



A Cross-Border “Hit”

It is the first DNA match linking a crime scene in one country and a convicted offender serving time in Canada.

In April 2003, the National DNA Data Bank and Interpol Ottawa made the official announcement: a convicted offender in an Alberta jail would be deported to Ohio to face sexual assault and homicide charges.

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The milestone announcement was made possible through a landmark agreement with Interpol that allows for the international sharing of Canadian DNA profile data.

Like many successful major crime investigations, it was a combination of diligent police work and advanced science. In an effort to kick-start a stalled investigation, Ohio police used a popular television program to profile a troubling case involving sexual assault and murder.

The “America’s Most Wanted” broadcast generated several telephone tips, including one from a viewer in Western Canada who thought the suspect looked familiar.

The “tip” was called into the local RCMP detachment and the suspect was eventually found under an alias in an Alberta prison. Thomas McCray was serving time for a secondary offence (see *Appendix B*).

Under the provisions of the *DNA Identification Act*, the judge in the case had wisely ordered a biological sample to be sent to the National DNA Data Bank for DNA analysis.

With his profile loaded into the Convicted Offender Index, Interpol Ottawa was able to coordinate the comparison of DNA from the Ohio crime scene with that collected from McCray. The DNA samples matched, clearly linking McCray to the murder scene.

He was deported to the U.S. after his Canadian prison term had been fully served.

