



**SOS WELCOMES GREATER FEDERAL ELECTION FOCUS ON RECOVERY  
FOR CANADIANS LIVING WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ISSUES**

Response follows Poilievre's promise of funding recovery opportunities for 50,000 Canadians

VANCOUVER, B.C (April 7, 2025) – Following federal Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre's announcement calling for a greater emphasis on recovery programs for Canadians suffering from mental health and addictions issues, the non-partisan Save Our Streets coalition is reiterating its support of evidence-based solutions to the drug crisis and record levels of crime, violence and public disorder being experienced in communities throughout B.C.

Speaking in British Columbia yesterday, Poilievre called for the banning of drug consumption sites within 500m of schools, daycares, playgrounds, parks and seniors centres, licensed medical staff at all sites, greater community consultations on locations, direct connections to recovery services, and \$1B to fund for supporting recovery services.

"SOS welcomes an approach that includes additional funding for recovery, better siting of any consumption sites and the presence of licensed medical staff at those sites to ensure the safety of users," says Jess Ketchum, Co-founder, SOS. "Most importantly, we believe that any such sites must facilitate a user's first steps towards recovery. For these sites to have a meaningful impact, staff there will need to be able to facilitate direct access to health assessment, detox, treatment and recovery services. The one billion promised by Pierre Poilievre will need to go to ensuring those services are actually available, as today they are not.

"And while the promise of funding is a very positive step, making real progress will require that all three levels of government address this and other related issues in a coordinated manner," added Ketchum. "We also need to address the issue of ongoing repeat, chronic offenders and providing clear sentencing guidelines. Criminals across Canada continue to face little consequences, so they continue to reoffend, leaving innocent, law abiding people and business owners wondering where their protection under the law.

"We need judicial reform that will halt the revolving door for repeat offenders, we need law enforcement reforms to provide police with the tools they need to maintain the law, and we need access to a full continuum of care to treat those suffering from addiction and mental illnesses. We look forward to hearing from all federal party leaders on these important issues as we approach election day on April 28."

**About Save Our Streets**

Save Our Streets is a coalition of 120-plus community and business organizations representing every corner of British Columbia. SOS members are committed to seeing governments bring order and public safety back to communities across British Columbia. Concerned citizen groups, and B.C. businesses interested in joining or supporting SOS are invited to submit online at [SaveOurStreets.ca](https://SaveOurStreets.ca) or contact [info@saveourstreets.ca](mailto:info@saveourstreets.ca).

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