

For Immediate Release

## **RECENT RASH OF CRIMES AGAINST LOWER MAINLAND BUSINESSES MEANS IT'S TIME FOR A SECOND LOOK AT HOW THEY PROTECT THEMSELVES**

**VANCOUVER, B.C. (January 18, 2022):** There have been news stories in recent weeks about a rash of brazen robberies including shoplifting - sometimes in large quantities, as well as break-ins and vandalism of Lower Mainland businesses including smashed store windows.

Businesses that serve the public are especially exposed to this kind of risk – everything from retail stores to car lots.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers and local police suggest there are several measures businesses can consider 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](https://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.
- 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.

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- 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.

“Police work hard to find those responsible for these kinds of crimes but reducing your own risk as much as possible could help prevent you from becoming a victim in the first place,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “And 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.”

### **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](http://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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