

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service Vehicle Stop leads to the Seizure of 448.8 Kilograms of Bulk Fine Cut Tobacco by the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment

[News Release](#): Akwesasne police seize 448.8 kg of fine cut tobacco

Cornwall, Ontario - On January 18th, 2008, at 11:55 p.m., an officer from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service observed a 2000 Pontiac Montana van travelling from Cornwall Island in Akwesasne, Ontario towards Cornwall, Ontario. The officer observed the driver trying to hide his identity with his hand when the driver observed the officer in a marked police vehicle. As a result of an *Indian Act* investigation, the officer stopped the van on Seventh Street West in Cornwall. As the officer approached the driver he could observe that the rear of the van was full of plastic garbage bags and he could smell a very 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 18 garbage bags that contained 448.8 kilograms of bulk fine cut tobacco that was produced in the United States. The tobacco was not properly packaged or stamped and is valued at \$40,392.

The driver, a 28 year old male resident of Inchbury Street in Hamilton, Ontario and the passenger and lessee of the van, a 38 year old male resident of Wilson Street in Hamilton, Ontario 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 25th, 2008. The driver will also be issued a summons 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 \$3,500, was also seized by the RCMP.

The RCMP and the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service continue to work together to ensure that our communities remain safe. We work in partnership with other national and international agencies whenever possible to increase enforcement efforts.

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