

Summary

The Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, which sits on unceded Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh land, is a neighbourhood of historical importance that continues to stand as a local and international beacon of hope in resisting gentrification, the war on drugs, and colonization. The survival of the 100 Block, between Main and Columbia, as a “Community Hub” for the marginalized will be integral component of any strategy or vision for the City of Vancouver that is designed to mitigate the harms dealt by colonization, poverty, and other negative social determinants of health (i.e. violence against women, low education levels, a lack of social support networks, a lack of access to health services, etc.). As time has run out for the expropriation of the Regent and the Balmoral Hotels, with negotiations supposedly ending in May 2019, residents of this neighborhood remain worried that the City of Vancouver does not support their interests nor the preservation of their neighbourhood.

This Proposal for a “Special Development Zone” on the 100 Block of East Hastings was created by a group of concerned residents and knowledgeable community members in response to the inaction on behalf of the City of Vancouver to improve conditions for long term residents of the block, and is based on the assumption that pushing the current population out will only cause more harm to the people there, and the city as a whole. In the face of the ongoing overdose death and the continued ramifications of overbearing and carceral solutions to the neighbourhood’s problems, this proposal offers a vision of hope and collective wellness spurred by the communal knowledge and sympathy that exists between and for the residents of Vancouver’s DTES.



This report was written via a four-step process of information retrieval, involving: 1) a charrette with 15 DTES knowledgeable community members led by Scot Hein (Adjunct Professor, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture), 2) a community survey and petition of over 100 residents on the 100 Block, 3) a meeting with 50 current or former Indigenous drug users in the Downtown Eastside, and 4) a community town-hall at the Carnegie. This Vision for the 100 Block also incorporates ideas from a well thought through thesis by an architectural student advocating for an expanded Insite that covers the whole north side of Hastings.¹ A map that summarizes the proposed 100 block can be found in Appendix C.

Ultimately, this proposed “Special Zone” will offer a more inclusive vision for Hastings Street as a counterpoint to the City’s Local Area Plan for Hastings. This proposal, if implemented, will improve the 100 Block by bolstering culture, harm reduction, arts, vending, traffic control, and community-led organizing on the block. Moreover, this plan embraces and builds on the Downtown Eastside’s social justice victories on the block (i.e. Insite, rental-only dedicated-to-low-income zoning, potential expropriation of the Regent and Balmoral Hotels) and with City

¹ See: Hannah Leyland’s Third Space: Designing a Community Hub that Happens to Permit Drug Consumption

support it will help us build on the heritage of the unique people who have made it their home, plus the legacy of their achievements.

Our data collection revealed twelve central principles which should be followed during the city and Downtown Eastside community's organizing efforts to redevelop the 100 block:

- 1) ***We must Prioritize Indigenous Residents of the Neighborhood***
- 2) ***The Regent and Balmoral must be Approached with Sensitivity***
- 3) ***We need to Keep the DTES for the DTES***
- 4) ***Residents want 100% Welfare Rate Housing, or Cheaper, on the Block***
- 5) ***We need to encourage More Peer Programming and Control***
- 6) ***Food needs to be Accessible***
- 7) ***Arts and Culture are a Necessity and Should Be Prioritized***
- 8) ***The DTES needs Increased Access to Sanitation Facilities***
- 9) ***We need to Include, Protect, and Consult Sex Workers and Youth***
- 10) ***The Need for a Better Continuum of Care for Drug Users***
- 11) ***Land Development Should be for the Current Community***
- 12) ***Street Improvements Should Focus on Current Community***

Background (Why Are We Doing This?)

In July 2018 the City of Vancouver began the process to expropriate two Downtown Eastside hotels – the Regent and the Balmoral – after their owners did not respond to an offer from the city to buy the buildings, which sit across from each other near Main and Hastings. Both remain vacant after tenants organized a two-year campaign for repairs and safety, which ultimately lead the city to deem the buildings unsafe and close them – the Regent in June 2018, and the Balmoral in June 2017.

However, given the lack of action one full calendar year later, with negotiations for the two buildings supposedly ending in May 2019, residents of the Downtown Eastside remain concerned that the City of Vancouver may be backing out of the expropriation process. After hearing whispers that the City was attempting to buy other property on the 100 Block of Hastings, concerned community members came together to engage in several community visioning sessions to pre-empt further development that may be detrimental to the community.

The 100 Block of Hastings, between Main Street and Columbia, remains fragmented, and commitment to community development seems like tokenistic window dressing at best. It is our sincere hope that this document will influence future and current policy makers in the City of Vancouver to preserve the unique and important neighborhood that is the Downtown Eastside, and give credit to its unique history in resisting the war on drugs and gentrification of the city.

Process (This is What We Did)

In order to sketch out a clear vision for the 100 Block of Hastings, the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative (SRO-C) and Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP) engaged in several sessions of community consultation with an array of knowledgeable community members and Downtown Eastside residents in the hopes of developing a clear vision of what should be done with the neighborhood. This process had six central components:

I – Design Charrette for 15 people (May 21, 2019)

Initially, the DTES SRO-C put together a design charrette with 15 knowledgeable community members including, but not limited to, the Peer Coordinator for the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Council, the founder of the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, the Project Coordinator for the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, the President of the Carnegie Centre, a Manager from the Overdose Prevention Society, the Project Coordinator of the Tenant Overdose Response Organizers, the Project Coordinator of the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative, members of the Carnegie Community Action Project, and other long-term residents of the Downtown Eastside comprising of a contingent of sex-workers, youth, LGBTQ2S* folks, peer workers, and drug users. This meeting was a collaborative session in which the community group drafted potential design suggestions for the 100 Block that would be taken back to community in order to gather further and more in depth information.

II – Community Visioning (May 24, 2019)

Once the charrette was completed, members of the SRO-C and CCAP took to the street outside the Balmoral to see what the community thought of the draft design suggestions. Over 150 community members helped to fill bigger design holes, while flipcharts gave community members the chance to freely express themselves about what they thought needed to be done. See Appendix B for the raw community visioning results.

III – CCAP Community Survey (May 24, 2019)

Simultaneously to the visioning, around 50 community members were surveyed by the CCAP. These surveys results yielded the qualitative data below, as well as some qualitative input that is interspersed in the report. See Appendix A for the raw survey results.

IV – CCAP Petition (May 24, 2019)

Moreover, during the visioning, CCAP petitioned folks on the block (see Appendix B), and received 131 signatures supporting community led development that prioritizes the voices and experiences of local community members, especially Indigenous community members on whose unceded territories the 100 Block sits. Signatories of this petition also supported a grassroots community vision of the block, focusing on public accessibility, and social justice, which they agreed would lead to a fairer person-led city. Of the 111 signatories, 60% of respondents live on the 100 Block currently, while another 19% are current or former residents of the Balmoral and Regent.

V – WAHRS General Meeting (June 7, 2019)

Once a final draft of this report was completed, it was taken to a Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (WAHRS) General Meeting and community input from 50 Indigenous DTES residents was sought on some of the developed themes. During this meeting, the members of Wahrs endorsed the 12 themes that we have extracted from our data.

VI – Downtown Eastside Community Town Hall (July 5, 2019)

A full month after the final draft of the document was prepared, CCAP and the DTES SRO-Collaborative engaged in an open forum at the Carnegie. Community members and residents of the DTES and 100 Block gave their unbiased input during an open mic. It is

imperative to note that the themes that emerged at this event remained in line with the themes found during our initial research. Quotes from this event have been used in this report to bolster our themes, and there is an companion document *100 Block Community Town Hall* which contains verbatim notes taken during the speakers.

Methodological Considerations and Lessons

With the aforementioned said, time constraints, and pressure to develop a rapid response to the city's development process, pre-empted complete community consultation. These constraints have greatly influenced and shaped the design of the qualitative and



quantitative elements of the study. The authors of this paper wish to recognize that this may have led to some pre-determined conclusions. In other words, by approaching the community with a vision of the 100 Block predetermined by charrette members (which was chronologically the first step in the process), other data of importance may have not have been given adequate coverage. Although we attempted to rectify this via the open mic during the Community Town Hall at the Carnegie, it is important that ongoing and continued community input occurs in any planning process. It is our firm belief that this document remains a jumping-off point for

anyone contemplating the future of the 100 Block and not a full conclusion. A complete vision of any sector of Vancouver requires in-depth consultation with the full community, as much as possible. As authors, we are cognisant of this problem, but remain steadfast in our commitment to preserving the neighbourhood we call home, and believe that this report remains useful for anyone exploring development on the block.

Thesis

Due to the historic and social value of the neighbourhood, the 100 Block must be preserved for the existing community, and community voices must be prioritized in any redevelopment that takes place. This process of social and cultural preservation must focus on the voices of the most marginalized (folks living below the poverty line, drug users, indigenous folks, sex workers, youth, LGBTQ2S people, etc.) in order to preserve the character of the neighbourhood and its historic value as a bastion of harm reduction, low-barrier housing and support.*

Themes (This is What We Found Out)

1 – We must Prioritize Indigenous Residents of the Neighborhood

“[We need] dialogue with original landholders in how to deal with [the question of the 100 Block] – the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh.”

“This is our land, we have a right to build anywhere on the mainland, anywhere. And people have the right to live in a better life.”

One of the central themes that emerged during all three stages of the community visioning was the importance on Indigenous leadership and stewardship in planning on the 100 Block. One resident noted that *“so much of the population [of the DTES] has been through foster care... Indigenous foster care...”* Due to the lived trauma of the neighborhood, which exists due to the ramifications of years of colonization and the war on drugs, it is of utmost importance that we identify Indigenous leaders in the DTES and prioritize their voices, including youth and elders. Another resident stated that *“Indigenous leadership has got the best ideas for the community.”* Indeed, it is through this leadership that the true healing of wounds inflicted by years of colonial domination can occur. Moreover, it is of utmost importance to dialogue with the original landholders on how to create the block – the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam First Nations. It is important to remember that indigenous grassroots organizers, such as those from Tenant Overdose Response Organizers, Vancouver Action Network of Drug Users, and Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society can work with them on consensus, and ensure the block remains a place of healing and community safety.

II - The Regent and Balmoral must be Approached with Sensitivity

“[These] buildings have bad memories...”

“One of the things that I would like to see on this block is for us to get rid of the Balmoral hotel. That hotel has hurt so many people down here. Same with the Regent. Why not have a healing center? I know we’re shooting for CRAB Park but if there could be another one here and turn it into indigenous housing.”

The Regent and Balmoral are central to any further planning in regards to the development of the 100 Block, and the property they occupy will remain central to ensuring social housing at welfare rate exists for residents of the neighbourhood. Although 49% of respondents to the CCAP survey believed that the buildings should be demolished, and 32% of respondents believe they should be refurbished, the overwhelming feeling was that the property they occupy should be kept for the community. Further, it is imperative to be conscious of the history of these SROs with indigenous folks in the neighbourhood, especially with many of the women in the DTES. 100% of WAHRS members indicated that they wanted the buildings destroyed. One long-time DTES resident noted that *“we need to be careful when we are talking about these two hotels. They leave a really bad feeling for many aboriginal women in the DTES. I happen to be one of them. [...] Could you imagine what they would find in that hotel?”* Conclusively, the complex and often violent history of these buildings cannot be unpacked without Indigenous consultation, and a focus on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Although the property should be developed for and with the community, the city and the community must also tread cautiously.

III – We need to Keep the DTES for the DTES

“Shelter rate housing, don’t push people out! Listen to people with addictions everywhere. Don’t push people to suburbs.”

“We also have to understand that things that look like they benefit us can be Trojan Horses in disguise.”

The 100 Block is, and can continue be, a permanent place for many of Vancouver’s most marginalized residents if it remains community oriented. For others, it can continue to be a doorway or segue to other places to go in the community or outside the neighborhood. One

long-term resident proposed that *“everything and everybody we need is in the DTES,”* another stated that *“we need wild and private spaces, where anything goes, but with a ‘titch more safety.’* As the DTES has historically been a refuge for the most marginalized, and therefore a bastion of hope, it is important that we continue to ensure that the most marginalized folks have somewhere to go (i.e. unhousable folks, drug dealers, sex workers, etc.). If gentrification happens such that the residents are pushed out to more abandoned places in the city, current residents risk losing the visibility, community support, and services that they have now. Residents noted that the neighborhood should remain *“OUR affordable – not the rich affordable”* and that it should not permit *“no persons over the poverty line, [as] they have everywhere else.”* If the 100 Block is the hub of the Downtown Eastside, it needs to stay as populated as possible by the residents of the area. Moreover, businesses should reflect the demographic and needs of those who live there. Examples may include bringing back the Drug User Resources Centre; giving the Tenant Overdose Response Organizers, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, the Coalition of Peers Dismantling the Drug War, and Dudes Club an office; a community library; giving Drinkers Lounge a parlor with an administered alcohol program or even a microbrewery; a Quest-like free food store; returning a bottle depot on the block; and more thrift stores and free stores for goods.

IV – Residents want 100% Welfare Rate Housing, or Cheaper, on the Block

“I myself... and I suppose a lot of others... are looking at the same thing – for more housing, for more low income housing.”

“We don’t need wealthy people or mixed [income housing]. [We need] 100% social housing.”

It is worth noting that 71% of people surveyed by CCAP agreed that the neighborhood should remain at 100% welfare rate or cheaper, while 100% of people at the WAHRS meeting were in agreement with this proposal. Moreover, it is abundantly clear that, in general, people want to have autonomy over their own housing and don’t want full non-profit control. Residents of the 100 block want community-controlled housing, while at the same time believe that people should not live in squalor. One resident stated that they *“[didn’t] want social mix! No poor doors, no segregation!”* Another explained that *“[residents] want social housing – nice social housing.”* It is of utmost importance to residents that buildings should remain super low barrier and allow for pets, and people’s personal belongings (including bikes and shopping carts). The neighborhood locals are looking for co-operative style housing for people who are having a hard time with stability, and believe that it is imperative to protect people’s privacy and consult with them. This means finding other solutions other than jail, the hospital, or police intervention. In this vein, we must be careful about implementing safety policies because they can actually prevent people from being safe. For example, rules relating to guests and ID, or an 11pm curfew on guests, prevent clients from visiting sex workers in their housing. If folks have to go outside to make money it is more dangerous. Moreover, if people are selling drugs, police can sequester camera footage and therefore camera systems prevent people from doing illegal transactions safely. If we look to other models of low income housing across the world, it is not unreasonable that tenants could manage their own housing in a cooperative model, free from police intervention. More radical variations of this model, have shown successes when infrastructural repairs to currently dilapidated buildings can be undertaken by tenants themselves. For inspiration, we can look to models in the Lower Eastside of New York.²

² See <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/new-york-city-squatting/>

V – We need to Encourage more Peer Programming and Control

“We listen to each other more than non-profits. [...] Non-profit groups aren’t necessarily of the people. We should be carrying it.”

“We need to be able to police ourselves. We need to have community peers that police these streets, not the ones in uniform. Cut their budget... cut their budget and put it towards the healing of the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women.”

As mentioned above, community control is imperative to what happens on the 100 Block, with one SRO resident proclaiming *“absolutely everything should be peer run, everything!”* Neighborhood peers must be an integral component in the decision making and how things operate, while safety solutions should come from the community, not be enforced upon them. A recurring theme in our work was the desire to see less police on the 100 Block, replaced by peer community outreach workers trained to deal with violence or mental health emergencies, and community organizing or stewardship projects to help the 100 Block community work out solutions to safety issues on the block. The community is very interested in alternatives to just arresting people and believe in the promise of restorative justice. Residents are seeking more democracy in decision making, and consultation with folks to realize where they are at. The vast majority of people surveyed advocate for less institutionalized control of the block. In housing scenarios, tenants could meet amongst themselves to figure out how to solve problems, although mentorship and leadership would be needed. One long term resident noted:

When things are less institutionalized, it’s easier to access things for my specific needs, whether they are medical or mental. [Non-peer run services] don’t seem to care about the people, and there is a lack of privacy and fairness. Management always have favorites. We need peer advocacy. We need advocacy groups are only open certain hours and there are long lines. Things are not humane.

It is of utmost importance that we remain conscious about the most vulnerable people struggling with illness and oppression in the Downtown Eastside, and it has been proven time and time again that peer-driven resources are the best failsafe to problems in the continuum of care.

VI – Food needs to be Accessible

“Create a program for free food out, on, and around the 100 Block of Hastings to create dialogue, decreasing no food days.”

“What we also need is... we need a good source of food so that people can eat feel a lot better about themselves with good nutrition.”

The 100 Block remains malnourished, and there generally is not access for residents to healthy food other than at the Carnegie Centre or convenience stores. Many folks suggested community responses to this, such as an uptake in rooftop gardening and affordable community oriented restaurants. A resident of the neighborhood suggested that it would be nice to have *“more affordable food options that are welcoming, like the Ovaltine, with longer business hours.”* Existing convenience stores remain staples in the neighborhood, and the ability to *“run a tab until you get welfare”* should remain an important feature on the block. Another resident wanted *“to see an herb garden all over the street and alley. With herbs you can pick for adding nutrition and vitamins to dinner. Like oregano, basil, and mint.”* Not only does the community want better

food options, but as per the themes above, they want a stake in these options. It is of no surprise that food creates community, and healthy food is important to a healthy community. Fresh water is also important, and improvements to access could be made such as drinking fountains and water bottle stations, which could be located in alleys and on the street.

VII – Arts and Culture are a Necessity and Should Be Prioritized

“[We need] culture to create dialogue that provides intervention and prevention. To stop the violence against our First Nations families, [we need a] sense of belonging to community.”

“We envision a vibrant, interactive, multi-generation, multi-cultural community, combining life style with social consciousness, where people learn to live together and learn about each other’s strengths and gifts, work, inventions, art, music, carving and drumming”



It is worth understanding that an overwhelming majority of residents wanted more spaces for local arts and culture, such as spaces for busking, graffiti, and vending. Folks in the community also asked for spaces to make this art and music, which many link back to positive improvements to their mental health. Further, 88% of people surveyed by CCAP believed an increase in access to Indigenous culture should be a priority for residents of the DTES. Residents repeatedly noted the need a cultural space on the 100 Block, where Indigenous programming

and art would be celebrated. A long-term Indigenous resident noted *“having a longhouse or healing centre on the block would be very helpful, and this could be connected with the proposed CRAB Park Healing Centre.”* Indeed, the overwhelming majority of Indigenous folks surveyed noted the importance of a cultural space on the block.

VIII – The DTES needs Increased Access to Sanitation Facilities

“Alleyways user and public friendly. Need creative washroom solutions. Fix pavement (lots of dirty puddles, people could get infections), improve drainage.”

“We could be paying people from the community, peers from the community to be doing 100% or the cleanup every minute of the hour 24/7.”

Most surveyed residents of the community noted that there needed to be more access for folks to sanitation facilities in the neighbourhood. These included more street cleaning and garbage pickup, showers, foot baths/care, laundry, bed bug saunas, more public washrooms or “pee stations” (especially in the alleys) – a resounding theme was the need for *“more public*

bathrooms. LESS PEE”.³ Further, there was the pronounced need for better pest control, as well as “bed bug control in all buildings”. Many residents also noted the need for more community garbage collection and options for disposal and pickup, including peer garbage pickup.

IX – We need to Include, Protect, and Consult Sex Workers and Youth

“We need to improve the way we listen to trans people, intersectionality oppressed people, sex workers, people of colour...”

“There are a lot of youth down here, where else can we send them in Vancouver? There are a few places, but not many. So we have to respect our youth who are down here. And we have to have services for them.”

Two highly marginalized populations, with experience living and working on the block, were brought up repeatedly during the community consultation – sex workers and youth. Folks noted the importance of having youth and women’s housing on the block, especially spaces that are inclusive of trans women, sex workers, and families. Due to their intersectional marginalization, sex workers’ safety should be a priority when visioning the 100 Block, and we should think about how changes may further isolate them or push them out of the neighbourhood. For example, if the city chooses to reduce traffic in the area, it may make it more difficult for sex workers to get dates, which would put sex workers to be put more a risk. In a similar vein of systematic disregard, a long term youth resident of the DTES noted:

We need space for youth. Specifically, we need space for youth to do what they want, space for youth to access harm reduction supplies and services, and doctors. Youth don’t want to be scrutinized or told what is or isn’t for them. Food is the hardest thing to come by for youth in the DTES. They are frequently turned away from services because they don’t “look old enough”.

Much like sex workers, youth should not be excluded from housing on the block, nor should they be excluded from other services, such as food and harm reduction. Although there are issues related to potential exploitation and violence in both populations, both youth and sex workers should be consulted about redevelopment on the block and be protected.

X – The Need for a Better Continuum of Care for Drug Users

“Supervised smoking sites, emergency Narcan kits, alcoves to sleep and use, more comfortable and clean. There are fines for sleeping on the sidewalk so what do we do?”

“Provide safe supply! The mayor can make this an experimental zone where we don’t bust people for drugs... where they can access those safe drugs. A safe supply that is not going to kill them and their family members.”

Residents and knowledgeable community members both noted that we need an improved access to a continuum of care involving different harm reduction initiatives, from a safe supply of drugs to detox and abstinence based programs. Drug users on the block noted that 24/7 drug checking is long overdue as is a safe supply program for hard drugs, which could find a storefront on the 100 Block. In general, the 100 Block should prioritize people who use

³ See: <https://www.npr.org/2018/08/14/638512558/nope-those-arent-mailboxes-paris-rolls-out-sidewalk-urinals>

drugs as it has historically been a neighborhood *for* them. Residents of the neighbourhood spoke to the fact that Insite was a pilot project, which, although too tiny, should remain where it is, and 92% of CCAP survey respondents were in favour of expanding it on the north side of the 100 block, with many noting the need for a less clinical lens and the ability to have mobile peer engagement with increased outreach into the neighbourhood and in-reach into buildings. Moreover, residents stressed the need for abstinence based programming and also insisted that onsite remain where it is. An indigenous elder and long-time resident of the neighbourhood proposed a

24 hour welcoming low barrier comfortable waiting place for those who want to reconnect with their families and go through recovery, connected to a shelter where people who are waiting to get into a program can hang out. 3 stage program – detox, treatment, wilderness survival skills.

The need for customized community-led harm reduction initiatives targeted a specific populations remained a core feature of much of the data gathered. The need for improvements to existing services pervaded many of the interviews, and many respondents stressed the need for peer-led services, outdoor using spaces that are shielded from the elements, and larger and more informal community chill-out spaces.

XI – Land Development should be for the Current Community

“Create the vision we all can relate to. Not just the alleys—for the whole DTES; we’ve been turned into a postage stamp. Things can go sideways. We need full transparency.”

“They mislead, misinform, say this and say that. I’ve seen it. Long wait list for women, men, elders to get into housing. They don’t go by those lists. These people move into the area and hire people who are not familiar with the DTES, then so much changes and things are revamped and worse.”

Many residents of the 100 block share discontent over poor development policy and land assemblies that have allowed monolithic buildings such as Sequel 138 to crop up on the block. Many folks expressed dissatisfaction with how these developments had detrimental impacts on their neighbourhood. Although not explicit, folks remain against land assemblies, and agree with keeping all the lots the same in order to keep land costs down, and expenses low, in order to achieve deeper affordability. One long term inhabitant said *“no underground parking for buildings. 1 spot costs \$70,000, and this money could be reinvested into affordability and free transit.”* While another resident wanted *“more social housing. More awnings to keep the rain off folks. **No more Sequels 138.** They should have renovated and the city dropped the ball on that.”* Repeatedly, residents noted that the city needed to follow up on objectives of Sequel which included using the building to provide social housing, affordable home ownership, an arts centre with community programming and to take down the gates, opening up the lane to the alley. Folks from the 100 Block seemed to want to work with existing property owners whom they trust, and many suggested that this might help the community retain more control. Although folks do not want slumlords who are not interested in their upkeep of their buildings, they also are worried that if the city acquires more property on the 100 Block, there will be increased institutionalization of services.

XII – Street Improvements Should Focus on the Current Community

“Interactive and creative things. Go and paint, art work, carving, gardening, rooftop gardens, art therapy.”

“Planning an interactive street milieu, with an additional lane of traffic given to the sidewalk. We would then plan little seating/comfort areas, with hand-carved cedar benches and “booths” for privacy and little garden groupings with trees that attract Bees and Butterflies and Birds, and little fountains/bird baths, with water for dogs and people too.”

The majority of 100 Block residents noted the importance of outdoor space, including alleyways and Hasting Street itself. 83% of CCAP respondents were in favour of keeping alleys open to the public and accessible for neighbourhood residents, and the majority of those polled were in favour of making the streets as nice as possible, with more room for vending, lined with benches and trees, specifically “*memory trees*” which give space for people to memorialize their friends that have passed away due to the overdose crisis. Local businesses, such as the Remington Gallery, suggested that if the sidewalks were extended to allow for legal vending and



camping, there would be a net benefit to the neighbourhood, as folks would be less likely to directly block doorways and windows of existing businesses. Moreover, residents suggested the need for wider sidewalks, with covered mobile kiosks for street vending that can be set up alongside them. In a slightly different vein, residents asked for more lighting in the alleys in some places, as well as places for folks to go to the bathroom. One community member said that they would “*like to see carved benches, musician friendly spaces, healing spaces, planters with annuals and perennials and herbs. [Things should be] close*

to community. A landscape that brings people in; street art and murals.” Comparably, a different long-term neighbourhood local stated that “*we want beauty, paintings, well-crafted graffiti. Put artists to work. Get the buildings painted and repaired. More colour. It doesn’t have to be ugly. Cobblestone. Concrete roads with reliefs and mosaics. Get on it!*” Themes about the need for more gardens, including rooftop gardens, and less concrete and less blacktop, came up repeatedly. Correspondingly, increased access into alleyways, and easier access to the 100 Block were also repeatedly mentioned, as well as the need for serious traffic control (speed bumps etc.) and increased access for buses and bikes on the block. One resident suggested digging a tunnel under Hastings Street so cars did not occupy the street. Moreover, a recursive theme of connection was repeatedly brought up, which could involve joining the alley behind Sequel to the alley behind Insite, with open passageways through buildings, and accessible doorways in all the buildings. Other suggested a giant scramble crosswalk in the middle of Hastings, like a community plaza or what residents dubbed “*the community living-room*”. Others suggested that any new projects should have open access to the alleys, but without disturbing privacy and driving away the folks that exist in these spaces.

Conclusion

Ultimately, our findings show the need to preserve the vibrant community along the 100 Block of East Hastings which is "*Our Downtown*" in order to protect the most marginalized population in Vancouver. This means striving to respond to the needs of community faced with extreme poverty, homelessness and housing insecurity, and a high prevalence of problematic substance use and other mental and physical challenges, rather than scattering them out of sight and out of mind. A key component of this involves permitting the illicit, yet intimate and extremely stigmatized activity of drug use in spaces and overcoming challenges related physical as well social thresholds such as public/ private, illegal/legal, regulated/spontaneous, safe/ risky, surveillance/ autonomy, etc. Much of this can be done by increasing community-control of spaces, and prioritizing peer and Indigenous leadership. Community involvement and stewardship will be vital to the neighbourhood's success as a beacon of hope for the disenfranchised. The community must be able to decide what the neighbourhood needs and the trajectory moving forward, as the needs of the neighbourhood will inherently change depending on current events.

Appendix A – Raw CCAP Survey and Flipchart Results

I – Survey Results

Question 1 – How can we make spaces (outdoor and indoor) for Indigenous cultural access such as longhouses, sweat lodges, art spaces, etc.?

1. All of these ideas
2. Family
3. Sweat lodge for women
4. Healing lodge/area. Blood Alley.
5. Yes. Need a place to represent Indigenous people and youth.
6. Yes. Sweat lodge, safe space, art space, somewhere to pray.
7. Education, healing process if we had more art spaces, etc.
8. Options to relocate while construction is going on--don't relocate permanently
9. Build more communities
10. Yes, sweats, place to pray
11. This area is Vancouver's pharmacy drug area. Follow Victoria to help people. Don't gentrify, give people what they can afford.
12. More Indigenous art
13. Tents
14. Close to Indigenous people. There are no culturally appropriate services, esp. For elders. Not provided by city.
15. Use vacant buildings for Indigenous people (whatever they want to do with them)
16. All equal
17. Preserve Indigenous heritage
18. I support having Crab Park expanded with a healing centre. You could have a sweat lodge in the community garden
19. 16 places buildings
20. Let the natives decide, up to the community. Neighbourhood to enjoy artwork, e.g. totem pole, more native art. Make community garden more available to the public. More parks for people to read, have tea, eat their lunch
21. Absolutely 100%, be kind and have respect each other. We need to work among ourselves to get along
22. Yes of course! Not for me to decide
23. Sure. I have friends who came
24. Let's have inclusive spaces free of racial requirements please
25. Hire local residents to build, that way they will have more respect for the building
26. Yes, sweat lodge, longhouse, etc.
27. Use the Balmoral as Indigenous
28. Community centre. Church. 24-hour shelter
29. To create dialogue that provides intervention/prevention. To stop the violence against our First Nations families, sense of belonging to community

Question 2 – What do we do with the Balmoral and the Regent? Demolish, renovate or expropriate? How important is heritage to you (on the 100 block)?

1. Torn down
2. Demolish--and rebuild--all social housing.
3. Replace them and [???]. Retain heritage.
4. Leave rent. Fix. Bring people back who left. Re-open bars.

5. Let's think about bike/cart storage. Storage. Kitchenettes. Programs, not just a place to sleep. Sex workers privacy/safety.
6. Tear down.
7. Renovated, depending on shape of them
8. Social housing
9. Need to demolish safely. Protect street markets, vending. Stop war against the poor genocide.
10. Torn down, fresh new start.
11. Rebuild them all open to community centres. Tear them down and put them back together.
12. Better housing in the community. Heritage is important.
13. Need to be operated better. Heritage isn't important.
14. More SROs, our own bedrooms, houses
15. Tear down, get rid of and build another one
16. Renovate and restructure. Look to Victoria Pandora projects
17. Renovated, repurposed for recreational purposes, businesses, office spaces, churches
18. Whatever creates the most effective way to create social housing
19. Demolish. Heritage is too far gone, let it go for these 2. Expropriate to make into social housing
20. Renovate
21. Tearing down would be expensive, need resources for that. Has been trauma in the area for a very long time. Maybe renovate to minimize resources.
22. Renovate to serve community
23. Tear it down for more social housing. Too many homeless. Not managed by the Sahotas or other slumlords. Community controlled, they know what we need. Need something better so people aren't resorting to the street
24. Tear them down! 10,000 pounds of cockroaches
25. Yes, they're dumps. Don't band aids
26. Keep it for heritage value. 2 different sets of hallways on each floor, like a maze
27. Demolish and replace with modular housing
28. Proper respect relationship. Demolish for low income
29. Expropriate from landlords that let the places deteriorate beyond redemption. Dropped the ball and should be given shit. Should be restored and celebrated. Probably some famous people stayed there. Should be restored to former glory and used for social housing.
30. Balmoral was a beautiful building, has some cultural value. Could renovate. Regent would need major renovation. Chinatown disappearing. Preserve the history. Don't let it disappear, we've lost enough
31. I don't know if they can be saved. Heritage is important, culture, so if we can save them, that's good
32. Renovated by government. Not the Sahotas. By the authorities and make it look nice. Heritage matters--family is family!
33. Not important at all, ugly building with lots of trauma attached for community members
34. Buildings have bad memories, start fresh
35. Tear it down
36. Renovate, bigger
37. Given away to people who need it. Signs kept but the rest should come down
38. Keep heritage and display legacy of area, old building
39. Balmoral converted into cultural access space. Demolish, far too many bad things happened. Social healing building. Heritage is important

Question 3 – What do we want housing to look like on the block? Welfare and pension rate? How big? Amenities? Social mix? Who gets to live in the housing? Community-controlled or managed by non-profit, or other?

1. Supportive housing has too much power. They threw me out after 9 years. Didn't try to find a resolution. Eviction Nazis--have to fight at RTB arbitration on the phone.
2. Bathroom and [???]. Subsidized \$375-550. 50-100 sq. ft. No social mix--all subsidized so that everyone has a place to call their own. Managed by non-profit—[???]
3. Modular housing size (500-600 sq. ft. for a single guy). Own kitchen and bathroom. Yes to social mix. \$500-700 if not welfare rate. Check welfare people--75% market/25% social. Half-half (question e.)
4. 2 times bigger. Own bathroom and kitchen.
5. No condos. Low-income people. Need places for Indigenous people and youth. Given concentration of low-income people in the community. Single mothers, men's houses.
6. More for community--for the homeless. Community lounge in building for social gathering. Whoever needs it, people in the community, people trying to recover, need housing. Organization connected with resources.
7. All social housing, non-corporate
8. Turned into grass, tents, and teepee. A white donkey for me. Community growing up around it. Prototype for the greening of the world.
9. Bigger than 300 sq. ft. Community lounge places. Outdoor washrooms 24/7. Community controlled.
10. Food services
11. Welfare rate, big enough for studio, self-contained kitchen and bathroom. Open to anyone, doubt rich people would stay there. Some should, some shouldn't. Everyone's circumstances are different.
12. Co-ops mostly small
13. We don't need wealthy people/mixed. 100% social housing
14. Add density, 50% social housing AT LEAST. 10 stories 50 people. Have a place to live. Community partnership between city + non-profit
15. Low rent. 500 sq. ft. Shared (amenities) on each floor--time limit. Different floor--own space
16. Need privacy, single-occupancy dwelling and family units. Management have lots of responsibilities, occupants need help and support. Need community and management to serve, takes a lot of personal discipline [to live in one's own housing]. Social mix is discriminatory is building resources are not equally accessible (like gyms, etc.) Don't like divide of community, need level ground for human rights
17. Lives in St. Helen's (Atira-managed): up on everyone's business. Sick of Atira handling mental health work when Coast Mental Health is already there. Atira not qualified. Atira kicked me out of the building and made me homeless again. Need no non-profit control, Atira manages who can and can't deal in the building based on favourites. Need safe housing for using. Need personal bathrooms and kitchens=health issue. Also need social spaces. Glad to be moving out of Atira building (at Atira building from Dec. 2018 to May 2019)
18. Less institutionalized, easier access to specific needs (medical, mental, but less institutionalized), they don't seem to care about the people, lack of privacy and fairness, management have favourites, Atira should be dealt with down here, not accountable. Need peer advocacy, advocacy groups only open on certain days and lines are so long (waited for hours and got fired from job because of that.) Not humane.
19. Private bathrooms, kitchen--cook own meals. Need laundry to take care of bed bugs.
20. More housing, real houses

21. Bachelor-self-contained. 419 sq. ft.
22. I like: SROs, shared shower and kitchen. It reduces my carbon footprint and hydro.
23. Welfare and pension rates. 350sq. Ft. and up. Meeting rooms, low-income stores. No social mix. No level fours.
24. Yes. Larger private support. Mental health issues. Not. Have a say in what goes on.
25. Social housing. Mix 60/40 market/social. Why should everybody be silo'd rich/poor? Shelter rate is needed because of homelessness situation. People living there should participate in government, people living in it should have more of a say.
26. Community style design, garden, community kitchens, everyone should have own bathroom. Communal kitchen. Brings people together. Non-profits make a lot of money, train us to do those jobs, gaining respect, we listen to each other more than non-profits. Shelter rate housing, don't push people out, listen to people with addictions everywhere. Don't push people to suburbs. There's food down here. Non-profit groups aren't necessarily of the people. We should be carrying it.
27. More buildings for homeless. Regular income. Kitchen and bathroom. Independents. Regular staff.
28. Mixed housing anywhere, all levels, for anybody. Community kitchen, lounges, space for sharing. Self-contained units with kitchen and washrooms. Building with safe injection rooms. Mix of peer and supportive housing, boundaries, someone with lived experience
29. Nice housing--windows that open, balconies. Not just a little room. Guests should be allowed. People could be losing their lives and nobody notices. Less isolated. Mixed is okay--we get along with everyone down here. More by community, not Atira. Honest, respected members of the community.
30. Social mix
31. Welfare and pension rate. New water
32. Any kind. Shelter rate. Bigger with washroom. No condos. Supportive housing
33. 1 bedroom apartments, bigger 25% increase. Outskirts, no slumlords, public employees and managers. Multicultural. Community-controlled
34. Lowest they can, between \$200-300 for bachelor. Kitchen and bathroom. Room for communal use. No social mix, too many homeless too urgent. Managed by non-profit.
35. Enlarge units, make more comfortable. People spend their weekends in cramped spaces. People in social housing die sooner and younger. Less than 500 sqft, more than 325 sqft.
36. More clean. 37f sqft. More clean laundry + amenities, own bathroom for sure. 12x13, maybe 12x14 feet, need more space. Non-profit

Question 4 – What do we want the alleyways to look like? How public or private should they be? Will there be services or other amenities in the alleyways? What will they be?

1. Clean, [???]. Private. Washrooms, benches, etc.
2. Cleaner. Public bathrooms, harm reduction, [???]
3. Washrooms, safe for using, disposables for sharps
4. No amenities in alley, waste of money
5. Create the vision we all can relate to. Not just alley--whole DTES, we've been turned into a postage stamp. Things can go sideways. Need full transparency.
6. Washrooms, disposable boxes.
7. Less crowded.
8. More. Cans for disposal. For using
9. Public access and inviting, but not super instigating, safe spaces
10. Make drug use safer, reduce deaths make it safer
11. More lighting, brighter colours, murals, artwork

12. Public spaces, tents
13. Supervised smoking sites, emergency Narcan kits, alcoves to sleep and use, more comfortable and clean. There are fines for sleeping on the sidewalk so what do we do.
14. Alleyways user and public friendly. Need creative washroom solutions. Fix pavement (lots of dirty puddles, people could get infections), improve drainage
15. Disposables, 24hr washroom
16. They should be public spaces with murals
17. Public. Open spaces relax, no violence. Tolerance
18. Restored, fixed up, artwork, washrooms
19. Interactive and creative things. Go and paint, art work, carving, gardening, rooftop gardens, art therapy.
20. Washrooms, especially for women
21. Washrooms, porta potties, sharps containers for disposal--saves lives if you can do that
22. Let's clean them up, get rid of dealers plus more public toilets
23. Disposal boxes. Washrooms
24. Pee free. Outdoor toilet. Harm reduction
25. Clean, public services
26. More beauty and cleanliness. Mosaics and murals in alleys.

Question 5 – Do you want to expand Insite into a larger community hub? (Yes/No) Explain. If yes, would you like this community hub to be planned and operated mostly by people with lived experience using drugs and to be made less clinical? (Yes/No) Explain.

1. Yes, not losing as many people out here on the streets. Yes, they'd be more understanding and experienced--less judgement.
2. Yes, yes--for experience they have with people
3. Chill out space, community drop in, both medical and community run
4. It should stay where it is
5. Yes--medical issues taken away. Yeah, expanded.
6. Yes, more Insite
7. Too long of a wait. Should be expanded. Used to go there but not anymore. Somebody who knows right from wrong. Otherwise people with money will take over the place.
8. Yes, yes--it should be made less clinical, seems appropriate
9. If it would help them operate, yes. Clinical is a long process creates barriers, but should have both
10. Yes. Would be awesome to have. Sounds like a huge project. Wonder about funding? Would be wonderful to have peers running drop in centre
11. Expand, all over the city
12. Yes, run by people tied into the community to take charge of this.
13. Clinical. Insite saves lives
14. Insite should be expanded. I also support the Real Compassion Society (Blue Door). I believe buildings should be run with peer support. It should not be run like a halfway house or medical facility
15. Yes, kept cleaned. Customer controlled
16. Some place look unfriendly, make it inviting, better looking, involve people who use the buildings to participate in decorating. Plants, colors, buildings
17. Separate medical and community. Separate community space.
18. Expand Insite
19. Safe zone
20. Could be community space, could have been done so already. I like that it is medical--it's the only one. Only one women's injection room. Should be 24 hrs.

21. Insite is great--saves lives every year. Support them in everything they do. They're quick
22. Not all lived experience workers. More professional
23. Lounge area. Medicalized
24. Yes, harm reduction
25. Yes and yes
26. Yes and yes

Question 6 – Anything else that you'd like to add?

1. Heritage. Public gathering squares.
2. History of community involvement celebration of community, eg. once a month. Cultural cleansing ceremony. Really think that so much of the population has been through foster care, Indigenous foster care, peer support, community connection to see opportunities.
3. Longest running war in history is the class war. Demolition--air quality is bad. Suspended particulate. Moratorium on developments.
4. Let people sell stuff. Vendors. Don't kick them out!
5. Don't want more deaths from homelessness. More community, more food options.
6. No pigs in DTES. Sick of housing situation, used to live in East Can., can't find housing in Van. only options are SROs which make me use drugs again
7. Feel no sympathy or empathy for outsiders. Cops are intimidating, abusive, and unhelpful, no more cops down here
8. We lived down here, been traumatized. As long as people keep supporting these govts, nothing will change. Under Charter of Rights, everyone is supposed to have equal access. BC didn't follow the charter. "Notwithstanding clause" civil rights only until 1998. The more people in homeless shelters, the more money for VPD. There are more social workers down here, rest of Canada has housing laws.
9. More events, e.g. outdoor movie theatre. Can make an amusement park, carnival on the land. Brings people together. Instead of an airport around here.
10. Street vending, need special designated places. More treatment facilities, no selling dope. Carved benches along sidewalks--musician friendly spaces, healing spaces, planters with annuals and perennials (herbs). Close to community. Landscape that brings people in. Street art and murals
11. Carved benches along sidewalks--musician friendly spaces, healing spaces, planters with annuals and perennials (herbs). Close to community. Landscape that brings people in. Street art and murals
12. More colourful, as in Commercial Drive. Donated supplies for pick up, and do art anywhere: murals, mosaics, etc.

II – CCAP Planning Meeting Notes (May 17)

Questions:

- Social mix - how much is acceptable and what is the DTES specifications
- Heritages - *cultural study and/or questionnaire - we must be careful about asking people their heritage on the street as it is seen as sometimes an invasive question. It also can't be asked during interviews - ask Erica*
- How many welfare rate housing units do they want on the block?
- How many square feet each? For singles or larger units?
- Could they handle any unit above welfare rate and if so, how many and what rents? (Social mix question)
- Do they want the Balmoral and Regent preserved or knocked down? Is the heritage value of the Balmoral and Regent important to them?

- What would they like to see at street level re? low income serving services businesses? Do they want yuppy businesses at street level?
- Is it important for you that Insite and the dispensary stay on the block?
- Renovate or knock down Balmoral? - Survey and/or a petition or an individual who is asking these questions in conversations on the street
- What to do with store fronts?

Other questions:

- Protect cultural heritage - we can ask about culturally special spots, locations, buildings, history, Etc.
- Cultural spaces
- Safety for sex workers and others - include. Make sure not to push people out.
- Green spaces - DTES needs more!
- Keep Insite where it is?? - Lives may be lost if not
- Dispensary – closed down now

III – Flipchart Questions

1. How can we make spaces for Indigenous cultural access indoors and outdoors?

- Rename streets and laneways
- Longhouse with outdoor space
- Have int. Space that opens to tents, seasonal for heat and winter, with retractable windows/screens. Nature/garden space int. To ext. Continued
- Water resources (ph balanced). No more gross tap water. Comm. can fill jugs for home use. Recycle rain H2O→ Can use for plumbing/garden/cleanliness

2. What do we do with the Balmoral and the Regent? Torn down or renovated? As is?

- *Torn Down*
 - 7 yes (“and blow it up”, “too many bodies inside”, “[but] keep facade and sign”, “definitely”),
 - 1 no (“not yet”)
- *Renovated*
 - 4 yes (“yes yes yes”, “bring pubs back”)
 - Keep it the way it is historically. And give people more affordable housing not glass condos no one can afford.
- *Expropriated:*
 - 6 yes.
 - Make into social housing. It’s been an eye sore too long. The city should have been onto this year’s ago. What a disgrace. It’s been an insult to the community.
 - Shouldn’t be in Sahota hands any longer--shame on the city!

3. What do we want housing to look like on the 100 block? How operated? Who should live there?

- Seniors’ housing
- No social mix! No poor doors/segregation
- Plentiful

- We want beautiful and comfortable accommodation. We want buildings that reflect the historical beauty that we see in old Vancouver. How did neighbourhood deteriorate so badly?
- We want social housing--nice social housing
- OUR affordable--not the rich affordable
- More Indigenous housing
- When can children/youth healthcare needs, temp. Health care cards, to keep them healthy by creating dialogue A gentrification process, that allow children and youth missing a voice with their relations, that are a part of the Canadian Indian Movement access to health care and detox advocacy. Always allow pets. Otherwise, additional boundaries for non-profit housing with community policing in the DTES community

4. What do we want in the alleys? How public or private should they be? Services and amenities?

- No shooting up. We want beauty, paintings, well crafted graffiti. Put artists to work build + install decent joint. Get the buildings painted+repaired. More color. It doesn't have to be ugly. Cobblestone. Concrete roads with reliefs+mosaics. Get on it! The 100 block is just a beginning, there are the 200 block and the 300 block, 400 block, 500 block. Etc. You get the idea!!
- More public bathrooms
- LESS PEE!
- Herb garden all over street + alley. With herbs you can pick for adding nutrition + vitamins to dinner. Like oregano, basil, mint. Smell great too, take away pee smell. Herb garden planters

5. Do want to expand Insite into a larger community hub? Less clinical? Community-managed?

- Yes, less clinical.
- Community-managed--more like comfortable living room space (eg Sister Space)
 - No (30 min time limit)
- Community-managed--Yes, for sure. The way it should be.
- Allow snorting, smoking
- Yes, definitely!
- Yuppies

6. Do you like these ideas?

Showers

- Yes, for the homeless
- Of course
- More shower spaces
- Definitely

Book exchange

- Library
- Sure. Why not!
- More space for book exchange. Kept up and organized. Donations. Trading. Add art supplies + writing exchange tools
- Book club programs

Laundry

- More laundromats. Also in new housing
- More
- Access to washer+dryers for community. Have donated machines+soap to help costs

Foot care

- Tough to find volunteers
- Yes (15)
- Have doc on duty (certain days) available for community regarding foot+other issues, getting worse for disability + wheelchair, donated + find exchange

Art Making

- Why not. Art is a great activity. Gets the mind going. Creativity!! Let it flow
- Painted crosswalk
- More spaces for graffiti and wall murals. Music: rap battles, open jam sesh's
- More art spaces/stores that sell local art w/ artist commission stores. Legal art walls + spaces. Art classes taught/taken by community+locals. Art therapy (after detox+rehab)
- Music making--street performers + singers

Outdoor using area

- Yes, if we have to. But treatment+rehab is more important. Also more educational opportunities should be available. Job training vocational schools. Have community work crews to make community clean and sparkling

More intimate-using areas

- Fans + ventilations set-up.
- Let's have places for shooting up but more important is treatment rehab PLEASE!!!
- Sleep pods. Bunk bed bunkers. 24 hour security, low barrier

24-hour drug testing

- This is long overdue
- Drug testing yes but how much [???
- Drug research + trying other drug rehabs + detox--ibogaine
- More centers like Insite, with bathrooms

Larger chill out space indoor + outdoor

- More parks, benches, big trees for shade, a fountain or two, sculptures in the park, murals
- 24 hour flea market
 - I don't want a 24-hr flea market. Application for preventable.ca might be best
- More community spaces and events

Open to dogs/shopping carts?

- Sure, bring on the dogs
- Pet inclusive + areas for dogs and cats

7. What else is needed on the 100 block?

- FREE spaces for youth + families
- NO persons over the poverty line, they have everywhere else

- In or around the 100 block/DTES, a new school building for youth/children escaping violence or having escaped violence
- More social housing. More awnings to keep the rain off folks. No more sequels 138 (they should have renovated, city dropped the ball on that)

8. Do you like the idea of new food options?

- More affordable food options that are welcoming like Ovaltine, long business hours
- Yes
- Give food out everyday
- Create a program for free food out on/around the 100 block of Hastings to create dialogue, decreasing no food days. Administer advocacy application for vitamins. Vitamins create the desire outcome.
- More (larger). Market day + spots (diff. People come).

9. Do you think we should get a bottle depot back on the block?

- Crucial to livelihood of DTES/Chiantown residents
- Open another one closer off main streets (alley door access)
- Yup

10. What are your thoughts about traffic?

- Bring back: STOP when x-walk is occupied!
- Bottleneck. Buses and ambulances only. Take away parking spots.
- Reckless drivers and pedestrians. Scramble crossing.

11. What are your thoughts about what could happen on sidewalks?

- Memorial trees for MMIWG, murdered in Regent and Balmoral
- Wider. Clean them regularly. Benches, parkettes, local flowers
- Edible herb containers
- Carved Indigenous art, cedar trees, benches, to invite street watchers and musicians

12. What are your thoughts on greening the 100 block?

- Make Insite garden more accessible. More trees and flowers.
- Be pet/child/elder friendly

13. What are your thoughts about garbage?

- Put trash cans on every block corner, MORE trash cans. More needle disposal. Bottle depot
- No spitting on the block
- Butt out: quitting tobacco provincial tins at community resources. More progressive recycling bins in community resources, by asking Vancouver Coastal Health permission

14. Other suggestions?

- Homeless shelter. More trees. Drainage platform
- Community inclusion, sustainability to the decision making process

- No cops!
- Bed bug control (proper) in all buildings. Recycle + change, used beds, fabrics. Devoted to placing homeless in houses. Rental house “matching”. Other routes, shelters (more), use of non-used buildings, houses turned into a roof over people’s heads.
- Have more drug testing available. More smoking/drug use (interior), have stations (set-up) at drug use/comm places for constant+current issues/discussion/thoughts/ideas w/ pen+paper→ box to be talked about + looked into. Creating awareness+solutions. Have more computer access (maintained+treated proper)+donated
- Have more research + action w/ other drug rehab solutions (ibogaine/kratom/counselling). Getting to root of problems instead of masking.
- Have more youth advocacy+care: Not to start drugs. Facts. Older examples helping youth stop!
- More community gardens + greens. Garden workshops/outing days (planting + maintenance). More plants/trees/flowers in area (changing look + vibes). More input + care for nature
- Concept for recycling goods+exchanges. Reuse and recycle (clothes, food, beds, books, art, hobbies, entertainment)
- All night kitchen--24 hours
- Let’s implement some of these ideas! Not just nod your heads + give lip service really!
- Educate--FREE seminars eg. taking care of/respecting our streets→ need more public toilets that are easy to access
- Put up mini-mall where at the same time while building where some of our people are employed and start training for positions at the mall
- Root of problems--no masking them. Proper counselling. Stop pharmacy drug control
- Plant medicine ceremonies

Appendix B – CCAP Petition

- I, _____, demand that the City of Vancouver and the Provincial Government of British Columbia comply with the broad community vision of the 100 block of Hastings, led by the current and past residents of the 100 block and the surrounding Downtown Eastside.
- The municipal and provincial levels of government have a duty to consult with and prioritize the voices and experiences of local community members, especially Indigenous community members whose unceded territories the 100 block sits on.
- Given the rapid development of new market housing, the increasing disappearance of affordable grocers and other accessible retail, and a need for more culturally appropriate and low-barrier services and amenities in the Downtown Eastside, community members are demanding that all development that takes place on the 100 block of Hastings be community-led and oriented towards the needs of the community.
- Any developments that occur on the Hastings 100 block will indicate the city's priorities surrounding housing, community services, and public space. Considering the recent expropriations of the Balmoral and the Regent Hotels, there is an urgent need for the city to address the lack of safe, dignified, and truly affordable housing for local residents of the Downtown Eastside.
- In implementing the grassroots community vision of the block, the City of Vancouver would be demonstrating more earnest moves towards reconciliation, public accessibility, and social justice.
- The 100 block is a culturally, socially, historically, and politically significant place. It has been and continues to be the site of many losses and many victories. In drafting a broad community vision of the 100 block, we are also drafting a political and social vision of a fairer, more accessible, and people-led city.

Appendix C – Map

The map on the following page outlines a potential development schema for the 100 Block. Residents of the neighbourhood have made the following suggestions for each property:

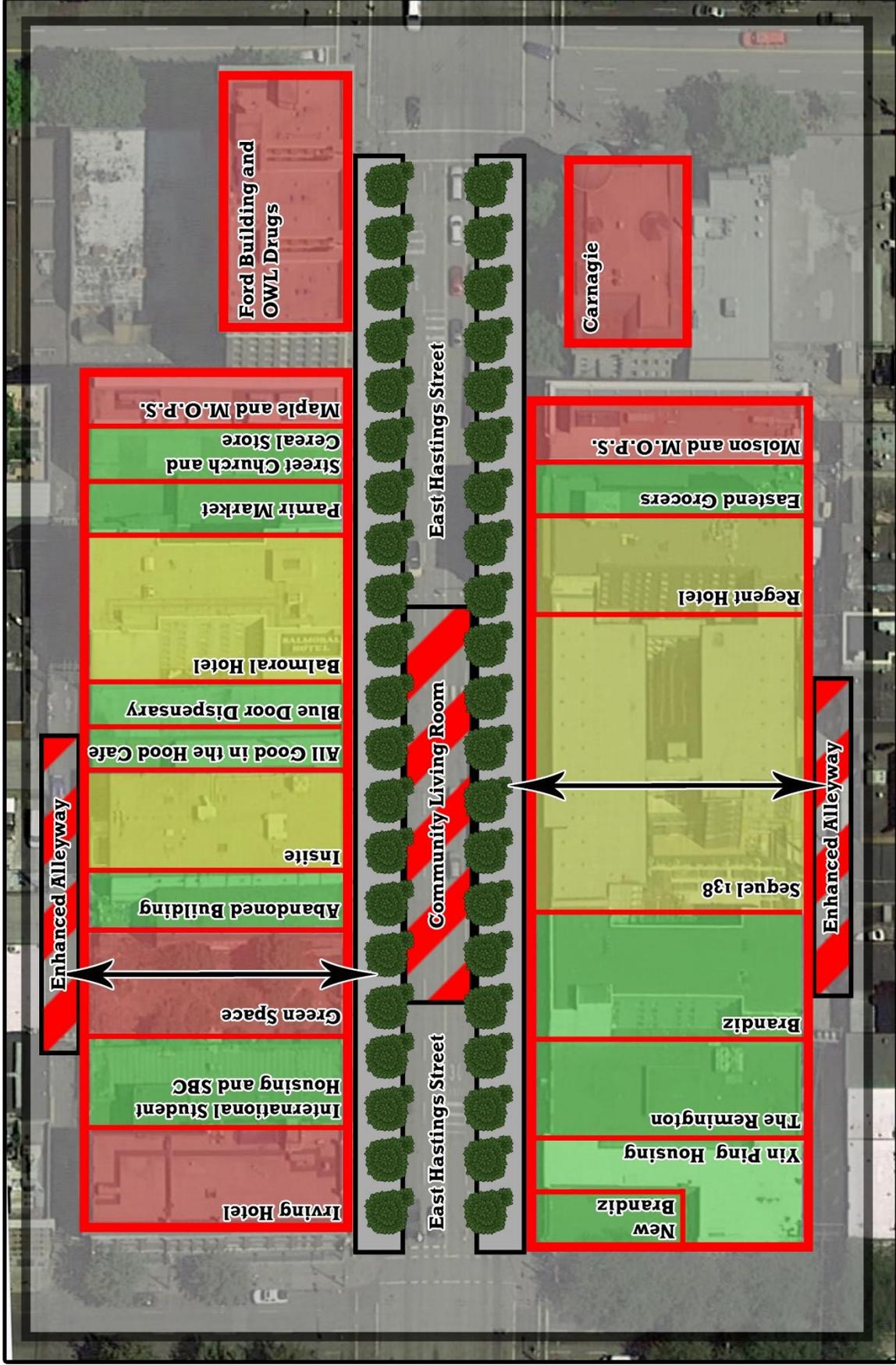
North Side of Hastings

1. Irving Hotel
 - a. Develop into community controlled social housing
2. “Gastown” International Student Housing
 - a. Develop into community controlled social housing
3. Smiling Buddha Cabaret
 - a. Create a cultural hub and office space for community groups
 - b. Keep skate park
4. Green Space
 - a. Open to the public with direct alley access
 - b. Salish style longhouse
 - c. Link space to healing centre at CRAB Park
5. Abandoned Building next to Insite
 - a. Turn into more greenspace and connect with park
6. Blue Door/All good in the Hood Café
 - a. Keep dispensary for community
 - b. Keep community oriented café
 - c. Build community controlled social housing on top of existing businesses in collaboration with current ownership
7. Insite
 - a. Improve existing services, make it less clinical and build out peer elements
 - b. Increase accessibility to toilets, washing stations, laundry, showers and bathtubs
8. Balmoral
 - a. Demolish building and redevelop into community controlled social housing
 - b. Reopen beer parlour, create liquor store with managed alcohol program
 - c. Cooperative model with community-controlled support
9. Pamir Market
 - a. Develop property above market into community controlled social housing
 - b. Ensure convenience store remains for the community
10. Street Church and Cereal Store
 - a. Develop upstairs property into community controlled social housing
 - b. Ensure convenience store remains for the community
 - c. Keep street church

11. Maple and Maple Overdose Prevention Site
 - a. Community members are relatively fine with the building in its current state
12. Ford Building and Owl Drugs
 - a. Community members are relatively fine with the building in its current state

South Side of Hastings

1. New Brandiz (Food)
 - a. Ensure convenience store remains for the community
2. Yin Ping Housing Benevolent Society
 - a. Keep as seniors housing but improve amenities
3. The Remington Gallery
 - a. Keep as community arts space, increase access for community.
 - b. Develop property above art space into community controlled social housing and artists housing.
4. Brandiz Hotel
 - a. City should expropriate because of slum conditions
 - b. Develop into community controlled social housing
 - c. Keep beer parlour open downstairs
5. Sequel 138
 - a. Government buy units and rent out at welfare rates
 - b. Open the pathway to the alley
 - c. Bring back affordable restaurants (i.e. Blue Eagle)
 - d. Open craft and thrift stores in vacant properties
 - e. Open creative community ark (what is an ark)
 - f. Bring back the Green Door (laneway restaurant)
 - g. Showers and bathing area in the back
6. Regent Hotel
 - a. Demolish building and redevelop into community controlled social housing
 - b. Reopen beer parlour, create liquor store
 - c. Cooperative model with community controlled support
7. Eastend Grocers
 - a. Ensure convenience store remains for the community
 - b. Open community arts space in the back
8. Molson and Molson Overdose Prevention site
 - a. Community members are relatively fine with the building in its current state



Index

-  **Protect**
-  **Improve for Community**
-  **Analyze**
-  **Memory Trees**
-  **Expanded Sidewalk**
-  **Alley Access**



CONFESS YOUR DREAMS

**A community forum
on the future of the
100 Block of East
Hastings Street.**

**What do you imagine
on an ideal 100 Block
of Hastings?**

**What type of housing
do you want on the
block?**

**Who should be able
to live here?**

**Friday, July 5, 2019 - 6:30-8:30 pM
Carnegie Community Centre Theatre
401 MAIN STREET**

100 Block Vision Community Town Hall – Verbatim Notes

Special thanks to the following folks for their assistance in compiling this document:

-Elli Lynn Taylor
-Leila Meshgini
-Jill Ratcliffe
-Wendy Pederson

Jack Gates

As you all know the SRO-Collaborative and myself worked together for 3 years to fix the Regent and the Balmoral, but we could only go so far with getting the maintenance done. What we really wanted was people to be housed. My main goal when I moved in there was to make sure there was housing for homeless and proper housing for people living in these hotels. So I myself... and I suppose a lot of others... are looking at the same thing – for more housing, for more low income housing. And more needle exchanges. Places for people to go for help on this block. And also for more low cost stores, I would like to see a lot more low-cost stores. Not these stores we already have where everything we go to get we pay double for. So that's just my idea of what should happen here. Main and Colombia needs more low cost housing and more affordable stores. Thank you.

Mama Marcy Jacobs

Good evening everybody. I'm Marcy of the 100 block. When I first came to Main and Hastings it was 1983 after I graduated, I tried to go to college but that... I went for a couple years and then I went to university, and I just came to love everybody down here. I still sit on the block... Anyways, I'm not sure. I just want to say down to the point here it would be nice if someone would walk around with an available cell phone... that people could call for housing... and that somebody could wear a certain color vest, and maybe a bulletin up with available housing, or a clipboard and with available housing... again along with that person wearing a vest... so that more people could find housing.

It would be nice to have fruit and veggie stores available.

Maybe a sign here and there like maybe on the 100 block where people sit and get inebriated. Maybe a sign up there to respect others and not to have their alcohol out in the public like that...

And where it says who should be able to make decisions about what happens on the 100 block I thought maybe elders...

And I think that's about it.

Thank you.

And there is a lady her name is Marley Stoul. She's from the Spencer Crew Foundation which is down by the old Sunrise, the place where they drum down there. And she went knocking on all the hotels like probably about a month ago. And she found about 35 vacant rooms places that were available for rent down here for 375\$ 400\$.

Ok Thank You.

Erica Grant

Good evening, nice to have so many different faces here tonight. Really happy for your support. My name is Erica Grant, I come from the Nisga'a Nation and I belong to the Wolf Tribe. I also work for CCAP, The Right to Remain and the SRO-Collaborative.

One of the things that I would like to see on this block is for us to get rid of the Balmoral hotel. That hotel has hurt so many people down here. Same with the Regent. Why not have a healing center? I know we're shooting for CRAB Park but if there could be another one here and turn it into indigenous housing.

And I reiterate what Marcy said: we need more stores that actually sell fresh produce at prices we can afford. Maybe even have coop-markets where we grow our own food. We live in SROs... there's no place to cook in here. A lot of have hot plates in our rooms. It would be nice to have something out of the oven sometimes.

I would also like a place where we can have our grandchildren come and visit us. This block desperately needs young people down here. I know that a lot of us are disconnected from our children and grandchildren because there's no place for them here. How about a place like a rec centre... not so much like this but maybe a pool hall? You know there's nothing for anybody to do but get high. We need more places where we can gather... maybe an inexpensive cafe we used to have them down here but we don't anymore.

I'm just speaking from my heart when I say this. We need to have places where we're not actually... Marcy said there is a lot of drinking that goes on on the street but there is nothing else for us to do no where else for us to go. And we have the right to remain here and to have a home that's not just SRO living.

Oh my gosh I didn't realize that I was going to be so nervous.

I was thinking about how living in an SRO its not really a home. We need to have a home. It would be nice if they would humanize us. Enough of this dehumanization. Because that's exactly what their doing. You know if the government doesn't want to change... you know... our way of life, but we want to change. But you know how do we change when there's so much limitations on us?

I had so much more to say but I just...

Wendy Pederson

Thank you Eris and Kali. Thank you our elder Sandy and Rhonda. And also just grateful to speak in front of my peers. I lived in DTES for almost 30 years, just on Powell St. And I also did things like I used to work at the bottle depot. I helped get the pop-up cafe going. I helped start the street market. I worked for the board at Carnegie. I helped get the rezoning that was a bloody battle basically. Blood was shed... I saw blood was shed.

I just wanted to offer some reflections because I've also been listening to people talk about the 100 block for the past month when we decided to do this project. Because I'm hearing underground rumblings that the city is planning stuff. So their planning... we don't know what 'cause their tight lipped. But as you know, as Jack was saying, the Balmoral and Regent are empty. The city is trying to expropriate them from the landlord. What does that mean? Where is that at? We know the Sahotas who used to own those properties aren't going to let go of them. They're going to fight for a long time in court. We know that, maybe Sam will tell us a bit more about that?

So I also heard other rumors, that the city is trying to buy property. Whether that's true or not we don't know. I hope we can lower the zoning. It's kind of complicated. It's like capitalism. Zoning, it's like how they make rich people rich off of land, how they make land a commodity. If you can build a building 20 stories tall suddenly that empty parking lot is worth so much money. So I'll just explain the zoning because it took me a long time to understand zoning. I won't go that slow because you'll probably get it faster. But basically, on this 100 Block, what we won was something we call 60-40. If you hear people say 60-40 – what we actually won, the only no condominium zone maybe in North America? Maybe the world? You actually can't build condominiums. And Homeless Dave, formerly Homeless Dave had a hunger strike to get this. Thank you Dave. And the no condominium zone goes from pigeon park all the way up to Hawks on Hastings. Both sides of the street. And then it goes from Main to Hawks all the way over to the waterfront. It looks like a big rectangle with a little finger that goes from Carnegie down to Pigeon Park. So you can build rental housing but the rental housing has to be geared to income and the city said this is what the zoning is going to be. If anybody builds housing in this district it's got to be 60-40. 60% social housing and 40% market rentals. Sounds good? While I don't know because they've got a definition of social housing. 20% of that 60% is at welfare rate. Another 20% is like \$500 or \$600 whatever a month. The other 20% is just below market. Guess how much market is in this neighbourhood. It's about 2000 dollars for a 1 bedroom. So I just offer that to you as a question. If you want to go to city hall to say you want deeper affordability on the 100 block than that 60-40. Try to learn more tonight. Learn more, talk more and get the city involved in that because we could end up with this mix on the 100 Block. Maybe we want that mix? I'm not going to speak for you.

I do want to offer some reflections on that mix for you to take or leave. Some if it is coming from my listening to people, most of it is, nothing's original. I think the 100 Block of East Hastings is the core of the community. I think everybody has a lot of angst about

it. And they want to change it, they want to change the people on the block. But I have a different view. I think we should have a more slower pace like incremental, and create spaces for people to come together and change on their own and change with each other. And of course, powers that be are not going to want that to happen. But I think we got to keep trying to create these spaces and these zones Where people can co-create... create... look at the culture there's so many Indigenous people from all over. It's kind of a United Nations, sorry to use that term, of Indigenous people. There should be more space for urbanized Indigenous people. People who are urban in this urban setting to create, put down roots. Figure out their culture here. A lot of people aren't going back to their original territories. So we have to fight really hard against a system to create the space here were people can create their own reality.

I think in terms of recovery. I come from... my dad is an addict. I understand that, we've gone through our own journey. I think that harm reduction is really important and I fought with him my whole life about it. He was like "why are you hanging out with all those junkies down there?" And I was like "Dad!" You know. But eventually he realizes that harm reduction is really important. Food and housing is harm reduction... culture, art, friendships, community... and I finally won that battle with my dad. And in some ways that's like a metaphor for everyone else in Vancouver. Like we've got to lead the way.

I think if I said one thing about the housing. It needs to happen down here. It needs to be created for where people are at. Not a place where people have to fit themselves into. And then when someone wants a quieter place to live, they should be able to live in a quieter place. If I could just boil it down make it that simple. They should be able to say I'm done here I need to move on, do you have a quieter place for me to live? And maybe the 100 block is the first place? It might be a step up, maybe it's the one step up quieter place? Maybe it's the place where if you're at Insite you go to Onsite and then you're in a quieter place. And maybe that quieter place is what we've got to fight for? Not the imaginary recovered perfect tax payer human that someone else is imagining for us. So that's what I think I should fight for on the 100 block.

Also, traffic calming we can do more that is important. VANDU thank you for slowing the speeds. Getting the crosswalk. I think we can think about more.

Sorry did you cut my time off?

And last thing is sanitation. We could be paying people from the community, peers from the community to be doing 100% or the cleanup every minute of the hour 24/7.

And I also think Chinatown... We should be doing some Chinatown stuff on the 100 Block. Like especially when it's the new year. Like Chinese new year! Why aren't we doing Chinese New Year on the 100 Block?

And that's it. I have other things to say but I'm taking up too much time. Thank You!

Chris Livingston

Good evening everybody my name is Chris Livingstone that's my colonial name. My Nisga'a name is Ukws Kots'a... which is a beaver name from the Nisga'a Nation. So I work for the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council as a peer navigator. And in the past I was a founding member of the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society. I also have a little bit of experience on the streets on the hundred block my brother was murdered on this street in front of the Smiling Buddha in 1988 I believe... it might have been '91? It's been a long time I'm 46 years old now... and it happened when I was about 23. He was running the streets and selling cocaine and he paid the price. The streets looked quite a bit different back in those days. Nowadays it's a little bit rough with the opioid epidemic.

So about the streets, I spent a lot of time on the streets. And that's sort of what I was thinking. That it's kind of important to keep the people that are living there in the community as well as the people that are on the streets and making the sidewalks there home that we have to accommodate for them as well. So they're there and they're not going anywhere.

So in my hope of hopes I heard earlier about the Balmoral and the Regent and places like those and I sort of agree that I'd like to see them come down as well. And with them going down there's got to be something that could replace them. What I'm thinking about is a big building on both sides of the street with a connection going straight overtop an overpass going over the street. So then we'd have more space. It could be a new home for the DTES market which is being displaced by the new Aboriginal Health and Healing Project that's going down at Pigeon Park. So Vancouver Native Health... there is a nice project... there are aboriginal health projects coming along on line in the city. So those people are going to be displaced. But it would be nice to improve the surrounding as well as the buildings. So build a big giant place destroy those buildings, build up into the sky and give housing to poor people the people that need the homes and housing right now.

There should be a memorial to the past and the traumas suffered by this community. And as well there should be a commitment to the future including mitigating that trauma suffered by the community. And as well turn the streets, sidewalks, alleys and pedestrian walkways into actual experiences. Make the back alleys beautiful, get rid of the rats; embark on bedbug and vermin depopulation efforts in Vancouver... provide safe supply! The mayor can make this an experimental zone where we don't bust people for drugs... where they can access those safe drugs. A safe supply that is not going to kill them and their family members.

And as well on these new buildings it would be great to have green space. And I heard Wendy say earlier that the projects and the housing be run from people from the street. Which would be a great model to have because they would be great workers. As well maybe building kiosks into the alleyways. So all the vendors many street vendors How about nice built in display case for them?

One last thing in the back alleys I was hoping to get scanner chips. If people are overdosing in the back alleys how about a little chip that you can put your phone up to and it will get plugged into the emergency medical services. And that way you don't have to spend time saying that somebody is dying in the alley just get there.

And come to city hall at 3:00 we are doing our event pack City Hall for Indigenous Healing and Wellness and Expanded Green Space. Wednesday the 10th, Event for Crab Park Indigenous Healing and Wellness Center.

Stella

Hi my name is Stella.... I am... First Nations from the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

I've Lived here over 50 years. And when I was a youngster Vancouver was so clean. Not a cigarette butt, not a cigarette butt on the sidewalk it was so clean.... [noise from crowd – turn up mic]. What I wanted to say is I would love to see this street cleaned up. See some markets go up. Maybe a little restaurant where I can go down and have fish soup and fresh bread. You know feed our people up and warmth. Keep our DTES green and beautiful. And my heart cries out to see what it's like today, my heart cries out. You know I'm not a young chick anymore but I am here to fight for the fight. Yes, I just turned 74 and I became a great grandma. I love the people. I talk to the people. I have 3 people up the street who went to college. Three of them went to college. One stayed in university, I don't know what happened to the other two? But the one who went to university he gave me his graduation picture, invited me to his graduation, which was very nice. I'm called momma, auntie, you name it. I am sister down here and I am well known because I have a voice. I have a voice and I speak from my heart and I want you to know that we are going to make that big change. We are going to stand together and make that big change. And that's what I'd love to see. See the flowers blooming and everything. The people blooming too... in better health and better strength and more courage to them. So I wish that we could have a treatment center for the ones that are really reaching out but they have no place to go. Because, there isn't any place to go because they're building up these, what do you call them... high-rises taking up our space. This is our land, we have a right to build anywhere on the mainland, anywhere. And people have the right to live in a better life. Yes, I wish you all the best! It was really good to hear all the speakers bring their voices out with them. I want to say peace love and joy keep going. All my relations.

Teresa Grey

My names Teresa Grey and I'm Tsimshian from the Prince Rupert area of BC. I've lived here in Vancouver most of my life. I was just very interested in this because the DTES Women's Centre has done a lot of campaigns for helping tent city homeless people since the year 2002, when the Woodward Squat started. We've been to every major kind of homeless event. I invited Stella here earlier from the Women's Centre. And I just wanted to say, I think we have to involve the DTES Women's Centre women into the process because so much of this happened in the alley right behind Insite where there's lots of violence; drug dealing, you know prostitution, opioids. So I know that there are lots of problems right now... Umm you know there's a lot of the group meetings like the Powell Women's Group. We don't have staff so we can't have meetings otherwise we wouldn't make it here as a group. But it's also summertime so people are taking time off. I just really want to say that I think it's a really good idea to include the women of the DTES, the Power of Women Group. Most of the people know Fiona the people form CCAP cause we've gone to city hall together over the past five years, lots of times. Like the guys in the East, I'm really interested in this. And I want to acknowledge that we're on Coast Salish land Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh and perhaps we could invite some of the people who make the Vancouver Aboriginal Land Cooperation? They're going to be building where the Street Market is now and they are the native people of this land, so I think we should invite them because they're wanting to rejuvenate this area too, as well as everybody else. So thanks.

Carl Macdonald

Thank you, my name is Carl Macdonald. I'm just going to start by thanking everyone for being here. One of my favorite singers Michelle Shocked... she has a song called Fog Town... Down and out in these streets, I would run if I only had a place to run to, and fog town would be the death of me. It was no joke here because a lot of people I know have died needlessly down here. A Treatment Centre is what we really need opened up again so that people could get out of this area to get their minds and souls back. See people laying all over the street. They're laying there not really because they have a choice, but because they've given up. I've been there, I know. I didn't have a drug problem, I had a real bad alcohol problem and I just didn't care... What we also need is... we need a good source of food so that people can eat feel a lot better about themselves with good nutrition. And housing... we need more housing down here for sure. Places for people to go instead of just walking up and down the streets. Ok thank you very much... that's about all I can say...

Elli

Thank you very much for coming out. I'm the assistant at CCAP. It's a pleasure to see you. Please remember to try to talk a little slower, I'm a fast typer... but come on! We need compassion in the DTES. We need government to understand. We need education on the Opioid Epidemic. We need shelter rate housing instead of 20%...10%. And like when you mentioned – we did have that put through – the 60-40 but they lied to us. They propose it, we go yeah! More shelter rate! More housing, finally! And then guess what? The project it gets destroyed. I don't know whether they just have really good fucking lawyers, or what it is, but we lose our housing.

What I mean by “we need compassion” is to understand that we *are* compassionate in the DTES. We need to get out there speak up and get into their forms. We got to speak to the people who can make the changes! It may be fucking hard to get up to city council 'cause they try to put up barriers, trust me I've been there, but we can get through it, we can do it, we have to! We can no longer allow ourselves and each other to sit on this fucking sinking ship. You know what? I'm tired of fucking trying to make it above the water, I'm tired of sinking when I should be floating. And I want you to know that we are going to work fucking hard and that we are working hard. By being here tonight it's an honour and we are going to take this inspiration and we are going to organize and we're not going to fucking give up. Because they want us to give up! They want us to just move out or die.

We also have to understand that things that look like they benefit us can be Trojan Horses in disguise. For example, there are some housing providers who say they're doing a good job. Shame on them because in the truth of it all is I don't know how they sleep at night? The grants they're getting the funding they're getting, and we're still fucking suffering. We're still trying to make it. They got multi-multimillion dollar projects going on here guys, and it's going to help you? I'm going to ask you a question. How much has it really fucking helped you? How much did it actually help homelessness? How much did it actually help the people living in that fucking area? With a separate entrance, an 11-foot fence, you know how many? A walkway where they don't even have to see us. So let's unite and work together. We can make it to their forms and we can take this neighborhood, we can make it whatever we want. So power to the people, enjoy yourselves and have a good night.

Miles

This is where we get together where we find out what's really super important for us. We don't have anyone here telling us what we should be thinking about, what we should be doing.

So you know I just got a couple of small items. They're very small. The ladies that know me here know I can talk on forever, but I'm not going to do that here tonight.

We got to have... we got to be sort of responsible for what you do yourself. That's nothing against, that's not to put anybody down, that's not saying you haven't been hard done by or anything like that. What it means is I'm getting older so I've got a whole lot of retirement on my hands, so I can spend it out there I suppose... So, I just think we've got to get together... We've got to have action, days of action... I just think that there is so much to be offered around here. All the people that I see down here and I see them on a daily basis.

So I would really like to say that I suppose there are two points. Housing is the big one. You know safe injection is another big one. And we could keep on going with the big ones, they're all big ones. For me it's become a very personal thing. I've seen too many of my friends die on the street. I'm getting tired of going down to the VGH. I'm tired of going down to the St. Paul's. I'm just tired of watching them pass right in front of me. I think us as a community, and that's what we are, we're a community. Is that we have a very big possibility of doing this.

And one of the things I would like to say before I go, and this is a wrap up, is that you know they call them the 1% and they call us the rest of them. They're dumbasses for doing that, but any how... we're getting to be more and more, like we're getting to be way less of the 1% than even the 1% was... So it's just a matter of time 'til we get enough people, and we get counted, and we go out there and fight and we get enough fucking people together to start god damn anarchy.

Sam

Hello my name is Sam... People of this downtown community... we are all in beautiful dream. This dream can come true but it's not going to come through unless you fight. I know DTES. I work over 8 years down here. I always want a piece of land in Canada. If you ask me what I want... I want these old people... these same in this neighborhood. With all this, build something new... neighborhood kicking out and new people coming in. Don't let this happen. Sounds like we are thinking we are alright... we are getting

what we want. No, you're not getting shit. Right now I hear about the 100 Block for 8 years that something is going to happen. Yeah, actually this time something is going to happen because the turning point is... But when the city was very nice to Sahota. Last November city fuck up the turning point. City got the chance to fine Sahota for 3 million. City was nice to Sahota. City says "ok we're not going to fine you three million, we're going to fine you only 150,000", but you have to be nice to us and we can make you ... Sahota say November, last November Sahota say just we were nice to you, yeah we gave you a sweet deal. Then they got 3 million down to 150,000 plus 25,000 something ... That's great for Sahota. I've been waiting to tell the story of Sahota because... So city loose this golden chance. Don't think this population will not rise up. Now Sahota say I'm not giving this building to the city unless I'm getting 21 million. So that what I say you and me and everybody we are in the dream. Thank You.

Joe

Hi, first I want to thank every one of you for accepting me here, because I'm not even living in the Downtown Eastside, but my heart is here all the time with you guys. Also you don't know me, I work in the [???] in the [???] at the [???] Centre, and we're building a project to build what I call affordable aquaponic modular housing. So aquaponics is farming fish, growing fruit and veggies. So some people address the problem of veggies and food, well our goal is to grow it right here. If we look at the 100 block - well it's not there anymore - when I look at a place like that, I think about all the roof - when I think I look at the space like that, I didn't calculate everything but just looking, approximately for me there's 25-30 full time jobs on those roof. We can grow locally, we can sell locally, and with the profit we can build the affordable housing that we... So our goal is to put an end once and for all to homelessness. So if you want--it's possible to do it--if you want to have an idea of what aquaponics is, we are organizing a workshop here on August 9th. It's going to be at 1pm till about 4pm. So we can show you that we can build a housing, and we can generate profit until there's no more homeless.

Jay

Thank you, I've been here a little more than 4 and a half years. And I don't... the approach we've taking here isn't working, I've talked to people, I've talked to a whole bunch of people, and what happens, "we're victims", people said... That we're victims, we're losers. You don't get what you deserve in this world? You don't get what you want in this world... you get what you negotiate - so we're not negotiating... we're begging - oh give us this give us that - forget it, why should I give it to you, we're losers, you see. So we say we're winners... We've created this whole thing... We go and talk to every

homeless person... You identify them. You get a list of every homeless person, you get a list of all their problems right? See, they don't have that, they don't know that, nobody knows, nobody knows what's going on, so that's why the problems getting worse and worse... they're not negotiating... so we get those list of all those, that available housing and well non-housing or whatever... we say this is what we're gonna' do, we're gonna' get all these people housing, we're gonna' get all these building housing... we're gonna' get development... then we have a plan, see then we're not victims, see then we go "this is the plan", but you're not gonna' give this plan... we're gonna' give you an F minus... grade now is a gift... F minus it's got a lot worse in the 4.5 years I've been here, it's ridiculous! We're playing victims, forget it. This is the thing, none of those protests, we need a list... of all our traditions and situations ... otherwise we're just gonna... Let's do it, let's go. Thank you.

Erica

I was talking earlier about having a healing center right on Hastings. The reason I say that is a lot of us have gone down to St Paul's and we're not exactly treated right because we live in the V6A Postal code. And it's really it's really horrible, I mean... I just want to share with you this um... I had double pneumonia and went to the hospital and got all these really strong antibiotics and two days later I felt worse than I did when I went into the hospital. I called the ambulance and the ambulance came and the attendant says to me "Why didn't you just stay home and finish your antibiotics and then go to the hospital if you need to?" I get there anyway and the doctor tells me that "if you took this for one more day" he said "your heart could have gave out, you're allergic to them" and yet um... we get treated down here like that. How many of you are tired of seeing the police? [Applause] Walking around... we need to be able to police ourselves. We need to have community peers that police these streets not the ones in uniform. Cut their budget, cut their budget and put it towards the healing of the Murdered and Missing Indigenous women. You know the cops did... you know whenever anyone complained about that, and I know that for a fact, because if you were here for that police budget last week, I have this... that I was almost one of the victims, and when I approached the police they asked me if I was drunk. And I wasn't. You know we need to have safer streets and the police aren't making them safe at all. They're the ones that are victimizing us. We also need a laundromat down here. A place where people can sit and visit with each other instead of having to sit on the street. One thing... The main thing I wanted to say was about the police and their harassment... You know we need, we need to keep ourselves safe down here and link arms with each other and realize we're in one community that, you now, we have so much love and respect for each other. Why can't the world see that? Why can't the city see that?

Eli

Hi good evening everybody. I... everybody was talking about, it really made sense. I've been in Vancouver for 6 months already and there's some good things I see and some really bad and sad things right, so... Where I was from Prince George, we had... For the young people to drop in to get the education and any resource they need help with, mainly for people that are on the street, and a little guidance in life... cause that's pretty much what we need here... Like the lady said, like a laundromat and the little things here that will get the community together. It's sad to hear that, you know I come here and there's a lot of OD's and everything right, 'cause that shouldn't even happen in the first place. That's life. Who do they blame? I guess we're gonna' have to blame somebody but I'm not sure.. Government? I don't know. We need some strict rules and we need a lot of improvement. So far... steadily... we've seen... we have a lot of spaces out there I can see, maybe one of these days they're gonna' build something more than a community centre that's gonna' help everybody. Like a women's centre... like a healing centre... something that will really help the people. And for my perspective you know, well, yeah, I'm struggling right now as I'm on the streets, but I'm trying to get things together right now so... By next week I'll be in recovery and then hopefully change because yeah... [Applause] because yeah, everybody struggles with alcohol addiction and drugs, it doesn't really make the community a better place to live if you're struggling I just hope everyone one day will get together and come up with a great plan. This is definitely a start.

Jose

Hi good evening everyone. My name is Jose... I don't know where to start... Maybe... I came here from Ontario in 1992 and I fell in love with this place, Downtown Eastside, Vancouver, Mount Pleasant... I raised a family here. You know... you can just picture this for a second – Vancouver. Vancouver before all the buildings towards the waterfront... Vancouver when the Europeans came, Vancouver was a mill town. And before that... before that, the native peoples were here, obviously, and we know that. I can just picture canoes going, flying back, flying through the waters back and forth to North Vancouver. It must have been a beautiful place, really paradise. And before that, you can just picture... god created... the Creator created this place out of his love. And I like hearing about love and heart and compassion from all the speakers tonight. Now that I am disabled – what I would like to see is more clinics downtown here. I know we have an eye centre down over the ... we have the dental centre over there. You know health is important especially for aging people like me, and a lot of disabled people... I would like to see really good guaranteed access to those services, so I don't have to spend a lot of money on taxi cabs and... a place. And lastly, I have to... maybe

McCartney and Lennon were right, all we need is love. And I applaud and pay gratitude to people that work to give us voices and this vision to us, because they're the ones fighting for us now and yeah... Please keep fighting, please keep fighting for us, because love... if you protect love... love demands sacrifice, sacrifice and discipline, and these are the things people are working for us and I really pay homage to them. Thank you.

Nick

Hi, I'm Nick, I work with the SRO-Collaborative. And also community organizer with Chinatown... which is an independent branch from CCAP. I mostly organize with Chinatown seniors. I'm here to speak because I think if we want to win this fight we need allies, and I can tell you that a lot of Chinese seniors in solidarity with us, but at the same time we really, really need to include them a bit more. Like a lot of them... healing centred, community centred, social housing, you know, we've been ... we're basically fighting the same fight. But from my experience I feel like it's mostly Chinatown fighting for the Chinatown Center, and DTES are fighting for Downtown Eastside Centre?... We should be working together, we should fight together ... and we should fight against language barrier, which is a product of colonization. Yeah, so, I will hope DTES folks will start thinking about how there's a lot of buildings that are actually owned by benefits association. You know a couple of days ago I heard Chinatown Business Improvement Association has a vibrant women's centre? There's a lot of conflicts happening which I find is unnecessary. I myself am dedicate my life to decolonization, and I think the first thing to do is to do something against the stigma. Cause I really don't see why there's so much stigma around... You know between DTES and Chinatown. Seniors afraid of their safety, and on the DTES we say seniors doesn't really do much in the community, like we're separating more. We don't need that, we're basically on the same side of the fight. Yeah, so, I don't know what else to say but I think we can start thinking about how can we have finally communication between communities, build our lives, because it won't be an easy fight, but if we work together we have a chance.

Ava [Notes Inserted after Event]

There is a unique opportunity to build community along with social/mixed density housing. The Mayor of Vancouver, has pledged to combat homelessness, violence, addition and still give residents a chance to belong to a "community family."

We envision a vibrant, interactive, multi- generation, multi-cultural community, combining life style with social consciousness, where people learn to live together and learn about each other' strengths and gifts, work, inventions, art, music, carving and drumming. Plus, the biggest benefit is when we adopt neighbors as extended family members, and we share our dinners and we have potluck everyday!!! Good times mean

family picnics on the street, with people strumming, singing, drumming, dancing... loving each other and caring.

We see a 3-tiered approach to address this problem. Budget determines scope.

Ideal Situation - This is a utopian view, where there are no limits. Both sides of the entire block are expropriated and redeveloped to retain historical perspective.

Partial Solution - 3 or 4 lots on each side of the street with scope to integrate design and facades.

Realistic Solution - Based on the acquisition of 2-3 properties by the City of Vancouver, (an expropriation of Balmoral Hotel Property and Regent Hotel property), we propose that this could provide some cost-effective solutions that would enhance the appeal of the DTES as a "Vaudeville Gold-Miner's Haven" or Funky Gastown, or ????? and the entire block could take on new life based upon early settlers and the Indigenous People of Musqueam, Tseil-waututh, and Squamish.

Band-Aids - There are a number of ways, our writing group has suggested that will address some of the street people dilemmas... the smell of urine was a prominent factor hence, the planting of aromatic and healing herb gardens that are "pickable" and certainly immediately improve air quality, is one as a Master Gardener, I can easily suggest.

Each has different design parameters. It's all about \$\$\$\$\$. 5 Billion Dollars is what it would take. More... probably. I'm just guess-estimating.

Yes, it is a lot. But it means even more. To provide a living, interactive, caring community. It would take me several hours to outline the specifics that the Writing Collective has drawn together.

My own specific ideas are:

Planning an interactive street milieu, with an additional lane of traffic given to the sidewalk. We would then plan little seating/comfort areas, with hand-carved cedar benches and "booths" for privacy and little garden groupings with trees that attract Bees and Butterflies and Birds, and little fountains/bird baths, with water for dogs and people too. Singers, roving, and moving acrobats, mimes, dancers, dragons, and other entertainers would be able to share stories and songs to others, building community.

Grandmas and grandpas would be able to sit and tell stories of the way it “used” to be, of the old cottages by the lake, and fires of ancient ancestors that still burn in our hearts. We could encourage others by caring, compassion, and making sure that everyone has somewhere to live, something good to eat, and people who care whether they live or die.

The frontage of the social/housing/ mixed density housing towers would be integrated with available original frontages and Architectural details of the time. One of our members, Lauren, suggested awnings, and I said, yes, “Vaudeville awnings, and opulent velvets and satins, and old fashioned lace and parasols...

Integrated with a healthy respect and admiration for the Indigenous culture whose land this is. We are the visitors, and some of us were born right here in DTES, like me. We must give thanks and tribute to the Squamish, Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh nations. I see small herb garden ‘planters’ with native herbs and other edible annual herbs, so that people could pick street oregano and basil but parsley and mint have an intoxicating fragrance too. Your feet brush by lavender spikes, as you pass, and it gives visual, and sensual pleasure, as well as addressing the strong smell of the street. Passing guests could pick some Italian basil or kale to tonight’s spaghetti dinner. Street give-outs of pizza could be augmented by the vitamins of leafy green herbs.

Teams of medical professionals and social workers, trying to engage troubled neighbours, helping them to medical, substance abuse, housing, and social issues... it’s essential to reach this most vulnerable segment of the population. As a social worker, I feel that it’s essential to point out tangible ways of reaching those who have lost hope. The despairing, the desperate, the desolate, and the self-destructive...

We would like more opportunities to share music, art, and dance. Many residents of DTES are very talented performers, and an Integrative Street Scene means chances to share talents. It would be good to have a music/art performance spaces (along with the seating cedar booths and benches) where a bevy of street performers, singers, musicians, acrobats, people on stilts (like the Bird Parade of 2018) and street musicians on piano could entertain visitors to DTES; creating some simple music installations like a upright piano under shelter, a wall installation of different drums, or garbage cans or recycled tires or plastic containers painted rainbow colours; incorporating Indigenous designs and motifs; as well as Asian or African-Canadian, European (Polish like my refugee parents) or Indo-Asian, incorporating the ethnic mix. We have such a rich blending of country of origin with many refugees from war-torn and ravaged countries.

Let's celebrate our coming together.

Cory

Thank you. Hi everybody I'm Corey. I'm a community member, I live here on the DTES. I haven't lived here for that long, like maybe a few years, but I've been using. I identify as a drug user. I've been using drugs in the DTES off and on for about 30 years. And I think understated is what Nick said about stigma. I think it's the sickest part of our culture. Like you know when I'm in the back valley using, most of the people think I'm a cop. And when... or if I'm using up on False Creek everyone's looking at me like I have a big piece of shit on the end my nose, like I don't belong there, like I don't deserve to be there. It doesn't matter where I go it's like "get the fuck out of here we don't want you here". And I really struggle with that, you know, like I'm a valid human being. I'm a productive member of society, I work really hard on my health, and my recovery and my connections to my family and friends and community members. Like where do I fit? And I think the hugest block to people getting well is that stigma. Having an ability to belong. A sense of connection Where do I actually feel safe? Right? It's safe to be at exactly as I am, right? And I just believe that on the 100 block or even in the DTES in general, it takes 3 months to get a treatment bed in our city. 3 months! [If you're lucky!] There's free counselling, if you don't want to go to treatment there's some free counselling, it'll take at least 60 days to get into a drug and alcohol counsellor at all these clinics. With regards to the 100 block they want to shrink the DTES to create a need for less funding, right. They want to create a need for less funding on the DTES by shrinking it, by dispersing it, making it look smaller, like the crisis is over all of a sudden so that they don't have to put more money into services or supports here. And the truth is none of the services for people like me are accessible at all. It takes like I said, if I wanna'... There' free counselling but it takes at least 60 days, or 90 days to see a counsellor. I could get a detox bed but after I'm done detox it's like back you go onto the street because it takes another 3 months to get another service bed. So like none of the services are in alignment with each other. And I really think that the stigma is really at the root of all our social problems, everything, health and housing, criminalization. The shrinking of the DTES is gonna' create a need for the funders to give less money to services and supports for people that suffer. I would like to see something else. There has to be accessible treatment beds, there has to be accessible solutions, whatever that looks like for you, it's different for everybody, but it needs to be more accessible and that means more funding. And if we let them shrink this neighborhood they're gonna say "oh we don't need it" Without that big condensed area to point your finger at, they're gonna say "oh well we're doing great it doesn't look nearly as bad as it used to be". Look at that, see the stigma? They want to base the funding and the need for more

funding on how it looks. And it's just wrong. It's the sickest part of our culture.

Carol

I didn't know this was going on so thank you. I just happened to sit outside, and I heard a couple of the women who come up and spoke talk. You know I've been working down here for 30 years off and on. I've see a lot of fights for housing... occupations, the Woodward's building, but, I can't help be honest about what is happening in the DTES... They mislead, misinform, say this and say that. I've seen it. Long wait list for women, men, elders to get into housing. They don't go by those lists. These people move into the area and hire people who are not familiar with the DTES, then so much changes and things are revamped and worse. Look at what happened... At 312 [Main Street] – I had meeting there, and my understanding was, the front door was open would be open, and we could come in and have coffee, and it'd be part of the community. It's locked now, and they have a side door with security... If we are going to talk here about something, we need a safety net. Something concrete. We need a safety net, to ensure that women, people, men, elders who are homeless can get access to that housing, and not be worried about being evicted. Someone from outside of the area, I'm worried that they will take our place... We need a timeframe... When women went missing, we couldn't get them into shelters. We took over the women's centre until they gave us a shelter. Women had the hardest time getting safety in a place. We keep getting pushed out and pushed a side. We need to sit down and work on pros and cons together. There is an organizer, grassroots women who will go. We can occupy a place. If they are not going give us what we want, we will go and occupy a place. We have to pay attention to what they are doing. There is a long list of people who have died. We can't lose our housing... We have to be stronger than that... I am from the DTES... We are strong.

Sandy

I've lived in the DTES since 1987. Moved out for 4 months, but I broke my lease and came back. I'm trans, an ex sex worker, and the DTES is where I feel safe. It is the only place I feel safe. About the 60/40 split, we have to be vigilant. I live in co-op that was 80/20. They kept saying you have to keep your rents up to 85% of market. 2002 that wasn't too bad. Today its gentrification. No way. I live in a bachelor and it was \$600, and they forced us to accept 80% market rate overnight. The city and government will force you to do whatever they feel they need you to do. If they are your landlord, you are screwed. We did a media blitz, advocacy, and they still didn't provide our funding for 3 years. We just got our budget approved. I was here for the HIV AIDS Crisis in 1983 – all these services are offered but close early and sit not open. We still don't have medical health clinic not open on Sundays. The put millions into this neighbourhood and guess who got it? The rich salaried people. We need to keep talking about this and go to action. Maybe a hunger strike, talking about how the 100 block is ours. We did it once, maybe it's time we do it again. We need self-sustaining social housing, we manage it and screw the government. It's a colonial system, to keep us there and control us. The

government has vested interest in keeping us poor. We can come up with a solution Maybe that's an action like Woodward's building. We need to find millions when they want to but won't give us millions. If they need it, then they'll print it. That's got to stop. Keep electing the same people. Jean Swanson type people need to get in at city, province and federal level.

Stella

I've been sitting here thinking I backed away quite a while. I am back and here to stay to fight the fight! You know we are sitting and talking about it and we are idle we need action. I will tell you what I see down here, abuse, people are suffering sleeping on the sidewalk and it's all we see, and they make a life in the alley and they put out their tents. I am going to tell you the truth and it is if we recognize what we are doing what we are doing in our country; we need to clean the streets we don't want people to have to sleep on the streets. That's all I have to say for now. All my relations.

Jack

I wanted to mention one thing we had our national holidays... recently... they gave honor to the ones who went before and cemeteries... graves. I've seen news lately of the southern border – people in cages... incarceration... the amount of it in the Americas. We have a bit of a picture in the DTES. Those who are subject to those who want to push them away and bury them out of consciousness. I have a poem I'd like to read:

*Bury your dead,
it's all very well.
When you bury the living,
you are the bringers of hell.*

Erica

I was talking about the community policing themselves... well, it would be nice to see volunteers who can walk through the streets and make sure the streets stayed safe. Community Guardians... We need more garbage cans on the streets. There are no garbage cans. No places to sit, so they sit aside on the sidewalks. They don't have homes so they stay on the street, it's so hot... We love to hear our people, and love the people in the DTES... We really need to get to the government... we can look after ourselves and don't need to feel like we are kids. Half the people in the DTES don't have ID... We need homes not just 4 walls... We belonged to a transformative health and justice research project, and one thing we found out in that research cluster, is that when they finish doing their time in jail, they are released to the DTES... Young people

aging out of care... Nothing for them, so they come to the DTES... We need to look after ourselves, we need to do this. Poverty has taken that away from us... I'm starting to cry if I keep talking...

Kali

I grew up here, and I've lived here all my life, and I just want to say it's frustrating. It's hard for us to leave this area... For youth, it's frustrating, I work with youth, finding housing and places to go, it's frustrating. There are a lot of youth down here, where else can we send them in Vancouver? There are a few places but not many. So we have to respect our youth who are down here. And we have to have services for them...