

METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS



2021 IMPACT REPORT



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BACKGROUND: ABOUT METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers (“Crime Stoppers”) is a non-profit society and registered charity incorporated in 1984 that receives anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to law enforcement agencies in communities from Powell River through Boston Bar.

Since its inception, tips to Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers have led to more than 8,290 people arrested and more than a half-a-billion dollars in property and drugs seized.

A Unique Three-Way Partnership **CRIME STOPPERS - THE POLICE - THE MEDIA**

Police investigators often contact Crime Stoppers when they need information from the public to solve a case. Crime Stoppers regularly distributes this information to the media, encouraging the public to respond with tips anonymously.

Crime Stoppers also reaches out to the community online at solvecrime.ca and on social media 24/7 through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and the MVCS YouTube channel.

How Today’s Crime Stoppers Anonymous Tip and Reward Program Works

Members of the public often have information that would assist in solving crimes but may not want to reveal their identities. Crime Stoppers assists by providing a means to leave that information anonymously.

Tips received by Crime Stoppers are forwarded to investigators at the RCMP, municipal police forces and additional investigative agencies.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Tipsters are eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$5,000 if their tip leads to a charge or arrest. You never have to give your name or any personal information and you will never have to testify in court.



Since our telephone tips line was first established more than 38 years ago, new technologies have developed that provide tipsters with additional options.

3 WAYS TO REPORT TO CRIME STOPPERS

Crime Stoppers’ downloadable “P3” crime reporting app for smartphones

online at solvecrime.ca

by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers Facebook page

British Columbia Anti-Gang Tip Line

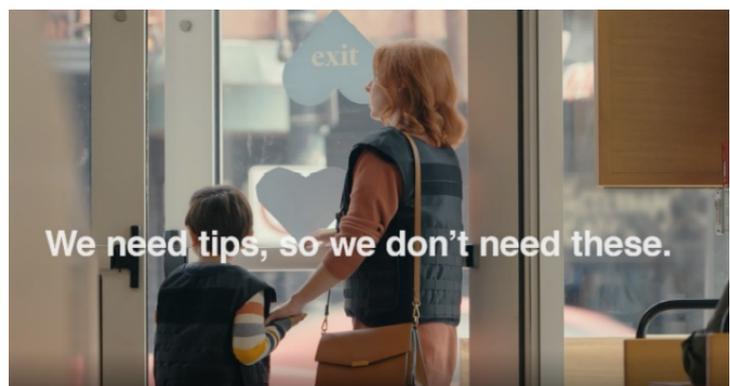
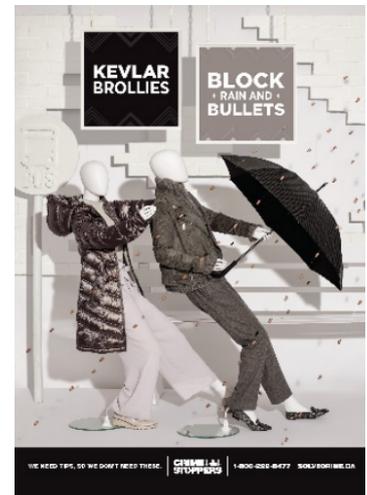
Crime Stoppers manages the province's Anti-Gang Tip Line which provides the public an opportunity to provide anonymous tips specifically about criminal gang-related activity. Since taking over operation of this tip line from the Province of British Columbia in 2009, Crime Stoppers has expanded its infrastructure, making the program available to citizens throughout the province. The Guns and Gangs Campaign #worldwithoutcrime was launched a few years ago and encouraged the public to report criminal gang-related activity to Crime Stoppers.

"Guns and Gangs" Relaunch

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers revived the "Guns and Gangs" Campaign in 2021. The campaign created imaginative ads that drive home the seriousness of gang crime and encourage the public to provide tips about illegal gun and gang-related offences. The campaign appeared on more than 100 billboards and transit shelter ads in the Lower Mainland, with space provided by Pattison Outdoor Advertising and OUTFRONT Media. Public service announcements are also set to play on radio and television, in social media and in print.

The ads contain everyday scenarios with a twist: a store window where "Kevlar" vests are on sale as a necessary fashion accessory, Kevlar umbrellas, and a TV spot about a coffee shop where customers need to be fitted for a vest before sitting on the outdoor patio.

Crime Stoppers' previous "Guns and Gangs" #World Without Crime ad campaign is credited for 145 people being arrested for gang and/or illegal weapons offences. 219 guns were seized based on anonymous tips provided. By the end of that campaign, gang and gun crime tips to Crime Stoppers grew to account for 13 per cent of all tips Crime Stoppers received, up from six percent at the start.



QUICK STATISTICS ON TIPS RECEIVED BY METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS
 These statistics exclude additional crime tips that remain under active investigation.

Total number of tips received in 2021

4,741



5,017
in
2020

Property and illicit drugs seized based on information from tips

Cumulative total: more than \$23 million since 2017

\$2.29 million
including 8 vehicles

Number of arrests based on information from tips

54

Number of charges laid based on information from tips

96

Gang related tips

Total gang activity / Crime tips received in 2021

215

Charges laid

12

Tips related to illegal guns

403

Illegal weapons seized

32

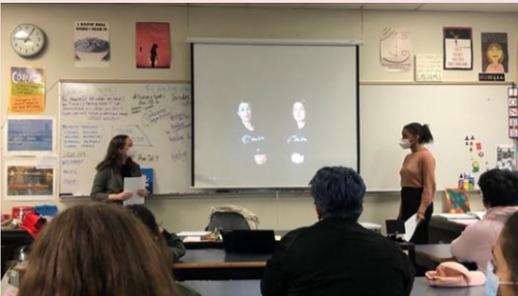
Programs

Students: "See Something, Say Something" School Safety Presentation

Since it started in 2014, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers' "See Something, Say Something" School Safety Presentation has worked with over 46,000 students and counting. It is a joint initiative with the police, the Vancouver School Board, Surrey School Board and schools in the Tri-Cities, Burnaby, Delta, Chilliwack and the Sunshine Coast.

The "youth mentoring youth" philosophy is designed to provide students with a safe and anonymous way to report suspected criminal or bullying behaviour. It encourages students to use the resources available to them as well as speak up for those who cannot. Workshops normally take place in small groups in individual classrooms and allow leaders to create role-play scenarios where students try to determine how they might respond under difficult circumstances.

This presentation reaches grade 8's and 10's with subjects that focus on issues identified as relevant to that age group. Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers has partnered with two detectives from the Vancouver Police Department's Gang Unit to discourage young women from getting involved in organized crime. Numerous other resources are used to enforce reporting of suspicious activity and decision making.



2020-2021 School Year

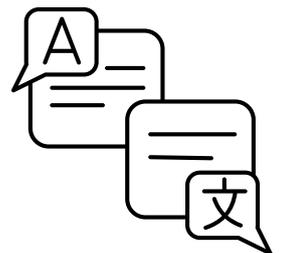
The "See Something, Say Something" school program was presented to over 4, 736 students in both virtual and in person presentations.

New Immigrants: Tips received in almost every language

For Metro Vancouver's new immigrant families, language is often an impediment. Immigrants to Canada are often unaware of the laws of Canada, of what's acceptable and what's not. People from some countries often bring an abiding distrust for the police or authorities.

This program provides our new immigrants with the knowledge that it is safe to report to the police but if they would like to remain anonymous from the beginning of an investigation through to the accused going through our court system, their identity will never be revealed.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers provides multilingual translation services, with tips accepted in 115 languages, 24 hours a day - seven days a week.



Seniors: “See Something, Say Something” Elder Abuse Awareness Program

As a joint collaboration between Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers, support agencies and the police, the objective of this program is to broaden awareness and obtain help for elders facing abuse.

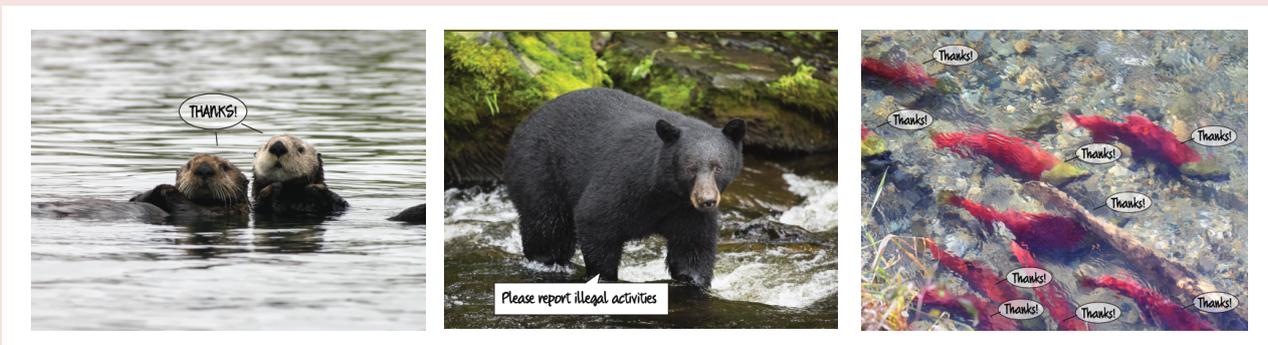
The initiative is designed to provide seniors with a safe and anonymous method to report what they know about suspected criminal or abusive behavior. Due to the personal nature of these offenses, older people are often too ashamed, embarrassed and fearful of retaliation to report it directly to police or persons of authority. In addition, a secondary program launched in 2020 that focused on "Financial Abuse". This highlighted steps to take for suspected financial abuse against seniors as well as a list of resources available.

The program has a volunteer component whereby seniors are trained to present the program to various seniors groups at senior’s centers, community centres or retirement living homes. It is designed so that seniors mentor other seniors.



Environment: We take tips on crimes against the environment and public safety

This campaign encourages people to anonymously report illegal activity affecting our wildlife, land and marine environment in British Columbia. Posters located in local community centres, parks and other public spaces encourage individuals to provide tips by phone, text or online with information on any environmental crime. Selling animal parts, harming species at risk, illegal overfishing and fishing/ hunting out of season threaten the very natural resources that are an important source of livelihood for many British Columbians and are a vital part of our province’s world-renowned eco-system. Additional crimes include unlawful night hunting or shooting from roadways, dumping waste on Crown land, illegally removing sand, gravel or wood from public lands, having fires in restricted fire zones or without a permit and illegal activities in parks and protected areas.



Crime Stoppers also accepts tips from the public concerning the theft of metal and electricity from providers such as Fortis BC and BC Hydro. Theft of metal and power poses a serious risk to our community and emergency personnel.

Indigenous: Building a Healthy and Safe Community

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers has developed a program specifically for Indigenous communities focused on building healthy and safe communities throughout B.C.

73 Indigenous communities throughout BC have received presentations on this unique program.

In addition to creating awareness about providing tips to Crime Stoppers and crime prevention in general, police work together with contacts in these communities to ensure a prompt and appropriate response to any Crime Stoppers tip provided by an Indigenous resident.



Volunteers: Our Crime Stoppers volunteers create public awareness

Each year, Crime Stoppers' volunteers and staff in our outreach and school education programs participate in almost every significant community event and safety fair from Boston Bar to Powell River. This also provides us with the opportunity to make connections with Metro Vancouver's new immigrant families. Language can be a barrier for some, so providing awareness about our tip line's multilingual options is a priority. As well, individuals may fear reporting criminal activity because they do not trust police, or they fear reprisal. Educating the community about the anonymous nature of our tip line is a critical step in our overall awareness effort.

If you'd like to volunteer with Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers, please contact us at info@solvecrime.ca or visit www.solvecrime.ca

2021
(COVID-19 pandemic)
37 events (In-person and virtual);
reached 3,190 people



Media Releases

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers sends story ideas to media on a regular basis to highlight crimes topics that impact our communities. From urging the public to report wanted individuals to tips on keeping you and your family safe.

Here are some of the highlights in the 2021 media releases:



"10 Least Wanted Valentines of 2021"

From the files at Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers, it focused on the top 10 "most wanted" criminals and suspects who were on the loose in February 2021. They could be far away, or in your neighbourhood.

Counterfeit Goods: Hard to Spot, Even Right Next to the Real Thing

Crime Stoppers urged the public for tips on who's selling counterfeit goods online, at a pop-up store, or anywhere else. The Canadian Anti-Counterfeiting Network estimates the Canadian counterfeit goods market at \$20 billion to \$30 billion per year. Worldwide, it's one trillion dollars. Police have connected organized crime and even terrorist groups to the manufacture and sale of bogus products, which also extended this year to counterfeit COVID-19 treatments and PPE.



The Five "Least Wanted Trick or Treaters" You Don't Want On Your Doorstep This Hallowe'en

If you know where they are, call Crime Stoppers - rewards of up to \$5,000 have been offered for information on their whereabouts. For three of this year's most wanted, Crime Stoppers has partnered with the national BOLO (Be On the Look Out) Program to make available extra large rewards of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Cindy Lou Who The Original "Christmas Crime Stopper" and "The Grinch" Want To Help Protect You From "Christmas Crime"

Executive Director Linda Annis, Cindy Lou Who and The Grinch worked together to provide tips for a safe holiday season, including keeping yourself and home safe while out shopping.



Social Media

INSTAGRAM

@metrovanancouvercrimestoppers



FACEBOOK

@metrovanancouvercrimestoppers



Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

TWITTER

@solvecrime



Crime Stoppers @SolveCrime · Jan 6
If you have any information about this incident, please contact the @SurreyRCMP at 604-599-0502. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at solvecrime.ca or download the "P3 Tips" app. #Surrey

YOUTUBE

@metrovanancouvercrimestoppers



FINAL WORD - We are not the police, nor are we publicly funded

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers ("Crime Stoppers") is a community-based, not-for-profit that relies solely on grants, donations and sponsorship. We will return to fundraising activities including the annual Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers Jail & Bail events and the annual Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament once the pandemic subsides.

If someone you know is prepared to help support Crime Stoppers' ongoing work to keep our communities safer, by making a donation or holding a third party event, please contact us at info@solvecrime.ca.



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