. The Akwesasne Mohawk Police also issued the driver tickets under authority of the *Highway Traffic Act* for failing to surrender a driver's licence, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, operating a motor vehicle without licence plates and operating an unsafe motor vehicle. The van registered to a 34 year old male resident of Berwick, Ontario, is valued at \$900 and was also seized by the RCMP.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service continues to ensure that the vehicles travelling within their community are safe and pose no danger to the motoring public.

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