



# Project Jetsetter – Criminal Tourism Investigations

Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) announced the results of Project Jetsetter – a coordinated enforcement and investigative response focused on criminal tourism. Project Jetsetter is the culmination of multiple major investigations into organized criminal activity in Durham Region and across the Greater Toronto Area. This initiative targeted organized groups travelling to Canada for the purpose of executing high-profit crimes, often connected to international criminal networks. These activities are deliberate, coordinated, and profit-driven; not random or opportunistic. Through more than nine separate investigations and over 5,000 investigative hours, the

DRPS Financial Crimes Unit has tracked more than 200 incidents tied to criminal tourism, resulting in over \$2.61 million in confirmed financial losses in Durham Region alone. Investigations have identified a wide range of organized criminal activity, including large-scale retail theft operations, vehicle purchasing scams, vehicle financing fraud, staged collisions for insurance fraud, jewelry distraction thefts, and the theft and exportation of vehicles and other goods. These offences are structured, repeatable, and designed to maximize financial gain. Of particular concern is the significant increase in jewelry distraction thefts, where sus-

pects use coordinated distraction techniques to steal valuables from victims in public or on private property. Police have seen these incidents rise dramatically, with victims—often seniors—targeted through deception-based approaches such as offering assistance or gifts while removing jewelry. These incidents have a significant impact on our communities, businesses, and vulnerable individuals, including seniors, affecting both financial security and personal safety. As a result of these investiga-

tions, 46 individuals have been arrested and 164 suspects remain wanted. The investigations connected to Project Jetsetter date back to 2019, involve more than 1,440 charges, and remain ongoing as investigators continue to identify additional incidents linked to criminal tourism. DRPS continues to work closely with policing partners, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to track offenders across jurisdictions, share intelligence, and disrupt these networks at both the local and national level.

“Criminal tourism is a recent, borderless form of organized crime that impacts the daily lives of Canadians and underscores the need for strong global partnerships. Our intelligence program works closely with our policing partners to connect the dots and enhance public safety,” said Mario Panizzon, Director General, RCMP National Intelligence. Police are reminding residents and business owners to remain vigilant. Criminal tourism often targets situations where individuals may be distracted or where safe-

guards are limited. “Public awareness is an important part of preventing these types of crimes,” added DRPS Police Chief Moreira. “By recognizing the warning signs and reporting suspicious behaviour, residents can help reduce opportunities for offenders and support ongoing investigations.” Project Jetsetter will continue to focus on identifying and apprehending those involved, while disrupting the broader criminal networks behind these activities.

## Ontario Investing \$9,633,396 in Durham Region Transit

DURHAM REGION — As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the province is investing \$9,633,396 to support public transit service in Durham Region. This funding through the 2025-26 Gas Tax program can be used for local public transit initiatives such as expanding service hours, increasing routes, purchasing new vehicles and improving accessibility to increase transit ridership. “The people of Durham Region deserve access to reliable transit services that get them where they need to go quickly and safely,” said Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence, and Security. “The funding we’re announcing today is good news for people and transit users in Whitby and other parts of the Region of Durham as our government continues to protect Ontario by making historic investments in public transit.” The province is investing nearly \$380 million through the 2025-26 Gas Tax program to support public transit in 107 municipalities, helping protect Ontario communities by strengthening transit services across the province. In addition to the Gas Tax program, Ontario also supports municipal transportation projects through the Connecting Links, and Ontario Transit Investment Fund programs. “Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is investing nearly \$70 billion in public transit to protect Ontario by building a stronger, more resilient, self-reliant economy,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Ontario’s Minister of

Transportation. “Today, we’re ensuring municipalities can continue to deliver safe and reliable transit services for their communities.” “This \$9.6 million Gas Tax investment is a significant win for Durham Region, expanding transit options for residents who depend on public transportation,” said Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham. “Through the Gas Tax program, municipalities receive critical funding to extend service hours, introduce new routes, and enhance overall accessibility and reliability. Our government remains committed to supporting communities like Durham Region by making the infrastructure and transit investments needed to drive economic growth and keep people moving.” “This \$9.6 million investment through the 2025–26 Gas Tax program will support public transit services in Durham Region and help meet the needs of growing communities,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Member of Provincial Parliament, Pickering–Uxbridge. “By providing stable, predictable funding, our government is protecting Ontario and supporting safe, reliable transit that people in Pickering and Uxbridge can count on.” “Durham Region Transit plays a vital role in keeping our growing region moving. This investment through the Gas Tax Program is a win for transit users in Durham Region. It will support service improvements and fleet modernization—making it easier for residents to get to work, school, medical appointments and stay connected to their community.” - John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer for The Regional Municipality of Durham.

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