

# National DNA Data Bank Reaches Milestone 2,000 Matches, Linking Crimes To Convicted Offenders

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**OTTAWA, July 23, 2004** — The RCMP's National DNA Data Bank (NDDB) has achieved another significant milestone. On June 29, 2004, the Data Bank recorded its 2,000<sup>th</sup> successful DNA match linking crime scenes to convicted offenders.

“The National DNA Data Bank is clearly one of Canada's leading crime-solving tools,” said Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. “At a recent visit to the Data Bank laboratories in Ottawa, I saw first-hand the tremendous contribution this cutting-edge technology is making to law enforcement, solving crimes and identifying offenders.”

Launched in June 2000, the Data Bank has provided critical evidence to solve criminal cases across Canada, many involving serious offences. The 2,000 matches represent the Data Bank's assistance with over 137 murder, 352 sexual assault and 275 armed robbery cases. As a result, Canadian law enforcement has a solid and reliable investigative tool that directly contributes to public safety. The 2,000 matches is double the total number made in its first three years of operation.

“The National DNA Data Bank is one of the most cost-effective and sophisticated investigative tools we have,” stated RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli. “It also demonstrates how law enforcement and criminal justice agencies can work effectively to gather intelligence and share information. It is a model of integrated service delivery across Canada and beyond.”

Although noted for helping solve murders and sexual assaults, the NDDB is also a useful tool in providing key evidence in other types of crimes. In Toronto, a series of armed robberies by a group of suspects dating back to December 2002 were unsolved until a DNA profiles generated from crime scene evidence was entered into the NDDB Crime Scene Index. A match was made with a previous sexual assault, providing police with an important piece of the puzzle and in both cases helping move the investigations forward.

Located at RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa, the National DNA Data Bank is part of the Forensic Laboratory Services, an essential part of the law enforcement support provided by National Police Services. The creation and operation of the National DNA Data Bank is mandated by *The DNA Identification Act*, which was passed by the Government of Canada in 1998.

For the latest Data Bank statistics, visit [www.nddb-bndg.org](http://www.nddb-bndg.org).

