

Hastings Update

From: Martiniuk, Daryn SDPR:EX <Daryn.Martiniuk@gov.bc.ca>
To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>, Fieltsch, Raymond SDPR:EX <Raymond.Fieltsch@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 13, 2023 11:04:17 AM PDT

Good morning,

At the encampment call this morning, which is also attended by Samuel and Cassin, we learned:

s.16

- There are discussions about coordinating with the release of the Provincial Response... However, that timeline is TBD, but was originally thought to be closer to the end of April to align with the modulars. Note there is a housing summit scheduled for April 4&5th.
 - HOUS will coordinate a DM and Minister Joint Briefing once they have a Draft from GCPE-PO.

Daryn Martiniuk, Executive Director

Community Integration Services Branch
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I am grateful to the SENĆOŦEN people of the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation and the Lekwungen people of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on whose territories I, as a settler, work, live and learn.

Hastings

From: Martiniuk, Daryn SDPR:EX <Daryn.Martiniuk@gov.bc.ca>
To: Fieltsch, Raymond SDPR:EX <Raymond.Fieltsch@gov.bc.ca>, Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 17, 2023 10:53:16 AM PDT

Good morning,

I understand that an ADHOC Provincial Steering Committee meeting is being planned for next Wednesday. BC Housing walked us through their draft slides in terms of response should COV proceed with an enforcement approach in the next few weeks. If I get a copy of the deck before it is sent to the PSC, I'll send it your way.

s.13; s.16

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Daryn

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Ministry of Housing
Provincial Executive Steering Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
3:00-4:00 pm
MS Teams

Attendance

BC Government:

Premier's Office (PO)

Not in attendance

Ministry Responsible of Housing (HOUS)

Terri Collins, Deputy Minister

Meghan Will, a/ADM, Homelessness, Partnerships & Housing Supports

Sarah Petrescu, Director

Clay Suddaby, Communications Director,

GCPE

Attorney General (AG)

Julie Williams, a/Assistant Deputy Attorney General

Emergency Management & Climate Readiness (EMCR)

David Boone, Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)

Allison Bond, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA)/ Ministry of Health (HLTH)

Daryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG)

Not in attendance

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR)

Raymond Fieltsch, Assistant Deputy Minister, Service Delivery Division

City Of Vancouver (CoV)

Paul Mochrie, City Manager

Sandra Singh, General Manager Arts, Culture and Community Services

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Mellisa Morphy

City of Victoria
Not in attendance

Park Board
Donnie Rosa, GM

Vancouver Police Department (VPD)
Don Chapman, Superintendent

Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS)
Not in attendance

BC Housing (BCH)
Heidi Hartman, Associate VP Operations
Allison Dunnett, ED Homelessness
Henry Glazebrook, Communications

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH)
Bob Chapman, VP
Vivian Eliopoulos, President and CEO
Shannon Mc Carthy

First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)
Not in attendance

Meeting Summary

Welcome, Introductions and Action Item Log – DM Collins

DM Collins welcomed new members, confirmed minutes, and highlighted in weekly Information Note some increase in structures along Hastings but overall is still low. Also noted site preparation was underway for modulars and the need now to be clear on the tenanting process and flow.

Presentation: Meghan Will a/ADM (HOUS)

Meghan Will provided a presentation on the final version of the Provincial Response Plan: Supporting the Downtown Eastside. The plan has a broader scope and purpose beyond Hastings Encampment response: Bringing partners together in immediate actions and long-term planning to restore community health, wellness and safety in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside

The PESC has provided oversight to the plan in a collaborative structure that includes Premier's Roundtables, and Multilateral Government Working Group and Ministry, BC Housing, City of Vancouver and Community Partners – and ensures ongoing engagement.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

The final version of the plan incorporates partner feedback, including:

- Focus on distinct needs populations and community-based work, like the Red Woman Rising Report, SRO Strategy
- More inclusion of health, substance use and mental health supports; intervention/de-escalation
- Focus on poverty reduction, income and skills supports
- Family reunification and youth supports

Additional areas of feedback to address through implementation include:

- Data-sharing and coordination; change management
- Funding for community partners
- Washrooms, inhalation sites, day spaces

An overview of the plan goals and actions was provided. Next Steps for the Plan include a public communications approach and timing, as well as governance and revised scope of the PESC through implementation.

3. Discussion

Members discussed *How could PESC be leveraged to support the implementation of the Provincial Plan?* Members shared general support for PESC moving forward, members not wanting to continue were requested to email Teri or Meghan.

4. Partner Roundtable:

BC Housing

Heidi Hartman shared a recent fire affected 26 units at St Helen's site and 6 people were displaced. Regarding housing placements, 22 allocations in progress and 8 referrals. BCH trying to coordinate with non-profits and residents for interviews. BCH is working on occupancy plan for new units coming online with non-profit partners.

Allison Dunnet shared BCH in holding pattern waiting for DTES Plan to come through to potentially repurpose People Supports Group.

City of Vancouver

Paul Mochrie echoed dramatic deterioration of unsafe situation on Hastings and pressure to address, noting the situation is not tenable to continue into spring. Clear direction provided to CoV to act; serious problem and unsafe for everyone.

Sandra Singh shared day to day sanitation, engineering working at priority sites continues. Outreach are trying to offer shelter and supports, increasingly connecting with people who do not want to talk to the team or are becoming hostile. Very difficult to work. Fire Services are continuing to respond on daily basis as fire risk remains.

Vancouver Fire Rescue Services

Not in attendance

Vancouver Police Department

Don Chapman noted in preceding week there were four major files in encampment, s.15; s.16
s.15; s.16

Vancouver Coastal Health

Bob Chapman shared staff continue to see a fair number of people twice a week. Safety issues have not been noted at PESC but this will be confirmed with VCH staff.

Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation

Re: CRAB Park, Donnie Rosa noted the clean up plan was held due to weather. Teams meet onsite every Thursday. Adding portable washroom soon. Manageable encampment so far.

Social Development and Poverty Development

Raymond Fieltsch highlighted budget announcement of shelter rate increase up \$125/month – effective date is August 1, 2023.

Ministry of Health/MMHA

Darryl Sturtevant noted lots of opportunity for treatment and supports through Budget funding. More to come.

Ministry of Children and Family

Allison Bond noted continued supports for youth. Concern about violence.

City of Victoria

Not in attendance

Emergency Management BC/OFC

David Boone, continue to work in fire safety working group to distribute fire safety equipment across Province.

First Nation Health Authority

Not in attendance

PSSG

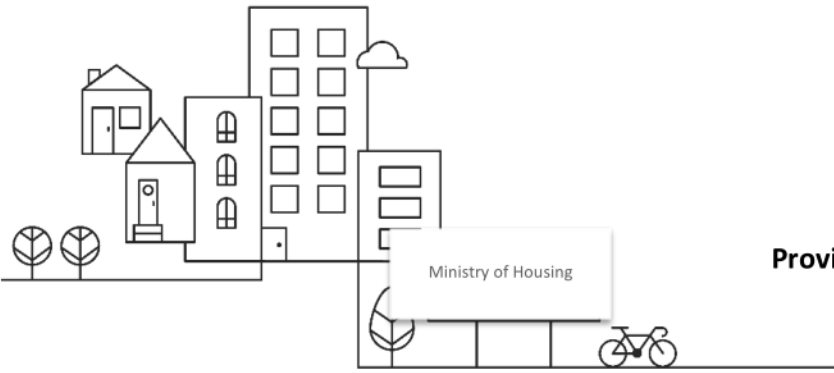
Not in attendance

5. Communications

GCPE Clay Suddaby working hard to find date for release of the Provincial Homelessness Framework and Provincial DTES Plan, in advance of release of the Housing Strategy Refresh.

BC Housing – working on messaging around tenanting mods.

ACTIONS: DM Collins will share embargoed plan, timeline and implementation when confirmed.



Agenda

Provincial Executive Steering Committee East Hastings and Encampment Response

March 24, 2023, 3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

#	ITEM	LEAD	MATERIAL
1.	Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of minutes – March 1 	Deputy Minister, Teri Collins	Verbal
2.	Provincial Plan: Supporting the DTES: Update	Deputy Minister, Teri Collins	Verbal
3.	DTES Operational Response & Overview	BCH Housing and CoV, Ministry of Health, Christine Massey, and Vancouver Coastal Health, Bob Chapman	PPT
4.	Partner Roundtable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC Housing City of Vancouver Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Vancouver Police Department Vancouver Coastal Health Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Community Integration Services – SDPR Emergency Management BC Office of the Fire Commissioner Ministry of Health Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions Ministry of Children and Family Development Public Safety and Solicitor General First Nations Health Authority City of Victoria 	All	Verbal
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Update 	BC Housing, GCPE	Verbal
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing comments 	All	Verbal

ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Housing
Updated: March 13, 2023
Minister Ravi Kahlon

East Hastings Encampment Response

ISSUE SUMMARY:

- City of Vancouver (CoV) staff continue to work to clear tents, structures, and debris along and around Hastings – where people are either already connected to indoor spaces (as well as storage and supports) or using the space for other purposes such as informal or illegal markets.
- According to the CoV, as of March 7; 74 structures remained along Hastings St. This is an increase of 10 from the previous week and 6 from the week prior.
- CoV staff and Vancouver Police have noted increasing safety concerns and criminal activity in the encampment area, including weapons and violence against women. CoV has identified 'no go' sites where engineering/bylaw staff will no longer attend due to aggressive behavior and/or safety concerns for staff. CoV is mapping these sites so provincial partners are aware of their location to inform front line teams.
- CoV outreach reports fluctuations in the number of people sheltering along Hastings; counting 117 at the end of February – the majority of which are engaged with outreach and want housing 22 are not engaged.
- On the weekend of March 11/12, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services responded to numerous fire calls in the area. Two tent fires occurred, and a woman was found dead in a tent (likely deceased prior to the fire). Propane tanks and hoarding noted as increasing fire risk.
- Work continues on the two temporary modular housing sites at 1525 Western Street (formerly 1500 Main Street) and 2132 Ash Street:
 - 1525 Western Street (formerly 1500 Main Street) – Development permit issued, pending building permit. RFP by invitation to Indigenous providers closed March 13. Review and selection is underway by BCH procurement.
 - 2132 Ash Street – Pending development permit. PHS selected as operator.
- BCH is finalizing the purchase of Chalmers Lodge (1450 W 12th) which will provide up to 115 self-contained units; some renovations are required. This building will be used for seniors and vulnerable individuals.
- BC Housing continues to renovate SRO units to provide more housing options for individuals sheltering in the encampments.

BC Housing Update: People and Spaces

Number of new or newly renovated permanent indoor supportive housing spaces that have opened since August 2022:

- 129+ renovated spaces in various SROs from existing housing stock (permanent supportive housing)
- 10 rooms at Jubilee Rooms, 22 Main Street. Permanent housing.

139

In addition, there are more than 1,500 shelter spaces available in the City of Vancouver, a mix of temporary shelter spaces, permanent shelter spaces, and Extreme Weather Response spaces that have opened. While these are not being opened specifically for East Hastings, they augment the number of shelter options available across the City.
Source: BC Housing

Outreach also offers shelter beds daily. From August 17- Mar. 7., 567 individuals were offered shelter spaces. 129 people have accepted offers of shelter.
Source: CoV

<p>Number of housing offers, offers accepted, and moves Source: BC Housing</p>	<p>87 offers, 78 accepted, 78 confirmed moves</p>	<p>Reflects period Aug. 29-Mar. 7, 2023</p> <p>Housing Offer: If an allocation is approved, it becomes a housing offer. Carnegie Outreach will provide the official offer of housing to the individual and the individual has an opportunity to accept or decline the offer. If an individual accepts an offer of housing, outreach workers will support the individual to move into their new housing.</p> <p>“Housing” refers to any offer of permanent housing, which may include an SRO, a supportive housing unit, a subsidized apartment, etc. It may also refer to a market rental unit made attainable with a rent supplement. “Housing” is not used to describe a shelter bed as the stay is temporary in nature.</p> <p>Specific to East Hastings: At this time, BCH only has renovated SRO units so offers being made are currently for SROs. However, this will change over time as new units are brought online and partners learn more about the specific needs of residents on East Hastings.</p>
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ISSUES/UPDATES:

Strategic Response Planning:

- Encampment response and operations continue to be guided by the CoV/BC Housing and partner-informed operational approach identified in the Encampment Response Plan – with updates provided at supporting working groups and from operational teams as work has progressed.
- The Provincial Response Plan - Supporting the DTES includes immediate encampment and longer-term actions and has incorporated feedback from ministry, federal, CoV, Indigenous government, Indigenous and community partners. The Plan is being finalized and prepared for public release, likely in mid-April.

Spaces:

- As shelter spaces become available, they are offered to people sheltering outdoors on East Hastings, in CRAB Park and elsewhere. Once people are in the shelter system, it enables staff to get to know guests' individual needs, build trust, and then support them to transition into homes as they become available, matched with appropriate support services based on needs. A shelter 'hold' system has been in place since January allowing people to retain their shelter bed if they wish.
- BC Housing and Carnegie meet regularly throughout the week as needed and, the Community Access and Assessment (CAA) Table meets weekly to review priority Hastings referrals. At this time, priority for housing allocations (typically renovated SRO units) is based around vulnerability and distinct needs such as Indigenous status, gender, age and those who have expressed a desire to move indoors. Note: There is no CAA process to guide allocation of shelter spaces.

- Construction is underway on temporary supportive (workforce modular) housing which will provide approximately 92 units: **1525 Western Street (formerly 1500 Main Street) and 2132 Ash Street.**
 - These are temporary buildings intended as a transitional step, while other permanent housing projects are in development.
 - These temporary buildings will provide residents with access to their own private rooms, showers, and meals, and offers 24/7 staffing, security and on-site health services. 20% of the units will have enhanced health supports for which BCH will be working with VCH to tenant. This will be supportive housing under BCH's model, including payment of rent.
 - Ministry of Housing, BC Housing, CoV and VCH are determining how these 90 units will be allocated. At this time, the criteria being considered is based around: level of vulnerability, demographics representative of community, appropriateness for health supports offered, and individuals who have extended shelter stay history. Criteria will be finalized once the operator for the Main Street site is selected.

City of Vancouver update:

- As of March 7, there were 74 remaining structures along E Hastings Street. At the end of February (Feb 22), there were 64 structures.
- CoV's Homelessness Services Outreach staff update:
 - At end of Feb, 117 people were sleeping overnight in the Hastings Area
 - 95 of the 117 people are engaged with Outreach (81%)
 - 70 of the 95 were there in October or prior and are open to shelter/housing options
 - 25 of the 95 are people engaged with city outreach since October and were open to shelter/housing options
 - 22 people (in tents), of the 117, do not want to engage (19%)
- Of note:
 - While the February numbers are similar to October they do not represent all the same people, as people move into housing/shelter, leave, return and come to shelter in this area. Movement is consistent.
- **Recent Community Impacts/Housing Loss (as of December 2022)**
 - March 11/12: Two tent fires, one person found deceased in a tent (likely prior to fire), numerous fire calls and propane/hoarding issues noted.
 - 91 elevator-related relocations in last six months (Portland Hotel, PCA, Sorellas, Hazelwood, Patricia).
 - Feb 22: Fire at the St. Helen's SRO at 1161 Granville St, no injuries reported. Displacement of some residents due to water damage.
 - Jan 17: Fire at Orwell Hotel, 456 E. Hastings Street. 13 individuals needed to be relocated.
 - Dec 16: Three fires at downtown SROs. Damage confined to units of origin.
 - Dec. 13: Fire at 1115 Nelson. One tenant was displaced and in hospital. More than 100 SDPR clients reside at the building.
- **Other parks/areas**
- No update

MINISTRY/Partner Updates & Key Messages:

SDPR Community Integration Specialist Hastings

Individual Counts	March 3, 2023	# since last update	Total as of Mar 10, 2023
# Individuals approached	193	2	195
# Individuals spoke to CI	153	2	155
Declined	40	0	40
Intakes completed	52	2	54
Crisis Issued	174	6	180
Total individual contacted / case management as of Feb 16 : 149 citizens			

Profile of Individuals at the Camp	March 03, 2023	# since last update	Total as of Mar 10, 2023
Rent in Pay	20	0	20
New to Vancouver in last 12 months	6	0	6

Ministry of Health (MHSU)/Vancouver Coastal Health Update

VCH Outreach Weekly Update Feb 27 to March 9

Outreach Date:	Total # of people connected with:	Total # of people referred to PC:	Total # of people referred to MH:	Total # of people referred to SU/Addictions:	Total # of people assisted to acute:	Total # of people provided direct care (wound care etc.):	Total # of people referred to IHOT:
Monday, Feb 27/23	63	3	0	2	0	10	2
Thursday, Mar 2/23	70	0	0	3	0	9	1
Monday, Mar 6/23	88	1	0	0	0	8	4
Thursday, Mar 9/23	69	0	0	2	0	6	5
Total	290	4	0	7	0	33	12

- **Human-Centered, Intersectional and Trauma-Informed Response:**

- Partners meet to include a trauma and culturally informed response, rooted in feedback from people with lived and living experience of homelessness.
- Women and non-binary people:
 - Women's only drop-in storage is being provided by Atira (currently full).
 - Carnegie/Orange Hall is taking the lead on housing options and will need consideration for gender response. Women and Gender Diverse drop-in space implementation delayed with Vet's Manor discussions. 320 Alexander currently being used as Downtown Eastside Women's Centre emergency use (due to fire damage at shelter)

- **Indigenous Peoples:**

- Currently Aboriginal Front Door Society, via support from CoV and BCH, is supporting community outreach, storage, food provision, cultural supports and partnership development with other agencies
- All Nations outreach is working with SDPR Community Integration Services in Crab Park

- **Intersectional Community Outreach – Including Racialized and Immigrant communities:**

- Watari Counselling and Support Services is providing Indigenous Circles at the Astoria, and they continue to provide Youth Outreach services in the community.

- **People Who Use Drugs**
 - CoV and partners continue to support OPS, VANDU and other community-based organizations to support harm reduction response in the area.

Issues Scan for Ministry of Housing

Week of March 13 – for Hastings St. Encampment

Issue: Body found in burned DTES tent at Hastings and Main

Media reported on Monday that the body of a woman was found by Vancouver firefighters who responded to a tent fire around 5:30 p.m. on Sunday night March 12.

Key Points

- **Vancouver Fire Rescue Services said evidence suggests the woman had died prior to the fire starting.**
- **As of March 13, Vancouver Police are working with the BC Coroners Service to identify the woman.**

Issue: Residents of Vancouver SRO demand compensation for time spent without elevator service

CTV reported on a rally by a group of Portland Hotel and member of the Vancouver Tenants Union group asking for PHS Community Services, which manages the Portland Hotel SRO, to compensate the tenants for the five months they lived without an elevator. The elevator was back online as of Feb. 7.

Key Points

- **During the time that the elevator was out of service all tenants were offered alternative housing and most accepted it. Some elected to stay.**

Issue: City of Vancouver to support CRAB Park washroom

Media shared that City of Vancouver would put \$700k or \$750k of its \$2,500,000 grant awarded by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and UBCM [Strengthening Communities Services Program](#) towards CRAB Park. The Strengthening Communities Services Program grants are for temporary supports. It is up to the City of Vancouver on how it is used. It was reported by media that the \$700k will go towards park washroom and staff services for those facilities, specifically to support folks who are sheltering outside and CRAB Park.

Key Points

- **More than \$700,000 has been earmarked by the provincial government to recover the cost to the city of servicing the camp. Included in that are four full-time park rangers who are assigned exclusively to the park.**
- **Media asked if BCH is currently aware that people sheltering at CRAB Park are being directed to a certain area at the park.**
- **Vancouver councillor Peter Meiszner of the ABC party says the city is working to shut the camps eventually, as his slate promised. “I understand people's frustration but unfortunately this isn't something that can happen overnight. But we are working hard on it and we are seeing the encampments on both Hastings Street and CRAB Park reducing in size.”**

Issue: Narrative for DTES violence continues, man stabbed on March 8

Adult male stabbed at Hastings and Carrall streets on Wednesday evening. He was taken to hospital and expected to survive. Narrative of DTES violence. Woman shot with beanbag and arrested for stabbing with a needle on Feb. 25.

Week of Feb 23 – for Hastings St. Encampment

Issue: Advocates claim housing options are inadequate during Hastings decampment

Advocates and those sheltering in Hastings hold streetside press conference in response to City of latest effort from Vancouver bylaw and crew (with VPD in attendance) to remove structures along Hastings and decamp individuals. Media coverage of advocates sharing concerns that there is a lack of quality housing shelter options for those displaced.

Key Points

- **Advocates claiming that despite COV informing and offering shelter or SRO space options to those who had their structures removed that they are not adequate.**
- **Advocate group Stop the Sweeps says: “The housing is being refused because it's just not suitable or safe.... The standoff yesterday was as city staff again moved in to try to remove some makeshift shelters and belongings built up along Hastings near Columbia.”**
- **DTES advocate Kaylaine Lorraine: “We know these displacements, these so-called street sweeps are violent. They lead to people dying, they lead to people losing everything they have.”**
- **Pivot Legal’s Anna Cooper disputes that COV is helping and alleges they have an abusive and undignified approach to homelessness in the DTES, particularly against people along the Hastings Street encampment... She also accuses governments of misleading the public about the quality of available social housing units.**

Meeting Name	Purpose	Frequency
Ministry-led		
East Hastings Encampment Check-in	Provincial partner information sharing/updates/issues identification	Weekly (as of Dec 7)
Provincial Executive Steering Committee	Coordinated approach across partners to ensure the health and safety of unhoused people through access to health and social supports and connections to housing, and to prevent entrenched and dangerous encampments	Bi-weekly
BC Housing-Led		
Operations Team Meeting	Touch base for Ops around this topic	2X week
BCH and the Hastings Encampment	3X weekly touch base, info sharing	3X week
Communications Meeting	BCH/GCPE touch base with CoV around Communications	Weekly
Coordinated Access and Assessment Table	Tenancing of indoor spaces – BCH, Carnegie Outreach, COV Outreach and housing providers	Weekly

E Hastings Encampment Response – All Partners Planning Table	(Updated Jan 2023) Brings together BCH, CoV and various provincial and operational partners to develop, refine and adjust the shared encampment response plan and provide strategic updates on implementation. Additional operational implementation meetings convened as needed. NOTE: <i>Partner capacity to engage on longer-term encampment prevention strategies at this table has been limited. Partners are discussing alternate timelines and forums for that critical, future focused work.</i>	Every 2 weeks on Thursday as needed
City of Vancouver-led		
Hastings Street Ops Call	Daily update led by EOC to partners on streams of work and situational updates	Daily
Hastings Leadership Group	Provide EOD update to City Manager/Fire Chief	Daily

FW: DTES briefing

From: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX <Jeff.Keene@gov.bc.ca>
To: Bandechha, Pardip SDPR:EX <Pardip.Bandechha@gov.bc.ca>, Rodermond, Jonathan SDPR:EX <Jonathan.Rodermond@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Raiqiso, Brooke SDPR:EX <Brooke.Raiqiso@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 27, 2023 12:33:40 PM PDT
Hi Pardip,

The MO wants this briefing to be booked on Thursday, March 30 at 11:30am. Can you please advise who from SDD can attend? FYI the meeting will be in-person at MO because David, Suzanne, Whitney and Leah have GCCSI right after the DTES briefing. Do you think any other divisions need to be involved and at this briefing?

Jonny, can you please set up a CLIFF and eApproval to have an info note, and briefing note template updated? Also attach the email please. Unfortunately materials are due end of day tomorrow to adhere to the 2 day in advance deadline.

Thanks

Jeff Keene,

Senior Executive Assistant,
Deputy Minister's Office,
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction,
778 974-2048

From: Raiqiso, Brooke SDPR:EX <Brooke.Raiqiso@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX <Jeff.Keene@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: DTES briefing

From: Elliott, Cassin SDPR:EX <Cassin.Elliott@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 10:48 AM
To: Raiqiso, Brooke SDPR:EX <Brooke.Raiqiso@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: McKnight, Valerie SDPR:EX <Valerie.McKnight@gov.bc.ca>; Godfrey, Samuel SDPR:EX <Samuel.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: DTES briefing

Morning Brooke,

We'd love to get a briefing for the minister to update her on the upcoming decampment plans for the DTES.

Thanks!

Cass

Cassin Elliott (*he/him*)
Ministerial Advisor to Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

c: (778) 677-4408 e: cassin.elliott@gov.bc.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded land of the Lekwungen people – the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: March 27, 2023

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

ISSUE: East Hastings Street Decampment Update

BACKGROUND:

The East Hastings Street Encampment ("the encampment") in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) was formed in the early summer of 2022. Though some individuals have historically sheltered outdoors in this area, a rapid and coordinated increase in tents and structures occurred during this time. In July 2022, the Vancouver Fire Rescue Service issued an order to remove the tents and structures. Since then, the city and province have been working with a variety of partners including all levels of government, service providers and community organizations to develop and implement a DTES Provincial Response Plan ("the Plan") - Appendix A.

The ministry has a strong presence in the DTES, which includes a dedicated outreach team in addition to 3 frontline ministry offices. Two dedicated Community Integration Specialists provide outreach supports to people along the encampment in partnership with DTES organizations, with an additional five who can be reassigned as needed. The dedicated Community Integration Services Branch (CISB) staff have provided outreach supports to individuals at the encampment area since mid-August 2022. Supports range from completing intake applications and administering crisis supplements, to system navigation and ongoing case management.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Vancouver ("the City") has responsibility for decampment efforts in the DTES, which are ongoing. Unlike previous park encampments, the encampment has no firm geographic boundaries. As a result, City staff are unable to fence and restrict access, which consistently allows new flow into the encampment. The ministry is represented on a cross-government working group focused on this encampment, however, to date the City has only shared limited details regarding their decampment plans. Staff from the City's Engineering Department will be leading the structure removal, with the support of the Vancouver Police to maintain the peace.

It is understood that decampment efforts are expected on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week in 'low priority' areas. The city has also identified 'no go' zones for

Cliff#: 219658

Version #:

Updated:

Page 1

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION INFORMATION NOTE

decampment activities due to current safety concerns. Individuals are to be provided with a handout of where not to shelter following the decampment process. Carnegie Outreach and BC Housing - Orange Hall - have worked through each area of the encampment and offered an indoor option to everyone verified as needing housing. There are currently approximately 117 people sheltering outside at the encampment, 70 of whom have expressed a desire for housing. Offers of indoor spaces have been made to a majority of people sheltering outside. The number of structures along East Hastings Street has been reduced from 180 to 74 since July 2022. With the announcement of 330 housing units being made available to encampment residents, it is anticipated that the population will grow.

The BC Housing led Community Access and Assessment (CAA) Table meets weekly to review priority referrals affiliated with the encampment, and plans are in place to have regular ministry representation. Priority for housing allocations is based on vulnerability and informed by meeting the needs of priority populations Indigenous, women, and seniors. To support increased collaboration, BC Housing is creating a hub in their Orange Hall location to bring community partners together, including SDPR.

The role of the Community Integration Specialist to support the Plan is to:

- provide expedited intakes and connections to income supports and shelter funds;
- provide navigation supports for government services, including identification and referral to housing and health supports, regardless of income or disability client status;
- support with family and community reunification when requested through transportation and travel assistance;
- referrals to low-barrier employment opportunities such as like the Lookout Society LEEP project, and the EMBERS Eastside Works centre at 57 East Hastings;
- coordinate supports in partnership with BC Housing, the city, community partners, health authorities and other ministries;
- assist individuals obtain identification;
- fire safety education and supplies when available (e.g. extinguishers, fire blankets, fire retardant tarps);
- offer crisis supplements for food and clothing to help individuals with unexpected needs; and
- support recipients of the Supported Rent Supplement Program (SRSP) with coordinated case management and system navigation.

The ministry will not play a role in the final “enforcement phase” of the decampment. Community Integration Specialists will however be a resource a few blocks away, as long as it is safe to do so.

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Cliff#: 219658

Version #:

Updated:

Page 2

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION INFORMATION NOTE

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Enclosures/Attachments

- Strategy_DTES_Provincial_Response_Plan – Appendix A
- PESBC BC Housing Update on Progress on Ops Plan March 24, 2023

Prepared by:

Holly Sponaugle
Senior Policy and Program Specialist
Community Integration Services Branch
604-398-5154

Reviewing path:

Daryn Martiniuk, ED, SDD / Pardip Bandechha, IM, SDD / Dana Jensen, A/ADM, SDD / Ian Ross, ED, Christine LaForce, IM/ELMSD / Karen Blackman, ADM, ELMSD / David Galbraith, DM

Cliff#: 219658
Version #:
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Page 3

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: March 27, 2023

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

ISSUE: East Hastings Street Decampment Update

BACKGROUND:

The East Hastings Street Encampment (“the encampment”) in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES) was formed in the early summer of 2022. Though some individuals have historically sheltered outdoors in this area, a rapid and coordinated increase in tents and structures occurred during this time. In July 2022, the Vancouver Fire Rescue Service issued an order to remove the tents and structures. Since then, the city and province have been working with a variety of partners including all levels of government, service providers and community organizations to develop and implement a DTES Provincial Response Plan (“the Plan”) - Appendix A.

The ministry has a strong presence in the DTES, which includes a dedicated outreach team in addition to 3 frontline ministry offices. Two dedicated Community Integration Specialists provide outreach supports to people along the encampment in partnership with DTES organizations, with an additional five who can be reassigned as needed. The dedicated Community Integration Services Branch (CISB) staff have provided outreach supports to individuals at the encampment area since mid-August 2022. Supports range from completing intake applications and administering crisis supplements, to system navigation and ongoing case management.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Vancouver (“the City”) has responsibility for decampment efforts in the DTES, which are ongoing. Unlike previous park encampments, the encampment has no firm geographic boundaries. As a result, City staff are unable to fence and restrict access, which consistently allows new flow into the encampment. The ministry is represented on a cross-government working group focused on this encampment, however, to date the City has only shared limited details regarding their decampment plans. Staff from the City’s Engineering Department will be leading the structure removal, with the support of the Vancouver Police to maintain the peace.

It is understood that decampment efforts are expected on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week in ‘low priority’ areas. The city has also identified ‘no go’ zones for

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Page 1

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The BC Housing led Community Access and Assessment (CAA) Table meets weekly to review priority referrals affiliated with the encampment, and plans are in place to have regular ministry representation. Priority for housing allocations is based on vulnerability and informed by meeting the needs of priority populations Indigenous, women, and seniors. To support increased collaboration, BC Housing is creating a hub in their Orange Hall location to bring community partners together, including SDPR.

The role of the Community Integration Specialist to support the Plan is to:

- o provide expedited intakes and connections to income supports and shelter funds;
- o provide navigation supports for government services, including identification and referral to housing and health supports, regardless of income or disability client status;
- o support with family and community reunification when requested through transportation and travel assistance;
- o referrals to low-barrier employment opportunities with service partners such as like the Open Door Group, the Lookout Society LEEP project, and the EMBERS /Eastside Works centre at 57 East Hastings;
- o coordinate supports in partnership with BC Housing, the city, community partners, health authorities and other ministries;
- o assist individuals obtain identification;
- o fire safety education and supplies when available (e.g. extinguishers, fire blankets, fire retardant tarps);
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Commented [MDS2]: Please also append the plan itself.

Cliff#: 219658
Version #:
Updated:

Page 3



Daily Schedule Wednesday March 29

From: Pengilley, Dana SDPR:EX
To: Martiniuk, Daryn SDPR:EX <Daryn.Martiniuk@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 28, 2023 4:31:56 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, 219658 DTES Briefing - Decampment Plans.docx
Hi Daryn,

Here is your schedule for tomorrow. Attached is a briefing note for the DTES Plan meeting at 4pm.

Have a great night

Today < > Mar 29  Today 61° F / 39° F  Day ▾

Wednesday	
29	
← From Mar 27 Marc vacation To Apr 3 →	
8 AM	
9 AM	Bi-weekly touch base Teams meeting D'Gal, Judy SDPR:EX 
10 AM	Daryn/Pat 1:1 MS Teams; Martiniuk, Daryn SDPR:EX 
11 AM	Mentoring - Suzanne/Daryn Microsoft Teams; Martiniuk, Daryn SDPR:EX 
12 PM	
1 PM	Strategic Fire Prevention Group ; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Will, Meghan OHCS:EX 
2 PM	
3 PM	
4 PM	DTES Plan; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Ross, Ian SDPR:EX 
5 PM	

Dana Pengilley, Branch Coordinator
(She/Her)

Community Integration Services Branch, Service Delivery Division
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Phone: 236-455-1533 | Email: dana.pengilley@gov.bc.ca



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← From Mar 27

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To Apr 3 →

8 AM

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D'Gal, Judy SDPR:EX



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MS Teams; Martiniuk, Daryn SDPR:EX



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**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION
INFORMATION NOTE**

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Page 3

Bi-weekly Provincial Exec Steering Committee Mtg

From: Newman, Debbie OHCS:EX <Debbie.Newman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Carmichael, Barbara AG:EX <Barbara.Carmichael@gov.bc.ca>, O'Donnell, Maureen HLTH:EX <Maureen.ODonnell@gov.bc.ca>, Bain, Don PREM:EX <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>, Petrescu, Sarah OHCS:EX <Sarah.Petrescu@gov.bc.ca>, Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>, Scott, Douglas S PSSG:EX <Douglas.S.Scott@gov.bc.ca>, Engelbrecht, Maya AG:EX <Maya.Engelbrecht@gov.bc.ca>, Godlonton, Brian EMCR:EX <Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca>, XT:HLTH Eliopoulos, Vivian <Vivian.Eliopoulos@vch.ca>, Massey, Christine MMHA:EX <Christine.Massey@gov.bc.ca>, XT:Chapman, Bob HLTH:IN <bob.chapman@vch.ca>, Grewal, Preet GCPE:EX <Preet.Grewal@gov.bc.ca>, XT:Matthews, Laura GCPE:IN <lmathews@bchousing.org>, Bond, Allison MCF:EX <Allison.Bond@gov.bc.ca>, Warren, Brynn OHCS:EX <Brynn.Warren@gov.bc.ca>, Will, Meghan OHCS:EX <Meghan.Will@gov.bc.ca>, Fieltsch, Raymond SDPR:EX <Raymond.Fieltsch@gov.bc.ca>, XT:ODonnell, Maureen HLTH:IN <modonnell@phsa.ca>, Moraes, Josh AG:EX <Josh.Moraes@gov.bc.ca>, Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX <Glen.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Mariott@gov.bc.ca>, Gold, Crystal HLTH:EX <Crystal.Gold@gov.bc.ca>, Williams, Julie AG:EX <Julie.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, Sturtevant, Darryl MMHA:EX <Darryl.Sturtevant@gov.bc.ca>, Madoc-Jones, Sian HOUS:EX <Sian.MadocJones@gov.bc.ca>, Salter, Shannon PREM:EX <Shannon.Salter@gov.bc.ca>, Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Dowler, Thea HOUS:EX <Thea.Dowler@gov.bc.ca>, Godfrey, Samuel SDPR:EX <Samuel.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>, Wolfe, Seamus MMHA:EX <Seamus.Wolfe@gov.bc.ca>, Ho, Theresa HLTH:EX <Theresa.Ho@gov.bc.ca>, Boone, David EMCR:EX <David.Boone@gov.bc.ca>, Copeland, Alison HLTH:EX <Alison.Copeland@gov.bc.ca>, hhartman@bchousing.org, paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca <'paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca'>, Armin.Amrolia@vancouver.ca <'Armin.Amrolia@vancouver.ca'>, Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca <'Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca'>, Adam.Palmer@vpd.ca <'Adam.Palmer@vpd.ca'>, Howard.Chow@vpd.ca <'Howard.Chow@vpd.ca'>, Patricia.Daly@vch.ca <'Patricia.Daly@vch.ca'>, Tanya.whysker@vpd.ca <'Tanya.whysker@vpd.ca'>, Don.chapman@vpd.ca <'Don.chapman@vpd.ca'>, jjenkyns@victoria.ca <'jjenkyns@victoria.ca'>, Fry, Karen <Karen.Fry@vancouver.ca>, Kim.Brooks@fnha.ca <'Kim.Brooks@fnha.ca'>, Sandra.singh@vancouver.ca <'Sandra.singh@vancouver.ca'>, neil.monckton@vancouver.ca <'neil.monckton@vancouver.ca'>, Lauren.Reid@vancouver.ca <'Lauren.Reid@vancouver.ca'>, Lepps, Betty <Betty.Lepps@vancouver.ca>, Prince, Jessica PREM:EX <Jessica.Prince@gov.bc.ca>, Amrolia, Armin <Armin.Amrolia@vancouver.ca>, Kim Brooks <Kim.Brooks@fnha.ca>, Rosa, Donnie <Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca>, Bonshor, Leslie [VCH] <Leslie.Bonshor@vch.ca>, Smith, Matt PREM:EX <Matt.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Suddaby, Clay GCPE:EX <Clay.Suddaby@gov.bc.ca>, WHYSKER, Tanya <tanya.whysker@vpd.ca>, Newhook, Kelly PREM:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>, HARTY, Matthew <matthew.harty@vpd.ca>, dmcmann@bchousing.org, kconnors@bchousing.org, sallen@bchousing.org, adunnet@bchousing.org, mellisa.morphy@vancouver.ca, McCarthy, Shannon [VCH] <shannon.mccarthy@vch.ca>, Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Singh, Sandra <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>, vtong@bchousing.org, BCH Meeting Calendar (ministrymeetings@bchousing.org) <ministrymeetings@bchousing.org>, Miller, Jennifer E HOUS:EX <Jennifer.E.Miller@gov.bc.ca>, Karimi, Nina HOUS:EX <Nina.Karimi@gov.bc.ca>, Jensen, Dana SDPR:EX <Dana.Jensen@gov.bc.ca>, Jocelyn Jenkyns <JJenkyns@victoria.ca>, Darius Pruss <Darius.Pruss@fnha.ca>, CHAPMAN, Don <don.chapman@vpd.ca>
Sent: March 29, 2023 9:10:59 AM PDT
Attachments: NR_DTES Update_26 March 23_FINAL.pdf, STRATEGY_DTES Provincial Response Plan_25 March 23_FINAL.pdf, Provincial Executive Steering Committee_Minutes_03.24.23.docx, Agenda_Provincial Executive Steering Committee_03.29.23_.docx

Good morning everyone,
Please see the attached materials for this afternoon's PESC meeting.
Thanks,
Debbie

Debbie Newman
Manager, Executive Operations

Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Housing
4th Floor, 614 Humboldt Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1A4
Phone: 250-893-2273



**Ministry of Housing
Provincial Executive Steering Committee**

Minutes

Friday, March 24, 2023
3:45-4:45 pm
MS Teams

Attendance

BC Government:

Premier's Office (PO)

Shannon Salter, Deputy to the Premier
Matt Smith, Chief of Staff
Don Bain, Deputy Chief of Staff
Jessica Prince, Assistant Deputy Minister
Kelly Newhook, Director
Craig Jones, General Counsel

Ministry Responsible of Housing (HOUS)

Teri Collins, Deputy Minister
Meghan Will, a/ADM, Homelessness, Partnerships & Housing Supports
Sarah Petrescu, Director
Clay Suddaby, Communications Director, GCPE
Nina Karimi, Ministerial Advisor
Sian Madoc-Jones, Senior Ministerial Advisor
Sarah Marriot, Director
Jennifer Miller, A/Executive Director

Attorney General (AG)

Barbara Carmichael, A/Deputy Attorney General
Kate Saunders, Supervising Counsel
Michael Kleisinger, Legal Counsel
Amelia Hill, Ministerial Advisor
Katherine Reilly, Legal Counsel
Maya Engelbrecht, A/Director Executive Operations

Emergency Management & Climate Readiness (EMCR)

David Boone, Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner
Brian Godlonton, Fire Commissioner

Commented [WMO1]: Need titles pls

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)

Carolyn Kamper, Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA)/ Ministry of Health (HLTH)

Christine Massy, Deputy Minister

Maureen O'Donnell, Associate Deputy Minister

Daryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister

Theresa Ho, Chief of Staff

Seamus Wolfe, Ministerial Advisor

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG)

Glen Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister

Matthew Brown, Executive Director

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR)

David Galbraith, Deputy Minister

Raymond Fieltsch, Assistant Deputy Minister, Service Delivery Division

City Of Vancouver (CoV)

Paul Mochrie, City Manager

Sandra Singh, General Manager Arts, Culture and Community Services

Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff

Taryn Scollard, Deputy General Manager Engineering

Lon LaClaire, General Manager Engineering Services

City of Victoria

Jocelyn Jenkyns, City Manager

Park Board

Betty Lepps, Director Urban Relationships

Vancouver Police Department (VPD)

Howard Cho, Deputy Chief Constable

Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS)

Karen Fry, Fire Chief

BC Housing (BCH)

Vincent Tong, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Dale Mcmann, Vice President Operations

Heidi Hartman, Associate VP Operations

Allison Dunnett, ED Homelessness

Sara Goldvine, VP Communications

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH)

Vivian Eliopoulos, President and CEO

Bob Chapman, VP

Shannon Mc Carthy, Executive Director Indigenous Health

First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)

Darius Pruss, Regional Advisor

Delaram Farshad, Regional Planner

Meeting Summary

Welcome, Introductions and Action Item Log – DM Collins

DM Collins welcomed new members, confirmed minutes. Updated on tentative announcement Sunday to release DTES plan with Minister Kahlon and Mayor Sim. Noted that the situation on the ground changes daily.

DM Collins advised that we will be moving away from the IN and into weekly situation report with progress and actions.

s.16

s.22

s.22

C O N F I D E N T I A L

March 24, 2023

Page 4 of 5

VCH

6 units in each modular site targeted for high needs, but the supports are available to everyone in the building. Supports include mix of personal care aids, nursing (LPN), peer supports, in-reach, overdose prevention and MAP.

s.16

C O N F I D E N T I A L

s.16

3. Partner Roundtable:

No time for roundtable.

4. Communications

Clay Suddaby shared that there will be a noon news conference with Minister Kahlon and Mayor Sims, and they are working on common messaging. Releasing the Plan/Strategy (calling it a working document), with the overall message that all partners have been working the plan as we go. Reinforcing the message is the safety and security of people on the street and people living working in the community.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

