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\$250,000 PRIZE FOR WINNING SUBMISSION
Edmonton Police Foundation, ALCANNA, announce first
“challenge” partnership for new Community Solutions Accelerator

The Edmonton Police Foundation (EPF) today is announcing the first community challenge to be analyzed under the new Community Solutions Accelerator (CSA).

The first-ever challenge to be examined using the new ground-breaking Accelerator concept will focus on finding solutions to address the chronic problem of liquor store thefts in Edmonton. The initial project to be undertaken by the CSA will be funded with a grant of up to \$500,000 from Alcanna, Canada’s largest private sector liquor retailer.

“We are fortunate and grateful to have Alcanna be the first corporate partner to step up and help to problem solve an issue that impacts not only this entire industry, but our cities across the province and nation,” says Ashif Mawji, Chair of the Edmonton Police Foundation, the organization spearheading the Community Solutions Accelerator (CSA).

Half of the \$500,000 grant will be used as “prize money”, which will be awarded to the entrepreneur(s) who produce solutions that dramatically reduce liquor store thefts, using the CSA integrated data, potential hardware or other material effects and artificial intelligence. The remaining \$250,000 will go towards the administration and commercialization of the potential solution(s), which would then be brought to market, says Ashif.

“This is an exciting opportunity, which we believe holds incredible potential for resolving an extremely complex issue that impacts our cities and society on so many levels.”

The foundation is set to publicize its first “challenge” on various websites, including academic institutions, around the world, seeking proposals from entrepreneurs who wish to participate. A committee organized by the CSA in conjunction with Alcanna and will then short-list submissions, which will be followed by formal presentations from each entrepreneur. The challenge will also be published on the EPF website, <http://truebluefriendlyeg.com/csa>.

“Alcanna has been working closely with the Edmonton Police Service on the epidemic of liquor store robberies and thefts for almost two years,” says James Burns, Alcanna Vice Chair and

CEO. “When the Edmonton Police Foundation approached us about sponsoring a Liquor Store Robberies/Thefts Challenge as the first initiative under the recently announced Community Solutions Accelerator we readily accepted.”

“In co-operation with EPS, we have tried various approaches to get these robberies and thefts under control, but with minimal success to date. The risks to the safety of our employees and customers means we must try everything we can to find a creative resolution. To quote EPS Chief Dale McFee, ‘We cannot continue to do things the same way and expect a different outcome.’ The CSA challenge is a new way of tackling complex issues, and Alcanna is honoured to be able to finance the first challenge with \$500,000.”

Formally launched last week (Feb 11, 2020), the CSA is a pioneering approach to public safety and well-being modelled on business applications that combine amalgamated data, artificial intelligence and machine learning to solve complex problems. Using available data from a variety of sources, the CSA will focus on the interconnected challenges affecting Edmonton such as crime, addictions, homelessness, and mental health.

The EPF will begin advertising the first CSA challenge during the week of Feb. 24, with phase one having the selection committee reviewing and short-listing submissions for field trial in April. Phase two will see those ideas formally implemented during a minimum 90-day field trail beginning in mid-May.

The CSA Selection Committee expects to announce the successful submission in August 2020.

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