



## PREVENTING AUTO THEFT

There are a number of things one can do to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of this crime:

- Always back into a well-lit area when parking.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight. Always carry your wallet, credit cards and purse with you.
- Always lock your vehicle after entering or when leaving.
- Completely close all your vehicle windows when parking.
- Never hide a second set of keys in your vehicle.
- Always take your keys with you. Thefts can occur when paying the attendant at a self-serve gas station.
- Give only the ignition key to a parking attendant.
- Never leave your vehicle running unattended. Thefts often occur when people leave their vehicle running while they hurry into a convenience store, ATM machine or Tim Horton's.
- Install an anti-theft device. Although these devices are not foolproof, they can attract attention, stop the amateur and slow down the professional. The longer it takes to steal a vehicle, the chance of the thief attracting attention increases, and the more likely the thief will look elsewhere.

### **Examples of anti-theft devices include**

- ignition and fuel kill switches,
- alarm systems with sirens and flashing lights
- automatic disabling systems.

**Remember: Simple precautions can reduce the risk of crime, but even the most alert and cautious person can still end up a victim. If you do become a victim of crime, call the police immediately - the sooner you report the crime, the better**