

Appendix C
Practicing Democracy: A Legislative Theatre Project
Status of Recommendations

ID	Group	Recommendations	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	Comments
1	Housing	Provide shelter options for those who need to be housed separately (e.g. Women), and for those who would benefit from mixed housing (e.g. Couples and families)	X	X		X			There are a number of shelters and housing that provide housing to specific clientele, including women, youth and aboriginals in Vancouver. In general, the City has favoured integrated housing that mixes incomes and avoids segregating one group from another while recognizing that some segregation is appropriate e.g. family housing may include some non-family households but families need to dominate if a family environment is to be sustained. There are 300 non-market housing projects in the City (21,000 units) that include integrated housing as well as housing restricted to specific groups.
2	Housing	Community housing	X	X					The City has been a strong supporter of co-operative housing and 100 of the 300 non-market housing projects in the City are co-operatives. Co-housing could be considered if senior government funding available.
3	Housing	Provide Co-ed shelters that permit couples to stay together; splitting couples up makes each individual more vulnerable		X		X			A draft Homeless Action Plan will be coming to Council with a recommendation that it be circulated for public input. It will address the role and need for shelters in the City, including identifying gaps.
4	Housing	Create City-funded women's shelters to replace provincially funded centres recently de-funded	X	X		X			The City has supported increasing the supply of shelter services for women, e.g. providing a capital grant to the Salvation Army's Belkin House, and making available a City building for a temporary winter shelter for women. No shelters have been closed due to provincial funding cut-backs, but if they were, the City would probably not be able to replace the funding as shelters are very expensive to operate.

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5	Housing	Provide housing specifically for pregnant women and low-income single mothers and children, including job training and transition to independent housing	X	X		X			The City works with senior government housing programs. Some non-market housing e.g. Crabtree Corner has been developed for pregnant women, and more has been built for low income families, many of which are single parent/women led families, e.g. Semlin Gardens. The focus of the social housing developed in the City has been on economic need and equity, and specific groups, such as low income families and women which experience higher incidences of economic need, tend to be the beneficiaries of investments in social housing. The issue of housing for women is currently being worked on by the Women's Task Force.
6	Housing	Create more co-op housing and public co-housing (residents develop ownership interest through contribution via welfare or pension), emphasizing mixed generational living e.g. UK and Europe, all ages living together in council housing; US program where s	X	X		X			Most co-op housing in the city has been built for families. There has been some discussion of the co-operative housing sector sponsoring the development of seniors housing for their members. Allowing welfare recipients to use the shelter component of welfare to buy housing needs falls within the Province's jurisdiction. It would need some broad public discussion around issues of equity e.g. different treatment for low-income households some of whom collect welfare and others who work, and the use of tax payer subsidies to build individual equity.
7	Housing	Lobby BC government to amend provincial tenancy laws to impose some responsibility on landlords for well-being and safety of tenants (e.g. seniors), not just for maintaining the property			X				Regarding changes to the Residential Tenancy Act, City Council decided to give the Province recommendations on the new act at its June 24, 2003 meeting. Imposing an obligation on landlords to look after their tenants would discourage landlords from accepting tenants that might need looking after. A better approach would be to improve linkages between landlords and services that their tenants may need. Connecting landlords to the services available would benefit both landlords and tenants.

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8	Housing	Mandate shelters to offer more flexible hours of operation		X		X			Shelter funding and operations are the responsibility of the Province. The City supports full service 24 hour/day shelters. See the Homeless Action Plan (HAP)
9	Housing	Create and maintain a housing registry that will help link single mothers with seniors and others who are isolated - combining skills and resources can afford both better living accommodations and support	X	X		X			The City has provided funding for the housing registry that BC Housing and the BC Non-Profit Housing Assn. recently established. The City also funded the former YWCA registry that was shut down because of funding cut backs in 1996. That registry provided a broader range of services than the current registry and we hope the new registry will expand over time to provide a full range of registry services to private as well as non-profit landlords and their prospective tenants.
10	Housing	Up to date information on shelters and services should be available 24 hours per day through drop-in centers or information kiosks; new services need more publicity, as many in attendance reported learning of new resources through a third party, often too	X	X		X			Ensuring easy access to information regarding services, shelter and housing is important. The shelter providers currently work together and co-ordinate their activities so they can respond to severe weather conditions and ensure that if one shelter is full someone in need is referred to a shelter that has a vacancy. The proposed Homeless Action Plan will include actions related to the expansion of the housing registry to improve access to information and coordination of services.
11	Housing	Drop-in centers stay open 24 hours per day; a place for homeless to access information on what services are available in emergency situations	X	X		X			The proposed Homeless Action Plan discusses drop-in centres, outreach. The City supports 24/7 shelters and drop-in centers where justified by need.
12	Housing	Staff drop-in centers with volunteer residents experienced in homelessness	X	X		X			See Above
13	Housing	24 hour kiosk, preferably staffed, or minimally with access to computer, with up to date information on shelter and support services available throughout the city, and on individual rights	X	X		X			See Above

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14	Housing	Reinstate/expand Carnegie program involving street workers handing out information in DTES	X	X		X			See Above
15	Housing	Establish tent city as a legitimate, safe and ongoing place of shelter, accessible 24 hours per day, with facilities on-site or nearby			X				<p>Emergency Shelters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency shelters are the responsibility of the Province. The Homelessness Action Plan will address the role of 'tent cities', outdoor homeless campgrounds, expansion of emergency shelters. The City makes the Gathering Place in Downtown South and the Evelyn Saller available for emergency shelters during severe weather conditions. Funding is provided by the Ministry of Human Resources. Expanding into community centres and neighbourhood houses is possible if MHR or other funding is available and the need is there, noting that community centres and neighbourhood houses have evening and early morning programming so it may not be possible to use those facilities for shelters without disruption. There is a co-ordinated response to severe weather conditions across the region and in the city. In addition to the City opening up the Gathering Place and Evelyn Saller Centre, churches and community services provide shelter. As well, the existing year round shelters expand their capacity during the cold/wet seasons and during severe weather conditions. To date, the community's response to severe weather has been adequate to accommodate the shelterless needing to come in from the cold. Expanding the capacity to neighbourhoods outside the downtown is being pursued. MHR through their emergency response program is responsible for providing emergency accommodation e.g. in hotels. MHR's program is targeted to those displaced by emergencies such as fires and not to the

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									<p>homeless, except for families who are provided with vouchers. Many of the homeless aren't eligible for welfare. City Council has called on the Province to reform the welfare system so that those at risk of homelessness can get welfare and not end up on the street.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City has very few vacant buildings and even fewer might work for shelters because of state of repair or location (shelters need to be well served by transit and close to services including inexpensive food). We are using one building on a site reserved for social housing for a women's cold/wet weather shelter funded through the Federal Government and would consider similar arrangements if Federal or Provincial funding were available. Even temporary shelters require capital funding and funding for operations. <p>2) Temporary Shelters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As discussed above, the location of shelters and the suitability of buildings needs to be considered, as well as the question of the capital and operating costs. Many of the buildings suggested aren't owned by the City and the permission of the owner would be required. The fundamental question, given limited resources, is how much to invest in shelters, temporary or permanent, as opposed to investing in permanent housing.
16	Housing	Establish an "urban campground" where for a small sum per night, homeless people could have access to hot showers, heat, and a hydro hook-up. Community breeds safety - the answer to alienation, isolation and desperation is not always in spending huge amounts of money - it's money spent wisely			X				See above

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17	Housing	Use City owned buildings for emergency overflow housing: PNE buildings	X		X	X			See above. This is being done already to a limited degree. The city rents a building to The Umbrella and the Gathering Place and Evelyne Saller Centre are used during extreme cold weather. Some limited expansion may be appropriate if well located and funding for operations provided by Federal/Provincial governments. PNE is probably a poor location for shelter.
18	Housing	Create emergency shelter using construction trailers that are no longer used, and place on city-owned land that is yet to be developed			X				See comments under 15
19	Housing	Use community centers and neighbourhood houses as emergency shelter in the evening and night-time hours	X	X					See comments under 17
20	Housing	Collaborate with churches that offer emergency shelter and support to synchronize efforts across the city	X	X		X			See above
21	Housing	Make portable shelters available for pick-up at 24 hour location (e.g. Waterproof corrugated sleeping tubes; tarps to cover bus shelters; see PARAsites project in New York)			X				See comments under 15
22	Housing	Reinstate hotel vouchers - Vancouver Police used to hand out					X		MHR through their emergency response program is responsible for providing emergency accommodation e.g. in hotels. MHR's program is targeted to those displaced by emergencies such as fires and not to the homeless. If MHR would make hotel vouchers available they could be distributed by the Police or others. However, many of the homeless aren't eligible for welfare and, instead of vouchers handed out on an ad-hoc basis which could be unfair, the simpler response would be for the Province's welfare system to be reformed so that those at risk of homelessness can get welfare and not end up on the street.

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23	Housing	Convert the many abandoned buildings in the city to shelters (many examples were cited, including buildings at 1st and Terminal, an old welfare office, a Buddhist Temple in Jericho)	X		X	X			Commentary same as #17. A few maybe, many no.
24	Housing	Create time limits on building vacancies - limit how long a building owner can maintain an empty building before it is assumed by the City for conversion to shelter accommodation	X						The City discourages buildings sitting vacant by requiring that all permits for a new development be in place before a demolition permit can be granted.
25	Housing	Legalize squatting (see City of Amsterdam for an example of organized squats that assumed abandoned buildings, renovating, establishing a community daycare for local businesses, and a nightclub resulting in community rejuvenation			X	X			The City is not in a position to legalize squatting. Squatting raises issues of life safety and liability; the provision of heat, light and water; what happens to the squatters when redevelopment proceeds; the ability of the owner to deal with property issues e.g. maintenance, etc.
26	Housing	Complete Woodward's plan with MORE affordable housing included	X						The City is actively pursuing additional Federal and Provincial funding to increase the number of affordable housing units in Woodwards.
27	Housing	Create a structure enabling community members to safely offer short-term accommodation to homeless	X			X			The City currently allows homeowners to take in boarders, and citizens or the community could 'foster' the homeless if they wish. A fostering or billeting model, with subsidies provided to homeowners, would be an issue for the Ministries of Human Resources and Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.
28	Housing	Foster parent model: build in safety measures for both parties; match suitability; provide financial support for foster home	X			X			See Above
29	Housing	Billeting model (e.g. Foreign university students): Create a registry for community members who have a bed, or room and board to offer; match suitability	X			X			See above.
30	Housing	Relax zoning regulations to permit secondary suites in single family homes, with incentives to provide accommodation to homeless or low	X						Earlier this year, the City rezoned all single family districts in Vancouver to allow for a secondary suite in all one-family dwellings. The Province currently funds

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		income tenants							limited rent supplement programs (Supported Independent Living for the disabled and mentally ill), and Shelter Assistance for Elderly Renters - SAFER
31	Housing	Relax zoning regulations to permit developers to build very small self-contained affordable units for private market	X						This is part of Homeless Action Plan and Downtown Eastside Housing Plan.
32	Housing	Relax zoning regulations to permit single family homes, e.g. oversized "Vancouver Specials", to be divided and rented out as single rooms	X	X					Earlier this year the City amended the zoning by-laws to allow secondary suites in all single family areas of Vancouver. Rooming houses are currently allowed in multi-family zones but not in single family zones. Could consider allowing in single family zones
33	Housing	Create phased housing plan for individuals who need support in basic living skills as well as shelter - well intentioned for accommodations have been trashed and abused in the past (e.g. VanCity Place for Youth). Supervision and life skills support, as we	X	X		X			The draft Homeless Action Plan will address the role of transitional housing in the context of the supportive housing continuum. The issue, highlighted by the difficulties experienced by VanCity Place for Youth, is the importance of funding for the operations of transitional and all other supportive housing. Staffing 24 hours a day and 7 days a week is required along with specialized support services such as counselling, job training, life skills, etc. The successful transition of VanCity Place for Youth to Covenant House's Rites of Passage program was only possible through the infusion of substantial.
34	Housing	Create more affordable housing units - build on city-owned land	X	X					
35	Housing	Relax zoning by-laws to permit secondary suites in single-family homes; provides prospect of rental income to homeowners who may find themselves at risk or who are aging, and provides additional rental homes	X						Earlier this year the City amended the zoning by-laws to allow secondary suites in all single family areas of Vancouver.

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36	Housing	Relax zoning regulations to allow two to three non-related tenants to share studio and one-bedroom apartments, enabling affordable market rents for more residents	X						The City currently allows up to 5 unrelated persons to occupy a dwelling unit. There are no zoning requirements that limit occupancy. Overcrowding is not a solution to Vancouver's housing problems but shared living has long been part of Vancouver's housing environment, whether students sharing a house or a condominium owner renting out a bedroom to assist in paying the mortgage.
37	Housing	Develop community housing options, where it is possible for singles and small families to live together; mixed generations will encourage space for seniors to avoid isolation	X						Housing that mixes household types (singles and families) or generations (young families and seniors) has been developed successfully in Vancouver, for example Four Sisters Co-operative and more recently Mole Hill. The key is to provide choice so that those that want to live in housing that mixes household types and generations can, and those that don't want to can live in housing that doesn't. The City's primary focus has been on creating housing that mixes incomes and which requires Federal and Provincial funding to be viable.
38	Housing	Create opportunities to work towards ownership of housing, e.g. rent-to-own	X			X			We have recently seen a substantial movement of renters into ownership due to low interest rates and minimal down payment requirements. These are the two most crucial factors affecting the ability of renters to buy their own home. In the current circumstances, a rent-to-own program may not add much capacity as rents are not much lower than mortgage payments for many older condominiums.
39	Housing	Lobby CMHC to include extended family members within the meaning of a family unit to obtain subsidized housing					X		
40	Housing	Lobby BC Government to amend welfare regulations that discourage and penalize family members from supporting each other and sharing living resources					X		

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41	Housing	Lobby BC Government to relax C Housing rule limiting guests to 14 days per year					X		
42	Housing	Lobby BC Government to re-establish Vancouver Housing Authority	X						The City has the Vancouver Housing Corporation as a vehicle for developing or operating housing, and the City can buy and sell land or buildings as Council may choose. The City's primary role has not been to develop and operate housing on its own but through partnerships with non-profit housing societies and co-operatives which create diversity and choice as well as supporting community initiatives.
43	Housing	Lobby BC Government to provide rent subsidies geared according to income - allows freedom of choice to individual regarding where to live, rather than a forced choice to live in a particular building or part of town (examples include programs in Europe)	X	X					SAFER is a provincially administered shelter allowance program for seniors which has eligibility criteria based on maximum rent and income. See HAP.
44	Housing	Lobby BC Government to require landlords to provide a percentage of non-market rental units; provide tax credit	X						Some of the City's zoning schedules, e.g. Downtown Eastside ODP, require that non-market housing is provided, as a condition of extra density.
45	Housing	Impose a development tax on builders who do not include affordable housing or shelter in their development plans, similar to a percentage of development costs relegated to public art and parks	X						The City currently levies a City-wide fee (Development Cost Levy or DCL) of \$6/sq. ft. on all new development. Of this, 32% goes to affordable housing to replace housing that may be lost to redevelopment. In addition, as a condition of rezonings the City requires that developers make a Community Amenity contribution of which affordable housing is often one of the beneficiaries.
46	Housing	Increase development tax on condominium builders, as it has not been increased in 15 years	X						In 2004, the City doubled the City-wide DCL and increased the oldest DCL in the City by 50%.
47	Housing	Establish a donation program for community members to make small and large donations to build new shelters						X	The non-profit societies that provide shelters, such as Lookout Emergency Aid Society, Triage Emergency Services and the Salvation Army have well established fund raising and donation programs.

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48	Housing	Impose a "tourism tax" to provide funding for shelters and social housing - see San Francisco for example	X						Currently the hotel tax in Vancouver funds the tourist promotion and services for the City. The City, through its DCLs etc., uses other vehicles for raising funds for affordable housing and shelters.
49	Housing	Involve homeless, former homeless in operation, design and development of shelters. Their knowledge and survival skills are valuable, and involvement raises self-esteem to enable their own movement to another stage. As well, other residents could access p	X						A number of shelter providers, e.g. Lookout, Triage and Bridge had input from shelter users and the homeless in the design and operation of their facilities. The draft Homeless Action Plan was developed with input from the homeless as well as from providers of shelter and services to the homeless. The City's Tenant Assistance Co-ordinator periodically visits the homeless between midnight and dawn to get a better understanding of their issues and needs, and providers of shelter and services interact with the homeless on a regular basis as well to learn what works and what doesn't.
50	Housing	Improve management of SRAs through SRA by-law; ensure residents can not be evicted for occasional overnight guests	X			X			In late 2003, Council approved the Single Room Accommodation By-law to control the conversion or demolition of the residential hotels and rooming houses in the downtown. The Residential Tenancy Act requires that landlords allow guests.
51	Housing	Limit SRA ownership to non-profit organizations			X				There are 200 SRA buildings with 7,000 units in Vancouver. The City does support the acquisition of SRA buildings by non-profit societies, and supports private landlords entering into operating agreements with non-profit societies whereby the non-profit manages the building on behalf of the owner.
52	Housing	Parks staff and Police should assist homeless in finding safe and appropriate accommodation, and treat individuals respectfully and humanely. Training in communications and respectful intervention should be provided and mandatory	X						The Police, Park Bd. and Engineering staff work closely with the City's Tenant Assistance Program to address the needs of the homeless as well as their impact on neighbouring communities. The Tenant Assistance Program provides training to staff departments as to who the homeless are and how best to deal with them.
53	Housing	The homeless have a right to vote, but no address to enable enumeration. In order to facilitate their participation in the democratic process, establish a city address (e.g. a box	X						The City's Tenant Assistance Program works with Elections Canada and others to ensure that the homeless have an opportunity to vote. The homeless can use facilities like shelters, community centres,

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		office number) that homeless individuals can use to become enumerated							public libraries, etc as an address to vote.
54	Food	Food delivery to homeless		X					The City will forward this and all recommendations related to food to the Food Policy Council for their consideration. The Food Council has started the initial planning to develop their work plan.
55	Food	Provide free transit to low income residents - enables mobility to access food				X			See above
56	Food	Create space for food distribution, similar to recycling centers, where residents can donate		X					See above
57	Food	Information pamphlets available to show access points for food distribution		X					See above
58	Food	Create a City owned restaurant, staffed by low income individuals, with food donated by organic farmers, community gardens, local restaurants and grocers		X					See above
59	Food	Provide a 24 hour community kitchen		X					See above
60	Food	Replace meal tickets, which were recently eliminated				X			See above
61	Food	Create mobile soup kitchens that deliver prepared food to areas with individuals in need		X					See above

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62	Food	Create job training opportunities to work in film facilities in exchange for access to catered food		X					See above
63	Food	Collaborate with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority regarding the application of the Health Act, to the safe donation and distribution of excess food by restaurants, hotels, grocers and film production companies		X					To be referred to the Food Policy Council
64	Food	Lobby VCHA to relax health regulations to enable donations of excess perishable and prepared foods in a safe and healthy manner		X					See above
65	Food	Excess could be donated to community kitchens - perishable food could be prepared in soups etc. ; prepared foods could be served immediately		X					See above
66	Food	Collaborate with restaurants, hotels and grocers in developing policy and regulations that would allow donations and distribution of excess healthy prepared and perishable foods - Distribution process would require quick turn-around to maximize advantage		X					See above
67	Food	Provide funding to Quest to purchase a freezer - Quest provides food pick up and deliver services; however it is unable to distribute majority of food before it rots		X					See above
68	Food	Collaborate with farmers to provide fresh produce; subsidize farmers to grow food specifically for distribution to low income residents				X			See above
69	Food	Fruit Tree Project - fund and advertise this program, inviting home owners with fruit trees to donate excess fruit; volunteers will pick		X					See above

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		fruit and deliver to food bank							
70	Food	As part of new Food Policy, create a Planting Policy on City owned property - boulevards, parks - plant fruit bearing trees that are accessible to all; change ornamental gardens to fruit and vegetables		X					See above
71	Food	Community gardens: provide more land to create more community gardens, with food grown available to those in need, or grown and managed by them		X					See above
72	Food	Collaborate with community organizations to combine work training with food growth, preparation and sharing. Example: UBC Learning Exchange in DTES links students in agricultural studies, who are learning about food growth and preparation, with DTES where		X					See above
73	Food	Create a tax on food waste for restaurants, grocers, etc. and channel funds to food programs and community kitchens				X			See above
74	Food	Create a tax on all take-out, disposable containers	X			X			See above
75	Food	Create tax incentives for restaurants and grocers to prepare, donate, deliver food, similar to tax incentives for developers					X		See above
76	Food	Create a tax on higher priced restaurant bills to generate funds to create educational programs on healthy food and preparation to low income individuals				X			See above

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77	Food	Raise property taxes in wealthier neighbourhoods (e.g. West Side) to support food for low-income individuals		X					See above
78	Food	Create a voluntary "care tax" that residents could opt into to support food distribution for low-income individuals		X					See above
79	Food	Create tax incentives for home owners to share fruit off their trees		X					See above
80	Food	When negotiating with film producers, ensure contract mandates that catering donates excess food		X					See above
81	Food	Redirect funds collected from advertising on the banners for 2010 Olympics towards food distribution		X					See above
82	Safety	Create greater accountability of police to Vancouver City Council			X				VPD is accountable to City Council for financing and staffing VPD is accountable to the Vancouver Police Board which is chaired by the Mayor and is made up of 6 other community members, one of which is appointed by City Council
83	Safety	Increase review and checks on police behaviour and culture, relations with homeless, sex trade workers and low-income residents	X	X			X		This recommendation requires clarification as to what types of review and "checks" on police behavior and relations are being recommended. The recommendation as to improving relations with the homeless and sex-trade workers is a good one. One objective within the 2004-2008 Strategic Plan is to break down barriers for sex-trade workers to report crimes to police. The department is looking at ways to do this, including enhancing working relationships with sex trade worker support groups and the creation of a sex trade workers liaison officer position. Another objective in the Strategic Plan is to enhance

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									existing partnerships and identify new opportunities to partner with external agencies which focus on addiction, mental health, or homeless. Some of the ways the Department is looking to do this is by advocating for low threshold shelters for the homeless and establishing a police/community worker car to assess and assist those who are homeless. Many of these proposed programs are dependent on receiving increases in authorized strength.
84	Safety	Create stronger whistle-blower protection and programs to encourage within the police force; provide more support for officers to come forward			X				<p>This recommendation has been studied by the VPD in 2003. Chief Constable Graham directed the Planning and Research section to review the need for a "whistleblower" policy. Based on the research conducted it was recommended that no further consideration be given to establishing a "whistleblower" policy. VPD members are expected to act according to their oath of office. The VPD has Core Values of Integrity, Professionalism, Accountability, and Respect. These values are a guide for our members.</p> <p>The VPD has a policy in place for members to report misconduct or criminal conduct of another member. In addition the BC Police act has a provision for members to report the misconduct of another member of a municipal police force, including that of a Deputy Chief or Chief Constable.</p>
85	Safety	Create stricter penalties within the police force for wrongdoing				X			<p>This is outside the City's Jurisdiction. The <i>BC Police Act</i> sets out penalties for wrongdoing in Public Trust investigations. Existing case law and criminal code sentencing guidelines also provide a basis for penalties.</p>
86	Safety	Create a separate, external "watchdog" body to review police actions - police policing the police has no credibility - city needs to take a stronger role in ensuring this happens -			X	X			The office of the Police Complaints Commissioner (OPCC) receives copies of all complaints made to the Internal Investigation Section as well as copies of the

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		external body should be comprised of diverse pool of residents							<p>resulting investigation.</p> <p>An external agency already exists (see below), any additional agency established by the City would result in duplication of responsibilities and a less efficient and timely system.</p> <p>The OPCC is an <u>independent</u> agency established under the <i>Police Act</i>. They are responsible for monitoring complaints against municipal police to ensure they are handled fairly and impartially. The Police Complaint Commissioner is an Officer of the Legislature. The office is completely independent from any police department or government ministry and reports directly to the Legislature.</p> <p>Members of the public that are not satisfied with the results of the investigation of their complaint may apply to the Police Complaints Commissioner for a public hearing.</p>
87	Safety	Create an Internal Affairs department for police	X		X		X		This recommendation requires clarification. The VPD already has an Internal Investigation Section that investigates complaints made against members. Citizens are able to attend the Public Service Counter at either 312 Main St. or 2120 Cambie St. to obtain the necessary forms.
88	Safety	Create "Civilian Chaperones" for police			X		X	X	This recommendation requires clarification as to what a "Civilian Chaperone" is and what their function/duties would be. Without a detailed proposal it is difficult to comment on although it sounds highly improbable.
89	Safety	Create a storefront complaints process for residents, similar to an external ombuds officer			X				See Comments 86 and 87.
90	Safety	Provide advocates for mistreated residents to go before independent Complaints board					X	X	This recommendation requires further clarification. This would require additional resources from the City to fund advocates. The OPCC is an independent body,

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									<p>completely separate from any municipal police department.</p> <p>The Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner (or the VPD) does provide assistance for members of the public to fill out the complaint form if necessary. They will also provide information about mediation, support services and translation if required.</p>
91	Safety	VPD should recruit more female officers	X						<p>The Recruiting Section of the VPD actively recruits female members by attending women specific career fairs such as the YWCA career fair. Out of the last 6 classes of recruits hired by VPD 25% of hires have been female.</p> <p>Over the past 25 years the number of female officers has increased by 500%. The VPD is able to offer more daytime and job-sharing opportunities that are attractive to women with families.</p>
92	Safety	Increase criteria to qualify for admission to VPD, raise the bar - e.g. Quebec requires three year training program					X		<p>This recommendation requires further clarification. Our admission standards are already very high (see below). What would the proposed recommendations for admission be?</p> <p>There are preferred standards for VPD admission in addition to minimum requirements. In order to be considered for employment an applicant must possess at least 1 year of post secondary education, however, many of the people we hire possess university degrees. In the period of July 1st, 2003-Dec 31st, 2003 32.9% of recruits had a university degree. Before being hired applicants go through a rigorous screening procedure, including a polygraph examination, an assessment centre conducted at the Justice Institute of BC, interviews, physical testing, and a medical exam. A thorough background investigation is then completed before the applicant is hired.</p>

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93	Safety	Ensure police culture and training includes sensitivity and compassion for those living in poverty and on the margins	X						See comments under # 94
94	Safety	Ensure police culture and training includes anti-stereotyping of people in poverty, street people, sex trade workers, people with addictions	X						<p>This is a good recommendation. Recruits at the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) get instruction and presentations in Professionalism and Communication skills. Over 100 hours is devoted to this area. This includes training on topics such as Conflict Resolution, Mental Illness, Schizophrenia, Sensitivity and Diversity.</p> <p>The VPD has a Crisis Intervention Course that is directed to help patrol members respond to citizens in crisis. As part of this course, mental health consumers attend and speak directly with police constables about their own experiences. This course is part of the Development plan for new officers. They are given this course in their first year of their career.</p> <p>More funding is required in order to expand these types of training programs.</p>
95	Safety	Ensure police culture and training includes diversity training	X						<p>This is a good recommendation. Diversity is a topic covered at the JIBC to recruit classes. Approximately 11 hours is devoted specifically to Diversity at the recruit level.</p> <p>The VPD has a dedicated Diversity Relations Unit. The unit is working with the JIBC to improve the Diversity Training currently delivered.</p> <p>The Diversity Relations Unit is currently putting together a course to be launched in the Spring of 2005. The curriculum is being set now and the course will go before the VPD training board in early 2005. This course will be offered as an increment course to members beginning in the Spring of 2005.</p>
96	Safety	Ensure police culture and training includes understanding that "serve and protect"	X						<p>See comments under # 94</p> <p>The VPD's Strategic Plan 2004-2008 focuses on</p>

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		includes all members of the community							improving community safety as one of its 5 strategic steps. A key area within this component is reducing violence against the vulnerable.
97	Safety	Ensure police culture and training includes non-violent methods of restraint	X				X		This recommendation requires further clarification as to what 'non-violent' restraint is. The amount of restraint necessary to affect an arrest is dependent upon the level of resistance the officer is facing. The use of force continuum is taught to recruits at the JIBC and continues throughout an officers career. Non-impact Control tactics are part of the training. The VPD provides ongoing training to members and has a dedicated Use of Force Co-ordinator who provides training to members.
98	Safety	Encourage dialogue between police and community	X						<p>The VPD agrees that this recommendation is important and works towards doing this in the following ways: The Chief has a Diversity Advisory Committee that regularly gives the VPD input. This Committee is made up of the Chief Constable, his Executive Officer, the Deputy Chief Constables, the District Commanders, A Police Board member, members of the VPD Diversity Relations Unit, and a group of 16 diverse civilian members.</p> <p>The VPD has a dedicated Diversity Relations Unit. Their mandate is: To work towards maintaining and building positive relations with our diverse community; To ensure all persons are treated with respect and equality through dealing with issues on prejudice, discrimination, or harassment directed towards any person or group. To ensure that our diverse community has open access to all police services and that our police services has access to the diverse community; and To deal with and remove those barriers that impact on the ability of the police and community to work</p>

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									<p>together.</p> <p>The VPD and Vancouver Police Board hosted a Deliberative Dialogue in March 2004 to discuss the top community safety issues in Vancouver, the root causes of crime, and possible models of service delivery. It was attended by over 100 community members representing geographic areas of the city as well as ethnic diversity, women's groups, business, social agencies and social justice groups. The information the VPD received from the community was used to help develop a comprehensive plan to improve community safety. This was an important step in our strategic planning process.</p> <p>The VPD has an ongoing bi-annual community policing survey. The 2004 survey is occurring throughout November, with the use of an external research firm.</p>
99	Safety	Create forums where residents can tell their stories on policing issues, similar to ward discussions	X						See above
100	Safety	Develop workshops for residents who observe police brutality: what to do, how to handle					X		<p>This recommendation requires further clarification. Anyone who has concerns about the actions or comments of a police officer, or service provided by a police department may make a complaint. The process for doing this is clearly laid out in the VPD website. In addition personnel at both Public Service Counters (312 Main St. and 2120 Cambie) are trained to be able to assist the public in filling out the required forms to make a complaint. They do advise members of the public about the process for making a complaint.</p>
101	Safety	Strengthen community liaison with police	X						<p>VPD runs many community programs such as Block Watch, Business Liaison, Citizens' Crime Watch, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, Citizens' Police Academy, Community Policing Centres,</p>

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									Neighbourhood Police Officers, SpeedWatch, and the Victim Services Unit. The recommendation to strengthen community liaison is dependent on receiving increases in authorized strength/funding.
102	Safety	Stop closures of community police offices	X						VPD remains committed to community policing and there are currently 8 community police offices in Vancouver. There are no plans to close any of these offices at present. Funding and manpower issues dictate staffing of these offices.
103	Safety	Provide Community police to visit seniors' residences		X					This recommendation requires clarification as to what "seniors residences" are. If the intent of this recommendation is to have community police officers visit retirement complexes to speak with seniors on safety issues this is a possibility for consideration. This type of service is dependent on the department receiving increases in authorized strength. Not practical due to manpower issues
104	Safety	Re-instate emergency phone booths that have been removed; despite the proliferation of cell phones, not every Vancouver resident has one				X	X		This recommendation requires clarification as to what is meant by "emergency phone booths". It sounds like a good recommendation, however, phone companies have removed many pay phones, and this is outside the VPD's control. 911 is a free call at existing pay phones.
105	Safety	Create neighbourhood resident foot patrols, e.g. Guardian Angels	X						This recommendation is good, volunteer foot patrols are already in existence through the Community Policing Centres. There is also a Citizens Crime Watch program run by VPD.
106	Safety	Create intervention training programs - residents can learn how to intervene safely in assaults on others	X						This recommendation is good. Inspector John Mackay has provided consulting in personal safety and confrontation management to numerous private corporations and community groups. In the spring of 2004 the VPD received the Women's Safety Award from the organization, Femmes et Villes International. Inspector McKay and Downtown Eastside

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									neighbourhood policing officer Dave Dickinson developed a "train the Trainers" program for survival sex workers (SSW's). SSW's were trained to recognize signs of danger, de-escalate and/or physically defend themselves as a last resort so they could escape from dangerous situations. They were also trained how to teach these skills to other SSW's in the community
107	Safety	Expand "City Host" program (looking after tourists in Vancouver) to serve Vancouver residents					X		This recommendation requires further clarification as to the type of service residents require. The VPD has many programs that look after the residents of Vancouver. We have a community services section that operates programs aimed at serving residents. In order to expand on these already existing programs additional funding from the City is required.
108	Safety	Create a "Blue Light" system similar to UBC campus; residents in fear can touch Blue Light as they dash for safety; a security company monitors and will dispatch assistance immediately			X		X	X	This recommendation needs clarifying. It sounds highly improbable due to funding and practical issues.
109	Safety	Practicing Democracy should be a regular production and forum for discussion, creates a perpetual dialogue with community				X			This recommendation is outside the jurisdiction of the VPD. The VPD does participate in several other avenues of community dialogue. (see recommendation #98)
110	Support	(Seniors) Improve visiting and outreach services for seniors who are isolated, living alone, and/or with mobility issues		X					Programs such as outreach and peer counseling for seniors are an important component of services to seniors. Many seniors groups already provide some outreach/visiting and the City helps support this work via Community Services Grants. The most effective way for the City to increase such services would be to strategically increase funding to seniors groups which have the proven capacity to provide these services.
111	Support	(Seniors) Provide outreach workers, similar to street nurses, to visit seniors in isolation, provide emotional support, ensure medication taken appropriately		X		X			Health related outreach services would be under the jurisdiction of the Vancouver Coastal Health.

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112	Support	(Seniors) Reinstate accessibility of home support hours				X			Cuts to home support have negatively affected seniors and put extra pressure on community seniors groups. Policy governing availability of home support is set at a provincial level.
113	Support	(Seniors) Support creation of a volunteer organization with a mandate to visit and connect with isolated seniors, particularly those with mobility issues		X					Neighbourhood-based seniors groups already visit isolated seniors. Staff believe that such visiting is best organized by individual seniors groups, rather than on a City wide basis.
114	Support	(Seniors) Provide incentives for community members to volunteer to check in on isolated seniors - e.g. free passes to City owned attractions						X	
115	Support	(Seniors) Create a "Buddy System Check-In" within communities						X	See 110 and 113
116	Support	(Seniors) Create links between youth programs and seniors		X					Community groups proposing such programs could apply for support under the City's Community Services Grants
117	Support	(Seniors) Provide practical training programs to youth in working with seniors, youth gain career options in home care support				X			
118	Support	(Seniors) Link student loan repayment to volunteer time				X			
119	Support	(Seniors) Vancouver School Board create programs on awareness re: seniors; provide credit to students who visit seniors, prepare food				X			Some seniors groups currently use student volunteers. Any practicum program would need to be developed in partnership with a seniors group. Programs involving volunteer visits to individuals need screening and careful management to protect both volunteers and seniors.
120	Support	(Seniors) School Board could develop practicum for students in social service programs to visit seniors				X			See above
121	Support	(Seniors) City Council could approach Telus to bridge the gap for isolated seniors on limited income by providing free or reasonably priced						X	Community groups would need to demonstrate the need for an interest in such a proposal, as a first step.

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		phone or cell phone plans geared to income							
122	Support	(Seniors) Create a regulation mandating SRAs to supply in-suite phone to seniors, individuals with mobility restrictions				X			
123	Support	(Seniors) Support development of Network to connect seniors					X		Existing community seniors groups provide networks for seniors within neighbourhoods and cultural communities
124	Support	(Seniors) Provide a place for seniors to get together, build friendships; Create a destination seniors' center, adult day centres, with activities and opportunities to develop friendships and community supports	X						This is a primary function of all the community-based seniors centres and programs and of the City's Neighbourhood Houses. Vancouver is so large and diverse that having multiple different places for seniors to gather is a better option than having one centralized location.
125	Support	(Seniors) Resource Network for seniors could be paired with resource network for homeless, where the two issues overlap, to bring together people with support needs to help one another - e.g. senior women connect with street women						X	
126	Support	(Seniors) Provide a 24 hour friendship line for seniors						X	
127	Support	(Seniors) Provide more funding for peer support outreach and mentoring programs for seniors	X	X					Peer counseling is a valuable program. The City provides some funding for peer counseling and outreach through the Community Services Grants, and could increase this funding.
128	Support	(Seniors) Partner with landlords of buildings that house seniors living alone - help create a community within building and links to surrounding community; create space in building for gathering, connecting				X			Some seniors groups have developed links with nearby seniors buildings

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129	Support	(Seniors) Encourage business improvement associations (BIA) to sponsor ways for individuals living in apartments to meet one another - help build community; alternatively, community improvement associations could be developed to create links among residen						X	Best done as partnership of community seniors groups, and BIAs.
130	Support	(Seniors) Promote community building initiatives that create trust and safety, integrate seniors in planning - Create structural opportunities to create community - e.g. safe spots in parks for seniors to go and meet others; building designs should include	X						Seniors have contributed to CityPlan and are also involved in community development initiatives through the Neighbourhood Houses.
131	Support	(Seniors) Create community programs similar to Block Parents - safe homes for seniors to go to when they need help						X	
132	Support	(Seniors) Offer seniors and disabled year-long discounts at community recreation centers, rather than limited to one program per season		X					
133	Support	(Health Issues) Provide more resources to enable doctors and nurses to do outreach and home visits to seniors				X			Health related recommendations could be referred to Vancouver Coastal Health
134	Support	(Health Issues) Require doctors to perform minimum number of pro bono hours, similar to law society's requirement for lawyers				X			
135	Support	(Health Issues) Create a database of isolated seniors and their medications (e.g. Healthwatch at Shopper's Drugmart), that would allow medical professionals and pharmacies to track prescriptions filled and flag potential over-medication risks				X			

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136	Support	(Health Issues) Seniors need better packaging for medication that is easier to open - child proof caps are often senior proof too; some seniors need help planning when to take medication - packaging could lay out days and times for each dose				X			
137	Support	(Health Issues) Regulations to compel pharmacies to develop and provide packaging that is easier to open and read by seniors				X			
138	Support	(Health Issues) Collaborate with VCHA to increase visits from public health nurses could assist isolated seniors with proper ingestion of medication - daily, weekly				X			
139	Support	(Health Issues) Vancouver City Council could take on more responsibility for home health care through transfer payments				X			
140	Support	(Health Issues) Lobby provincial government to provide MSP coverage for access to alternative medicine		X					
141	Support	(Health Issues) Mandate supply of medical assistance in low income housing				X			
142	Support	(Women) Support program for single mothers to share childcare					X		
143	Support	(Women) Create more spaces in a graduated work program for pregnant women and single mothers				X			
144	Support	(Women) Lobby federal government to provide EI maternity funding to laid-off workers on EI who become pregnant		X					
145	Support	(Sex Trade Workers) Proceed with development of policy regarding establishment of safe sex zones and houses; amend zoning regulations to allow safe sex houses run by			X	X			Cannot do without senior government authority

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		women who understand what they are dealing with - see e.g. Holland							
146	Support	(Sex Trade Workers) Lobby federal government to legalize prostitution - create safety for sex trade workers		X					Major policy decisions require research, public consultation and Council approval prior to approaching senior governments. On a program level, the City is supporting increased safety for sex trade workers via Community Services Grants to community groups, and various Vancouver Agreement initiatives. Increasing safety for sex trade workers is also being discussed in the Women's Task Force.
147	Support	(Sex Trade Workers) Fund PACE Society, help get women off the street and raise awareness	X						PACE, WISH, PEERS and the Mobile Access Project are all initiatives aimed at supporting and assisting women who work in the survival sex trade. The City currently provides CS grants to PACE and WISH.
148	Support	(Sex Trade Workers) Shelters and transition housing specific to, or with programs specific to women in the sex trade, and preferably outside common sex trade neighbourhoods, away from pimps and potential abusers		X					
149	Support	(Sex Trade Workers) Provide empowerment and life skills training at shelters for women, assistance in planning for transition to independent living, including opportunities to contribute to shelter operations	X						Life skills training is important. The Province recently cut such a support program at WISH
150	Support	(Sex Trade Workers) Women at risk of abuse, including sex trade workers, should be able to walk into police station and be guaranteed help					X		
151	Support	(Sex Trade Workers) Vancouver City Council could place a major emphasis on providing safety to women, become known as a safe city for women		X					Work on improving safety for women is being considered as part of the Women's Task Force work plan.
152	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Vancouver City Council to make provincial and federal governments aware of this issue - the extent of the impact	X						City Council has recognized the impacts of the social service and other cuts on the homeless and has urged the provincial government to provide adequate funding

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		of years of social services cuts							and to re-instate funding to a number of programs including Income Assistance time limits and reducing benefits, health care services, including mental health and substance use services, community services, etc. City Council has also encouraged the Union of BC municipalities to do likewise.
153	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) On-site visitations by outreach workers, street nurses, provide on-site medical assistance		X		X			See HAP
154	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Recognition and better service of marginalized at hospitals and clinics; treat with respect and dignity		X		X			See HAP
155	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Provide and support advocacy to assist marginalized to find their way through bureaucratic hoops, such as income assistance applications		X		X			See HAP
156	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Train volunteers to deal with marginalized individuals, assist with skill development		X		X			See HAP
157	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Provide a central place to get food and nutritional care consistently	X	X		X			The Vancouver Food Council has been established with one of its objectives to improve food security for low income people.
158	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Meal delivery to marginalized and at-risk homeless	X	X		X			See above. There are a variety of food delivery programs available
159	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Provide center for homeless to do free weekly laundry	X						The City provides free laundry and showers at the Evelyne Saller Centre and the Gathering Place. Kitsilano Community Centre has a weekly free shower and breakfast program.
160	Support	(Urban Bush Dweller) Secure storage place where homeless can safely store possessions and access them as needed		X		X			See HAP.

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161	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Develop a skills exchange program that legitimizes skills and strengths developed in surviving the urban bush - provides opportunity for individual to contribute, building self-esteem, confidence and trust in others, and to learn fro		X		X			
162	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Mental health issues: Proper assessment to ensure individuals with mental illness receive appropriate treatment		X		X			See HAP
163	Support	(Urban Bush Dwellers) Mental Health Issues - Out reach/advocacy workers to support finding appropriate housing, interface with landlords, government ministries and other agencies		X		X			See HAP
164	Support	(Drug Addictions) View addiction as a health issue, not a poverty issue; wealthy addicts are rarely newsworthy, and can gain immediate access to treatment with money; low income addicts have to wait and are in a catch-22 situation, as it is difficult to a	X						The City is working with Vancouver Coastal Health to implement
165	Support	(Drug Addictions) Proceed with the Four Pillars strategy, and in particular to create and make available more treatment programs	X						The City is working with Vancouver Coastal Health to implement
166	Support	(Drug Addictions) Detox available on demand: requires more beds and programs	X						The City is working with Vancouver Coastal Health to implement
167	Support	(Drug Addictions) More safe injection sites e.g. Community facilities; advertise existing ones; ease addictions by supplying drug in a safe way	X						The City is working with Vancouver Coastal Health to implement

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168	Support	(Drug Addicitions) Make medical heroin available ; legalize access - see e.g. Netherlands	X						The City is working with Vancouver Coastal Health to implement
169	Support	(Drug Addictions) Provide alternative drugs e.g. methadone	X						The City is working with Vancouver Coastal Health to implement
170	Money	City of Vancouver should take over distribution of welfare; create civic welfare system (see City of Toronto for example)				X			Provincial mandate
171	Money	Provide advocacy to assist applicants to access welfare; many have difficulty finding their way through the system		X					Community groups currently provide some assistance in this area
172	Money	Facilitate ability of those without a fixed address to access welfare; provide city address or post office box number					X		
173	Money	Facilitate access to money to cover damage deposit for rental accommodation, and to assist with non-payment of rent in order to avoid eviction				X			
174	Money	Provide sources of emergency money				X			
175	Money	Take a leadership role in lobbying the BC and federal governments to restore and increase income assistance levels in Vancouver to match high cost of living and market rents		X					Lobbying on IA, as noted in recommendations 175-179 would need to be based on appropriate research and a strategy re: effectiveness. Various community groups are already lobbying on this issue and any initiative the City might take would likely need to be developed first at a community level. In the last 10 years, SPARC has regularly provided information on the cost of living and IA levels. Other areas such as FAW policies would need similar investigation.
176	Money	Take a leadership role in lobbying the BC and federal governments to provide greater flexibility for recipients in covering damage deposit for rental accommodation		X					

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177	Money	Take a leadership role in lobbying the BC and federal governments to provide increased discretion to Financial Aid Workers (FAW) in assessing an individual's need for emergency money		X					
178	Money	Take a leadership role in lobbying the BC and federal governments to remove barriers that inhibit or penalize recipients from helping one another, sharing living accommodation		X					
179	Money	Take a leadership role in lobbying the BC and federal governments to broaden eligibility for income assistance and Employment Insurance for pregnant women		X					
180	Money	Take a leadership role in lobbying the BC and federal governments to provide subsidized 24 hour childcare	X						
181	Money	Create opportunities for Vancouver residents to lobby BC government - e.g. name an official "Day of the Poor", including a mass march to Victoria; create televised speakers' corners for broadcast on Shaw TV, which could reinstate the community programming		X					
182	Money	Reinforce the City's report to the UN on the human rights crimes that have resulted from provincial welfare cuts;					X		
183	Money	Work with business sector to create employment opportunities for individuals living in poverty	X						This is a key part of the Vancouver Agreement's Employment Strategy. Work is underway to encourage businesses to hire low income people through public and private sector purchasing as well as part of development permissions for major projects.
184	Money	Create work training programs for youth and adults to work with seniors and isolated individuals: provides training and develops employment opportunities in social services,		X					This was noted as a possible initiative as part of the Vancouver Agreement's Economic Revitalization Plan process and will be further reviewed for implementation in the new year.

C1: Work in Progress

2: Possibility for consideration

C3: Inconsistent with Council Policy/ Not Recommended by Staff

C4: Outside of City jurisdiction

C5: Requires further clarification

C6: Highly improbable; needs further development by community champion

ID	Group	Recommendations	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	Comments
		home care, and supports seniors and the isolated							
185	Money	Provide municipal support to women's centres, so workers like the character Elaine are not laid off from employment and become at risk of poverty and homelessness themselves	X						The City supports a variety of groups which provide services and supports to women.
186	Money	Create a "job options training" program that provides subsidy during training, housing and programs for pregnant women, enabling them to qualify for employment after delivery. Available childcare is essential after delivery of baby				X			
187	Money	Provide graduated work programs for pregnant women and single mothers				X			
188	Money	Provide subsidized 24 hour childcare, enabling single mothers to search for and/or maintain employment - some jobs available require hours of work outside normal childcare hours.				X			City does not deliver childcare but the Childcare strategy supports the provision of 24 hour care as well as other forms of care.
189	Money	Create a support network for Employment Insurance (EI) recipients				X			
190	Money	Provide free voicemail access numbers to low-income residents without a phone (see Toronto for example)		X					
191	Money	Amend zoning regulations to allow safe sex homes, which will enable sex trade workers to work safely and earn income			X	X			(See comments under #146)

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ID	Group	Recommendations	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	Comments
192	Money	Provide a subsistence stipend for those who develop sustainable lifestyles - e.g. community sustainable farms				X			
193	Money	Repeal anti-panning by-laws		X					

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