

Vice, Narcotics Street Level Organized Crime



Illicit Cannabis Dispensaries in Peel Region

LEGAL DISPENSARY



- On April 1st, 2019, the first and only legal Cannabis Dispensary in the Region of Peel opened for business.



LEGAL DISPENSARY

- Ganjika House is located at 186 Main Street South, Brampton.



ILLICIT CANNABIS DISPENSARIES



- Between January 1st, 2019 and August 1st, 2019 there were approximately 50 illegal cannabis dispensaries operating in the Region of Peel. We are also seeing the migration from specific locations to being **mobile** (in excess of 105 cannabis delivery services)





MOBILE DISPENSARIES



- For example, a potential buyer will access a website such as weedmaps.com and select a location however, upon arrival there is no dispensary, just a seller using a vehicle. Commonly known as a “Pop Up”, the seller will wait at this location until he observes a number of clients arrive and then sell to these clients relatively quickly before leaving the area.

ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES



- VNSLOC receives information through community complaints, calls for service and Crime Stoppers.
- Surveillance is commenced for the purposes of corroborating information.
- Search warrants are prepared for illicit dispensary locations under the Provincial Cannabis Control Act.

ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES



- Upon execution all employees are identified and subsequently released on a Part III summons for Unlawful Sale of Cannabis contrary to section 6(1) of the Cannabis Control Act.
- All cannabis products and proceeds are seized.
- An interim closure is conducted on the premises with all of the locks being changed and signs posted in collaboration with By-Law, and the Fire Department..



ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES



- Owners of the property are notified of the interim closure of the premises and subsequently issued a Part III summons for Allowing property to be used for unlawful sale or distribution of Cannabis under section 13(1) of the Cannabis Control Act.
- This is a reverse onus offence where the landlord must demonstrate that they took reasonable measures to prevent the activity.

PROVINCIAL OR FEDERAL



- In consultation with Federal and Provincial prosecutors, investigators govern enforcement under the Provincial Offences Act of Ontario.
- Upon creation, the Federal Act was intended to provide guidelines for the provinces to enact legislation. If no charge exists under the Provincial Legislation then Federal Act charges are laid. (Possession and/or Trafficking offences)

PROVINCIAL OR FEDERAL

- Federal charges are laid for the purposes of restraining and seizing properties for prolific offenders.
- Penalties under the Provincial Act are much more severe than under the Federal Act.



RESULTS



- To date, officers from VNSLOC have conducted enforcement on 20 illegal dispensaries and have laid over 30 Provincial charges.
- 2 Federal charges have been laid for the purposes of obtaining a restraint and management order.
- Most charges are currently before the courts however dialogue on resolution / pleas are ongoing.
- Some accused parties have received \$300 fines and a year probation for guilty pleas for 6(1) CCA within Peel Region



TRENDS



- Low amounts of cannabis and cash are strategies used by owners/managers to minimize loss due to police investigations and/or robbery.
- Cash pickups and cannabis drop offs are completed predominantly throughout the day to minimize the risk of loss in the event of a robbery or police enforcement.

TRENDS

- Despite interim closures being enacted and locks being changed, dispensaries are changing the locks back and opening up the following day.



COSTING ANALYSIS



- The average cost to the Peel Regional Police for the investigation and dismantling of a dispensary is estimated at \$15,000.00.
- On one occasion the cost was \$22,000.00. The accused received a minimal fine.
- Cannabis Paid duties began in September 2019

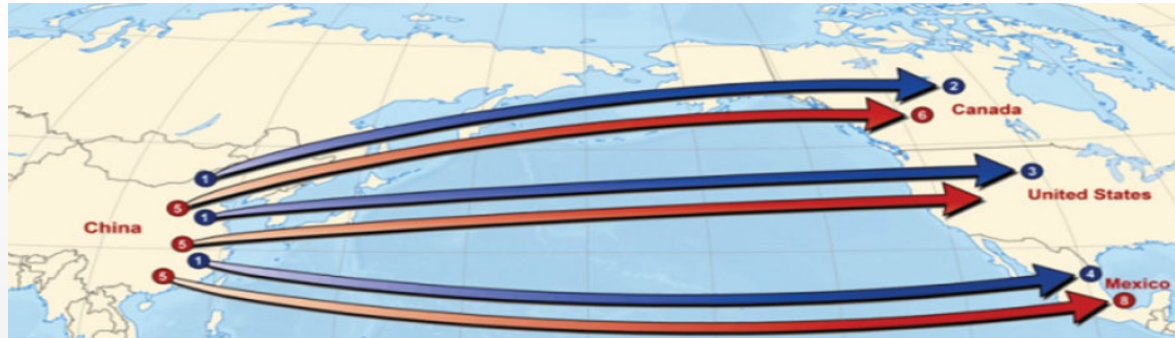


UPDATE ON OPIOIDS



FACTS

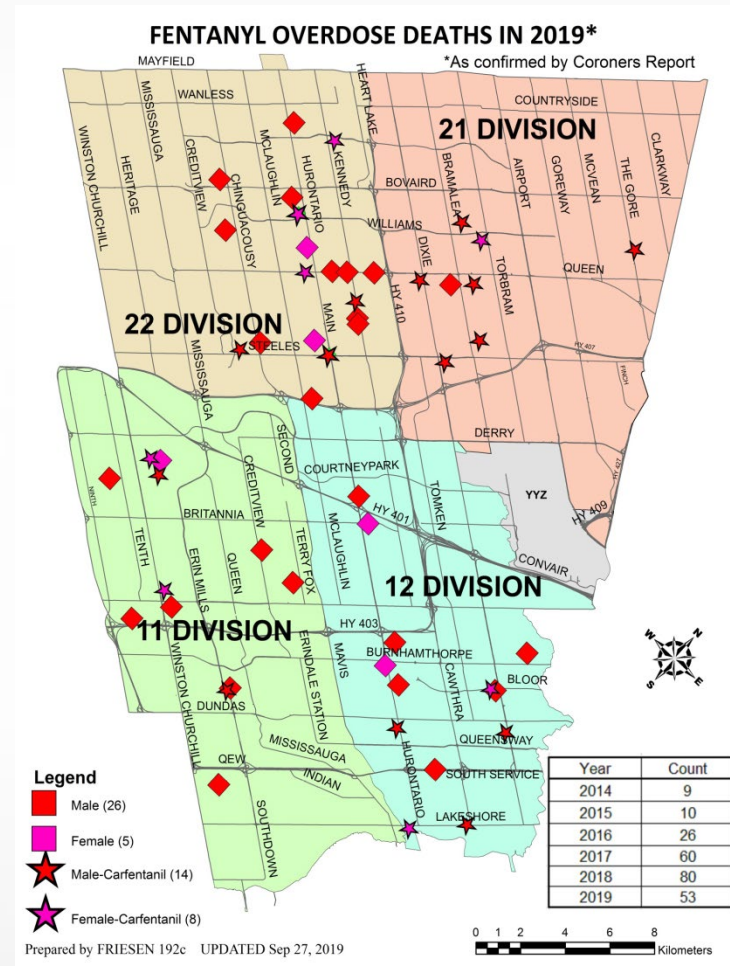
- Janssen Pharmaceutical first developed fentanyl in 1959 for pain relief
- **Fentanyl:** 50-100 times more powerful than morphine
- **Carfentanil:** 10,000 more potent than morphine
- China's role as an exporter



OVERDOSE DEATHS



A lethal dose of different kinds of opioids.





- Ontario: in the first four months of 2019. Carfentanil directly contributed to 142 deaths which is already 50% more than in all of 2018, which was 95 deaths.
- In the Peel Region there have been 50 deaths attributed to opioids (*confirmed via toxicology tests*)

NARCAN

- Officers issued Narcan (June 2017)
- Since that time - **56 lives were saved**



CHALLENGES

- Clandestine Laboratories
2018 - 72 bags 1440 kilos of
garbage.
7 incidents in total(Caledon)



There are significant public safety issues related to these dump sites due to the nature of the debris that is left exposed to humans and wildlife

- Supply and demand(Dark Web/Canada Post/YYZ)
- Dismantling trafficking rings:
Probe Boom, Baron and Phan

PARTNERSHIPS



- Peel Regional Police have participated in the **Opioid Strategy group** since 2017
- **Regional Opioid Urgent Response and Surveillance Group** (Health – Education – EMS – Law Enforcement-Community Support Sectors)
- PRP is represented on the **Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police** and **Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Drug Advisory Committees**. We provide input to support the positions and actions proposed by these sub-committees while sharing information with our partners in the Regional Opioid Urgent Response and Surveillance Group



TRAINING AND AWARENESS



- **Media release(s)** “Police issue public safety alert regarding illicit substances seized in Peel”
- **Community Mobilization / SRO’s**
- **Opioid Expert Program**
- **Crime Prevention Officers** - Drug Education (Grades 9-12) In 2018 - 22,389 students educated
- **Youth Education Officers** - RAID (Reduce abuse in drugs gr. 6) In 2018 - 23,261 students educated
- **YIPI Program** (Youth in Policing Initiative)
- **Town Hall meetings**
- **IMET** (Integrated municipal enforcement team)



QUESTIONS ???