

Mayor Bronconnier and Chief Beaton Speak Out on Organized Crime and Gang Violence

October 28, 2005

(CALGARY) - Calgary Police Chief, Jack Beaton today introduced the Calgary Police Service's latest initiative in response to organized crime and recent gang activity.

Joined by Alberta Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security Harvey Cenaiko, Mayor Dave Bronconnier and RCMP Inspector Eric Mattson, Chief Beaton outlined the CPS approach and the creation of an Organized Crime Operations Centre (OCOC).

"The OCOC provides us with an operational model which allows us to be more flexible and proactive in our investigations of street gang and organized crime activity," said Beaton. "It also mobilizes the expertise and resources of the entire organization, coordinating information and intelligence and ensuring the appropriate resources are in place.

"We believe that this model is sustainable and provides a long-term, comprehensive approach to this issue. We have zero tolerance for organized crime and gang violence in our community and we are committed to suppressing, disrupting and dismantling these street gangs," stated Beaton.

Since the OCOC's inception at the end of July, the Calgary Police Service has arrested 37 gang members and their associates, laid 126 charges, seized nearly \$370,000 in illegal drugs and 10 weapons from gang members including a machine gun, a shotgun and two handguns.

"We are grateful for the support that we have received from the Calgary Police Commission and our partners in the justice system, particularly the Alberta Government, the City of Calgary and the RCMP. Working with our partners and with the community, we will continue to see positive results in our fight against organized crime," concluded Beaton.