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| **NEWS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **April 6, 2021** | **Contact: Jeff Bray**Executive DirectorDowntown Victoria Business Associationjeff@downtownvictoria.caD 250-386-2239C 250-217-9461 |

**New Grant Program Available for Victoria Businesses Affected by Vandalism**

**VICTORIA, BC**—The Downtown Victoria Business Association is announcing the availability of $60,000 for reimbursements of vandalism repairs for Victoria businesses.

This grant program arose from a motion brought forward by Mayor Helps and recognized a need for the City of Victoria to support businesses affected by vandalism and break-ins during this difficult time of the COVID pandemic. The Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) agreed to manage this new program as the organization has past experience administering grant programs on behalf of the City.

Individual grants of up to $1,000 are available to any business in the City of Victoria that experiences vandalism between January 1st and December 31st, 2021. To be eligible for reimbursements, businesses must submit proof of insurance deductible amount, receipts for completed repair work, and the police file number associated with the incident.

Businesses looking to access these grants should email info@downtownvictoria.ca.

Quotes:

Downtown Victoria Business Association’s executive director, Jeff Bray, says: “In conjunction with the City of Victoria, we are pleased to be offering this direct support to businesses adversely affected by crime during this already challenging pandemic.”

City of Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps says, “We continue to look for ways we can support businesses impacted by the pandemic by keeping taxes low and allowing businesses to expand through our Build Back Victoria program. This new grant program is another way we can show our support and help ensure downtown remains open and inviting for everyone. Our thanks to the DVBA for taking on this important work.”

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Media inquiries are encouraged. Please contact:

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**Media Links**

* DVBA Website: www.downtownvictoria.ca
* DVBA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DowntownVictoria>
* DVBA Instagram: [instagram.com/downtownvictoriabc/](https://www.instagram.com/downtownvictoriabc/)