



MEDIA RELEASE

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT CONFIRMS THAT BC'S RESPONSE TO THE DECADES-OLD TOXIC DRUG CRISIS IS INADEQUATE

VANCOUVER, B.C. (March 19, 2024): The Save Our Streets (SOS) coalition says the Auditor General's report confirms that BC continues to fail in addressing the toxic drug crisis with record numbers losing their lives and confirmed gaps in the response.

"BC must learn from this report and the policy failures such as those recently recognized in Oregon and refocus on designing and implementing a comprehensive continuum of care for those suffering from addictions and mental health issues," says Jess Ketchum, co-founder of SOS.

The SOS Save Our Streets Coalition consists of over 90 organizations from throughout BC that recognize the significant impact that drug addictions, mental health and homelessness have on the level of street crime and violence being experienced throughout B.C.

"Those suffering from addictions need ready-access to detox, treatment and recovery services as well as long term counselling and community-based support. Those suffering from mental illness need access to professional assessment, diagnosis, and treatment," stated Ketchum. "Those actions, in conjunction with necessary judicial reform and policing resources to deal harshly with the criminal element who prey upon the sick, is the only answer," Ketchum concluded.

The Save Our Streets coalition is a registered BC society consisting of organizations representing concerned citizen groups and business associations. It is non-partisan and non-profit.

Concerned citizen groups, and BC businesses interested in joining or supporting SOS are invited to apply online at SaveOurStreets.ca or contact: info@saveourstreets.ca.

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