



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Centre for Community Engaged Learning

YOUR ROOF, YOUR RIGHTS

WORKING TOWARDS STUDENT HOUSING JUSTICE



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



DIVERSITY WELCOME



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CCEL**

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**CONNECT
WITH CCEL!**



CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING



We connect students with faculty, community organizations, and other students who are passionate about acting on social and environmental issues that impact society today.



COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

1. Challenge the concept, not the person
2. Step forward, step back
3. Open-mind and curiosity
4. Active listening
5. Respect, compassion, & safety



Who is in the space?



VANCOUVER TENANTS UNION

Organization committed to educating renters on their rights and standing up to landlords and developers who persistently compromise people's security and livelihood.



MIGRANT STUDENTS UNITED

Part of the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, engaging in campaigns and direct actions aimed at addressing systemic barriers and injustices faced by migrants. Demanding status for all.

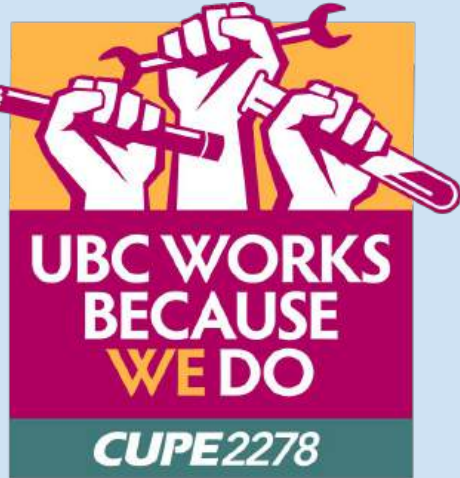


SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE

A resource group with organizing focus on Harm Reduction, Housing Justice, and Palestinian Liberation through a survivor-centric, harm reduction, radical, feminist, decolonial, anti-oppression framework



Unionize Work Learns (CUPE 2278)



The Committee to Organize UBC is a student-led campaign to unionize Work Learn employees at UBC. We want all Work Learn employees to be paid a living wage and to have the protection of a collective agreement.

Vancouver Tenants Union



Housing is a human right.

***Everyone deserves to live with
dignity in a safe, secure, clean,
affordable and accessible home.***

We reject the speculative market.

***We reject that housing can or should
be seen as a 'commodity' or an
avenue to make money.***



Resources for TENANTS

Keep Your Landlord In Check
Eviction Self-Defence Handbook

... more [here](#)

Resources for ORGANIZERS

We provide direct support for building
organizers.

- Workshops: KYLIC, ESDH
- Organizing 101, 102, 103

... more [here](#)

Currently 4 active local chapters



Vancouver Tenants Union



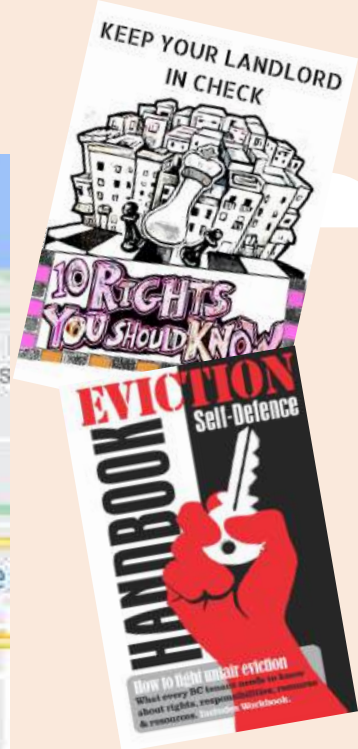
Resources for TENANTS

Housing

*Everyone
dignity in
affordable*

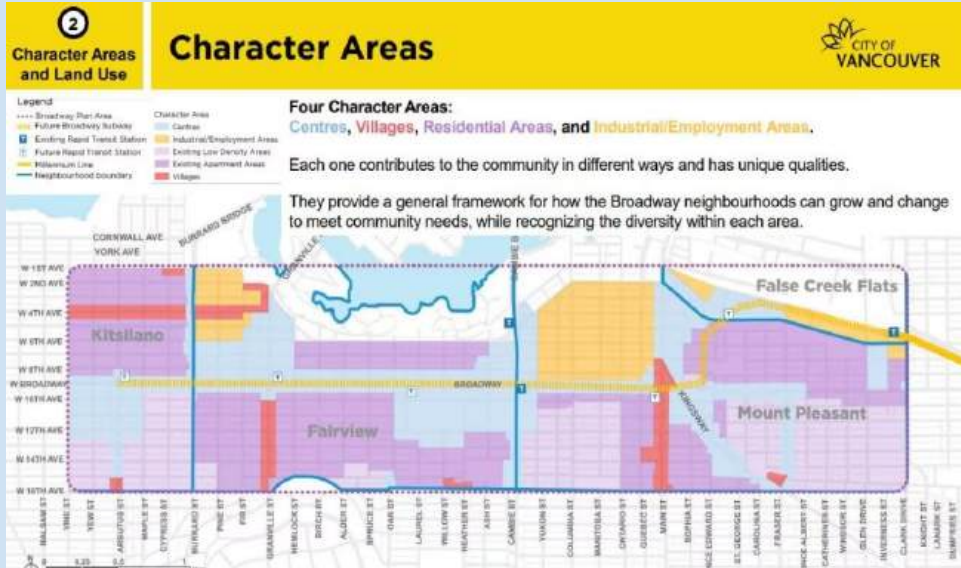
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*We reject th
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The Broadway Plan as Violent Dispossession

Area Plan to redevelop the area around the Broadway SkyTrain expansion into a “second downtown”



“At face value, transit-oriented development has many exciting possibilities, but in the hands of real estate interests it is a weapon against poor and working-class communities across the Lower Mainland.”

Despite the plan alleging over and over again that tenants will be protected, the Vancouver Tenants Union found that these protections were often contradictory and vague: They proposed a “Renters’ Plan” for the city to adopt instead to concretely protect themselves.



VTU Fairview

Social! G: @vtu_fairview

Worried about the Broadway Plan rezonings in Fairview?
Come talk with your fellow tenants about it!



**Granville Park
(Pine & 14th)**

**March 31st
2-6PM**

Come enjoy some free coffee and donuts and
learn what you can do about tenant
displacement in your neighbourhood

ALL ARE WELCOME

**KEEP FAIRVIEW
FAIR FOR RENTERS**

Vancouver
Tenants
Union



A Housing Crisis, not an immigration crisis!

There are racist narratives being spread around the on-going housing crisis and conflating the issue with migrants, especially blaming international students!



Scapegoating migrants and blaming them for socio-economic issues in a country has been a long time false and racist rhetoric used by governments to cover up the systematic failures of capitalism.



International students renting in Canada often experience all kinds of abuse when trying to find housing. This abuse includes price gouging, invasion of privacy, sexual harassment, assault, exploitation and illegally low living standards.

Don't Blame International Students. The Housing Crisis Is Our Problem

They've been used as scapegoats. And it distracts from finding meaningful solutions.



Stop the Sweeps: Donate / Organize



CRAB Park Update: In the past few days, the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Park Board have been destroying the CRAB Park Tent City. Displacing people from their homes.



An Open Letter in Support of the CRAB Park Tent City

*signatures as of 9am March 22nd

x=ma0k*ayam, skwxw7mesh & sailiwotai lands: This letter is in support of the CRAB Park Tent City and in opposition to the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Park Board's plans to bring the CRAB Park Tent City to an end using force and deception.

If the City of Vancouver goes forward with their plans, the CRAB Park Tent City in its current form will be destroyed. It will be replaced by a city and non-profit managed tent city in which no new residents will be allowed in to live. Instead, Park Rangers, backed by the VPD, will determine who is allowed to live in the tent city based on who they assert is currently living there [Appendix A].

This level of control and surveillance will restrict new and returning residents from finding a safe home in CRAB Park, ultimately pushing everyone out. This is also why all structures in the current tent city are being destroyed as part of this "cleanup" – to push people out.

And while the City is adamant "this is not a decampment", there are emails dated July 4, 2023 that the City, Park Board and Province have been coordinating on "resolving CRAB Park" [Appendix B] for months.

This is a decampment. People's homes and communal spaces are being destroyed. This is why the First Nations Leadership Council also opposes the Parks Boards plans saying there are "nothing other than a forced eviction." And all of this is occurring while the CRAB Park residents have a case before the BC Human Rights Tribunal about the Park Board's failure to provide "basic survival services."

The City is citing "serious health and safety concerns" to justify the destruction of the homes of unhoused people. Despite this, Vancouver Coastal Health has confirmed that there is no Public Health Order calling for this "cleanup" [Appendix C]. Health and safety in tent cities is complex. While residents agree and want the tent city to be healthier and safer – and put in hours of work to make this happen – destroying their homes will make people less safe and less healthy.

Residents should be given the cleaning and maintenance materials they are asking for so they can clean their community safely and respectfully instead of having to face this assault on their homes.

We believe that the City of Vancouver is calling its plan – a "cleanup" as it creates an easy and sympathetic narrative to disguise what will be a slow, coercive and many week long decampment. They are worried about public relations as opposed to respecting the rights of unhoused people.

A key recommendation from the Federal Housing Advocate's recently released report Upholding Dignity and Human Rights is that: **"People living in encampments must play a leading role in decision-making processes that affect them."**

The residents of CRAB Park have not played a leading role in the decision making process around this "cleanup".

By the end of day Sunday, March 24, all residents must be out of the "Designated Area" so city crews can finish destroying every home there. These are the same crews who are actively in charge of street sweeps across so-called Vancouver.

If they had; there would be no mass eviction of residents from the Tent City; no structures would be destroyed; residents would be paid as peers to do the cleanup themselves; a detailed plan of the "cleanup" would have been given to residents and signed by all parties (an idea proposed by residents, to which the Park Board responded "we disagree"). All of this and more of the resident's wishes for this "cleanup" can be found on pages 34 through 47 of the City's "Confirmed Plan" document [Appendix D].

It is also important to note that the Confirmed Plan states that if a resident refuses to leave their home in the CRAB Park Tent City "then they may need to be escorted out of the designated area by VPD." Police power is not required for cleaning. It is required to displace people by force from their homes when they are unwilling to leave. That is a decampment.

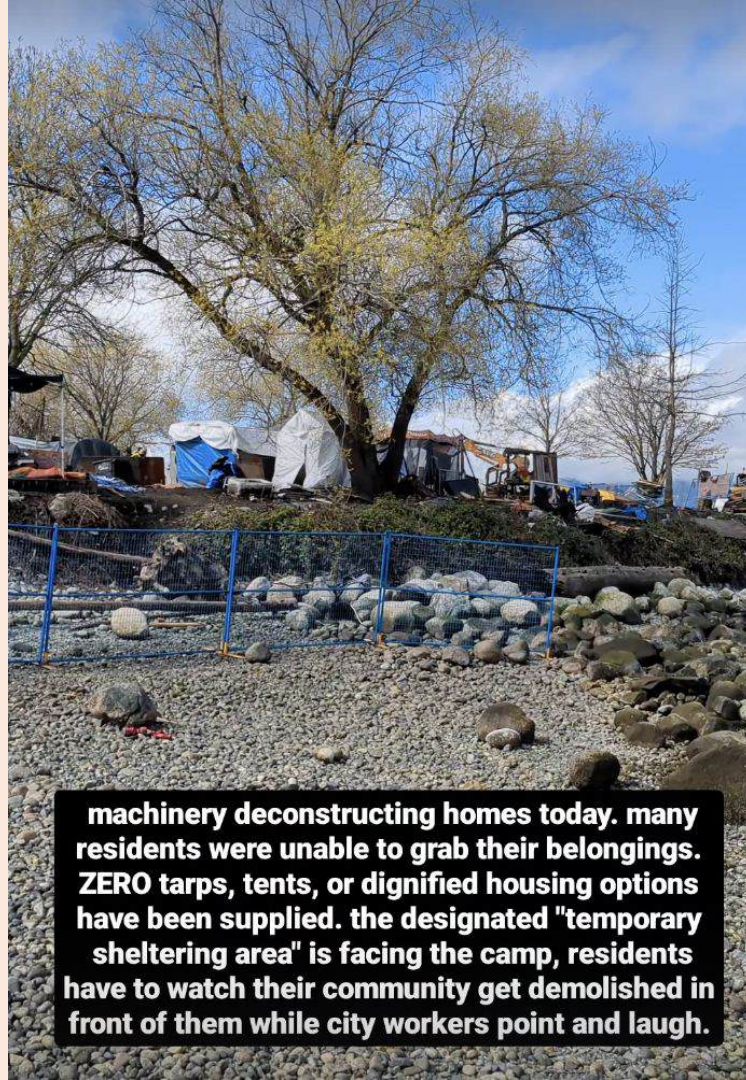
We call for the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Park Board to:

1. **Halt the decampment;**
2. **Allow residents to lead and orchestrate a cleanup themselves;**
3. **To have a written plan that will be signed by residents;**
4. **Not force anyone to move from their homes in CRAB Park. This means no VPD;**
5. **Not force people to put their belongings in storage;**
6. **To destroy no structures in CRAB Park;**
7. **To allow unhoused people seeking a safe place to setup a home to stay in the CRAB Park Tent City, regardless of whether they are currently living there or not.**

We know that the April 5th 2023 decampment of the Hastings Tent City cost at least \$548,000.

While it is unknown how much the destruction of the CRAB Park Tent City will cost, it is our belief that whatever money is being spent on destroying a community would be far better spent on helping build community.

Signed]



machinery deconstructing homes today. many residents were unable to grab their belongings. ZERO tarps, tents, or dignified housing options have been supplied. the designated "temporary sheltering area" is facing the camp, residents have to watch their community get demolished in front of them while city workers point and laugh.



CRAB PARK MUTUAL AID

What is mutual aid?

Solidarity NOT Charity

- Coming together as autonomous communities supporting one another.
- Recommended Reading:
 - Mutual Aid, Dean Spade
 -

Needs

- Hot Water
- Paper Towel
- Snacks
- Hot Coffee
- Cigarettes
- Medicines (including Tylenol, tobacco, sage etc.)
- Single-serving Greek Yogurt (with cherry, or other fruit)
 - Oatmeal
 - Rain Ponchos
- Bulk Socks (multiple sizes)
- Hand/Foot/Body Warmers
- Naloxone / Harm Reduction Supplies
 - Paper Plates and Bowls



DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED ON CAMPUS ON THE 2ND FLOOR AMS NEST - RESOURCE LOUNGE, SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE OFFICE (outside the door, look for donation box)

FOLLOW(instagram)/SEARCH for more info: Sister Sage, Defund604 Network, Stop The Sweeps Coalition, Community Canteen





JEOPARDY

GET INTO TEAMS OF 6!



HOUSING LIBRARY



GUIDING QUESTIONS

Understanding Our Experiences

- How has the rental market changed over time, and what implications does this have for renters? For first time renters?
- What factors have influenced your perception of rental costs? Is it what you expected living in Vancouver? How does it compare to your view growing up?
- When it comes to stable housing, what challenges have the greatest impact on you?
- How do you think housing challenges have intersected with broader social issues; poverty, education, and healthcare?
- What does housing security mean to you? How does it impact your life?

Pathways to Advocacy - MSU

- Have you been involved in advocating for better housing conditions for students? What barriers do you face?
- Do you think student organizations provide enough support for housing issues, and what additional support do you think is necessary?
- What strategies can student organizers use to raise awareness about housing issues and mobilize their peers to take action?



SHAREBACK

- *What points resonated with you the most?*
- *What was the most surprising?*
- *What common experiences surrounding student access to housing did you notice?*
- *What opportunities or areas for action surfaced through your conversations today?*

**Thank you to everyone
for attending today's
event!**



Get involved with CCEL!

Grants

Get up to \$10,000 to create a project that addresses environmental and social issues in BC!

Social Impact Labs

Students work with each other, local community partners, and faculty to develop ideas and solutions through actionable projects that tackle social and environmental issues using a systems thinking and collective impact approach

Student Directed Seminars

Provides upper-year undergraduate students the opportunity to deliver their own 3-credit seminar class with a small group of peers on a topic not currently offered at UBC Vancouver

Community Action Days

Short-term projects with schools and nonprofit organizations across Metro Vancouver that address social and environmental issues



Interested in partnering with us? Here is where to find us!



CCEL Linktree:

<https://linktr.ee/CCEL>

CCEL Email:

community.learning@ubc.ca

Follow us on social media for events, updates, workshops and many more!