



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Sim celebrates opening of new Gastown-Hastings Community Policing Centre

VANCOUVER, B.C. – Today, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim was joined by community stakeholders for the opening of the new Gastown-Hastings Community Policing Centre:

“We’ve heard clearly from people who live and work in the area: they want to feel safer,” said Mayor Ken Sim. “They want more support, more connection between neighbours, and a more visible presence the community when issues arise. This new community policing centre is a direct response to that call.”

Community policing centres (CPCs) are offices that can be used to coordinate programs and provide an access point for community members. In October 2024, Mayor Sim brought forward the motion to prioritize the creation of a community policing centre in the area.

“This CPC is a powerful example of what’s possible when we come together. It’s community-led, volunteer-driven, and built on the belief that everyone deserves to feel safe in the neighbourhood they call home,” continued Sim. “We’re proud to have pushed this initiative forward and we’re excited to see the positive impact it will have.”

In discussing the future of safety in the community, Mayor Sim highlighted the limited capacity for municipalities to address the complex public safety and mental health challenges seen in the Downtown Eastside. The Provincial government has committed to providing a one-time contribution of \$1 million to the Gastown-Hastings CPC by end-of-day Friday. Sim called on senior levels of government to play a greater role in delivering community safety.

“Cities like Vancouver can’t do this alone,” continued Sim. “We need senior levels of government to step up consistently, meaningfully, and with real resources so we can keep investing in the people, programs, and spaces that make our neighbourhoods safer.”

Sim reiterated the need for bail reform from the Federal Government, alongside a significantly expanded number of involuntary care beds and a renewed approach to supportive housing from the Provincial government. Only 28 of the Province’s announced 400 involuntary care beds have come online.

“Without a substantial increase in new beds and stronger measures to keep offenders off the streets, we won’t see the long-term change our city needs,” concluded Sim. “What we’ve seen to date hasn’t been enough and until senior governments are ready to step up, Vancouver will continue doing everything a municipality can to help residents feel safe.”

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