

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service Vehicle Stop leads to the Seizure of 932,000 Contraband Cigarettes by the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment

[News Release](#): Akwesasne police seize 932,000 contraband cigarettes

Cornwall, Ontario - On January 18th, 2008, at 5:50 a.m., an officer from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service observed a 2000 GMC Savanna van travelling from Cornwall Island in Akwesasne, Ontario towards Cornwall, Ontario. As a result of an *Indian Act* investigation, the officer stopped the van on Brookdale Avenue at Cornwall Centre Road in Cornwall. As the officer was questioning the driver he could smell a strong odour of tobacco. RCMP officers from the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment- Cornwall Office were contacted and attended the scene. The RCMP officers seized 4,650 re-sealable bags of cigarettes as well as 10 cartons of Hawks Canadian Blend Full Flavor brand cigarettes. This represents 932,000 cigarettes that were manufactured in the United States. The tobacco was not properly packaged or stamped and is valued at \$102,520.

The driver and registered owner of the van, a 43 year old female resident of Concession #4 in Plantagenet, 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 was released and will appear at the Cornwall court on March 3rd, 2008. She will also be summonsed to appear in court at a later date by the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service for trespassing on an Indian Reserve under authority of the *Indian Act*. The van, which is valued at \$6,000, was also seized by the RCMP.

The RCMP has been charging several people in possession of unstamped tobacco products who come from communities outside the Central St. Lawrence Valley Region. These people are also found trespassing on the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory or committing offences under authority of the *Highway Traffic Act*. The RCMP along with the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service will continue to enforce the laws in order to protect our communities from criminal activity.

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