

Prince Albert CFSEU

Excellence In Performance Award

In August of 2015, the members of Prince Albert CFSEU initiated Project JAGUAR which targeted the illicit activities of a high level drug trafficker and his organization. This criminal group was importing cocaine into Prince Albert at the kilogram level and distributing it on the streets of Prince Albert and surrounding communities.

This organization proved to be very sophisticated and over the course of several months, CFSEU utilized a variety of investigative techniques in an attempt to gather sufficient evidence to support arrest and conviction.

In December 2015, the PA CFSEU team had the leader of this group under surveillance and followed him to Edmonton, Alberta, where he had arranged for a shipment of cocaine.

Based upon information and observations, the team was convinced that grounds existed to conduct a traffic stop, arrest the leader, search the vehicle and seize the contraband. Unfortunately no cocaine was located and the subject was released without charges.

Disappointed and extremely frustrated, the PA CFSEU team turned their attention to other groups and investigations.

However, investigators continued to receive information that this target continued to supply drugs unabated in the area. The feeling within the CFSEU team was that they had unfinished business with this criminal organization.

In June 2016, the Prince Albert team met and each member of the team expressed their continued dissatisfaction with the outcome of Project Jaguar. Knowing that this group continued to supply kilograms of cocaine into the Prince Albert area, the team chose to redouble their efforts and initiate a new investigation to successfully dismantle the group.

Knowing that the target was a seasoned drug trafficker, with previous convictions for CDSA offences and fully versed in many police techniques, investigators developed a sophisticated operational plan that utilized advanced techniques to gather evidence.

Through the patient and methodical use of surveillance techniques, judicial authorizations, undercover operations and source development, the PA CFSEU team developed a comprehensive understanding of this criminal network over a four month period.

On November 21st, 2016, PA CFSEU undertook a coordinated effort with the assistance of the Saskatoon CFSEU, PAPS, PAISET and PAIIU. Simultaneous search warrants were executed at numerous locations within Prince Albert and other communities.

During arrests and searches, a kilogram of cocaine was seized from an Edmonton drug courier who was found with the group's leader who was holding \$28,000 cash as partial payment for the drugs. A total of 7 people were arrested and charged with CDSA and CC offences.

Throughout Project KAHUNA, investigators faced numerous challenges and it seemed at times that gathering sufficient evidence was simply not possible. Today we commend the determination of these investigators who after feeling the sting of initial defeat, redoubled their efforts, learned from past mistakes and applied advanced investigative techniques to successfully dismantle this extensive organized criminal group.

The Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police is pleased to present the "Excellence in Performance Award" to the Prince Albert CFSEU.