



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT PLANNING & RESEARCH SECTION

May 19, 2006

To: Daryl Wiebe, Inspector 1162
i/c Planning & Research Section

From: Eric Christoffersen, A/Sgt 1661
Planning & Research Section

**Subject: UBCM Resolution Submissions from the Vancouver Police
Department**

PR2006-044 /061

A request for submission of resolutions to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) is received annually from the City Manager's office.

The Planning & Research Section coordinates the Police Department's resolutions, for the consideration of the City Manager's office, for submission to the UBCM. There are five submissions for 2006. They are summarized as follows:

1. That municipalities seek to amend the Criminal Code of Canada to prohibit the possession of body armour;
2. That municipalities seek a share of federal and provincial funding for municipal police departments to prepare and respond to chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) events;
3. That municipalities seek a share of federal funding for municipal police departments to assist with the response and enforcement of Counter Terrorism and National Security issues;
4. That municipalities seek to enact legislation making it mandatory for business to report second-hand property transactions to police using Xtract software; and
5. That municipalities seek a share of federal and provincial funding for a national transportation system that will ensure that individuals arrested on inter-provincial warrants are brought before the justice system.

These five resolutions are attached, and include consolidated background information.

I am requesting that these submissions be forwarded through the Office of the Chief Constable to the City Manager's office so that they can be added to the City of Vancouver's resolutions for consideration at this year's UBCM Convention.

Eric Christoffersen, A/Sgt 1661
Planning & Research Section



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol Support Section

May 18, 2006

To: UBCM Members

From: A/Sgt. Ann Fawcett, Anti-Fencing Unit

Subject: *Background Information - Electronic Second-hand Reporting Legislation*

Property crimes represent 60%-70% of the total crime rate in communities throughout British Columbia. The stolen property obtained in these crimes generates money for illegal drugs. Often, the money is obtained by exchanging stolen property for cash at pawn and/or second-hand businesses. Police agencies commit considerable resources to investigating property crimes and the illegal drug trade. In the 2004 Vancouver Board of Trade report the problem was emphasized, stating that Vancouver was rated second only to Miami for property crimes. One of the Vancouver Police Department's responses to the second-hand property problem has been to develop Xtract, an electronic reporting system. Xtract is a cutting edge intelligence tool used daily in Vancouver and has been successfully adopted by Chilliwack and Kelowna. Police use Xtract to recover stolen property and identify active criminals. At present, over 15(1)(a) of property recovered in Vancouver was stolen in jurisdictions that don't have Xtract. These recoveries have proven that stolen property moves throughout the province. It also leads us to assume that much of Vancouver's stolen property has moved to jurisdictions without searchable reporting systems like Xtract. Electronic reporting of second-hand property is a cost-effective method that should be available to every community in British Columbia.

At the present time, control of the second-hand and pawn industry is the responsibility of local governments. As such, a local government wanting to implement Xtract must first amend its by-laws to include requirements for electronic reporting and enforcement. These amendments are expensive and time-consuming. Some jurisdictions estimate the cost to be over \$15,000 in legal and council time. For every UBCM jurisdiction to do this, it would cost \$2 million. In addition, the by-laws passed by each local government are varied. This creates a confusing patch-work of laws that the criminals and businesses exploit. Inequities in reporting requirements only push second-hand property to the areas with fewer restrictions. This in turn becomes a detriment to honest businesses in those areas and to the victims of crime as recovery of stolen property is negatively affected. A level playing field in the second-hand and pawn industries is desired.

A solution to the present situation is for the Provincial government to enact legislation that requires electronic reporting to police using the Xtract system. A provincial act would be fair to all businesses dealing in second-hand property. It would eliminate the need for by-law changes thereby reducing the cost to local governments. A provincial act would also make police more effective and cohesive in their approach to the pawn and second-hand industry. Xtract is a proven and cost-effective tool that benefits victims of property crimes. Xtract has been approved by the RCMP and is supported by the Association of the B.C. Chiefs of Police. The expansion of Xtract to the rest of British Columbia is essential for police to get the upper hand on the cycle of stolen property being used to obtain illegal drugs.

RESOLUTION

Electronic Second-Hand Property Reporting Legislation

Vancouver Police Department
City of Vancouver

WHEREAS the significant problem of property crimes negatively impacts the citizens of British Columbia, costs the economy millions of dollars annually and causes police to expend tremendous resources investigating property crimes and the closely linked illegal drug trade;

AND WHEREAS the electronic reporting technology exists to facilitate the reporting of second-hand property to police, is in use in several jurisdictions across Canada, and has a positive impact on the problem by assisting police with the identification of active criminals and the return of stolen property to victims:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Provincial Government to enact legislation making it mandatory for businesses to report second-hand property transactions to police using the electronic reporting software, Xtract.