



22 July 2005

Recommendations to reduce vehicle theft get green light

Provincial integrated auto theft unit one of 19 recommendations

Edmonton... Armed with recommendations ranging from enforcement to education, the government, police and community groups are ready to tackle the vehicle theft problem.

The Alberta Vehicle Theft Advisory Committee, which reports directly to Alberta Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, Harvey Cenaiko, will coordinate the implementation of 19 recommendations designed to reduce vehicle thefts across the province.

“Albertans pay out almost \$100 million every year in insurance, law enforcement, justice and health care costs related to vehicle thefts,” said Cenaiko. “The comprehensive recommendations from the Alberta Vehicle Theft Advisory Committee cover many facets of the vehicle theft problem and the steps we’re taking will have a positive impact across this province.”

Some of the recommendations include a coordinated public awareness campaign to inform Albertans about what they can do to protect themselves and their vehicles; development of a provincial integrated auto theft enforcement unit; and enhanced training for vehicle registries staff to help them spot a potential attempt to register a stolen vehicle.

“The recommendations put forward by the Alberta Vehicle Theft Advisory Committee give us a strong foundation to combat vehicle theft in Alberta,” said Government Services Minister, Ty Lund. “Ensuring we have a registries system in place that can respond effectively to vehicle theft issues is just one small but important piece of the larger puzzle.”

The Alberta Vehicle Theft Advisory Committee is made up of stakeholders from law enforcement, industry and consumer groups, and four government ministries.

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Attachments: Backgrounder

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Andy Weiler
Communications Branch
Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security
(780) 427-7431

Wilson Smith
Communications Branch
Ministry of Government Services
(780) 422-7801

Dial 310-0000 for toll free access outside Edmonton



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Background on Vehicle Theft Advisory Committee

- Each year, vehicle thefts cost the Canadian insurance industry over \$600 million.
- Add in the impact on police, the justice system and health care (people injured in collisions involving stolen vehicles) and vehicle thefts are costing Canadians almost a billion dollars a year.
- In Alberta alone, the overall cost of vehicle thefts is close to \$100 million a year.

- June 2003 – multi-agency committee established to look at growing problem of vehicle thefts in Alberta. Committee chaired by Mr. Harvey Cenaiko, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo.
- July 2004 – the Alberta Vehicle Theft Committee (AVTC) presented 19 recommendations to the Standing Policy Committee on Justice and Government Services dealing with vehicle theft.
- AVTC was then tasked with developing implementation plans for those recommendations.
- May 2005 – Standing Policy Committee approved all 19 implementation recommendations brought forward by AVTC
- The first recommendation called for the establishment of the Alberta Vehicle Theft Advisory Committee (AVTAC) to oversee the on-going implementation of all recommendations.
- AVTAC will report directly to Alberta Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, Harvey Cenaiko.
- Key AVTAC stakeholders include:

Alberta Solicitor General and Ministry of Public Security Alberta Government Services Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation Alberta Justice and Attorney General Alberta Motor Association Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council Alberta Registry Agents Association	Calgary Police Service Canadian Border Service Agency Edmonton Police Service Insurance Bureau of Canada Ken Haywood (Member at Large) RCMP “K” Division
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