

October 5, 2006

More Sheriffs hit the highways Thanksgiving weekend

Albertans encouraged to identify where traffic enforcement is needed

Edmonton... Traffic enforcement in Alberta will receive a boost this Thanksgiving long weekend as additional Sheriffs take to the road to seek out speeders and aggressive drivers. These Sheriffs are part of the complement of 42 enforcement positions approved in Budget '06 that will be patrolling provincial highways.

"Having additional Sheriffs patrolling our highways gives us greater flexibility to target unsafe drivers, especially over the Thanksgiving weekend when many Albertans travel to visit family and friends," said Harvey Cenaiko, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. "Reducing the carnage on our roads is a priority of the Government of Alberta, and increased traffic enforcement is a crucial factor in making this happen."

"An increased focus on enforcement will help provide a deterrence for motorists who may otherwise choose to ignore traffic safety laws," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "Changing driver attitude is the first and most important step in traffic safety."

Albertans can alert the province of areas that require more traffic enforcement by making a Traffic Service Request by calling the toll-free number 1-866-922-3389 or through the Alberta Sheriffs website at www.sheriffs.gov.ab.ca.

Sheriffs currently work out of seven offices provincewide and patrol highways identified as problem areas, including highways 8, 11, 21, 22, 43, 63 and others. Twenty-one Sheriffs began patrolling Alberta roadways September 1.

This long weekend also marks Operation Impact, a national police campaign to make Canada's roads the safest in the world. From October 6-9, Sheriffs will coordinate with local RCMP to provide highly visible traffic enforcement that promotes safe driving practices.

Operation Impact is designed to remind people that an essential part of traffic enforcement is to save lives and reduce injuries on our roadways. The focus is on behaviours that put drivers, passengers, and other road users most at risk, such as not using seat belts and aggressive driving.

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