

Steer Clear of Distraction Thefts

(Const. Todd Blower, our Community Policing Officer, has advice on how to cope with the increasing prevalence of “distraction thefts”.)

Distraction theft is when one or more people use trickery, diversions or sleight of hand to steal from your person or vehicle. Typical locations for these incidents include ATMs, retail stores, parking lots, and even your own residence or yard.

Victims of these incidents tend to be elderly, trusting, or have English as a second language. Offenders typically look for people who are alone and preoccupied.

These situations are far more prevalent in the summer as more people are out and about. Offenders tend to be transient in nature and, more likely than not, utilize rental vehicles (mainly from Ontario or Alberta).

Frequently children are used in this scam as decoys and to make you sympathetic to their story. Many times,

people will approach as you are preoccupied and invade your personal space, either overwhelming you with a story of financial distress or grabbing at your wrists or jewelry. Most will offer you fake jewelry for sale or trade and place the items on your person while taking your own jewelry, using sleight of hand. The encounter tends to be very short in duration.

Distraction thefts are difficult for police to investigate as they are so brief in nature and many victims won't even realize something has occurred until the suspects are long gone.

Items stolen are typically jewelry and money.

What Can You Do?

- Be aware of your personal space and don't let strangers into it
- If approached in your yard, go inside and lock the door
- If you feel unsafe, telephone the police
- Do not approach vehicles if the driver or passenger is waving you over



- Remember the old adage “if it's too good to be true, it probably is.”

Statistics

40% of distraction thefts in BC occur in Vancouver

85% of distraction thefts involve fake jewelry or fake gold

60% of distraction thefts involve persons 60 years old and above .



■ Const. Todd Blower, VPD

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Working together for a safe community

The Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre works in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department

Other Partners:



Justice Institute: A Valued Partner



Meet our 1000th Volunteer! ✨

Say hello to Chloe! She's just become the 1000th person to join our volunteer team - we're so thrilled to have you!

To our newest volunteer, and the 999 before her: through your dedication, hard work, and passion, you've helped us make real, lasting change in the Hastings-Sunrise community and beyond.

If you have been to any outreach events this summer in the Hastings Sunrise neighbourhood, there is a good chance that you chatted with our practicum students Ravleen and Brendan, both enrolled in the Law Enforcement Studies Program at the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC). The Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre (HSCPC) has been collaborating with the JIBC for many years, and mentoring practicum students each summer is just one part of it.

It is crucially important for both partners to help students learn more about social issues, equity and diversity and help them enter communities as leaders, especially if they want to pursue a law enforcement career. Enter *Community Integrated Learning*, an approach that focuses on the needs and desires identified by the community in which the students work. To make the summer practicum an experience for students that fosters connection and understanding while also ensuring reciprocity and longevity for both the program and the local neighbourhood, the JIBC has received a three-year grant from the College and Community Social Innovation Fund. The goal is to deepen the collaboration between community partners and JIBC to make the Law Enforcement Studies Program a hands-on experience that enriches students' personal and professional development journeys and makes them more empathetic and capable leaders and role models.

As a community-based and volunteer-led organization that has been around for over 25 years, the HSCPC and other CPCs have been invited to participate in the pilot study "Beyond the Classroom: Work Integrated Learning in Vancouver Community Policing Centres and Community Impact" to better understand student and community partners' experiences and their hopes for future versions of the course. "We'd like to provide opportunities for the CPCs to express their ideas and experiences working with students from the JIBC, and to see how well they see the principles of community engagement being implemented," says Nina Bennett, work-integrated learning program manager at the JIBC. "The unique information that the community policing centres and other partners provide will be used to amend and improve future iterations of the Law Enforcement Studies Program."

Clair MacGougan, executive director at the HSCPC, also sits on an advisory group for quality assurance for the program. They meet four times a year to identify emerging trends, provide advice on the student curriculum as well as act as ambassadors for the program and the JIBC. "We have had a positive experience with the JIBC practicum students and many of them stayed on as HSCPC volunteers, so we're happy to add value to the program and the students wherever we can," says MacGougan.

■ **Nina Kreis**



l - r: Clair MacGougan (HSCPC), Ravleen Chharahhan (JIBC), Carmen Ma (HSCPC), Brendan Jeet (JIBC)

Volunteers from Around the World

Did you know that the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre (HSCPC) has more than 100 volunteers? Among them, they speak 23 different languages and come from many countries and backgrounds with a wealth of skills and ambitions.

Many came to Canada to seek better opportunities and pursue their dreams, something that Canadians may take for granted, but was unattainable for some of the HSCPC's volunteers in their home countries.

Fahima, 21, found her way to the HSCPC last year after attending the Vancouver Police Department's (VPD) New Kids Police Academy and then joining the VPD Cadet program. She has also been awarded the green belt in police judo! Fahima completed an associate certificate in Business at BCIT and will enter the Law Enforcement Studies program at the Justice Institute of BC this fall.



Fahima

Fahima came to Canada in 2020 with her parents and seven siblings after her native Kabul, Afghanistan, had grown increasingly unsafe, especially for girls and women. Her father, a human rights activist who had worked for the United Nations, had come to Canada in 2017 seeking safety for his family with the threat of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban regaining power.

Fahima always knew that that she wanted to be a police officer, but one event consolidated her decision: "When I was 12, a suicide bomber attacked the all-girls school I attended, and the

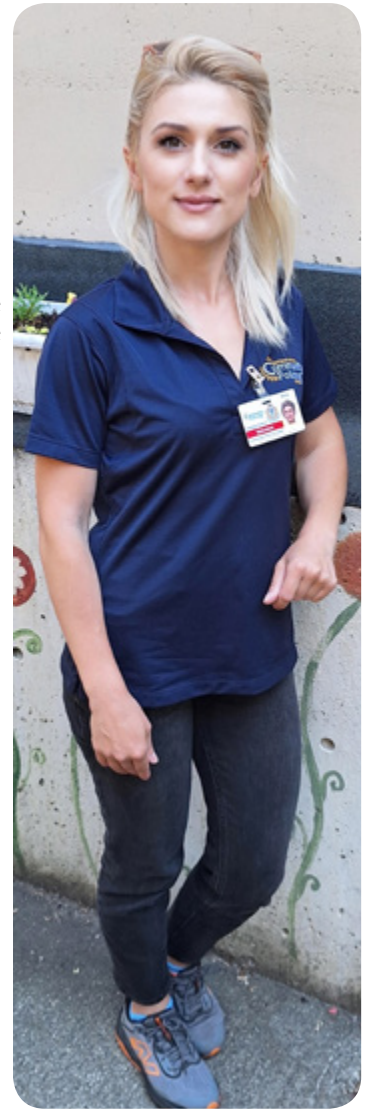
Special Forces came to our rescue.

It was right then and there that I decided that I wanted to do something equally meaningful with my life. I didn't want to be just a survivor, but to actually live," says Fahima. Volunteering with the HSCPC and being part of its Sunrise Safety Team is a stepping stone to becoming a VPD police officer. When she's not working or volunteering at the HSCPC, Fahima also works as a security officer at a casino and assists VPD with role-play scenarios to train police constables.

Dina, 36, fled Ukraine in 2022 with her husband and two children after her town, Herson, had been occupied by Russian forces. The family went to Romania and applied for refugee status in Canada from there. The last couple of years, Dina has been busy creating a new life for her now-family of five, but recently she has felt like she can catch a breath and carve out new career opportunities for herself. Trained as a hair stylist, Dina has dreamed about going into law enforcement from a young age.

"I always knew that I didn't just want to make money, but help people. I want to be a role model for my children and make my parents proud," says Dina. After attending a VPD information session, Dina became a volunteer at the HSCPC and has been joining various programs multiple times per week.

"I already volunteered in Ukraine at an organization for veterans with disabilities, and I like what the community policing centre is doing in Hastings Sunrise, so I applied." She is now an active member of the citizen's patrol and road safety teams while also doing shifts in the front office and joining outreach events.



Dina

If you, or someone you know, are interested in volunteering with the HSCPC, please call 604-717-3584 or email info@hscpc.com to sign up for an upcoming information session.

■ **Nina Kreis**



thank
you!



*And more
volunteers in their
happy spaces:
making
Hastings Sunrise
cleaner and better !*



This Issue

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远离分心盗窃

（我们的社区警务人员 Blower 警官，提供如何应对日益增多的“分心盗窃”的建议。）

所谓分心盗窃，是指一人或多人利用花招、干扰或障眼法，从你的身上或车辆中偷窃。这类事件常发生在自动提款机（ATM）、零售商店、停车场，甚至是在你自家门前或庭院。

受害者通常是年长者、信任他人的人，或是以英语为第二语言的人。罪犯通常寻找那些独自一人且心不在焉的人下手。

这些事件在夏季更为常见，因为有多人外出活动。行窃者通常属于流动性质，很可能会使用租来的车辆（多来自安大略省或阿尔伯塔省）。

在这种骗局中，儿童经常被用作诱饵来博取同情。很多时候，他们会趁你分心时靠近你，侵犯你的个人空间，要么用编造的财务困境故事施压，要么直接抓住你的手腕或首饰。大多数情况下，他们会拿假首饰推销或兑换，并假装帮你佩戴，实际上却用障眼法取走你的首饰。整个过程往往非常短暂。

由于发生得迅速，加上许多受害者直到嫌疑人早已离开才发现被偷，警方调查这类案件难度极高。被偷的物品多为首饰和金钱。

你可以怎么做？

- 注意你的个人空间，不要让陌生人靠近
- 若在自家院子被接近，立即进屋并锁门

• 如果感到不安全，立刻拨打警察电话

• 不要靠近那些司机或乘客向你挥手招呼的车辆

• 记住一句老话：“好得不像真的，那就一定有问题”

数据统计

卑诗省 40% 的分心盗窃案件发生在温哥华

85% 的分心盗窃涉及假首饰或假金饰

60% 的受害者年龄在 60 岁以上



謹防竊賊 趁虛而入

可考慮的措施：

- 

將貴重物品掩藏在衣服下
- 

不要讓陌生人進入您的私人空間，告訴他們不要來打擾您
- 

讓他人注意到您面臨的情況
- 

立即撥打 9-1-1 報案



■ 温哥华警察局 Blower 警官

来自世界各地的志愿者

你知道吗？Hastings Sunrise 社区警政中心（HSCPC）拥有超过 100 名志愿者！他们一共会说 23 种不同的语言，来自多个国家和背景，带着丰富的技能和抱负。

许多人来到加拿大，是为了追求更好的机会和实现梦想。这些在加拿大人眼中或许理所当然，但在他们的原居国却往往难以企及。

Fahima，21 岁，在参加温哥华警局（VPD）的“新生警察学院”后，加入了警察学员计划，去年来到 HSCPC。她同时获得了警察柔道的绿带！Fahima 在 BCIT 完成了商业副学位，今年秋天将进入卑诗司法学院的执法研究课程。

Fahima 在 2020 年与父母和七个兄弟姐妹从阿富汗喀布尔来到加拿大，当地对女孩与女性越来越不安全。她的父亲是一位人权活动人士，曾为联合国工作，早在 2017 年就先来到了加拿大，为家人寻求安全，因为当时塔利班势力正威胁卷土重来。



Fahima

“我一直知道自己想当警察，但真正让我下定决心的是：我 12 岁时，一名自杀炸弹客袭击了我们的女子学校，特种部队前来救了我们的。”

就在那一刻，我决定要过有意义的人生，不只是苟活下来，而是要真正活出来。” Fahima 说。志愿参与 HSCPC 并成为 Sunrise 安全小队的一员，正是她成为警员的垫脚石。除了在 HSCPC 工作和志愿服务外，她还在赌场担任保安，并协助 VPD 进行警员培训的角色扮演演练。

Dina，36 岁，于 2022 年与丈夫和两个孩子从乌克兰赫尔松逃出，当地被俄军占领。他们先到罗马尼亚，然后申请来到加拿大的难民身份。过去几年，Dina 忙于为五口之家建立新生活，但最近她终于能稍微喘口气，并为自己开辟新的职业道路。Dina 原本受训为发型师，但从小就梦想从事执法工作。

“我一直知道自己不只是想赚钱，而是要帮助他人。我希望能成为孩子们的榜样，让父母为我骄傲。”她说。参加过 VPD 的资讯讲座后，Dina 成为 HSCPC 的志愿者，每周多次参加各种活动。

“我在乌克兰时曾在一个为残疾退伍军人服务的组织做志愿者，我喜欢 Hastings Sunrise 社区警政中心正在做的事情，所以申请了。”她现在积极参与市民巡逻和道路安全小组，也在前台值班，并参加外展活动。

如果你或你认识的人有兴趣加入 HSCPC 担任志愿者，请致电 604-717-3584 或发邮件至 info@hscpc.com 报名参加即将举行的说明会。

■ Nina Kreis



Dina



志愿者