



New Westminster Downtown Residents Association

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: "I'S ON THE STREET"

The "I's on the Street" program in downtown New Westminster is proving to be a definite community asset. The New Westminster Homeless Coalition developed this program now operated by Dave Brown of the Lookout Society.

The program puts homeless and near homeless people to work on the streets to pick up trash, broken glass and other debris and generally clean up the streets and sidewalks. This improves the look and livability of the area while providing a cleaner and safer atmosphere.

The people employed not only earn a wage to top up their pensions or disability allowances, but gain self-esteem and confidence from their work. They gain the respect of the residents and business people for their efforts and are accepted as a vital part of the city scene, no longer seen as a problem on the streets. They take pride in their work and their ability to contribute to the community.

Dave Brown has attended Downtown Residents meetings and talked about the "I's on the Street" program as well as the residential programs developed in the downtown, the Russell Hotel and the Cliff Block now in operation, and the former Garfield Hotel soon to come on stream. These are all excellent programs, well managed, and creating a safe, clean and comfortable place for persons in need. The Downtown Residents strongly approve of the work being done by Dave and the Lookout Society and their contribution to the livability of the downtown for all residents.

Yours-truly,

Lila Wood, President

NEW WESTMINSTER DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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