For Immediate Release
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BIABC Statement on Secure Care commitments in advance of Provincial Election

Victoria, BC- Jeff Bray, the President of Business Improvement Areas of BC, issued the following statement on the issue of Secure Care:

"BIABC believes a commitment to Secure Care by two of BC's major political parties is a critical step in addressing severe mental health and addictions issues impacting people and communities across the province. However, these are complex issues, requiring a comprehensive plan for youth and adults, along with a range of targeted and meaningful investments.

A humane solution will include a specific pathway to access on-demand, wrap around services, and sustained/intensive treatment, regardless of where one lives in the province.

Our expectation is that a detailed plan will be forthcoming during the election campaign, along with a commitment that concrete investments supporting a robust recruitment strategy to ensure an uninterrupted spectrum of care will be rolled up in the next provincial budget. Communities are in crisis, and this is an issue that demands action.

Understanding that longer-term solutions will take time to materialize, an urgent and extensive investment to create safer streets in our business districts and neighbourhoods is also required, including a commitment to community policing with the engagement and support of community members."

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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