

METRO HOMELESSNESS UP 37%

STREET-CORNER "STANDS" CALL FOR PERMANENT SOCIAL HOUSING

BC housing advocates are preparing to mount Provincial "STANDs for HOUSING" on May 3, 2008. More than 60 social justice groups in towns and cities around the province have their blue banners and scarves at the ready.

They want city and senior governments to work together for construction of thousands of new permanent social housing units, as was done for fifty years until the 1990s. They say non-profit and co-op housing for low- and moderate-income singles and families, are the major gap in present government spending on homelessness.

Permanent social housing is what's needed by 'graduates' of transitional and supportive housing programs, who presently face nearly-zero vacancy rates for rental housing they can afford. Permanent non-profit and co-op housing would dramatically slow the increasing homelessness in Vancouver and the metro region.

Cities and senior governments formerly co-operated to build tens of thousands of permanent social housing units for low- and moderate-income singles and families-every year. BC and Canada cancelled those programs, 1993 to 2001. The resulting cascade of displacements is the main cause of homelessness.

STANDers will be paying respects to hundreds of dead and dying homeless women, men, and children- victims of legislated poverty and government neglect.

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