

For Immediate Release

SEEN A GHOST? GET READY TO CALL CRIME STOPPERS – IT COULD BE ONE OF THIS HALLOWE'EN'S FIVE "LEAST-WANTED TRICK OR TREATERS"

And a \$100,000 reward is offered for ANONYMOUS information leading to the arrest of Rabih Alkhalil, one of the fugitives in this year's "ghost and jack-o'-lantern" rogues' gallery

VANCOUVER, B.C. (October 29, 2024): It's the spookiest time of the year, and police and Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers are asking everyone to be on the lookout for BC's five most-wanted fugitives who remain on the loose this Hallowe'en.

Not the kind of people you want haunting your doorstep.

Pulled from police files, these fugitives all face serious charges – and are known this time of year as Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers' five *"Least Wanted Trick-or-Treaters"*.

(See attached descriptions and images.)

Tips to Crime Stoppers that lead to the arrest and charge of any wanted criminal can lead to rewards of up to \$5,000. In addition, Crime Stoppers has partnered with the national BOLO (Be On the Look Out) Program to offer an extra large reward up to \$100,000 for <u>Rabih</u> <u>ALKHALIL</u>. He escaped from the North Fraser Pretrial Centre in Port Coquitlam more than two years ago with help from two men posing as contractors.

Three more on the list (**Raj Kumar MEHMI, Duc Quan PHUNG and Kevin Asi GONZALES**) are wanted for serious drug related offenses. A fifth (**Andrew Joseph SMID**) faces a raft of charges involving stolen property, fraud, identity theft and more.

"Hallowe'en is a good time to keep an eye out for 'scary' characters like these," says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. "If everyone were watching, we'd have literally millions of pairs of eyes available around the province. A single anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers with the right information could help police get any of these five off the streets.

"We receive almost 5,000 anonymous tips a year for all kinds of crimes including gang, drug and illegal weapons offences. We ask anyone seeing something suspicious not to think twice. Call us anonymously at Crime Stoppers right away to make sure police have all the information they can get to solve a crime. Any tip is gratefully received, and your anonymity is guaranteed by the Supreme Court of Canada. There'll be no follow up. You'll never be questioned or called to testify." Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of these five individuals is asked to contact police directly, or Crime Stoppers if you wish to remain anonymous. Do not approach them yourself.

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.

People can leave anonymous tips in a variety of ways including calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at <u>solvecrime.ca</u>, by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers <u>Facebook page</u> or using the Crime Stoppers tip reporting "P3" phone app. Crime Stoppers accepts tips 24/7 in 115 different languages. If the information provided results in a charge or an arrest, a cash reward may be offered. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to collect their rewards.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is <u>not</u> the police and operates solely on funds donated or generated through fundraising events. Tax-deductible donations are gratefully received anytime by accessing the "donate" link at <u>solvecrime.ca</u>. Follow us on Twitter: <u>@solvecrime.</u>

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For media inquiries or interviews please contact: Trevor Pancoust <u>tpancoust@pacegroup.com</u> 778.386.0843



WANTED: This year's five "Least Wanted Trick-Or-Treaters"



Rabih ALKHALIL

Wanted for being unlawfully at large and conspiracy to commit murder; escaped from North Fraser Pretrial Centre in July 2022 with help from two men posing as contractors *Up to \$100,000 reward offered by Crime Stoppers and BOLO Program*

Age: 37 Height: 5'10" Weight: 166 lbs Hair: Black Eyes: Brown



Kevin Asi GONZALES Wanted for production of a controlled substance

Age: 34 Height: 5'5" Weight: 165 lbs Hair: Black Eyes: Brown



Raj Kumar MEHMI At large, convicted of importation of a controlled substance

Age: 61 Height: 6' Weight: 200 lbs



Duc Quan PHUNG

Wanted for production of a controlled substance, and possessing a controlled drug/substance for the purpose of trafficking

Age: 37 Height: 5'9" Weight: 143 lbs



Andrew Joseph SMID

Wanted for 23 charges including break and enter (3 counts), mischief (2), theft (6), possession of stolen property (3), driving while prohibited (2), fraud (5), identity theft, and breach of release

Age: 36 Height: 5'9" ft Weight: 165 lbs Hair: Brown hair, possible blonde highlights Eyes: Blue