



## Crime Prevention Tips



# Importance of Reporting Crime

## Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

### How to report a crime

It is far better to report crime than to suppress valuable information.

Not everybody is comfortable giving personal information to a police officer face-to-face, but there are ways to fulfill your duty as a citizen by reporting what you know confidentially. The only way for enforcement agencies to know when and where crimes are occurring is by receiving reports from the public. A single report will often provide the one missing piece of information that authorities have been looking for.

Valuable information may include:

- Suspect description (White female, mid 30's, tall, thin, etc.)
- Time delay (eg: it happened approximately 4 hours ago)
- Direction of travel (eg: I saw the person walking up Main Street towards York Street)

### Who do you call?

There are many different types of crime and there are different organizations that they can and should be reported to. This list of names and phone numbers can help you if you are a victim of crime, you know of someone who is, or you are a witness to a crime. If you are unsure who to call, and if it is not an emergency, your community police station can direct you to the correct agency.

#### ABUSE OF SENIORS

**Public Guardian and Trustee of BC:** 1-866-437-1940, [www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca) (click on the 'Helping an Adult Get Support & Reporting Abuse' link on the right side of the page)

**BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support (BC CEAS):** 604-437-1940 or toll free 1-866-437-1940

**VictimLink:** 1-800-563-0808 (a provincial toll-free telephone service that provides information and referral services to all victims of crime)

#### BC CRIMESTOPPERS

**1-800-222-TIPS (8477), [www.bccrimestoppers.com](http://www.bccrimestoppers.com)**

If you become aware of criminal activity, you can call Crime Stoppers from anywhere in British Columbia and report what you know. Crime Stoppers is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When you make a call:

- You are never identified
- You never have to give your name or phone number
- Your phone number will not appear in call display
- You never have to testify in court
- You could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest and charge

*(list continues on reverse side)*

**More crime prevention tips: [www.bccpa.org](http://www.bccpa.org)**



## Crime Prevention Tips

# Importance of Reporting Crime



## Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

### **CHILDFIND CANADA: 1-800-387-7962**

CFC is a national organization supporting its provincial members who assist in the search for missing children.

### **CRIMES IN PROGRESS: 911**

If you are not sure what to say, the 9-1-1 call-taker is trained to ask a few quick questions to help determine which agency is required and will connect you accordingly. Once connected to the agency, their dispatcher can, at any time, also contact other agencies to assist. For example, if the BC Ambulance Service receives a call where police are required, they will contact the appropriate police department for assistance.

### **CROSS BORDER SMUGGLING: 1-888-RIG-TIPS (744-8744)**

A toll-free tip line has been established to identify and target Organized Crime groups that prey on drivers who frequently cross the Canada-US border.

### **GROW OPS: 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**

If you think there could be a grow operation in your neighbourhood, you can contact the non-emergency number of your local police department. Refer to the inside front cover of your phone book. If you prefer not to give your name, call the Crime Stoppers TIPS line.

### **IDENTITY THEFT/SCAMS: 1-888-495-8501 [www.phonebusters.com](http://www.phonebusters.com) (click on 'Report it')**

PhoneBusters is the Canadian Anti-Fraud Call Centre managed by the Ontario Provincial Police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Competition Bureau Canada.

### **INSURANCE FRAUD**

Insurance crime affects everyone. When someone steals a car, burglarizes a home, vandalizes property or makes a false or exaggerated claim, everyone has to pay more for insurance. The following organizations

have toll free tip lines open 24 hours a day to report information on insurance fraud:

### **Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) 1-877-422-8477**

### **Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC)**

- Fraud Tip Line: 604-661-6844
- Toll Free: 1-800-661-6844

### **INVESTMENT FRAUD: 1-800-373-6393 [www.investright.org](http://www.investright.org)**

If you have a complaint about an individual or company who sold or advised you about an investment you can report it to British Columbia Securities Commission (BSCS). Within Vancouver call 604-899-6854.

### **ONLINE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN: 604-598-4498, [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca)**

The RCMP Integrated Child Exploitation Team works in conjunction with the RCMP Tech Crime Unit to identify and assist child victims of sexual abuse, identify those responsible for the abuse and to lay appropriate criminal charges for the assaults, creation of the images and their distribution.

### **Reporting Economic Crime Online (RECOL) [www.recol.ca](http://www.recol.ca)**

RECOL provides real time data pertaining to the current fraud trends. It also provides support for education, prevention and awareness of economic crime.

### **YOUTH AGAINST VIOLENCE HOTLINE 1-800-680-4264 [www.youthagainstviolenceline.com](http://www.youthagainstviolenceline.com)**

The YAV Line is a province-wide, 24/7, multilingual resource that provides confidential assistance to young people affected by youth violence or crime. Youth who are worried about their safety, or who want to anonymously report a crime or violent incident – before or after it has occurred – can call for help.

*Educating yourself is your best defense against crime. If you would like more information about any of the resources listed above, please call the BC Crime Prevention Resource Centre at 604-291-9959 ext. 231.*