



Public Safety
Canada

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Contraband Tobacco

*Recent Federal Measures to Address
Contraband Tobacco in Canada*

February 2011

The Problem

- Contraband tobacco has resurfaced as a serious threat to our economy and to the health and safety of Canadians.
- Organized crime has infiltrated the market for contraband tobacco, and segments of the public are showing they are either unaware, or not concerned with the health risks and the support they provide to organized crime groups in their communities by purchasing these illegal products.
- Organized crime groups reinvest the proceeds in drugs, firearms and other illegal activities that threaten the safety of our communities.



Task Force on Illicit Tobacco Products

- Public Safety Canada chairs this federal working group comprised of departments and agencies involved in addressing the issue, including:
 - *Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
 - *Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada
 - *Canada Border Services Agency
 - *Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
 - *Health Canada
 - *Canada Revenue Agency
 - *Finance Canada
 - *Justice Canada
- Task Force report available on the Public Safety Canada website.

To identify concrete measures that will disrupt and reduce the trade in contraband tobacco. (Task Force Mandate)



Phase I Action – Reducing Supply

1. Combined Forces Special Enforcement Team – Contraband Tobacco Initiative (CFSEU-CTI)

The RCMP has established a CFSEU-CTI in Cornwall, ON, to concentrate on organized crime groups involved in contraband tobacco, an area with a high level of contraband activity.

2. Prosecutions Services

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) was provided funding to support the CFSEU by providing prosecution services, and other support for complex investigations involving organized crime.



Phase I Action – Reducing Supply

3. Tobacco Detector Dog Service (DDS)

CBSA has deployed a DDS to focus specifically on contraband tobacco in the Ports of Montreal and Vancouver.

4. Enhanced Methods for Tobacco Analysis

CBSA Science and Technology Laboratory is developing a scientific method to determine the source of seized contraband tobacco through analysis.



Phase I Action – Reducing Demand

5. Multi-media awareness campaign

The CRA will implement a pan-Canadian awareness campaign to focus on the links between organized crime and contraband cigarettes.

Raising awareness of the tobacco black market and the consequences of purchasing and possessing contraband tobacco is essential to reducing the demand. (RCMP Contraband Tobacco Enforcement Strategy, 2008)



Ongoing Considerations

- **Supply Chain**
- **Enforcement**
- **Legislation & Regulation**
- **Partnerships & Collaboration**
- **Awareness**



Moving Forward

- Task Force will continue to develop additional counter measures
- Roll-out of CRA's Tobacco Stamp Regime
- Research to determine the size of the illicit tobacco market
- Finalize negotiations for Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
- Ongoing support of First Nations Organized Crime Initiative

