

END

HOMELESSNESS

NOW!

A DIALOGUE TOWARDS ACTION

“THE PORTLAND EXPERIENCE”

POST FORUM REPORT

NOVEMBER 15 AND 16, 2007

SUBMITTED BY:

**ST. ANDREW’S -WESLEY CHURCH’S HOMELESSNESS
AND MENTAL HEALTH ACTION GROUP**

Everyone Needs A Place To Call Home

END Homelessness NOW!

Music by:

**Vancouver
Men's
Chorus**

**Thursday
November 15**

6:30 pm

Doors open 6:00 pm

**St. Andrews-Wesley
United Church**
Burrard and Nelson
Vancouver
Free underground parking (off alley)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call: 604-683-4574

www.endhomelessnessnow.ca

Hosted by
St. Andrews-Wesley's Homelessness and Mental Health Action Group

Join us
for a
dialogue
towards
ACTION

THE PORTLAND EXPERIENCE

A 70% reduction in chronic homelessness in two years.

*Explore how this and other solutions might work
to solve chronic homelessness in Metro Vancouver.*

Dr. Nancy Hall MODERATOR
Former Mental Health Advocate of BC

Heather Lyons
Homeless Program Manager, City of Portland
Bureau of Housing and Community Development

Ed Blackburn
Deputy Director, Central City Concern
Portland, Oregon

Sponsored by



About the Action Group

The Homelessness and Mental Health Action Group is a volunteer faith-based community group from St. Andrew's-Wesley Church. Our goal is to end homelessness and we believe that "*Everyone needs a place to call home.*"

Our priorities are:

- to take a proactive role in educating the public, business and community leaders, and governments regarding the issues of homelessness and mental health.
- to encourage and foster political will at all three levels of Government to adopt policies that will end homelessness in Vancouver.

Every night, people who are homeless sleep on the steps of our church. However, our Action Group was formed as a result of the challenges presented by a member of our congregation who has schizophrenia and stopped taking his medication. As a result, his ability to function continually decreased and his behaviours became increasingly unmanageable. Many agencies that provide services to the seriously and persistently mentally ill struggled to engage him in appropriate services. His severe impairment resulted in many of these agencies disengaging from him and he eventually became homeless. The church's efforts to assist him to manage his behaviour, especially during worship services, were not successful as we do not have the capacity nor the expertise to address his complicated needs. He left our congregation after limits were set regarding his behaviours and he was last seen in Saskatoon and is still believed to be homeless.

Previous Actions

Our Action Group has worked to educate our congregation and the public about mental illness and homelessness. We concluded that homelessness should be ended and not managed; and we realized that systemic policy changes would need to occur in order to end homelessness.

On May 8th 2007, we held our first public forum "End Homelessness Now: A Dialogue Towards Solutions." As a non partisan group we believe that solutions to end homelessness should be free of morality and ideology and as such we invited a New Democrat, Mike Harcourt, Rafe Mair, former Social Credit cabinet minister and Reverend Dr. Ruth Wright from a faith community as guest speakers at our May forum to begin the dialogue. We selected four people to respond to our guest speakers. They were CeeJai Julian, a formerly homeless Aboriginal woman who used to sleep on the steps of our church, Dr. Richard Vedan, a Professor of Social Work at UBC, Jonathan Bird, Director of Social Involvement from City in Focus, a faith based group and Darrell Burnham, Executive Director at Coast Mental Health. Approximately 700 people attended this event. Music was provided by the Universal Gospel choir and we collected \$700 for the First United Mission on Hastings Street to be used for "housing".

Our Current Situation

The homelessness crisis is not unique to Vancouver. In Calgary, Saskatoon and Victoria citizens and agencies all tell the same story – housing is scarce, unaffordable, and inappropriate or inaccessible. This is especially true for the most vulnerable individuals and families many of whom end up on the street.

The homelessness crisis is a severe public health, social and economic crisis. At the time of this writing there is a Liberal government in B.C., a Conservative government in Alberta and the NDP government in Saskatchewan was recently defeated by the Saskatchewan Party. In addition, there are various parties at the Federal and Municipal levels as homelessness continues to balloon out of control in virtually every province.

The Main Message Of Our Action Group

Our message regarding homelessness is simple: Housing with the appropriate supports is the solution to homelessness. Elected representatives of any political ideology need a plan of action to END homelessness not manage it. Successful plans of action have the following components: 1) Goals that are specific, measurable, achievable and realistic, 2) Timelines with targets regarding the reduction and eventually end of homelessness. To successfully implement these components, leaders need to: count how many people are homeless, develop prevention programs and policies to stop people from becoming homeless, and provide appropriate and accessible medical, mental health and substance abuse services.

About Our Guest Speakers From Portland, OR

Heather Lyons

Heather Lyons is the Homeless Program Manager for the City of Portland, Bureau of Housing and Community Development and oversees (with numerous partners) the ten-year plan to end homelessness for Portland and Multnomah County. She leads a team of six people who are responsible for:

- Local and federal funding for homeless programs with a budget over 10 million dollars.
- Grant applications. To date over 5.6 million dollars in federal funding for community programs has been received.
- Management of a homeless information system for at least 600 users in three counties.



Everyone Needs A Place To Call Home

- Organization of 2 annual events in Portland called “Project Homeless Connect” that engage the larger civic and corporate communities in direct actions to serve and end homelessness.

Prior to this position, Ms. Lyons was a Lead Organizer with the Recovery Association Project. The Recovery Association Project is a grassroots, community-organizing effort that brings together people in recovery from alcoholism and addiction to make changes in related policy and programs.

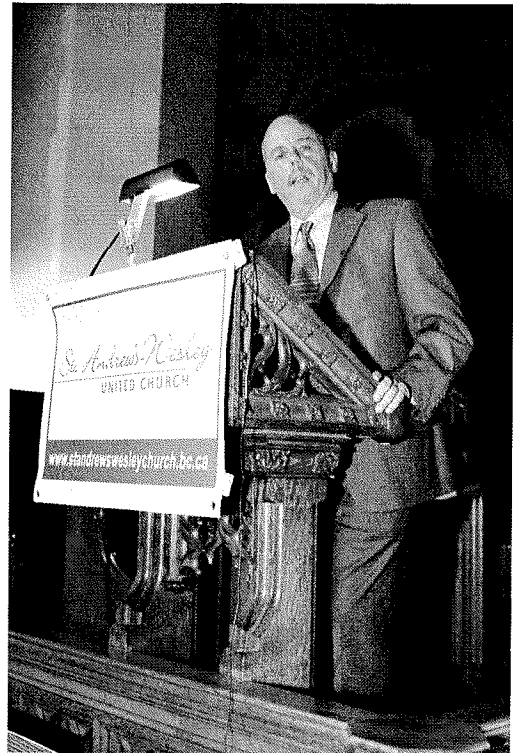
She came to Portland from San Antonio, Texas where she began her career in housing and homelessness as a VISTA volunteer 15 years ago.

Ed Blackburn, M.A.

Ed Blackburn is the Deputy Director of Central City Concern (CCC), an agency in Portland, Oregon whose mission is to provide pathways to self-sufficiency for homeless residents of Portland so that they can recover their lives as or become contributing members of the community. CCC owns or manages 1,300 units of low-income housing. The agency provides medical care, addictions treatment, mental health care, employment and supportive housing services to over 14,000 people each year, including hundreds of veterans.

Mr. Blackburn began at CCC in 1992 as the Director of the Hooper Detoxification Center. In 1997 he became the Director of Health and Addiction Services, and in 2007 moved into his current position. He served as Project Director for a federally funded Recovery Community Support Program grant that was also successful in organizing individuals in recovery in securing close to \$3 million in State, County and City funds to enhance treatment and housing services in the City of Portland.

Prior to Mr. Blackburn’s work at CCC, he served as the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Manager for the City of Portland. In this role he initiated and assisted in the adoption of Community Policing by the Police Bureau, resulting in significant decrease in street prostitution and drug houses in this community. He served as Special Assistant (loaned executive) to the Multnomah County Commission Chair to lead a comprehensive re-design of the County Mental Health System from April 2000-December 2000.



About the Events

Four educational events with our guests from Portland were planned. These were:

1. A luncheon with Vancouver Business Improvement Associations, Geoff Plant, City of Vancouver Commissioner of Project Civil City, and the Vancouver Police Department.
2. A free public forum in the evening
3. A meeting for agencies who provide services to the homeless.
4. A showing of the film “Finding Normal” for consumers and service providers

We are thankful to our sponsors:

- BC Government Employees Union
- City in Focus
- City of Vancouver (Drug Policy Program)
- City of Vancouver (Civil City Program)
- Public Health Association of British Columbia
- Vancouver Foundation

We are also grateful for the in-kind donations and other support provided by:

Chris Freimond Curt Allison Gordon Keast James Wong Jo-Anne Emery
Blitzcinema Entertainment Business in Vancouver Sharp’s Audio Visual
CBC Radio/TV City TV CKNW CTV Diamond Parking
First Baptist Church Global TV ICTV Market Wire Omni TV Aline LaFlamme
Rush Graphics 24 Hours Shaw TV Sheraton Wall Centre Wesley Place
Vancouver Courier Vancouver Men’s Chorus Vancouver Sun Lindsay Mearns

In conjunction with the financial and in-kind donations, the planning committee and its volunteer members gratefully received substantial additional volunteer support from members of the St. Andrew’s-Wesley congregation for numerous tasks.

A Special Thank You for the in-kind donations from:

Nancy Hall - Moderator
Ed Blackburn - Guest Speaker
Heather Lyons - Guest Speaker
Geoff Plant - City of Vancouver Welcome

THE EVENTS

Thursday November 15, 2007, Noon to 3 p.m.

Luncheon - Combined Vancouver Business Improvement Associations, Project Civil City of the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department

This event was held at the Chinatown Merchants Association where City of Vancouver Commissioner Geoff Plant presented an overview of the latest report from Project Civil City. This was followed by brief presentations by Mr. Blackburn and Ms. Lyons. Business leaders discussed Portland's business community's involvement in ending homelessness. One example of this involvement is the Portland Citizens Commission, a key component to Portland's 10 year plan to end homelessness. Additional topics of discussion included direct service delivery models that involve the business community such as partnerships in employment programs, successful new models of funding and service delivery such as an assertive community treatment team that is funded by the Portland Police Bureau. A collaborative working model is used by the treatment team to identify those who are homeless, have a mental illness and/or addictions and are also involved in chronic petty crime. Housing and appropriate supports are then provided through one of the array of housing options offered by the Housing First program of Central City Concern. These services are provided instead of incarceration.

The Public Evening Forum Thursday November 15, 2007 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m

On a very rainy Vancouver night over 800 people attended this forum held in the sacred space of the Sanctuary of St Andrew's-Wesley Church. A copy of the program is included.

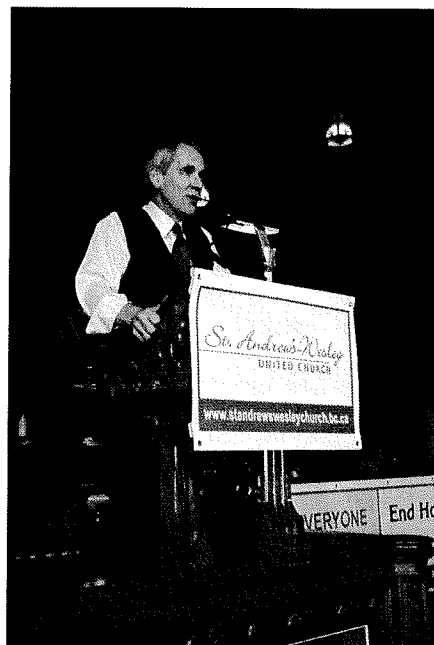
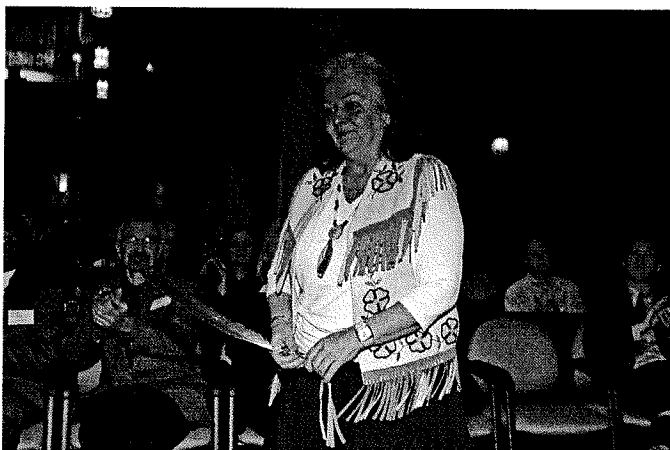
Highlights:

- Music provided by the Vancouver Men's Chorus.

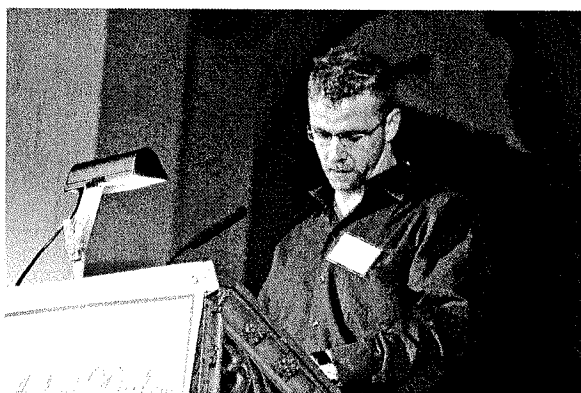


Everyone Needs A Place To Call Home

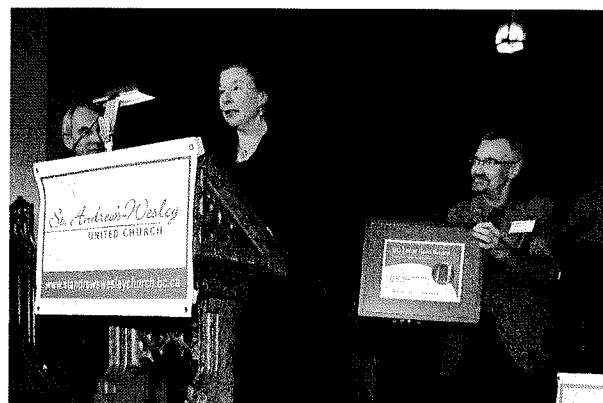
- Greetings by Reverend Paterson, minister, St. Andrew's- Wesley Church.



- An Aboriginal blessing by Aline LaFlamme.
- Greetings from the City of Vancouver by Commissioner Geoff Plant.
- A story of recovery from Ross Taylor, a member of our Action Group and a formerly "hidden" homeless person.



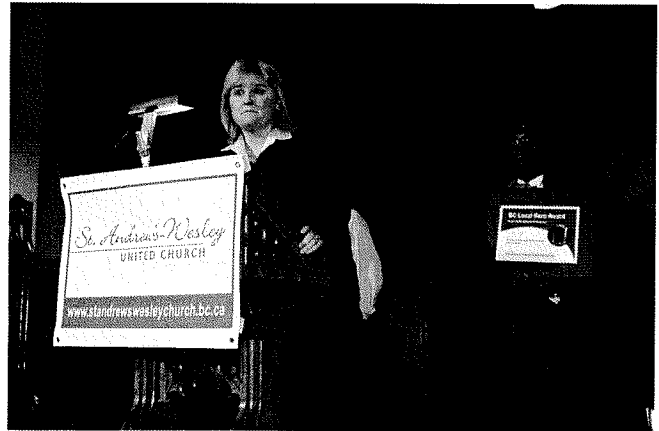
- Presentation of two Local Hero Awards in recognition of those who work tirelessly to provide housing and support services to the homeless. Judy Graves accepted on behalf of Vancouver Homeless Outreach Program and its Partners.

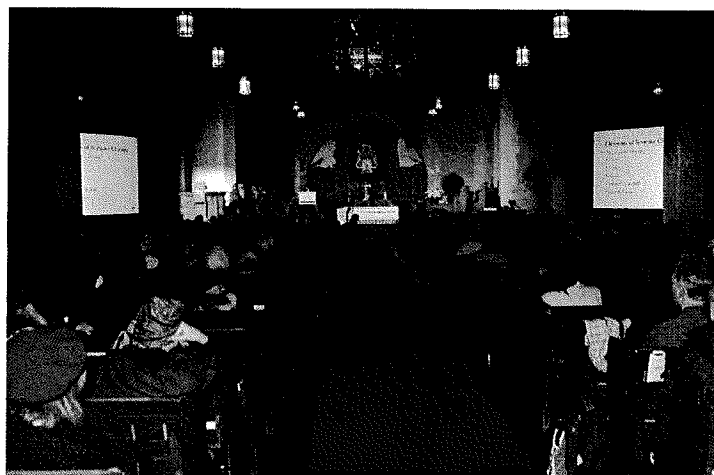


Everyone Needs A Place To Call Home

Karen Stone, Executive Director, accepted on behalf of the BC Non Profit Housing Association and its members.

- “Street Stories” by Vancouver artist Lindsay Mearns. Photographs featuring the stories of homeless people.
- Information tables provided by Kettle Friendship Society and First United Church Mission.
- A collection of \$1300 for First United Church Mission on Hastings Street to be used for “housing.”
- Presentation by Heather Lyons, Homeless Program Manager for the City of Portland, OR, Bureau of Housing and Community Development. Ms. Lyon’s powerpoint presentation is available on our website www.endhomelessnessnow.ca.
- Presentation by Ed Blackburn, M.A. Deputy Director of Central City Concern, a housing provider agency in Portland, OR. Mr. Blackburn’s powerpoint presentation is available on our website www.endhomelessnessnow.ca.





Moderator, Nancy Hall, PhD

The Service Providers Meeting Friday November 16, 2007 10 a.m. to Noon

One of our sponsors, City in Focus, connected us with members of First Baptist Church (our neighbour) who wished to support our efforts. This meeting was held in their church and over fifty service provider personnel attended this event. Represented agencies included four municipalities, two provincial ministries, Simon Fraser University and the Vancouver Foundation. This event allowed for a more detailed discussion about everyday problem solving strategies in the 10 year plan to end homelessness. Volunteers from First Baptist church and St. Andrew's-Wesley provided support for this meeting.

A Showing of the film “Finding Normal” Friday November 16, 2007, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

In this film, Brian Lindstrom features a peer mentor program that is coupled with the regular withdrawal management program offered by Central City Concern where Mr. Blackburn is Deputy Director. The agency strongly advocates for empowerment and recovery of individuals and families. The implementation of the peer mentor program resulted in an 85% increase in treatment completion compared to 51% with professional treatment alone. In other words, the recidivism decreased significantly from 49% to 15% for those completing substance abuse treatment and who also had a peer mentor. Twenty-five people including volunteers, consumers and staff attended this event. Additional information about the film and Brian Lindstrom can be found at <http://www.brianlindstromfilms.com>

Media

The following media provided coverage of our events:

1. The Vancouver Courier
2. CKNW, The Christy Clark Show
3. CBC Radio 1 Early Edition Show
4. BCTV Evening News Nov 15 Mini documentary
5. Fairchild TV
6. Shaw TV
7. The Standard on Omni TV.
8. Meeting with the editorial board of the Vancouver Sun which plans to continue its series on homelessness.

Comments from public forum attendees:

“Thanks to the organizers - really well done”

“You are providing a needed forum to bring people together to learn and to work for solutions.”

“We need elected officials who have the will to serve the people - not corporations and multinationals.”

“It was amazing to hear the stories from other cities. The “it was not invented here” attitude in Vancouver is the first impediment we must lose.”

“Allow more time for questions next time.”

“More time for questions would be beneficial.”

“Entertainment was great but I felt the speakers were too rushed.”

“Disappointed with the focus on getting other people to fix the problem. What can individuals do?”

Everyone Needs A Place To Call Home

“Well done, a bit too fast, a lot of content in a little time.”

“I am not sure what Portland is doing that we are not doing. Usually US examples are not that helpful.”

“Ed Blackburn echoed what I believe is necessary to end homelessness. Which are partnerships with community groups working together and pooling information etc.”

“Reducing homelessness by 50% by 2010 is not enough!”

“Congratulations for having a wonderful forum tonight. My idea is to get very wealthy influential people together to get the snowball rolling down the hill and getting the movement bigger and bigger.”

“Thanks to the organizers really well done.”

“Please design housing that is similar to the Gage Residence at UBC with common kitchen living areas.”

“Nancy is charming and well meaning but her voice dropped off towards the end of her sentences.”

“Excellent evening. Encouraging seeing so many people coming out.”

“Excellent.”

“Would like a picture of the homeless in Vancouver? How many supportive housing? What is happening?”

“A most informative presentation pressing useful options for reducing homelessness.”

“I hear a class action law suit if the promises are not kept in relation to bringing the Olympics to Vancouver. Homes not Games.”

“We need elected officials who have the will to serve the people.”

“Geoff Plant is wasting my tax money, which I want spent on housing not on more studies that have already been done.”

“Thank you for having this forum. It was great! It gives me hope that people can get together and help each other.”

“We must make sure that people in Vancouver do not lose their rental apartments because they are unable to pay the high rents.”

“Very well organized. Where to from here?”

“Nice that Adrienne Carr came out to the meeting. “

Everyone Needs A Place To Call Home

“A splendid organized start. The long term emphasis is central and all are interested in working together.”

“Lobby for a “budget” from government for a solution.”

“Thank you for putting this event together.”

“There have to be temporary homeless solutions. Each person needs “tools” to move on as a contributing member of society.”

“Well done. Substantial presentations. Concrete options and strategies. Second event I have attended and now I need to step in and help. Loved the choir but three songs would have been plenty! Have you considered having sign up sheets to recruit committee members?”

“Enjoyed very much.”

“For the money put in, we should just build low cost housing.”

“Keep the meetings up.”

“Are all church denominations in Vancouver talking about these issues? Thank you.”

“It was amazing to hear the stories from other cities.”

Lessons Learned from Portland Presenters

Ms. Lyons and Mr. Blackburn recognize that there are different social, political and economic factors in Vancouver. Both indicated that the purpose of their visit was not to “fix” Vancouver’s homelessness problems but to share their successes and challenges with their 10 year plan to end homelessness in Portland. They expressed tremendous gratitude for the opportunity to do so.

Vital Components For Success

1. ***A community leadership group*** such as a citizens commission which would be responsible for the implementation of the plan.
2. ***A clear plan with timelines and targets*** that focuses specifically on the chronically homeless. An accountability structure that includes reporting to the citizen’s commission is also needed.
3. ***A paradigm shift in problem solving*** that would involve a move away from problem solving based solely on the ideology of politicians or those providing services, to one based on empowerment of those being served and thinking outside of the box.
4. ***An array of housing options.*** Seventy-five percent of the housing options of Central City Concern are abstinence based, making it possible for people to move from treatment into supportive housing and get on with their lives. The remaining twenty-five percent of the housing is for those still struggling with substance use and/or mental health issues.

5. ***Support for Families.*** Portland recognized that homelessness has to be prevented and that many on the street are from the foster care system. A network of housing and supports for families in need and families at risk of child apprehension has been developed.
6. ***Different Assertive Community Treatment Teams.*** Service providers need to have an array of services that can best meet the needs of the chronically homeless population. In addition to the traditional professionals such as psychiatric nurses and social workers, peer case managers and housing specialists are also needed. A collaborative working model as well as alternative models need to be utilized. For example, the Portland Business Association funds one treatment team and in turn hires formerly homeless people who successfully complete their treatment program. Many of these individuals then go on to live independent lives.
7. ***Prevention policies and programs.*** An essential part of any plan to end homelessness is the prevention of homelessness. These prevention programs target populations such as youth leaving foster care and those that are discharged from jails and hospitals. Temporary rent assistance to preserve housing tenancy for those laid off or who become ill and have no benefits is a good prevention strategy.
8. ***Support for Research.*** Successful pilot projects or components thereof need to be funded on a long term basis. The successful assertive community treatment team collaboration between Central City Concern and the Portland Police department began as a pilot project.

Challenges for Vancouver compared to the Portland Model

1. Focus

Currently, there is no focus to address the homelessness crisis. One of the three goals of Project Civil City is to reduce homelessness by 50% by 2010. During the week of our four events, Commissioner Geoff Plant presented a baseline of 2000 homeless people living on the streets of Vancouver. However, it our understanding that this figure of 2000 people living on the streets is an estimate based upon three year old data and reconnaissance by Judy Graves. The City needs to develop a more comprehensive project management approach to this problem. In addition, combining the goal of reducing homelessness with ending aggressive panhandling and reducing the street drug scene creates significant conflict in the community. Many see these foci as unfairly targeting the poor, mentally ill and addicted without providing the needed treatment services. This is especially for many people who know that the costs of policing and jails are by nature higher than those of providing treatment and housing. We learned that Portland was very effective in reducing civil disorder when they focused on the chronically homeless first.

Recommendations:

We suggest that the Chair of our Action Group and Reverend Paterson meet with the Mayor and Commissioner Plant to urge them to do the following:

- To focus Project Civil City on the uniting goal of ending homelessness. We believe many disparate groups can come together on this theme whereas Project Civil City divides.

- To focus on servicing the chronically homeless first. These are the most vulnerable who have been homeless for more than one year and have significant mental health and addiction issues.
- To urge them to implement an annual count that provides valid information on the number and the needs of the chronically homeless in the City. We could mobilize members of the faith community to assist with the count.

2. Service gaps

The current housing initiative by the City of Vancouver and BC Housing is a huge step towards providing much needed supportive housing and street outreach. However, what remains unclear is the process for deciding who will benefit from this initiative.

Our concerns:

- Who will ensure that the chronically homeless will be focused on first? There doesn't appear to be a plan for the 2000 homeless people who currently live on the streets as reported by Project Civil City.
- Our streets are being used as toilets which is a public health crisis. An immediate solution needs to be created.
- People at all of our meetings asked about how the current Cold Weather strategy could be extended. It offends many to think of 2000 people on the street with no support or shelter.
- Shelters are at their capacity. We heard from shelter workers at our forum that they are being asked daily to take in people beyond the shelter's capacity. We also learned that shelter availability is not coordinated and providers have to call around to find available mats. Surely this could be automated by the City. However, simply creating more shelter mats is not the answer. We wonder where is the plan to create housing for all?
- We understand that one third of the 1200 new units announced by BC Housing are for the homeless and the rest are for low income people at risk of becoming homeless. However, if 2000 people are currently on the street and 600 new units are being constructed, who is looking out for the other 1000-1200 people?
- There is limited detoxification treatment capacity in Vancouver. However, we learned from housing providers that active drug abuse is the most common factor in relation to loss of tenancy. Wait lists for addiction and mental health treatment are unacceptably long. There is no seamless provision or coordination of these services. Where is the plan that matches the level of service to the level of need? We were disappointed that Vancouver Coastal Health Addiction managers were unable to attend this meeting.
- The Aboriginal communities have not been fully engaged but account for almost 30% of the homeless population. What is the specific strategy to address their needs?
- Although much is being done regarding supportive housing there is no systematic way through which those who have been successful in coming out of homelessness and are in recovery can be empowered to be part of the solution. Best practice indicates that housing, support services, treatment and employment programs must work together for optimum results.

Everyone Needs A Place To Call Home

- We learned of creative strategies employed by Central City Concern to involve formerly homeless people in social enterprise. At least two of our BIA guests indicated their willingness to partner with housing providers. Where is the leadership for this to happen in Vancouver?

Our Action Group's questions to the Mayor and Commissioner Plant are:

- Who will be responsible for the over 2000 homeless people on the street this winter?
- What emergency management strategies are in place and how can the faith community be of assistance?
- Will the City have additional actions beyond the current focus on creating 1200 units as indicated in the most recent City of Vancouver/BC Housing announcement? Who will be responsible and accountable for the plan regarding the additional street homeless named in the Project Civil City report to the City Council in November 2007?
- How can more meaningful levels of addiction support be created? Can the City approach Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and indicate that faith communities are concerned about inadequate supports?
- How can the Aboriginal community be supported to create a substantial response to the current street homeless situation?
- Is there a plan by the City and its partners to ensure that meaningful work for people leaving the street is part of the response to homelessness?

3. Vacancy rate and construction costs

In 2005, when Portland began to implement its 10 year plan, their vacancy rate was 7%.

Currently, this vacancy rate has dropped. Vancouver's vacancy rate is less than 1%.

However, creative solutions by all three levels of government and the private sector are possible. For example, Portland, through its "Fresh Start" program, provides scattered site housing to street homeless with private landlords and have developed an "insurance pool" to cover any damage made by a tenant. Support services are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week through a combination of regular and on-call staffing. Other options include tax incentives and using a percentage of market housing to house those at risk rather than have developers merely "contribute" to the community.

We believe that the construction and development community in Vancouver including architects and designers should be approached to do their best for the City and our most vulnerable residents. Everyone we asked to help with hosting our 4 events responded positively. We wonder why the City doesn't take the lead in approaching the construction and development community to develop and implement creative solutions to this crisis?

We suggest that the Chair of our Action Group and Reverend Paterson ask the Mayor and Commissioner Plant:

- How the City could develop a "Fresh Start" support program for the hard to house through private landlords as used in Portland and Calgary. Currently, no one is responsible for generating relationships to assist private landlords to be part of the solution.

- How the construction and development community in Vancouver can be involved as part of the solution to provide housing to meet the needs of the homeless.

4. Isolation of the Faith Communities in Vancouver

Many individuals from different faith communities attended our events and wanted to work across differences towards the common goal of ending homelessness. This an opportunity for discussion toward creating a response to the human suffering and need in our midst.

We suggest that the Chair of our Action Group and Reverend Paterson convene a round table discussion with the various faith communities in Vancouver. We know that such a collaboration would have to be specific, so we suggest our group canvass the different connections we have made to determine the possibilities for a shared future.

HOPE

As we planned our four events, we discovered that many people in Vancouver see homelessness as the most pressing social, economic and public health problem that the City faces today. There is a high degree of interest and many are eager to be a part of sustainable actions to end homelessness. We need to build on this momentum for change.

We are very encouraged by the new announcements by BC Housing and the City of Vancouver to build 1200 units of supported housing. We hope that the City and its partners view these recent announcements as a beginning response to the homelessness crisis and that it is not their complete response to this issue.

We are very encouraged with the recent announcement as reported by the Vancouver Sun, that a homeless count will occur in March 2008 throughout Metro Vancouver and that a greater effort will be made to engage youth and Aboriginal Communities. We are hopeful that this count will result in targeted actions to reduce and end homelessness.

The American 10 year plan model to end homelessness works and variations of this model have been implemented in over 300 cities in the USA and Canada. So why wouldn't we use it? Calgary has adopted a 10 year plan, is well on its way to developing an action plan to end homelessness, and is expected to announce its action plan in early 2008.

The four events with our guests from Portland allowed us to establish a number of bridges with various faith communities. In fact, Mr. Blackburn recalled that the early efforts to end homelessness in Portland were guided by the coming together of the faith communities. As we strengthen these connections, we will continue to strive to hold civic, provincial and federal leadership to account. We will continue to ask for a specific plan of action to end homelessness that is based upon need.

Advent is upon us and we are reminded of the phrase: "No room at the Inn."
Our faith compels us to seek justice for the most vulnerable in our City.
We can do more - and we will.