# 

MAGAZINE

Issue 2, 2019

# ELDER ABUSE

IT'S TIME TO FACE THE REALITY

BACKYARD &

GARAGE

security tips

RCMP Alberta's

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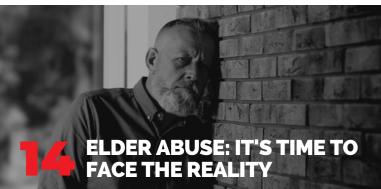




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Did you know that Crime Stoppers is completely privately funded? Please consider a donation to help Crime Stoppers prevent and solve crimes.

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# A Message FROM CRIME STOPPERS

Hello and thank you for picking up our magazine!

This issue contains valuable information on fraud prevention for seniors, how to spot signs of elder abuse, the RCMP's Most Wanted Wednesdays Campaign and Crime Stoppers statistics for the first half of 2019.

We hope you enjoy this issue. If you want to help our organization, please consider donating to us.

Crime Stoppers is a charitable not-for-profit, community crime prevention organization that allows tipsters to anonymously report information about crimes and suspicious behaviour. Tips can be submitted online via p3tips.com or by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Our program would not run without the generous support of our donors (you can find out how you can help on page 45). And this magazine would not be possible without the support of our advertisers, many of which you will see on the forthcoming pages.

If you'd like to know more about Crime Stoppers or sign up to receive our free magazine directly, visit our website crimestoppers.ab.ca/edmonton.









# HOW TO ENSURE YOUR **GARAGE AND** BACKYARD ARE SECURE

#### Edmonton Police Service

Garages are a favourite target for criminals. Be sure windows are curtained so thieves can't look for items to steal or check to see if your car is there. The door betweenyour house and attached garage should swing inward, be solid core and have a deadbolt lock. Here are some other tips to help you keep your garage safe.

Keep your garage locked, even when you are at home

If the overhead garage door is roller and track operated, install a lock in the track to block the roller and disconnect your automatic garage door opener before you go on vacation.

Secure your other garage doors with deadbolts.

Install lights near your garage to keep the area lit.

Have a remote control garage door opener installed. This will allow you to stay in your locked car until you're inside your locked garage. Be sure the overhead door closes completely after you drive into or out of your garage.

Never leave your automatic garage door opener in a vehicle that is parked outside your home

#### **Backyard Security**

When spring arrives, it's time to give some thought to crime proofing your backyard. Be aware: backyard living spaces, and the barbeques, patio furniture and bikes they house, are prime targets for thieves.

Review these tips to burglar proof your yard.

## 1.Install Motion Sensor Lighting

- > Light areas that are in darkness near the home, such as around windows and doors and exterior buildings such as unattachedgarages and sheds.
- > Motion sensor lighting is a cost effective way to accomplish this as it is activated when movement occurs in a given area and turns off after a set period of time.
- > Position sensor lights to cover sidewalks leading to any door, deck, patio area, or stairways.
- > For additional security, put sensor lights at any entry way to the house or backyard.
- > Place your motion sensor lights approximately 10 feet above the ground so the lights cannot be easily tampered with.

# 2. Protect Outdoor Belongings

The following outdoor belongings are often targeted by thieves:

> Ladders: If you keep ladders out, be sure to chain or padlock them. A ladder can be used to gain entry to second story windows. If at all possible, store the ladders in a shed or garage.

- > Tools: Put tools away after a day of yard work. Lock them in a shed or in an enclosed garage area. Screwdrivers, hammers and pry bars can be used to break into your home, garage, or vehicle.
- > Tables and chairs: Use a chain or a cable to lock your patio furniture.
- > Bicycles and other ride-on toys: Always put them in a garage or shed. If you do not have either, lock them to something that can't be moved.

### 3. Record And Identify Outdoor Property

> Recording serial numbers or distinctive features of your valuable outdoor property in an inventory description list is recommended. Taking pictures of these items is also useful and can assist the police in recovering any property that is stolen.

# 4. Lay Claim To Your Property

> Engrave your name, address or other unique identifier on your belongings and place them in discrete locations so they won't be noticed.
Recording where you place these identifying marks in the inventory description list is recommended

#### 5. Fencing

Strong fencing is important for a number of reasons, including the reinforcement it provides for property owners. A strong, high fence not only keeps out most burglars, it keeps animals out as well. If you have a fence:

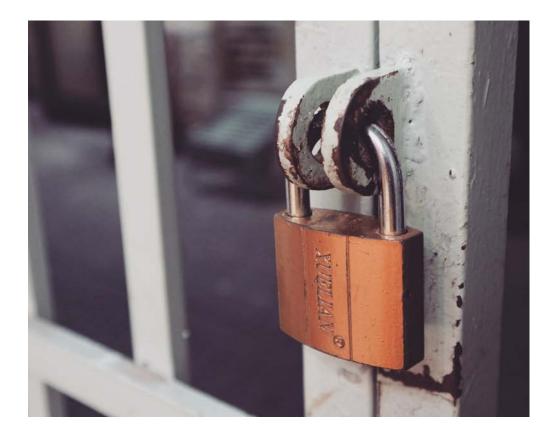
- > Check for holes and damage that may need repair.
- > Ensure locking mechanisms are working properly. A lock or latch that self closes and can be padlocked when you are away is recommended. Don't make access to the latch too obvious.

### 6. Landscaping and Yard Maintenance

Landscaping and yard maintenance is an important part of deterring theft on or around your property.

- > Eliminate hiding spots by trimming trees and shrubs. A pruned and maintained yard robs intruders of hiding places. Ensure trees limbs are trimmed high enough and shrubs are trimmed low enough to not hide a trespasser.
- > If you do decide to leave shrubs and trees larger, consider plants that can hinder thieves. Rose bushes, berry bushes, Firethorn, and Hawthorne are good examples.

Continued on pg. 8



> Mow your lawn and keep your yard clean. An untended lawn is a potential sign that you don't care about your home and may have left a way in.

### 7. Know Your Neighbours

Neighbours are one of the best theft and burglary deterrents. Get to know who lives around you. Simply being aware of one another and keeping an eye out for suspicious activities can prevent criminal activity.



You don't need a policing background to become a member of the Edmonton Police Service. Every year we hire people from a wide variety of backgrounds. They all have different educational backgrounds, career paths, and reasons for joining. But the one thing they do have in common is the desire to serve the citizens of Edmonton.

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### Welcome to Edmonton, Chief McFee!

On March 26, 2019, members of the Crime Stoppers board met with the Edmonton Police Service's Chief Dale McFee, Supt. Debbie Jolly and Cst. P. Hannas.

The Crime Stoppers team officially welcomed Chief McFee to Edmonton and had a great discussion about our partnership and future initiatives to prevent and reduce crime.

Thank you to Chief McFee and his team for hosting the meeting at EPS headquarters. We look forward to working together!



(Photo L-R: Mark H., Past-President, Crime Stoppers Edmonton and Northern Alberta and President, Crime Stoppers Alberta; Cst. P. Hannas, EPS; Chief Dale McFee, EPS; Shawn T., President, Crime Stoppers Edmonton and Northern Alberta; Supt. Debbie Jolly, EPS).

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# Elder Abuse: It's Time To Face The Reality

Government of Canada and Edmonton Police Service

One in five Canadians believes they know of a senior who might be experiencing some form of abuse. Seniors from all walks of life are vulnerable to elder abuse and it is happening in communities across Canada.

#### What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse is any action by someone in a relationship of trust that results in harm or distress to an older person.

Neglect is a lack of action by that person in a relationship of trust with the same result.

Commonly recognized types of elder abuse include physical, psychological and financial.

Often, more than one type of abuse occurs at the same time.

Abuse can be a single incident or a repeated pattern of behaviour.

Financial abuse is the most commonly reported type of elder abuse.

# Why does elder abuse happen?

Elder abuse often occurs because of the abuser's power and control over an older person. In some situations, the abuse may also result from addiction issues (drugs, alcohol or gambling), mental health problems, a cycle of family violence or ageism. Abuse can happen when the aggressor wants to intimidate, isolate, dominate or control another person.

#### Who abuses seniors?

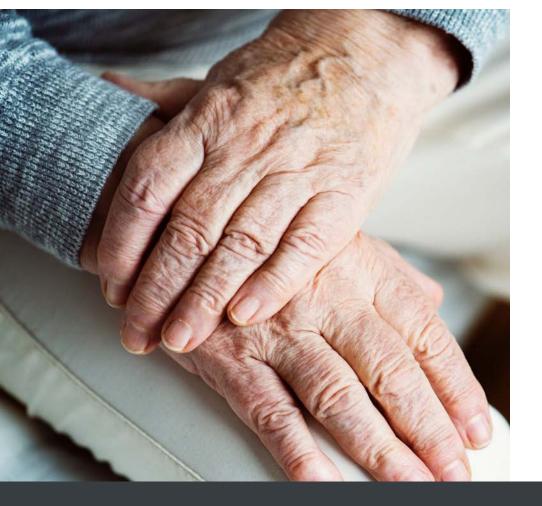
Older adults affected by abuse often know and trust the person mistreating them. Elder abuse can be caused by a family member, a friend, someone who provides assistance with basic needs or services, or health care providers in institutional settings. In many situations of elder abuse, the abuser is dependent on the older adult for money, food or shelter.

### Who is affected by elder abuse?

Most older people who experience abuse are able to make decisions for themselves.

Abuse can happen to anyone, in any family or relationship. It can happen to people of all backgrounds, ages, religions, races, cultures and ethnic origins.

Continued on pg. 17



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# Why are some older adults reluctant to talk about elder abuse?

Older adults may feel ashamed or embarrassed to tell anyone they are being abused by someone they trust. They may fear retaliation or punishment, or they may have concerns about having to move from their home or community. They may also feel a sense of family loyalty. Often, older adults may not be aware of people and resources that can help.

### Who can help?

It is important that the older person have access to information to make informed decisions and be aware of available help. This may include support and assistance from family members or friends, health care providers, social services, police, legal professionals and/or members of faith communities. No one ever deserves to be abused or neglected.

# What are indicators of elder abuse and neglect?

Elder abuse and neglect can be very difficult to detect. The following signs and symptoms may indicate that an older adult is being victimized or neglected:

> fear, anxiety, depression or

### Types of Elder Abuse

- 1. Physical Abuse Physical abuse includes any kind of physical assault, such as slapping, pushing, kicking, punching, or injuring with an object or weapon. It also includes deliberate exposure to severe weather, inappropriate use of medication and unnecessary physical restraint.
- **2. Sexual Abuse -** Sexual abuse includes any forced sexual activity.
- 3. Psychological Abuse Psychological abuse includes humiliation, isolation, intimidation, threats, and inappropriate control of activities. Removal of decision making power when the elderly person is still competent to make his/her own decision is also considered to be psychological abuse.
- **4. Financial Abuse -** Financial Abuse includes the misuse of the elderly person's funds or property through fraud, trickery or force.
- **5. Medication Abuse -** This is the misuse of an older person's medications and prescriptions on purpose or by accident. It may include withholding medication, overmedicating or not complying with prescriptions refills.
- 6. Neglect Neglect is any lack of action required to meet the needs of an elderly person. It includes inadequate provision of food, clothing, shelter, required medication or other kinds of health and personal care, as well as social companionship.

passiveness in relation to a family member, friend or care provider;

- > unexplained physical injuries;
- > dehydration, poor nutrition or poor hygiene;
- > improper use of medication;
- confusion about new legal documents, such as a new will or a new mortgage;

- > sudden drop in cash flow or financial holdings; and
- > reluctance to speak about the situation

Raising awareness among seniors about their right to live safely and securely is seen as the most important issue for governments when it comes to elder abuse, with nine in 10 Canadians (90.5 per cent) rating it as a high priority.

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#### **Passive Neglect:**

The unintentional failure to fulfill a care taking obligation; infliction of distress without conscious or willful intent; etc.

#### **Active Neglect:**

The intentional failure to fulfill care-giving obligations; infliction of physical or emotional stress or injury; abandonment; denial of food, medication, personal hygiene; etc.

Abuse happens when one person hurts or mistreats another. Remember:

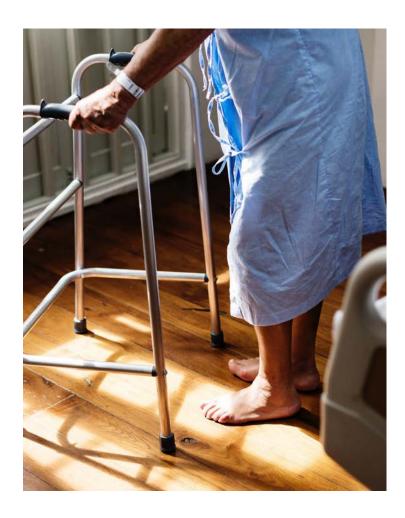
- > Seniors are entitled to respect.
- > Seniors have every right to live in safety and security.
- > There is no excuse for abuse

### Where can I report it?

In Edmonton, to report elder abuse, contact the EPS Complaint line at 780-423-4567.

In Alberta, contact your local RCMP detachment.

96 per cent of Canadians think most of the abuse experienced by older adults is hidden or goes undetected (2008 survey).





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### **JANUARY - JUNE 2019 STATISTICS**

Combined statistics from Edmonton & Northern Alberta

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\$31,175 REWARDS AUTHORIZED

\$268,140 DRUGS SEIZED

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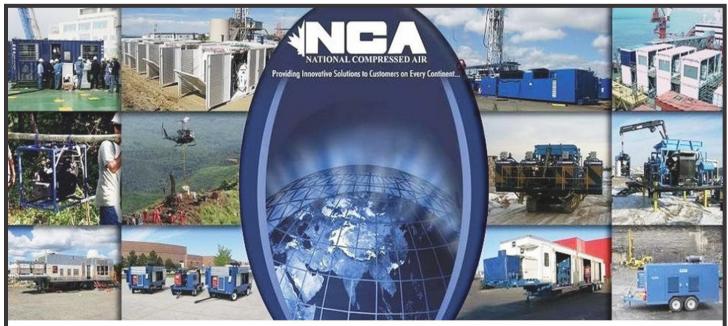
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# **ALBERTA RCMP'S #WANTED** WEDNESDAY **CAMPAIGN**

On May 13, as part of their ongoing goal of reducing crime, the Alberta RCMP launched the #WantedWednesday initiative. The initiative takes the images, names and area of operation of the most prolific offenders in the province and shares them on Facebook at @RCMPinAlberta (@GRCenAlberta) and on Twitter at @RCMPAlberta (@GRCAlberta). The RCMP hopes that by providing the public with this information, more tips will be submitted leading to arrests.

The decision to implement the #WantedWednesday initiative was based on information that the majority of crime across the province is being committed by a relatively small number of criminals who frequently strike in smaller rural communities. While the crimes they commit are generally nonviolent, the number of times these communities are targeted not only directly affects the citizens, it places a massive burden on police resources.

The #WantedWednesday initiative is designed to utilize the resources available to law enforcement in the most efficient and effective ways possible. Apprehending the offenders who are committing the most crime across the province will free up resources for other investigations, reduce pressure on law enforcement across the province and increase safety in the communities that the offenders target.



The offenders featured in #WantedWednesday are chosen based on two main factors. The first factor is they all have active warrants. The second factor is a complex statistical analysis based on the Crime Severity Index (CSI) produced by Stats Canada. The CSI provides law enforcement with metrics to understand the levels of crime across the country. Each crime is assigned a 'weight' based on their severity. Certain crimes, like violating the liquor act, have a score of zero whereas a break and enter can score 216.67.

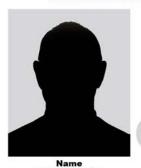
The Alberta RCMP takes the same statistics and instead of applying them to a location, they apply the numbers to individual offenders. This way, the RCMP determines which individuals commit the most crime in the province. In Alberta, there are over 80,000 offenders, and the average CSI score for offenders is only 134.04; however, the top 20 percent of offenders in Alberta RCMP jurisdiction make up 70 percent of the CSI score. The top 300 offenders have a higher combined score than the City of Grande Prairie which has a population of over 63,000. Most recently, Alberta's top offender scored over 5,500.



### Wanted

These individuals are wanted by the RCMP for various crimes. They have been selected based on an analysis of their criminal history. **DO NOT APPROACH.** Report any information to police in your area or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

Warrants must NOT be acted upon without first confirming the validity of the record with the originating agency.



ast known location

Areas of activity



Last known location

Areas of activity



Name
Last known location
Areas of activity



Last known location

Areas of activity

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## Recherché(e)

Ces individus sont recherchés par la GRC pour divers crimes. Ils ont été sélectionnés en fonction d'une analyse de leurs antécédents criminels.

NE VOUS EN APPROCHEZ PAS. Si vous avez des renseignements, communiquez-les au service de police de votre région ou à Échec au crime au 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

Les mandats NE doivent PAS être exécutés sans confirmation préalable de la validité du dossier auprès du service de police émetteur.



Lieu où l'individu a été vu pour la dernière fois



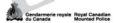
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The Alberta RCMP uses the information that they gather through their analysis to compile a list of the top offenders across the province. The list, consisting of around 10-15 people for each of Alberta's four RCMP districts, is shared with all the detachments in the province. With this information the RCMP is able to focus their efforts more effectively. Because the offenders frequently cross detachment jurisdictions, it also provides the detachments in the surrounding areas with an advance warning to be on the look out for the offenders who may potential start to operate in the communities that they protect. Once this information is shared across the detachments, the four offenders with the highest CSI scores are then featured in the #WantedWednesday post. The offenders featured on the #WantedWednesday posts frequently change. Because the initiative is based on an analysis of the previous 18 months it is possible for someone to be removed from the list if they stop committing crime, or if they move outside of Alberta RCMP jurisdiction. In the event that someone rises higher on the CSI, an individual is apprehended, or need to be removed for other reasons, the Alberta RCMP will post new pictures the following Wednesday.

While the initiative is still in its infancy the RCMP has noticed positive effects already. Since it's inception the #WantedWednesday posts have been shared over 1700 times on social media reaching more than 125,000 people. With the help of the public the RCMP has managed to apprehend several of Alberta's top offenders. While the RCMP is pleased with these early numbers they hope to increase the spread of information. They encourage the public to continue to share the #WantedWednesday posts on their social media to help raise awareness and generate tips on the offender's locations.



The RCMP will continue to utilize the #WantedWednesday initiative, and to work with their partners and the public to ensure a safe Alberta. The RCMP reminds the public that if they see any of the offenders from the #WantedWednesday posts to not approach them, instead contact law enforcement. They can also report the offender's location anonymously via Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or at p3tips.com. Visit the Alberta RCMP's social media every Wednesday at @RCMPinAlberta (@GRCenAlberta) on Facebook and at @RCMPAlberta (@GRCAlberta) on Twitter to stay up to date and help keep Alberta safe by sharing the #WantedWednesday posts with your friends and family on social media.

### **JIM MARTIN**

Safety Coordinator / Recruiter



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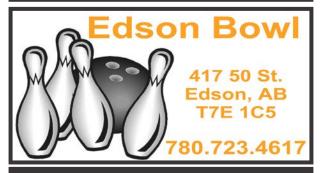
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# WHAT EVERY OLDER CANADIAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT:

SCAMS

Source: Government of Canada

Fraud is the number one crime against older Canadians. Though people of all ages can be victims of fraud, older people get targeted more than others. Some of the reasons are that they are often home during the day to answer the door or phone, they can be more trusting and they may not have family or friends close by to ask for a second opinion.

People who commit fraud and scams are commonly known as con artists. Con artists don't just target people who have a lot of money. A con artist may steal a small amount from many people. They use a variety of ways to reach people, including the Internet, phone calls and even door-to-door visits.

# VICTOR'S STORY

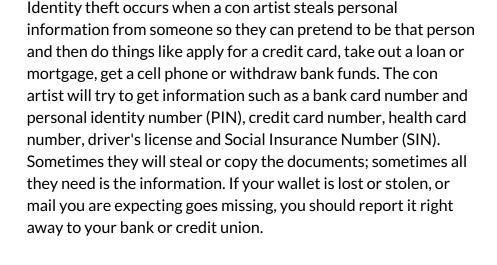
Victor received a phone call telling him that he had won a free trip. The caller started by congratulating Victor and telling him about the exciting details of the trip. Then the caller told Victor he needed to pay a small fee right away in order to claim his trip and asked Victor for his credit card number. Victor knew he had not entered a contest for a free trip and he also knew he should not give his credit card number over the phone to a stranger, especially one who called him. Victor hung up and called PhoneBusters to report a probable scam.

Continued on Pg. 32

### **IDENTITY** THEFT



**CREDIT/DEBIT CARD FRAUD** 



Credit card and debit card fraud occurs when a con artist uses your card, or a copy, to make purchases or withdraw money from your account. Keeping your card in sight, memorizing your PIN, and shielding your hand when you enter your PIN are ways you can reduce the risk of your credit card or debit card information being stolen and misused.

ONLINE **SCAMS** 



There are many online scams and new ones appear all the time. Some appear to be asking for your help; some say there is a problem with your bank account or tax return. Scam e-mails are often easy to spot because of spelling and other mistakes, but some can look like they are coming from a person or organization that you know. If you are not sure about an e-mail for example, if it asks you to respond with personal or financial information or to go to another website and enter information there - call to check, and do not respond to the e-mail.



# PHONE & DOOR-TO-DOOR SCAMS

Phone and door-to-door scams are also very common. Someone will call or come to your door pretending to be a representative of a charity, an employee of a credit card company, or even a distant relative. You might bve offered a free prize or trip. If you aren't completely sure who you are dealing with, do not give the person any money or information.

Sometimes people call or come to your door using high-pressure sales tactics to get you to buy something you don't want or need, or to talk you into getting work done on your house and then overcharging you or doing a bad job. While this is not always illegal, it is wrong and should be reported.

# TIPS AND SAFEGUARDS

- Keep all personal documents in a secure place. If you don't need them, do not carry your birth certificate, passport, or SIN card.
- Never tell another person your PIN or account passwords and take care to cover your hand when entering your PIN at bank machines and when making store purchases.
- Safely dispose of old bills and statements shredding is best.
- Do not click on pop-up windows or respond to e-mails, open attachments or go to website links sent by people you do not know. Your bank or credit union will not send you anything by e-mail unless you ask them to.
- Never give out your credit card, bank account, or personal information to someone over the phone, at the door, or over the Internet unless you know the person or organization you are dealing with, or you made the contact.
- Do not sign an agreement or contract to buy anything without giving yourself time to think it over. If a salesperson insists that an "offer" is "time limited" and you must decide that moment, it is probably better not to buy.
- Be suspicious if someone you don't know asks you to send them money or a cheque, or to return money the "accidentally" sent you.
- Before hiring someone or agreeing to have work done on your home, ask for proof of identity and references and check them.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I **HAVE BEEN SCAMMED?**

All fraud and scams should be reported, even if you are embarrassed or feel the amount of money is too small to worry about. While you might not be able to get your money back, you can help stop the con artist from scamming other people.

Report all fraud and scams to your local police.

### WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

There are many good online sources of information about fraud and scams. The **Financial Consumer Agency** of Canada website (www.canada.ca/en/financial -consumer-agency.html) provides information about your rights in dealing with banks and other financial institutions.

For more information, visit Canada.ca/Seniors or visit your local Service Canada office.









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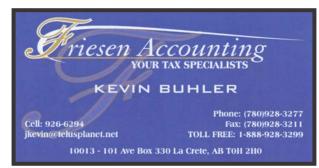
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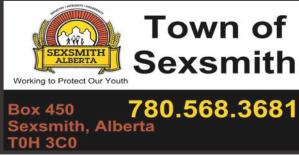




















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# Welcome back to Alberta, Commanding Officer Zablocki!

Members of the Crime Stoppers board had the opportunity to meet with 'K' Division Commanding Officer Curtis Zablocki and Supt. Peter Tewfik on April 23, 2019.

The meeting was a wonderful opportunity to welcome CO Zablocki back to Alberta and introduce the Crime Stoppers Executive.

Crime Stoppers would like to thank CO Zablocki and Supt. Tewfik for their time. Our Board members valued the opportunity to discuss our partnership with the RCMP and how we can work together to continue to reduce crime in our communities. We look forward to collaborating on future initiatives.



(Photo L-R: Shawn T., President, Crime Stoppers Edmonton and Northern Alberta; Mark H., Past-President, Crime Stoppers Edmonton and Northern Alberta and President, Crime Stoppers Alberta; CO Zablocki, RCMP; Supt. Tewfik, RCMP; Jerry B., Vice President, Crime Stoppers Edmonton and Northern Alberta).



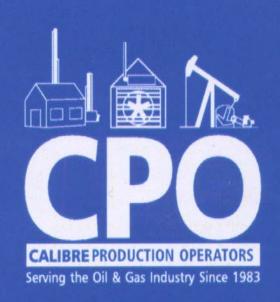
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# **HAVE INFO ABOUT** CRIME?

## HOW DO I LEAVE A TIP?

Crime Stoppers exists primarily as a means of collecting information from the public anonymously. Tipsters contact Crime Stoppers by phone or online through p3tips.com or by downloading the app.

When you use any of these methods, you will be given a unique tipster number. This number should be kept secret and recorded, as it is how you will be able to follow up on your tip to either add additional information or check to see if there was a reward.

## WHAT HAPPENS **NEXT TO MY TIP?**

Crime Stoppers take the information given by the tipster and distributes it to the appropriate law enforcement agency (i.e. to the Edmonton Police Service in Edmonton and the RCMP in Northern Alberta).

## **AMIREALLY ANONYMOUS?**

We do everything we can to protect your anonymity because we know that by disclosing important information about a crime, having your identity revealed might put you at risk. The only time your anonymity may be open to challenge is in the following situations:

- A call to Crime Stoppers made with the intention of "furthering" criminal activity or interfering with the administration of justice". A party who is guilty of a crime cannot use Crime Stoppers to try to divert the blame onto someone else. Crime Stoppers cannot be used to try to "frame" an innocent person.
- There is evidence that disclosure of some or all of a tip is necessary to establish someone's innocence.
- A tipster having received the benefit of full legal advice may, for his or her own reasons, elect to waive the privilege.
- A full and more detailed explanation of these principles can be found on the Canadian Crime Stoppers website canadiancrimestoppers.org

# **WHAT HAPPENS** WHEN AN **ARREST IS** MADE?

If the tip information helped the police make an arrest, the officer on the file will submit a form to the Crime Stoppers board stating this. The board meets monthly to review the solved cases and determine a reward amount (between \$50 and \$2,000) for the tipster. At this point, a note is made on the file.

## HOW DO I **CHECK MY** TIP?

To check whether your tip has become eligible for a reward, you must call the tipline (1-800-222-8477) and provide your tipster number. The call taker will check to see if a reward has been authorized for that tip.

# IF MY TIP **RECEIVES A** REWARD, HOW DO I PICK IT UP?

Crime Stoppers works with ATB Financial to distribute the tip rewards. If your tip received a reward, you will be able to choose any ATB branch in Alberta to pick up your reward. The branch will prepare an unmarked envelope with cash. You can walk into the branch, simply provide your tipster number, and walk out with the money. Your tipster number is the only information they ask for - another reason why it is important to keep this number secret so that no one else can pick up your reward.

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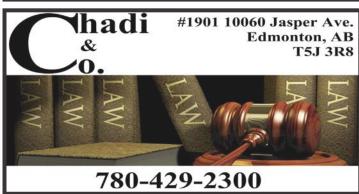












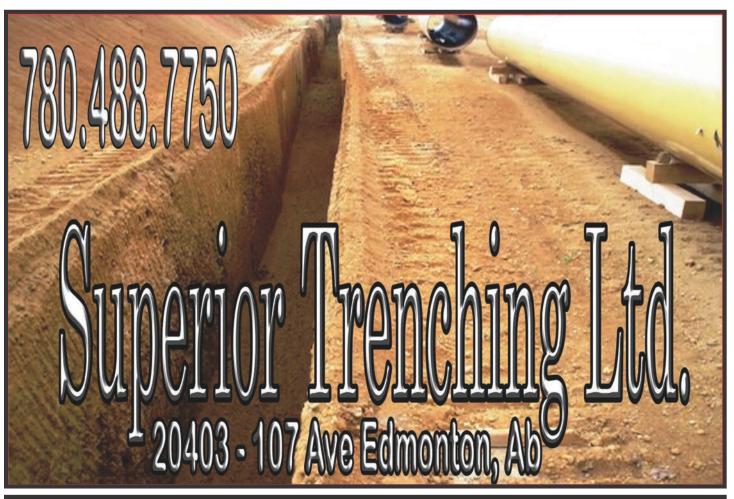








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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** 

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