



Integrated Counterfeit Enforcement Teams (ICETs): Helping Secure Canada's Economic Integrity by Protecting its Currency

Confidence in our bank notes is being threatened by increasingly user-friendly, yet sophisticated, technologies including computers, graphics software, scanners and printers. Organized crime is often involved in the production and distribution of counterfeit currency. The prevention, enforcement and prosecution of counterfeit activity requires an integrated approach.

In 2006, the Government of Canada provided \$9 million over two years for the RCMP to address this problem through the National Counterfeit Enforcement Strategy. With this funding, the RCMP created three **Integrated Counterfeit Enforcement Teams (ICETs)** to conduct major counterfeiting investigations in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. The ICETs have been strategically located in these major centres in the provinces where you find the highest percentage of counterfeit notes passed and seized, i.e. Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

ICETs Mandate

The teams are mandated to provide the necessary enforcement capability to ensure a national response to organized counterfeit activity and to investigate criminal organizations and individuals who are involved in the production and mass distribution of counterfeit currency.

Background

The teams are inter-disciplinary and include specialists not only in counterfeits but in surveillance, undercover operations and the use of human sources. They are supported by forensic examiners at the National Anti-Counterfeiting Bureau, the Counterfeit Analysis Program and the RCMP's Technological Crime Branch. The teams work closely with the Bank of Canada, other government agencies and our policing partners.

The teams encourage the participation of other law enforcement agencies on a case-by-case basis. This includes sharing intelligence and other information through the creation of active partnerships at the local, regional, national and international levels.

Counterfeiting has the potential to have a direct impact on the stability of Canada's currency. It exposes individuals and businesses to financial loss and provides opportunities for profit by organized crime.

Through the National Counterfeit Enforcement Strategy the RCMP, in close cooperation with the Bank of Canada and our policing partners, is renewing its commitment to maintain public confidence in Canada's currency.

Quick Facts

- **February 2007:** RCMP in the Lower Mainland of BC executed search warrants on a residence and storage locker and seized \$185,000 in counterfeit \$100, \$50 and \$20 banknotes as well as printing and computer devices. A number of criminal counterfeit charges have been laid against two individuals.
- **February 2007:** RCMP in Fraser Valley, BC investigated a suspect involved in the distribution of older series counterfeit banknotes resulting in the seizure of \$20,000 in counterfeit banknotes. The suspect pled guilty and was sentenced to 40 months in jail.
- **December 2006:** RCMP and Quebec police seize \$20,000 in counterfeit Canadian banknotes and production equipment preventing distribution of over \$600,000 in counterfeit banknotes. Several suspects arrested and charged with counterfeit currency offences.
- **November 2006:** RCMP and Vancouver Police charged one person for making counterfeit currency. The accused had manufactured and circulated an estimated \$100,000 in fake bills over a period of several years.
- **July 2006:** RCMP and regional police forces executed six search warrants in the greater Toronto area and seized over \$400,000 worth of counterfeit Canadian banknotes as well as equipment modified to print counterfeit currency. Six persons were arrested and charged with a variety of counterfeit currency offences.
- **May 2006:** RCMP in Toronto assisted Peel Police in the search of a counterfeit currency production plant responsible for the production of over \$1 million in counterfeit banknotes resulting in the seizure of \$50,000 in counterfeit Canadian banknotes and equipment modified to produce large volumes of counterfeit money.