



MEDIA RELEASE

GROWING “SAVE OUR STREETS” MEMBERSHIP BASE ALMOST DOUBLES

VANCOUVER, B.C. (January 4, 2024): Since being announced in late October, the Save Our Streets coalition has grown from 30 community organizations, citizen groups, organizations and local businesses, to 59 and counting.

More are also expected to join the coalition’s call for all levels of government to coordinate their efforts and put an end to the unprecedented wave of theft, property crime and street violence being seen on the streets and at places of business in communities around B.C.

The SOS website also went live today at SaveOurStreets.ca, containing our message to all levels of government, answers to frequently asked questions and information for others interested in joining the SOS coalition.

Newest members joining the coalition since the launch of SOS are:

Anthem Properties	Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce
Blackbird Security	Highwaymen Barbers (Victoria)
Canadian Tire BC Dealers Group	J. Gordon Enterprises
Circle K	Lordco
Cranbrook Neighbourhood Network (N2)	Magnolia Hotel & Spa (Victoria)
Downtown Campbell River BIA	North Shore BIA (Kamloops)
Downtown Kamloops BIA	Quesnel Downtown Association
Downtown Prince George	Quesnel In Action
Downtown Surrey BIA	Sechelt Downtown Business Association
Downtown Van	Tango Meats and Deli
Gastown Residents Association	The Lotus Strata BCS2884
Ginger Group	Trail Neighbourhood Network (N2)
Gold Silver Guy (Duncan/Qualicum Beach)	Vancity Health Clinic
Gourmet Warehouse	

“Our membership has expanded to every region of British Columbia with new member organizations from Quesnel, Prince George, Kelowna, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Victoria, Trail, Campbell River, and the Lower Mainland plus several organizations that are province-wide in their membership,” says Jess Ketchum, co-founder of the Save Our Streets coalition. “It is definitely not just a Downtown Eastside of Vancouver issue. Our message has hit a nerve as a growing number of British Columbians recognize that a different, comprehensive, and results-driven approach is required to address the escalation of crime and violence in our communities, and it must be dealt with urgently. Drug addictions and drug trade, mental health challenges, law enforcement, judicial reform, homelessness, are all factors. While governments have a long history of announcing policies and programs meant to respond to these issues, the desired results have not been realized. Governments have smart people, legislative control, financial resources but also, most importantly, the responsibility to generate better results.”

(more)

“We decided to join the SOS Save Our Streets coalition to join with other communities throughout B.C. in gaining the attention of governments over the desperate situation with crime and violence we are seeing in our communities,” stated Tanya Finley, Chair of the Nelson, Cranbrook and Trail N2 concerned citizens groups. “We need a results-driven, comprehensive and intergovernmental coordinated plan that addresses many contributing issues including drug addiction, the drug trade, mental health challenges, policing, judicial reform and homelessness.”

“In Sechelt, we are seeing crime activity at a level never seen before,” added Theresa Logan, Executive Director of the Sechelt Downtown Business Association. “We are working hard locally, but we’ve also decided to join SOS because a louder chorus of voices is harder to ignore and will demonstrate that the issues are province-wide and urgent. We need to see results from our government leaders who are the ones able to make the necessary policy changes to address these issues.”

In addition to increasing awareness, and highlighting issues and incidents of crime, SOS is coordinating a plan to research these trends, and establish measurable results to determine whether government actions are working to make streets and communities safer or not. SOS notes retail theft and the cost of additional security for retail stores is costing BC families \$500 annually and there is no end in sight. British Columbians are urged to reach out to their MLAs and MPs, to demand coordinated action and keep communities safe.

Communities, citizen groups, and BC businesses interested in joining SOS are invited to contact: info@saveourstreets.ca.

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59 “SAVE OUR STREETS” COALITION MEMBERS TO DATE

Anthem Properties - Aritzia - Bay Centre Victoria - BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association - Blackbird Security
Canadian Tire BC Dealers Group - Chilliwack Beware Crime and Safety - Circle K
Citizens Take Action (Dawson Creek/Ft. St. John) - Clean Streets Penticton - Clean Up V9L (Duncan)
Convenience Industry Council of Canada - Cranbrook Neighbourhood Network (N2) – Downtown Campbell River BIA
Downtown Kamloops BIA – Downtown Nanaimo Business Association - Downtown Prince George
Downtown Surrey BIA - Downtown Van - Downtown Victoria Business Association - Gastown Residents Association
Georgia Main Food Group - Ginger Group - Gold Silver Guy (Duncan/Qualicum Beach) - Gourmet Warehouse
Greater Vancouver Board of Trade - Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce - Highwaymen Barbers (Victoria)
J. Gordon Enterprises - Kamloops Citizens for Change - London Drugs – Lordco – Lululemon
Magnolia Hotel & Spa (Victoria) - Marquis Wine - MEC Mountain Equipment Company
Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers - Nanaimo Area Public Safety Association - Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce
Nelson Neighbourhood Network (N2) – North Shore BIA (Kamloops) - Pacific Reach Properties
Quesnel Downtown Association - Quesnel In Action - Restaurants Canada - Retail Council of Canada – Rexall
Safer Vancouver - Save-On-Foods/Pattison Food Group - Save Our City Vancouver
Sechelt Downtown Business Association - Securiguard - 7-Eleven Canada - Surrey Board of Trade
Tango Meats and Deli - The Lotus Strata BCS2884 - Trail Neighbourhood Network (N2) - Vancity Health Clinic
Victoria Crescent Association (Nanaimo)