

Combatting Criminal Fraud Using the Weapons of Prevention, Disruption & Enforcement

<u>Abstract</u>

By all accounts, financial crimes continue to proliferate, and have become "crimes of the 21st century". Globalization, social media, advances in cyber technology and a new generation of global inhabitants, have culminated in unique and enormous challenges for law enforcement. Victimization has reached epidemic levels, with far-reaching implications for society as a whole. Constraints on investigative resources and a strained justice system merit a new approach to addressing financial crimes. Reliance on criminal charges, followed by lenient punishments is no longer effective. A recent case study will be used to demonstrate the synergistic effectiveness of prevention, disruption and enforcement as tools to combat fraud.

Staff Sergeant Ken Derakhshan Greater Toronto Area Financial Crime Section Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

S/Sgt. Derakhshan is the leader of a team within the RCMP's GTA Financial Crime Section, mandated to investigate and prosecute financial crimes perpetrated by trans-national criminal organizations. He joined the RCMP in October of 1992 and began his career in British Columbia where he gained experience in general duty uniform policing and undercover operations. During his postings in British Columbia, he conducted criminal investigations involving assaults, thefts, break and enters and other common Criminal Code offences. Subsequently, he was transferred to Ontario where he served in the capacity of a federal investigator in the Immigration and Passport Section (Anti Human Smuggling Team), Fugitive Squad, Customs and Excise Section, National Security Section and Financial Crime.

S/Sgt. Derakhshan's tenure in the RCMP's Financial Crime Section began in 2005 as a fraud investigator. During his past 15 years in Financial Crime, S/Sgt. Derakhshan has led, supervised and directed several major investigations which include mortgage frauds, breach of trust by public officials, and investment frauds involving criminal organizations. Most recently, he was the Team Commander responsible for the infamous CRA Telephone/Cyber Scam investigation. As a result of his 27 years in law enforcement, S/Sgt. Derakhshan has given evidence in various criminal court jurisdictions within Canada, as well as in the State of New York. S/Sgt. Derakhshan holds a B.A. (Psychology major, Business minor).