CRIME STOPPERS

For Immediate Release

METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS RECEIVES FUNDING FROM THE PROVINCE TO CONTINUE ITS "GUNS AND GANGS" CAMPAIGN

Vancouver, B.C. (May 9, 2024): Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers has received \$500,000 under the federal Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund grant program, which is administered in British Columbia by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers joined Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth for the announcement at a news conference today in Victoria.

"With this funding, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers will continue its ongoing "Guns and Gangs" campaign aimed at encouraging the public to call Crime Stoppers anonymously with any information that can help get gangs and guns off our streets," Annis said. "Every year we receive thousands of anonymous tips, and last year, that included more than 300 tips about gangs that resulted in 16 gang related arrests. When it comes to fighting crime, we're all in this together and the province's ongoing partnership in our Guns and Gangs program will help us continue delivering our message to the public in communities across Metro Vancouver from Powell River to Boston Bar."

Since being established 40 years ago this month, more than 8,400 arrests have been made based on information received through tips provided to Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers, and half-a-billion dollars in stolen property and drugs and have been recovered.

The Crime Stoppers funding came as part of a <u>provincial announcement</u> about the creation of a new Integrated Gang Homicide Team (IGHT) for the Lower Mainland to focus on investigating gang-related homicides. It will include experts from agencies including B.C.'s Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC), the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia (OCABC) and the RCMP's Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT).

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

First established in the Lower Mainland in 1984, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit society and registered charity that receives anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators. Anonymous tips may be provided though Crime Stoppers' downloadable **"P3" app for Apple and Android phones**, calling Crime Stoppers at **1**-**800-222-8477**, online at <u>solvecrime.ca</u>, or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers <u>Facebook page</u>. Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest, a charge, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns, or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Find MVCS on X (Twitter): <u>@solvecrime</u>, Instagram: <u>metrovancouvercrimestoppers</u> and You Tube: <u>@metrovancouvercrimestoppers</u>.

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For media inquiries or interviews please contact: Trevor Pancoust <u>tpancoust@pacegroup.com</u> 778.386.0843