

Safe Streets

• COALITION •

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier
Government of British Columbia
Room 156, West Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Campbell:

January 28, 2005

I am writing on behalf of the Safe Streets Coalition to sincerely thank you for listening to individuals, businesses, community groups, and municipalities across BC who have been asking for tools to address a rise in aggressive, disorderly street behaviour.

Yesterday's announcement that the *Safe Streets Act* and the *Trespass Amendment Act* are now fully in force, was a milestone event and exciting news for our Coalition. We welcome the news that you have given law enforcement new and better tools and that you will continue to work with communities to reduce crime and improve community safety for all British Columbians as well as visitors.

Our Coalition is committed to this new legislation as part of a much larger strategy to deal with the root causes of aggressive and disorderly street behaviour. Implementing a multi-pronged approach, to coincide with the introduction of the legislation, to tackle homelessness, mental health and addiction which are root causes and symptoms of disorderly street behaviour, is key to achieving a successful outcome.

We are already noticing positive changes as a result of the introduction of this legislation, including a decrease in aggressive behaviour in Downtown Vancouver, and we hope that communities across BC will start to notice a difference as well.

Thank you Mr. Premier - it shows just what can be achieved when we all work together to make a difference.

Sincerely,



Kathi E. Thompson
Chair, Safe Streets Coalition

cc: Honourable Geoff Plant, Attorney General
Honourable Rich Coleman, Solicitor General
Honourable John Les, Minister of Small Business and Economic
Development
Lorne Mayencourt, MLA, Vancouver-Burrard