

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### RELATED MINISTRIES

#### Ministry of Housing and Social Development

Telephone: 1 866 866-0800  
[www.gov.bc.ca/hsd](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hsd)

#### Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

[www.gov.bc.ca/pssg](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pssg)

#### Ministry of Attorney General

[www.gov.bc.ca/ag](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ag)

#### Ministry of Community and Rural Development

[www.gov.bc.ca/cd](http://www.gov.bc.ca/cd)

#### Ministry of Health Services [www.gov.bc.ca/health](http://www.gov.bc.ca/health)

### USEFUL LINKS

#### BC Housing [www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)

- Rental Assistance Program
  - Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters
  - Seniors Supportive Housing
- call: 1 800 257-7756

#### Community Crime Prevention Guide

[www.criminaljusticereform.gov.bc.ca/en/what\\_you\\_can\\_do/index.html](http://www.criminaljusticereform.gov.bc.ca/en/what_you_can_do/index.html)

#### Child and Youth Mental Health

Telephone: 250 387-9749  
[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental\\_health/index.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/index.htm)

#### Transition Houses

*In an emergency, call 911 and ask for the police.*

To find the Victim Services nearest you,

call: 1 800 563-0808

*(24 hours a day, seven days a week)*

[www.cd.gov.bc.ca/women/transition-houses](http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/women/transition-houses)

#### Community Living BC [www.communitylivingbc.ca](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca)

#### Alcohol and Drug Information and Referral Service

Telephone: 1 800 663-1441

#### BC Partners Mental Health Information Line

Telephone: 1 800 661-2121

## MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



Ensuring that our communities are safe, secure places for people to live, work and raise their family is important to all of us. That's why we've added more than 1,100 new police officers since 2002 and 168 new officers last year dedicated to tackle gangs and guns. We return 100% of traffic fine revenue

to communities for local crime prevention programs and we're building more jails to lock up criminals. Justice reforms, like the prolific offender management project, help break the cycle of crime by taking a problem-solving approach to the underlying causes of offenders' criminal behaviours.

Working with communities, we're tackling homelessness. Together, we've nearly doubled the number of shelter beds across B.C. and we are creating approximately 17,500 new units of subsidized housing. We have purchased 45 single room occupancy hotels and affordable housing buildings — a \$130 million investment. Working with communities and agencies, we are expanding the new outreach programs that now operate in 49 communities to connect homeless people with safe housing and shelters, income assistance, employment counselling and medical services. Creating safe, secure and supportive communities takes partnership and hard work and, by working together, we'll achieve our shared goals.

Honourable Gordon Campbell  
Premier of British Columbia



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### SERVICE BC

*(For information on any provincial government service or program)*

Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7867

Telephone device for the deaf (TDD) in B.C.: 1 800 661-8773

[WWW.SERVICEBC.GOV.BC.CA](http://WWW.SERVICEBC.GOV.BC.CA)

### SIGN UP FOR THE PREMIER'S NEWSLETTER:

[PREMIERSOFFICE@GOV.BC.CA](mailto:PREMIERSOFFICE@GOV.BC.CA)

### SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:

E-MAIL: [PREMIER@GOV.BC.CA](mailto:PREMIER@GOV.BC.CA)

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### SERVICES FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CRIME

Spending was increased to enhance victim services in the province, including an ongoing increase of \$2.7 million for existing police-based and community-based victim service programs in B.C. communities and three new community-based victim service programs.

There is a 24-hour, multi-language support service called VictimLINK for victims of family and sexual violence, and all other crimes, which served 10,548 callers in 2008/09.

A four-year, \$185-million capital plan, the largest investment in corrections space in more than half a century, will add 304 cells across B.C. to hold more than 600 offenders.



### COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### More Police and Justice Reform

- » The Province has raised the annual policing budget by \$128 million since 2001, an 89 per cent increase.
- » B.C. has about 1,100 more police officers than five years ago, including 168 new officers to fight gangs and organized crime — nearly 8,700 police in all.
- » Our government returns 100 per cent of net traffic fine revenue to municipalities for community safety and policing. Since 2004, the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program has provided an additional \$297 million in funding.
- » B.C.'s overall crime rate is down for the fifth year in a row. Property crimes have plummeted to the lowest recorded number in 30 years. Violent crime has declined to a new 20-year low.

- » With justice, health and social service partners, British Columbia is addressing root causes of crime through pilots like the prolific offender management project in Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George, Surrey, Victoria and Williams Lake. Along with Vancouver's Downtown Community Court, the pilot is just one of the ways our government is reforming the justice system.

#### Targeting Gangs and Organized Criminals

- » B.C. has the most integrated police teams per capita in Canada, an annual investment of \$66 million.
- » Over the next two years, 168 new police officers will focus on gangs and organized crime, with 131 in place. That nearly doubles the number of officers to 368, with 16-member units for Kelowna and Prince George and a 10-member weapons enforcement team for the illegal gun strategy.
- » Ten Crown counsel have been added to work with police, with 26 prosecutors now dedicated to fighting gang and gun crimes.
- » Court services is enhancing perimeter security at selected courthouses and creating high security courtrooms for gang prosecutions.
- » In 2006, B.C. launched a four-year, \$2 million strategy to deter youth from joining gangs. In 2009, the Premier announced an additional \$1 million for the strategy.



### AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOUSING THE HOMELESS

The Rental Assistance Program provides more than 8,100 low-income working families with direct monthly cash assistance to help pay the rent, with an average monthly payment of about \$350 a family.

Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters provides 16,000 seniors' households — 3,900 more than 2001 — an average monthly payment of about \$150.

The Emergency Shelter Program has helped emergency shelters expand significantly, with more than 1,500 permanent, year round beds in 59 shelters, compared to 850 beds in 2001.

Eighty-seven per cent of permanent shelter beds are now available 24/7 and 95 per cent provide three meals a day.

There are close to 1,200 extreme weather response spaces in locations like churches and community centres. Local co-ordinators and shelter operators make the decisions when to open their extra beds.

The Province is providing an additional \$110 million over three years to support individuals and families in need of income assistance. Shelter rate maximums are now the second highest in Canada for employable singles and couples. Rates for families with children are up between \$97 and \$200 a month, which are the third-highest payments in Canada.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

British Columbia has partnered with municipalities to fast track new supportive housing units.

So far, more than 1,900 new units are planned for Vancouver, Victoria, Surrey, Kelowna, Abbotsford, Campbell River, Maple Ridge and Nanaimo.

A total of \$261 million has been committed to begin construction quickly on 1,066 of these units at 17 housing developments, creating an estimated 1,930 direct jobs.

The Province purchased, for about \$96 million, 1,400 single-occupancy rooms in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria.

