



Speaking Points for

The Honourable Kash Heed Solicitor General

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2009
Event: Bait Car Program – 7th Anniversary
Vancouver Police Department Media Room, 2120 Cambie

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- Welcome to today's celebration of the 7th anniversary of the Vancouver Police Department's bait car program.
- I am very pleased to be here today because I am very proud of this program...and of this department for pioneering the very first fleet of bait cars back in 2002.
- I was a member of this police department at the time and I remember the excitement surrounding the unleashing of this new weapon on auto crime.
- And what an effective weapon it has turned out to be...
- Since June 2003, auto theft in Vancouver has gone from 2,490 cars being stolen to 1,780 for the first six months of 2009.
- That is a 71 per cent reduction - and at a time when the number of vehicles has steadily increased on our streets.
- That is an impressive achievement.
- And after Vancouver launched its program, it wasn't long before IMPACT recognized the value of the approach and deployed bait cars throughout the lower mainland.
- The first year showed immediate results with sharp decreases, so IMPACT expanded their efforts to Vancouver Island, the Interior and the North.
- Through pro-active media strategies, car thieves have come to know that bait cars are everywhere.
- At the same time, tactical crime analysis and police crime reduction strategies are refining the way we set the trap for car thieves.
- Bait cars are planted in strategic locations based on timely information supplied by crime analysts.
- Simply put, we are policing smarter.
- B.C. now has the largest Bait Car fleet in North America, and has received national and international recognition.

- But most importantly, British Columbians embrace the bait car concept because they know it works.
- Auto theft is down...way down...
- In the Lower Mainland, it has dropped 59%.
- Province-wide, auto theft has decreased by 52%.
- That means 6,310 fewer cars have been stolen across British Columbia since 2003.
- And now the bad guys have the new and improved 'Bait Car Live' to worry about.
- The entire bait car fleet is being upgraded with live audio and video feeds to help keep our officers out of harm's way and apprehend car thieves.
- Car thieves will no longer have an advantage, as a dispatcher is now able to see and listen to everything going on inside the car from the second it is stolen.
- We are making auto theft - and getting away with it – a lot tougher for thieves.
- Other strategies that work in conjunction with bait cars are Automated License Plate Recognition technology which when placed in covert vehicles scan up to 600 license plates an hour to detect stolen cars and outstanding warrants.
- Our helicopters Air 1 and 2, and VPD's police dogs are also part of a web of tools and tactics police use to snare car thieves.
- And let me tell you some things that are for certain....
- For those who think they can outrun a helicopter, they can't.
- Those who think they can outrun a German Shepherd, they shouldn't.
- Car thieves have "Nowhere to run and nowhere to hide."
- And certainly car thieves are getting the message loud and clear – it's just not worth trying to steal a vehicle in Vancouver – or anywhere where else in the province for that matter.
- Thank you.