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## *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 22, 2003**

### **Government invests \$20 Million in Downtown Eastside**

**Vancouver** — The provincial and federal governments will provide \$20 million to the Vancouver Agreement to support revitalization of the Downtown Eastside through economic and social investments.

Stephen Owen, Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification and Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Natural Resources, George Abbott, B.C. Minister of Community Aboriginal and Women's Services, and Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell joined community leaders to announce the funding.

"We need to act now to help the most vulnerable, to help business, and to help residents in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside," said Owen. "We intend to use this \$20 million to add momentum to actions already started by the Vancouver Agreement partnership – actions that will improve business and the quality of life for everyone in Vancouver."

"The Government of Canada is proud to be part of the Vancouver Agreement's unique partnership," said Dhaliwal. "This funding commitment is providing a much-needed push to economic revitalization of the Downtown Eastside."

"The provincial government made a commitment to create a legacy for the Downtown Eastside as part of our 2010 Olympic Bid," said Abbott. "With the co-operation of all three levels of government under the Vancouver Agreement, the funds will help us to move forward to create jobs and stimulate the economy of the Downtown Eastside, improving quality of life for residents and helping to build a safer and healthier community."

"This is a clear vote of confidence in the ground-breaking work we have already seen under the Vancouver Agreement, which is a national model for urban development," said Campbell. "This additional commitment of support from the province and Ottawa opens the door to further revitalization of the Downtown Eastside. It enables us to do long-term planning to invest in major improvements to the community's economic and social life. This is a turning point for our city."

The federal and provincial governments will contribute \$10 million each, which will be used to implement the priorities of the Vancouver Agreement Strategic Plan. These include:

- Revitalizing Hastings Street Corridor.
- Making the community safer and healthier for the most vulnerable.
- Dismantling the open drug scene.
- Improving living conditions in problem, single-room-occupancy hotels.

The Vancouver Agreement is a five-year collaboration involving the federal, provincial and municipal governments. Signed in March 2000, the agreement focuses on community health and safety; economic and social development and community capacity building.

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