

CRIME STOPPERS

MAGAZINE



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**IDENTITY
THEFT**

PROJECT LOCK UP TURNS ONE

The Alberta RCMP share an update on this key initiative and its impact on the province.

2019 STATISTICS

Crime Stoppers had a record-breaking year for tips, arrests and seizures.



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A Message FROM CRIME STOPPERS

Dear Readers,

Thanks to the generosity of people like **YOU**, Crime Stoppers continues to help police solve crime in our community and take criminals off the streets.

In 2019, Crime Stoppers received over **5500** tips, leading to **238** arrests, over **\$1.14M** in drugs seized and over **\$1M** in property and cash recovered.

To say this has been a banner year is an understatement. These statistics were substantially higher than 2018—which for us, reinforces the incredible need for us to continue to provide an anonymous tip line for individuals to report crime and suspicious behaviour.

At Crime Stoppers, we are not able to discuss specific crimes, however, we can tell you that in the last year through information received we:

- have helped reunite a missing youth with his/her family;
- assisted police in taking a significant amount of drugs off the street;
- shared information with the police about habitual impaired drivers; and
- made police aware of individuals and related criminal activity previously unknown to them.

These are just a few examples!

We authorized over **\$50,000** in rewards over the last year to thank the public for coming forward with these tips that are critical to solving crime.

That's why we need your **HELP**—Crime Stoppers relies solely on private donations to operate the anonymous tip reporting service. Please consider a donation to Crime Stoppers, we appreciate **EVERY DOLLAR** that comes in.

Your support means that **YOU** will be contributing to reducing and preventing crime in Edmonton and Northern Alberta. Donate online at crimestoppers.ab.ca/edmonton or see page 41 to donate by mail.

Thank you for reading our magazine, we hope you enjoy this issue. If you'd like to know more about Crime Stoppers, or sign up to receive our free magazine directly by mail, visit our website crimestoppers.ab.ca/Edmonton or email info@crimestoppers.ab.ca.

~ Crime Stoppers of Edmonton and Northern Alberta

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CPTED:

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Edmonton Police Service

EPS first and only Service in world to offer accredited CPTED courses

The Edmonton Police Service's (EPS) Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) courses have received full accreditation by the International CPTED Association (ICA) — a significant milestone for the service.

"EPS is now the first and, currently, only police service to offer accredited CPTED courses in the World," said Sergeant Paul Looker of the EPS Crime Prevention Unit.

The exciting accomplishment was achieved just before the New Year, when on

December 31, the EPS' CPTED (pronounced 'sep-ted') Basic and CPTED Advanced courses were granted with a Class A accreditation status by the ICA.

"This means that anyone that now takes and passes both the Basic and Advanced courses with EPS, can fast-track their professional designation as a Certified CPTED Practitioner with the ICA," said Sgt. Looker.

The ICA is an association of some of the most experienced researchers and practitioners around the world. It supports local organizations, practitioners, and communities that utilize CPTED principals to create safer communities and environments.

"It all started when EPS course attendees started asking how they could become certified CPTED practitioners, like Constable John Beatson and me," said Sgt. Looker.

To achieve accreditation, the EPS CPTED courses had to include a minimum of eight units of the ICA's core competencies and contain a field project that puts these eight units of competency into practice.

"We had to ensure they met the ICA competency framework, and the information was all accurate and current," said Sgt. Looker.

"But it was worth it, as we felt that by earning the accreditation status, it would enhance our CPTED courses and add credibility for those attending and then returning to their places of work."

how the physical environment can have a direct relationship with human behaviour and how modifying that environment can reduce crime opportunities.

CPTED Advanced is a four-day course developed to include advanced first-generation CPTED concepts and second-generation CPTED. Upon completion,



The EPS' CPTED Basic is a three-day course developed to introduce CPTED principles: natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, and maintenance. Students learn

students will have the skills to complete CPTED inspections and reports as well as identify solutions for individual property up to neighbourhood scale-level issues.

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Poor environmental design influences fear of crime and the opportunities for crime to take place. Known globally as a way of "Designing Out Crime," CPTED is a multi-disciplinary approach and a proven method for reducing actual crime and fear of crime by changing the physical environment.

This change could be anything from clearly defining the boundaries of where your property begins and ends, to directing how people can enter and leave a building or neighbourhood by use of walkways, flowerbeds,

bushes, and groundcovers such as gravel or woodchips.

"The CPTED strategies aim to reduce victimization and deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts," said Sgt. Looker. "It builds a sense of community among inhabitants, so they can gain territorial control of areas and reduce opportunities for crime and fear of crimes."

EPS' accreditation enables future students to be able to accomplish critical steps to apply for and earn their ICCP certification for professionals.

These courses are open to law enforcement officers (peace officers, by-law), city planners, architects, private security managers, private and public sector property managers, and other members of the community who are interested in crime prevention.

For further information regarding CPTED or EPS CPTED courses, please contact CPTED@edmontonpolice.ca.

An example of Surveillance from NET's CPTED quick guide to steps Edmontonians can take to make their property safer.



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SEX TRAFFICKING

EPS WANTS SEX BUYERS TO RETHINK THEIR CHOICE

Edmonton Police Service

Sex sells. But not in Canada.

"Buying sex is illegal here," says Detective Dan Duiker.

Duiker is a member of the Edmonton Police Service's elite Human Trafficking and Exploitation Unit (HTEU).

HTEU regularly conducts operations using online ads to ensnare sex buyers.

Duiker's cell phone dings constantly as he receives text messages from men who think they are talking to the women in the ads.

If the man follows through with his intentions, he is placed under arrest when he arrives at the rendezvous point.

"A lot of people believe buying sex is a victimless crime. It's not," Duiker says. "What police are doing is protecting vulnerable individuals from being exploited."

Individuals like Samantha.

Samantha was 16-years old the first time she had sex for money.

She was trafficked by her boyfriend.

"He groomed me using liquor and drugs," she recalls. "He told me we would be rich and live a fabulous lifestyle."

But first she had to sell herself on the streets.

"The men who purchase sex," Samantha says, "forget the person they are buying sex from is a woman who is the same as their mother, or their sister, or their daughter. And before they purchase sex they need to ask, would they be okay with their mother, their daughter, or their sister selling sex?"



Ralph was 17 years old the first time he had sex with a prostitute. It was the start of a 35-year long sex addiction that only ended when he was arrested by members of HTEU during a sting operation.

Married with three children, Ralph broke down in front of the police officers and "admitted I wanted to be caught."

He swore he would make up for every dollar spent exploiting vulnerable women over the years. Today, he is a speaker at STOP, a court diversion program for first time offenders.

Offenders who successfully complete the program have their charges withdrawn. But, as Duiker points out, "there is still the chance of negative outcomes."

In January EPS launched an online awareness campaign called "Rethink Your Choice".



The campaign highlights some of the unexpected consequences sex buyers could face even after charges have been withdrawn.

"There's the shame and embarrassment if your family and friends find out," Duiker says.

Your ability to travel could be affected, too.

Even if charges have been stayed in Canada, American border agents can deny entry based on "moral interpeptide".

The "Rethink Your Choice" campaign has been seen over 300,000 times on Facebook where it has garnered comments both positive and negative.

"This is not about the police wanting to get involved with people's personal lives," Duiker says. "It's about stopping exploitation, plain and simple."

Thinking of buying sex?

It's time to rethink your choice.





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How to protect yourself from **IDENTITY THEFT**

Never provide personal information through the internet or by email. The CRA does not ask you to provide personal information by email.

Be suspicious if you are ever asked to pay taxes or fees to the CRA on lottery or sweepstakes winnings. You do not have to pay taxes or fees on these types of winnings. These requests are scams.

Keep your access codes, user ID, passwords, and PINs secret.

Keep your address current with all government departments and agencies.

Choose your tax preparer carefully! Make sure you choose someone you trust and check their references. Always review your return, agree with the content before filing, and follow up to make sure you receive your notice of assessment, since it contains important financial and personal information that belongs to you.

Monitor your tax accounts by registering for an account with CRA. Once registered, sign up for email notifications (account alerts), which will notify you of changes made to your accounts (e.g. change in address or direct deposit

information) or if paper mail from the CRA was returned.

Before supporting any charity, use the CRA website to find out if the charity is registered and get more information on the way it does business.

Be careful before you click on links in any email you receive. Some criminals may be using a technique known as phishing to steal your personal information when you click on the link.

Caller ID is a useful function. However, the information displayed can be altered by criminals. Never use only the displayed information to confirm the identity of the caller whether it be an individual, a company or a government entity.

Protect your social insurance number. Don't use it as a piece of ID and never reveal it to anyone unless you are certain the person

Continued on page 18

asking for it is legally entitled to that information. If an organization asks for your social insurance number, ask if it is legally required to collect it, and if not, offer other forms of ID.

Pay attention to your billing cycle and ask about any missing account statements or suspicious transactions.

Shred unwanted documents or store them in a secure place. Make sure that documents with your name and SIN are secure.

Immediately report lost or stolen credit or debit cards.

Carry only the ID you need.

Do not write down any passwords or carry them with you.

Ask a trusted neighbour to pick up your mail when you are away or ask that a hold be placed on delivery.

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RCMP

PROJECT LOCK UP'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY

On February 10, 2020, citizen-led groups Alberta Rural Crime Watch, Alberta Citizens on Patrol and Alberta Crime Stoppers joined the Alberta RCMP in marking the first anniversary of Project Lock Up.

The initiative brings together Alberta Sheriffs, Alberta Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement, Alberta Peace Officers and Criminal Intelligence Services Alberta.

Project Lock Up, announced in February 2019, has created a framework enabling the RCMP and its enforcement and citizen-led partners to provide an enhanced response to repeat victims of property crime. This collaborative, intelligence-led initiative also aims to reduce property crime and build trust between citizens and law enforcement.

RCMP Crime Reduction Analysts review data from calls to police to identify the areas where break and enters occur most often. Law enforcement and citizen-led stakeholder groups then use gathered intelligence to guide patrols and enhance oversight in the areas hit hardest by break and enters.

As part of Project Lock Up, RCMP Community Engagement and Outreach Specialists meet with Alberta families and businesses who have been hit the hardest by property crime. RCMP employees listen to victims' stories and work with them to ensure they are not targeted again by applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. Throughout the week of February 10-14, the Alberta RCMP provided an overview of various topics, namely CPTED, the importance of reporting, property marking, partnerships and the Project Lock Up map through social media – on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and Twitter @RCMPAlberta.

Below: Superintendent Peter Tewfik, Alberta RCMP, with the presidents of Alberta citizen-led groups

PROJECT LOCK-UP QUICK FACTS



Project Lock Up is a key initiative of our Crime Reduction Strategy which launched in 2017.

Project Lock Up is an evidence-based approach based on a successful UK model which saw a 30 per cent decrease in residential break and enters.

Thanks to Project Lock Up, the majority of properties that had been categorized as hardest hit by crime have not been targeted by criminals again.

From 2017 to 2019, the number of break and enters has decreased by 4.3 per cent in Alberta RCMP rural jurisdictions.

As part of Project Lock Up, RCMP Community Outreach and engagement Specialists visited 35 property owners in person and provided tips on protecting their property.

Call Back Unit (CBU) employees contacted 121 property owners. The CBU consists of a specialized team designed to handle non-emergency calls for service to create efficiencies and better align its processes.

Alberta RCMP has provided patrol briefings and Crime Map access to Rural Crime Watch and Citizens on Patrol to help be the eyes and ears of police in crime-heavy areas.

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SIMPLE STEPS FOR PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM THEFT

Jennifer Kee, RCMP Community Engagement and Outreach Specialist, has been visiting Albertans being repeatedly targeted by property criminals in their homes since the launch of Project Lock Up. She has heard several concerns in the many community engagement and crime prevention group meetings she has attended.

Jennifer plays a critical role in Project Lock Up, one of the Alberta RCMP's key initiatives as part of its overall Crime Reduction Strategy. In this article, we'll talk about Project Lock Up, Jennifer's role and what Albertans can do to keep their home safe from criminals.



What is Project Lock Up?

In 2017, Alberta RCMP launched its Crime Reduction Strategy which focused on identifying and arresting repeat offenders who we know are responsible for a large majority of crime in the province, especially when it comes to property theft. Project Lock Up is an initiative designed to respond to the other side of the coin: the repeat victims of property crime.

How does it work?

The RCMP and its law enforcement and citizen-led partners like the Alberta Sheriffs, Community Peace Officers, Rural Crime Watch and Citizens on Patrol increase patrols in the hardest-hit places. In addition, citizens who have been repeatedly victimized by property crime receive a more personalized response from the RCMP.

What is Jennifer's role in Project Lock Up?

Jennifer Kee is one of the leads in providing that personalized response to Albertans repeatedly hit by property criminals.

Once we have identified the people hit hardest by property crime, Jennifer schedules a visit to their homes and businesses.

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During the visit, she tries to learn more about what happened and provide them with additional safety recommendations to help prevent future break and enters. In some cases, she will do a full Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment. CPTED is a crime prevention approach that looks at how to change your environment to more effectively deter criminal activity.

Jennifer also provides the property owners she visits a safety checklist to help them build sound crime prevention habits as well as a property marking device to help them recover stolen property if they are targeted again.

Last but not least, she informs the property owners that the area will receive an enhanced police response and advise them of some of the things they can do to help with that.

I want Albertans to know that they can count on the RCMP – we are listening to the communities we serve. With the help of our partners, Project Lock Up enables us to respond to the individuals who have been affected most by property crime.

*Deputy Commissioner Curtis Zablocki,
Commanding Officer, Alberta RCMP*

What are the common security issues you see in people's homes and businesses? What can they do about it?

The most common issue Jennifer sees is that valuables are left in plain sight and not enough lighting around the home or business. You have to remember that most criminals are looking for the easiest score and do not want to be seen. Here are a few simple crime prevention tips:

- Always lock your home, vehicles and valuables. Criminals want to grab and go. The less time they have to spend breaking into sheds and houses the better for them.
- Consider installing a motion sensor light around your property.
- Keep your property well-maintained to keep your sight lines clear. Trim your trees to six feet and shrubs to two feet to deter criminals from using them as a place to hide.
- If you can't put your bikes, ATVs and other tools in a locked shed, disable them in some way.
- Use a deadbolt with a one-inch throw and a three-inch screw on your main door. A chain is not enough. Make sure your main doors are solid wood or metal.
- Consider installing an alarm system or surveillance camera and post signs saying your home is being monitored.

Continued on page 26

What are the main concerns Albertans voice?

Many Albertans say they are concerned about criminals coming into their home while their family is inside. In reality, that is a very rare occurrence. 99 per cent of criminals avoid confrontation and are looking for an easy score. The best course of action is to take your family to a safe location and call 911 immediately to have police officers dispatched. Police is best equipped to handle such dynamic situations.



Project Lock Up is truly an intelligence-led and collaborative approach to Albertans who have been victimized by break and enters. We find the people who need the most support and along with our partners, work with them to ensure they are never targeted again.

Superintendent Peter Tewfik, Officer in Charge of Crime Reduction Strategies, Alberta RCMP



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-Anonymous

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What are the key things you would want Albertans to know?

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our communities safe. We already talked about how to keep your home and family safe. Here are some things you can do to help your community.



Get to know your neighbours.

Offer to pick up their mail when they are away and keep an eye out on their property. The more you know your neighbours, the easier it will be to spot suspicious activity.



Call the police, no matter how small.

Never hesitate to call the police with reports of suspicious activity or crimes that you may think are too small to report. The information you provide may lead to a bigger investigation. *Trust your instincts!* If something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't.



Get involved with your local Rural Crime Watch or Citizens on Patrol chapter.

Not only will you get a discount on property marking pen, you will really help the RCMP by being its eyes and ears in your community.



Make sure your kids know your physical address and rural address, if you have one.

Knowing your address and making sure address identifiers are visible will really help first responders in an emergency. *If 911 is called, this is the first question they will ask.* Ensure that you have your address posted inside your home and that it can be read easily by your kids.

For more information on Project Lock Up and other crime prevention tips, please visit Alberta RCMP online at youtube.com/rcmpalbertagrc or facebook.com/RCMPinAlberta.

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SLAM **THE** SCAM

Protect Yourself Against Fraud

Canada Revenue Agency

There are many fraud types, including new ones invented daily. Taxpayers should be vigilant when they receive, either by telephone, mail, text message or email, a fraudulent communication that claims to be from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requesting personal information.

These scams may insist that this personal information is needed so that the taxpayer can receive a refund or a benefit payment. Cases of fraudulent communication could also involve threatening or coercive language to scare individuals into paying fictitious debt to the CRA. Other

communications urge taxpayers to visit a fake CRA website where the taxpayer is then asked to verify their identity by entering personal information. These are scams and taxpayers should never respond to these fraudulent communications or click on any of the links provided.

To identify legitimate communications from the CRA, be aware of these guidelines and know what to expect when the CRA contacts you.

BY PHONE

The CRA may...

- ✓ verify your identity by asking for personal information such as your full name, date of birth, address and account, or social insurance number
- ✓ ask for details about your account, in the case of a business inquiry
- ✓ call you to begin an audit process or to offer free tax help for your small business

The CRA will never...

- ✗ ask for information about your passport, health card, or driver's license
- ✗ demand immediate payment by Interac e-transfer, bitcoin, prepaid credit cards or gift cards from retailers such as iTunes, Amazon, or others
- ✗ use aggressive language or threaten you with arrest or sending the police
- ✗ leave voicemails that are threatening or give personal or financial information

Continued on page 32

BY E-MAIL

The CRA may...

- ✓ notify you by email when a new message or document, such as a notice of assessment or reassessment, is available for you to view in secure CRA portals such as My Account, My Business Account, or Represent a Client
- ✓ email you a link to a CRA webpage, form, or publication **that you ask for during** a telephone call or a meeting with an agent (*this is the only case where the CRA will send an email containing links*).

The CRA will never...

- ✗ give or ask for personal or financial information by email and ask you to click on a link
- ✗ email you a link asking you to fill in an online form with personal/financial details or send you an email with a link to your refund
- ✗ demand immediate payment by Interac e-transfer, bitcoin, prepaid credit cards or gift cards
- ✗ threaten you with arrest or a prison sentence

BY MAIL

The CRA may...

- ✓ ask for financial information such as the name of your bank and its location
- ✓ send you a notice of assessment or reassessment
- ✓ ask you to pay an amount you owe through any of the CRA's payment options
- ✓ take legal action to recover the money you owe, if you refuse to pay your debt
- ✓ write to you to begin an audit process or offer free tax help for your small business

The CRA will never...

- ✗ set up a meeting with you in a public place to take a payment
- ✗ demand immediate payment by Interac e-transfer, bitcoin, prepaid credit cards or gift cards
- ✗ threaten you with arrest or a prison sentence

BY TEXT/INSTANT MESSAGING



The CRA never uses text messages or instant messaging such as Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp to communicate with taxpayers under any circumstance. If a taxpayer receives text or instant messages claiming to be from the CRA, they are scams!

Continued on page 34

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WHEN IN DOUBT,

ASK YOURSELF:

- Why is the caller pressuring me to act immediately? Am I certain the caller is a CRA employee?
- Did I file my tax return on time? Have I received a notice of assessment or reassessment saying I owe tax?
- Have I received written communication from the CRA by email or mail about the subject of the call?
- Does the CRA have my most recent contact information, such as my email and address?
- Is the caller asking for information I would not give in my tax return or that is not related to the money I owe the CRA?
- Did I recently send a request to change my business number information?
- Do I have an installment payment due soon?
- Have I received a statement of account about a government program I owe money to, such as employment insurance or Canada Student Loans?

If you do have a debt with the CRA and can't pay in full, act right away.

REPORT A SCAM

Call the Canadian
Anti-fraud Centre at
1-888-495-8501
to report a scam.

What to do if you were scammed?

If you suspect you may be the victim of fraud or have been tricked into giving personal or financial information, contact your local police service.

If your social insurance number (SIN) has been stolen, you should contact Service Canada at 1-800-206-7218.

You should contact the CRA if you:

- think your CRA user ID or the password you use in personal dealings with the CRA has been compromised.
- want to disable online access to your information on the CRA login services.
- want to re-activate online access to your information after it has been disabled.





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HAVE INFO ABOUT A 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 the p3tips website 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.

TALK

1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

WEB

SUBMIT A TIP
ONLINE

APP

SEARCH FOR P3 TIPS
ON THE APP STORE

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TO MY TIP?

Crime Stoppers takes 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).

AM I REALLY 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.

Continued on page 38

HOW DO I CHECK MY TIP?

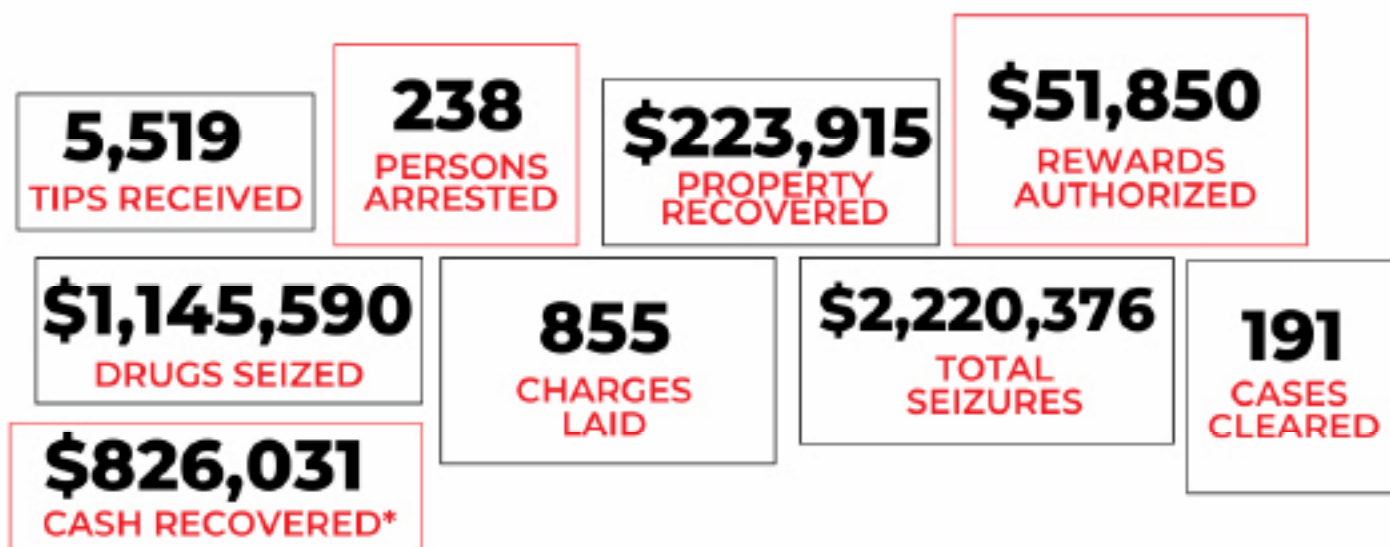
To check whether your tip has become eligible for a reward, you must call the tipline (1-800-222-8477) and provide your tipster number. The call taker will check to see if a reward has been authorized for that tip.

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.

CRIME STOPPERS 2019 STATISTICS

EDMONTON & NORTHERN AB

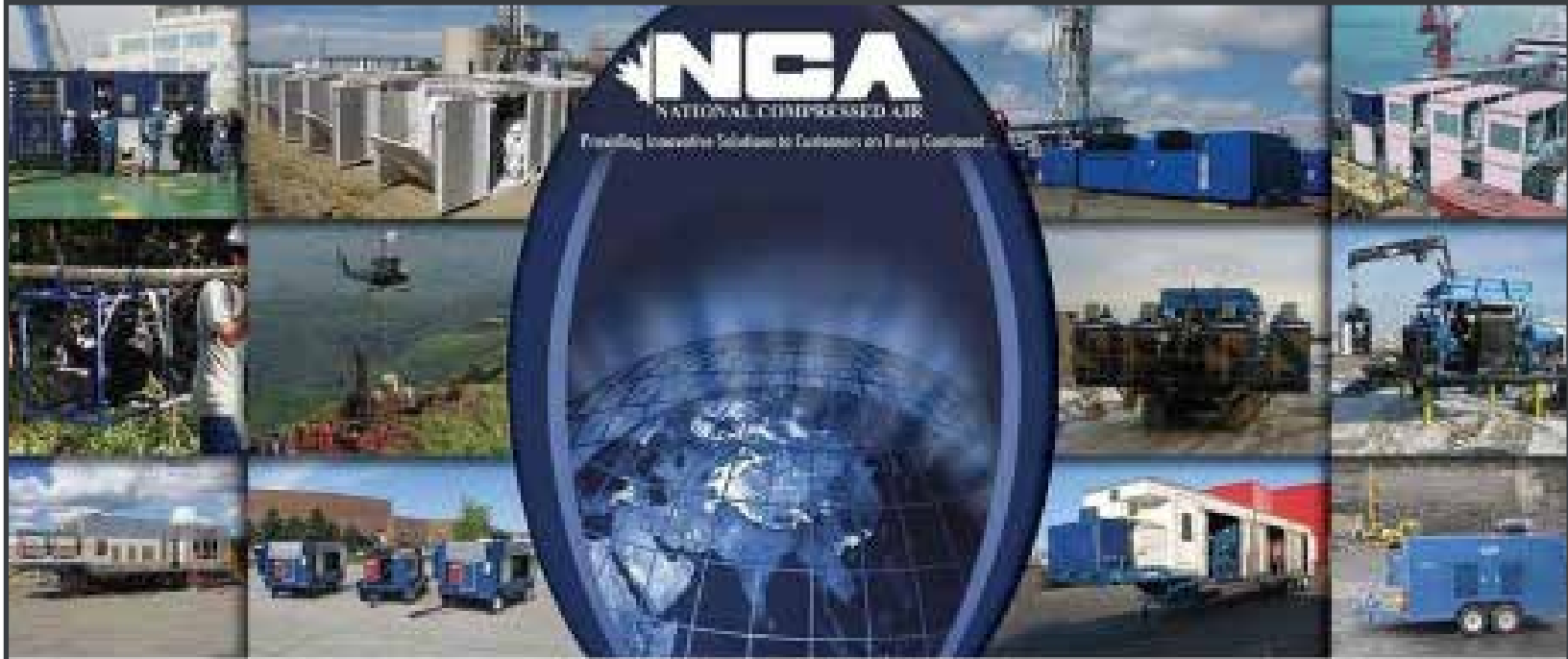


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*Since Crime Stoppers moved to the P3 tip system, we have been able to track cash recovered separately. This stat represents this number since 2018.



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