

For Immediate Release

SCHOOL'S BACK THIS WEEK, TIME TO WATCH FOR POSSIBLE SIGNS OF "BACK TO SCHOOL" GANG RECRUITMENT

There are telltale signs to look for - parents and students are urged to call Crime Stoppers to ANONYMOUSLY report information about gang activity

Vancouver, B.C. (September 1, 2025): Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is advising parents to watch for possible signs of gang activity as students return to school.

Parents can help detect gang activity by watching for:

- Suspicious things turning up at home like scales, plastic baggies, unexplained extra cash, multiple cell phones
- Short unexplained "visits" out of the house followed by evasive answers when their kids are asked where they're going
- High-end merchandise being brought home, or the mysterious use of a vehicle that's not theirs

When students get back together in schools and schoolyards, gangs can more easily recruit new targets in person and through social media activity. The most common gang recruitment age range is 14-25. Promises about drug dealing and gang life leading to glamour, money, cars and excitement can fuel a teenager's desire to join. However, it's hard to break free once you're in and it often leads to jail, or death. And where there are gangs, there is more risk of gunplay and violence.

"Recruits may be beaten or even tortured," says Linda Annis, Executive Director Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. "And it's not just males. Girlfriends of gang members, for example, can find themselves roped into the gang life by holding weapons, cash, drugs or even renting out an apartment in their own names to cover for their boyfriends."

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is urging parents and students who may know something about any crime to call the Crime Stoppers tips line ANONYMOUSLY. This includes violent offences, bullying, online harassment, illegal weapons, illicit drugs, or gang activity and recruitment. Tipsters could be eligible for a reward of up to \$5,000.

"The police can't be everywhere and learning even the smallest detail about who's behind gang activity is valuable intel in making arrests. All police want is the information, not your identity," Annis adds.

"See Something, Say Something"

As in previous years, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers' "See Something, Say Something" school program is about to resume, going into local classrooms to provide students in grades eight and 10 with education on the importance of giving ANONYMOUS tips to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. To date, the program has reached more than 200,000 students. More information on the "See Something, Say Something" school program is available at [SolveCrime.ca](https://solvecrime.ca).

(more)

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

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" smartphone app, 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 (Twitter): [@solvecrime](#), Instagram: [metrovanancouvercrimestoppers](#) and You Tube: [@metrovanancouvercrimestoppers](#).

-30-

For media inquiries or interviews please contact:

Trevor Pancoust

tpancoust@pacegroup.com

778.386.0843