



ABBOTSFORD  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

## PRESS RELEASE

Abbotsford Police Department  
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[www.abbypd.ca](http://www.abbypd.ca)

### AbbyPD Launches Video Campaign to combat Extortion Recruitment

**Abbotsford, BC – September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026** – Today, the Abbotsford Police Department is releasing a powerful new video highlighting the real and immediate consequences of becoming involved in extortion-related violence.

The video delivers an important message: *make the right choice before it is too late*. Set in a residential neighbourhood, it is intended to reach individuals who may be involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, extortion-related violence. Through a realistic depiction of the consequences of this criminal activity, the video demonstrates how a single decision can have devastating and lasting impacts on victims, offenders, their families, and the broader community.

The message is clear: involvement in extortion-related violence comes at a significant cost and can change lives forever. At the same time, the video reinforces that there is another path. Those who want to leave criminal activity behind are encouraged to seek support through **Project Disengage**.

Launched in December 2025, **Project Disengage** is an Abbotsford Police Department initiative that connects individuals involved in extortion-related violence with the support and resources needed to exit criminal lifestyles. Supported by the Province of British Columbia, the program focuses on early intervention, helping participants make positive changes, reduce their involvement in crime, and build safer futures for themselves while contributing to a safer community for everyone.

### Chief Constable Colin Watson

*“Extortion-related violence affects entire communities, leaving lasting impacts on victims, families, and those who become involved in criminal activity. This video is part of AbbyPD’s broader approach to addressing extortion violence through overt presence, strategic criminal investigations, community engagement, and prevention through intervention. We want individuals who may be pressured or recruited to understand the risks and know that support is available. Through Project Disengage, we are helping*



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*people choose a different path, one that leads away from violence and toward a safer future for themselves and our community.”*

**Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Nina Krieger**

*“Extortion-related crimes have profound consequences for families, businesses, and communities. The Province remains committed to supporting police agencies and law enforcement partners as they investigate these offences, pursue those responsible, and help keep communities safe. Initiatives like Project Disengage complement the Province's broader efforts to combat extortion, including the work of the BC Extortion Task Force and the Advisory Group on Extortion, by helping prevent future harm and supporting safer communities.”*

The Abbotsford Police Department remains committed to prevention, intervention, and education efforts that address extortion-related violence and support those seeking a safer and more positive future.

AbbyPD's message is clear: if you are being recruited, disengage—support is available.

**Video Link:** <https://youtu.be/XafzRJWuKd4>

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Media Relations Officer  
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