

Canada: Investigation of \$20 Mn Pearson gold heist: Long Delay

April 18, 2024

April 17, 2024: **Toronto**, Canada: Peel Regional Police has announced the following arrests:

On April 17, 2023, a meticulously planned heist took place at **Toronto Pearson International Airport**, when \$20 million worth of 6,600 bars of pure gold, weighing over 800 pounds and CAD 2.5 million worth in foreign currency were collected in a “smooth operation” from the **Airport’s** cargo compound by a five-tonne delivery truck, driven by Durante **King-Mclean**, a 25-year-old man **from Brampton**. He was carrying a fake airway bill, which seemed to be legitimate. This was the largest gold heist ever in Canadian history.

King-Mclean is currently in custody in the United States on firearms trafficking-related charges, and investigators have been in touch with him and his legal counsel.

The story begins with the arrival of a flight from Zurich, Switzerland, carrying the precious cargo. The masterminds behind this operation were two men, with insider knowledge of the airline’s operations, and, both employed by Air Canada:

1. **Parnpal Sidhu**, a 54-year-old man **from Brampton** and an Air Canada employee, who worked in the airport’s warehouse. **Sidhu’s** arrest came swiftly, and he faced charges of theft over \$5,000 and conspiracy to commit an indictable offense.
2. **Simran Preet Panesar**, who held a managerial position at Air Canada. He led a tour of the cargo facility for law enforcement after the heist, seemingly cooperating. However, his true role became apparent when he abruptly resigned from the airline. A **Canada-wide arrest warrant** was issued for **Panesar**, a **31-year-old man from Brampton**.

Others, arrested and charged in this case:

- i. Ammad Chaudhary, a 43-year-old man from Georgetown: Accessory After the Fact of Indictable Offence
- ii. Ali Raza, a 37-year-old man from Toronto for Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

- iii. Amit Jalota, a 40-year-old man from Oakville: for Possession of Property Obtained by Crime
- iv. Prasath Paramalingam, a 35-year-old man from Brampton for Firearms Trafficking, Aiding and Abetting, Conspiracy (US Indictment charges)

These individuals have been released on conditions and will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton at a later date.

Canada-wide warrants have also been issued for the following individuals:

- a. Archit Grover, a 36-year-old man from Brampton for Firearms Trafficking Related Offence – US Indictment
- b. Arsalan Chaudhary, a 42-year-old man from Mississauga for Possession of Property Obtained by Crime (X2)

Investigators urge these individuals to seek legal counsel and turn themselves into the police.

The joint efforts of Peel Regional Police and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) led to the recovery of a large quantity of firearms intended for import into Canada. The case stands as a testament to the audacity of those who dared to steal gold from the skies.
