

For Immediate Release

**YOUR ANONYMOUS CALL TO CRIME STOPPERS MAY HELP STOP
THE SEXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS**

This is “Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week” in B.C.

Vancouver, B.C. (March 5, 2024): March 4-10 marks the 26th annual [Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week](#) to spotlight the sexual abuse of vulnerable children and teens that’s going on in our very own communities.

Activities this year include a [fuchsia ribbon campaign](#) and community-based events throughout the province.

Year-round, communities and groups work to address the “sexploitation” (sexual exploitation) of children and youth with prevention, education, enforcement, and intervention strategies.

Nonetheless, victims are still being convinced to submit to sexual activities to get what they might want or need. Some youth feel they have chosen for themselves to exchange sexual acts for resources, but sexual exploitation and prostitution are never considered consensual. It is a form of sexual abuse.

“If you know of a specific case involving a child or teen, you should call police or the Helpline for Children operated by Ministry for Children and Family Development,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “However, if you know about an adult who is involved in an exploitative relationship with a young person, or if you’ve heard about a pimp or recruiter operating in your community, you can call us ANONYMOUSLY at Crime Stoppers. Your identity will never be known to anyone and just one call could lead police to an arrest and prevent the sexploitation of current, and future potential victims.”

What is Sexploitation?

According to BC’s Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, sexual exploitation of children and youth under the age of 18 years is any type of sexual activity in exchange for money, drugs, food, shelter or any other considerations. This is the case whether or not the children or youth consider themselves to be consenting.

Sexual exploitation occurs when vulnerable children and youth:

- Are sexually abused by adults
- Provide sex in exchange for a place to sleep, a meal or a ride
- Trade sexual activities in exchange for money, drugs, alcohol, gifts, services, or other items
- Are sexually trafficked
- Are seduced, manipulated or coerced to take sexual pictures/videos of themselves (i.e., child pornography) that can be sent over the internet.

(more)

The number for the Helpline for Children is 310-1234 (no area code). Additional information and resources to help victims of child and youth sexploitation are available from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General [website](#).

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](#).

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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