



Customs and Excise Program

Quick Facts

- The most common contraband or prohibited goods smuggled into Canada include tobacco, liquor, jewellery, computer components, pornography and firearms.
- Investigations into organized crime have been identified as a priority for the program.

Overview

The Branch is responsible for policy development and implementation; developing and delivering training; conducting program evaluations; and fostering collaborative partnerships with clients, stakeholders and partners.

The Customs and Excise Program is delivered on a national basis by RCMP employees. The Program has an established mandate, as follows:

In partnership with clients, partners and the community enforce laws within Canada and along the border, with respect to:

- the international movement of goods;
- the illicit manufacture, distribution or possession of contraband products (including tobacco and spirits);
- the illicit traffic of critical high technology and strategic goods; and
- regulations that impose non-tariff (permit) controls on the international movement of commodities.

The Customs and Excise Program seeks to build partnerships nationally and internationally, in order to provide the best response to identified policing concerns. This is accomplished by investigating criminal offences under various acts (ex: *Customs Act*, *Excise Act*, etc.) and any other related statutes. The program also assists other federal and international departments and agencies, and informs and seeks input from communities to implement problem-solving oriented policing.

Prevention initiatives aimed at reducing the supply and demand for smuggled goods are a key part of this strategy, including efforts to educate and mobilize communities in order to help them protect themselves against the criminal activities of smugglers.

Other Departments

Customs and Excise provides a quality federal policing service via partnerships with other government departments, including National Revenue, Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Canadian Heritage, Natural Resources, and in the private industry with associations such as Jewellers Vigilance Canada Inc.

Customs and Excise maintains a strong international partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (comprised of agencies previously known as United States Customs Service, Bureau of Tobacco, Alcohol and Firearms, U.S. Border Patrol) and other agencies, as required.

Smuggling

Canada's long, vast borders, with high volumes of people and goods passing across them, provide ample opportunities for the smuggling of contraband and prohibited goods. Organized crime groups involved in smuggling or the illegal distribution and/or manufacturing of controlled or prohibited goods have deleterious social and economic impacts that must be stopped so that our borders remain secure.

For more information, please visit www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca.