



For Immediate Release

DON'T LET ORGANIZED CRIME STEAL YOUR BIKE THIS SUMMER

Report any info about bike thieves anonymously to Crime Stoppers - and register your bike with "Project 529" to improve your chances of getting it back

Vancouver, B.C. (June 22, 2021): For cyclists right across the province, the 2021 riding season has already begun – and sadly, a good number of them will permanently lose some expensive bikes to thieves this summer.

It doesn't need to be that way.

Organized crime fuels the theft of most high-end bicycles like mountain and e-bikes. Most often, fences buy these stolen bikes – worth up to \$5,000 and even more - from individual thieves. Some are fenced locally, while others are shipped across the border and down the I-5, or even across Canada.

"Make no mistake, this is a well-organized operation complete with established transportation routes and networks of fences who buy and sell these bikes," says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. "Someone somewhere knows who's behind these theft rings, but of all the tips we receive at Crime Stoppers, there are precious few tips on bike thieves. Perhaps you know a family member, a 'friend-of-a-friend' who's involved, or you're involved yourself and want it to end, but don't want to be identified.

"Providing information anonymously that can get thieves arrested is the right thing to do," Annis adds. "That's why we encourage you to report your tip to Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS, by accessing the "P3" Crime Stoppers tips reporting app, or by sending a tip online at solvecrime.ca. We'll pass on the info to police so they can do their work, you will not be identified in any way and you might be eligible for a reward of up to \$5,000."

As well, cyclists are urged to record details about their ride with [Project 529](https://project529.com), the world's largest cycling database of 1.8 million bikes, to make it easier for police to return stolen bikes to their rightful owners. You can also obtain a "529 Garage" registration "shield" to put on your bike that tells thieves your bike is registered and too risky to steal.

With funding from the Vancouver Police Foundation, Detective Rob Brunt, a bike theft specialist with the Vancouver Police Department established a partnership with Project 529 in 2015, resulting in a 40% drop in bike thefts in Vancouver.

"Unlike your car, bikes don't have vehicle identification numbers or a standardized serial number system across the cycling industry," says Detective Brunt.

“Project 529 fills that gap. You can record your bike information on the Project 529 app for free to help us return your recovered stolen bike to you. But it only works if cyclists provide their bike information in advance. That’s what we’re urging all cyclists to do now as summer kicks off.”

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. All tips from the public are passed on to authorities to investigate. Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is not the police and doesn’t record phone calls, log IP addresses and won’t use your name.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips 24/7 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.

About Project 529

[Project 529](#) was founded in 2013 by a team of software professionals in Portland, Oregon who believed that technology can enhance the cycling experience. Their first product, the 529 Garage, is the simplest and most complete bike registration system created to date, having helped secure over \$15M worth of bikes since its introduction last year. For more information about how you can keep your ride secure, please visit www.project529.com.

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