

JANUARY 2018 | 加麗基社區行動計劃 通訊

CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with grey hair and glasses, looking slightly to the left. He is wearing a dark jacket with a striped collar. The background is blurred.

REST IN POWER
GODFREY TANG.



People
Before
Prof.

REST IN POWER GODFREY TANG (KWOK FAI TANG)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Godfrey Tang (Kwok Fai Tang) on December 19, 2017 at the age of 74.

People before profit - with great conviction and passion, this is what Godfrey wholeheartedly believed in and advocated for. He fought tirelessly to protect the most marginalized whose lives were threatened by gentrification and displacement.

Godfrey grew up in Hong Kong before settling in Vancouver where he spent the rest of his life. After moving to the Chinatown area during his retirement, he developed a sense for housing justice and an even stronger relationship to his Chinese heritage and culture through his volunteer work.

Godfrey volunteered with numerous organizations including Chinatown Concern Group, Our Homes Can't Wait coalition, Chinatown Action Group, Right to Food Zine, the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House and more. Here at the Carnegie Community Action Project, he contributed to our annual housing and hotel research reports, attended and provided translation at numerous actions, assisted in preparing proposal documents for the Hogan's Alley project at Main & Union Street, fought for 100% welfare and pension rate social housing 58 West Hastings, and more.

He was committed to protecting and preserving Chinese culture in Vancouver's historic Chinatown, advocating for low-income housing for seniors and culturally appropriate businesses.

"In Chinatown, 80% of residents are renters, yet a lot of new developments are market rate condos," said Godfrey. "It is not sustainable for the neighbourhood. When one building is torn down in Chinatown to build a new condo tower, it results in the displacement of low-income residents."

As a voice of Chinatown residents and volunteer with Chinatown Concern Group and Chinatown Action Group, Godfrey also spoke out against Beedie Living's 105 Keefer project, which was successfully defeated by the Chinatown community five times!

He will be dearly missed by the Chinatown and DTES community.

Godfrey, we will continue your work and honor your legacy.

The DTES Neighbourhood house will be holding a memorial event in Godfrey's honour on January 29th from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.





#58WHASTINGS

SIGN THE PETITION!

SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING!

100% SOCIAL HOUSING AT WELFARE & PENSION RATES NOW

Following on the historic victory to stop the Beedie development at 105 Keefer in Chinatown, Downtown Eastside and Chinatown residents are calling on the City of Vancouver to build 100% social housing at welfare and pension rates at 58 West Hastings.

WHAT: 58 West Hastings St Rezoning Application Public Hearing

WHEN: Tuesday, January 16 at 5:30 pm

WHERE: Vancouver City Hall 453 West 12th Ave. (south entrance on W 12th Avenue), near Cambie and Broadway

JOIN US IN TAKING ACTION:

1) **ATTEND OUR ACTION** at City Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 5:30 PM

2) **SIGN UP TO SPEAK** at the Public Hearing on Jan. 16 or email Vancouver city council with your comments in support of 100% welfare and pension rate social housing at publichearing@vancouver.ca or call 604-829-4238 or phone 604-933-2001.

Not sure what to say? Here are reasons why we want 100% welfare/pension rate social housing:

- 1200 homeless people and 3000 SRO residents live in the DTES without decent, affordable housing

- Homeless people have half the life expectancy of other people in society

- Social mix does not work and contributes to gentrification and mass dislocation of poor people as seen with the Woodward's development

3) **SIGN OUR PETITION** - you.leadnow.ca/p/58WHastings

4) **CONTACT MINISTER OF HOUSING**, Selina Robinson and express your support for our community vision (email selina.robinson.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

Read about the DTES community vision for 58 West Hastings and learn more about Our Homes Can't Wait here: www.carnegieaction.org/ourhomescantwait/

This event is being organized by the Our Homes Can't Wait Coalition on the occupied, unceded

traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x̱mə́kwəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwəta̓/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2007, Downtown Eastside residents have struggled to get the site at 58 W. Hastings for social housing for low-income community members. Residents and supporters have marched through the streets, organized two tent cities including the 2010 Olympic tent city and 2016 tent city, guided tours with BC's new government, and held countless public meetings, demonstrations, and more.

There have been important victories at this site. In 2008, Concord Pacific was forced to pause its 154 units of condos at 58 W Hastings after a year of community resistance. In 2010, Olympic tent city led by Indigenous women and elders won the immediate demand of housing all homeless residents living on the site. Following a second tent city in 2016, Mayor Gregor Robertson signed a commitment to build 100% welfare and pension rate, community-controlled social housing at 58 W Hastings.

Since then, the city has reneged on its promise. Instead of a project that would provide over 300 units to low-income people, the city is moving along with a project that could provide as few as 70 units at a time with record high homelessness.

Based on the past decade of struggle and recent victories, we are determined to secure 58 West Hastings as 100 percent social housing at welfare and pension rates.

This site is on the faultline of a mass dislocation of poor people that the Woodward's development accelerated in 2010, where the community lost 450 social housing units and gained only 125 units of social housing for those on welfare and pension. OHCW wants to reverse this trend and prioritize low-income residents to live in dignity in their community. Join us in making this a reality!

100% SOCIAL HOUSING AT 58 WEST HASTINGS NOW!

Protect the DTES! Sign the petition!



***SIGN THE PETITION AT:
you.leadnow.ca/p/58WHastings
Or on the CCAP announcement
board, 2/F Carnegie Community
Centre, 401 Main Street***

**TO: MAYOR GREGOR ROBERTSON, HON. SELINA
ROBINSON MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
AND HOUSING**

Provide enough funds so that, as promised, 100% of the housing at the city-owned site on 58 W Hastings can be rented to people who can only afford welfare and basic pension rate rents (\$375-\$438/month)

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Downtown Eastside residents have struggled for over a decade to get the site at 58 W. Hastings for social housing for low-income community members. Led by Indigenous women community organizers, residents and supporters have marched through the streets, organized two tent cities including the 2010 Olympic tent city and 2016 tent city, guided tours with BC's new NDP Minister of Housing and Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, held countless public meetings, demonstrations, and more.

About 1,200 homeless people and 3,000 SRO residents live in the Downtown Eastside with no

decent housing available for them at rents they can afford. Homeless people have about half the life expectancy of other people in society. Indigenous people, women and children fleeing violence, and other marginalized communities are more likely to experience homelessness. SRO living, where residents share washrooms with everyone on their floor, is not adequate: residents do not have private kitchens, have numerous rodents and bugs, and are often subject to abusive management. SRO residents and homeless people need decent, dignified social housing they can afford. Yet the Mayor and City of Vancouver are planning to reduce the amount of social housing from the promise 100% down to 30%. The plan to build over 200 units of housing in the DTES, with only 70 of them planned to be at welfare/pension rate, is a waste of good housing and further contributes to the gentrification of the DTES. A "social mix" building which includes expensive rentals will exacerbate market pressures on the neighbourhood, create higher rents for SRO residents, and generate the displacement of even more low income people from the DTES.

On August 2, 2016, Mayor Gregor Robertson signed a commitment to build 100% welfare and pension rate, community-controlled social housing at 58 W Hastings. Since then, the city has reneged on its promise. Instead of a project that would provide over 300 units to low-income people, the city is moving along with a project that could provide as few as 70 units at a time with record high homelessness.

SIGN UP TO SPEAK AT THE #58WHASTINGS PUBLIC HEARING OR SEND IN YOUR COMMENTS AT publichearing@vancouver.ca

NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY? HERE'S A GUIDE!

1)Keep your comments short
- Individuals speaking at the public hearing have 5 minutes to speak while organizations have 8 minutes.

2)Start with introducing yourself and your relationship to the DTES

3)Next, appeal to city council to build 100% community controlled social housing at welfare and pension rates at #58WHastings

4) Reasons why we need housing at #58WHastings
-The City of Vancouver's definition of social housing excludes homeless and low-income people.

Rent in CoV's definition of social housing can be high as \$912 when folk on welfare only get \$375 a month for rent

-1200 homeless people and 3000 SRO residents live in the DTES without decent, affordable housing

-Homeless people have half the life expectancy of other people in society

-Social mix does not work and contributes to gentrification and mass dislocation of poor people as seen with the Woodward's development

-The proposed project the city is going with could provide as few as 70 units at a time with record high homelessness.

CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT | 11:15 AM EVERY FRIDAY

The Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP) is a project of the board of the Carnegie Community Centre Association. CCAP works mostly on housing, income, and land use issues in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) of Vancouver so that the area can remain a low income friendly community. CCAP works with english speaking and Chinese speaking DTES residents in speaking out on their own behalf for the changes they would like to see in their neighbourhood.

Join us on Fridays 11:15 am for our weekly volunteer meetings! Downtown Eastside residents who want to work on getting better housing and incomes and stop gentrification are welcome to attend. Lunch is provided!

CARNEGIE AFRICAN DESCENT GROUP | 11 AM EVERY 2ND TUESDAY

The Carnegie African Descent Group (CADG) is pleased to invite you to a bi-weekly lunch gathering at the Downtown Eastside Neighborhood House. Come, cook, talk and enjoy African dishes with us. The lunch will take place every Tuesdays, from 11:00 am till 1:30 pm. The group has the same mandate as CCAP, but with particular focus on issues that Black and African Descent community members experience. DTES community members who identify as Black and or as of African Descent are welcome to the lunch. For more information, contact: lmugabo75@gmail.com

唐人街關注組 | CHINATOWN CONCERN GROUP

— 大多數是唐人街華裔居民
— 加麗基社區中心協會屬下的其中一組
— 我們看到華埠現在變化很快。華埠越來越不像華埠，而在華埠的華人社群將被邊緣化。所以我們組織一起，透過開會、討論及行動來保護唐人街
— 我們關心華埠的未來可負擔性及想見更多低收入房屋及長者屋在唐人街
關注組組員領袖每週會開小組會來討論我們的項目、華埠消息和建立我們對社區事件的分析。我們歡迎有意參與關注組的人士來一齊參與這些小組會。詳情請聯絡我們。小組會主要用廣東話舉行，有時候會用普通話翻譯。chinatownconcerngroup@gmail.com | chinatownconcerngroup.wordpress.com
加麗基社區中心 — 401 緬街 『緬街圖書館』二樓，溫哥華，卑詩省，V6A 2T7 加拿大

CONTACT US:



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