



J.V.N. (Vince) Hawkes
Commissioner Le Commissaire

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ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CRIME STOPPERS

Re: Crime Stoppers Month

As Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and on behalf of our 9,000 members, I am very pleased to acknowledge and support Crime Stoppers Month, and extend warmest greetings.

I applaud the efforts of all Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers (OACS) members, volunteers and supporters who have enthusiastically contributed thousands of hours of volunteer time and financial support to the ongoing success of the 38 Ontario Crime Stoppers programs. The OPP remains committed to Crime Stoppers and this is demonstrated by the support our Community Safety Services team and the many OPP civilian and uniform members provide directly to their local programs.

This year's theme, "Recognizing Transnational Organized Crime," raises public awareness of the importance of community engagement and vigilance in helping to combat crime here, in Ontario, and around the world.

The existence of criminal activity within our communities is a shared concern. As a crime-fighting organization, the OPP recognizes that it does not police the community ... it polices with the community. In this regard, Crime Stoppers has proven to be an extraordinary concept. The anonymous tip taking capabilities of Crime Stoppers is far reaching and is a key component in combating crime locally and globally.

Since the inception of OACS in Ontario in 1983, its programs have contributed to a remarkable provincial achievement of over \$2 billion in seized illicit drugs and recovered stolen property from our communities. These statistics are remarkable. Clearly, the mission of Crime Stoppers to be an effective crime-solving organization, by bringing the community, law enforcement and the media together, has been achieved.

Once again, I commend Crime Stoppers for the outstanding work being done throughout the province. Please accept my best wishes for a successful month of activities and continued success in 2018.

Yours truly,

J.V.N. (Vince) Hawkes, C.O.M.