



The City of Vancouver has chosen to ignore the ever growing problem of poverty and homelessness by spending more than 20% of their total budget on Policing and less than 2% on social services.

Other levels of government opted for saving money by closing institutions that provided care and treatment for the mentally ill which has resulted in thousands of vulnerable people being left to shift for themselves with only the meagre support services of a few over administered agencies.

The highest risk factor for becoming addicted to illicit drugs is poverty. As the destitution of thousands in the Inner City grows so does the number of untreated drug addicts. For every dollar spent on enforcement they could save seven dollars by providing real Harm Reduction programs for these people.

Each level of Government is waiting to see what the other one will do. None are willing to take action. During tourist season the City of Vancouver increases its already over large police force in an effort to hide from visitors what is really happening. The result is that the streets are not safe for the people who live here or for visitors like yourself.

When you have finished your visit and gone we, the poor will still be here. We will no longer stand by and watch greedy merchants make money off of tourists at the expense of the residents. The tourism industry brought in nine billion dollars last year. Not one penny has gone to improve the lives of the poor and we will not spend another year living and hiding in misery to fill the pockets of others.

Spend your money and see the sights elsewhere this year.



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