



For Immediate Release

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### **Mayor Ken Sim Collaborates with BC Leaders in Demand for Federal Action on Public Safety and Health Crisis**

VANCOUVER, BC - At a press conference today, Mayor of Vancouver Ken Sim, joined by a coalition of mayors from across British Columbia, demanded urgent action from the federal government to tackle public safety and the mental health and addictions crisis affecting Vancouver and municipalities throughout the province.

“Our top priority is the safety and well-being of every Vancouverite and British Columbian,” said Mayor Sim. “We can no longer accept the status quo when the current system is broken. Vancouver, and other towns and cities across this province and country, deserve to be places where people are safe and supported and where families can thrive. The time for action is now.”

Mayor Sim outlined three critical areas where immediate support and action are needed from the federal government:

1. **Provincial Mandatory Care and Federal Support:** Mandatory care is urgently needed to address the escalating mental health and addictions crisis. Urgent action is needed by the Federal Government to provide legal and financial support to Provinces as they implement mandatory care for individuals with severe mental health and substance use disorders.
2. **Meaningful Bail Reform for Repeat Offenders:** To safeguard public safety, both the provincial and federal governments must take swift action to reform bail conditions, ensuring that repeat offenders who pose a threat to communities are kept off the streets.
3. **A Federal Plan to Secure Our Ports:** A national strategy is needed to secure Vancouver’s and the region’s ports and stop the flow of illicit drugs from coming in and the export of stolen vehicles.

## Supporting Quotes

“For years, the City of Kelowna has been a vocal advocate for improved and better pathways to healthcare for individuals in crisis, including for compassionate mandatory care. Standing alongside this coalition of Mayors, it is clear that we are aligned on the immediate need for a national strategy to implement mandatory care in our communities and to address public safety with meaningful action on bail reform for Repeat Offenders of all types. By working together, with pace and purpose, I am confident that, together, we can build a system that prioritizes both public safety and compassionate, dignified care.” – **Tom Dyas, Mayor of Kelowna**

“Our first responders have been on the front lines of this crisis since day one. We have seen firsthand how the current system is inadequate. These measures will not only help the most at risk individuals in our City but will also support our firefighters by giving them the tools they need to serve Vancouverites.” – **Karen Fry, Chief of Vancouver Fire and Rescue**

“Securing our ports is not just a Vancouver issue, it’s a national issue. We need the federal government to take crime seriously and stop illicit substances from entering our province.” – **George Harvie, Mayor of Delta**

“The safety of our communities, not just in British Columbia, but across Canada, is at stake. The federal government has a role to play in ensuring our communities are safe and those struggling with mental health and addictions are supported.” – **Mike Hurley, Mayor of Burnaby**

“We stand united in our call for change. The current system isn’t working, and it’s up to all levels of government to work together to create a safer, more compassionate future for our province and country.” – **Leonard Krog, Mayor of Nanaimo**

“Our communities are stronger when all levels of government work together. By addressing public safety concerns on our streets and at our ports, as well as supporting mental health initiatives, we can build a safer, healthier future for all who call BC home.” – **Mike Little, Mayor of District of North Vancouver**

“Everyone deserves parks, neighbourhoods, and streets where they feel safe. By offering compassionate support to those facing severe mental health challenges and ensuring repeat offenders don’t threaten public safety, we can keep our shared spaces welcoming for all.” – **Nicole MacDonald, Mayor of Pitt Meadows**

“Police need the right tools to keep dangerous offenders off Vancouver’s streets. This includes meaningful bail reform and secure care for people suffering from significant mental health issues who pose a danger to the community. Stronger federal and provincial support is essential to protect our residents and uphold the safety of our city.” – **Adam Palmer, Chief of the Vancouver Police Department**

“Addressing mental health and addiction isn’t just about policy; it’s about changing lives. A comprehensive federal strategy that supports mandatory care offers a vital lifeline to

the thousands in our province who are struggling and need our help the most.” – **Mark Sager, Mayor of West Vancouver**

“Establishing a federal support framework and implementing mandatory care are crucial steps for tackling the mental health and addictions crisis facing BC, and Canada. These measures will provide a structured, compassionate approach to support individuals in need, while also ensuring a coordinated effort to address the root causes of addiction and enhance overall public health while ensuring public safety.” – **Kevin Sabet, Former White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Advisor and Co-Founder, PROSPER (Policy Roundtable On Substance Prevention Education and Recovery)**

“Changing how we respond to repeat offenders and secure ports are essential steps toward ensuring a safer province and country. By equipping police with the necessary tools along with a comprehensive strategy to address repeat offenders including measures to prevent the production and distribution of illicit drugs, will enhance public safety and create a more secure environment for all Canadians” – **Tom Stamatakis, President of the Canadian Police Association**

"In Canada, mental illness - including addictions - is the only illness for which a person can die because of an inability to seek treatment. A decade ago, when our daughter required hospitalization due to mental illness, we were thankful that she was committed under the Mental Health Act and received involuntary hospitalization, part of the path to her recovery, to getting her life back. But unfortunately, too many suffering with mental illness and/or addiction cannot seek help, and if they do seek help there is none available. In the context of a toxic drug epidemic, these people are dying of neglect." – **Richard Stewart, Mayor of Coquitlam**

“Our communities have a long history of resilience, but resilience alone is not enough. We need a coordinated response that values human life and safety above all else. The federal government must join us in building systems that respect Indigenous knowledge and honour the dignity of all individuals.” – **Chief Wayne Sparrow of Musqueam Indian Band**

“To truly protect our communities, we need a federal strategy that stops the flow of illicit drugs into our province and addresses the root causes of addiction. This means securing our ports and supporting a mandatory care framework for those who are most vulnerable.” – **Chief Jen Thomas of Tsleil-Waututh Nation**

“A coordinated response is essential to address the overlapping issues of mental health, addiction, and public safety. We support the need for a federal framework that includes meaningful bail reform and resources to help keep repeat offenders off our streets.” – **Sxwixwtn, Wilson Williams, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Spokesperson and Council Member**

“This is about doing what is right for our communities. We need action from the federal government that prioritizes public safety with a national strategy that also provides

appropriate care and support to those who need it most.” – **Brad West, Mayor of Port Coquitlam**

“The status quo is simply not acceptable. We need more crown prosecutors and bail reform that keeps repeat offenders off our streets and protects our residents. We also need to do a better job triaging patients with severe mental health issues.” – **Simon Yu, Mayor of Prince George**

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