

For Immediate Release

**“CRIME PREVENTION WEEK” AND CRIME STOPPERS ENCOURAGE
RETAILERS TO REVISIT HOW THEY CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES,
FOLLOWING LAUNCH OF “SOS - SAVE OUR STREETS”**

VANCOUVER, B.C. (November 6, 2023): November 1 to 7 is “Crime Prevention Week” in B.C. as [declared](#) by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

This year, it comes with a renewed focus on public safety, and especially for people who work in stores and restaurants, as retailers and community safety groups this week joined trade and business associations in forming the “[Save Our Streets](#)” ([SOS](#)) coalition announced on October 30th.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is among the coalition’s more than 30 founding members and participated in SOS’ launch event. “Save Our Streets” is calling on all levels of government for immediate coordinated action to end brazen acts of shoplifting, random violence and vandalism that often threaten store staff, and have made public commercial areas feel unsafe all over the province.

“This is a problem we’re hearing about in communities all over B.C., not just in the Lower Mainland,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “We’ve heard organized gangs are often behind the fencing of shoplifted goods and police are working every day to find them. If you have information about someone responsible for these crimes, but don’t want to be identified, we urge you to contact Crime Stoppers with an ANONYMOUS tip. You will never be called, and never be identified.”

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers and local police have lists of measures available that businesses can revisit as they work to better protect their property, their merchandise and themselves. Many helpful crime prevention tips like the ones below are available on the Crime Stoppers website solvecrime.ca and on RCMP and police department websites.

HELPFUL ADVICE FOR BUSINESSES LARGE AND SMALL

- Move merchandise away from windows or remove it altogether from easy access in a retail space.
- Have shatterproof (burglar resistant) glass in your windows.
- Keep the sight lines to your business clear. Trim shrubs in front and keep windows as clear as possible of posters and signs that can block your visibility.
- Add window shutters if your store is in a high- risk area for crime.
- Lock valuables in a safe or remove from the premises.
- Shred sensitive papers.
- Keep a record of serial numbers for valuables, and/or engrave them with a driver’s licence number in case they're stolen and later recovered.

(more)

- Check your locks – pin tumbler cylinder locks work well.
- Have one key and lock for outside doors and a different key and lock for interior doors.
- Re-key your store/business if keys are lost – and ensure you keep a log of who has keys.
- Ensure your alarm is working properly.
- Flood your premises with light inside and improve outdoor lighting to ensure your business and the space around it are well-lit.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Anonymous tips may be provided through Crime Stoppers' downloadable **"P3" app for Apple and Android phones**, calling Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-8477, 1-855-448-8477 (new number)**, online at solvecrime.ca or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#). Find MVCS on Twitter: [@solvecrime](#) and Instagram: [@metrovancovercrimestoppers](#).

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of a criminal, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to check back later and collect their rewards.

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