



# Youth Homelessness and Challenges for Vulnerable Youth

City Response to the B.C. Representative  
for Children and Youth Report  
September 21, 2016

“Report back on progress to implement the BC Representative for Children and Youth recommendations of the Paige Report, and to create a Regional Youth Secretariat with the BC Government and Metro municipalities. Also that the BC Government should:

- a) Extend foster care to the age of 24, and end the practice of automatic aging out of the system
- b) Create a secure care system for vulnerable children and youth
- c) Add more Rapid Response capacity to ensure that action happens quickly when a child or youth is at serious risk
- d) Quickly adopt and implement all recommendations from the May 2015 report from the BC Representative for Children and Youth entitled Paige’s Story.”

## Before Council Today:

- Report back on progress made on implementing the BC Representative for Children and Youth (*Paige's Story*) recommendations
- Summary of City actions taken in response to *Paige's Story*
- Recommendation that Council
  - endorse *Youth Matters Pledge of Support and Guiding Principles of Youth Matters Community Accountability*
  - Approve Homeless Action Week grant of \$3,000 to Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House



# Background



The Children's Representative identified 30 actions and key messages, including:

- Need for urgent action across all orders of government and community to address gaps;
- No youth in care to live in SROs in the Downtown Eastside
- Concern about compliance with the duty to report among front line service providers and professionals
- Acknowledges the impacts of intergenerational trauma and residential schools

## Paige's Story

ABUSE, INDIFFERENCE  
AND A YOUNG LIFE DISCARDED



The City is named in 5 of the 30 actions

- Has lead role in 2 actions:
  - Coordinate regular inspections of SROs to ensure compliance
  - Provide training to staff on Duty to Report
  
- Is involved in 3 actions lead by the Province:
  - Conduct urgent review of the current provision of services
  - Analyze numbers of children in care in and inventory service providers in the DTES
  - Create and implement an action plan, including detailed public reporting on outcomes for children in the DTES

## Contributing Factors Include:

- Lack of Affordable and Accessible Housing
- Poverty
- Improper Discharge from Institutions
- Mental Health or Addiction issues
- Family Breakdown
  - In one study, 45% of youth aging out of care indicated they were homeless at some point
  - Only 10-20% of foster youth (aged 20-24) live with their foster parents or relatives
  - By comparison, 60% of all 20-24 year olds live in parental homes
  - *From “Fostering Change – Opportunities in Transition, Summary Report” September 2016*



1 in 5  
shelter users  
are youth



2:1  
male to female ratio  
in youth shelters



25 - 40%  
of youth experiencing  
homelessness self-identified  
as LGBTQ

# Annual City Investments for Youth At Risk - \$4.33M

- **City of Vancouver**  
Social Grants for at risk child &  
youth services **\$2.1M**
- **VPD - 11 dedicated staff: child  
protection, sexual exploitation,  
probation and mental health \$1.7M**
- **Park Board -**  
Community Youth Workers **\$0.5M**
- **Vancouver Public Library**  
Teen Librarians **\$0.33M**

**TOTAL: \$4.33 M**





## **Aunt Leah's – Outreach & Support**

- \$35,444 - 134 youth supported in 2015
- Evidence based programs supporting youth exiting care
  - **Link Program** – home-based life skills and supports to assist youth find and maintain housing
  - **Thresholds Program** – to provide wrap around supports for young mothers including post natal support and parenting skills

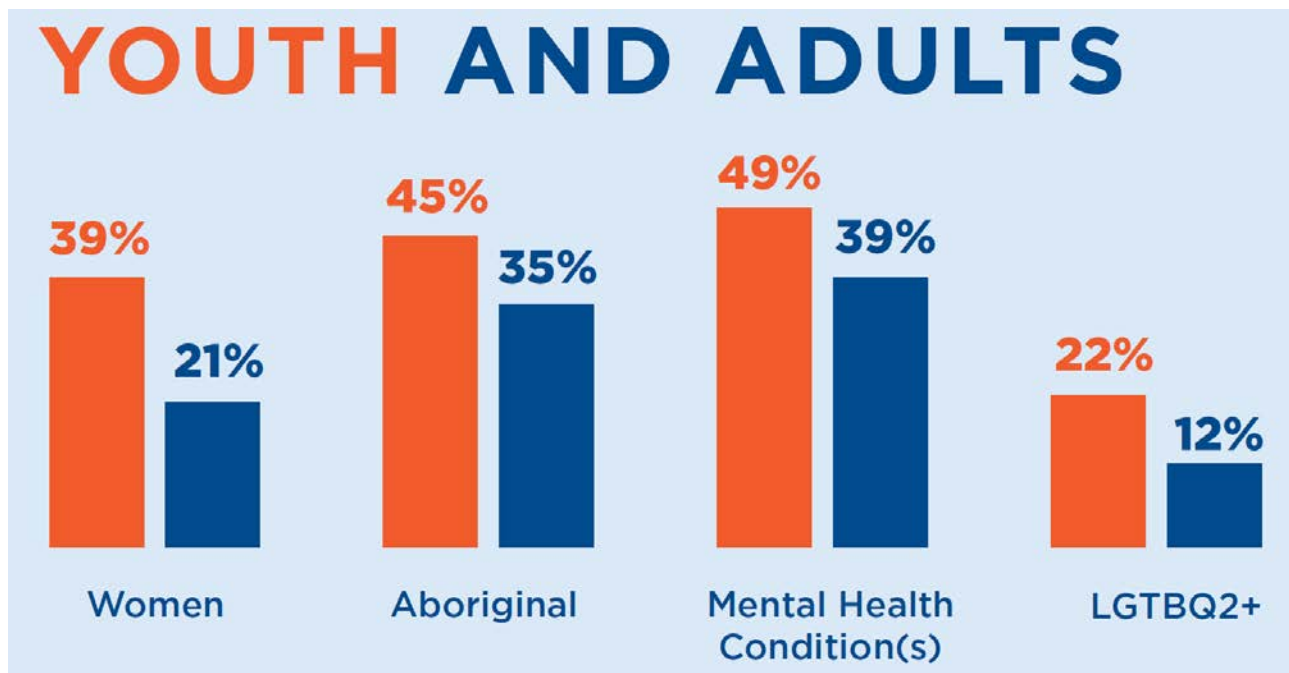
## **Lu'ma - Aboriginal Youth Mentorship & Housing**

- \$20,000 – 25 youth supported in 2015
- Designed specifically for Aboriginal youth aging out of care
  - **Mentoring** – one to one mentorship to support Aboriginal youth as they transition out of care
  - **Ready to Rent** – builds skills in how to find and maintain housing
  - **Life Skills** – focus on 12 key areas of personal development including goal setting, financial literacy and relationship building



## Aboriginal Mother's Centre

- \$30,000 – 400 people supported in 2015
- Supports to young Aboriginal Mothers and their children
  - Provides a holistic approach to health and wellness
  - Focus on building strong cultural connections, increasing self-esteem and developing skills in parenting and self care



## Family & Youth Housing City Partnerships

Organization	Program	# of Units
RainCity Housing Society	Budzey (220 Princess)	147
Atira Women's Resource Society	Sorella (525 Abbott)	108
Vancouver Native Housing Society	Kwayatsut and Broadway Youth Resource Centre (2465 Fraser)	99 (30 for youth)
Kettle Friendship Society	Kettle on Burrard and Directions Youth Centre (1134 Burrard)	141 (40 for youth)
		<b>TOTAL 495 units (70 targeted to youth)</b>

## **Proposed joint-investment with Provincial govt:**

- Draft sent for input and feedback
- City of Vancouver – capital investment
- Province (BC Housing, Vancouver Coastal Health) – requested capital and operating investment
- opportunity to engage with other partners, e.g. Streethome and the Federal government

## SRO Task Force (2016) Goals

- Address increasing crisis in SROs due to loss of affordability, poor condition and livability in private stock
- Bring together variety of stakeholders to listen, discuss and develop next steps in ongoing evolution of Council-supported SRO Strategy that is focused on improving affordability, condition and supports
- Build on existing initiatives and policies (SRA Bylaw, Integrated Enforcement, Rental Database, RTB Services, etc.)
- Provide input into “Housing Reset”

# SRO Task Force Membership

## City:

- Co-Chairs:
  - Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, GM Community Services
  - Kaye Krishna, GM Development Services, Building & Licensing
- Housing, VPD, Fire, Law

## Senior Governments:

- BC Housing, Vancouver Coastal Health, Providence Health, Ministry of Innovation & Social Development, Residential Tenancy Branch

## Non-Profit Sector:

- Tenant advocates, non-profits operators and service providers, tenant representatives.

## Private Sector:

- Private landlord, and architect



# SRO Task Force Timeline

Action	Timing
1. Draft terms of Terms of Reference and distribute to TF members	September, 2016
2. Convene Task Force members for first meeting	October 2016
3. Convene SRO Tenant Engagement Subcommittee to develop engagement strategy for three workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenants</li> <li>• Private SRO owners and Non-profits</li> <li>• Advocates</li> </ul>	October 2016
4. Identify working groups necessary to advance key aspects of work	October, 2016
7. Convene Task Force members for second meeting.	November, 2016
8. Convene Task Force members for final meeting	November, 2016
9. Report back to Council as part of the Re:Set	December, 2016



# Paige Report Action Summary

UNLIMITED GROWTH INCREASES THE DIVIDE

DEL MAR INN

553

555

# City Response to *Paige's Story*

Status	Next Steps & Timeline
<p>1. City inspectors are trained to look for youth occupying SRO rooms and report to social services and police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ongoing</b> - Staff conduct cross departmental annual SRO inspections and training will be refreshed for inspectors annually and SRO Task Force</li> </ul>
<p>2. The Ministry of Children and Family Development has facilitated “duty to report” sessions with City staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complete</b> - Carnegie staff &amp; all Parks staff youth workers and front line staff &amp; VPD updated staff policy &amp; reinforced duty to report</li> <li>• <b>Ongoing</b> - Vancouver Fire &amp; Rescue has duty to report as part of training</li> <li>• <b>In progress</b> - The Vancouver Library staff will be the next group to receive the training.</li> </ul>
<p>City is participating in Rapid Response Review lead by Province that includes 3 actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct urgent review of the current provision of services</li> <li>2. Analyze numbers of children in care and inventory service providers in DTES</li> <li>3. Create and implement action plan</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ongoing</b> - Convened Rapid Response Team in July 2015 including City, Parks &amp; VPD staff</li> </ul>

1. Recommendation to “Endorse Youth Matters Pledge and Principles that support place based and collective impact responses to children, youth and families in neighbourhoods”
2. Continue to Work with Partners to secure commitment to Draft 3 year Shelter & Housing Investment Strategy
3. Support to Child, Youth and Family Innovation Hub involving co-location of 2 non-profits and MCFD at 2780 E. Broadway through building renovations and lease terms.

# Provincial Response to Paige's Story

Status	Next Steps & Timeline
Convened Rapid Response Team in July 2015 including City, Parks & VPD staff	<b>Complete</b>
\$1.2M towards ten new positions to create an adolescent services unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An afterhours response team was launched <b>Sept 18, 2016</b></li> <li>• Rapid response team will start on <b>October 31, 2016</b></li> <li>• The VPD and Vancouver Coastal (Youth Mental Health) will be co-located. Full implementation expected in the <b>spring 2017</b></li> </ul>
Over \$400,000 additional annual funding for youth outreach	Use of outreach dollars will be determined when the rapid response team structure is finalized
5 new beds of low barrier temporary housing	Plan to have low barrier housing operational by <b>March 2017</b>
To conduct a review of all files and safety plans of children and youth in care who reside or frequent the DTES	<b>Complete</b>
Developing an action plan	To be completed based on the findings of the DTES Profile review



# Thank You & Questions