

**For Immediate Release**

**ATTN: Business Editors**

## **Financial crimes investigators urged to encourage more fraud victims to send tips to Crime Stoppers**

**Vancouver, BC (September 6, 2017)** – The majority of crime in today’s world is motivated by money, yet Crime Stoppers has told international financial crime investigators meeting in Vancouver that just five per cent of the tips it receives relate to fraud – and that should change.

Addressing the recent International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI) conference, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers Executive Director Linda Annis called on investigators from around the world to help create a culture where people are more willing to also anonymously report financial crime to Crime Stoppers the same way violent crime is now.

Financial crime can affect single victims including unsuspecting seniors, or at its worst, may fund terrorism, destroy companies and ruin family lives. “There are people on both sides of the law, both victims and those with contacts in criminal circles, who want to report fraudulent activities. Many victims often want to do the right thing, but don’t come forward because they fear reprisals, loss of their jobs, or worse,” Linda Annis says.

“We’re urging financial crimes investigators to help encourage people to send their tips to any of the 1,800 Crime Stoppers community-based organizations worldwide. Crime Stoppers is founded on guaranteed anonymity, so we can pass on information directly to investigators without revealing the tipsters’ identities.”

Financial crime covers a wide range of offences including:

- Cyber-attacks (hacking)
- Market manipulation (insider trading)
- Credit and debit card fraud
- Drug distribution & money laundering
- Mortgage fraud
- Health care fraud
- Tax evasion
- Ponzi schemes
- Counterfeiting of currency and consumer goods
- Romance & telephone schemes that target seniors
- Immigration fraud – extortion by organized crime groups
- Human trafficking by snake heads and cartels

(more)

## **Reporting to Crime Stoppers**

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is not the police. Tips to Crime Stoppers can be provided by telephone or online through a secure server, texts, or free mobile apps. Tips from the public are passed on to authorities to investigate.

We don't record phone calls, log IP addresses and we don't need to know your name. Tipsters are provided with a code number and if their information results in a charge, arrest, the seizure of stolen property or illegal weapons, or the denial of a fraudulent insurance claim, a reward of up to \$2000 may be offered.

## **Recent arrest statistics from tips regarding gang and violent crimes:**

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers reports an 18 per cent increase in the number of tips it has received from the public so far in 2017, with a large proportion of them related to suspicious gang activity.

For the period, January 1 to July 31 inclusive, MVCS has received over 3400 tips, an increase of 18 per cent over the same period in 2016. Almost 1300 of those tips (approx. 33 per cent of all tips) are related to suspected gang activity.

Crime Stoppers has received almost 200 tips regarding illegal guns so far, this year, an increase of 27 per cent compared to all of 2016.

In the same seven-month period:

- 107 arrests were made for a variety of crimes because of Crime Stoppers tips, an increase of 148 per cent over the same period last year.
- 182 charges were laid because of Crime Stoppers tips, an increase of more than 200 per cent over the same period last year.
- Total amount of property and/or drugs seized from Crime Stoppers tips: \$7.8 million dollars.

## **About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers**

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that receives anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. <http://www.solvecrime.ca/>

-30-

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