



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Scope and impact of organized crime and criminal activities in Canada - CISC releases its 2003 Annual Report**

August 22, 2003

**HALIFAX-** Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC) today released its *“2003 Annual Report on Organized Crime in Canada”* at a news conference in Halifax.

The Report was presented by CISC Executive Committee Chair and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli as part of the biannual CISC Executive Committee meeting, where police chiefs and representatives of CISC’s enforcement partners from across Canada have gathered to focus on cooperation and sharing intelligence and to set national priorities for CISC.

CISC’s 2003 Annual Report provides the Canadian public with information on regional and national trends on organized and other serious crime affecting Canada. By providing this information, CISC helps to raise the public’s awareness of the complexity and prevalence of organized crime in Canada.

“The public is a vital partner in our collective efforts.” said Commissioner Zaccardelli. “If Canadians recognize the effects of organized crime on their community, they are better equipped to assist police and other law enforcement agencies with our intelligence-gathering and investigative functions.”

Approximately 380 CISC member agencies, including federal, provincial, regional and municipal police departments and various law enforcement, intelligence and regulatory agencies contributed to this Annual Report.

“CISC’s Annual Report illustrates how law enforcement agencies across Canada work together in our fight against organized crime”, said Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino, Vice Chair, CISC Executive Committee. “We recognize that the strength of joining forces greatly enhances the quality of intelligence gathered, much to the benefit of the entire law enforcement community in Canada.”

This year’s report notes that Asian-based crime groups are entrepreneurial and are often involved in multiple criminal activities simultaneously and that Eastern European-based organized crime groups participate in sophisticated fraud schemes. While organized crime activity does take

place at Canada's marine ports, there have been significant enforcement successes against criminal elements at some ports. Marine port security will be enhanced through a five year additional federal funding plan of \$172.5 million announced in January 2003. In terms of outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMG), the report points to successful law enforcement actions in the last two years that have significantly reduced the degree of criminal influence of OMGs in Central and Atlantic Canada. The most powerful Traditional (Italian-based) organized crime groups continue to be based in Ontario and Quebec and remain at the upper echelons of illicit drug importation and distribution. Finally, while Aboriginal-based crime groups pose a low-level threat at this time, indications are that this gang activity will increase nationally, particularly in cities, but also on reserves, even in more remote areas.

The report also notes that contraband alcohol and tobacco activity occurs across Canada and that the illicit firearms market provides organized crime groups with weapons. Law enforcement is monitoring Canada's diamond industry proactively because as the industry expands, so do the opportunities for criminal exploitation. The Internet and other technology have provided individuals involved in the sexual exploitation of children, particularly on-line child exploitation, with more opportunities. There are a growing number of websites offering for-fee access to child pornography. Emerging technologies also offer new potential means of committing established crimes such as money laundering and fraud. Finally, street gangs remain an area of growing concern to law enforcement, particularly the recruitment of youth and the levels of violence associated with street gang activity.

Added CISC Director General Sandra Conlin, "CISC is committed to involving all partners in the fight against organized crime. Together with an educated public, law enforcement can make great strides in detecting, reducing and preventing organized and other serious crime affecting Canada."

Canada's law enforcement community works in partnership to combat crime and there have been numerous successes over the past year.

The *2003 Annual Report on Organized Crime in Canada* can be obtained from CISC's website at [www.cisc.gc.ca](http://www.cisc.gc.ca).

*For additional details on the report's conclusions see The 2003 CISC Annual Report - Highlights document.*

*Information on law enforcement successes and information on how the public can help can be found in the 2003 CISC Annual Report - Questions and Answers document.*

Enquiries about the Report should be directed to the Central Bureau of CISC at (613) 993-9061 or by e-mail at [webmaster@cisc.gc.ca](mailto:webmaster@cisc.gc.ca). Enquiries can also be directed to the closest Provincial Bureau at the coordinates on the attached list.

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