



### **SOS COMMENDS VICTORIA PLAN TO TACKLE CRIME AND DISORDER**

Root causes of street disorder require coordinated action between all levels of government

VANCOUVER, B.C (July 4, 2025) – Following the City of Victoria’s announcement of a \$10.35 million Community Safety and Well Being Plan to tackle street disorder in downtown Victoria, Save Our Streets (SOS) is commending the City of Victoria, calling on other municipalities to make similar commitments to improve public safety in their communities and calling on the provincial and federal governments to initiate a coordinated response to address the root causes of street disorder.

The 99-point plan unveiled Wednesday (July 2) includes additional bylaw staff, additional police officers, increased funding to the Victoria Police Department, funding for non-profit providers helping people come off the street, new short-term shelter options, funding to rehabilitate the 900-block of Pandora and Princess avenues, enhancing emergency weather crisis responses, and other initiatives. Funding for the plan will come from the reallocation of funds from existing projects, programs and services.

During her announcement, Victoria Mayor Marianne Alto noted that while the responsibility for the services that address poverty, homelessness, addictions and health lie primarily with the provincial government, Victorians expect their city government to respond to these crises. SOS contends that these issues will not be resolved until the province fully builds out the continuum of care for those suffering from addictions and mental health and the federal government reforms bail provisions and particularly in dealing with repeat offenders.

SOS and its members have played a key role raising awareness of these crises and the need to address them now. Most recently, the Downtown Victoria Business Association unveiled its *2025 Report on Downtown*, which highlighted the damage being inflicted on businesses and the public in downtown Victoria, while calling on governments to start treating this as the crisis they have allowed it to become. Victoria’s announcement follows another weekend that saw numerous violent incidents in the area.

“We commend the City of Victoria’s actions as definitely a step in the right direction, but for its many initiatives to have a lasting difference, they must be supported by the provincial and federal governments that have legislated mandates to address addiction and mental illness, housing and poverty,” says Jeff Bray, President of Downtown Victoria and a director of SOS. “As SOS’s province-wide survey and our ongoing discussions with our members and the public across the province clearly indicate, it’s not just Victorians that expect their city government to respond to these issues, businesses and residents in practically every B.C. community want all three levels of government to do more and to do it now.”

Jess Ketchum, Co-founder of SOS noted the important role the public has to play in affecting change in their communities and motivating all levels of government to act.

“No one knows more about their communities than the businesses and residents that experience the impact of street disorder every day. If we want to live in communities where issues like public safety, housing, poverty and support for the most vulnerable are prioritized and addressed in evidenced-based ways that aren’t sidetracked by partisan agendas, then we all need to make our voices heard, not just at election time, but every day. Victoria residents, businesses and organizations like the DVBA have clearly made their voices heard, and the city’s response shows the impact we all have to help shape our communities. Our hope is that Victoria’s enhanced commitment to addressing street disorder will soon be replicated in communities across British Columbia, but with more involvement and assistance from the provincial and federal governments.”

For more information on the City of Victoria's Community Safety and Well Being Plan, visit <https://www.victoria.ca/city-government/news/city-acts-community-safety>

**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://www.saveourstreets.ca) or contact [info@saveourstreets.ca](mailto:info@saveourstreets.ca).

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