

## **Abbotsford Police Department**

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"Protecting with Pride"

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE # RELEASE # 1

DATE OF RELEASE: February 24, 2017

Incident: APD Issues Warning Concerning Lower Mainland Gang Conflict

Abbotsford – February 24, 2017

The Abbotsford Police Department and our law enforcement partners in the Lower Mainland have been dealing with continuing issues of violence in the region that are directly related to the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict. Despite aggressive enforcement and prevention campaigns, police and the communities in which they serve continue to grapple with the negative impact to public safety that this conflict has created.

It is not just a possibility that those engaged in the conflict will become victims of the violence but, increasingly, it is a likelihood. Furthermore, the APD is concerned that those who associate with individuals involved in the conflict are putting themselves at risk. Police unfortunately find themselves providing warnings to gang members that they are in danger. Far less common is that we would extend our warning to friends, families and associates of these gang members. This is one of those times. In the strongest possible terms, we must emphasize that it is not safe to be in the company of those involved in the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict. Although this may appear to be commonsense advice, we believe that now it could also be a life-saving decision that we need you to make.

"When incidents of violence take place on our streets, it puts innocent members of our communities at risk, and when you associate with individuals with ties to organized crime, not only do you jeopardize the safety and security of the public, but also that of your own life," says S/Sgt. Lindsey Houghton of the CFSEU-BC. "The CFSEU-BC is always working closely with our policing partners in the lower mainland, and throughout the province, to deter gang members and diminish the level of violence before it escalates."

Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.

If you need help or have information that can help our community, please contact our APD Gang Tip Line at 604-864-4777, our non-emergency line at 604-859-5225, text us at 222973 (abbypd) or communicate with us via email at <a href="mailto:gangbusters@abbypd.ca">gangbusters@abbypd.ca</a>. In addition, Crime Stoppers can be reached anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.