

## **Prolific Offender Management Pilot Project**

### **Tips to Reduce Personal Property Thefts**

About 50 per cent of reported crimes in British Columbia are committed by about 10 per cent of offenders. These offenders most often commit property crimes, which include motor vehicle theft, break and enter, fraud, theft and possession of stolen property.

There are many ways members of the public can help to reduce the possibility of their homes or businesses becoming targets for crime, and to make their communities safer.

#### **In cars:**

- Use a steering column lock or immobiliser and an anti-robbery screen.
- Park your car in your garage or use off-street parking whenever possible.
- Use a removable car radio.
- Do not leave personal valuables, laptops or packages in your vehicle.

#### **In homes:**

- Leave lights on or use a timer when you are not at home.
- Install outdoor motion-sensor lights.
- Lock up bicycles and other recreational equipment.
- Cancel newspaper subscriptions and stop mail delivery when you are going to be away from home for extended periods.
- Consider installing a home security system.
- Keep a record of all credit card, personal and banking information in a separate, secure location so that this information is readily available if these items are stolen.
- Shred old bills, receipts and other documents that contain personal and credit information before placing them in the recycle bin or garbage.
- Have your electronic equipment and other valuables marked by your local police department so that they can be more readily identified if stolen.
- Remove shrubbery and other outdoor objects that could be used as 'screens' for intruders.

#### **In business location:**

- Place more expensive items in visible locations and close to cash registers and staff.
- Install a security system or hire a security guard.
- To minimize shoplifting, reduce frustrations by providing efficient queues and polite service.
- Use electronic merchandise tags.
- Provide staff with training to help them identify theft or suspicious purchases.

#### **In neighbourhood and community:**

- Participate in a neighbourhood watch program.
- Volunteer with your local police department to help prevent crime.

### **Early Solutions, Faster Justice**

