

Date: Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 –10 a.m. IMPACT Office

Event: Announcement of IMPACT's increase in F-Series Bait Trucks and ICBC's pilot of free immobilizers for certain Ford F-Series

Check Against Delivery

- Thank you, Gord (*Sgt. Gord Elias*), for the introduction, and welcome to you all.
- Today, we're here to explain two targeted efforts that we expect will build quickly on yesterday's good news on the auto-theft front.
- As you may recall, auto theft statistics in British Columbia peaked back in 2003 – but they have decreased dramatically since then.
- And that trend continues.
- Here on the Lower Mainland, auto theft is down 54 per cent for the first six months of 2008, versus the same period in 2003, and by 45 per cent provincially.
- But there is still work to do – including here on the Lower Mainland.
- You will probably recall that IMPACT and ICBC release a list of the Top 10 Most Stolen Vehicles each year, to help build awareness among owners of those vehicles.
- As you can see from the large poster behind me, the worst news this year is, unfortunately, for Ford F-Series owners like me.
- These pick-up trucks have been climbing up the list and are now the #1 most stolen vehicles in our Province.
- This has police and ICBC concerned for a number of very good reasons, which you'll hear about today.
- As Minister of Public Safety, my primary concern is the threat that these large, powerful and versatile vehicles pose in the hands of auto thieves.

- In response to this growing problem, IMPACT is adding more Ford pick-up trucks to their bait-car fleet.
- If a thief chooses to steal a Ford pick-up, the odds that it's a bait truck just went up.
- And car thieves know what that means:
- 'Steal a Bait Car – Go to Jail.'
- But there is also something we want owners of late-model Ford F-series pick-ups to do, to prevent their vehicles from being stolen.
- As you can see on the list behind me, installing an immobilizer is still the #1 way to protect your vehicle.
- Recognizing the threat posed by F-Series thieves – to police, the public and their customers – ICBC has a new, additional incentive for owners of those trucks to get immobilizers installed now – which we will discuss furthermore this morning.
- Thank you again for joining us.