

The Richmond Poverty Response Committee has taken a leadership role in advocating for affordable housing. The list of projects that we have undertaken is quite extensive.

1. Outreach to the Richmond faith communities and the creation of the Richmond Faith Housing Group.
2. Provided support to the Richmond 2008 Homeless Count (volunteer recruitment, sanitary kits, sandwich wagon).
3. STAND. Since May 2008 we have stood for one hour a week at the corner of Minoru and Granville holding banners (HOMES FOR ALL).
4. Homeless Awareness Week. (5<sup>th</sup> year)
5. NIMBY to YIMBY project. With support from BC Healthy Communities began dialogue in housing community on response to Richmond's strong NIMBY reactions. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, we sponsored a BC Non-Profit Housing Association workshop.
6. Study Circles. In partnership with the Richmond Civic Engagement Network we have initiated a community dialogue around affordable housing.

Richmond housing projects needing support:

1. Homeless outreach worker: Richmond is one of the few communities in Metro Vancouver without a homeless outreach worker. It has been identified as a priority numerous times. The extreme weather shelter at St. Alban's has clearly identified this as a priority. The Salvation Army and other groups have been identified as possible sponsors.
2. St. Alban's homeless drop in night: Building on the trust established by the Extreme Weather Shelter, this drop-in would be an excellent opportunity to bring much needed services to the homeless community. Other than support from the Richmond Food Bank, there is no other support currently for the drop-in night.
3. Full-time drop in centre: Richmond clearly has a need for a full time drop in centre.
4. Shelters: The 2002 Homelessness study identified the need for a range of clients. A shelter for women was identified as a priority. However a project initiated by the Richmond Women's Centre and Family Services of Greater Vancouver has been stalled in Richmond's planning department for a couple of years.
5. Transition and supportive housing programs: There is a severe lack of supportive housing in Richmond. The lack of political support for the Turning Point proposal means that we will continue to export our problems. This is neither fair nor providing the best care. The importance of politicians taking tough stands cannot be underestimated in ensuring that proposals become reality. We anticipate new proposals from Turning Point and other groups in the near future
6. Affordable Housing: There are a number of projects at different levels of development. While we laud the City of Richmond's efforts in mandating new housing projects, too little effort is being given to potential housing projects in other areas. In particular our work with the Richmond Faith Housing Group has identified a number of faith communities that are interested in developing housing projects.
7. Affordable Housing Society: Richmond is one of the few communities in Metro Vancouver without a housing society. Clearly the community needs the support that a housing society can provide in expertise, advocacy and fundraising.