



For Immediate Release
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BIABC APPLAUDS CREATION OF PROGRAM SUPPORTING BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY INCREASED CRIME AND VANDALISM

Vancouver, BC – Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia (BIABC) is pleased that the Province has answered its call to action to address the rampant vandalism and property crime issues impacting small business communities across the province.

The new \$10.5 million Securing Small Business Rebate Program will be available on an application basis and retroactive to Jan. 1, 2023. Businesses will be able to apply for as much as \$2,000 per business for the cost of repairs due to vandalism, and up to \$1,000 for vandalism prevention.

For several months, the Business Improvement Areas of BC (BIABC) has been working with government officials to highlight the need for creation of a fund that will support initiatives aimed at curtailing the impacts of vandalism and property crime and putting in place preventative measures.

“Businesses require immediate relief and funding for anti-vandalism programs aimed at enhancing business security and/or mitigating the impacts of crime – and we are pleased that government has answered the call,” says Jeff Bray, President of BIABC. “With several compounding pressures facing businesses, additional costs associated with repeat vandalism and property crime incidents are threatening the short and long-term viability of small businesses -

“Specific BIAs and municipalities have been administering storefront security programs in response to current street level conditions, but with the newly funded Securing Small Business Rebate Program a stronger and broader impact is possible,” continued Bray.

BIABC is committed to working with government to support economic development and resiliency for the small business sector, the economic engine of our province. Restoring the health and vitality of our communities is essential and inextricably linked to a robust, thriving economy.

In September of 2022, BIABC launched a campaign focused on generating support from the three levels of government about the plight of business owners, their employees, and communities at large, that are being drastically impacted by issues of crime and public safety. The goal is to work collaboratively with elected officials and achieve results that benefit businesses, communities – and as a result, our province.

About BIABC:

The Business Improvement Areas of BC (BIABC) is the provincial champion of strong, vibrant, and successful downtowns, main streets, and commercial districts throughout our province. Members

represent more than 70 business districts that employ hundreds of thousands of retail, service, and office employees within defined business districts.

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