**GUN AMNESTY 2016**

# KEY MESSAGES:

* Police departments across BC want to make homes safer by declaring a province-wide Gun Amnesty this October 2016.
* The month-long amnesty will apply to any documented or undocumented firearms and other weapons as well as to any amount of ammunition.
* Did you know that 60% of guns are sourced in Canada, not imported?
* The amnesty will give residents of BC a safe way to dispose of weapons, imitation weapons and related equipment and ammunition which they are not legally entitled to own, or which they no longer want.
* The amnesty provides the opportunity to reduce the number of firearms in our communities, enhancing public and police officer safety.
* Police are reminding interested firearms owners to call their local detachment or their department’s non-emergency line to arrange for officers to attend and retrieve the weapons. Under no circumstances should anyone deliver them to police.
* Police across British Columbia encourage gun owner who no longer want their firearms to call their local police department and have them picked up.
* A majority of the firearms and ammunition surrendered during the amnesty will be destroyed. A small number of firearms may be retained for educational or training purposes. Police also anticipate receiving tips related to other unwanted and unauthorized firearms.
* Unwanted weapons are a potential hazard. It would be tragic if the weapons fell into the wrong hands.
* Stemming the flow of illegal weapons to gangs and the drug trade is critical to furthering public safety on our streets.
* Should these weapons be stolen in a break and enter, they could be used in the commission of a crime.
* The BC Gun Amnesty is an example of just one additional method police across BC are using to help keep our communities safe by removing unwanted guns.
* If you have any unwanted weapons, firearms or ammunition, that you may not be legally entitled to own, now is the perfect opportunity to help make both your home and your community a little bit safer during BC Gun Amnesty this October.
* Even legitimate, registered firearms that are properly stored can be stolen and become a danger on our streets, so we encourage anyone who has weapons they simply don’t need or want, to participate in the upcoming amnesty in October.
* In the past decade, two previous British Columbia firearms amnesties in 2006 and 2013 have yielded more than 5,000 firearms – including 900 handguns and two machine guns – plus approximately 127,500 rounds of ammunition. Among hundreds of other weapons surrendered were a rocket launcher, a military missile, historical rifles and antique bayonets.