

Housing Task Force (HTF) activities report August 2018

The Housing Task Force (HTF) is a sub-committee of the Richmond Poverty Response Committee (PRC). Vincent Chiu and David Reay co-chair the meetings with a variety of community members who are interested in affordable housing and homelessness in Richmond. Thanks to the Richmond Presbyterian Church for hosting our meetings.

The HTF regularly invites special guest speakers to talk about housing issues. In August 2017 the HTF invited **Metro Vancouver Alliance** to speak. They work with community groups to build leaders and hold decision-makers to account through accountability forums. In October 2017, the **BC Community Land Trust** spoke. It is a non-profit organization that acquires and holds land for the benefit of the broader community. See more on CLT's at: <http://www.chf.bc.ca/partner/the-land-trusts>. In February, the **BCGEU** spoke on the **Housing Affordability Plan** and their document 'Building an Affordable BC.' You can find out more about the Plan at: <https://www.affordablebc.ca/our-plan>.

The HTF made three submissions with recommendations to the City of Richmond, on the **Affordable Housing Strategy Update**, the **Market Rental Policy** and the **Wellness Strategy** (noting housing as an essential need). The HTF also participated on the City's **Homelessness Needs Assessment** steering committee.

From March to mid May, the HTF led a campaign to ensure a 40 unit supportive housing development for the homeless was built in Richmond. They led a diverse group of compassionate residents called "**Richmond United for Supportive Housing**" or RUSH. In the face of a lot of NIMBY'ism (Not in My Backyard) the campaign was successful and the City voted to approve the housing! It is slated to open in early 2019 on City-owned property at 7300 Elmsbridge Way, close to all amenities.

It has been a very busy year so far! Meetings will resume in September, stay tuned to the Richmond PRC website for details.