

Office of the Minister

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**Minister's Message to the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers**

On behalf of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, I am pleased to recognize January as Crime Stoppers Month. I congratulate the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers and its member community programs for their invaluable contribution to making Ontario safer.

Crime Stoppers works. Since the program began in 1983, calls received through the North America-wide hotline have led to more than 73,000 arrests and the clearing of nearly 113,000 cases in Ontario alone. For much of this success, we are indebted to the many volunteers who staff the phone lines, who serve as directors of the 38 community boards, and who market and promote Crime Stoppers activities in their communities.

The McGuinty government and this ministry are proud supporters of Crime Stoppers. In 2007, the province funded a Crime Stoppers interactive, bilingual DVD designed specifically for seniors, and provided \$20,000 over two years to fund the Child Victim Tip Referral Line as part of our strategy to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation on the Internet. Last May, we were happy to announce that the ministry would provide ongoing annualized funds of \$200,000 to permanently maintain the after-hours telephone tip line.

Our government is also committed to building an Ontario free from racism, intolerance and hate. We support community and police efforts to fight hate crimes. We rely on our partners at Crime Stoppers to encourage reporting incidents of hate propaganda or hate-motivated crime to the TIPS hotline. That is why we have partnered with the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers to develop a Crime Stoppers DVD to make the public aware of hate crimes and the importance of reporting these crimes. Ontario will not tolerate expressions of hate and racism and will reach out to protect those who suffer from discrimination. Our strength comes from the diversity of our people.

Crime Stoppers plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of all members of our communities, particularly the most vulnerable. My ministry especially commends the tireless work of those who answer the after-hours phone lines. Statistics show that 70 per cent of all tips are received between 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Thank you again for all your efforts in 2007 and best wishes for continued success in 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Bartolucci".

Rick Bartolucci, MPP, Sudbury  
Minister