By the numbers: COVID-19 and law enforcement in Canada

COVID-19 fines and charges across Canada
- Based on publicly-available sources, we estimate that 10,000 COVID-related charges were laid over a hundred days (April 1 – June 15)
- The vast majority of COVID-related fines – a full 98% of the total dollar amount of fines – have been issued in just three provinces: Quebec (6600 COVID-related charges, 77% of the total dollar amount of fines), Ontario (2853 charges, 18%) and Nova Scotia (555 charges, 3%). On a per capita basis, that's 78 tickets per 100,000 in Quebec, 57 tickets per 100,000 in Nova Scotia, and 20 per 100,000 in Ontario.
- Of the remaining provinces and territories, Alberta has issued the most charges at 129, followed by Saskatchewan (44), Manitoba (30), and British Columbia (22). The rest of the jurisdictions have less than five total individuals facing fines or charges related to COVID-19.

Types of offenses
- Most of the offences relate to provincial emergency legislation (approximately 2827 alleged violations) and various public health laws (7206 alleged violations).
- The majority of the citations target physical distancing and gathering requirements. There have also been 32 alleged *Criminal Code* violations.
- At of the end of May, the RCMP announced that they had conducted home visits on 2,200 people who were under mandatory self-isolation. To date, 4 tickets of $1000 for violating self-isolation under the *Quarantine Act* have been issued: 3 in undisclosed locations, and 1 in Richmond, British Columbia.

Amount of fines
- We estimate that across the country law enforcement have issued over $13,000,000 in COVID-related fines to date.
- In Quebec the fines are most often $1546.00, and are enabled under the province's Public Health Act. In Ontario, fines enforced under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act are $750.00, with a mandatory victim surcharge, bringing the cost of each ticket to $880.00. In Nova Scotia, tickets are most often $697.50. In Saskatchewan, tickets are the highest in the country, at a minimum of $2000.00 each.
- Quebec leads the country with $10,085,598.00 in total fines issues, followed by Ontario ($2,424,710.00), Nova Scotia ($424,429.00), Alberta ($114,600.00), and Saskatchewan ($100,000.00). The rest of the provinces and territories have issued less than $25,000.00 in fines.

Methodology

This data was published as part of a June 2020 report by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project, "Stay off the grass: COVID-19 and law enforcement in Canada". The data was collected by the Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project, which was launched on 4 April, 2020 to track and visualize the expansion of to police power across Canada in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Two primary approaches were used to collect the data:

- *News articles and press releases collected using Google Alerts, a web crawling and notification service, set to a range of COVID-19/enforcement related keywords; and*
- *Manual web searches of governments' and police services' websites and social media accounts.*

These sources are unlikely to capture every incident or enforcement action taken by police and bylaw officers in Canada. What the data provides are therefore conservative estimates. For more details please see the full report, available at www.ccla.org and www.policingthepandemic.ca.