Alberta teen arrested for alleged terrorism offences involving ISIS

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An Alberta teen faces terrorism peace bond proceedings amid intelligence warnings that radicalized minors can pose threats comparable to adults.

Melanie Bennet

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Source: Pexels (Aesthos AR)

A 17-year-old Alberta youth has been arrested following an RCMP investigation into alleged online correspondence with people affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, commonly known as ISIS.

The teenager was arrested on October 26 after the RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region's Integrated National Security Enforcement Team, known as INSET, began investigating the communications in February.

Police have initiated proceedings seeking a terrorism peace bond under a provision dealing with fear that someone may commit a terrorism offence. The youth was released with conditions and was scheduled to appear in Fort McMurray Provincial Court on November 3.

The teenager cannot be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Police have not disclosed the youth's community of residence or the contents of the alleged communications. No details of a proposed attack or intended target have been publicly released.

"As the criminal investigation is ongoing and before the courts, the RCMP will not be making any further comments at this time," police said in a statement.

According to the RCMP, investigators can seek a terrorism peace bond when there are reasonable grounds to fear someone might engage in terrorism-related activity before charges or a conviction.

A court determines the conditions. Those can include restrictions on internet use and travel, surrendering a passport, counselling, electronic monitoring, or prohibitions on contacting particular people.

The specific conditions imposed on the Alberta teenager have not been disclosed.

In its 2025 public report, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said nearly one in ten of its terrorism investigations included at least one person under 18. Some young people involved in its investigations were

as young as 13.

The agency said minors can play significant roles in extremist activity, including recruiting others, distributing propaganda and planning attacks. It also identified the difficulty of determining which young people consuming extremist material online could move towards violence.

In a joint warning with international partners, the RCMP and CSIS cautioned that radicalized minors can pose a credible terrorist threat comparable to adults. The agencies urged earlier intervention involving families, schools, support services and technology companies.