



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DMCI takes a stand against graffiti in our downtown

DMCI and its stakeholders have been observing a growing problem – graffiti crimes - in our downtown area. Graffiti is a problem that if left unchecked can seriously damage the reputation of a community and adversely affect the economy and quality of life enjoyed by the residents.

Graffiti is an act of vandalism that places a significant burden on private and public budgets. Graffiti may also cause local property values to decrease and can result in a heightened fear of crime in the community.

DMCI will be applying a policy of immediate removal of Graffiti that will help stop the spread and reoccurrence of graffiti. We ask the public, the RCMP and our stakeholders to be on the lookout for these crimes.

Why is graffiti removal important?

Graffiti that is not removed indicates that no one cares about the state of the community. The longer graffiti is displayed, the more likely additional graffiti will occur, that is why DMCI will take care of the problem within 48-72 hours of being made aware of the situation.

A clear message must be sent to those responsible that this type of activity will not be tolerated.

How can we as a community reduce the risk of a graffiti crime?

- restrict access to walls or vulnerable areas by planting thorny bushes or building barriers
- increase lighting in vulnerable areas to discourage vandals
- apply graffiti resistant coating or sealant on all exterior walls
- report any suspicious behavior in your community

Graffiti impact on community

- destroys and reduces property values
- undermines residents and visitors sense of security and safety
- promotes an undesirable image of our city to visitors
- looks as if nobody cares about the area

Why should you care?

Graffiti crime can affect your community in many ways, including:

- Higher taxes for clean-up
- Lower property values
- Heightened fear of crime
- Cancellation or reduction of education and recreation programs

Day in and day out DMCI works hard to maintain our downtown as a secure workplace and a friendly venue. We have discussed this issue many times with the Downtown Moncton Security Round Table, the RCMP, community organizations and our downtown stakeholders. DMCI strives to make sure that we continue economic development in our core and is aware that beautification is a key factor in attaining this goal.

If you witness such crimes, please do not hesitate to contact one of the following:

Downtown Moncton Centre-ville Inc: 857-2991

Codiac RCMP: 857-2400

Amanda MacNeil – By-Law Enforcement Coordinator City of Moncton: 389-5928

-30-

For more information:

Nathalie Verdon

Communications Coordinator

Downtown Moncton Centre-ville Inc.

857-2991

comms@downtownmoncton.com

****Downtown Moncton Security Round Table****

The Downtown Moncton Security Round Table was created in 2002 to help address security concerns brought forth by the downtown community. It is comprised of representatives from downtown businesses and property owners, the RCMP, YMCA, ReConnect, the Moncton Public Advisory Committee, Moncton Youth Residences Inc., the City of Moncton and Downtown Moncton Centre-ville Inc.