

## King woman sentenced to six years in prison for fraud

A 55-year-old woman from the Township of King has been sentenced to six years in prison in a \$5.5 million fraud investigation. On Monday, April 11, the sentencing of Natalia Pouchkina, 55, took place, following a guilty plea to the charge of Fraud Over \$5,000. Ms Pouchkina appeared before the Honourable Justice N. Dwyer and was sentenced to six years in prison. She was also ordered to pay a \$5,476,000 restitution that if she fails to pay, she will have to serve an additional five years in prison. Between March 2014 and May 2015, the accused was employed as a senior manager of Crane Payment Solutions based in Vaughan. While employed, she set up fake account payables similar in name to real account payables for the company. Over a 14-month period she submitted fraudulent bills to her employer totaling close to \$5.5 million dollars, which were paid. In late May, after being confronted by management regarding accounting discrepancies, the suspect fled from Canada to Europe. An international arrest warrant was obtained by York Regional Police and on Sept. 15, 2015, after receiving a tip, the accused was arrested by Spanish National Police near Malaga, Spain, where it is believed she had been residing. On Oct. 15, 2015, the accused waived her right to an extradition hearing in the Spanish Federal Court and she was returned to Canada on Oct. 22. York Regional Police would like to thank Interpol, the Spanish National Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police liaison officers in Europe, for their assistance in bringing this investigation to a successful conclusion.