



**CONCLUDED  
PROBLEM REPORT  
PS-1**

Problem ID : 10

Reporting Division : FRAUD

District:

Neighbourhood :

Address:

Reg	Rank	Last Name	First Name
568	DET	CHRISTAL	DON

Key Description : WELFARE FRAUDS

**Problem Description :**

In early November, 1992 Det. Christal was contacted by Alberta Family & Social Services, Fraud Investigation Unit, Peter Griffiths: Investigator. Mr. Griffiths requested the assistance of the Edmonton Police Service in identifying a group of people taking advantage of the Social Allowance program as well as developing systems within Social Services to prevent future abuse. The problem involved an unidentified group of single employable males who were apparently abusing the system by submitting numerous applications for assistance under various identities.

**Problem solving strategies and results :**

The number of single employable males on Social Assistance in the Edmonton area at the time was 3,800. The operating method for the unidentified suspect group was to submit false identification, i.e. Quebec birth certificates to Social Services as the only document of identification for the applicant. In order to identify the number of files where false documents were submitted, it required perusal of all 3,800 single employable male files.

During discussions with Mr. Griffiths as well as Brenda Amegatcher, investigator, and Ross Cote, Supervisor of Investigations, we learned that Alberta Family & Social Services workers taking applications from persons wanting assistance were willing to accept almost anything as a form of identification from people who had a need for assistance. This lack of identification on the part of workers taking applications was identified as a weakness in the Family & Social Services system that was no doubt being abused by applicants with the intent to defraud Social Services. Two objectives were identified in the course of our discussions:

1. Determine if there is a problem with fraudulent files being set up by the target group.
  - a) Which files are affected.
  - b) Who is responsible, (this would require covert photographic surveillance at the application phase in order to determine who was responsible for making application on the various files).
  - c) How to prevent the abuse in the future.
  - d) Enter into prosecution where possible. \*
2. In consultation with Crime Analyst, Bev Brown and Systems Programmer Grant Sterling, set up a database using the program Paradox for use by Social Services in analyzing the 3,800 files for single employable males in the Edmonton area.

At a meeting on 92 November 24, with all parties concerned, the objectives were discussed and Investigators from Family & Social Services undertook to review files and input data into the database based on assistance received from Bev Brown of CCIU and Grant Sterling of Systems.

Action on Objective #1 would be delayed until such time as results from the analysis of input into the database was available.

In August 1993, Det. Christal was contacted again by Peter Griffiths, Investigator for Alberta Family & Social Services, who advised that they had been able to identify several individuals responsible for submitting false applications to Family & Social Services and subsequently receiving benefits. Following this, Det. Christal contacted Ross Cote, Supervisor Investigations, who advised that they were able to utilize the advice given by the Edmonton Police Service members in solving their problem not only with the individuals submitting false applications but also in improving their internal controls so that they would not be easily victimized in the future.