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Mayor Ken Sim calls for concrete action following release of Stanley Park attack suspect

VANCOUVER, B.C. – Following the recent release of an accused suspect in a random attack on the Stanley Park seawall, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim is calling for concrete action from the Provincial and Federal governments to prevent those at a high risk to offend from being released from custody:

“Law enforcement agencies have done their job in identifying suspects and making arrests but the judicial system is repeatedly letting victims down by allowing those with a high risk to offend back into the public,” said Sim. “The public deserves an answer from Attorney General Niki Sharma on why this continues to happen.”

On Monday, Peterhans Nungu, the man accused of committing a stranger attack on the Vancouver Seawall back in April, was released from custody. The decision comes amidst an upcoming bail hearing for Hartley Ronald Duckhorn, the man suspected of carrying out a violent sexual assault against a woman in a Stanley Park washroom last week.

“Last week, we saw an act of senseless and horrifying sexual violence take place,” said Sim “People lose trust in the system when predators are released so quickly from custody. Victims deserve better from a judicial system that is supposed to serve and protect them.”

Mayor Sim reiterated his call for the Province and Federal Government to step up and protect the general public from those at risk of reoffending.

“It all begs to the question of ‘who is next to be released?’,” concluded Sim. “Nothing will change until the Province and the Federal Government are ready to take concrete actions to reform the bail system and adequately resource the criminal justice system.”

Duckhorn could be released from custody as soon as Friday afternoon.

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