

Camrose Canadian

Mortgage fraud Investigation results in largest case in Alberta history

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They made history, but they have to celebrate in custody.

Six Edmonton residents have been charged in the largest mortgage fraud investigation in Alberta history and investigators from Alberta's Integrated Response to Organized Crime (IROC) and Edmonton Police Service arrested five people while a warrant has been issued for the arrest of a sixth. The total value of the fraudulent mortgages is about \$30 million and involves 118 properties in Edmonton and at least six in Camrose.

The Edmonton Police Service's Economic Crime Section started the almost two year long investigation January 2004 after an initial investigation by a beat officer looking into derelict housing in the inner city. The constable uncovered a series of suspicious mortgage transactions and alerted detectives. Alberta's Integrated Response to Organized Crime unit became involved in January 2005.

Charged with conspiracy to commit fraud and committing an offence for the benefit of a criminal organization were Gohar Ahmed Pervez, 40, Scott James Park, 40, Harkamaljit (Tony) Kahlon, 29, Terry Lynn Ellis, 59, Rodrigo Caroca, 32, and Pedro Brito, 32, who was still at large at press time.

The six accused face a total of 237 counts of fraud over \$5,000. Pervez alone has 105 charges with a total value of \$10,252,000. Park has 48 for a total of \$4,769,000. Kahlon has 25 for a total of \$2,606,000. Ellis faces 31 for a total of \$3,381,000. Brito has 20 counts for a total of \$2,631,000.

Caroca has eight charges for a total of \$1,156,000.

The Real Estate Council of Alberta measured the occurrences of mortgage fraud in a 12-month period and identified 2,750 occurrences. Using a conservative estimate of \$100,000 per occurrence the total cost is 275 million during that 12-month period.