



SOS PRESENTS CASE TO FEDERAL LIBERAL BC CAUCUS

VANCOUVER, B.C (July 15, 2025) – The Save Our Streets (SOS) coalition met yesterday in Kelowna with the entire B.C. federal Liberal caucus to discuss the federal government’s role in curbing the level of crime, violence and public disorder disrupting and threatening communities throughout B.C.

“British Columbians are at a tipping point regarding the crime, violence and public disorder being experienced throughout B.C. and are demanding action,” stated Clint Mahlman, Co-founder of the Save Our Streets Coalition. “People have lost faith in our justice system as a result of lack of bail efficiency and the revolving door that repeat offenders find so accommodating and contributes to the degradation of safety on our streets.”

SOS is calling for an end to inter-jurisdictional finger pointing and for senior governments to show leadership in bringing about real change to the judicial system. It is advocating for:

- **effective bail reform** targeting repeat theft and street disorder offenders;
- federal dollars to provincial governments, with performance strings attached, for building out a **full continuum of care** for individuals suffering from addictions and mental illnesses;
- a **national bail repository** so prosecutors can easily and quickly determine if an arrestee is out on bail with existing warrants in different jurisdictions across Canada;
- **proper resourcing for the judiciary.**

The caucus was informed of the impact organized crime is having on the retail and service industries and provided with suggested law changes that would improve law enforcement’s ability to lay charges and the Crown’s ability to prosecute organized crime. “As it stands, organized crime agencies are praying on those with mental health, addiction and brain injuries who are awaiting care and housing,” stated Mahlman.

“We told the caucus of the terrible conditions people are experiencing in every region of the province,” stated Jeff Bray, SOS Director and CEO of the Downtown Victoria Business Association. “Victoria council recently re-allocated \$10.35m to combatting these issues in Victoria and unfortunately many of the issues to be addressed are the realm of the senior governments. While the City of Victoria’s efforts are appreciated, it should be senior levels of government stepping up with bold, action-orientated policy decisions.”

Bray also reminded the Caucus of the unique-to-B.C. exemption by Health Canada from the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* to decriminalize the possession of certain illegal drugs from January 31, 2023, to January 31, 2026, the impacts of that decriminalization on communities, and the learnings from Portland, Oregon which had a similar exemption. The Caucus was urged to ask the federal health Minister not to renew this exemption and instead let it expire.



“We very much appreciated the opportunity to make our thoughts known to the B.C. Caucus. We believe they were well received and that these MPs want to be part of the solution rather than the problem,” Mahlman concluded.

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 or contact info@saveourstreets.ca.

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