

**Chris D. Lewis**

Commissioner    Le Commissaire

File #: 100-00

January 2011

**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CRIME STOPPERS****Re: Crime Stoppers Month**

As Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and on behalf of our 8,900 members, it is my great pleasure to support Crime Stoppers Month, which is recognized each January. This year's theme, "*Helping to Stop, Solve and Prevent Crime Together*," aptly describes the mission of Crime Stoppers programs and associations in helping to combat crime here, in Ontario, and around the world.

The extraordinary concept of the Crime Stoppers program continues to allow the OPP to be a more effective and efficient police service and has significantly improved the lives of many Ontarians. I wish to pay tribute to all Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers (OACS) members, volunteers and supporters who have enthusiastically contributed to the continued success of the 38 Ontario Crime Stoppers programs. As a crime-fighting organization, the OPP remains committed to Crime Stoppers and this is demonstrated by our assignment of more than 20 employees as Coordinators throughout Ontario for these programs.

Crime Stoppers International has reported that it has helped to solve a major crime every 14 minutes somewhere in the world and Ontario Crime Stoppers programs have contributed very significantly to this success. Since its inception in Ontario, the efforts of OACS programs have realized a staggering \$1.75 billion in property recovered and illegal drugs seized, accounting for 17.5 percent of the world-wide statistics, and over \$7.1 million in cash rewards authorized. A clearly remarkable achievement!

I am aware, too, that INTERPOL and Crime Stoppers International enhanced their cooperation against transnational crime and fugitives this year. The "*Operation Infra-Red*" initiative led to more than 130 fugitives being arrested or located across the globe and to new information on almost 360 other fugitives targeted by the operation. This included the efforts of OACS programs. Success such as this speaks volumes.

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I applaud the OACS on its partnership with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) to establish the "*Jail Initiative*," which is being launched in 2011. This initiative will promote the Crime Stoppers program in the province's 31 adult correctional facilities. The anonymous tip taking capabilities will enable an inmate with knowledge about any crime to make a report with the assurance that he/she will remain unidentified. This initiative may also serve proactively as a deterrent to the establishment of additional criminal activities and will contribute to increasing the personal safety of inmates and MCSCS employees alike if the tips are related to crime being committed within the correctional facilities. The OPP wholeheartedly supports this new initiative.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere congratulations to the Ontario programs that garnered several awards at the 2010 Crime Stoppers International conference held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, this past August.

Once again, I commend you for the great work you are doing across the province. Congratulations, and best wishes for continued success in 2011.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris D. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and "L".

Chris D. Lewis

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