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ISOLATED SKYTRAIN STATION NEEDS IMPROVED SECURITY IMMEDIATELY

VICTORIA – With more brutal attacks near the 29th Avenue SkyTrain Station, security in and around the station must be improved immediately, New Democrat MLA Adrian Dix said today.

“Having access to public transit is a vital element to every community, but part of making public transit accessible is making it as safe as possible,” said Dix, the MLA for Vancouver-Kingsway. “Clearly there is a lot that can be done to make the 29th Avenue Station and the area around the station safer.”

Dix is renewing his call for an increase in the number of transit authority police by one-third. “There is a desperate need for more police resources and presence. TransLink must redirect existing resources so that riders’ safety is the top priority. Transit police can be moved off investigating fare violations and onto security patrol at some the more isolated stations where riders are clearly more vulnerable,” said Dix

Dix also suggested that the surveillance system can be dramatically improved. “Better digital cameras would be a great improvement, and should be able to monitor the area both inside and outside the station.”

Dix said that other initiatives would go a long way to making that area safer, including better lighting, increased signage informing about surveillance systems and police presence, and even installing emergency phones that connect a person immediately with police services.

“The Collingwood Community is pulling together to create a safer neighbourhood for everyone. As part of that effort, my constituency office is organising a petition that will ask the City of Vancouver and TransLink to implement some of the important ideas to improve safety,” said Dix.

“I am inviting everyone in the neighbourhood to take part in the petition drive this Saturday. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of the 29th Avenue Station in an effort to reach out to the community,” said Dix. “This is an opportunity to also seek ideas on how we can improve the safety for everyone. As a community we can work together to make the needed improvements.”