

# Downtown Eastside Plan

## Three-Year Progress Update



## Presentation to Council

# Overview

Recommendation: that Council receive this report for information

Presentation outline:

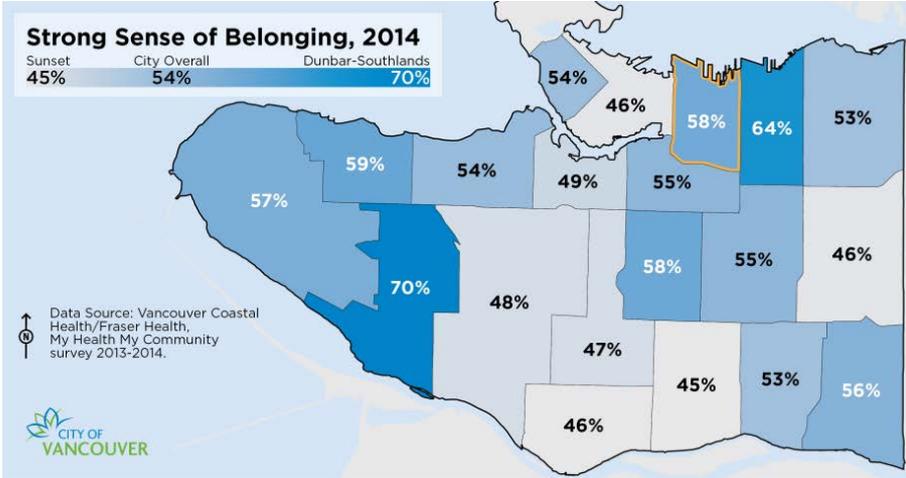
- DTES Plan background
- Plan progress
- Priorities for next three years



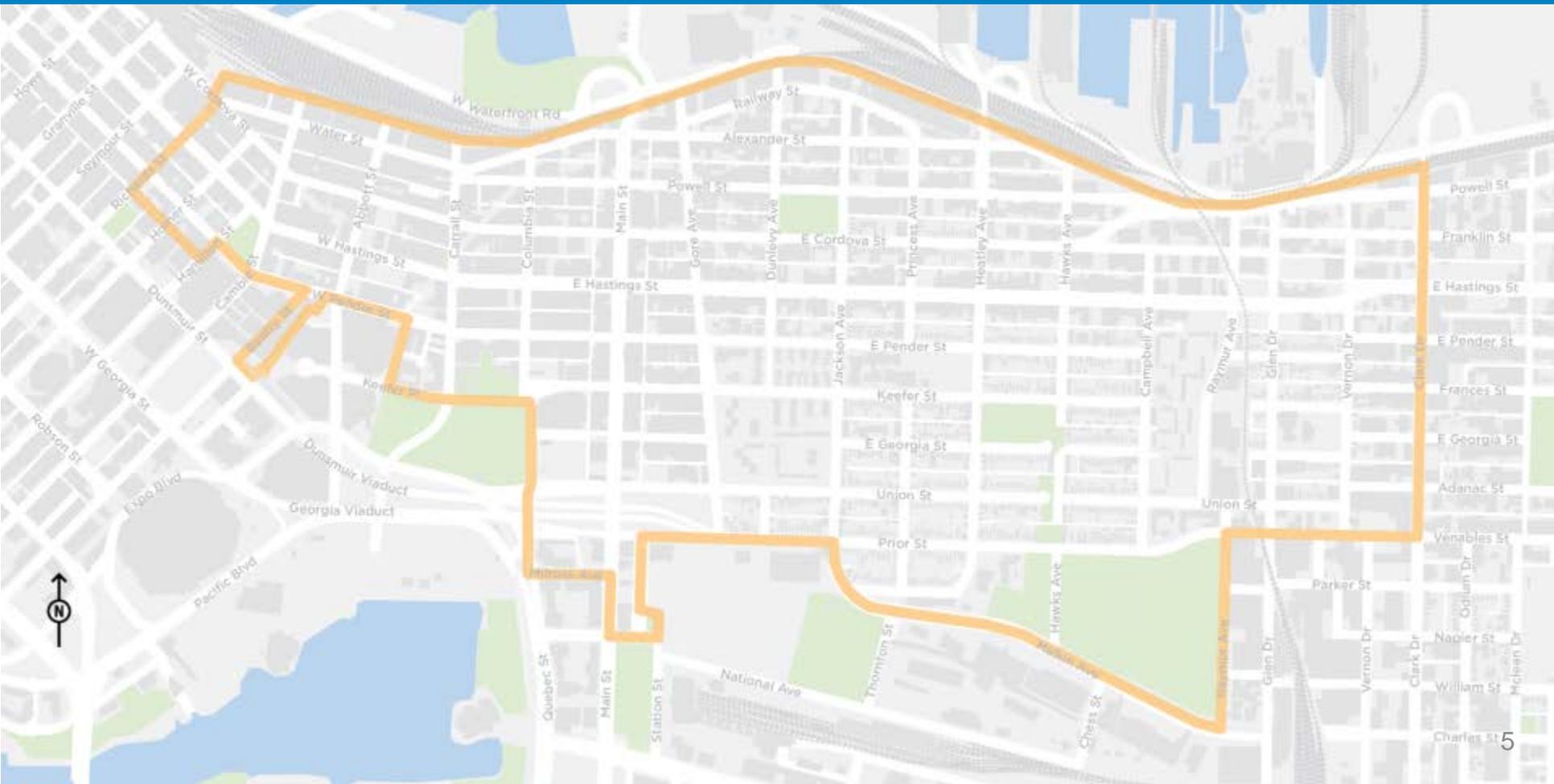


## Downtown Eastside Today

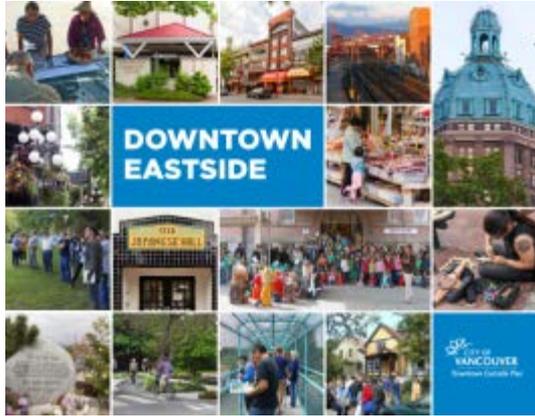
# Engaged community with strong sense of belonging



# Downtown Eastside planning area

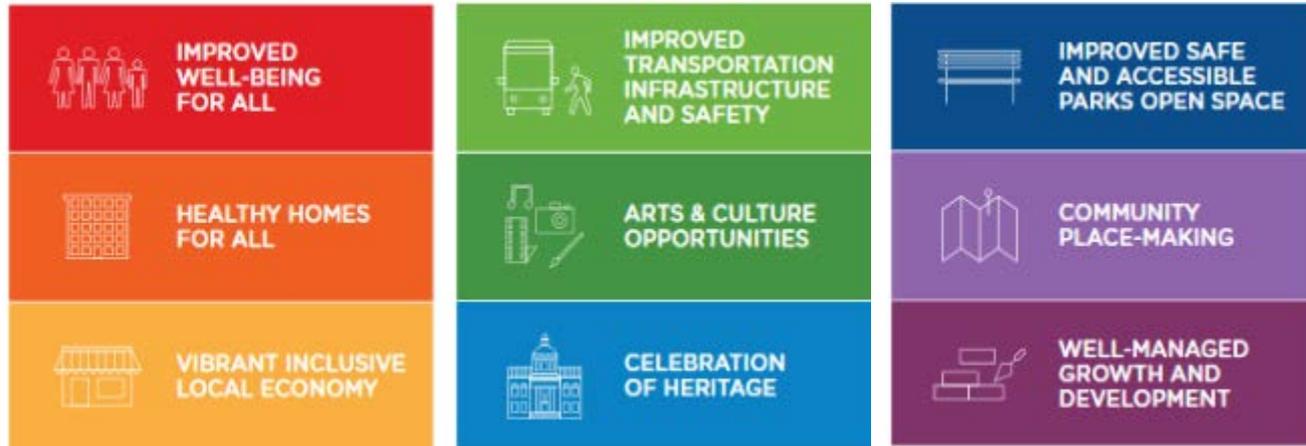


# DTES Plan (2014)



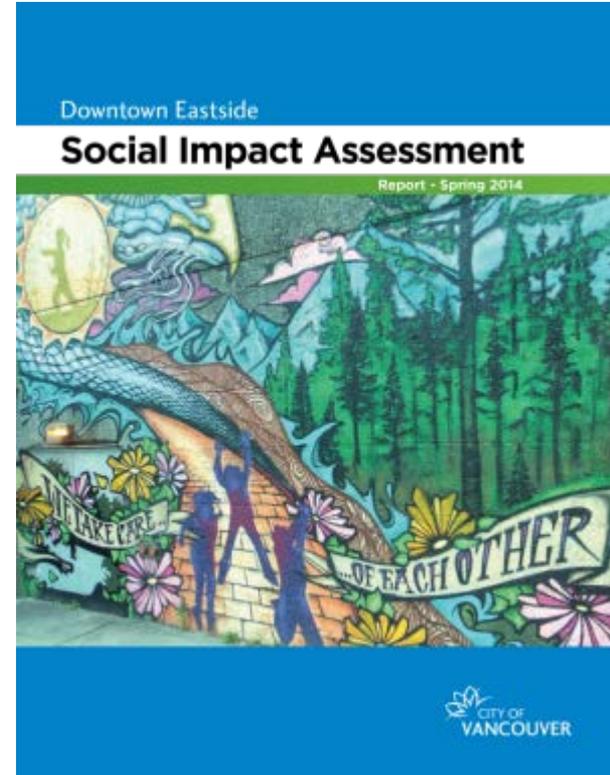
*Vision: "...the neighbourhood will be made up of mixed-income communities with a range of affordable housing options (including social housing) for all residents, local serving commerce, social services and cultural activities where all feel welcome, valued and at home."*

*Nine plan objectives:*



# Social Impact Assessment (2014)

- Community asset mapping
- Social indicators
- Objectives:
  - Maintain places and spaces important to the health and well-being of vulnerable residents
  - Focus future planning efforts where gaps exist
  - Monitor and measure progress and impacts of development and gentrification





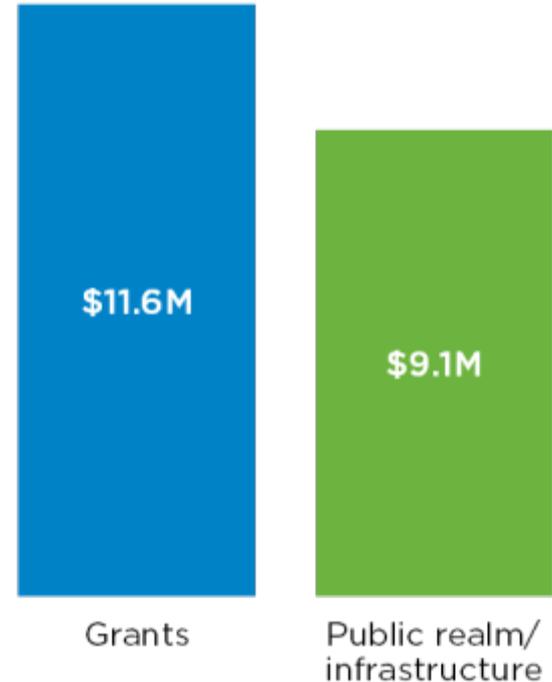
## Plan Progress Update



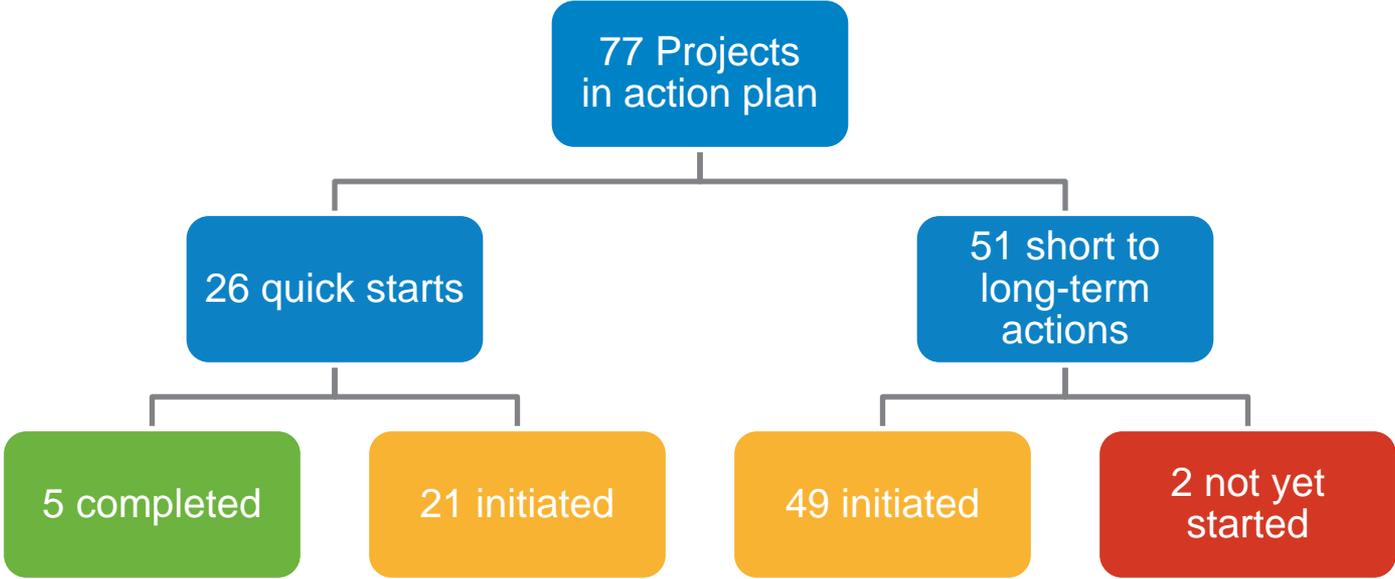
# City investments in the neighbourhood

## Over \$20 million in capital and programming grants and infrastructure upgrades

- \$10.2 million in grants:
  - cultural and social infrastructure
  - heritage buildings
  - SRO rooms
  - community economic development
- \$1.1 million in grants to social programs and \$250,000 to childcare programs.
- \$9.1 million to improve the public realm neighbourhood infrastructure



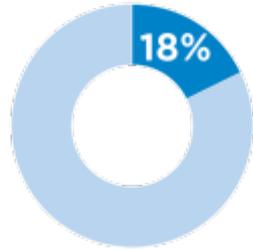
# Action plan implementation



# Progress on 30-year targets: housing

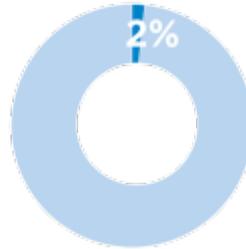
## Secured Market Rental Housing

Target: 3,000 units  
Achieved: 535 units



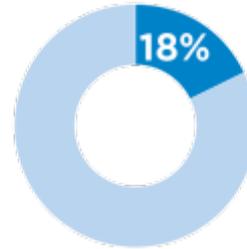
## Affordable Home Ownership

Target: 8,850 units  
Achieved: 172 units



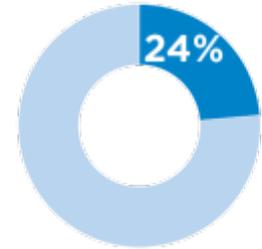
## Social Housing Inside DTES

Target: 4,400 units  
Achieved: 789 units



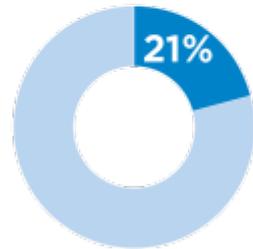
## Social Housing Outside DTES

Target: 3,350 units  
Achieved: 798 units



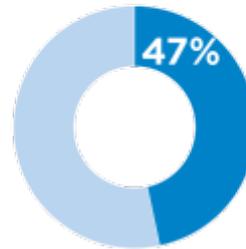
## Rent Subsidies

Target: 1,650 subsidies  
Achieved: 346 subsidies



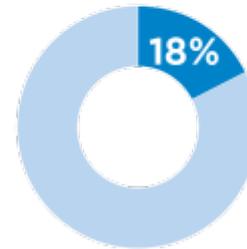
## SRO Upgrades

Target: 2,200 units  
Achieved: 1,028 units



## Scattered Supportive Housing

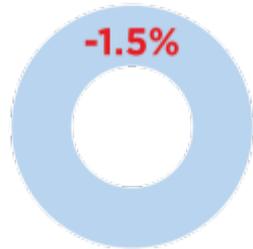
Target: 1,900 sites  
Achieved: 335 sites



# Progress on 30-year targets: local economy, well-being

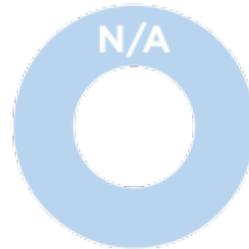
## Retention of Existing Businesses

Target: 2,800 businesses  
Achieved: 2,756 businesses



## Reduction in Empty Storefronts

Target: Reduction  
Achieved: Stable



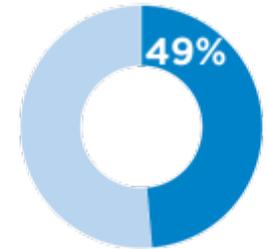
## Business Growth

Target: 3-5% growth  
Achieved: 4.7% growth



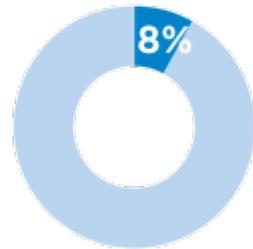
## New Employment Opportunities

Target: 3,500 jobs  
Achieved: 1,708 jobs



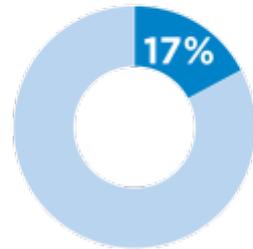
## Childcare for Age 0-4

Target: 148 spaces  
Achieved: 12 spaces



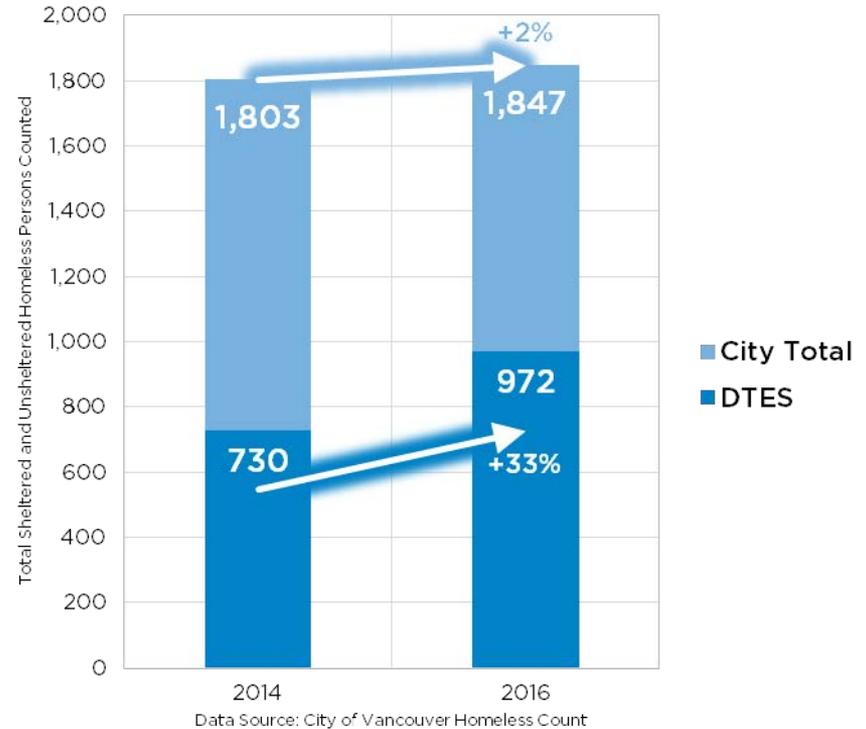
## Childcare for Age 5-12

Target: 144 spaces  
Achieved: 25 spaces



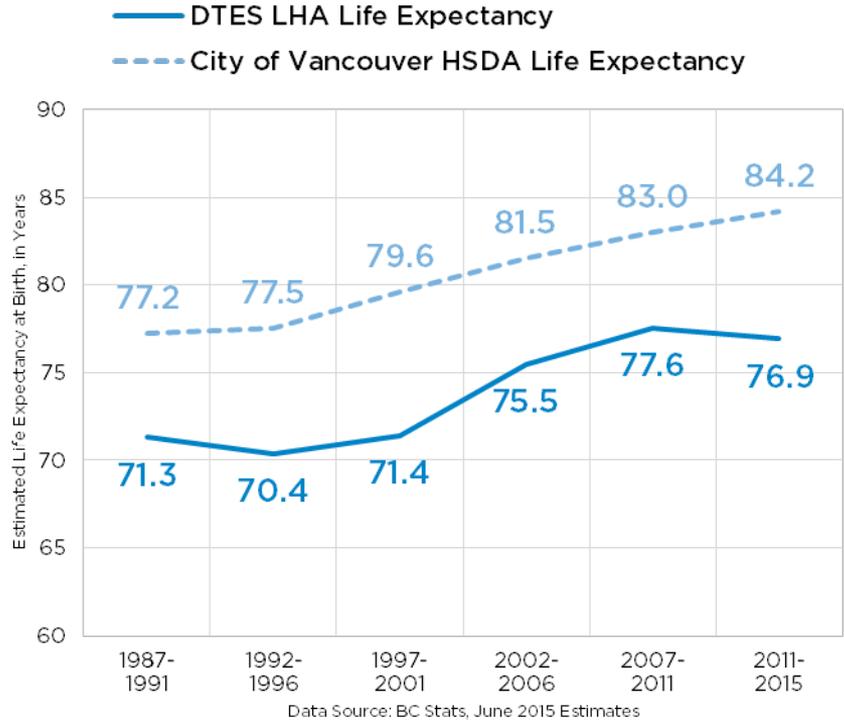
# Homelessness remains high

- Homeless counted in DTES increased by 33% 2014-2016
- Only 17% of private rooms currently renting at the shelter component of income assistance, compared to 24% in 2013
- 789 social housing units approved, under construction or completed since the DTES Plan
- Urgent need for partnership and commitment at all levels of government to deepen affordability for low income residents

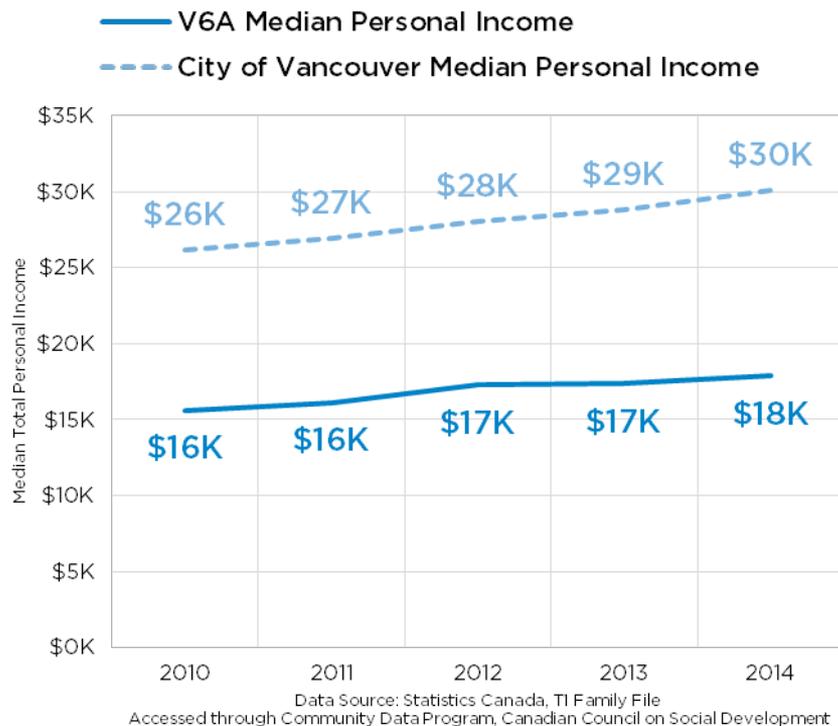
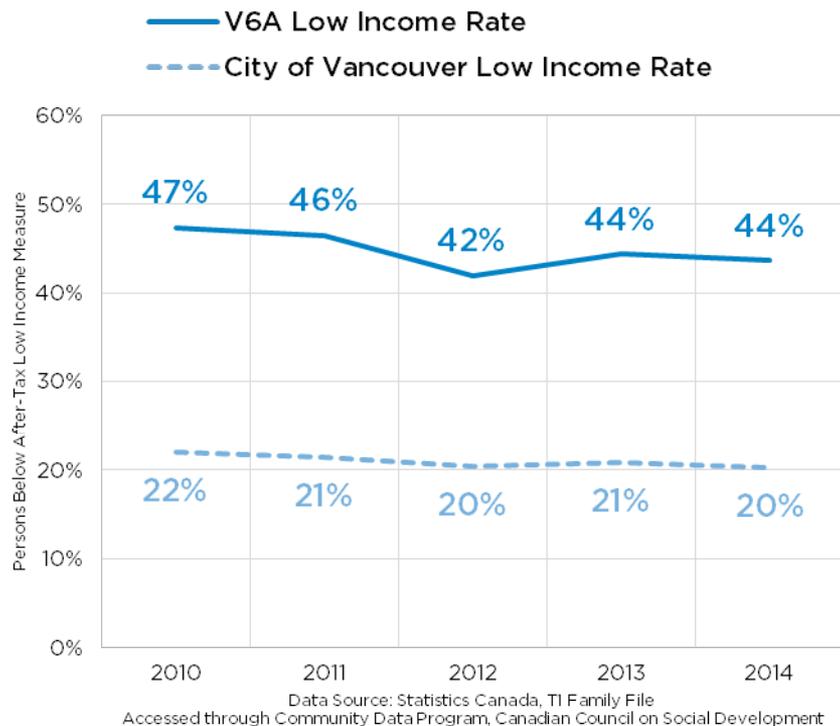


# Acute and urgent health inequities persist

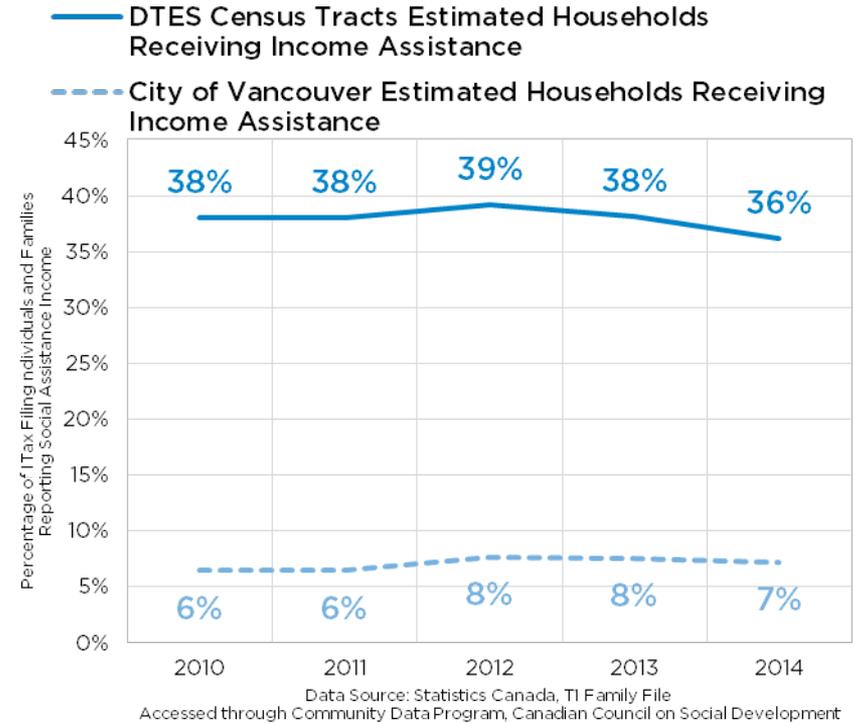
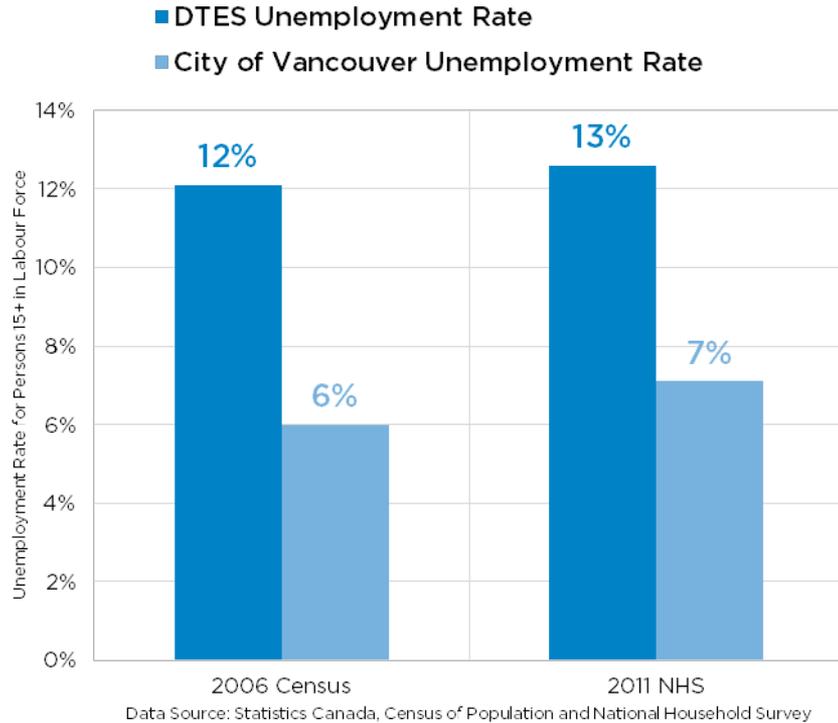
- Life expectancy is notably lower in the DTES than for the city overall
- Severe and acute challenges from current opioid overdose crisis will continue to negatively affect health outcomes
- Systemic change is needed through health policy and actions by the provincial and federal governments



# Persistent high poverty rate, low incomes



# Employment barriers and inadequate income supports



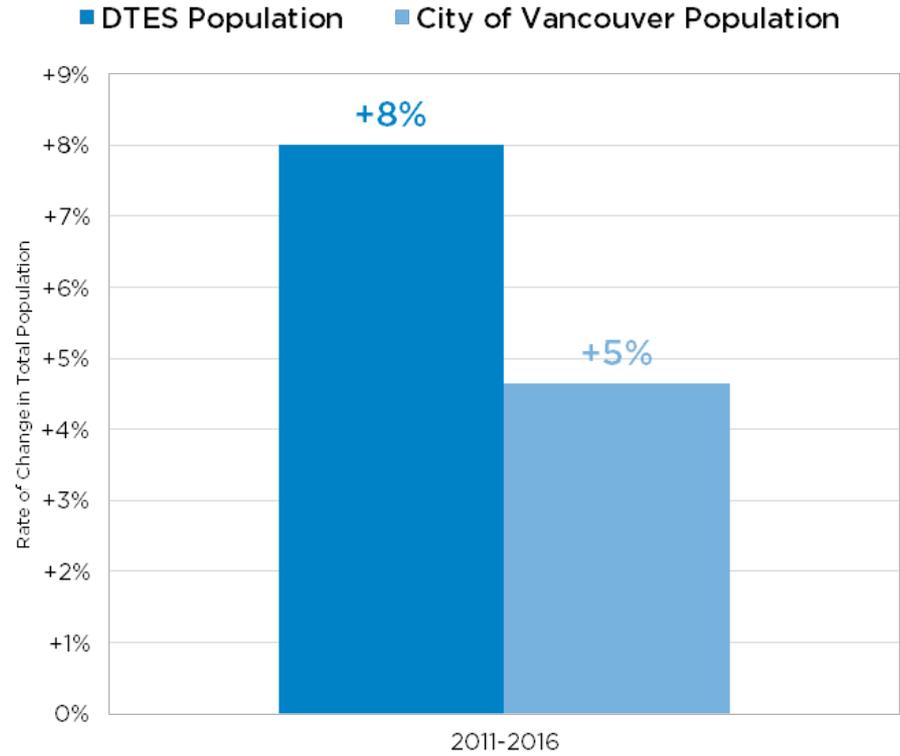
# Progress on poverty reduction and job creation

- Community Benefits Agreement leveraging jobs for inner-city residents
- Recently approved Community Economic Development Strategy:
  - New social purpose real estate partnerships (CIRES)
  - Securing City-owned real estate assets for programming and services
  - Intensify supported low-barrier job creation on employment lands



# 2016 DTES Population

- 19,955 residents (2016)
- Growth rate exceeding the city average



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

# Neighbourhood character and pace of change

16 mixed-use projects approved in the last 3 years:

- 929 housing units:
  - 315 social housing
  - 442 secured market rental
  - 172 condo ownership units
- First inclusionary zoning project approved

Development and Rezoning applications in-stream:

- 110 social housing units if approved
- 600 social housing units on three City-owned sites



# Neighbourhood character and pace of change

- Community concerns on changing neighbourhood character, especially in historic Chinatown and Gastown
- Existing, traditional and local-serving businesses are under pressure, concerns about retail gentrification
- Work underway to protect Society-owned heritage buildings, study historic businesses, social purpose real estate partnership and review development policies in Chinatown





## Priorities for the Next Three Years



# Key priorities

SRO Upgrades

Additional social housing production

Low-income serving and culturally relevant retail

Focus on the opioid crisis

Public realm improvements





# Questions

