

Downtown Van | Provincial Election Legislative Agenda

Downtown Van Legislative Agenda Calls to Action:

The Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association – in conjunction with our local partners – are calling on all provincial parties to commit to making the requisite financial, institutional, and programmatic investments necessary to address the ongoing, systemic public safety issues that are negatively impacting the business community in downtown Vancouver and municipalities across the province.

(1) Commit to additional funding to provide comprehensive support for those living with mental health and/or addiction:

- a. Establishment of more supportive housing units that are proportionate to the unique demographics in Vancouver and each individual municipality.
- b. Addictions treatment programs / drop-in centers that use holistic approaches to recovery, considering, the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all those willing to participate.
- c. Competencies-based training programs to prepare those in recovery to integrate into society through courses that address personal wellness, job integration, etc. to help mitigate potential recidivism.

(2) Introduce a multidisciplinary strategy – inclusive of additional funding – to address repeat (non-violent) offenders:

- a. Funding for additional Crown Prosecutors to alleviate the continued burdens placed on the criminal justice system and the subsequent lack of consequences for repeat offenders.
- b. Increased penalties for repeat offenders.
- c. Sufficiently fund 'Restorative Justice' programs throughout the province to divert non-repeat offenders from the criminal justice system.

(3) Partner with local municipalities to provide additional funding for law enforcement. Funding should:

- a. Be earmarked specifically for community-based policing.
- b. Increase the visible presence of police officers to both deter crime while also fostering a greater sense of safety for all those who live, work, and play in the downtown core.
- c. Result in police officers being able to address lower-level crimes that are at the core of the challenges facing small and medium-sized businesses (i.e., property damage, thefts, etc.).

Timeline:

The funding allocations listed above must be included in the first budget tabled by the provincial government post-election, with the distribution of said funds within 100 days thereafter.