



PUBLIC SAFETY

Restoring Order to Our City:

TEAM's Public Safety and Recovery Plan



Vancouver residents deserve to feel safe in their own city.

Ken Sim was elected four years ago promising to restore public safety. But public safety remains one of Vancouverites' top concerns, and the latest VPD statistics show crime moving in the wrong direction again.

Now, weeks before an election, ABC is offering a non-binding plebiscite.

That is not a serious public safety plan.

Vancouver's public-safety reputation is suffering. In a national survey released this month, 52% of Canadians surveyed viewed Vancouver as unsafe.

This year, reported assaults in Vancouver are up 6.5% compared with the same period last year. In July alone, Vancouver recorded 413 reported assaults — more than 13 every day.

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6.5%

increase ↑

That is unacceptable.

TEAM is offering a comprehensive four-part plan to restore order, strengthen neighbourhood policing, protect people from violence, and replace the failed management of addiction with a recovery-oriented approach.

A Four-Part Plan

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Residents' Safety Action Plan

Residents have a right to safely use Vancouver's streets, parks, beaches, transit stops, libraries, community centres and neighbourhood shopping areas.

TEAM WILL:

- **Target repeat violent offenders** by working through the Vancouver Police Board to strengthen VPD's chronic-offender capacity and prioritize individuals responsible for repeated assaults, robberies and serious street violence, while pressing senior governments for stronger bail, prosecution and supervision measures.
- Adopt a **zero-tolerance approach to open drug use** in shared public spaces, working through the Vancouver Police Board to prioritize enforcement of existing drug laws while connecting people in crisis to treatment and recovery services.
- **Direct City bylaw enforcement resources** toward chronic disorder, obstruction, nuisance, cleanliness and unsafe behaviour, while working through the Vancouver Police Board to make open drug trafficking, repeat property crime, theft, threats and intimidation enforcement priorities
- Work through the Vancouver Police Board to prioritize enforcement against **open drug trafficking, repeat property crime, theft, threats and intimidation**, ensure VPD has the resources required, and improve public reporting on neighbourhood crime and disorder; and
- Develop transparent public reporting on neighbourhood-level crime and street disorder.

No neighbourhood should be written off as a place where disorder is simply accepted and normalized.



A Community-First Approach to Policing

TEAM will build on Vancouver's existing geographic policing structure to strengthen district and neighbourhood-based policing, so officers are more closely connected to the communities they serve.

TEAM will:

- **Strengthen district policing and neighbourhood-level public-safety priorities**, with regular public reporting on crime trends in each district;
- Provide stable support for Community Policing Centres;
- Expand Block Watch, including greater outreach to apartment buildings and rental communities;
- Improve coordination between police, City bylaw services, neighbourhood organizations and local businesses;
- Establish a **Victims Response Standard** through the Vancouver Police Board so residents and business owners who report property crime and other non-emergency offences receive respectful treatment, a clear file number, timely updates, acknowledgement of new evidence, and notice when a case is closed.
- **Support School Liaison Officers** in partnership with the Vancouver School Board and school communities; and
- Strengthen youth-at-risk, anti-gang and crime-prevention programs.

A safer city starts with stronger neighbourhoods and stronger connections between residents and police.

Violence Against Women Prevention Strategy

Women should be able to live, work and travel safely in every neighbourhood in the city.

Drawing on priorities advanced by Battered Women's Support Services, TEAM will establish a **Violence Against Women Prevention Strategy** focused on prevention, victim support and accountability.

TEAM WILL:

- **Establish a Municipal Intimate Partner Violence Task Force** bringing together City departments, VPD, victim-service organizations, Indigenous organizations, housing providers, health partners, justice representatives and community advocates;
- **Increase support for frontline services** by advocating for a 15% increase in senior-government funding for victim services, anti-violence programs and transition houses, while reviewing City grants for additional targeted support;
- **Strengthen risk assessment and local data collection** by working with VPD and provincial partners to improve standardized intimate-partner-violence risk assessment, identify service gaps and publish regular reporting;
- **Invest in prevention education** focused on healthy relationships, consent and violence prevention through City facilities, libraries, community centres and recreation programs, while partnering with the Vancouver School Board and community organizations; and
- **Appoint a City Women's Safety Lead** responsible for coordinating municipal action, tracking implementation and publishing an annual report on progress and outstanding gaps.

SECTION 04

Focusing on Recovery: A New Approach to Addiction

Vancouver needs a fundamental change in how it responds to addiction.

The current approach is failing too many people and communities and perpetuating cycles of addiction and crisis.

TEAM's recovery-oriented approach has one overarching goal: **help our fellow citizens break the cycle of addiction and regain agency over their lives.**

Lifesaving interventions will remain an essential part of our response — **but we will not stop there.**

TEAM will move Vancouver from managing addiction toward promoting **recovery, personal agency and a healthy, independent life free from addiction.**

TEAM WILL:

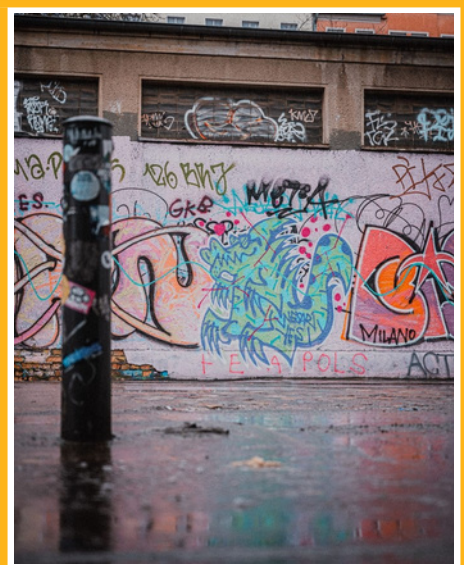
- **Establish an Immediate Treatment and Recovery Pathway** with Vancouver Coastal Health so police, outreach workers and other frontline services can connect people in crisis directly to same-day clinical assessment and referral, with help accessing and getting to the appropriate treatment or recovery service.
- **Negotiate a Vancouver treatment-capacity agreement** with the Province and Vancouver Coastal Health to expand provincially funded detox, treatment and recovery beds and reduce waits for care.
- **Support expanded secure involuntary care as a last resort** by advocating the Province expand secure-care capacity for people who meet B.C.'s Mental Health Act criteria, with admission determined by qualified clinicians and subject to appropriate legal safeguards.
- **Support smaller, tightly regulated recovery homes across Vancouver** through City land, zoning, permitting, and partnership agreement. These homes must have 24/7 professional staffing, clear sobriety and behaviour rules, zero tolerance for violence, drug trafficking and illicit drug use on site, and strict Good Neighbour requirements requiring immediate action when facility-related disorder, intimidation, vandalism or property crime affects the surrounding community, with continued City support contingent on compliance.
- **Use City land, zoning and faster permitting** to help establish properly operated treatment and recovery facilities;
- **Make getting people back on their feet the measure of success** for City-supported recovery programs, including stable housing, treatment engagement, employment or education, life skills and reconnection with family and community.
- **Work with hospitals and treatment providers** to reduce and prevent discharges directly into

homelessness and instead connect people with appropriate recovery housing and after-care.

- **Expand evidence-based drug-prevention education in our public schools**, with clear warnings about the risks of illicit drugs, addiction, overdose and the long-term consequences of substance use.

People struggling with addiction should be treated with dignity and given a genuine opportunity to regain control over their lives.

TEAM's recovery-oriented approach will provide a structured pathway toward stable, healthy, and increasingly independent living.



THE BOTTOM LINE

A Plan to Restore Our City

Ken Sim has had four years and an ABC majority.

Vancouver does not need another non-binding plebiscite to tell us residents want safe streets.

It is time for a new approach.

TEAM will restore order in public spaces, target repeat violent offenders, strengthen district and community policing, take concrete action to prevent violence against women, and make recovery the goal of Vancouver's response to addiction.

