## TRESPASS PREVENTION PROGRAM



## Vancouver is home to over 500,000 residents, is a hub for business, and has some of the busiest retail stores in the Lower Mainland. However, many neighbourhood storefronts are frequented by citizens who regularly set up encampments, loiter in areas that provide shelter, and engage in disruptive and aggressive behaviour. This activity can take place on a private property, in an alcove or area that is off the city sidewalk, or under an awning or covered area which can also provide shelter from the weather.

VPD regularly responds to these situations when calls for service are made through E-Comm by property owners or the public. The community regularly voices their concerns regarding people sleeping, using drugs, or disruptive activity in front of their homes and businesses either through the police reporting system or by attending a community policing office and speaking with staff or volunteers.

The **Trespass Prevention Program** is an initiative that allows VPD officers to remove *Trespass Act* violators from private property without the need of a call for service or direct involvement from an owner or property representative.

To participate in the program, a business or residential building must have an owner or property representative provide a signed consent form to the VPD. This allows the VPD to act on their behalf when exercising powers under the <u>BC Trespass Act.</u> A "No Trespassing" decal is provided to the property which allows VPD to confirm program participants and take appropriate action.



## **QUICK STEPS**

- Property representatives can reach out to a VPD officer if they are interested in registering for the program.
- Officers will then forward the request to the Program Coordinator.
- The Program Coordinator will then contact the representative and provide them with a VPD consent form.
- When a signed copy of the form is returned to the Program Coordinator, VPD members will have authority to act on behalf of that property.
- 5) VPD provides the property representative with a decal to



attach to a window or doorway that is visible to police.

- VPD is now authorized to enforce the *BC Trespass Act* on that property without the need for a call for service.
- Participants are reminded to continue with calls for service as usual when on site and there is a need for police attendance.

## CONTACT

To register for the Trespass Prevention Program, please contact the Program Coordinator:

Constable 2566 Christopher Woods TrespassPreventionProgram@vpd.ca