

## **Police seize 51,600 cartons of counterfeit contraband cigarettes**

### [News Release](#)

**TORONTO, Jan. 28** - As a result of a joint forces operation involving the Toronto East site of Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) GTA Customs and Excise Section, the Investigations and Intelligence Divisions of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and the Vancouver Container Examination Facility (CBSA), 51,600 cartons of counterfeit Marlboro and Marlboro Light cigarettes were seized and three Toronto area individuals were arrested. The approximate street value of the seizure is believed to be in excess of 3.6 million dollars including approximately 1.135 million dollars in unpaid duties and taxes.

"The distribution of contraband tobacco products has serious consequences for Canadian taxpayers", stated Staff Sergeant John Morton of the GTA Customs and Excise Section. "The loss of tax revenue negatively impacts on the both federal and provincial governments' ability to fund health care and education. And there is no impediment to younger Canadians obtaining these products."

Ming Kai Cheng (44) of Scarborough, Zhenhao Song (22) of Markham, and Yiu Lam Li (55) of Scarborough are charged with unlawful possession of tobacco products contrary to Section 32(1) of the Excise Act 2001.

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For further information: Sgt. Andre Bagi, RCMP, (905) 697-6009; Patrizia Giolti, Canada Border Services Agency, (905) 803-5218; Faith St. John, Canada Border Services Agency, (613) 666-5492