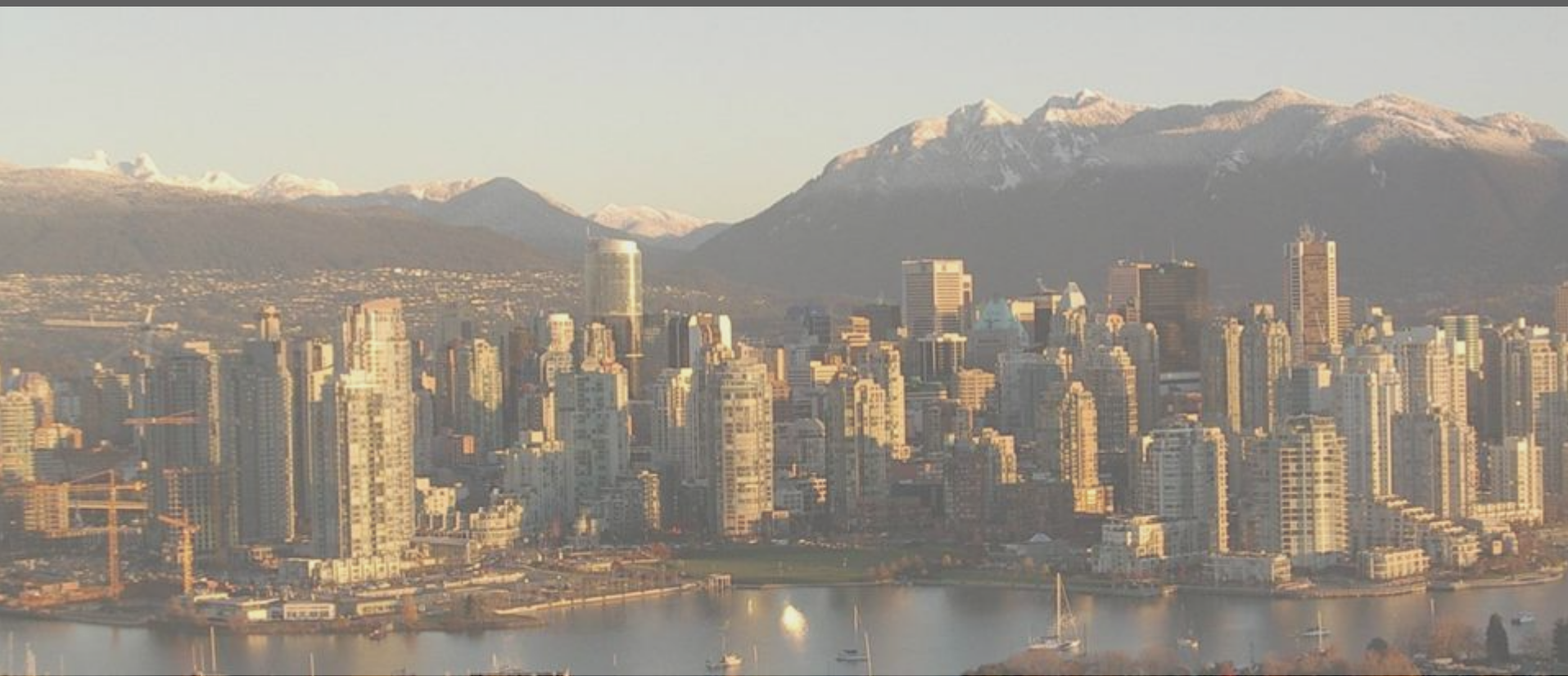


Homelessness in Vancouver



Jill Davidson, City of Vancouver,
World Planners Congress June 12, 2006

Overview of the Presentation

- **Context**
- **Current situation**
- **Homeless Action Plan**
- **Success and Challenge**



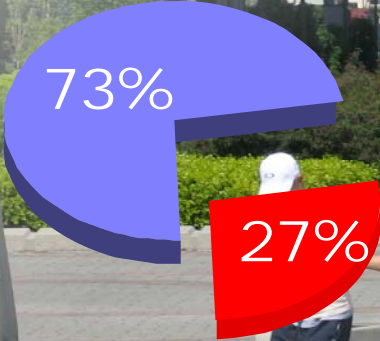
Vancouver in the Region



Vancouver in the Region

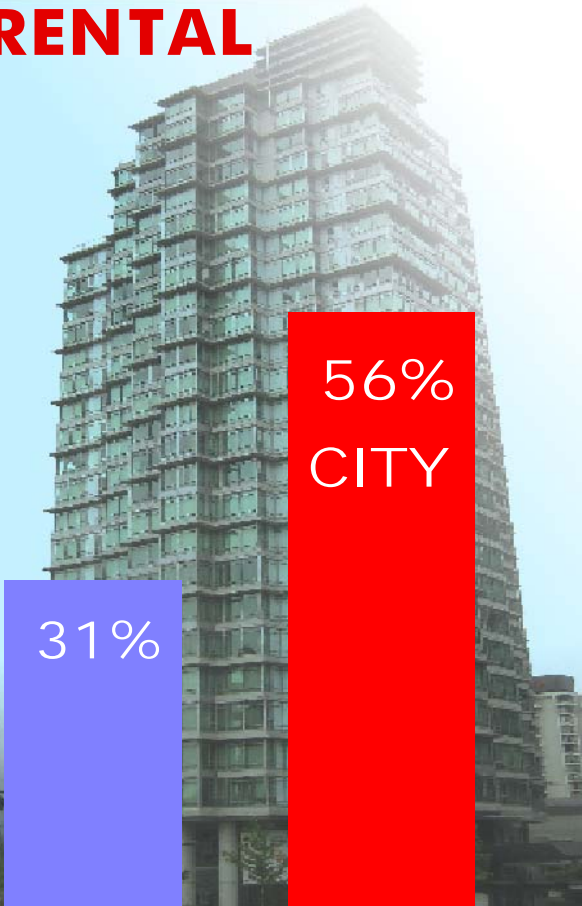
POPULATION

REST OF REGION
1.57 Million



CITY
0.58 Million

RENTAL



CORE NEED



Homeless Numbers

Street Homeless

City Staff

2001

300-600

2004

500-1,200

Regional Street Homeless and Sheltered Homeless

SPARC

2002

300

2005

1,100



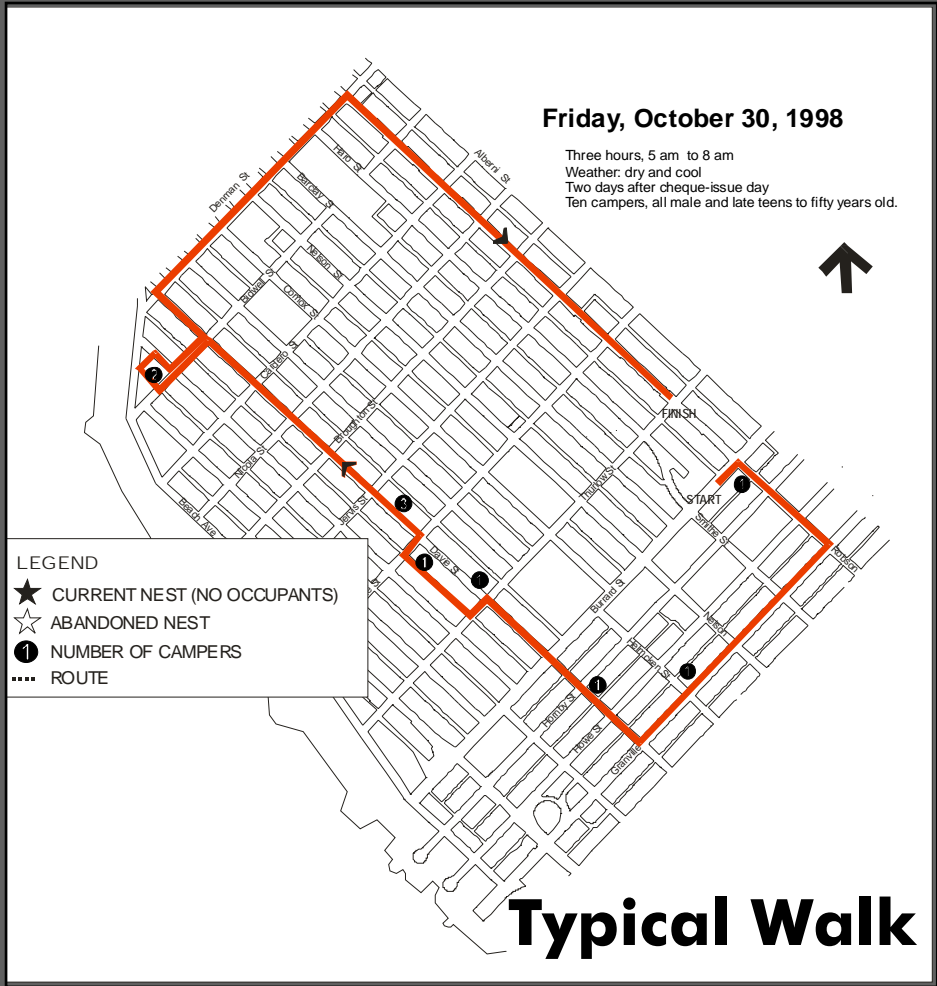
Street Homeless

- **Almost all are adults, almost no families with children**
- **Most aged 25-45, more younger in summer**
- **Majority male**
- **One quarter Aboriginal (compared to 2% of population)**
- **Two-thirds have a mental illness or addiction or both**



Income

Housing Centre Homeless Counts



Homeless Numbers

Shelters

2000	550 Beds
2006	731 Beds

At-Risk

**39,000 people living in
20,000 households**



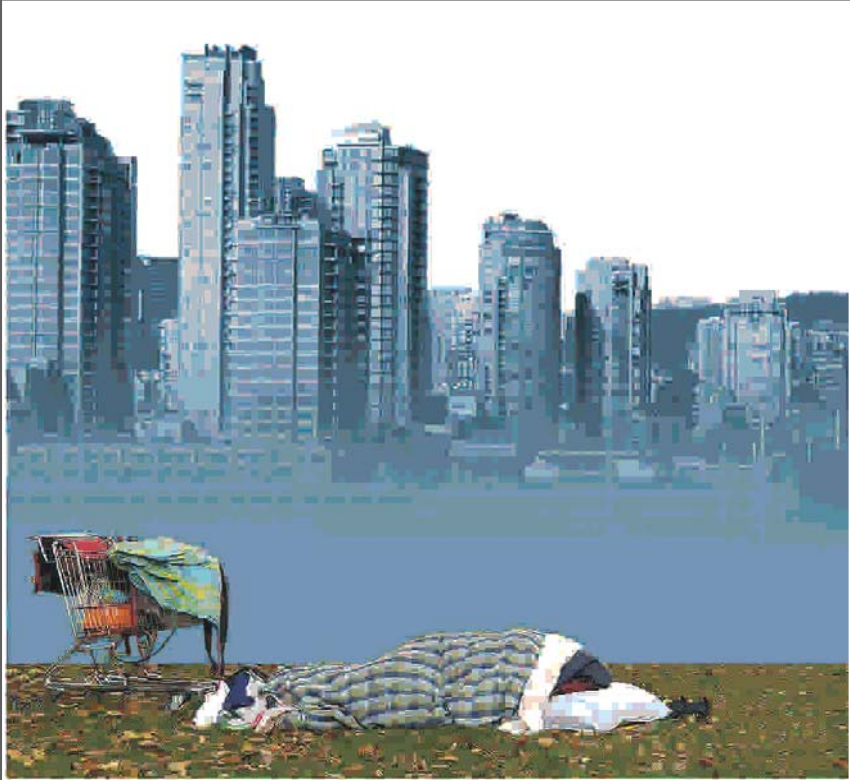
Why Homelessness is a Concern

- **Human suffering**
- **Effects on communities and businesses**
- **Inefficient use of public resources**
 - **Homeless: \$40,000 per year**
 - **Housed: \$28,000 per year**



Homeless Action Plan

PLAN FRAMEWORK Three Ways to Home	
Income	18 Actions
Housing	27 Actions
Support Services	42 Actions



Priority Action – Income

**Reduce Barriers to
Welfare and Create
Jobs for the Homeless**



Priority Action – Housing

Supportive Housing

- **Proven outcomes**
 - Reduction in hospitalization rates by more than 50%
 - Reduction in emergency room usage by a third
- **Develop throughout the city**



Priority Action – Housing



No support for tent cities at this time

Priority Action – Support Services

Increase mental health and addiction services by Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)



Major Roles for Governments

Provincial (72 actions)

Vancouver Coastal Health (19 actions)

Federal (24 actions)

City (24 actions)

Income

Outreach pilot project

- Province/City partnership

Increase welfare rates



Housing

Need for ongoing stable funding for housing – 800 units/year



Housing

Woodward's

- 200 social housing units
- 125 for singles at risk
of homelessness

65 East Hastings

- 92 units 'Housing First'



Housing

Supportive Housing Strategy

NIABY (*Not In Anyone's Back Yard)

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Community Opinion

We would like your vote on the Dunbar issue:

Would you like to see Addict Housing built at 16th & Dunbar or would you prefer another form of social housing as described in the Community Vision Plan such as housing for Seniors?

I would like to see social housing built for Addicts

I would like to see social housing built for Seniors

[Vote Results >](#)

Weekly Edition

The Campaign to Prevent Drug Addict Housing in Vancouver's Residential Neighbourhoods

An Open Letter

An open letter to:

Dr. David Marsh, Team Leader, Mental Health & Addictions, Vancouver Coast
Ida Goodreau, CEO, Vancouver Coastal Health.

Dr. Laura Chapman, Psychiatrist, Dual Diagnosis Program, Vancouver Coast
Donald MacPherson, Drug Policy Coordinator, City of Vancouver,
Michele Sutherland, Vancouver Coastal Dual Diagnosis Program.

NIABY.com knows that you are planning to spread "Fraser St." addict "recovery" City of Vancouver. You currently have 4 to 6 addict apartments in the plan to remove addicts from the Downtown East Side and spread them throughout

Since you are going to be spending \$79 per day * on supportive housing per addict, NIABY.com is requesting that you provide us and the City of Vancouver with effective this type of supportive housing is. We want to know the following:

1. With supportive housing, **specifically a Fraser St. model**, what are the rates of abstinence? That is, abstinence greater than 1 year.
2. With supportive housing, **specifically a Fraser St. model**, what are the rates of competitive employment greater than 6 months?
3. With supportive housing, **specifically a Fraser St. model**, what are the rates of employment greater than 6 months?

These are reasonable questions. We are asking for you to show that model based on medical evidence.

"Treatment options are extremely effective." (Michele Sutherland, Vancouver)

Services

Four pillars strategy

- Supervised Injection Site



Summary

Homelessness can be reduced and prevented



Need involvement of all sectors in our community



Build on partnerships

