



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Official Statement from Mayor Ken Sim on Province's Decision to Support SRO Vacancy Control By-law**

VANCOUVER, BC – Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim released the following statement regarding the Government of British Columbia’s decision to support the SRO Vacancy Control By-law:

“I commend the Province of British Columbia for its decision to introduce amendments to the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act (MEVA) to support the City’s SRO Vacancy Control By-law.

“We want to ensure Vancouver remains a place where everyone can find a sense of belonging, regardless of their income. This by-law is an important step in addressing the urgent need for low-income housing and protecting vulnerable Vancouver residents living in Single Room Occupancies (SROs).

“In recent years, SRO rent prices have surged by 21%, resulting in over 500 tenants being displaced from private SROs. Last year alone, over 900 rooms were rented at a substantially higher cost per month, placing them out of reach for many low-income residents.

“Without SROs, individuals would be on the street. Immediate action is needed to prevent another 1,000 people from potentially facing homelessness by September.

“The SRO Vacancy Control By-law, designed to curb steep rent hikes between tenancies, is a crucial measure aimed at safeguarding low-income SRO tenants, who often find these accommodations to be their last available option before homelessness.

“While this is an important step forward, it is a temporary solution. We need senior levels of government to acquire more housing of last resort to ensure affordability remains in Vancouver.

“We look forward to continued collaboration with the Province, and other senior levels of government, to help our city become a place where everyone, regardless of income, can find stability and a place they can call home.”

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