

For Immediate Release

## **HUNDREDS OF TIPS TO CRIME STOPPERS LED TO GANG-RELATED ARRESTS AND ILLEGAL GUN SEIZURES IN 2020**

**Vancouver, B.C. (January 19, 2021):** More than 500 anonymous tips about gang-related activities and illegal weapons were received by Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers last year, about a tenth of all tips received. Collectively, they led to several arrests that might not have occurred without the tipsters' information.

"With the spike in recent gang-related activity in the Lower Mainland, Crime Stoppers is urging local residents to keep providing anonymous tips with information that could help police investigate, make more arrests and save lives," says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers.

### **GANG ACTIVITY/ILLEGAL WEAPONS TIPS STATISTICS - 2020**

- Total gang activity/illegal guns tips in 2020: 510
- Number of tips related specifically to illegal guns: 401
- Number of arrests based on tips about gang or illegal gun activity: 21
- Number of charges laid: 34
- Number of illegal weapons seized: 17

"The new surge in gang crime in the past few weeks is reminiscent of a similar outbreak seen in the Lower Mainland several years ago," Annis adds. "At that time, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers responded with a series of 'Guns and Gangs' ad campaigns. In all, these campaigns are credited with generating 2587 tips over the past five years, leading to the arrest of 15 gang members, 111 arrests for illegal weapons offences and 213 guns being seized.

### **OTHER 2020 CRIME STOPPERS STATISTICS**

Year-end statistics for 2020 just published by Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers' in its annual *Impact Report* show **5,017 tips were received for all categories of crime** (compares closely with 5,137 tips received in 2019). Information from these tips led to **72 arrests** and **135 charges laid in 2020**.

**In addition, more than \$2.7 million in property and illicit drugs were seized last year** including 16 vehicles. Since the inception of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers more than 35 years ago, more than 8,200 arrests have been made and half-a-billion dollars in property and drugs have been recovered.

(more)

## About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Anonymous tips may be provided through Crime Stoppers' downloadable "P3" app for Apple and Android phones, calling Crime Stoppers at **1-855-448-8477 (new number)** or **1-800-222-8477**, online at [solvecrime.ca](http://solvecrime.ca), or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#). Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of a criminal, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to check back later and collect their rewards. Find MVCS on Twitter: [@solvecrime](#).

-30-

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