



**British Columbia & Yukon
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Safe Streets Good for BC Hotel Industry

Vancouver – In response to the *Safe Streets Act* and *Trespass to Property Act* legislation introduced in the Provincial Legislature today, the British Columbia & Yukon Hotels' Association is encouraged by the government's commitment to making BC a safe place to live, work, and travel.

"We applaud MLA Lorne Mayencourt for his initiative and Premier Campbell for his insight and leadership," says James Chase, Chief Executive Officer of the BC & Yukon Hotels' Association, "keeping the province safe for tourists is critical to BC's image, both at home and abroad."

"Our members have long-been frustrated by an inability to protect our guests and employees from aggressive panhandling and repeated trespassing," adds Craig Norris-Jones, BCYHA President and General Manager of the Coast Plaza Suite Hotels at Stanley Park. "Petty crime is having a major impact on hotel business in almost every community throughout the province – it's no longer a big-city problem."

The *Safe Streets Act* includes provisions that will allow some recourse against aggressive panhandling and nuisance crime. The *Trespass to Property Act* will provide the policing agencies more tools to remove repeated trespassers from private property, further protecting those who stay and work in hotels.

The BCYHA has 580 hotel members and nearly 200 affiliate members, representing an industry with revenue in excess of \$3.1 billion, 48,000 rooms and more than 45,000 employees. Our members have invested heavily into their communities and as a result, are integral to steering the future development of the province and territory. Headquartered in Vancouver, the BCYHA is dedicated to improving and increasing the tourism and hospitality industry within British Columbia and the Yukon. We are members of a province-wide Safe Streets Coalition, which is working toward finding ways for communities to more effectively address crime issues and restore order to the streets

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