

## Growing the North Conference - Briefing Note – 2013-02-11

### Idle No More (National Overview)

- INM is an Aboriginal-based solidarity movement that was initiated on December 10th 2012. It is defining itself as a national protest movement opposed to Bill C-45, believing it could significantly impact environmental protection, native sovereignty and waterways management.
- As of Feb. 11, 2013, more than 700 events were compiled across Canada consisting of peaceful demonstrations. However, significant protest days occurred on January 5, 11, 16 and 28, 2013, on which economic blockades (both partial and full) were organized on ports of entry (such as ferries and international bridges), on significant major highways, on railways, and on inter-provincial bridges.
- According to reports, INM organizers have been in most cases collaborative with local law enforcement as to informing them of planned protest and routes. While most events since the beginning of INM activities have been peaceful, a few single events resulted in heightened tensions in Montreal, Quebec; Sarnia, Ontario; Edmonton, Alberta and Vancouver, British Columbia.
- The Sarnia blockade, and the criticism of law enforcement agencies in the application of an injunction to halt a railway blockade issued by the Ontario Superior Court in early January, may lead to additional pressure by third parties on law enforcement agencies to dismantle future blockades in a more timely fashion. RCMP response was that it will exercise proper discretion in regards to court orders and the enforcement of injunctions.

### Idle No More in Alberta

- Approximately 120 events under the banner “Idle No More” (INM) were organized across Alberta since December, 2012.<sup>1</sup> Demonstrations were planned in various cities such as: Airdrie, Athabasca, Banff, Cadotte Lake, Calgary, Cardston, Cochrane, Cold Lake, Edmonton, Enoch, Fort McMurray, Grand Prairie, Hardisty, High Prairie, Hobbema, Lac La Biche, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Mayerthorpe, Peace River, Piikani, Red Deer, Slave Lake, Spruce Grove, Standoff, Stony Plain, St. Albert, St. Paul and Sturgeon Lake.

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<sup>1</sup> It is unknown if all these events have actually taken place.

- The majority of events included rallies (march, flash mob, round dance, demonstration), cultural ceremonies (pow wow, drumming session, candlelight vigil) and information sessions (tech-in and educational sessions). All events were peaceful in nature; INM local and national organizers have instructed the protesters via social media to keep peace and to ensure the safety of the members of the community and the general public.
- Approximately 25 events included road traffic disruption on Highways 1, 2, 16, 43, 55, 63, 687, 750, 881 in January 2013 and December 2012. According to reports, a full blockade of Hwy 63 near Fort McMurray has been a concern by third parties as it is the only corridor to many of the sites associated with the Oil Sands Industry.
- According to open source, Hardisty was identified in early January as a potential location for a tentative blockade of pipeline terminal/tank farms activities. This location is considered a choke point for the movement of petroleum products from Alberta to the United States.
- Hardisty and Hwy 63 near Fort McMurray events have a potential for becoming flash points for aggressive actions on the part of the public/third parties and therefore adding pressure to law enforcement agencies. During one road blockade on the QEII near Edmonton on January 16<sup>th</sup>, one vehicle drove around protestors on the median, and another attempted to force its way through the blockade which was met with resistance from the protestors.
- There is a call for another national day of action on February 14<sup>th</sup> (Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women Awareness Day). However, it is unclear what will be the local response in Alberta.

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**BRIEFING NOTE TO  
THE COMMISSIONER**

**NOTE D'INFORMATION  
AU COMMISSAIRE**

**GROWING THE NORTH CONFERENCE**

**ISSUE:**

To provide the Commissioner with information on the *Idle No More* movement in preparation for his visit to "K" Division from February 19-21, 2013.

**BACKGROUND/CURRENT STATUS:**

***Idle No More* - National Overview**

- Initiated on December 10, 2012, *Idle No More* is an Aboriginal-based protest movement opposed to Bill C-45, which is believed could significantly impact environmental protection, native sovereignty, and waterways management.
- As of February 11, 2013, more than 700 *Idle No More* events have taken place across Canada. Most events have been peaceful demonstrations, however, significant protest days occurred on January 5, 11, 16, and 28, 2013. On these days, both partial and full economic blockades were organized at ports of entry (i.e. ferries, international bridges), on significant major highways, on railways, and on inter-provincial bridges.
- While most events since the beginning of INM activities have been peaceful, a few single events during significant protest days resulted in heightened tensions.

***Idle No More* in Alberta**

- Since December 2012, approximately 120 events under the *Idle No More* banner have been organized in various cities across Alberta. All events have been peaceful in nature and have included rallies (i.e. marches, flash mobs, round dances, demonstrations), cultural ceremonies (i.e. pow-wows, drumming sessions, candlelight vigils), and information sessions (i.e. teach-ins, educational sessions). Local and national *Idle No More* organizers have instructed protesters via social media to keep the peace and ensure the safety of the members of the community and the general public.
- Between December 2012 and January 2013, approximately 25 *Idle No More* events included road traffic disruptions on Highways 1, 2, 16, 43, 55, 63, 687, 750, and 881.
- On January 16, 2013, during a road blockade on the QEII near Edmonton, one vehicle drove around protestors onto the median, and another vehicle attempted to force its way through the blockade, which was met with resistance by protestors.

Submitted by – Rédigé par Supt. Warren Coons Acting Director General Criminal Intelligence	Date: 2013-02-	Recommended by – Recommandé par A/Commr. Todd Shean Federal Policing Support Services	Date: 2013-02-
Approved by – Approuvé par D/Commr. Mike Cabana Federal Policing	Date: 2013-02-	Bob Paulson Commissioner	

## STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- In January 2013, the Ontario Superior Court issued an injunction to halt a railway blockade in Sarnia. Law enforcement agencies were criticized for their application of this injunction. The possibility remains that, in the future, third parties will place additional pressure on law enforcement agencies to dismantle blockades in a more timely fashion.
- In early January 2013, Hardisty, Alberta was identified as a potential location for a tentative blockade of pipeline terminal/tank farms activities. Hardisty is considered to be a choke point for the movement of petroleum products from Alberta to the United States.
- Reports indicate that a full blockade of Highway 63 near Fort McMurray is a concern to the public/third parties, due to the fact that this is the only corridor to many of the sites associated with the Oil Sands Industry. Events in Hardisty and on Highway 63 could potentially result in aggressive actions on the part of the public, thus adding pressure on law enforcement agencies.
- There is a call for another national day of action on February 14, 2013 to coincide with “Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women Awareness Day”. Approximately eight events of solidarity are currently planned in the province of Alberta for that day.

## DMIC Briefing Notes – “Idle No More” – 2012-01-10

### General Context of the Movement

- “Idle No More” (INM) is an Aboriginal-base solidarity movement that was initiated on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2012. It is defining itself as a national protest movement opposed to Bill C-45, believing it could significantly impact environmental protection, native sovereignty and waterways management. (U)
- *The “INM” protest movement cannot be viewed as a single movement. It is in fact a grassroots campaign with no centralized leadership. Media reporting and some government action have muddled this point by focusing on Attawapiskat Chief Theresa SPENCE's hunger strike near parliament Hill. However, “INM” organizers have made it clear that the traditional native leadership does not speak for them.”<sup>1</sup> (A)*

### Last 24 hours

- Meeting between Prime Minister Harper and Minister Duncan (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development) and a delegation of First Nations leaders, coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), is set for Friday, January 11, 2013. Media reports indicate INM organizers have called for a global day of action to coincide with this meeting. The movement could include economics disruption and blockades. (U)
- Media sources are reporting that Chief Spence will not be attending Friday's meeting. Shortly after that announcement, the following comments were collected on social networks associated to the movement: *“Let the 11th of January be a 'day of rage'. It's time we take back our country from this out of control government. We must make our concerns heard. We must spread the word. It IS our duty.”*<sup>2</sup> However, it is unclear what impact this decision may have on future planned protests. (U)
- Unconfirmed information from C Division is stating there could be an attempt to close completely the access to Honoré Mercier Bridge by the Mohawk Warrior Society (MWS) of Kahnawake, Quebec (QC) on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2013. This event would cause severe traffic disruption in the Montreal, QC. (A)

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<sup>1</sup> National Capital Region, Situational Report, “A” Division – Intel Sector (2013-01-10)

<sup>2</sup> Email on 2013-01-09, from Cst. Eric Beaulne, Cornwall Regional Task Force, Criminal Intelligence Section

## Extremism Components and Associated Criminality

- Founders have been insisting publicly that local events should be peaceful in nature and have instructed organizers to collaborate with law enforcement agencies.
- There were several peaceful protests<sup>3</sup> across Canada on January 5, 2013 including some border operations and rail services were affected in various degrees. However, media reports also indicate the CN Police is investigating the tampering of crossing signals during the blockade of rail lines east of Belleville, Ontario (ON).
- It was confirmed that MWS bearing signs and flags were observed amongst the protesters at the Seaway International Bridge on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Cornwall, ON.<sup>4</sup> *“Since the 1960’s Warrior Societies across Canada have participated in protest action, sometimes violent, against federal and provincial government agencies and law enforcement, in order to defend or reclaim their traditional territories, protect their people and perceived inherent rights”.*<sup>5</sup> (A)
- **At the same event, a very small group of non-aboriginal protestors from Montreal carrying black flags and faces hidden were approached by police. The flags were later identified as being part of the *Black Block Movement (BBM)*. In addition, two Quebec-licensed vehicles associated with the *BBM* were identified.**<sup>6</sup>
- As of Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 2013, all events across Canada while causing automobile and railway traffic disruptions, were peaceful and did lead to confrontational situation with law enforcements agencies.

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<sup>3</sup> The RCMP Daily Situation Report for Jan 5th reported on 39 events occurring across Canada and in the United States. The list provided was not an exhaustive list of events for that date.

<sup>4</sup> “O” Division Criminal Intelligence Program – Intelligence Bulletin “Idle No More”, 2012-1587946, Prot. A

<sup>5</sup> First Nations Reserves in Canada: Repercussions to RCMP Enforcement Action Targeting Illicit Tobacco Manufacturing, RCMP HQ Criminal Intelligence, 2010

<sup>6</sup> “O” Division Criminal Intelligence Program – Intelligence Bulletin “Idle No More”, 2012-1587946, Prot. A