



## ARCHIVED - Archiving Content

### Archived Content

Information identified as archived is provided for reference, research or recordkeeping purposes. It is not subject to the Government of Canada Web Standards and has not been altered or updated since it was archived. Please contact us to request a format other than those available.

## ARCHIVÉE - Contenu archivé

### Contenu archivé

L'information dont il est indiqué qu'elle est archivée est fournie à des fins de référence, de recherche ou de tenue de documents. Elle n'est pas assujettie aux normes Web du gouvernement du Canada et elle n'a pas été modifiée ou mise à jour depuis son archivage. Pour obtenir cette information dans un autre format, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

This document is archival in nature and is intended for those who wish to consult archival documents made available from the collection of Public Safety Canada.

Some of these documents are available in only one official language. Translation, to be provided by Public Safety Canada, is available upon request.

Le présent document a une valeur archivistique et fait partie des documents d'archives rendus disponibles par Sécurité publique Canada à ceux qui souhaitent consulter ces documents issus de sa collection.

Certains de ces documents ne sont disponibles que dans une langue officielle. Sécurité publique Canada fournira une traduction sur demande.



Solicitor General  
Canada

Solliciteur général  
Canada

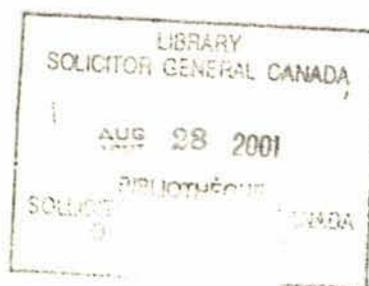
---

# Annual Statement on Organized Crime

The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay  
Solicitor General  
of Canada

---

House of Commons  
December 3, 1998



Canada

---

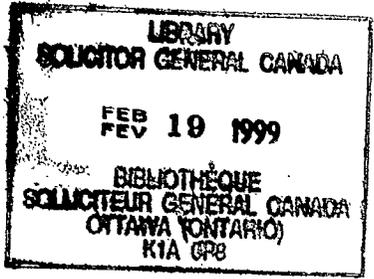
# Annual Statement on Organized Crime

The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay  
Solicitor General  
of Canada

Copyright of this document does not belong to the Crown.  
Proper authorization must be obtained from the author for  
any intended use.  
Les droits d'auteur du présent document n'appartiennent  
pas à l'État. Toute utilisation du contenu du présent  
document doit être approuvée préalablement par l'auteur.

---

House of Commons  
December 3, 1998

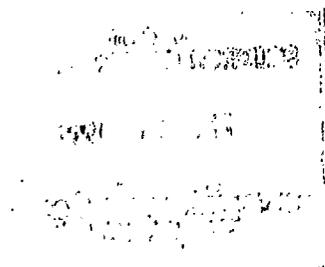


Public Works and Government Services Canada, 1998

Cat. No. JS43-3/1998

ISBN 0-662-63975-8

*Internet: [www.sgc.gc.ca](http://www.sgc.gc.ca)*



Mr. Speaker, the federal government has made a pledge to ensure that Canadians will continue to feel secure in their homes and on their streets. Ensuring public safety is at the heart of this government's mandate.

Having just recently been appointed as Solicitor General of Canada, I want to build on the first Annual Statement made last year, and reaffirm this government's commitment to combat organized crime as a key part of our public safety agenda.

Organized crime is a serious and growing concern. It's big business, and it's a national problem that threatens public safety.

### ***Impacts of Organized Crime***

Earlier this year, my predecessor released key results of an independent study on the impact of organized crime.

The study assessed organized crime activities like money laundering, illegal drugs, economic crime, people smuggling, contraband smuggling and motor vehicle theft.

The study confirmed that organized crime has an impact that goes far beyond the obvious violence and economic losses we suffer as a society and individually.

It affects the health and safety of all Canadians. It has devastating impacts on our communities, our families, and those most vulnerable, like the elderly and youth.

### *A Coordinated Strategy*

Organized crime is an issue that is and should be a concern for all Canadians.

A recent poll shows that nine out of 10 Canadians consider organized crime to be a serious problem.

This tells us that our priorities lie in a coordinated strategy to effectively fight organized crime together. The National Workshop on Organized Crime last April was a major step towards achieving this objective.

I would like to thank the policing and law enforcement community, the provinces and territories, federal government departments and others who participated in that event. We are building on your advice and your expertise.

Working with all these partners, we have identified a number of shared priorities: combating drug abuse and the illicit drug trade, addressing high-tech crime, fraud and other economic crimes, and reinvesting in our National Police Services for an integrated national public safety network.

Just as organized crime is an issue that spans our nation, it also transcends our borders. No one jurisdiction can effectively act alone. Organized crime has no borders – nor does it respect them.

At the international level, we have been working very actively with all of our partners. Over the past year, we have expanded cooperation with the U.S. through the Canada-United States Cross-Border Crime Forum.

Mr. Speaker, in October, federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for justice recognized that organized crime is a serious and growing problem.

Their discussion resulted in the first-ever *Joint Statement on Organized Crime*, which sets out eight shared principles for action. This Statement reinforces Canada's commitment to work together in partnership to combat organized crime.

I am pleased that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police strongly and publicly supported this Joint Statement.

I am confident that we are on the right track. But we need to step up our fight.

### ***Next Steps - Conclusion***

Mr. Speaker, the federal government is taking action. Our next move will be to help take the profit out of organized crime. Early in the New Year, the Government will introduce legislation to curb money laundering.

These measures will provide new and powerful tools for law enforcement, in addition to helping us work with our international partners.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the recent initiatives to combat organized crime that have been undertaken by a number of provinces.

I would also like to recognize the work of the RCMP and other agencies in my Ministry, federal departments such as Justice, Revenue, Citizenship and Immigration, and other police forces and agencies, who continue to target resources to fight organized crime in more coordinated and focused ways.

Mr. Speaker, my Ministry and our partners are fully committed to doing what it takes to stamp out organized crime. I look forward to working with the CACP, police across the country and the provinces and territories in my new capacity as Solicitor General.

Together, we will work to ensure that Canadians continue to enjoy a level of safety and security that is unparalleled in the world.

## Joint Statement on Organized Crime

### *Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for Justice*

*Regina, Saskatchewan*

*October 30, 1998*

Organized crime is a serious and growing problem affecting the health and safety of Canadians. They are very concerned about its effects on their communities, their families and vulnerable groups such as the elderly and youth. The corrupting influence of organized crime, combined with the use of violence and intimidation, represents a threat to public institutions here and around the world.

The federal and provincial governments, working in close collaboration with the police and other key partners, have taken significant and substantial action to combat organized crime over the past several years. More initiatives are being developed now.

There is a strong national consensus that governments must strengthen the range of arrangements to combat organized crime and maximise the effectiveness of resources. We underscore the need to address, in particular, the shared concerns of illegal drugs, economic crime and frauds, money laundering and the use of new computer and communications technologies in crime.

Accordingly, we endorse and commit ourselves to implementing the following *Shared Principles for Action*, underlining the common determination of all partners to work together:

- 1. Public safety and protection is a fundamental objective of Canada's criminal justice system.*
- 2. Organized crime poses a unique challenge to public health and safety and therefore requires concerted action by governments, law enforcement agencies and other concerned parties.*
- 3. While all governments share a responsibility for combating organized crime, the Government of Canada will continue to exercise a national leadership role in facilitating cooperation among law enforcement agencies, all levels of government and private sector and community based groups in creating an integrated public safety network.*
- 4. Cooperation and partnerships are essential to develop concrete solutions to common problems and will be encouraged at the local, regional, national and international levels.*

5. *Canada's law enforcement community, prosecutors and others require adequate tools to combat organized crime, including the means to fully exploit new and emerging technologies.*
6. *Governments need regularly to update their legislation and regulatory tools in order to keep pace with organized criminals.*
7. *Taking the profit out of organized crime is an effective way of putting these criminals out of business and efforts to seize their illegal proceeds should be vigorously pursued.*
8. *Governments should increase their efforts to inform Canadians about the serious consequences of organized crime. Encouraging community action and crime prevention are integral components of an effective strategy, and will further support efforts to raise Canadians' awareness about organized crime activities.*

Provincial and territorial ministers call on the federal government, on an urgent basis, to invest in the renewal of the National Police Services - established in 1966 to assist governments in combating organized crime - as the core of an integrated national public safety network for Canadians. Specifically, the federal government should modernize the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) so that it can work effectively with provincial and municipal information systems. It is noted that provincial and local police already allocate substantial ongoing resources to contribute to the CPIC and other national data bases and services. Local and provincial governments also contribute to the public safety network by maintaining local data banks and services.

We remain committed to working collaboratively in the fight against organized crime. To that end, we have directed that a steering committee of deputy ministers, co-chaired by the federal Deputy Solicitor General and \_\_\_\_\_, be established immediately to co-ordinate the development of plans and initiatives to address priority concerns. Deputies will report to us at our next meeting on the progress that has been achieved.