

For Immediate Release

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IS A CRIME THAT AFFECTS MILLIONS IN CANADA.
REPORTING IT – EVEN ANONYMOUSLY – IS CRUCIAL IN BREAKING THE CYCLE.**

This is “Prevention of Violence Against Women Week” in B.C. (April 20-26)

Vancouver, B.C. (April 23, 2025): Eleven million people in Canada have experienced intimate partner violence (a form of gender-based violence) at least once since the age of 15, according to [Women and Gender Equality Canada](#).

Intimate partner violence is a crime. Its victims are all genders, sexual orientations, and ethnicities – and each year, an average of 102 women and girls in Canada become victims of gender-related killings. In 93 per cent of those cases, the homicides were committed by male intimate partners or family members.

Violence in relationships often goes beyond physical attacks. Intimidation and threats, sexual, emotional, psychological, verbal, or financial abuse may also commonly used to gain power and control over a partner and take away their self-worth.

Worst of all, it often goes on hidden behind closed doors.

“Reporting is perhaps the most crucial step toward ending the cycle of abuse, and you can help someone who won’t do it for themselves by giving an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “If someone you know, is experiencing violence or abuse in an intimate relationship, we encourage you to report it to Crime Stoppers with an anonymous tip so police can investigate. You will never be identified, and the information will be forwarded directly to police without identifying you.”

Girlfriends of gang members should also call Crime Stoppers and stay anonymous

Girlfriends of gang members also often live in fear knowing that their boyfriend might be carrying a weapon or may even ask them to stash it for them. These women often won’t report their boyfriends to police for fearing of being found out.

One of the advertisements in Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers’ current [“Guns and Gangs” ad campaign](#) depicts a girlfriend who finally decided to provide an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers after reaching “a tipping point” about her worries.

Police recommend victims speak to a professional to help decide how to report intimate violence. Lists of services to call may be found on police websites including [Vancouver Police](#) and the [Surrey Police Service](#).

(more)

Police say intimate partner violence may involve one or more of the following:

- **Physical abuse:** Hitting, shoving, slapping, choking, or any physical harm.
- **Sexual abuse:** Non-consensual sexual acts or behavior.
- **Emotional or psychological abuse:** Threats, insults, yelling, humiliation, controlling behaviour like taking your phone away, isolating you or stopping you from leaving home, breaking things, harassment and continuous phone calls.
- **Financial abuse:** Withholding money, controlling financial resources, or otherwise exploiting a partner financially.
- **Stalking or harassment:** Unwanted contact or attention that causes fear or distress.
- **Serving as a “mule” to carry money or drugs:** The victim is essentially “owned” by the abuser.

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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. 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](#).

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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