



For Immediate Release

CRIME STOPPERS LAUNCHES RADIO ADS SEEKING ANONYMOUS TIPS ABOUT EXTORTION THREATS AGAINST SOUTH ASIAN BUSINESSES

Vancouver, B.C. (August 8, 2024) – Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers has begun airing radio spots on some Lower Mainland Punjabi-language radio stations urging anyone with information about the ongoing series of extortion threats targeting local South Asian businesses to ANONYMOUSLY call Crime Stoppers.

The threats have been received in recent months in the Lower Mainland and in other Canadian cities. An RCMP National Coordination and Support Team investigating the threats has issued a public appeal asking anyone contacted not to pay any demanded payments and report the threats to police.

The Crime Stoppers radio ads are in support of the effort by several police departments to gather the information needed to find the criminals behind the written and telephone threats.

“We know people are concerned for their safety, and that’s why we want everyone to know that anyone with information about who’s behind the threats can ANONYMOUSLY give those details to us at Crime Stoppers if they prefer,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “We’re airing these messages in English and Punjabi to encourage people to contact us with any information that can help police put an end to this. No one calling will ever be identified or have to go to court.”

(EDS – Two audio samples of the radio ads, and their scripts, are attached.)

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

First established in the Lower Mainland 40 years ago, 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.

Anonymous tips may be provided through Crime Stoppers’ downloadable **“P3” app for Apple and Android phones**, calling Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-8477**, online at solvecrime.ca, or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#).

(more)

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): [@solvecrime](#), Instagram: [metrovancovercrimestoppers](#) and You Tube: [@metrovancovercrimestoppers](#).

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APPENDIX – RADIO SCRIPTS

SPOT 1 - LINDA ANNIS OPENS IN ENGLISH

Hi, I'm Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers.

It's been in the news – local South Asian business owners receiving extortion calls and threats of violence day and night. But not everyone reports it.

Police need to hear from anyone with information. And you can do it ANONYMOUSLY – please call us at Crime Stoppers.

ANNOUNCER CLOSES IN PUNJABI

The threats have to stop. Call Crime Stoppers 24/7 in almost any language.

Police don't want to know who you are, just the information you have.

Let's end this.

Call "1-800-222-TIPS" ANONYMOUSLY, or send your tip online at Solve Crime dot ca.

SPOT 2 - LINDA ANNIS OPENS IN ENGLISH

Hi, I'm Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers.

By now, you've heard the news about extortion threats against local South Asian businesses. Police are urging business owners to call them so they can investigate.

If you want to call in a tip, but don't want to be identified, please call us ANONYMOUSLY at Crime Stoppers.

ANNOUNCER CLOSES IN PUNJABI

A call to Crime Stoppers means you can give important details to solve these crimes without being identified. Police need your information.

Let's end this.

Call "1-800-222-TIPS" ANONYMOUSLY, or send your tip online at Solve Crime dot ca.