

Needles, condoms and blood splatter common finds in stolen cars: Coquitlam company

The Province

Friday, October 7, 2005

Page: A11

Section: News

Byline: David Carrigg

Source: The Province

Series: Stolen Lives: An in-depth look at the dangerous world of auto crime

The changing profile of B.C. auto thieves has been a boon for a Coquitlam-based forensic cleaning business.

"With the increase in HIV and Hepatitis C in the province we knew there was a need," says Beatrice Sallis, Biosolutions Inc. spokeswoman.

Biosolutions formed in 1997 in direct response to a surge in needles, blood, semen, feces and drugs being found in stolen vehicles. In B.C. most vehicles are now stolen by drug addicts, who use drugs once inside the vehicle. In some cases sex workers will also use a stolen vehicles for tricks, leaving condoms in their wake.

Biosolutions works primarily for insurance companies, making sure a vehicle is safe before insurance assessors enter the vehicle.

Says Sallis: "If someone uses drugs and has a disease they'll leave bio-hazardous material in the vehicle.

"We've also discovered needles in a kid's Spiderman pack and needles stashed in the sun-visor. There's also usually blood splatter on the roof after the addicts shoot up."

Biosolutions recently opened a Kelowna office to deal with that city's auto theft crisis, and has so far inspected and cleaned 30,000 vehicles. Says Sallis: "You might get your vehicle back and think because it's not dirty inside it's clean. That's not always the case."