



ABBOTSFORD  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Buyer beware - know the signs of stolen property before you buy!**

It's not a new story, but it's worth a reminder – be aware of thieves using online classifieds websites or social media platforms to make a quick buck selling YOUR stolen items!

Be wary of buying a new item that is being sold as an “unwanted gift”, or something that “didn't fit” and “cannot be returned”. Be suspicious of items that have a small hole where electronic security protection was removed. Don't be afraid to ask questions and report questionable sellers to police.

"If you're a buyer and the deal seems to be too good to be true, be cautious – you may be buying stolen property," said Sgt Judy Bird, "If you come across an item that you believe has been stolen from you, please contact the police so that we can make arrangements to make contact with the seller and get the property back. Making contact with the seller yourself is not advised and can be dangerous."

Buyers are encouraged to search the Canadian Police Information Centre's online database ([www.cpic-cipc.ca](http://www.cpic-cipc.ca)) for the serial number of items they intend to purchase to help ensure the item has not been reported stolen.

### **Sgt Judy Bird**

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