

September 5, 2024

Statement on Incident in Downtown Vancouver on September 4, 2024

In the early hours of September 4, 2024, a violent and deeply concerning incident took place in downtown Vancouver. This resulted in the loss of life of one person and serious injury to another. There are no words to effectively convey our depth of feeling – neither sympathy, nor the senselessness of this incident – to the victims’ families and loved ones. We commend the VPD for their swift action in apprehending the lone suspect, and for their efforts in rendering aid to the victims of these assaults.

Anyone with knowledge of this incident would be rightfully disturbed and frightened. It counteracts all the efforts by people trying to make our society, city and district a safe, welcoming, and vibrant space for all. Social, cultural and business events of all sizes happen downtown daily without incident – in this sense, progress is being made.

However, this incident proves that despite the efforts of front-line workers in healthcare and law enforcement, there are individuals in our society who are not getting the necessary support or resources they need. People in our city – our downtown – are paying the price.

This underlines the need for effective measures to address and prevent repeat offences, including early and long-term intervention and effective rehabilitation. Clear and enforced protocols will help eliminate the prospect of repeat violent offenders being left unchecked to roam our streets.

Unless greater, bolder action is taken at every level of government, we risk seeing more of these kinds of incidents.

We therefore call on everyone, in every field, in every ministry and government, to act with the decisiveness and compassion our community deserves. We are ready. Please join us.

Sincerely,

Downtown Van