

# Seeing is Believing

Host: Bob Elton & Streethome Foundation

June 30 2009: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS IN VANCOUVER

## Leaders:

**Bob Elton**, President & CEO, BC Hydro  
**Jae Kim**, President, Streethome Foundation

## Delegates:

**Michaela Becker**, Manager, Responsible Gambling, BCLC  
**Paul Smith**, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, BCLC  
**Rob Serraglio**, Senior Vice-President, BC & Yukon Division, BMO Bank of Montreal  
**Alex Shum**, Vice-President Canada, Cathay Pacific Airways  
**Gord MacDougall**, Vice Chairman and Director, Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management Ltd.  
**Barry Fenton**, Senior Vice President & Chief Credit Officer, Citizens Bank of Canada  
**Lloyd Craig**, Former President & CEO, Coast Capital Savings  
**Tracy Redies**, President & CEO, Coast Capital Savings  
**Don Fairbairn**, President, DCF Consulting  
**Dean Lee**, Creative Director, DDB Canada  
**Frank Palmer**, Chairman & CEO, DDB Canada  
**Richard Sandor**, Senior Vice-President, Managing Director, DDB Canada  
**Eric Nonacs**, Managing Director, Global Affairs, Endeavour Financial  
**Janice Iverson**, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, Envision Financial  
**Bill Baker**, Chief Strategic Officer, Envisioning+Storytelling Inc.  
**Ewan Moir**, President & CEO, Fraser River Pile and Dredge  
**Richard Davies**, CEO, G&F Financial Group  
**Guido Weisz**, Special Advisor to the Director General, Homelessness Partnering Secretariat  
**Tina Osen**, President & CEO, HUB International Insurance Brokers  
**Ursula Botz**, Crown Counsel, Criminal Appeals & Special Prosecutions, Ministry of Attorney General  
**Kevin Bent**, President & Publisher, Pacific Newspaper Group  
**Eric Jordan**, Co-President, Premier's Technology Council  
**Della Smith**, Partner, Quay Strategies  
**Doug Horswill**, Senior Vice President, Sustainability & External Affairs, Teck Resources Limited  
**Greg Ford**, Partner, The Caldwell Partners International  
**Barbara Ross-Denroche**, Principal, The Refinery Leadership Partners

*Estimates place Metro Vancouver's homeless population at approximately 3,200 individuals. More than half of the homeless people in Vancouver have been on the streets for over a year and that number is growing. This tour examined a continuum of solutions to homelessness, from supportive housing projects, to social enterprise and employment training initiatives.*

The tour began at **Potluck Café**, one of the most successful social enterprises on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES). Potluck Cafe provides long-term employment to multi-barriered DTES residents as well as a subsidized meal program for tenants of supportive housing units in the area.

The tour continued to **RainCity Housing and Support Society** where delegates met with tenants at 'The Lux', a long-term and transitional housing facility. RainCity staff and clients testified to the difficulty of finding and maintaining housing in Vancouver, particularly for those with addiction and mental illness issues.

Delegates next stopped at **Covenant House Vancouver** and spoke with youth who have transitioned from street life through Covenant House programs and frontline outreach workers who proactively seek out street-involved youth.

Finally, delegates visited the **Coast Mental Health Resource Centre** where they spoke with persons affected by mental illness. The group toured the facility and heard from clients about their personal challenges finding housing and employment.



*Delegates speak with a tenant at RainCity Housing.*

CBSR recognizes Coast Capital Savings for its contribution to the Seeing is Believing program.



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