

News Release

Sudbury RCMP seize a quarter of a million illegal cigarettes

(Sudbury, Ontario - September 28, 2011)

An investigation by the Sudbury Federal Enforcement Section of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with the assistance of the Timmins Police Service, has resulted in Mr. Jocelyn A. Desrochers (from Timmins, Ontario) being arrested and charged for possession of a tobacco product not properly stamped under the Excise Act, 2001.

On September 12th, 2011, the RCMP stopped a vehicle driven by Desrochers and seized 118 cartons of illegal cigarettes. The cigarettes were packaged in ziplock bags and brand name cartons of which appropriate Provincial taxes were not paid. A subsequent search of a storage unit, belonging to Desrochers, uncovered an additional 1,210 cartons of illegal cigarettes. In total, 1,328 cartons (265,000 individual cigarettes) were seized with an approximate value of \$29,000.00.

The buying and selling of illegal tobacco has numerous negative consequences for our Canadian society as it:

- erodes respect for the law;
- increases the tax burden for taxpayers, as federal and provincial governments lose millions of dollars in revenue.
- prevents legitimate businesses from carrying out their activities in a climate of fair competition; and
- encourages young people to take up smoking through unrestricted access to inexpensive cigarettes.

If anyone has any information in regards to the sale or possession of contraband tobacco, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or the Sudbury RCMP detachment at 705-671-0645.

For more information contact:

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