

Drone Pilot Association of Canada

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DPAC NEWSLETTER

September 30-2026

OUR MISSION

To represent recreational and small commercial drone operators by promoting safety and a reasonable regulatory environment in Canada.

Here's a quarterly review of drone-related events and news across Canada from **July to September 2026**.

JULY 2026

July 2

- **REGULATORY CONSULTATION:** Remote ID and airspace access. Transport Canada scheduled six English and French information sessions on proposed changes covering remote identification, community-based organizations and designated drone airspace. These concern how drones are identified and how operators access airspace. They were proposals under NPA 2026-005.



July 8

- **SAFETY AND ILLEGAL OPERATIONS:** Drones near wildfires. Transport Canada reported observing unauthorized drones near wildfire areas and warned that they can force firefighting aircraft to suspend operations. Its notice reiterated the restriction within 9.3 kilometers of wildfires, identifying administrative penalties of up to \$3,000 for individuals and \$15,000 for corporations for flying in restricted areas. This was a national warning. [Transport Canada notice](#)

July 13

- **INCIDENT POLICE USE:** suspects located in Steinbach, Manitoba. RCMP deployed a drone after two suspected shoplifters fled through a field. Officers located and arrested them, and police reported recovering more than \$3,000 in stolen merchandise. [RCMP report](#)

July 14

- **GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY:** \$29.6 million for an uncrewed-systems hub in Mirabel, Québec. National Defense announced funding for over two years for an Espace Aéro-led consortium of 30 organizations. The hub will support development, testing and integration of uncrewed systems, counter-drone technologies, automation and sensors. The funding supports research infrastructure and collaboration. [National Defence announcement](#)

July 17

- **INCIDENT POLICE USE:** drone locates fleeing suspect near Thompson, Manitoba. RCMP used multiple drones and a police dog during a search near Highway 391. A drone operator spotted the suspect hiding in a ditch, allowing officers to arrest him without incident. [RCMP report](#)

July 18

- **POLICE PROGRAM:** Red Deer's Drone as First Responder launch. RCMP announced a program intended to send drones to calls to help officers assess incidents. RCMP described it as the first program of its kind in Canada. [Red Deer RCMP announcement](#)

July 19

- **INCIDENT ENFORCEMENT:** Toronto's 29th World Cup drone interception. Police intercepted an unauthorized drone near the FIFA Fan Festival and charged its operator with flying over an advertised event. The tournament-wide total reached 29 intercepted drones, spanning the competition rather than July alone. Reporting also described earlier allegations of reckless flights, including proximity to a police drone. [reporting](#)

July 20

- **RESEARCH:** Concordia and Volatus collaborate on drone energy technologies. Concordia University's Volt-Age research program and Volatus announced a memorandum of understanding for energy technologies for uncrewed aircraft. This establishes a research framework. [Company announcement listing](#)

July 22

- **POSSIBLE ENFORCEMENT:** northern Ontario wildfire flight. A lodge owner reportedly faced possible fines after filming approaching wildfires with a drone; the investigation remained active. [Global News](#)

July 23

- **GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT:** Defense Drone Initiative launched. Ottawa introduced a mechanism to accelerate development, testing and production of Canadian uncrewed and autonomous systems for the Armed Forces and Coast Guard. The first supplier qualification deadline was August 14. Qualification allowed companies to compete for work. [National Defense release](#)

July 30

- **QUÉBEC SAFETY ADVISORY:** SOPFEU warns against wildfire-area flights. SOPFEU called on drone pilots and private aviation operators to keep wildfire airspace safe. It also noted that restrictions can be expanded through NOTAM, making current airspace information essential. [SOPFEU advisory, in French](#)

AUGUST 2026

August 4

- **INDUSTRY AND WILDFIRE RESPONSE:** Volatus–Singular Aircraft partnership. Volatus announced plans to introduce the FlyOx 1 heavy-lift autonomous aircraft in Canada, while evaluating domestic manufacturing, integration, deployment and support. [Volatus announcement](#)

August 5

- **DPAC SAFETY COURSE, FRENCH VERSION:** The new revised DPAC safety course in French is now available online [DPAC Safety Course 2026](#)

August 6

- **POLICE PROGRAM:** Saanich, British Columbia, launches RPAS operations. Saanich Police announced drone support for missing-person searches, critical incidents, crime scenes, public events and disaster response. The department said only trained, certified officers would operate the aircraft, subject to aviation requirements and privacy legislation. [Saanich Police announcement](#)

August 14

- **AGRICULTURE:** pesticide application by drone highlighted. Transport Canada's August bulletin reported Health Canada's approval of drone application for pesticides already approved for conventional aerial application. The underlying policy dated from June 30, so this is an August government update on an earlier decision. [Transport Canada bulletin and policy link](#)
- **REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION:** first three PVD acceptance letters. Transport Canada reported issuing three letters under its Pre-Validated Declaration process. The distinction matters: a letter accepts a manufacturer's proposed approach to demonstrating compliance; it does not establish that the aircraft already meets Standard 922 or automatically authorizes operations. [Transport Canada explanation](#)

- **TRANSPORT CANADA PUBLICATION;**

- Transport Canada reported as of August 14, 2026
 - 122,945 registered drones,
 - 23,427 Advanced Pilot Certificates,
 - 709 Level 1 Complex Pilot Certificates, and
 - 615 active RPAS Operator Certificates.
- These measure different things and should not be added together or treated as the number of operating drone businesses. [Official statistics](#)

August 27-29

- **INCIDENT PRISON SECURITY:** drone-linked contraband at Cowansville, Québec. The Pulse reported direct confirmation from Correctional Service Canada that a seized package was connected to drone activity. Its estimated institutional value was \$64,243, covering drugs, tobacco, phones and accessories. The matter was under investigation. [Reporting quoting CSC](#)

DRONE EXPO 2026

- August 29, 2026. [Official website](#)
- The program featured:
 - Live drone demonstrations for agriculture, mapping, inspection, firefighting, search and rescue, and recreation.
 - Six talks, including “Common Mistakes Made by Pilots,” with Jean Lamoureux of Drone-Outaouais, plus presentations on Transport Regulations with Sylvain Bourque, inspection, agriculture and public safety.
 - Demonstration models including the DJI Matrice 4T, Agras T100, Matrice 30T, a cleaning drone and Scout137 Gen3. [Official program](#)
 - The competition organizer, Mr. Ryan Walker of Team Canada FPV, oversaw the races. The 150-by-100-foot course was enclosed with netting specially designed to contain the drones, making it one of the safest courses around.

- According to several exhibitors, the number of visitors knowledgeable about drones increased significantly this year. Visitors showed considerable interest and asked exhibitors' thoughtful questions. Many potential customers are also connected with exhibitors.



SEPTEMBER 2026

September 1

- **NANAIMO AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA NAVY DRONE MILESTONE.** The Royal Canadian Navy conducted the inaugural flight of its CU179 Peregrine uncrewed helicopter at the Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental and Test Ranges. The aircraft is intended for shipboard operations. [National Defence](#)

September 2

- **PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MANITOBA — POLICE DRONE SEARCH FOLLOWING ALLEGED ASSAULT AND THREATS.** RCMP reported deploying a drone operator and Police Dog Services to search for a suspect allegedly carrying a firearm. A modified air rifle was recovered; the suspect was not found during that search. [RCMP](#)

September 4

- **SQUAMISH, BRITISH COLUMBIA — MISSING HIKER FOUND ALIVE.** Reporting described a search involving drones, helicopters, police dogs, and several search-and-rescue agencies. The hiker was located and taken to hospital with minor injuries. [CityNews](#)
- **GATINEAU, QUEBEC — DRONE WARNING DURING FATAL COLLISION INVESTIGATION.** Following a head-on collision that killed two people and critically injured another, police reminded the public about restrictions on flying drones overactive police operations. [CBC report carried by Yahoo](#)
- **MONTREAL-TRUDEAU AIRPORT, QUEBEC — AIRPORT DRONE GUIDANCE UPDATED.** The airport's public guidance stated that drone flights on airport territory require authorization from NAV CANADA and notification to Aéroports de Montréal. [Aéroports de Montréal](#)



- **NATIONAL — TRANSPORT CANADA FOREIGN-PILOT GUIDANCE UPDATED.** Transport Canada updated its information about Canadian pilot certification and special flight operations certificates for foreign drone pilots and commercial operators. [Transport Canada](#)
- **FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK — POLICE ENFORCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT REFERENCES DRONE SUPPORT.** A release about a September 1 operation reported 12 arrests and credited specialized partners, including the police RPAS team, with supporting the broader enforcement program. [City of Fredericton, French](#)
- **FLORENCEVILLE-BRISTOL, NEW BRUNSWICK — DRONE ASSISTS FATAL ROAD-COLLISION INVESTIGATION.** RCMP deployed its remotely piloted aircraft system alongside a collision reconstruction specialist after a single-vehicle crash on Route 105. A 40-year-old man died; a passenger was injured. [RCMP, French](#)

September 8

- **WESTERN CAPE BRETON, NOVA SCOTIA — FLOOD-DAMAGE DRONE MAPPING ANNOUNCED.** Regional emergency management partners and GlobalMedic announced aerial mapping of flood-affected roads, infrastructure, and shorelines, including areas near West Bay Road and Marble Mountain. [Municipality of Richmond County](#)

September 9

- **EDMONTON, ALBERTA — ALLEGED PRISON DRONE-SMUGGLING OPERATION ANNOUNCED.** Edmonton Police reported charges against three people over an alleged plan to deliver drugs into Edmonton Institution using drones. Police seized two drones, approximately 328 grams of methamphetamine, and 180 grams of cannabis resin. [Edmonton Police](#)
- **NATIONAL — DRONE REGULATORY CONSULTATION DEADLINE.** Transport Canada's published consultation deadline concerned proposed changes involving remote identification, community-based organizations, and designated airspace under NPA 2026-005. [Transport Canada's Drone Zone](#)

September 10

- **CALGARY, ALBERTA / NATIONAL — CANADA–UKRAINE DRONE PARTNERSHIP.** The federal government announced the Defense Drone Initiative Marketplace, initial procurement activity, and cooperation with Ukraine on uncrewed systems, counter-drone technology, and production capabilities. [Prime Minister's announcement](#), [official backgrounder](#)
- **CALGARY, ALBERTA — POLICE LAUNCH DRONES-AS-FIRST-RESPONDERS TRIAL.** Calgary Police began a 90-day trial using two Skydio X10 drones for selected calls in northeast and southeast Calgary, potentially reaching incidents before ground officers. [LiveWire Calgary](#)
- **MIRABEL, QUEBEC / NATIONAL — VOLATUS MILITARY DRONE CONTRACT ANNOUNCED.** Volatus announced an initial commitment for 100 tactical intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems, with options for additional purchases up to 5,000 systems. The optional quantity was not a committed order for 5,000 drones. The procurement record lists the award date of September 9. [Company release, French](#), [CanadaBuys record](#)

September 10-11

- **TORONTO, ONTARIO — DRONE ADVERTISING DRAWS PUBLIC COMPLAINTS.** A late-night drone advertisement promoting PC Health generated discussion about noise, light, advertising in public airspace, and disturbance to residents. Reporting dates the display to September 10. [Toronto Business Journal](#)

September 11

- **CANADIAN INDUSTRY / NATIONAL — DRAGANFLY MILITARY CONTRACT ANNOUNCED.** Draganfly announced a five-year agreement covering an initial 100 tactical reconnaissance systems, with discretionary options for another 4,900. The approximately C\$24.25 million figure described the additional options if fully exercised. [Company announcement filed with the SEC](#)

September 14

- **WINDERMERE AND NORTH KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA — DRONE OPERATOR SUPPORTS RCMP ARREST OPERATION.** RCMP deployed a drone operator alongside emergency response officers and Police Dog Services during an operation involving a wanted man who refused to leave a residence. The release also described subsequent arrests and seizures. [RCMP](#)
- **BULL RIVER AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA — POSSIBLE DRONE USE IN PRESCRIBED BURNING.** BC Wildfire Service announced prescribed burns that could begin September 18 and said a drone might assist with ignition and monitoring. [BC Wildfire Service](#)

September 15

- **KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA — DRONE AND WILDFIRE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP.** FireSwarm announced agreements with the City of Kelowna and Okanagan College to support drone and aerospace development, including wildfire resilience applications. [FireSwarm announcement](#)

September 16

- **EMERALD AND RICHMOND, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND — DRONE HELPS LOCATE STOLEN-VEHICLE SUSPECT.** RCMP reported that a 26-year-old man was arrested with assistance from a police drone and Police Dog Services after a stolen vehicle crashed in Richmond. [P.E.I. RCMP news](#)
- **NATIONAL — ARMY MINERVA INITIATIVE PUBLICIZED.** National Defense described six innovation challenges being released through August and September. They included Arctic aerial systems, reconnaissance, aircraft deconfliction, aerial cargo or munition delivery, and uncrewed ground systems. [National Defence](#)

September 17

- **SAUGEEN SHORES, ONTARIO — NEW POLICE DRONE UNIT ANNOUNCED.** Police announced training for five officers and acquisition of five remotely piloted aircraft systems, funded through an Ontario proceeds-of-crime grant. Proposed uses included missing-person searches, suspect tracking, crime-scene mapping, and assessment of dangerous scenes. [Saugeen Shores Police](#)

September 18

- **GATINEAU, QUEBEC — PUBLIC DRONE SHOW SCHEDULED.** AERO Gatineau-Ottawa's September 18–20 airshow program listed a drone display at the end of its Friday twilight show. [Organizer's FAQ](#)

September 18-19

- **MONTRÉAL, QUEBEC — LARGE PUBLIC DRONE SHOW LISTED.** The Old Port listed a Harry Potter-themed DroneArt Show featuring 1,200 synchronized drones. [Old Port of Montréal](#)

September 19

- **SAANICH, BRITISH COLUMBIA — POLICE DRONE LOCATES ROBBERY SUSPECT.** Following an alleged shoplifting incident involving bear spray, a police drone located the fleeing suspect and directed ground officers to him. Police reported a robbery charge. [Saanich Police](#)

September 20

- **TORONTO / LAKE ONTARIO, ONTARIO — DRONE TEAMS INVOLVED IN MISSING-KAYAKER SEARCH.** Reporting described drone teams participating alongside Toronto and Peel marine units in the search for a missing 78-year-old man. The search had expanded to Lake Ontario and its shoreline. [CityNews](#)

September 21

- **QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC — PRISON INSTALLS BARRIERS AGAINST DRONE DELIVERIES.** Reporting described new window grilles intended to reduce contraband deliveries by drone at Quebec's detention facility. The correctional officers' union questioned the effectiveness of the installation. [TVA Nouvelles, French](#)

- **NATIONAL — FEDERAL DISCLOSURE ABOUT CHINESE-MANUFACTURED DRONES.** The government answered parliamentary question Q-1241 about drone ownership, use, security assessments, and safeguards across federal institutions. Subsequent reporting stated that the RCMP held 1,027 Chinese-manufactured drones as of May 29, including 999 DJI aircraft. [House of Commons question and response record](#), [September reporting](#)

September 22

- **BOLTON / CALEDON, ONTARIO — MEDICAL DRONE PILOT LAUNCHED.** Peel Regional Paramedic Services launched a program to deliver emergency equipment and supplies while paramedics travel to the patient. Supplies described included defibrillators, epinephrine, naloxone, and bleeding-control materials. [Peel Region program](#), [September 22 coverage](#)

September 25

- **CFB SUFFIELD, ALBERTA — COUNTER-DRONE DEMONSTRATION ADVISORY.** National Defense announced a media opportunity involving counter-drone technologies from 22 innovators in six countries. [National Defence](#)

September 27

- **CALGARY, ALBERTA — POLICE REPORT RAPID LOCATION OF MISSING CHILD.** The Calgary Journal reported a police commission account in which a drone pilot located a missing five-year-old child within 30 seconds of arriving on scene. [Calgary Journal](#)

September 28

- **CANADIAN INDUSTRY — DRAGANFLY ANNOUNCES US\$10 MILLION INVESTMENT.** Draganfly announced a proposed investment of US\$5 million each from Unusual Machines and an unnamed leading U.S. investment fund. Closing was expected around September 29, subject to conditions. [Draganfly announcement](#)

September 29

- **MIRABEL, QUEBEC — DRONE MANUFACTURING FACILITY OFFICIALLY OPENED.** Volatus marked the official opening of its 53,000-square-foot manufacturing and systems-integration facility. The company said drone docking-station production was underway, and the facility supported its uncrewed aircraft systems. [Volatus announcement](#)

