



Abbotsford Police Department

2838 Justice Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3P5 Phone (604)859-5225 Fax (604)859-2527

Chief Constable Mike Serr

“Strength in Community”

NEWS RELEASE

Distraction thieves back in town with new techniques

The Abbotsford Police are once again warning our community to be aware of a group of distraction thieves that are back in town. While they continue to use distraction techniques, police are very concerned that there has been a recent escalation in their violence.

The thieves, usually female, will target elderly pedestrians. Their intent is to steal jewellery and will do so by making physical contact with the unknowing victim to convince them to try on jewelry and then swap out with fake jewelry, a sleight of hand maneuver or most recently, using violence.

On February 10, in the late morning hours, an elderly woman was walking on Cardinal Avenue, when a grey vehicle pulled up behind her. A female suspect exited the vehicle, pushed the victim down, taking a gold chain from her neck and fled in the vehicle.

On February 14, in the late morning hours, an elderly woman was walking on Crestview Ave, when a white car pulled up, and a female suspect exited the vehicle and approached her. The suspect began speaking and put her hand on the victim's forehead and neck, but the victim did not understand what she was saying, as she did not speak English. The suspect got back in the car, at which time the victim realized that her necklace was missing.

There appears to be more than one suspect involved, and therefore, difficult to provide a distinct description.

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

The Abbotsford Police remind our citizens to talk to their family members and be cognizant of those around you, making sure you do not allow strangers into their personal space. Should you be approached by anyone who tries to offer jewellery or place jewelry on them, tell them to stay away and please call your local police agency through 9-1-1.

Anyone with information is asked to please contact the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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