



**Bentall**  
CAPITAL

**SAFER**  
**PARKING**  
INITIATIVE

## News Release

*For Immediate Release*  
*April 18, 2008*

### **BENTALL RECEIVES THREE SAFER PARKING AWARDS DURING 'LIFE SAFETY MONTH' OPENING CEREMONY**

*Vancouver Police Department certifies  
several of city's largest parking facilities*

**Vancouver, B.C.** – Three parking structures managed by Bentall Real Estate Services, a division of Bentall Capital, the leading real estate advisory and property services organization in Canada, received Safer Parking Awards today at the beginning of the company's 'Life Safety Month'.

The awards, part of the City of Vancouver's Project Civil City program, were given by the Vancouver Police Department in conjunction with the Safer Parking Initiative (SPI).

"Bentall Real Estate Services prides itself in maintaining the highest safety standards and we are always looking for best practices and innovations to implement," says Kevin Soltani, Manager, Security & Life Safety at Bentall Real Estate Services. "The Safer Parking Award is designated based on evaluations done by the Vancouver Police Department, which consider all the key elements of public safety in a parking facility, including lighting, cleanliness, visibility and good security practices that deter crime and anti-social behavior and build public confidence." The Award indicates that a parking facility is a safer place to park, compared to facilities in the same area that have not made the same effort to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime.

The awarded parking facilities are located at Bentall owned properties at:

- 1040 West Pender
- 540 Thurlow
- 535 Hornby (Bentall 5)

Bentall Real Estate Services is recognized for maintaining and promoting the highest safety standards in the industry. During May, Bentall will be offering tenants the opportunity to participate in several safety training sessions offered by qualified experts.

The SPI was officially launched in February when Mayor Sam Sullivan proclaimed 'Safer Parking Day' in the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department granted the first five Safer Parking Awards.

“The Safer Parking Initiative is a great example of the business community working with Police to prevent crime,” said Vancouver City Councillor Kim Capri. “As the City of Vancouver takes action to reduce homelessness and improve public order through Project Civil City, I hope we will see more businesses participating in initiatives like this.”

“The Safer Parking Initiative was developed in response to the growing problem of property crime and public disorder in Vancouver, “ said Colin Brown, Chief Operating Officer of Canadian Direct Insurance and spokesperson for the Safer Parking Initiative. “Like Bentall and other SPI partners, we have an interest in making Vancouver a safer city by reducing auto break-ins and improving the safety of parking lots. “



Inspector Adua Porteous, VPD, Kevin Soltani, Manager, Security & Life Safety and Jon Wellman, Vice President, General Manager, Bentall Real Estate Services receive a Safer Parking Award from Constable Jeff Campbell VPD

### **About Bentall Capital**

Bentall Capital LP is the leading real estate advisory and property services organization in Canada, with significant and growing operations in the US Pacific Northwest and Midwest, and in Southern California. Bentall serves major institutional and private investors, supplying a range of asset management, property management, leasing and development services to over 100 clients, representing more than \$17 billion currently invested in real estate. Assets under management include more than 600 buildings, representing over 81 million square feet of office, industrial and retail space, as well as approximately 5,000 multi-family residential units. Bentall is jointly owned by senior management, bclMC and SITQ, an affiliate of CDP Capital. For more information, visit [www.bentall.com](http://www.bentall.com).

### **About the Safer Parking Initiative**

The Safer Parking Initiative, launched in August 2007, is a partnership between the Vancouver Police Department and a coalition of organizations including parking lot owners, operators, businesses and community groups. SPI's mandate is to improve the

reality and perception of safety and security in Vancouver parking facilities in order to help reduce crime and increase the public's confidence in Vancouver, making the city an even more desirable destination to work, live and visit. For more information visit [www.SaferParkingVancouver.com](http://www.SaferParkingVancouver.com)



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### SAFER PARKING AWARD FACILITIES:

- 900 W Cordova St. (*managed by EasyPark*)
- 160 Water St. (*managed by EasyPark*)
- Pacific Centre (*managed by EasyPark*)
- Pacific Centre North, 777 Dunsmuir St. (*managed by EasyPark*)
- Pacific Palisades Hotel, 1277 Robson Street (*managed by Diamond Parking*)
- 1040 W Pender (*managed by Bentall*)
- 540 Thurlow (*managed by Bentall*)
- Bentall 5 (*managed by Bentall*)

### CANADIAN DIRECT INSURANCE TIPS FOR CHOOSING A SAFER PARKING FACILITY

***When choosing a parking facility be sure to look for these 5 qualities:***

1. Bright lighting and light colours throughout the facility
2. Clear and legible signs
3. Noticeable entrance and exit points for vehicles and pedestrians
4. Cleanliness inside and outside the facility
5. Onsite security, including emergency phones or parking attendants

***Or simply look for the Safer Parking Initiative Logo!***

**CANADIAN DIRECT INSURANCE  
TIPS FOR SAFE PARKING**

1. When you select a place to park, choose a space that appears to be in a safe and well-lit location. Take a look at the surrounding environment and imagine what it will look like when you return to your car later. If you believe it will be dark, unsafe or if you will feel uncomfortable, don't park there.
2. Don't advertise the brand of your car alarm or stereo equipment by placing a sticker on the outside of your vehicle. This makes your vehicle easier for thieves to target.
3. Use a good anti-theft device.
  - a. Get a two-way car alarm. Most audible alarms have similar switch-off mechanisms and do not deter thieves. Two-way alarms are often silent, with an alert sent to the owner to enable them to call police if their vehicle is broken into. The ability to apprehend thieves is therefore increased -- a thief will spend more time in a vehicle if he/she is unaware that an alarm has gone off, and is more likely to get caught.
  - b. Get a vehicle immobilizer in order to prevent a thief from starting or moving your car.
4. Keep all valuables hidden or better yet, don't keep valuables in your vehicle. Thieves don't discriminate between old and new cars or the value of the goods visible. They are often robbing several cars in a day. Collect small change and goods (even pop cans) that will be a temptation for thieves.
5. Keep your car clean. Thieves expect that messy or dirty cars have careless owners who may have left valuables in the car, or haven't properly secured their vehicle.
6. If you see any suspicious activity near a vehicle, do not approach the vehicle. Notify a security guard or police immediately.
7. Use extra caution during sporting events or concerts. These are prime times for thefts in parking lots.
8. Be alert and confident when going to and from your car. Be aware of your surroundings. As you are leaving your car parked, take a look in the windows to ensure you have no valuables inside.
9. Lock your doors and keep your windows rolled up when you get into your vehicle and until you exit a parking lot.
10. If you need to keep any valuables in your vehicle, engrave your license number on any items of value.

## **FACTS**

### **Parking & Crime in Vancouver**

- A recent survey done by the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association found that parking ranked second among factors that people dislike most about downtown.
- The West End – Coal Harbour Community policing centre cites that theft from vehicles is one of the city's most pressing issues, and finds higher theft rates within commercial lots, as opposed to residential areas. The DVBIA's most recent public survey also indicated that 69% of Vancouverites surveyed said they felt safe either "all the time" or "most of the time" downtown. That figure is down from 76% last year.
- The Vancouver Board of Trade reported that thefts of vehicles, thefts from vehicles, and vandalism of vehicles (all in the City of Vancouver) cost the community around \$60 million in 2003. In September 2006, the Board reported that theft of autos was down 3.6%, but theft from autos was up 6.5% The Vancouver Police Department reports that 16,000 cars are broken into every year in Vancouver.
- The indirect costs of car theft include: hospitalization/health care, police services, fire & rescue services, and court & judicial processes.
- The costs of thefts from automobiles are very significant and include lost time at work (to get vehicle repairs), insurance claims, and psychological distress.
- There are over 400 parking facilities in Vancouver and more than 6,000 parking meters.
- The average Vancouverite pays \$268 for monthly parking, while a top parking spot costs up to \$375, according to a recent CB Richard Ellis survey.