



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Cyber Crime Becoming #1 Crime in North America

Calgary — Cyber crime is now the most significant challenge facing law enforcement organizations in Canada. The results of a nationwide Deloitte survey, commissioned by the Canadian Association of Police Boards to determine the magnitude and impact of cyber crime on Canadians, has indicated that cyber crime is a much more serious threat than previously believed.

“We knew that many law enforcement agencies were seeing impacts but, without good numbers, it was hard to get a true sense of how significant the threat was,” says Ian Wilms, chair of the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB). “We now know, thanks to our survey and the efforts of other organizations, that cyber crime is surpassing drug trafficking and is very close to becoming the number one crime in the nation.”

“Unfortunately, it is an invisible threat to many Canadians,” he adds.

Combining the results of the CAPB *Cyber Crime in Canada* survey with other studies, Wilms says agencies are now realizing that the crime forecast looks grim. With a huge upswing in malicious cyber attacks reported, Wilms says the “landscape of law enforcement has changed dramatically.”

“Right now, the criminals have all the advantages and we are failing in our response to these attacks,” he says. “The pool of victims grows larger every day while the pool of perpetrators also gets larger, younger and more sophisticated...this is a new era for police, fighting a new type of criminal.”

With little funding and already-overworked officers, the fight against cyber crime “has to be shared,” says Wilms. “This is now a global, societal problem that will require a coordinated, intelligent and powerful response.”

“Technology crime units can no longer be viewed as ‘nice to have’ within our police services...instead, it must become an integral, key component for any police service strategy that includes appropriate resources allocated to computer forensics, cyber crime investigations and cyber crime prevention.”

One of the key recommendations from the CAPB survey is the establishment of a dedicated Canadian centre where law enforcement, government, the private sector and academia can work together to combat cyber crime.

“Canada has many leading experts...ultimately, this is an opportunity for our country to assume a leadership role by helping to become peacekeepers of the Internet,” Wilms says.

The CAPB survey was funded by Public Safety Canada, the Government of Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security and the City of Calgary.

Attachments to this release include a fast facts backgrounder and a copy of the report's key recommendations. A full copy of the survey report is available for download at www.capb.ca

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