

FIRST FOCUS

VANCOUVER AGREEMENT

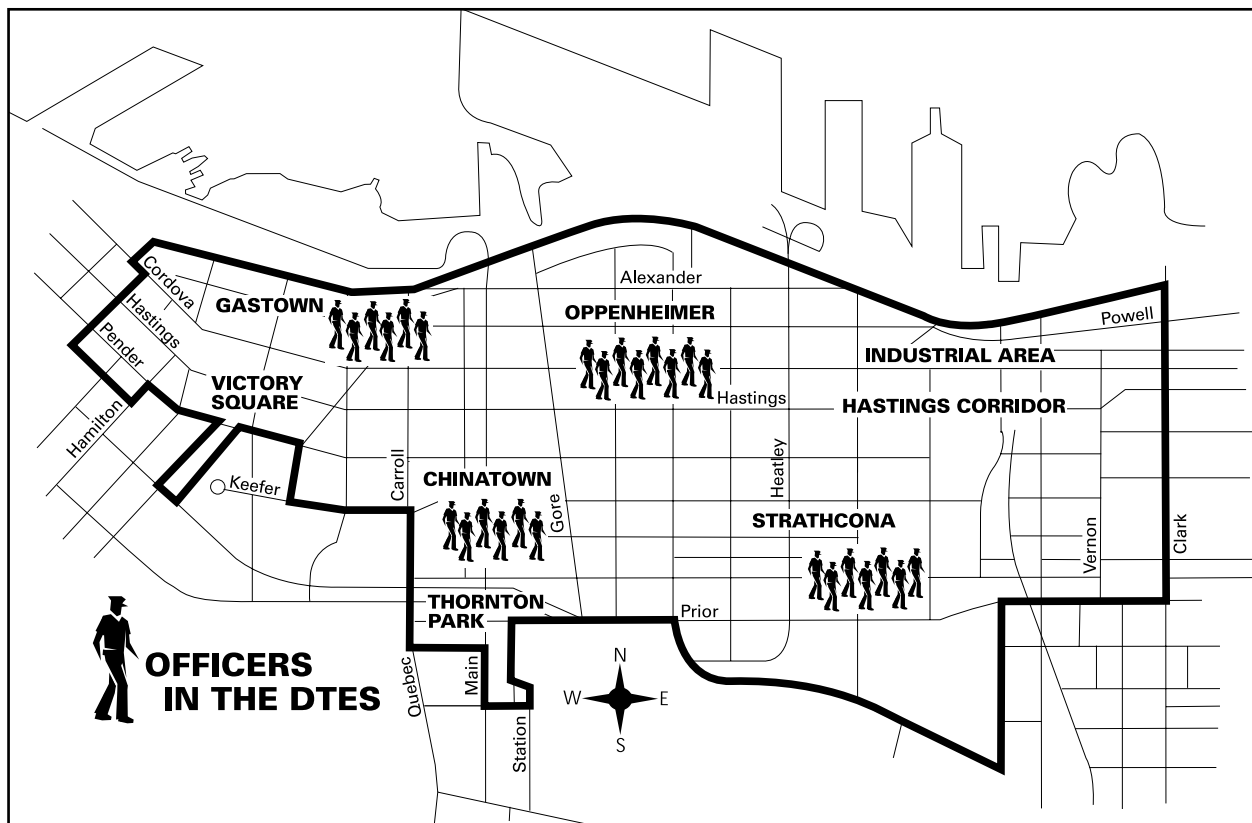
BACKGROUND

Enforcement plan supports four pillar approach to community health and safety

Enforcement is a key part of the four pillars approach to reducing drug problems in the community.

Effective enforcement is not just about getting tough on crime and arresting people. Effective enforcement also means being visible and understanding the community and its issues; knowing about available resources for substance misuse (like treatment and referral services) and when to use them; and coordinating efforts with other agencies.

In response to community safety concerns, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) will reassign 20 officers to bring to 27 the number of police officers serving the Downtown Eastside neighbourhoods. The 27 officers will be deployed out of the community policing centres.



Putting additional officers in Community Policing Centres will create a more visible police presence. Instead of being spread over the entire district, these 27 officers can focus their problem-solving efforts on a smaller area. The move will help officers better understand community issues and services available, and enable officers to work more closely and strategically with local health agencies.

Area of deployment	Total officers
DTES – Hastings Corridor	8
Gastown	6
Chinatown	6
Strathcona	7

VPD will also add an additional inspector to the DTES. This inspector will oversee enforcement efforts that support the Vancouver Agreement’s health and safety goals, and facilitate linkages between the police and community agencies.

The VPD’s role in the health and safety initiative will be to substantially reduce the amount of drug and alcohol use at Main and Hastings, and utilize every opportunity possible to direct users to health and referral agencies.

Separating drug users from dealers will make it easier for VPD to step up its enforcement against commercial drug traffickers. Tactics will continue to include: “buy and bust”; undercover operations; working with other agencies (such as RCMP Drug Squad); and seeking detention and/or exclusion orders (i.e. “a no go”) from the courts for repeat offenders.