



## **POSITION, LOCATION AND NAVIGATION (PLAN) GROUP NEWS RELEASE**

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**10 September 2010**

### **PLAN GROUP TEAMS WITH FACULTY OF ARTS TO STUDY ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF OFFENDERS**

The Government of Alberta has provided a University of Calgary multi-disciplinary team a three-year, \$1M grant to test and assess electronic monitoring technology to monitor dangerous offenders. The team is headed by Professor Erin Gibbs van Brunschot, Department of Sociology, with Professor Lachapelle acting as co-investigator. The research involves criminology investigations, which is the area of expertise of Professor van Brunschot, and research on the ultimate performance of standalone and aided GNSS systems. The latter will be conducted by a PLAN Group team consisting of Professor Lachapelle, Jared Bancroft, Aiden Morrison and selected graduate students. Collaboration will extend to police services in the Province and other groups involved with the safety of individuals. "The ultimate goal here is to determine if this technology, when used properly, can help keep Alberta communities safe," said Minister of Justice and Attorney General Alison Redford. "This research will help us to answer questions about how this evolving technology may serve as another tool to further enhance the supervision of offenders in our communities," said Frank Oberle, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. "We want to ensure that police and our correctional services have the most effective tools possible as they manage offenders and work to keep our communities safe." The Calgary Police Service welcomes the research that will allow them to monitor offenders with more accuracy. "Unlike standard electronic monitoring, GPS tracks people in real time, by longitude, latitude and even speed. When you can get this real time information on people proven to be a risk to the community, it gives us another great tool to improve public safety," says Chief Rick Hanson.

The grant is being provided under the Alberta government's Safe Communities initiative.

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