

October 1, 2024

Statement on Weekend Incident Involving Downtown Van's Safety Ambassadors

This past weekend, one of our Downtown Safety Ambassadors was physically attacked during a situation involving a man who was being aggressive towards members of the public. Despite our Ambassadors maintaining a safe distance while calling 9-1-1, the individual continued to act aggressively before being apprehended by the Vancouver Police Department.

Thankfully our Ambassador received only minor injuries and will make a full recovery. We thank the Vancouver Police Department for their quick and thorough response to this incident.

Our Downtown Safety Ambassadors, who patrol 90 blocks of the central business district, are witnessing an alarming amount of hostility and aggression. While trained to de-escalate situations and provide a safe, visible, and hands-off presence, conditions in our district are changing and their work is becoming more difficult.

This incident highlights the importance of adopting a holistic approach to addressing safety in the downtown core, one that:

- Supports those facing mental health and addiction challenges
- Addresses repeat offenders
- And ensures provincial funding for law enforcement

Downtown Van recently launched the [*Better Safe / Than Sorry*](#) campaign, calling on all parties to prioritize community safety in the upcoming provincial election and implement a comprehensive, holistic approach.

The status quo isn't working, and our businesses, employees, and citizens are paying the price. We cannot continue down this path.

Sincerely,

Downtown Van