

## INSURANCE BUREAU OF CANADA

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Attention Business Editors:

### Honda Civic heads the list of Top Ten Stolen Vehicles in Quebec

MONTREAL, Nov. 21 /CNW/ - Canada's car insurers announced today that again this year the 2000 Honda Civic holds the dubious distinction of topping this year's most stolen vehicles list. This model also had the highest theft claim cost per vehicle.

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The Top Ten Stolen Vehicles are:

1. 2000 Honda Civic SiR 2-door
2. 1999 Acura Integra 2-door
3. 2002 Subaru Impreza WRX/WRX STi 4-door AWD
4. 1998 Acura Integra 2-door
5. 1999 Volkswagen Cabriolet
6. 1995 Acura Integra 2-door
7. 1994 Honda Civic Hatchback 2-door
8. 1993 Honda Civic Si Hatchback 2-door
9. 1994 Acura Integra 2-door
10. 2001 Acura Integra 2-door

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Once again, none of the vehicles making the top ten most frequently stolen vehicles list had an Insurance Bureau of Canada-approved immobilizer system.

"The stats prove time and again that theft deterrent systems work. This year, we see that auto thieves continue to find it easier to steal older vehicles lacking an IBC-approved immobilizer," says André Beauchamp, Director, Auto Theft and Vehicle Services, Investigations, IBC. "We've seen this trend developing for several years, and these results confirm it," adds Beauchamp.

Electronic immobilizers are systems that prevent a vehicle from starting unless the engine computer recognizes the specific electronic code embedded in the key. IBC, along with vehicle manufacturers, after-market manufacturers, and other interested stakeholders, developed a Canadian standard for automobile theft-deterrent systems that was approved by the Standards Council of Canada in 1998. Many insurance companies provide premium discounts on automobile policies to customers whose vehicles are equipped with an IBC-approved, factory-installed or aftermarket immobilizer system.

"Immobilizers are highly effective at deterring car thieves. In terms of this year's stats, you have to go down the list to the 16th most-frequently stolen spot to find a vehicle, the 2002 Acura RSX Type S 2-door, that registered a high theft frequency despite the fact that it is protected by an immobilizer. It just underlines the reality that theft is much more likely when a vehicle is not equipped with an immobilizer," Beauchamp adds. For this

reason Transport Canada has made it mandatory that all new cars, light trucks and SUV's are required to be equipped with an electronic immobilizer as of September 2007.

These vehicles were best insurance bets as far as auto theft is concerned.

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The Least Stolen Vehicles were:

1. (Tie) 1996 Mercedes-Benz C220W/C280W/C36 4-door
  1. (Tie) 2001 Nissan Altima 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1997 Volvo 850 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1998 Toyota Sienna
  1. (Tie) 1998 Chevrolet/Geo Metro Hatchback 4-door
  1. (Tie) 2005 Saturn Ion Sedan 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1994 Nissan Altima 4-door
  1. (Tie) 2000 Saturn LS/LS2 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1996 Chevrolet Corsica 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1997 Nissan Sentra 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1998 Buick Century 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1994 Oldsmobile Eighty Eight 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1997 Saturn SW1 Wagon
  1. (Tie) 2000 Chevrolet Tracker Hardtop 4WD 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1993 Buick Skylark 4-door
  1. (Tie) 1993 Pontiac Sunbird 2-door
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Theft of vehicles (and their components) costs policyholders in Quebec more than \$220 million annually in insurance premiums.

Insurance Bureau of Canada is the national trade association of the private property and casualty insurance industry. It represents more than 90% of the non-government home, car and business insurance in Canada. IBC is highly regarded as a provider of automobile insurance rating information and a creator of automobile theft-deterrent standards.

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