



# Community Solutions Accelerator

A Better Alberta With and For Everyone



**ALCANNA**

The art of responsible retail

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## **ALCANNA donates \$100,000 to Edmonton Police Foundation in support of ongoing efforts to address liquor store theft**

Ongoing efforts to address the chronic issue of liquor store theft are getting a \$100,000 boost from liquor and cannabis retailer ALCANNA.

ALCANNA, a partner in a collaborative effort between the Edmonton Police Foundation (EPF) and the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) to address chronic liquor store thefts is contributing \$100,000 to the ongoing efforts to address the problem, which generates violence and fear for liquor store employees and the surrounding communities.

Launched in 2018, the partnership continues to focus its efforts on finding technological and innovative strategies to tackle liquor store theft, some of which EPS investigators believe are being perpetrated by organized crime.

“ALCANNA is pleased to make this donation to the Edmonton Police Foundation to help their support of the Edmonton Police Service.” said Tank Vander, ALCANNA's President. “We are truly appreciative of the co-operation and collaboration that the Edmonton Police Service has demonstrated in finding solutions to the alarming growth in organized retail crime in Alberta.” In 2020, the EPS responded and investigated 5,057 liquor theft events within the city (up to Dec. 1), averaging 15 events a day. The increased risk to the community and staff who work in this field are significant. These ongoing thefts, and associated violence, left businesses reeling from millions in lost product and staff retention. Liquor store theft is also unsustainable from a law enforcement perspective, including the EPS, which spent upwards of \$4 M in front-line resources in 2020 alone, responding to and investigating liquor theft complaints.

The partnership between ALCANNA, the EPF and EPS, has already led to tangible progress being made on the issue of liquor store theft with the implementation of a controlled entrance initiative involving ID scanners at several liquor outlets across Edmonton and most recently in Calgary.

A winning proposal to address liquor store theft was also submitted to the EPF's Community Solutions Accelerator competition last year by Grant MacEwan's Social Innovation Institute, a competition that was also financially supported by ALCANNA.

The MacEwan bid identified that an effective intervention point to deter thefts is at the point of

resale. This approach targets those restaurants, bars and nightclubs who purchase stolen liquor so they can resell to an unsuspecting public.

“ALCANNA's very generous \$100,000 donation will go a long way towards helping the Edmonton Police Foundation leverage the incredible innovation and creative thinking occurring within the Community Solutions Accelerator,” says Ashif Mawji, Chair of the Edmonton Police Foundation

“The CSA enables us to try outside-the-box thinking to strategize our community's most pressing challenges, of which, organized liquor store theft is one of these. These organized thefts affect our most vulnerable citizens and impact community safety.”

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**ALCANNA President Tank Vander (right) presents Edmonton Police Foundation Chair Ashif Mawji with a cheque for \$100,000 to assist with the ongoing work being undertaken on liquor store thefts through the Foundation’s Community Solutions Accelerator program.**