

# BLOCK WATCH LEAD ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

CREATING & MAINTAINING A CONNECTED & EFFECTIVE GROUP

V-20250812



## BLOCK WATCH LEAD ROLE

The Block Watch Lead is a valued volunteer role in the VPD's community safety initiatives, acting as the primary organizer and communicator for their block or complex and promoting safety strategies. With Block Watch office support, Leads build neighbourly connections and empower neighbours to look out for one another.

To be successful, you need a solid understanding of the Block Watch program, be comfortable discussing its benefits, and have availability to communicate with neighbours. Once activated, Block Watch takes about an hour per month. While one dedicated Lead makes an impact, working with co-Leads to share responsibilities is ideal, with each bringing their unique strengths. At least one Lead will need access to a computer or mobile device for sharing and receiving information.

## GETTING STARTED: NEW BLOCK WATCH GROUP LEADS

- Once the application process and training are complete, Block Watch materials are provided to introduce Block Watch to your neighbours and encourage them to participate.
- Create a list of participating neighbours and determine a preferred way to communicate. Email is most common. You can also use text messaging groups or social media.
- Organize a meeting/training session in your neighbourhood or complex, and invite the Block Watch Constable, if available, or follow the information provided in the Block Watch guide.
- Submit your list of neighbours to complete activation. A group of 10 or more qualifies for Block Watch street signs.

## ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES

- Share Block Watch office emails, alerts and any other local incidents you become aware of with your group in a timely manner, treating all information you receive from your neighbours with respect and privacy. Leads can email questions and incidents to the Block Watch office for guidance or support.
- When an incident is shared with you, determine if it was reported to police/encourage reporting, and then, with permission, share it with the group for awareness, prevention measures, additional witnesses and surveillance video. It is not the Leads' responsibility to file police reports on behalf of their group.
- Encourage your group to practice 'relaxed awareness' of their surroundings and report incidents directly to the police, e.g., break-ins, thefts from vehicles, suspicious activity, graffiti, etc. Reporting enables police to analyse data and prioritize resources, which can increase neighbourhood safety.
- Set a good example by initiating and practicing home security and target hardening measures in your own home.
- Encourage each member to attend an online or in-person Block Watch training and/or read the guide.
- Organize an annual gathering, meeting or block party to help neighbours get to know each other. Invite the Block Watch constable and/or other select police units, if desired.
- Invite new residents to your group, maintain the Block Watch list of participating households and update it annually.
- Submit an updated list to the Block Watch office every second year to renew your membership. If you wish to resign, we kindly ask that you reach out to your group for a replacement Lead and have them apply.