

MODULE 1: WHY FIGHT ORGANIZED CRIME?

As long as criminals are killing each other why should we care? In the past, the tradition of criminals killing each other was not considered police business.

Mafia

Secret criminal organizations originally from Sicily, Italy, involved in illegal activities (e.g., gambling, drug dealing). Mafia has also been used to describe any criminal organization, especially when dominated by members of the same nationality

Criminal Activity

Action prohibited under the Criminal Code and as such, punishable by law.

Some believe bikers are just unattractive misunderstood rebels, mafia is the romanticized image that comes from Sopranos or discussion of Russian, Chinese or Jamaican criminal activity is prejudice.

In 2012, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC) identified 729 crime groups in Canada, which demonstrates that OC is more than just an oligarchy of a few old men.

Organized Crime in Canada

One half of organized crime groups were believed to exert influence and corruption in the areas of politics, the media, public administration, judicial authority of economy (1998 study by Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics).

Corruption

The act of influencing someone to obtain favours. For example, a criminal organization might corrupt a public official so that he turns a blind eye to their activity or so that the conditions are more favourable to their activities.

Criminal organizations are found to maintain contact with each other much like corporations make mutual beneficial deals with one another. Organized crime groups do not act in isolation.

Activities are varied including drug trafficking, extortion, firearm trafficking, prostitution, theft, fraud and gambling. Most trafficked is marijuana followed by cocaine.

Globalization of Crime

88% of groups maintain link within Canada and 89% internationally. These links hold the goal of the exchange of goods and services.

Organized crime takes place away from the public away therefore collecting data on its economy can prove to be difficult.

Crime groups have began to intermingle race. ex: Montreal Rizzuto Crime Family and Hells Angels collaborate in drug trade.

The Cost of Organized Crime

Money laundering

The act of concealing or transferring to conceal the source of illegally obtained money.

1-Business that are financed through money laundering are able to undercut prices set for goods and services.

Biker Gang War

A war between Outlaw Motorcycle gang rivals over different aspects of their criminal activity such as the importation and distribution of drugs, territory, prostitution, etc.

2-Insurance companies will look at the likelihood that a bar will be burned down. When damage arson increases during the biker gang war of 2002, the cost of insurance rates increases affecting even legitimate businesses.

Gang

In our case, it refers mainly to an organized group of criminals, hoodlums, or delinquents who associate together to pursue criminal activities and for mutual protection.

3-Drug addiction is associated with increased cost of health care. There is no tax on drugs such as heroin or meth thus all health issues related to the treatment of addiction to these substances is paid by society at large.

The overall costs of substance abuse to Canada was \$39.8 billion of which \$8.2 billion is related to illegal drugs.

The 1998 organized crime impact study mentioned previously found that:

- The most reliable Canadian government estimate of the Canadian illicit drug market is between \$7 to \$ 10 billion each year
- Economic crime, such as [securities fraud](#) and [telemarketing scams](#), costs Canadians at least \$5 billion each year – between \$5 and \$17 billion is laundered in Canada each year
- Up to 16,000 people may be smuggled into Canada every year
- The production and sale of [counterfeit](#) products such as clothing, software, and pharmaceuticals may cost Canadians over \$1 billion each year
- Up to \$1.5 billion in government tax revenues may be lost due to illegal revenue from the sale of tobacco, alcohol, and jewelry

Human Impact

In 2002, 1,695 Canadians died as a result of illegal drug use, 74% from overdose or suicides.

Most Organized Crime groups are set up according to a hierarchical structure.

Organized crime groups are often involved in Human trafficking. According to the UN HT is the largest source of revenue for organized crime. A single victim can generate up to \$280 000 a year with an estimated 700, 000 trafficked yearly.

Public Fear and Crime

Criminal organizations can operate the way they do because of the fear that they instil on ordinary citizens

The general fear of violence was drastically heightened with the death of Daniel Desrocher. In August 1995, as he was playing on the sidewalk near his home, this 11-year-old boy was accidentally killed by a bomb planted by the Hells Angels that was meant for a member of a rival gang.

Mobilizing Against Organized Crime

Four potential problems if organized crime's growth is not slowed down.

- 1-Promotion of unfair competition through the monopolization of some financial sectors.
- 2-Infiltration of political system
- 3-Bribery of judges, public servants and police officers
- 4-Destabilization of legal system through intimidation

Crime and Corruption

Montreal is considered a central point for OC in NA.

Deemed to be counterfeiting capital and fraudulent telemarketing
Surrounded by large population Pools such as NY and TO

It is important to distinguish between cash and money in the bank. OC is a cash only business. With so much cash, criminals need to find ways to integrate the illegally obtained money into the banking system.

Defining Criminal Organizations

Since the passing of Bill C-24 in 2001, the legal definition has been amended.

The **NEW** section 467.1 (1) of the Canadian Criminal Code states:

467.1 (1) The following definitions apply in this Act.

"Criminal organization" means a group, however organized, that

(a) is composed of three or more persons in or outside Canada; and

(b) has as one of its main purposes or main activities the facilitation or commission of one or more serious offences that, if committed, would likely result in the direct or indirect receipt of a material benefit, including a financial benefit, by the group or by any of the persons who constitute the group.

It does not include a group of persons that forms randomly for the immediate commission of a single offence.

"serious offence" means an indictable offence under this or any other Act of Parliament for which the maximum punishment is imprisonment for five years or more, or another offence that is prescribed by regulation.

Bill C-24 is a continuation of Bill C-95 and it expands considerably on the original legal definition of a criminal organization.

