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## Expert: Crime rate to drop during Olympics

### Number of bait cars increased to prevent auto thefts

Shane Bigham/Sheila Scott » Jan 26, 2010 14:28:56 PM

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SURREY (NEWS1130) - A local criminologist expects crime in Metro Vancouver to drop dramatically during the Olympics. Dr. Darryl Plecas with the University of the Fraser Valley says the heavy police presence will likely deter criminals. "I would say God help anybody

who tries to do something during these games. You will be in jail and that's going to happen fast"

B.C.'s Auto Crime Task Force has promised to step up security during the Games. With Tuesday's launch of Auto Crime Enforcement Month, Solicitor General Kash Heed says 22 Park-n-Rides and several other Olympic transit hubs across the Lower Mainland will be saturated with bait cars. "I have a very clear message for auto crime thieves. We are going to make it tougher than ever for you to paw your trade during the Olympic Games."

Heed adds roughly 250,000 people are expected to take transit every day during the Games. The bait cars will be equipped with video monitoring and remote engine shutoff. Inside the cars there will be bait cameras and laptops, each with MicroDot DNA technology. That's a new microchip that will make it easier for police to recover stolen goods and provide indisputable evidence in court.

Provincial stats released Tuesday report a 55 per cent drop in the number of stolen cars in B.C. over the last seven years, 61 per cent drop for the Lower Mainland.

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