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**Minister's Message to the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers**

On behalf of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, I am pleased to recognize January as Crime Stoppers Month for 2012.

I would like to acknowledge the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers (OACS) and the 38 member communities for your tireless commitment to your goal (and this year's theme) to "Stop, solve and prevent crime – working together." The contributions of your volunteers, staffing the telephone and web tip lines, have been instrumental in helping police services clear more than 120,000 cases since the program began in Ontario. The partnership that Crime Stoppers has created, with the community, the media and the police working together, helps make all our communities safer.

The McGuinty government is proud to be part of that partnership by offering \$200,000 a year of ongoing financial support to help keep the Crime Stoppers tip lines open around the clock in many communities. In 2011, we provided a further \$25,000 in one-time funding to the OACS to assist in defraying additional costs.

Since its inception in 1983, the OACS has made a significant contribution to police services across the country in reducing and solving crime. The format of encouraging anonymous information has been proven effective time and again, borne out by the statistics for arrests made and cases cleared based on Crime Stoppers tips.

In closing, I would like to recognize the selfless work of the many dedicated volunteers who are the heart and soul of the OACS. Your contribution of time out of your busy lives to staff the telephone lines and organize fundraising events makes the Crime Stoppers program possible. You are a wonderful example of your communities' contribution to this truly effective partnership. Thank you, each and every one of you, for all your hard work in 2011.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful year in 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Madeleine Meilleur".

Madeleine Meilleur  
Minister