



Living in  
Community

2014

Action Plan  
Update

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Community



## 2014 Action Plan Update

In 2004, Living in Community grew out of concerns at the neighbourhood level about the impacts of sex work on all community members. Resident groups, neighbourhood houses, business improvement associations, community policing centres, government, nonprofits and sex workers came together with the recognition that urgent change was required immediately, and that the only way that lasting change would happen was in working collaboratively. With the vision of working to make communities healthier and safer for each and every community member, including sex workers, residents and business persons, Living in Community has been a unique model of how to work in partnership around very challenging social issues.

Living in Community's 2007 *Action Plan* includes 27 recommendations which were developed through an extensive community engagement process throughout Vancouver. These recommendations continue to guide the work of the Steering Committee that oversees the work of Living in Community. This document updates the recommendations based on the 2013 context, and connects the recommendations to the 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report, *Forsaken*, as well as the City of Vancouver's 2011 Report, *Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Protecting Vulnerable Adults & Neighbourhoods Affected by Sex Work: A Comprehensive Approach and Action Plan*. Living in Community's 2014 *Action Plan Update* also serves as an informative tool for organizations in Vancouver, as well as a powerful model for collaboration and change for other municipalities dealing with similar issues.

### **Living in Community's purpose**

To create communities that are healthier and safer for each and every community member in relation to sex work and sexual exploitation.

### **Living in Community's values**

- Embracing diversity and respect for all
- Enabling participation
- Learning and self-growth as a path to change
- Taking a stance against exploitation and social injustice

- Creating understanding and building community
- Openness to listen and understand different perspectives

### Living in Community's model

The Living in Community model is a collaborative approach involving diverse stakeholders affected by issues in the following action areas:



Out of these action areas, Living in Community's goals fall into six categories. The key recommendations for immediate implementation are highlighted below, with further detail in the following pages.

#### 1. Build greater awareness, dialogue and responsiveness of multiple stakeholders

- **Action:** The Province and City of Vancouver coordinate with Metro municipalities to adopt the Living in Community model.
- **Action:** The Province and/or the City of Vancouver provide annual funding for Living in Community of \$50,000 to implement the Living in Community model.
- **Action:** Set up a process to bring together key stakeholders to advise the Provincial government on best ways to respond to sex work and sexual exploitation issues, particularly following the Bedford decision at the Supreme Court of Canada<sup>1</sup>.

#### 2. Reduce and prevent sexual exploitation

- **Action:** The Province, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence partner with Living in Community to deliver Living in Community's sex work awareness and education workshops to key frontline service providers.
- **Action:** The Province expand curriculum on sexual exploitation to be mandatory province-wide.

#### 3. Increase direct services

- **Action:** Ensure sustainable funding for all sex work organizations through the Province, City of Vancouver and other funders.

<sup>1</sup> Canada v. Bedford challenged the constitutionality of Canada's prostitution laws. On December 20, 2013 the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down the laws. The ruling is suspended for one year, during which time the federal government can consider whether to create a new legal framework that complies with the Charter of Rights of Freedoms.

- **Action:** Using the MAP Van model, expand mobile outreach to sex workers to other Metro Vancouver and other key provincial municipalities.
- 4. Increase housing availability and accessibility**
    - **Action:** Ensure a continuum of housing options for sex workers and sexually exploited youth from safe houses to supportive housing to subsidized housing.
  - 5. Provide transitioning and exiting options for sex workers**
    - **Action:** Provide sustainable funding for an effective service delivery model for sex workers transitioning to alternative life options and/or exiting sex work.
  - 6. Affect policy and legal change**
    - **Action:** Review the Bedford decision and identify the most effective strategies to ensure the safety of sex workers based on the legal framework that is created.

## List of Acronyms

BCCEC	BC Coalition of Experiential Communities
BIA	Business Improvement Association
BWSS	Battered Women's Support Services
CoV	City of Vancouver
CPC	Community Policing Centre
ESC	Work BC Employment Services Centre
HUSTLE	HUSTLE: Men on the Move
LIC	Living in Community
MAP Van	Mobile Access Project Van operated by WISH
MCFD	Ministry of Children and Family Development
SWAN	Supporting Women's Alternatives Network (SWAN Vancouver) Society
PACE	Providing Alternatives Counselling and Education Society
SROs	Single Room Occupancy
VCAT	Vancouver Community Action Team
VCH	Vancouver Coastal Health
VBE	Vancouver Board of Education
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
VPL	Vancouver Public Library
WISH	WISH Drop-in Centre Society

## Detailed Living in Community 2014 Action Plan Update

The following table provides a detailed update to the 27 recommendations made in Living in Community's 2007 *Action Plan*. Included in the update are links between Living in Community's *Action Plan*, The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, *Forsaken* and the City of Vancouver's *Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Protecting Vulnerable Adults & Neighbourhoods Affected by Sex Work: A Comprehensive Approach and Action Plan*; progress made on each recommendation; and the stakeholders responsible for each action. This update also serves as a call to action for stakeholders to fulfill their responsibilities outlined in these three reports, and for other communities to undertake the collaborative community engagement strategy Living in Community has employed since 2004.

ACTION <sup>1</sup>	CONNECTION TO OTHER REPORTS <sup>2,3</sup>	UPDATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBILITY
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT				
<p><b>ACTION 1:</b> Fund a community-based position to facilitate the implementation of the Living in Community Action Plan in collaboration with community members and groups, including sex workers', business, and governmental organizations.</p>	<p><b>Forsaken 5.2:</b> That all entities with proposed responsibilities under the Living in Community Action Plan commit to these priority actions that together form a strong basis for enhancing the safety of women engaged in the survival sex trade.</p> <p><b>5.3:</b> That other communities be encouraged to undertake the type of collaborative community engagement strategy employed by Living in Community to develop an integrated strategy for enhancing the safety of women engaged in the survival sex trade.</p> <p><b>City of Vancouver (CoV) Report 1:</b> Coordinate with Metro municipalities, enforcement agencies, nongovernmental agencies, and other stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Living in Community received \$20,000 in 2013 from City of Vancouver for community development &amp; implementation of LIC model. This will be a regular funding amount.</li> <li>- Additional annual funding is required for more comprehensive implementation of LIC actions.</li> <li>- It is important to create buy-in from other municipalities in order to expand the LIC model beyond Vancouver.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City of Vancouver and/or the Province provide \$50,000 annual funding to implement LIC model.</li> <li>- The City of Vancouver and/or the Province provide funding to develop the Living in Community model into a social innovation prototype that is a usable guide.</li> <li>- The City of Vancouver and Province coordinate with Metro municipalities to adopt the Living in Community model. The Province and Metro municipalities provide funding to implement this model.</li> </ul>	<p>Living in Community (LIC), Province, City of Vancouver (CoV), private funders, Metro Vancouver municipalities, Vancouver Police Department (VPD) &amp; other Metro Vancouver police forces</p>
<p><b>ACTION 2:</b> The City of Vancouver should commit resources equivalent to one full-time position to work with City departments and community members to develop a coordinated approach to issues associated with sex work.</p>	<p><b>Forsaken 5.5:</b> That the City of Vancouver create and fund two community-based liaison positions to be filled by individuals who have experience in the survival sex trade.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CoV created two Social Planner positions which will work as sex work liaisons in conjunction with City departments, VPD and the community. The start date was February 2014.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- City of Vancouver appoint a broad-based advisory to oversee and support liaison positions and their connections to community.</li> </ul>	<p>CoV</p>

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<p><b>ACTION 3:</b> Strike a working group including representatives of City departments, provincial and federal governments, community members, and sex workers, to consider ways and means to ensure increased health and safety of sex workers and to prevent sexual exploitation.</p>	<p><b>CoV Report A1</b> Convene a city-wide task group to implement actions.</p> <p><b>Forsaken 5.12:</b> That the Minister of Justice establish a working group to develop options for enhanced legislative protection for exploited women. The working group should include representatives of sex workers, community-based organizations providing support to and advocacy for women engaged in a the sex trade, Aboriginal women's organizations, police agencies and the Crown Counsel Assoc.</p> <p><b>12.1:</b> That Provincial Government appoint an independent advisor to serve as a champion for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. This appointment should take effect within 12 weeks of release of the report.</p> <p><b>12.2:</b> That the independent advisor work collaboratively with representatives of Aboriginal communities, the DTES, and the victims' families in the implementation process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task Force set up in June 2012 to oversee implementation of recommendations in City report. Task force ended in December 2013.</li> <li>- Five working groups oversaw and advised on the detailed implementation of the actions. Working groups connected to ongoing implementation of recommendations will carry on the work of implementation beyond the life of the task force.</li> <li>- The City will continue to implement recommendations through Social Planner/Sex Work Liaison positions, overseen by an advisory comprised of some of the existing Task Force members.</li> <li>- There is still a Provincial gap. Province needs a reason why they have to have a role. Provincial responsibility includes: youth, housing, funding youth programming and human trafficking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up a process to bring together key stakeholders to advise Provincial government on best way to respond to sex work and sexual exploitation issues, particularly post- Bedford.</li> <li>- Implement sustainable funding for sex worker organizations in Vancouver.</li> <li>- Implement and expand sex work supports province-wide.</li> <li>- Implement Forsaken Report recommendations.</li> </ul>	<p>CoV, Province, Federal government, community organizations</p>
<b>PREVENTION &amp; EDUCATION</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 4:</b> Review, improve,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report B4:</b> Integrate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are many existing prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Province expand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vancouver School Board</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Living in Community. (2007). *Action Plan*. Available online at <http://livingincommunity.ca/LICActionPlanJun07.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Oppal, W. T. (2012). *Forsaken: The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*. Available online at <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/>

<sup>3</sup> City of Vancouver. (2011). *Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Protecting Vulnerable Adults & Neighbourhoods Affected by Sex Work: A Comprehensive Approach and Action Plan*. Available online at <http://livingincommunity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Preventing-Sexual-Exploitation-and-Protecting-Vulnerable-Adults-.pdf>

ACTION <sup>1</sup>	CONNECTION TO OTHER REPORTS <sup>2,3</sup>	UPDATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>and support existing programs that prevent sexual exploitation and recruitment, and develop a standardized curriculum for children, youth, and parents focusing on healthy sexuality, self-esteem, recruitment prevention, and healthy parenting.</p>	<p>information and education on the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation within existing and related Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>B5:</b> Include the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation within existing and future prevention and justice initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>programs and materials. Coordination of existing materials rather than creating new materials is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC's SAFE project has been doing prevention &amp; education programming with youth at local high schools.</li> <li>- CoV working with VBE currently to fund some existing multimedia prevention programs. This was included in Task Force's recommendation to Council.</li> <li>- VCAT members and other youth organizations currently engaged in different prevention programs, particularly Children of the Street &amp; SOLOS.</li> </ul>	<p>curriculum on sexual exploitation to be mandatory province-wide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- City of Vancouver work with the Vancouver Community Action Team (VCAT) and Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) to coordinate existing prevention materials and incorporate them into school curriculum.</li> <li>- SAFE continue prevention programs in collaboration with high schools with CoV funding and/or funding from other sources.</li> </ul>	<p>(VSB), Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), LIC, CoV</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 5:</b> Sex worker organizations develop public education campaigns to educate the community about sexual exploitation of children and youth and the realities of the sex industry, and work to improve media understanding and representation of sex work by the media.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report B2:</b> Bolster public awareness to prevent child and youth sexual exploitation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC's Curriculum for Change workshops, being delivered to Work BC Employment Service Centers (ESC), CoV staff, Community Policing Centres (CPC), VCH and others, educates about the sex industry and breaks down myths, stereotypes and harmful practice.</li> <li>- SWAN, PACE, WISH and HUSTLE respond in an ongoing way to media, educate community and other organizations. However, their focus is on direct service provision and therefore has a limited ability to respond to media based on funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sex work organizations (in particular, PACE, SWAN, HUSTLE and WISH) should have ongoing sustainable funding, including support for the coordination of this effort.</li> <li>- Media, CoV communications department, VPD and the Province engage in public education and breaking down system bias.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sex work organizations, Province, CoV, community organizations, LIC</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 6:</b> Promote public awareness of the educational and resource information contained in the Community Initiative for Health and Safety's On-line Toolkit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report A.3:</b> Frontline city staff can play a role in disseminating information materials to individuals, and organizations working with at risk populations, on prevention, health and safety, as well as provide referrals to available resources and supports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC updated and revised Toolkit website in 2012.</li> <li>- LIC promotes the Toolkit through Curriculum for Change workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC promote toolkit with partners, and encourage partners to have links on their own sites (including CoV, VCH, VPL, neighbourhoods houses, CPCs, BIAs).</li> <li>- LIC partners promote toolkit through their own networks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC partners, CoV (including Vancouver Public Libraries), neighbourhood houses, community organizations, sex work organizations, Province</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 7:</b> Develop a standardized curriculum and training to teach social work, law enforcement staff, and health and justice professionals how to work with sex workers effectively and respectfully.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Forsaken Report 4.10:</b> That police forces integrate into training, performance standards and performance measurement the ability of police officers to develop and maintain community relationships, particularly with vulnerable members of the community who are often at risk of being treated unequally in the delivery of public services.</li> <li>- <b>4.12:</b> That police officers be required to undergo mandatory and ongoing experiential and interactive training concerning vulnerable community members (including anti-oppression training, training in the history and current status of Aboriginal peoples, training to understand violence against women).</li> <li>- <b>CoV report A1:</b> Enhance training, development, and information-sharing opportunities for frontline City staff and external government and nongovernment stakeholders.</li> <li>- <b>A10:</b> Identify the potential for City staff working in civic facilities, including firehalls, libraries and rec centres, to receive training and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through Vancouver Foundation funding, LIC has developed an effective curriculum to train frontline service providers on how to effectively respond to the needs of sex workers through the Curriculum for Change workshops. Successful training has been delivered to ESCs, CPCs, VCH mental health &amp; addictions staff, CoV staff (VPL, property use inspectors, animal control, community centres, nonmarket housing).</li> <li>- LIC could continue to expand partnerships, and should focus particularly on healthcare workers where there is a known gap in effective and respectful service delivery to sex workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase LIC's presence online through Facebook, etc.</li> <li>- Provide ongoing funding for the delivery of LIC's Curriculum for Change workshops.</li> <li>- VPD, VCH and Providence partner with LIC to deliver training to key staff.</li> <li>- LIC continue to expand partnerships and find sustainable model of providing training, such as a fee-for service model.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC, VCH, Metro municipalities, VPD, Province</li> </ul>
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	<p>information/referral materials so that City staff are able to respond to the safety needs of all citizens who may be at risk, including women, children and youth</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 8:</b> Establish ongoing partnerships between community-based organizations and academic institutions to ensure continuous feedback between research, policy, and practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Forsaken Report 6.5:</b> That Provincial Government fund a collaborative action research project on the entry of young women into the sex trade, especially Aboriginal women who are often homeless during the transition from reserves or foster homes to urban centres, and to develop an action plan to facilitate and support exiting the survival sex trade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AESHA in year 3 of 5 year longitudinal study of sex workers through BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in partnership with WISH and HUSTLE.</li> <li>- The value of research is that it supports what organizations on the ground know from direct experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC should continue to maintain links with academic institutions, and to assist in knowledge translation to public and for use in identifying the need for services.</li> <li>- LIC, sex work organizations, CoV and Province should continue to incorporate new data into public education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Academic institutions, LIC, community organizations</li> </ul>
<b>INTERVENTION &amp; HARM REDUCTION</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 9:</b> Immediately develop and implement a strategy to ensure safety for street-based sex workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Forsaken Report 5.1:</b> That SisterWatch be evaluated to provide a basis for further refinements and with a view to establishing best practices for meaningful police-community partnerships; and that these best practices be shared with other police forces to encourage them to develop and maintain ongoing, collaborative community forums.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sisterwatch, a program of the VPD, is a multi-faceted operation designed to combat violence against women in the Downtown Eastside and make the community safer for everyone who lives and works there.</li> <li>- VPD has implemented Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines to focus enforcement efforts on safety and relationship building with sex workers rather than enforcement of prostitution laws.</li> <li>- WISH's MAP Van continues to provide overnight outreach to street-based sex workers seven days a week. WISH continues to build partnerships with outreach programs such as SAFE in Collingwood.</li> <li>- WISH's drop-in received \$750,000 increase in funding from the Province and is now open 18 hours/day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure sustainable ongoing funding for all sex work organizations through the Province, City of Vancouver, and other funders.</li> <li>- VPD train all officers on Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines, in collaboration with LIC and other sex work organizations with expertise, and ensure that sex workers receive equal access to protection as all citizens.</li> <li>- CoV Social Planners/Sex Work Liaisons work in conjunction with VPD on its Sisterwatch program to ensure it is meeting its objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Province (Ministry of Justice), CoV, LIC, VPD</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 10:</b> Solidify sustainable funding for the Mobile Access Project Van, a partnership between PACE Society and The WISH Drop-in Centre Society, which provides overnight outreach and support services to women working on the street.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WISH has sustainable funding currently through Ministry of Justice and CoV. However, the program requires a new van and increased salaries. The current funding does not support full staffing.</li> <li>- There is a need for expansion of this model across other municipalities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase funding for MAP Van to expand services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Province, CoV, Federal government</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 11:</b> Fund the expansion of service by the MAP Van (Mobile Access Project Van) to daytime hours to fulfill a <i>Quick Response</i> liaison and support role for sex workers and other community members impacted by the sex industry, to reduce reliance on enforcement and to promote health and safety in the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report B11:</b> Invest in the expansion of the Mobile Access Project (MAP) services to other Lower Mainland municipalities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is not currently happening. MAP Van operates 11pm-5am seven days/week.</li> <li>- Model that Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) uses for outreach is a good model for daytime services.</li> <li>- A big gap is in the lack of similar services in other municipalities. It is more important to implement the MAP Van model in other municipalities rather than expand MAP Van to daytime hours.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using the MAP Van model, expand mobile outreach to sex workers to other Metro Vancouver and other key provincial municipalities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Province, Federal government, CoV &amp; other municipalities, WISH</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 12:</b> Make communities visibly cleaner through various actions such as increasing street cleaning crews and providing garbage cans, street lighting, and needle disposal services throughout the city.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report 1.9:</b> Pilot a pedestrian lighting initiative in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood in consultation with residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>BIAs fund social enterprises to clean sidewalks and back lanes of business districts.</i></li> <li>- <i>Needle boxes have been made more accessible, e.g. the City blue boxes that collect needles have been operating but there is a need to evaluate how it has impacted streets. Through VCH, Peer to Peer and Portland Hotel Society's needle exchange van, individual needle disposal provided.</i></li> <li>- <i>Street lighting is lacking in some neighbourhoods.</i></li> <li>- <i>Lighting and clean streets programs align with CoV's Greenest City Initiative and Healthy City Strategy.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CoV include in City budgeting lighting for everywhere, not just streets.</li> <li>- CoV pilot a pedestrian lighting initiative in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood in consultation with residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CoV, BIAs, CPCs, VCH</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 13:</b> In collaboration with all stakeholders, develop and promote the implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report:</b> Support neighbourhood-based safety and violence prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SAFE brochures do a good job of educating public about sex work issues and importance of respectful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support implementation of locally based SAFE in Collingwood-style project to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC, community organizations, BIAs, CPCs, Metro Vancouver</li> </ul>

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of health and safety guidelines and a code of conduct for all community members in neighbourhoods to reduce the negative impacts of sex work in a respectful, safe way.	initiatives and projects through grants and other City tools.	behaviour on all sides. – LIC's Toolkit is available online and is a good source information and resources.	other neighbourhoods in Vancouver.	municipalities
– <b>ACTION 14:</b> Strengthen the ability of sex worker organizations to provide crucial frontline support and outreach to marginalized sex worker populations.	– <b>CoV Report 1.11:</b> Use City grants more strategically to increase leverage in investments for prevention, health and safety, and supports needed for individuals to exit sex work.	– Lack of adequate and sustainable funding for sex work organizations remains a major barrier to effective services delivery. – PEERS Vancouver closed in May 2012, leaving a gap in services to support exiting. The current WorkBC employment services model is a one stop shop for all employment needs and as such, does not provide specialized employment services for sex workers. – PACE & SWAN have had decreased funding. – WISH received \$750,000 from Province to expand drop-in centre's hours. – CoV has increased funding of sex work support organizations.	– Province should fund sex work organizations in ongoing sustainable manner – see actions 9, 10 and 11.	– Province, Federal government, CoV, private funders
– <b>ACTION 15:</b> Redevelop SRO Hotels to provide safe, affordable and supportive housing to sex workers with a continuum of support services as required, starting with one hotel in 2007.	– <b>CoV Report 1.6:</b> Focus the 2012-2021 Housing and Homelessness Strategy and the 2012-2014 Action Plan on improving coordination with housing partners and improving the quality of existing services for the homeless, sex workers, youth, and adults who are exiting. – <b>2.9:</b> Improve the quality and quantity of existing housing and related services for the homeless, sex workers, youth, and adults who are exiting the sex trade.	– 14 SROs (Single Room Occupancy) currently have been or will be redeveloped. Some units address needs of sex workers, but there could be more units made available for sex workers specifically. – There is ongoing concern about SRO units lost to market units. – Provincially-funded SROs have an obligation to provide safe services for women and not to default housing to men. – SRO bylaws do not protect tenants and need to be revised. – Also, there is concern about the ways that housing providers are using the Crime Free Addendum so sex	– Hold Provincially-funded SROs accountable to provide adequate shelter to women. – City of Vancouver look at impacts of SRO bylaws and change to ensure that the rights of tenants are ensured.	– Province (BC Housing), CoV, VCH

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		<p>workers can't get rooms or can't work out of rooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SRO Task Force and City's Housing Working Group focusing on developing campaign to educate tenants about rights and responsibilities.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 16:</b> Provide safehouses with adequate space for sexually exploited children and youth, and female, male, and transgendered sex workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Forsaken Report 6.4:</b> That Provincial Government provide additional funding to Aboriginal women's organizations to provide more safe houses and counselling programs run for and by Aboriginal women and youth.</li> <li>- <b>CoV Report B9:</b> Improve the quality and quantity of existing housing and related services for the homeless, sex workers, youth and adults who are exiting the sex trade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While there are some youth safehouses, including a newly opened youth safehouse in Musqueam, more supports are needed outside of the DTES.</li> <li>- Not only safehouses are required, but also the continuum of housing supports from safehouses to SROs to supportive housing to subsidized housing. IMOTO House run by Atira provides supportive housing to youth.</li> <li>- Need decentralized, culturally appropriate and need-specific housing across the continuum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure a continuum of housing options for sex workers and sexually exploited youth from safe houses to supportive housing to subsidized housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MCFD, BC Housing, CoV</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 17:</b> Provide a continuum of addiction withdrawal management services for female, male and transgendered sex workers, and sexually exploited children and youth, including dedicated counselling, detox, treatment, and recovery-house services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Forsaken Report 4.8:</b> That Provincial Government fund three law reform research projects on aspects of the treatment of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, including the effects of drug and alcohol use on memory and how to support those experiencing dependency or addiction to provide testimony.</li> <li>- <b>City Report B7:</b> Develop education and information/training for healthcare providers, develop protocols and practices, and identify how</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rainier provides fully supported transition support for women in detox. Chrysalis Society provides a comprehensive continuum of care for women in treatment. These programs are not sex work-specific but do support many individuals engaged in sex work and are good models to support and replicate.</li> <li>- More transitional programs are needed that cater to the needs of sex workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure adequate safe and decentralized housing for individuals to transition to after completing recovery programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VCH, Province</li> </ul>

ACTION <sup>1</sup>	CONNECTION TO OTHER REPORTS <sup>2,3</sup>	UPDATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBILITY
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	environments for primary health care and addiction withdrawal services can be made safer and more accessible.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 18:</b> Create and support innovative harm reduction programs designed specifically to support sex workers with substance addictions to increase their ability to make positive, healthy choices.</li> </ul>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insite currently providing harm reduction approach, though not sex work specific.</li> <li>- MAP Van continues to provide harm reduction services.</li> <li>- SWUAV has a Mac Aids program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand harm reduction model continuum supported by current evidence-based research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VCH, Province, Federal government</li> </ul>
<b>EXITING</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 19:</b> Develop and fund a continuum of safe spaces providing appropriate treatment and supports to individuals who wish to exit the sex industry, at all stages of recovery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Forsaken Report 6.5:</b> That Provincial Government fund a collaborative action research project on the entry of young women into the sex trade, especially Aboriginal women who are often homeless during the transition from reserves or foster homes to urban centres, and to develop an action plan to facilitate and support exiting the survival sex trade.</li> <li>- <b>CoV Report A6:</b> Focus the 2012-2021 Housing and Homelessness Strategy and the 2012-2014 Action Plan on improving coordination with housing partners and improving the quality of exiting services for the homeless, sex workers, youth and adults who are exiting.</li> <li>- <b>B9:</b> Improve the quality and quantity of existing housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through the City's Sex Work Task Force, a consortium of six organizations (Aboriginal Front Door, BWSS, HUSTLE, PACE, SWAN and WISH) developed a funding proposal for a transitioning and exiting service delivery model for individuals wanting to choose different life path options. The consortium hopes to secure CoV funding for this project.</li> <li>- Note: The group has chosen to use the term 'transitioning' from sex work as well as exiting as it is a process that can take a long time. In addition, some individuals may be transitioning to different types of sex work, and the connotations of exiting make assumptions about the validity of sex work itself.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fund and support the work of Sex Work Supports and Exiting Consortium, with the intention of funding an effective service delivery model.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sex work organizations, Province, Federal government, VCH, private funders</li> </ul>

ACTION <sup>1</sup>	CONNECTION TO OTHER REPORTS <sup>2,3</sup>	UPDATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBILITY
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	<p>and related services for the homeless, sex workers, youth and adults who are exiting the sex trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>B10:</b> Identify effective practices for individuals who are exiting the sex trade.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 20:</b> Expand employment opportunities in partnership with local business to provide training and ongoing support to individuals exiting sex work as well as assistance to businesses providing the opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report C12:</b> Include individuals exiting sex work as part of the City's supported employment program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sex work organizations are better positioned to provide support to individuals transitioning to other employment as they create safe spaces for individuals to develop trust. Business organizations may be able to support individuals once they are more established in mainstream employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure a continuum of employment opportunities that start with safe spaces and are connected to the range of exiting and transitioning supports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sex work organizations, CoV, BIAs, ESCs</li> </ul>
<b>LEGAL &amp; POLICY RESPONSES</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 21:</b> Support the call from sex workers for the development and implementation of a multi-stakeholder cooperative to provide safe indoor workspaces, a code of conduct, education, and training for the most vulnerable sex workers.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BC Coalition of Experiential Communities (BCCEC) worked hard to make this recommendation happen but was not successful.</li> <li>- The two murdered women who worked as escorts in New Westminster heightens the importance of safe indoor work spaces that are not isolated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review the Bedford decision and identify the most effective strategies to ensure the safety of sex workers based on the legal framework that is created.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BCCEC, Province, Federal government, VPD, Sex work organizations</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 22:</b> Review City of Vancouver by-laws to ensure that they support the health and safety of sex workers in indoor venues; ensure access to these venues for community health and safety support workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report A13:</b> Strengthen the License Bylaw to better protect the safety and security of sex workers at premises where there is potential for safety risks, human trafficking/exploitation.</li> <li>- <b>A14:</b> Review licensing regulation and enforcement practices of other jurisdictions to prevent exploitation and negative impacts of sex work on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Bylaw Working Group of the City's Sex Work Task Force is currently revising the existing bylaws to focus on health, safety and wellbeing, and changes are forthcoming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review impacts of Bylaw changes to ensure that they support the health and safety of sex workers and neighbourhoods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CoV, community organizations, sex work organizations</li> </ul>

ACTION <sup>1</sup>	CONNECTION TO OTHER REPORTS <sup>2,3</sup>	UPDATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBILITY
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 23:</b> Review the elements of the justice system—enforcement, support and prosecution—to ensure that those who buy sex from children and youth and those who recruit children and youth are prosecuted.</li> </ul>	<p>neighbourhoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CoV Report:</b> Include the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation within existing and future prevention justice initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This requires a Provincial lead to ensure the coordination of different parts of the justice system.</li> <li>- Where exploitation and violence is identified by sex workers, action should be taken so sex workers remain empowered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Province take the lead on coordinating the justice and enforcement systems to better prevent exploitation and act where exploitation is identified by sex workers themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Province (MCFD), Justice system, VPD</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 24:</b> Move section 212.4 from the prostitution laws section of the Criminal Code to the violence/assault sections of the Criminal Code to demonstrate that children and youth under the age of 18 are not sex workers, but rather sexually exploited.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moving section 212.4 from the prostitution laws section of the Criminal Code would be a huge task of advocacy for little change to any actual enforcement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreement that this is not an immediate priority action of Living in Community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federal government (Department of Justice)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 25:</b> Enforce Restraining Order 98 of the Child, Family and Community Services Act.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MCFD has a duty to protect children and youth who are experiencing abuse and MCFD and the VPD have different mechanisms for enforcing against those who are exploiting children and youth, including Restraining Order 98.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreement that this is not an immediate priority action of Living in Community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MCFD</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 26:</b> Support the diversionary process when dealing with sex workers facing criminal charges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Forsaken Report 5.8:</b> That all police forces in British Columbia consider developing and implementing guidelines on the model of the Vancouver Police Department's Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines in consultation with women engaged in the sex trade in their jurisdiction.</li> <li>- <b>5.9:</b> That the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department take proactive measures to reduce the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The VPD Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines support police using enforcement of prostitution laws as a last resort when dealing with sex workers. Instead of the focus being on the enforcement of prostitution laws, enforcement is focused on situations of exploitation and violence, and relationship building is the primary goal.</li> <li>- Bedford successfully argued that the criminalization of sex work contributes to the harms sex workers experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metro Vancouver police forces adopt similar approach to the Vancouver Police Department (as recommended in the Forsaken Report 5.8).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VPD, Metro Vancouver police forces, Justice System</li> </ul>

ACTION <sup>1</sup>	CONNECTION TO OTHER REPORTS <sup>2,3</sup>	UPDATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBILITY
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	<p>number of court warrants issued for minor offences by reducing the number of tickets issued and charges laid for minor offences; developing guidelines to facilitate greater and more consistent use of police discretion not to lay charges; and, increasing the ways in which failure to appear can be quashed early in the judicial process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VPD Guidelines</li> <li>- <b>CoV Report:</b> Waive processing fees and reduce waiting times for criminal pardons for low income sex workers convicted of prostitution and related crimes</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ACTION 27:</b> Strike a working group at the local level to review the impact of the enforcement of laws relating to prostitution and to explore changes to the current laws that would make communities healthier and safer.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City of Vancouver Sex Work Task Force is undergoing a review of current City bylaws in an effort to increase health and safety for sex workers and neighbourhoods.</li> <li>- The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down Canada's prostitution laws in December 2013.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analyze the Supreme Court's decision on the Bedford case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIC, CoV, Province, VPD, community and sex work organizations</li> </ul>

## **Appendix A: Summary of Revised Living in Community Actions March 2014**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

1. The Province and/or the City of Vancouver provide \$50,000 annual funding to implement Living in Community model.
2. The Province and/or the City of Vancouver provide funding to develop the Living in Community model into a social innovation prototype that is a usable guide.
3. The Province and/or the City of Vancouver coordinate with Metro municipalities to adopt the Living in Community model. The Province and Metro municipalities provide funding to implement this model.
4. City of Vancouver appoint a broad-based advisory to oversee and support liaison positions and their connections to community.
5. Work with the Provincial government to create positive institutional change around sex work and sexual exploitation issues.
  - Set up a process to bring together key stakeholders to advise Provincial government on best way to respond to sex work and sexual exploitation issues, particularly following the Bedford decision at the Supreme Court of Canada.
  - Implement sustainable funding for sex worker organizations in Vancouver.
  - Implement and expand sex work supports province-wide.
  - Implement Forsaken Report recommendations.

### **PREVENTION & EDUCATION**

#### **Sexual exploitation of youth:**

6. Province expand curriculum on sexual exploitation to be mandatory province-wide.
7. City of Vancouver work with the Vancouver Community Action Team (VCAT) and Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) to coordinate existing prevention materials and incorporate them into school curriculum.
8. SAFE continue prevention programs in collaboration with high schools with City of Vancouver funding and/or funding from other sources.

#### **Media:**

9. Media, City of Vancouver communications department, VPD and the Province engage in public education and breaking down system bias.

10. Sex work organizations (in particular, PACE, SWAN, HUSTLE and WISH) should have ongoing sustainable funding, including support for the coordination of the development of public education campaigns.

#### **Online presence:**

11. Living in Community promote toolkit with partners, and encourage partners to have links on their own sites (including CoV, VCH, VPL, neighbourhoods houses, CPCs, BIAs).
12. Living in Community partners promote toolkit through their own networks.
13. Increase Living in Community's presence online through Facebook, etc.

#### **Living in Community Training:**

14. Provide ongoing funding for the delivery of Living in Community's Curriculum for Change workshops.
  - VPD, VCH and Providence partner with Living in Community to deliver training to key staff.
  - VPD train all officers on Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines, in collaboration with Living in Community and other sex work organizations with expertise, and ensure that sex workers receive equal access to protection as all citizens.
  - Living in Community continue to expand partnerships and find sustainable model of providing training, such as a fee-for service model.

#### **Data sharing:**

15. Living in Community should continue to maintain links with academic institutions, and to assist in knowledge translation to public and for use in identifying the need for services.
16. Living in Community, sex work organizations, City of Vancouver and Province should continue to incorporate new data into public education.

### **INTERVENTION AND HARM REDUCTION**

#### **Sex work supports:**

17. Ensure sustainable ongoing funding for all sex work organizations through the Province, City of Vancouver, and other funders.
18. Increase funding for MAP Van to expand services.
19. Using the MAP Van model, expand mobile outreach to sex workers to other Metro Vancouver and other key provincial municipalities.
20. City of Vancouver Social Planners/Sex Work Liaisons work in conjunction with VPD on its Sisterwatch program to ensure it is meeting its objectives.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY:**

21. City of Vancouver include in City budgeting lighting for everywhere, not just streets.
22. City of Vancouver pilot a pedestrian lighting initiative in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood in consultation with residents.
23. Support implementation of locally-based SAFE in Collingwood project to other neighbourhoods in Vancouver.

#### **SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING:**

24. Hold Provincially-funded SROs accountable to provide adequate shelter to women.
25. City of Vancouver look at impacts of SRO bylaws and change to ensure that the rights of tenants are ensured.
26. Ensure a continuum of housing options for sex workers and sexually exploited youth from safe houses to supportive housing to subsidized housing.
27. Ensure adequate safe and decentralized housing for individuals to transition to after completing recovery programs.

#### **TRANSITIONING AND EXITING:**

28. Expand harm reduction model continuum supported by current evidence-based research.
29. Fund and support the work of Sex Work Supports and Exiting Consortium, with the intention of funding an effective service delivery model.
30. Ensure a continuum of employment opportunities that start with safe spaces and are connected to the range of exiting and transitioning supports.

#### **LEGAL AND POLICY RESPONSES:**

31. Review the Bedford decision and identify the most effective strategies to ensure the safety of sex workers based on the legal framework that is created.

#### **CITY OF VANCOUVER:**

32. Review impacts of Bylaw changes to ensure that they support the health and safety of sex workers and neighbourhoods.

#### **PROVINCE:**

33. Province take the lead on coordinating the justice and enforcement systems to better prevent exploitation and act where exploitation is identified by sex workers themselves.

#### **POLICING:**

34. Metro Vancouver police forces adopt similar approach to the Vancouver Police Department (as recommended in the Forsaken Report 5.8).