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Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility

November 1 – 7 is Crime Prevention Week in BC. This year's theme - Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility - was chosen to remind all citizens that they play a key role in preventing crime and in keeping their communities safe throughout the year. Crime prevention is a collaborative effort between police and citizens in our community.

Everyday across the province, citizens are impacted by the effects of crime in our communities. The BC Crime Prevention Association, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Safe Communities Working Group are working to change this through a province-wide crime prevention campaign aimed at educating British Columbians about creating safer and healthier communities.

Since 1983, Crime Prevention Week has been an annual event that runs nationally during the first week in November. It provides an opportunity to bring members of the community together to participate in events that promote and support crime prevention and safe neighborhoods. Organizers are hopeful people will take the time to learn about simple everyday crime prevention techniques and implement these techniques in their communities.

According to Police Services Division's *Crime Summary Statistics*, in 2005 crimes against persons (violent offences) represented 10% (51,671) of all Criminal Code offences, crimes against property accounted for 52% (265,246), while the remaining 38% (191,354) were other crimes. These proportions have remained relatively constant over the last decade.

"Public awareness and involvement are keys to preventing crime and achieving safety in every community," says Valerie MacLean, Executive Director of the BC Crime Prevention Association. "Many people don't realize how susceptible they can be to crime. Crime Prevention Week gives communities an opportunity to come together, to learn about crime prevention and their role in keeping themselves, their streets and their schools safe," adds MacLean.

B.C. Citizen Patrol Network, Crime Free Multi-Housing, Crime Watch, and Youth Asset Network (YAN) are all examples of BCCPA programs that assist with crime prevention in communities throughout the province.

"Community safety begins with every British Columbian recognizing the importance of crime prevention and working together to build safer communities," says John Les, BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. "Crime Prevention Week aims to raise awareness of how communities can work together in creating a safer society."

Each day of CP Week focuses on a specific topic:

- November 1: Youth Gang Violence

- November 2: Investment Fraud
- November 3: Seniors Safety
- November 4: Mortgage Fraud
- November 5: Mentorship
- November 6: Identity Theft
- November 7: Home Security

For more information about BC Crime Prevention Week or any of these topics, please visit:
www.bccpa.org/bccpa/crimepreventionweek.htm

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