October 2015 Newsletter

Peninsula Homeless to Housing Task Force

Our Mission is to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness on the South Surrey White Rock Peninsula to live in safe and appropriate housing

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 29th at 9:45am First United Church, White Rock.
Please circulate to contacts.

Please join us for the PH2H
All-Candidates Forum on Housing and Homelessness
Tuesday, October 6th, 7pm – 9pm
Grace Point Church
3487 King George Boulevard, Surrey

There is a lot to say about housing and the potential role played by the federal government of Canada. Last month we provided information on what the four national parties were putting forth on housing and homelessness, from their election web sites information. This month's our newsletter provides information on what a selection of consumer, industry groups, journalists and community experts are saying.

There was a year-long investigative media project by the *Tyee Solutions Society*, with selections from five years of earlier reporting. The resources to help make Canada a country where everyone can afford a safe, secure, and suitable place to live are reported here: http://www.thehousingfix.ca/

The *Homeless Hub* is an information centre that operates out of York University in Toronto. It is a cross-Canada resource and attempts to be a central depository of homeless related research and tools. They are just published and election guide. If you are attending all-candidates meetings, or writing letters to the editor or posting information on blogs or commenting on-line to news reports – there is useful information in this election guide for you to use. www.homelesshub.ca/ElectionGuide2015

Released on September 10, the Rental Housing Index breaks down rental housing statistics by riding and highlights the situation renters face, especially in urban areas. For example, more than 22 per cent of renter households in the Toronto pay more than 50 per cent of their income on rent; in Greater Vancouver, it's 24 per cent.

The *Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada* launched votecoophousing.ca which among things showcases events coast-to-coast to raise the profile of housing.

The *Canadian Housing Renewal Association* (CHRA), a key participant in the Vote Housing For All Network, has developed its compelling bilingual "housing for all" video, and will soon unveil a series of election podcasts about housing. CHRA has also conducted a series of roundtables across the country -- a marked departure from the usual all-candidates format. Instead, each party's local candidates are invited to meet with local housing leaders to discuss issues around affordable housing development and so on. Those candidates who win will take to Ottawa their newfound interest in, connection to and knowledge about local, affordable housing. Those candidates who don't win will surely be community leaders with a better understanding of the current housing crisis.

If you have additional information to share we will update and post on our website at www.ph2htaskforce.org

In the News
A disturbing story from south of the border in Los Angles, dramatically highlighting the impact that rising rents have on people who are at-risk of homelessness (paying more than 50% of income for unsuitable housing) – estimated at 65,000 households in Metro Vancouver. Judy Graves, retired Homeless Advocate, said: "Canada tends to follow the US by about 10 years. This is what Canadian cities will be grappling with over the next decade."
http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/09/23/us/los-angeles-plans-100-million-effort-to-end-homelessness.html

In Calgary Alberta, reportedly for the first time in history, there will be a federal election poll in a shelter. Workers there have helped to register 450 people to vote on October 19. In preparation for Election Day they also held a mock election where instead of selecting a party or a candidate, homeless voters were asked to choose their biggest issue out of four choices: minimum income, affordable housing, harm reduction and mental health.

Support Challenge for PH2H – A local congregation has extended a challenge to the community to make a donation to PH2H for its modest operating budget of $5,000. Donations will be matched up to $2,500 for up to 4 years. Cheques would be made out to Sources (fund manager) for PH2H.

Please circulate our newsletter to your congregations and members. Send feedback/ news items to: *ph2htaskforce@gmail.com*