

CALGARY, Alta. -- Calgary police have made arrests in connection with a Calgary driving school they accuse of issuing hundreds of Class 1 licences to unqualified drivers. Calgary Police Service De. Gord Robertson confirmed Delta Driving School (DDS) of Northeast Calgary was charged with fast-tracking Class 1 licences and providing them to unqualified drivers. "It's a dangerous situation that puts lives at risk," Robertson told local media. "We have intelligence that indicates people who illegitimately obtained Class 1 licences here in Calgary have been involved in serious collisions while behind the wheel." The investigation was called Operation Humbug and it has been ongoing for more than two years. It was launched following a tip to Crime Stoppers. "The initial investigation looked at nine suspects associated to DDS," Robertson told the Calgary Sun. "DDS was able to provide seemingly authentic documents that you could take into any driver registry to get your Class 1." He went on to say more than 172 suspicious Class 1 licences have been issued by the school since the investigation began. Most of them were lured to the school from out of the province and initially held Class 5 licences, Robertson said. Although drivers require an Alberta residence to acquire a driver's licence in the province, police allege the school exploited a loophole. "People associated to DDS own a number of residences in Calgary and we allege they will - and have - provided fabricated lease agreements," Robertson said. He added once the drivers returned home, they could then exchange their Alberta licence for one issued by their home province. Police also accuse DDS of fraudulently facilitating medical exams. Jaswant Singh, DDS's head instructor has been charged with forgery of documents and breach of public office. Charges are pending against other DDS staff members.