



Speaking Points for

The Honourable Kash Heed Solicitor General

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2009

**Event: Downtown Community Court 1st Year Anniversary
Courtyard, Downtown Community Court, 211 Gore Ave., Vancouver**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- Thank you, Mike (de Jong)
- And thank you, Judge Gove, for your enthusiasm and unwavering belief that things can be done differently.
- I am pleased to be here to mark the first anniversary of Vancouver's Downtown Community Court.
- This Court is finding new ways to solve old problems.
- People are getting the help they need to become contributing members of society.
- I offer my congratulations to those who have broken away from their criminal past and chosen a new and better future.
- Change is not easy, but it is worth it.
- There was a strong desire for change among the many partners of the Community Court.
- The residents and business people in downtown Vancouver wanted a safer community.
- Police officers wanted to stop the revolving door.
- The Corrections Branch in my ministry wanted to address the root causes of criminal behaviour.
- Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division wanted to ensure that the victims of crime are involved in the criminal justice system.
- People who share a desire for change came together to create this community court.
- Your confidence that we could work together to find new ways of doing things is why we are celebrating today.
- Thank you.