



For Immediate Release

January 27, 2005

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### NEW SAFE STREETS LEGISLATION NOW IN EFFECT

**Vancouver, BC** – The Safe Streets Coalition welcomes today’s announcement that the *Safe Streets Act* and the *Trespass Amendment Act* are now fully in force.

The Safe Streets Coalition, representing community and business groups from across the province, is working to ensure the successful implementation of the new legislation that was passed by the provincial government in October 2004. Enforcement measures announced today, that bring this legislation into effect, are an important step forward.

Kathi Thompson, Chair of the Safe Streets Coalition, said, “Today’s news is significant. It signals that we can get on with the job of making our streets safer and improve the quality of life in communities around BC.”

“The Coalition supports the government’s legislation as part of a much larger strategy for dealing with the root causes of aggressive and disorderly street behaviour,” explained Thompson. Thompson also congratulated the government for implementing a multi-pronged approach, to coincide with the introduction of the legislation, to tackle the root causes and symptoms of disorderly street behaviour. “We’re pleased that the government is working to deal with homelessness, mental health and addiction issues which are a concern for communities across the province,” said Thompson.

She added that the legislation brought into force today is a result of the tremendous support given the government from members of the Safe Streets Coalition and members of the public. The Safe Streets Coalition is an association of 64 community groups, business associations and local governments who support provincial legislation and policy aimed at enhancing community safety for all British Columbians and visitors to BC.

“We are already noticing positive changes as a result of the introduction of this legislation in October, including a decrease in aggressive behaviour in Downtown Vancouver,” said Dave Jones, who is the Director of Crime Prevention Services for the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA).

For more information about the Safe Street Coalition visit [www.safestreetscoalition.com](http://www.safestreetscoalition.com) or call 604-910-SAFE (7233). Outside of the Lower Mainland, call toll free 1-866-735-SAFE (7233).

-30-

**Please note that Kathi Thompson, Chair of the Safe Streets Coalition is available to comment on the government's announcement.**

Contacts:

Kathi Thompson  
(604) 443-6642

[kathi@downtownvancouver.net](mailto:kathi@downtownvancouver.net)

Karen Karaloukas  
(604) 685-7811 x 204

[karen@downtownvancouver.net](mailto:karen@downtownvancouver.net)