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Richmond Rental Connect

Update!

The Richmond Rental Connect registry is now available for use by landlord and tenants! Getting involved is easy.

- If you have attended the Building Successful Tenant-Landlord Relationships workshop, you are eligible to use the rental directory. The next step is to sign in and once your account is confirmed, you can access the registry with your user name and password to view rental postings and add your own.

- Haven't taken the workshop yet? Workshop dates are posted on our website. Simply go to www.richmondrentalconnect.ca, About Rental Connect and click on Events to sign up. This workshop is packed with information for both tenants and landlords.

This pilot program of the Richmond Poverty Response Committee aims to match landlords and homeowners owning secondary suites with tenants seeking safe and affordable housing.

We have a couple of upcoming new workshops taking place at the Richmond Caring Place (140-7000 Minoru Blvd.):

Landlord Mentoring Sept. 18, 7 to 9 p.m.

If you are a landlord and would like more information on specific topics, this session is an opportunity for solving specific concerns. Registration info at: www.richmondrentalconnect.ca/landlord-mentoring-session

Make Your Money Last Sept. 26, 7 to 9 p.m.

This workshop provides basic money management information to apply to your day-to-day situation. Registration info at: www.richmondrentalconnect.ca/new-workshops-in-planning-stages

For more information, contact: info@richmondrentalconnect.ca or leave a message for a return phone call at 604-205-4700.

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Richmond Poverty Response Newsletter

Health care in Canada: what makes us sick?

Throughout the winter and spring of 2013, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) conducted wide-ranging consultations to gather input on Canadians' views on the social determinants of health. Public town hall meetings were held in Winnipeg, Hamilton, Charlottetown, Calgary, Montréal and St. John's and were accompanied by an online consultation at www.healthcaretransformation.ca.

The process was framed around four questions aimed at determining what factors beyond the health care system influence health, what initiatives offset the negative impact of these determinants, what governments and health care providers should be doing to address these social determinants, and how equal access for all to the health care system can be achieved.

In every phase of the consultation, four main social determinants of health were identified by participants:

- income
- housing
- nutrition and food security
- early childhood development

Several other social determinants of health were mentioned, such as culture, the environment, education and health literacy. Participants stressed that society, governments and health care providers all have an obligation to address such problems as poverty, inadequate housing and nutrition.

Because the health of indigenous peoples in Canada was seen as being particularly influenced by the social determinants of health, the CMA held a town hall meeting to address the challenges facing Aboriginal people and communities.

Several themes from the town hall meetings were summarized by CMA President Dr. Anna Reid, including:

- Poverty is the most important issue and must be addressed.
- Poverty can cause multiple morbidities and even influence early childhood neurologic development.
- Mental health issues remain "the elephant in the room" and underlie many of the social determinants of health.
- Governments need to be pressured to take action, but there is a clear role for citizens, physicians and communities to help deal with the problems.
- The capacity of non-profit organizations to help is reaching the breaking point.

For the full report, go to www.richmondprc.org/resources/reports.



The impacts of poverty on children in Richmond

This past winter (2013), Richmond Children First worked with partner organizations to explore the impacts of poverty on children in Richmond. We have had conversation with parents, we have heard from staff who work with children and families, and we have asked children about fairness and inequality.

What have we heard? Incredible stories of resilience and resourcefulness! Richmond parents are working hard to create a better future for their children. But sadly, poverty can impact children's health, behaviour and self-esteem. What we heard from children is that IT'S NOT FAIR! Over 3,000 children have helped create the Richmond Children's Charter, which lists the rights they believe all Richmond children are entitled to - including the right to nutritious food, the right to a healthy life, the right to a home, the right to dream and the right to belong.

For children living in poverty, some of these rights may never be realized during their childhood.

We recognize that many of the solutions to poverty can only be resolved at a provincial and federal level. However, as we have seen by the extraordinary work already happening in Richmond, there are many ways that community groups and organizations, help make a difference at a local level. At a community forum held June 20, 2013 community groups began to strategize community solutions. In the fall of 2013, Richmond Children First will release a report on what we have heard and how we can move forward to supporting Richmond children and strengthening Richmond families. — To learn more, visit www.richmondchildrenfirst.ca/what-we-do/face-child-poverty-richmond.

Richmond Transportation Report Card

After the enormously successful public forum “Have Options, Will Travel,” the Transportation Task Force is planning their follow-up project: the Richmond Transportation Report Card.

The Transportation Report Card will measure Richmond's progress towards the goals set out in the Richmond Official Community Plan. This annual evaluation will use quantitative and qualitative methods to provide positive accountability, and help Richmond residents celebrate the successes as we move towards a more robust transportation ecosystem.

If you are interested in helping the Transportation Task Force compile the Transportation Report Card, please contact info@richmondprc.org or 604-205-4700.

— Alex Nixon, co-chair, Transportation Task Force

StatsCan figures paint bleak picture

Statistics Canada has released Incomes in Canada for 2011, with the latest poverty rates. And the numbers for B.C. are grim indeed.

Based on StatsCan's Low-Income Cut-Off After Tax (LICO-AT), B.C. once again has the highest child poverty rate (tied with Manitoba), and particularly disturbing, the rate actually increased in 2011 (rising from 10.5 per cent in 2010 to 11.3 per cent in 2011).

B.C. also continues to have the highest overall poverty rate in Canada. B.C.'s overall poverty rate in 2011 was 10.7 per cent, compared to a national average of 8.8 per cent. — Seth Klein, *Policy Note*

Why does B.C. have the highest poverty rate in Canada?

The latest StatsCan figures tell us that we're doing a lousy job at sharing prosperity in this province, leaving too many people behind and undermining our future economic health in the process. Instead of taking responsibility for the problem, the Minister of Children and Family Development, Stephanie Cadieux, practically declared success on the child poverty file, choosing to focus on the fact that "B.C.'s child poverty rates has dropped by 41 per cent" since a peak in 2003 and completely ignoring the reality that other provinces improved much faster than us. Instead of patting ourselves on the back for doing better than 10 years ago, we need to be asking what can we be doing differently to catch up with the rest of Canada. — Iglia Ivanova, *Policy Note*



.... a coalition of Richmond residents and agencies working together to reduce poverty and the impacts of poverty with research, projects and public education.

The Richmond Poverty Response Committee has a strong track record of identifying gaps in services to the poor in our community, and partnering with suitable agencies to implement effective solutions. We have many ongoing and new projects that need your support.

VOLUNTEER: The RPRC welcomes the participation of all members of the community. There are regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Richmond Caring Place. We also always need help at events, doing outreach, and putting together our newsletters.

DONATE: As a non-profit organization, the RPRC depends upon generous donors like you. Your tax-deductible gift will help support our research, education, and projects.

To get involved: Phone: 604.205.4700 or email info@richmondprc.org.

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