Update to Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Response Task Force:

Vulnerable Populations and Downtown Eastside COVID-19 Response Actions

Presented by:
Sandra Singh, General Manager Arts, Culture, and Community Services

Based on Update to Council presented 4.28.2020
Purpose

• Provide an overview on COVID19 Response to support vulnerable populations and the DTES community, with a focus on actions across:
  
  • Equity and Inclusion
  • Shelter and Housing Support
  • SRO Support
  • Peer Work and Community Stewardship
  • Safe Supply and Overdose Prevention
  • Essential Hygiene
  • Street Cleaning and Sanitation
  • Food Security

*This presentation does not include city-wide COVID19 response actions.
COVID19 Impacts in the DTES

COVID19 impacts are disproportionately experienced by communities in the DTES.

• **Homeless/precariously housed** – inadequate conditions for social isolation/quarantine if sick, reduction in staff and volunteer supports, increase in homelessness, decrease in shelter spaces due to physical distancing of beds

• **DTES residents living in deep poverty** – limited access to health supports, family doctors, phones, computers, televisions and internet, washrooms, open public spaces, green space, income security and quality housing

• **Narrowing of services** – closure of gathering spaces, reduced access to essential medicine, washrooms, grocery stores, banks shutting down for cheque cashing

• **Income insecurity** – shut down or reduction in informal economy, DTES market, binning, sex work, job loss

• **Food insecurity** – reduction in charitable food programs, disruption of food supply chain, closure of low-cost grocery stores in Chinatown/DTES.

• **Barriers to critical information** – language, cultural relevance, access to mainstream communications channels, trust in government
Operational Risks and Challenges

• Non-profit & charitable sector capacity

• Mental and physical health for staff and frontline workers

• Critical supplies (i.e.: PPE) for shelter, food, and health services

• Confirmation of ongoing senior government funding for response & securing of more permanent housing solutions
1. Equity and Inclusion
More than half of Vancouver residents identify as Indigenous or visible minority (Statistics Canada).

Embedding equity and inclusion in emergency response is critical to ensuring our actions are inclusive of everyone, especially those who face the highest systemic, structural, and language barriers.

Many Vancouver residents speak a language other than English in their home and as their mother tongue.

The spread of coronavirus disproportionately impacts racialized people and equity-seeking groups.

The Community Resilience team includes staff with cultural competencies, lived experience, multilingual skills and strong relationships with diverse communities and networks.
Urban Indigenous Communities

1. Staff Community Liaisons with Community Urban Indigenous Planner & MMIWG Planner

2. Urban Indigenous Emergency Response
   Led by MVAEC, Partnership with VCH Aboriginal Health and City of Vancouver. Will coordinate urban Indigenous leadership for response and recovery stages.

3. Indigenous Outreach to Women & Girls - Matched community needs to UWLM to fund an Indigenous team providing daily access to culture, food and supports

4. Enhanced Community Stewardship Program, Vancouver Foundation, Reaching Home, including funding for urban Indigenous programs
Equitable Language Accessibility

Ensuring COVID-19 response actions are inclusive:
• Providing critical information in the most commonly used languages in Vancouver
• Developing multilingual webpages (phased approach)
• Hosting public "town halls" with multicultural media
• Disseminating critical information/resources through community networks, non-traditional channels

Ensuring actions are informed by ethnocultural communities:
• Proactively engaging with ethnocultural, language-, faith-based communities in Vancouver
• Elevating urgent community issues to the EOC (e.g. incidents of racism)
• Providing on-the-ground situation reports
• Strategic input on COVID-19 response with an equity lens to help ensure disparities are not exacerbated

COVID-19 Response Task Force
1. Vancouver Foundation: Issued over 100 grants in 4wks for health, social, arts and culture. Total $6.5M; $4M expended in Vancouver/Metro (as of April 22).

   Top 3 needs across a range of populations:
   1. Food security (doubles in terms of demand compared to highest need);
   2. Information and mental health supports;
   3. Equipment/tech to change/adapt NPO services

3. United Way Lower Mainland, Vancouver Food Banks + Federal & Provincial Funding

4. Mobile Device Donations & Wi-Fi Access

COVID-19 Response Task Force
2. Shelter and Housing Support
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2,223 PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS HOMELESS IN VANCOUVER ON MARCH 13, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>614 UNSHELTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,609 SHELTERED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Sub-optimal conditions for self-isolation and physical distancing.
- Reduced shelter capacity due to need for increased spacing between beds.
- Reduction in staff and volunteer capacity.
- Limited access to supports.
Joint Working Group - Shelters and SROs

- BC Housing, Vancouver Coastal Health and City of Vancouver working closely together to provide shelter and supports for people who are experiencing homelessness and are precariously housed.

- A joint Working Group and Steering Committee to evaluate and implement emergency response.

- Deliverables include
  - Identification and activation of 400+ emergency spaces (hotels and ERCs)
  - Streamlined processes for new site emergency response shelter / hotel identification and activation
  - Intake and Transition processes
  - Rapid response cleaning protocol
  - Ongoing inter-agency response to emerging issues
Response Centres & Hotel Spaces

- **143 spaces** have been secured at Emergency Response Centres (Coal Harbour and Roundhouse Community Centres)
- ~**500 hotel** and other spaces leased by BCH
- BC Housing has extended operation of **10 temporary** winter shelters
- Specific spaces for populations at risk, including youth and women/families fleeing violence
- VCH and BC Housing responsible for referral process, assessing applications to determine the most appropriate space for the individual depending on health and support needs
April 25: Province issues order under the Emergency Program Act to that people need to vacate the park by May 9

Targeting an estimated 300 individuals in and around Oppenheimer Park to be moved to 300 accommodation spaces in the form of hotels and hostel rooms, and supportive housing units

BC Housing and PHS leading work, in partnership with VCH and the COV

BC Housing, in partnership with CoV (ACCS/VAHA/PDS), working on comprehensive long-term plans to secure permanent housing with appropriate supports
3. SRO Support – Private & Public
SRO Context – Private and Public

~6,900 private and non-profit/government owned SROs providing a last resort before homelessness for City’s most marginalized tenants

Persistent Challenges … Exacerbated by COVID19:

• Hotels are 100+ years old, inadequate to resident health and safety needs
• Improving quality while keeping rents affordable impossible without gov’t investment; stemming loss of affordability from investor/speculators
• High proportion of tenants hard on housing; need for robust wrap around supports
• COVID-19: Shared washrooms, cooking facilities and maintenance challenges create risk for transmission amongst low-income, elderly, immune-compromised,
• VCH Public Health identified “worst” buildings as potential risk for rapid transmission
Total: 158 Buildings (6,891 rooms)

- Privately Owned and Operated – 43%
  (87 buildings, 3,050 rooms)
- Non-Profit Owned and Operated – 10%
  (11 buildings, 508 rooms)
- Government Owned and Operated – 32%
  (37 buildings, 2,330 rooms)
- Chinese Society Owned and Operated – 3%
  (9 buildings, 156 rooms)
- Privately Owned and Non-Profit Operated – 12%
  (14 buildings, 847 rooms)
**Goal:** Coordinated and strategic public health response that addresses the existing and COVID-19 related risks faced by tenants in public and private SROs

**Roles and Responsibilities:**
- VCH – Strategic public health guidance and direction
- BC Housing – Supports for BC Housing directly managed and non-profit SROs
- City of Vancouver – Private SROs, including Chinese Society Buildings, City operated SROs

**Shared Operating Principles:**
- Equity of support for low-income tenants in private and public SRO Hotels
- Ensuring a robust public health response across SRO stock

"COVID doesn’t care about ownership or operator" (VCH)
1. Tactical Cleaning/Disinfecting Support for Private SROs
   - Funded by CoV (2 weeks) and BCH (4 weeks); Tactical deployment aligned with VCH guidelines
   - DOES NOT replace base building standards of maintenance requirements by private owners or direction to follow VCH cleaning guidance (2-3X per day)
   - # of Private SRO Disinfecting Cleans provided = 67

2. SRO Tenant Cleaning Kits
   - Personal cleaning kits to empower and equip all tenants to protect themselves from Covid-19 transmission
   - Funded by CoV and private donations = approx $20K to date
   - Issues: supply chain limitations, cross organization needs, speed of donations
   - Adjusted Goal: 500 kits for deployment to suspect and confirmed sites in partnership with VCH RTT
   - # of Tenant Cleaning Kits distributed = 18
3. Food and Meal Deployment

- Provide meal delivery to low-income SRO tenants to support physical distancing and address food insecurity resulting from COVID-19 economic impacts (public and private donors)
- Culturally appropriate food program for Chinatown SROs and Society Buildings (temp funding via private donor)
- Time-limited, temporary funding = CoV ($200K), BC Housing ($200K) and Private Donors
- # of private SRO/hotel tenants receiving food support = 2044
- 643 COV tenants receiving daily meal hampers; 36,000 meals to date

Other Initiatives:

- Education and outreach with VCH to private owners to support COVID-19 best practices and update on changes to public health guidance (incl. translation)
- Coordination with SRO-Collaborative and community partners/peers
- SRO Revitalization Strategies & SRA By-law – monitoring and implementation
- Forward Planning with Partners
4. Peer Work Redeployment
1. DTES Resident Network

First week of Operation: March 23

Innovative, Rapid Response Process

-- COVID-19 Response & Drug Policy Advisor

- Rapid redeployment ~ 12 peers/day
- Focus on access to critical information, outreach (bank accounts, safe supply), communications and policy

2. DTES Market - Peer Redeployment

- DTES Market formally shut-down (Mar)
- Peer managers redeployed to COVID-19 response
- Vendors received emergency benefit to encourage ‘staying home’
Enhanced Community Stewardship Program

$200K City Contribution - 6 Weeks Peer Work
First week of Operation: April 10

Innovative, Rapid Response Process & Partnership Established

• CIRES holds and administers funds as independent org
• Community Review Committee established
• Community agencies coordinate available peers and match with community needs
• CIRES invoiced weekly by participating organizations and cheques are processed within 3 days
• Weekly meetings are held by all participating organizations
Enhanced Community Stewardship Program

Week 1: 72 Peers, 1184 Hours/Week
Week 2: 98 Peers, 2035 Hours/Week

• 10 organizations, strong equity focus
  • Atira, Mission Possible, OPS, Watari, DEWC, SPIRIT, Friends of CCAP, Aboriginal Front Door, Binners Project, Raise the Rates

• 11 groups served
  • Survival sex workers, women, undocumented immigrants, unsheltered homeless, urban Indigenous, binners, drug users, non-profits, BIAs, residents

• Types of peer work initiatives
  • Physical distancing, wellness support, food donation & distribution, litter and needle pick-up, security, cleaning and sanitation supplies, outreach, service navigation, access to critical information

Amount Paid to Peers by Group

- Rough sleepers, unsheltered homeless: 40%
- Women: 23%
- Drug Users: 9%
- Sex Workers: 8%
- Undocumented Immigrants: 7%
- Urban Indigenous: 6%
- Non-profits, BIA’s, general population: 3%
- Binners: 1%
- COVID-19 Response Task Force: 0%
Enhanced Community Stewardship Program

“This has helped us focus on people unhoused at/near Main and Hastings, provided food security for people in Oppenheimer Park, organized. We’ve also tried to prioritize Indigenous women. We’ve been able to provide hygiene supplies and info, where to go for food. Community support has been great (e.g. donations, food containers, carts, food, etc). Elders have been able to donate salmon, halibut” - Fiona York, Friends of CCAP

“This money has been transformational for people who typically wouldn’t be paid for peer work - pickup/distribute food, supplies, peer packages. … we’re reaching out to those who would not actively seek out medical care” - Meriah, SPIRIT

“Young people have been able to involve themselves in decision making, they are organizing other people, they are becoming leaders and it’s been important to trust people” - Raise the Rates
Sex Worker Response in Vancouver

Sex Workers are especially impacted by COVID-19 & COVID response

Summary of City Role
• Staff liaison role to coordinate all sex worker supporting orgs + hired new Sex Worker Liaison
• Request to Province for 50+ hotel spaces
• Enhanced Community Stewardship Program – 10 sex worker peer workers/week deployed
• Vancouver Foundation – Support for sex worker organizations: WISH, PACE, Transitions Consortium (20 peer supports)
• UWLM – Meals program
• Matched 100 mobiles distributed by Telus and private food donor to sex worker community

Gaps
• Access to safe space, including 24/7 support and access to washrooms and showers for sex workers & people who identify as women
• Access to income security – sex worker relief fund to ensure that everyone in community is safe and supported
5. Safe Supply & Overdose Prevention
Partner – Vancouver Coastal Health

- Overdose Crisis exacerbated by COVID-19 Crisis (isolation, health inequities, access to safe supply)
- Safe Supply Guidelines for Enhanced Access
- New Outdoor Overdose Prevention Site at 62 E Hastings
- Access to Critical Information & Services
6. Cheque Day Plan
Cheque Day – COVID-19 Impacts

Approximately 4,000 residents receiving Income Assistance do not have bank accounts/electronic transfer options, requiring ‘in-person’ collection and/or cashing.

In addition, Canada Post had announced an intention to discontinue post to Hastings blocks with high volume clustering.
1. Partner – City working to Innovate & Respond
   - Ministry of SDPR – Canada Post, ID, Electronic Transfers
   - Vancity/Pigeon Park Savings – Bank Account/ID, Distribution Pilot, Peer Workers
   - DTES Resident Network – Access, Outreach & Information
   - Vancouver Coastal Health – OD Response, Outdoor OPS

2. Advocate – for people with lived experience/homeless
   - For Emergency Supplement, disbursement models - Ministry of SDPR $900 ($300 Apr, May, June)
   - ID issuance for bank account

3. Invest – City working with community partners
   - DTES Market Peer Deployment at IA Offices, Pigeon Park Savings
   - 12 Hour Hastings Street Lane Closure Pilot – Columbia to Carrall – Room to Queue
Hastings Lane Closure Pilot
7. Hygiene
Handwashing & public hygiene stations

Online Map & Updated Info:

COVID-19 Response Task Force
Public Hygiene

Showers and laundry operating out of Evelyn Saller and Gathering Place
• 1591 loads of laundry and 1755 showers since March 21 (capacity 75 per day)

Hand washing stations
• Temporary handwashing stations deployed along Hastings are being replaced with more robust handwashing stations created from the hydration stations that the City deploys in the summer.

Washrooms
• Emergency porta-potties deployed in select locations
• VCH direction and in consultation with community consolidated to better monitor safety
• Strategy underway to re-open Evelyne Saller & Gathering Place washrooms and deploy more robust trailer facilities

Planned activities:
• Temporary handwashing stations deployed along Hastings are being replaced with more robust handwashing stations created from the hydration stations that the City deploys in the summer.
• The first two of these stations will be deployed this week, with more to follow.
• Reviewing deployment in other locations where a need has been identified.
8. Street Cleaning and Sanitation
1. High level of service (primarily on nightshift):
   - flushing and cleaning lanes of large debris, human waste, abandoned items etc., street sweeping and litter collection
   - Afternoon shift focuses on emptying litter cans, litter removal and street sweeping

2. Enhanced day time:
   - Provide additional litter collection, sweeping and debris removal on E. Hastings from 1:00pm to 3:00pm
   - Increased sidewalk sweeping on Water St in Gastown, Evelyne Saller and Carnegie Centre
9. Food Security
Food Security Response in DTES

- Variety of responses to address the current COVID-related meal gap in DTES to restore and increase food access, and support physical distancing
- Needs assessment and brokering of solutions with funders, charitable sector, and private donors
- Prioritizing support for agencies that provide free and low cost food
- Private SRO meals provided by Potluck, VCC (BC Housing Funded) and private donors
- Expansion of food services from Evelyn Saller, Carnegie and Gathering Place (1700 meals per day, 10% growth)
Generous donations and offers from our community have included:

- Food and food supplies
- Water
- Transportation / delivery
- Masks
- Soap
- Essential clothing
- Phones and data plans
- Hand Sanitizer

www.giveahandvancouver.ca
Recovery, Restart, Resurgence

Recovery / Restart

• Public facilities restart
• Extreme heat planning
• ERC deactivation
  • Process and outflow
  • Shelter crowding
  • Emergency facilities
• Key ongoing issues:
  • SROs/Shelters: ongoing risks
  • Food security: ongoing issues
  • Hygiene
  • Public spaces for people
  • Informal economy
• Streams for focused recovery:
  • Populations disproportionately impacted
  • Non-profit and social enterprise sectors

Resurgence?

• Plans in the event of a resurgence in the fall
• ERCs and other spaces that support self-isolation
• Learn from the last 2 months
• Consideration of different models for intervention
• Stay connected to VCH and BC Housing
• Agility in the event of cycles of expansion and retraction
Food Security During COVID-19

Claire Gram, VCH Population Health Policy & Projects Lead
Brenna Ayliffe, FH Community Health Specialist
Michael Schwandt, VCH Medical Health Officer
Juan Solorzano, VCH Ex Director Population Health
Terminology

Food security / Food Insecurity

Three main pillars:
• food availability
  • Supply chain
  • Anti hoarding policies
  • Food production
• food access
  • Meals
  • Groceries
  • Income/physical access
• food utilization
  • Safety
  • Access to equipment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Community Responses &amp; Risks</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food Access</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Increased demand for emergency food services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increasing need for emergency food services but have no way to quantify need; charitable organizations reporting increase in hampers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In some areas food banks reducing number of sites; wide range of charitable organizations also active</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food Hamper Limitations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• kitchen required, not always culturally appropriate food, “no choice” for people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Option of providing grocery gift cards or other income based responses has been welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Schools have been providing meals for their students but will be stopping over the summer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Access to delivery</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• For seniors with mobility issues and people with disabilities, including delays / technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decreased number of volunteers / high burnout</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Seniors large portion of volunteer pool but at higher risk</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Coordination of volunteers to support delivery was challenging at first and remains a challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Length of time support required is leading to burn out</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decreasing Funding / Donations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• maintaining emergency food assistance now requires a rapid infusion of public funds, given the dependence of this system on donations and volunteer labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Availability of resources is a concern for the summer, when schools stop providing hampers, and when current short term funding runs out</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food Availability</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supply Chain</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall the supply chain has been strong (despite concerns re food processing facilities)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hoardings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>There are concerns re the anti-hoarding policies of grocery retailers negatively impacting large families, people shopping for other families, group homes that regularly shop in grocery stores, people who need to travel distances to shop</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Farmer’s Markets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>There has been mixed response to farmers markets with some communities or markets closing and others remaining open. They are identified as an essential service.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Utilization</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Re-opening</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The health authorities have developed many resources to support NGOs as well as food businesses operating safely and are working with Work Safe as we move towards reopening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cooking and Storage Facilities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some communities have offered use of commercial kitchens in recreation facilities to support meal preparation if preexisting programs had to shut down due to COVID</td>
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Structure of Food Security Responses

Local Responses:
- Metro Vancouver Municipal Food Security & Covid Working Group
- Primarily emergency food based responses
- Relying on not-for-profit organizations
- Unique to each community
Food Banks and other Emergency Responses
Current Role for Local Governments

- Partner with Health Authorities
- Connect food response to EOCs for timely information sharing
- Support coordination across fragmented NGO sector
- Funding / In-kind support
BCCDC
COVID-19 Survey

http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey

COVID-19 Response Task Force
Immediate Response
- Improved Coordination & Efficiency
- Better support for vulnerable & isolated populations

Longer-term Response
- Strengthening local food systems:
  - Social connections, food production, cultural connections, ecological benefits
- Income based responses:
  - Coordinated policies and programs, to ensure all households have consistent and sufficient income to be able to pay for basic needs, including food
  - Universal basic income or guaranteed annual income
  - Poverty-reduction strategies and programming
“We’re spending too much time and energy in the wrong places. We’re not getting to the root causes of it all.”

- Marilyn Hermann, former Executive Director, Surrey Food Bank
What are we looking at?

- Housing (demand, market, starts)
- Economy (job loss, sectors, change)
- Transportation (transit use, travel, patterns)
- Land Use (office, industrial markets, agriculture)
- Environment (GHGs, Air Quality)
Two types of information…

- Indicators – report out regularly on change
- Real-time data as available
Core Services

- Data and monitoring
- Policy research
- Convene on planning issues of regional interest
- Provide a planning resource
- Leadership and Innovation

- Provide a strategic, long-range, cross-boundary, interdisciplinary lens
- Support planning throughout the region – Utilities, member jurisdictions, TransLink, other regional interests
Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

$2000 every 4 weeks up to 4 months
Covers the period from March 15 to October 3
As of May 5, 2020

7.59 million
People filed for CERB

$28.57 billion
Dollar value of CERB benefits paid

Government of Canada May 5, 2020
# BC Temporary Rent Supplement Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Applications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aldergrove</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anmore</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belcarra</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowen Island</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>5,491</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coquitlam</td>
<td>2,377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>1,032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Langley</td>
<td>1,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lions Bay</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maple Ridge</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>1,849</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Applications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Vancouver</td>
<td>2,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitt Meadows</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Coquitlam</td>
<td>620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Moody</td>
<td>341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>3,727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>7,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tsawwassen</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>24,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Vancouver</td>
<td>623</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Rock</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metro Vancouver</strong></td>
<td><strong>53,063</strong></td>
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BC Housing, May 13, 2020
HOUSING
# Housing Demand – April Listings

REBGV / FVREB  
May 4, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2019 Greater Vancouver</th>
<th>2020 Greater Vancouver</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>10.8K</td>
<td>9.4K</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>8.6K</td>
<td>5.1K</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>9.2K</td>
<td>6.4K</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>12.8K</td>
<td>7.9K</td>
<td>24%</td>
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COVID-19 Response Task Force
Housing Demand – April Sales

REBGV / FVREB
May 4, 2020

COVID-19 Response Task Force
Metro Vancouver had a 28.4% decrease in housing starts compared to March 2020 and a 55.6% decline from April 2019.
March Building Permits – Corrected

- Value of Building Permits in BC dropped 44% in March compared to March 2019, and 19.4% from Feb. 2020.
- Declines in non-residential (-18%), residential (-20%), commercial (-32%), and industrial (-16%)
- 33.2% increase in value of permits for institutional and government projects
- Decrease of 23% in Metro Vancouver from Feb. 2020

Statistics Canada, BC Stats May 8, 2020
BC Community Self-isolation Sites & Shelter Expansions

BC Community Self-Isolation Sites:
Spaces secured in hotels, motels, community centres

Shelter space open until end of June (usually March)

BC Housing, May 5, 2020

COVID-19 Response Task Force
Canada - Jobs

Loss of nearly 2 million jobs in April 2020 in Canada (1 million in March)

Unemployment rate climbed 5.2 points to 13%

Statistics Canada
May 8, 2020
**CANADA - Jobs**

Employment change from February to April 2020, selected sectors (thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Mar.</th>
<th>Apr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation &amp; food services</td>
<td>-294</td>
<td>-321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; retail trade</td>
<td>-208</td>
<td>-375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>-35</td>
<td>-267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care &amp; social assistance</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, culture &amp; recreation</td>
<td>-125</td>
<td>-82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics Canada, May 8, 2020
CANADA – Job Postings

Decline in job postings from March 2 to April 6

BC  -68%
Alberta  -69%
Ontario  -60%
Quebec  -47%

Job postings in Canada fell by half in March
(weekly number of job postings in 2020)

Note: The week of April 13, 2020 only has 3 days’ worth of data, so these numbers were excluded.
Sources: Vicinity Jobs; The Conference Board of Canada.
BRITISH COLUMBIA - Jobs

BC Unemployment Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec-19</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-20</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-20</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-20</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics Canada  May 8, 2020
BRITISH COLUMBIA – Job Loss in April

- Lost 396,500 jobs in March and April, 264,000 in April alone.
- Nearly half in food service and retail, 74% of the jobs lost were full time; 26% were part time.
- Services-producing sector decreased 217,200 jobs or 11.3%
- Goods-producing sector was down 46,900 or 9.8%

Statistics Canada  May 8, 2020
• Unemployment rate rose to 10.8%, up 6.2% from February 2020
• In April, the region lost 139,100 or 10.3% of its jobs.
Transportation / Mobility

• Transit usage down 85% across region
• Funding agreement with the Province = service cuts cancelled and 1,500 employees lay-offs rescinded

TransLink, May 8, 2020
Transportation / Mobility – April Traffic Volumes

- Massey Tunnel’s April traffic volume down 43% (a 6% rise over March)
- Port Mann bridge traffic down 32% (up 9% over March)
- Lions Gate bridge traffic down 52% (up 4% over March)
- Golden Ears, Pattullo, and Knight bridge traffic down 27%-37% (up 10-15% over March)

TransLink, BC MOTI, April, 2020
• BC Ferries: March passengers down 41.7%; vehicles down 30.3% compared to March 2019

BC Stats May 13, 2020
Mobility Patterns in BC

- **Retail & recreation**: -51% compared to baseline
- **Grocery & pharmacy**: -17% compared to baseline
- **Parks**: +21% compared to baseline
- **Transit stations**: -58% compared to baseline
- **Workplace**: -48% compared to baseline
- **Residential**: +15% compared to baseline
### Mobility Patterns in BC

#### Retail & recreation
-43% compared to baseline

#### Grocery & pharmacy
-9% compared to baseline

#### Parks
+65% compared to baseline

#### Transit stations
-56% compared to baseline

#### Workplace
-52% compared to baseline

#### Residential
+20% compared to baseline
Office, Retail, Industrial Selling Price (per SqFt)

CoStar, May, 2020

COVID-19 Response Task Force
Agriculture – Temporary Foreign Farm Workers

• Shortage of temporary foreign farm workers being addressed.
• Province welcomes 10,000 foreign workers each year
  • 1,990 already working at end of March
  • 1,550 arrived between then and May 11, 2020
• Expect an additional 3,000 imminently
Air Quality – NO2 Decreases

Nitrogen Dioxide measured at the Downtown Vancouver Monitoring Station

January | February | March | April
--- | --- | --- | ---
20.0 | 20.0 | 15.0 | 14.0

2016 - 2019 Average (ppb) | 2020 (ppb)

Metro Vancouver May, 2020

COVID-19 Response Task Force
• Updated March numbers and April numbers giving a clearer picture of the initial impacts of COVID-19 on the nation, province and region
• We will continue to report out as information becomes available.
Thank you