



# Abbotsford Police Department

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**Bob Rich**  
Chief Constable

*"Protecting with Pride"*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE # 17-39512

RELEASE # 2

DATE OF RELEASE: September 25, 2017

**Incident: Significant UPDATE to Theft of Truck Containing Family's Possessions**

**Abbotsford – September 25, 2017**

The story of the East Coast couple losing all of their possessions as the result of the theft of a U-Haul truck generated a great deal of attention in the media and with the general public. It also caught the attention of a Lower Mainland District Integrated Road Safety Unit (IRSU). Specifically, members of that unit (which include seconded Abbotsford Police Officers) were interested in the South Surrey location where the stolen U-Haul was recovered. An individual and residence were on their radar for driving offences and as a potential location of stolen property respectively.

On Thursday, September 21, 2017, IRSU arrested 39-year-old Michael URBANIUK in a stolen vehicle at a residence in the 17300 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Surrey. URBANIUK was wanted on outstanding warrants and was additionally charged with Driving While Prohibited and Possession of Stolen Property. Further evidence was gathered and the IRSU team connected with a Surrey RCMP Crime Reduction Unit (CRU). This resulted in the execution of a search warrant at that property on Friday, September 22, 2017.

IRSU, Surrey RCMP CRU and Police Helicopter Air 1 all converged on the property. Several other persons at that location were identified in an on-going investigation. Police recovered 12 stolen vehicles as well as the contents of two stolen U-Haul trucks. The estimated value of the recovery is \$250,000.

Included in that recovery were the belongings of the couple who had moved from Moncton, New Brunswick, to Vancouver. They were reunited with their property this weekend (see photos).

The Abbotsford Police Department would like to thank LMD IRSU, Surrey RCMP and Air 1 for their invaluable assistance with this investigation. We would also like to thank the amazing people of the province of British Columbia who immediately stepped up to

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donate and assist this couple. We sincerely hope for nothing but happiness for Sabrina and Nathan as they properly settle in and become part of our Lower Mainland community.



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**Original News Release of September 20, 2017:**

On Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 5 am, the Abbotsford Police Department received a call of a reported theft of vehicle from a Park and Ride location at Lonzo Road and Sumas Way. The caller indicated that one of the trucks his moving company was escorting to the West Coast from Moncton, New Brunswick was stolen. Inside that stolen white Ford E450 U-Haul cube van were the possessions of a young couple who were moving to Vancouver for employment and educational opportunities.

The contents of the U-Haul van included household furnishings, clothing, kitchen appliances, wedding gifts and mementos, books, electronics, a bass guitar and accessories as well as a quilt and handmade tool box which have tremendous sentimental value (see photos). Regrettably, the van was recovered completely empty in Surrey on September 13, 2017.



Abbotsford Police investigators are looking for information and witnesses regarding this substantial theft.

Anyone with information about this incident should contact the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225 or text us at 222973 (abbypd) or, if you wish to remain anonymous, you can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

<p><b>Cst. Ian MacDonald</b> ..... Phone: (604) 864-4721 <b>Abbotsford Police Public Information Officer</b> ..... Cell: (604) 835-6070 <b>2838 Justice Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3P5</b> ..... Fax: (604) 859-2527 E-mail: <a href="mailto:imacdonald@abbypd.ca">imacdonald@abbypd.ca</a></p>
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