



Canadian Crime Stoppers Association **Association canadienne d'echec au crime**

Dear Canadian Bicycle Retailer,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Operation Hands Off, a new national initiative aimed at preventing bicycle theft and reuniting stolen bikes with their rightful owners.

Operation Hands Off aligns very well with the ideals of Canadian Crime Stoppers, in that it engages the community, right from the bike owner and dealer to police, in preventing these crimes. By working together, we can prevent bike theft, help apprehend the criminals, and help the victims. Ultimately, we are building stronger, safer communities.

Bicycle theft is extremely common around the world. In Canada alone, more than 100,000 bikes are stolen every year. This includes everything from a five-year-old's first bicycle to high end racing bikes used by our Olympic athletes. No one is immune, so we all must work together to foil bike thieves.

I invite you to join our partners at Norco Performance Bikes, the Bicycle Trade Association of Canada, law enforcement agencies, and DataDot Technology Canada in participating in Operation Hands Off.

Encourage your customers to mark and register their existing bikes or new purchases through Operation Hands Off. This will help solve one of the biggest problems in bike theft -- the inability to match a stolen bike with its owner (it also makes unmarked bikes especially attractive to thieves!) Registration makes the bike identifiable through an online database accessible by police all over the world.

As a crime prevention strategy Operation Hands Off has already proven its worth in industry, where it has virtually eliminated theft for some participants. We hope it will help prevent bicycle theft, assist police in catching and prosecuting thieves, and reunite your customers with their valued possessions.

Join us in making Operation Hands Off a success!

Sincerely,

Ralph Page

Ralph Page
Chair, Canadian Crime Stoppers Association