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COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY

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Watari

Japanese word meaning "small bridge" or "transition"

Cool Japanese Art Picture background or maybe old logo + something else?

Vancouver Eastside Housing Crisis

Despite recent increases, income and disability assistance rates remain inadequate in BC and do not allow those who rely on them to live with dignity and security or meet their basic needs. The average rents in SROs in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside have risen to \$687 per month, leaving \$23 per month to buy food and meet all other basic living costs for someone relying on income assistance.

Jean Swanson et al, 2017 *Hotel Survey and Housing Report* (Carnegie Community Action Project).

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

When we think about the connections between poverty, mental health and substance use, we often think about its impact on youth and adults, but the complex relationships also have a significant impact on childhood development. We are developing an increasing understanding of the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and childhood trauma on the long-term health and wellbeing of people throughout their lives, and particularly on mental health and substance use.

Ivana Jakovijevic et al, "Children's mental health: Is poverty the diagnosis?" (2016) *BC Medical Journal* 58:8.

ART CAN HEAL

The Watari Art Wall

Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking

In Canada, research has identified particular patterns in the way in which vulnerable Aboriginal women and girls are exploited: According to Dr. Mark Totten, in research undertaken for the Native Women's Association of Canada, "Sexual trafficking of Canadian Aboriginal girls and women is most common within the borders of Canada, particularly in the Prairie provinces. Trafficking networks are found in major cities (such as Vancouver, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Calgary) and in small towns in B.C. and the Prairies.

"There are patterns of city triangles across provinces (for example, Saskatoon-Edmonton-Calgary-Saskatoon; and Calgary-Edmonton-Vancouver-Calgary). The oil rigs and mining businesses in Alberta have contributed to trafficking activity. When discarded or escaping, Aboriginal women end up in big city 'hot spots' such as Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, where they are at considerable risk of being victimized by severe violence and murder."

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/>

Rose Henry, an Aboriginal community consultant from the Coast Salish territory

Embedded link to you tube video:<https://youtu.be/dvXiKulOkaA>

Vancouver Multicultutal Refugees

Many people from Latin American countries arrive in Canada, first as students, visitors or simply seeking asylum. In East Side Vancouver, this includes Mexico, Dominican Republic, Peru and Guatemala. Pregnant mothers without insurance or health care is a common issue faced by refugees. As well, many lack access to a healthy meal and a warm bed.

Mentally Disordered Offenders

Addiction and mental illness are often contributing factors to street crime, and homelessness contributes to visible disorder. There are over 9,000 intravenous drug users in the Vancouver area, and over 11,000 mental health patients. Between 35-40 offenders with symptoms of mental illness appear in the Vancouver Provincial Court each day. Of drug addicts in the Downtown East Side, 74% have criminal records and 61% admit to regularly committing crimes to pay for drugs. Many offenders have both mental illness and drug addiction problems.

BC Justice Review Task Force. (2005). *Beyond the revolving door: A new response to chronic offenders*. Victoria, BC: Author.

Bridge the gap between detox and long term treatment.

WATARI

For more information call us at: 604.254.6995

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