

For Immediate Release
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MORE TRANSIT POLICE NEEDED - DIX

VICTORIA – More transit police are needed to ensure the safety of passengers using the Skytrain, New Democrat MLA Adrian Dix said today.

“This latest attack outside the 29th Avenue Skytrain Station is a stark reminder of the need to increase security on our transit system,” said Dix, the MLA for Vancouver-Kingsway. “My constituency is served by seven SkyTrain stations with different needs. 29th Avenue Station, which has seen five vicious attacks on women in the past 4 months, is a more isolated station and would be greatly aided by a regular and visible police presence.

“As a society we need to be encouraging people to use public transit. It has social and environmental benefits that have long been recognized,” said Dix. “But part of making public transit accessible, is making it as safe an option as possible. People are being victimized on their way to work – this is a disturbing trend, but one that can be addressed by increasing security.”

Dix said that the number of transit police should be increased by at least one-third, approximately 60 more officers. “Part of our responsibility to make sure people are safe, and that means taking the necessary steps to hire more security staff to ensure a more consistent police presence across the transit system.”

“Our community is doing its part. The Collingwood Community Policing Office does great work. We have had public meetings. Awareness of the issue is high. Many people travel in pairs or get rides from spouses or parents to stations. We need Translink to add resources to ensure that transit riders feel safe and secure,” said Dix.

“This is by no means a criticism of the work the transit police currently do,” said Dix. “It is a recognition that resources are spread too thin, and more police presence is needed to protect passengers, drivers and other transit workers.”

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