

News Release



Ready for another school year? Toronto Crime Stoppers urge: "Talk, type and text"

Crime Stoppers
416-808-7260

Another summer has passed and students make their way back into the classrooms. Toronto Crime Stoppers has always been a part of trying to make the school a safer place.

"A school should be a place where a kid can go and feel at home, like it's theirs" said Detective Larry Straver, coordinator of Toronto Crime Stoppers. "We want students to realize we understand what they're going through, that we've been there, and show them that there are options available to them that can help make their school environment a safer place for everyone."

For many years Toronto Crime Stoppers has been speaking with students to discuss a range of issues, such as bullying, gangs, internet safety, crime reporting and prevention, and identity theft, to name a few. Detective Straver says, "Once a student understands they are not alone, and realizes they have options to help deal with certain situations, they are capable of making a more informed decision."

This year will be no different except that Crime Stoppers has added a new tool they believe students will relate to and appreciate.

On Thursday, April 24, 2008, Canadians in most urban centres were able to have the ability to anonymously text message their Crime Stoppers tips at CRIMES (274637). This new program allows cellphone users to make anonymous tips when voice calls may not always be possible or safe. This program also allows Crime Stoppers to respond by text message to the originating cell phone without ever knowing the tipster's identity.

Now there are three ways to send information about crime to Crime Stoppers anonymously:

1. TALK: Call locally at 416-222-TIPS (8477) or nationally at 1-800-222-TIPS(8477) (anywhere in Canada and parts of the USA),
2. TYPE: Online at www.222tips.com,
3. TEXT: Text message, TIP312 + your message, and send it to CRIMES(274637).

Complete instructions about texting tips to Crime Stoppers can be found by [clicking here](#).

Toronto Crime Stoppers has also posted a video on [You Tube](#) explaining how to text: TIP312, then your message, to CRIMES (274637).

Toronto Crime Stoppers' Community Youth Officer Constable Scott Mills says, "We are hoping the kids use this new way to send Crime Stoppers tips to prevent incidents before they happen, such as in the school yard, or maybe someone hears about a fight after school. If we can get the information before it happens, and prevent

a situation which could potentially be deadly, it would be huge. "We want kids to trust in text. Trust that it works and trust that it is anonymous," he said.

For booking a presentation at your school or community group, please call Toronto Crime Stoppers at 416-808-7260 and speak with Daniela Lipa.

Constable Wendy Drummond, Public Information, for Detective Larry Straver, Toronto Crime Stoppers

There are no files attached to this release.