

# 2023 IMPACT REPORT







#### **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 8,473 people arrested and more than a half-a-billion dollars in property and drugs seized as of the end of 2023.

#### 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 vetted to ensure that no tipsters identity can be revealed. They are then 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.

#### STEPS TO ENSURE ANONYMITY:

We do not ask for your name We do not ask for your phone number We do not use Caller ID We do not trap IP addresses You will never have to testify



Since our telephone tips line was first established 40 years ago, new technologies have developed that provide tipsters with additional options.



### THREE WAYS TO REPORT TO CRIME STOPPERS

- Calling 1-800-222-8477
  We operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 2. Report on our website. www.solvecrime.ca
- Download our smartphone app.
  "P3" Tips

### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

INSTAGRAM @METROVANCOUVERCRIMESTOPPERS





FACEBOOK

@METROVANCOUVERCRIMESTOPPERS

CRIME STOPPERS 1-800-222-8477 SOLVEGRIME CA

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers





Crime Stoppers @SolveCrime · 20h January is Crime Stoppers Awareness Month!

Crime Stoppers Quick Facts

- 1,800 Crime Stoppers organizations worldwide
- 100 in Canada
- Formed by a Canadian-born Detective Greg MacAleese

#### YOUTUBE @metrovancouvercrimestoppers

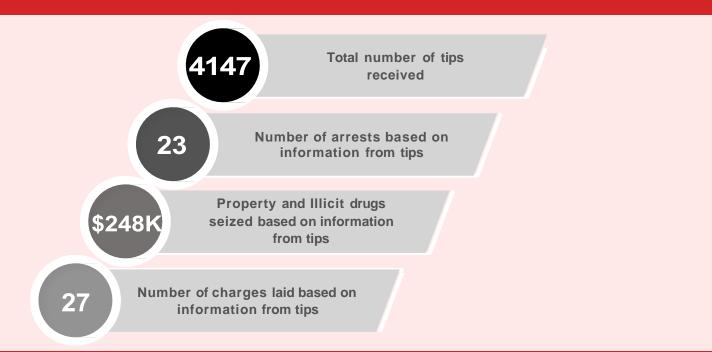




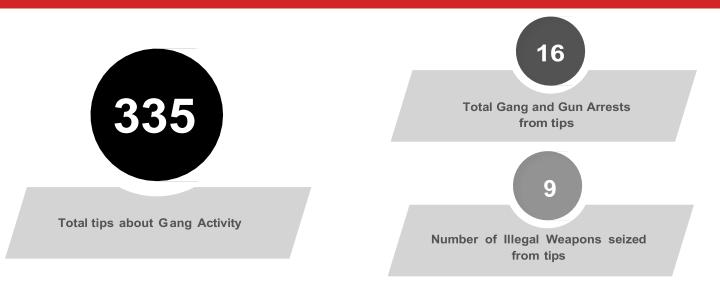
#### QUICK STATISTICS ON TIPS RECEIVED BY METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS

These statistics exclude additional crime tips that remain under active investigation.

### **2023 STATISTICS**



### **GANG RELATED TIPS**





#### 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.

### PROGRAMS

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

Since its inception, the number of students who have seen our "See Something, Say Something" school workshops program has reached **more than 65,000.** 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 "See Something, Say Something" school program was presented to more than 11,035 students this year. (January to November 2023)

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 roleplay scenarios where students try to determine how they might respond under difficult circumstances.

This presentation reaches grade eights and 10s 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.

#### 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.

#### 2023 (JAN-NOV) 41 EVENTS – 42,575 PEOPLE REACHED FOUR MEDIA EVENTS – 103,000 PEOPLE REACHED

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





#### 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 from 2023 media releases:



"ROSES ARE "DEAD", AND THE VIOLETS ARE TOO...SEND US A TIP ABOUT THESE VALENTINES - THEY'RE NOT THE ONES FOR YOU!"

Dead flowers symbolized Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers' "least wanted" valentines as news media covered the criminals and suspects who were on the loose in February 2023.

BOLO PARTNERS WITH VPD AND METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS TO OFFER \$100,000 REWARD FOR MOST-WANTED: CODY CASEY

Casey is wanted on drugs and firearms offences and his case was the subject of a special news conference in June 2023.





CRIME STOPPERS REVEALS HALLOWE'EN "PUMPKIN GALLERY" OF "LEAST WANTED TRICK OR TREATERS"

For two of this year's most wanted, Crime Stoppers partnered with the national BOLO (Be On the Look Out) Program to make available rewards of up to \$100,000.

METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS AND "THE GRINCH" ON AIR AT PAN PACIFIC CHRISTMAS WISH BREAKFAST

Linda Annis and Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers' "Grinch" provide Christmas safety tips each year during the Global BC live broadcast of this annual toy drive. Selfie requests from the crowd also keep our Grinch busy all morning.





NOBODY KNOWS "CHRISTMAS CRIME" BETTER THAN "THE GRINCH" AND METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS

Our well-attended annual media event in which Executive Director Linda Annis, "The Grinch" and even Cindy Lou Who herself worked together to provide tips for a safe holiday season.



## 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.

Our own fundraising activities include the annual **Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers Jail & Bail** events in Vancouver and Surrey and the annual **Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament.** 

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.

METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS 3585 GRAVELEY STREET VANCOUVER, BC V5K 5J5

