



The Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers  
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## **Written Submission to the Auto-Fraud Task Force**

Representatives of the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers (OACS) were invited in March 2012 to meet with the Consumer Engagement and Education Working Group. The information that follows was presented to the group in a power-point presentation. The focus was on the Crime Stoppers model – how it works, how the OACS partners and the success rate of Crime Stoppers.

### **Introduction**

**“Crime Stoppers is a partnership of the public, law enforcement and media which provides the community with a proactive Program to anonymously assist in solving crime and contributing to an improved quality of life”**

Crime Stoppers is an effective tool for citizens to report crime. The long established hotline number 1-800-222-TIPS is well known and universal in all of North America and is available 24/7.

Crime Stoppers guarantee of anonymity, promise to not appear in court as a witness and the offer of a cash reward for information that solves a crime, has proven to be extremely effective.

Crime Stoppers originated during the old rotary telephone era, but has adapted to technology in order to make itself available in all communication modes. Through secure tip management software, web tips can be submitted at [www.tipsubmit.com](http://www.tipsubmit.com). Many programs have set up the ability to take text tips which are also secure through the same tip management software. Programs are establishing a presence on social media. Web tips can be taken in this platform through the tipsubmit mode.

### **The Crime Stoppers Story**

Crime Stoppers is a not-for profit community-based charitable programme involving the co-operative efforts of the community, the media and the police in the fight against crime. Crime Stoppers encourages the public to call with information concerning crimes that have been committed, are being committed or are about to be committed. Crime Stoppers has become an invaluable investigative tool to Ontario Police Services.

Crime Stoppers is based on the simple principle that for every crime committed someone other than the criminal has information that might solve it. Crime Stoppers is the brainchild of Canadian-born Albuquerque, New Mexico police detective, Greg MacAleese. In 1976, MacAleese was assigned to investigate a robbery gone a-foul that resulted in the senseless shooting of a young part-time employee of a gas station. Frustrated by the lack of a solid investigative lead in this case, MacAleese recognized there were two reasons the public did not communicate information concerning crime to authorities. These two prohibitions were a valid fear of reprisal

and pervasive public apathy. This crime occurred at dusk, in a well-traveled neighbourhood in Albuquerque, leading MacAleese to believe that someone, other than the killers, must have knowledge concerning this homicide.

He reasoned that if he were to offer a cash reward, to overcome the apathy, while guaranteeing anonymity, to protect against reprisal, he might be able to solve this case. He contacted the local media, staged an on-site televised re-enactment of the crime and offered a cash reward for information that led to an arrest of the persons responsible. He set up a secure "tips" line and invited the public, after viewing the re-enactment, to call with information. He received a number of calls and this case as well as several others was solved.

The Crime Stoppers triad was forged when MacAleese approached several members of the community to serve on a governing board of directors to administer the fledgling programme and raise the necessary charitable funding.

The concept of the community, the media and the police working together to solve crime spread rapidly to the point where there are Crime Stoppers programmes across the United States, Canada, Britain and Europe, Spain, South Africa, Guam, Australia, India, Caribbean/Bermuda & Latin America.

### **The Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers (OACS)**

Crime Stoppers is a community based voluntary charitable organization. The Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers Board acts as an advisory board for the 38 community based programs in Ontario. The OACS Board is comprised of 12 elected civilian members, 3 elected sworn members, and 6 appointed members representing, Crime Stoppers International, the O.P.P., the R.C.M.P., the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Association of Chiefs of Police.

Each year the OACS organizes two formal training sessions for Police Coordinators, Community Board Chairs and Board members. One is the Legal Issues Seminar and the other is the Annual General meeting and Training Conference. The purpose of these sessions is to insure operating standards, address legal issues that relate to Crime Stoppers and provide opportunities for members to receive in-service in various functions of a Board, such as fundraising, media awareness, and tip management.

In Ontario, there are 38 Crime Stoppers programmes, linked together by a national toll-free Crime Stoppers telephone number (1-800-222-8477 or TIPS), covering the entire geography of our Province. The impact of this crime fighting network in Ontario has been astounding! Since the first programme in Ontario started in 1983 the statistics for the 38 Boards in Ontario show that Crime Stoppers is an effective crime reporting tool for citizens. As a result of calls to Crime Stoppers, there have been over 83,000 arrests and more than 124,000 cases cleared. The value of stolen property recovered and of illegal drugs removed from our streets is over \$1.7 billion.

Statistics show an average conviction rate of 95 percent and tips to Crime Stoppers save law enforcement agencies thousands of dollars in investigation time. Calls to Crime Stoppers assist in putting police on the right track by identifying individuals who are responsible for committing crimes.

## Partnerships

Over the years the OACS has worked with groups on targeted areas of crimes. This list represents our more recent associations:

- Seniors – produced through a grant from the Trillium Foundation and done in association with the Seniors Crimes section of the OPP
- Hate Crime was done on invitation from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Service – Hate Crime Education Awareness Working Group
- PSA – child internet luring done in association with the pornography section of the OPP
- Student DVD Awareness done with support of the youth section of the OPP and several Crime Stoppers Programs
- Inmate Awareness is a marketing program in jails and corrections facilities in Ontario – posters and playing cards with Crime Stoppers contact information
- PATT – Protocol with the Provincial Auto Theft Team for sharing intelligence on auto theft tips
- Ontario Racing Commission - Our partnership with the ORC is perhaps a good model (marketing, and reimbursement) to consider. The purpose is directed to criminal activity in the horse racing community – the member associations provide the funds for the marketing campaign and Crime Stoppers approves the crime stoppers language and logo usage, ORC distributes the material within the industry. The member associations donate annually two amounts to the OACS - one to cover administrative costs and one to cover the cost of reimbursing programs at 150% for reward payouts
- Macs Convenience Stores – initiated June 2012 and based on the same model as developed with the ORC - reimbursement at 150% by Macs, donation to cover administrative costs and Macs does the marketing

## Crime Stoppers International (CSI)

Crime Stoppers is a world-wide program and is growing each year. Through Crime Stoppers International (CSI) Crime Stoppers has partnerships with United Nations (UN Office of Drugs and Organized Crime), RCMP, FBI, US Marshalls, Scotland Yard, and Interpol.

CSI is the body that works at a global level to develop Crime Stoppers as an effective crime-solving organization throughout the world. Its vision is to create a safe, secure world, through justice, for our children and our children's children.

CSI is composed of directors from all six of its regions in the world. A worldwide summary from the CSI Regions can be viewed on the CSI website [www.csiworld.org](http://www.csiworld.org) under Resources – Corporate Brochure. Canada, with 105 programs nationwide, is one of the six regions of Crime Stoppers International and naturally made of its provinces and territories.

Regardless of where in the world Crime Stoppers exists the idea is the same, a telephone number for people to call anonymously and give information about crime. There is no comparable organization offering this safe means of passing on intelligence to the police. In Canada, a ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada protects tips from disclosure (Leipert Case)

That this formula works is undeniable – the results speak for themselves. Crime Stoppers International sums up these results like this – every 14 minutes, somewhere in the world, a crime is solved because of a tip to Crime Stoppers

**Statistics – to date**



	<u>Ontario</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Worldwide</u>
Arrests	83,461	153,898	958,123
Cases Cleared	124,486	249,342	1,391,339
Rewards Paid	\$7,753,615	\$13,659,619	\$112,245,467
Arson Loss Value	\$8,878,479	\$34,994,199	N/A
Property Recovered	\$286,641,150	\$496,137,477	\$2,200,593,604
Narcotics Seized	\$1,500,464,089	\$3,067,054,072	\$10,814,816,785
Total Dollars Recovered	\$1,787,105,239	\$3,563,301,549	\$13,015,410,389

Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers  
 Canadian Crime Stoppers Association  
 Crime Stoppers International

[www.ontariocrimestoppers.com](http://www.ontariocrimestoppers.com)  
[www.canadiancrimestoppers.org](http://www.canadiancrimestoppers.org)  
[www.csiworld.org](http://www.csiworld.org)



**38 Community Boards Serving Ontario 24/7**

Brant/Brantford  
 Durham Regional  
 Halton Region  
 Kawartha-Haliburton  
 London & District  
 Niagara  
 Oxford  
 Perth County  
 St. Thomas  
 Seaway Valley  
 Sudbury Rainbow  
 Tri-Town  
 Windsor & Essex County

Chatham/Kent  
 Grey Bruce  
 Hamilton  
 Kingston/1000 Islands  
 Mississippi/Tay & District  
 Northwestern Ontario  
 Peel Region  
 Peterborough & Northumberland  
 Sarnia/Lambton  
 Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka  
 Thunder Bay District  
 Waterloo Regional  
 York Region

District of Cochrane  
 Haldimand-Norfolk & Tillsonburg  
 Huron County  
 Kirkland Lake & District  
 Near North  
 Ottawa and Area  
 Pembroke/Renfrew County  
 Quinte  
 Sault Ste. Marie & District of Algoma  
 Smith Falls  
 Toronto  
 Wellington County

**1.800.222.TIPS**  
**[www.tipsubmit.com](http://www.tipsubmit.com)**