

NEWS RELEASE

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Homelessness: Auditor General Identifies Need for Provincial Focus

VICTORIA – Today, Auditor General John Doyle released his latest report, *Homelessness: Clear Focus Needed* – an audit to assess if government is providing adequate leadership to reduce and prevent homelessness in British Columbia.

Doyle notes that ministries and other government agencies are coordinating efforts in a number of significant areas, but overall, the province does not have a clear strategy for reducing homelessness. “Despite putting in place many best practice strategies and programs, government has not been successful in reducing homelessness,” said Doyle.

“Given the complexity of the issue, reducing and preventing homelessness requires a long-term, coordinated effort by all levels of government. This starts with the province taking a lead role and establishing a clear focus,” said Doyle

The report notes that government’s goals and objectives are poorly defined, and that no overall target for homelessness has been identified. Doyle said, “When there are no clear goals or performance targets, accountability for results is missing. How will we know we are successful if we have not identified success?” Also, a clear profile of BC’s homeless population has yet to be developed because Government does not have the information it needs to make effective decisions.

The Auditor General makes a number of recommendations to address homelessness in British Columbia including developing a comprehensive plan to address homelessness, designating an agency to lead homeless initiatives and gathering better information about the homeless population.

The report is available on the Auditor General’s website www.bcauditor.com.

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2008/09 Report #16 – Homelessness: *Clear Focus Needed*

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