

2021 Annual Report

RainCity acknowledges that our buildings and programs are located and operate on the stolen, Unceded, Ancestral, and Traditional Territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, shishalh, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, Tsawwassen, Semiahmoo, and Sto:lo Nations, who have been here since time immemorial.





A letter from our Co-Executive Directors

Like elsewhere around the world, 2020-2021 at RainCity was heavily impacted by the pandemic as we worked to create safety and sustainability for the people we work with and our staff teams. Tragically, the pandemic had extreme consequences for drug users with increased risks of drug poisonings. The drug poisoning public health emergency, declared on April 14 2016, has claimed the lives of over 7,000 British Columbians. Since the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency in March 2020, the rate of drug poisoning deaths increased 75% from 2019 to 2020. Throughout the year our resident and staff communities experienced extraordinary loss.

At the beginning of this year, we issued a number of Covid Directives and supported our teams to make necessary adjustments. Our Department and Program Teams did an incredible job of supporting these changes and working alongside residents and tenants throughout the year. Our staff teams supported residents/tenants through 5 Covid clusters which included significant work to support safe isolation and enhanced health and safety supports. We experienced exceptional support from Public Health officials within Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health throughout the Pandemic. Throughout the year we also worked closely with Health Authorities to increase people's access to safe drug supply and experienced some progress in this area with much more progress still required.

Throughout the year, we continued our attempts to prioritize anti-racism, meeting with our Black Managers and Indigenous Services Department to formalize an approach to the introduction of a Black Affinity Group. We began work with two consultants to support our work to become an anti-racist organization.

We are both so very grateful to all RainCity staff, for their ongoing work to welcome people inside and provide dignified and respectful housing and supports, during such a uniquely challenging year.



Catharien Hume
Co-Executive Director



Greg Richmond
Co-Executive Director

A letter from our Board Chair

Our donors, volunteers, partners, and funders' ongoing and crucial contributions together make all that we do at RainCity possible. I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to all of you on behalf of the Board of Directors. I also want to acknowledge the RainCity staff team for going above and beyond throughout this challenging year while supporting our valued residents and tenants as well as each other.

As we navigated the combined impacts of the pandemic and the worsening and ongoing drug poisoning epidemic, I am proud that our Peer Programming has become a focal point. In addition to safe consumption areas in many of our programs, places like the Thomus Donaghy Overdose Prevention Site and the Kingsway Community Station created a space where people can feel safe, heard, and have opportunities to build connections. Throughout these crises, we have been able to strengthen the communities we work with while combatting isolation.

The RainCity Board of Directors is proud of the organization's steps to build and sustain an anti-racist organization and looks forward to actively supporting this vital work. We recognize the ongoing efforts required for this initiative and will continue to learn and collaborate with the appropriate communities and stakeholders.

The organizations dedication to the people they serve during this time and their work alongside local health authorities to prioritize people's safety during the pandemic deserves recognition. I would particularly like to acknowledge Greg Richmond and Catharine Hume for their work and commitment in leading this organization by keeping sites and services open, attending to the needs of the more vulnerable individuals while supporting the team at RainCity.

This past year we saw Stephen Menon step down from the Board and welcomed three new members: Doug Barton, Amy Gill, and Jackie Graham. As my last year as chair, I happily welcome incoming chair Lynn Carter who will bring strong leadership and perspectives. Change in membership is crucial to instill fresh ideas and views, and these passionate individuals - those both leaving and entering - have helped and will help guide the fantastic work that RainCity does.

Although I am stepping down as the Chair, I am proud to continue to play a role and be part of this ever-growing community striving to welcome people into housing and supports throughout the Lower Mainland. I look forward to continuing this work together.



Jennifer Cudlipp
Board Chair



Peers: the people in your Neighbourhood!

Whether it's working alongside the BC Centre for Excellence in the Downtown Eastside, operating a safe place to use in the West End, or providing clean and safe toilets and sinks in Mount Pleasant, the Peers working at RainCity are there – a friendly face who has travelled a similar road and might even know a few shortcuts. Peer work is the inclusion of people of lived experience of marginalization and adversity in solving problems experienced by people struggling with similar challenges. The approach provides mutual learning and support from a lens that reflects distinct experiences and very often unheard voices.

In April of 2020 Peer positions were established at the Hope to Health Safe Consumption Site (H2HSCS) to provide a more welcoming space for people to use substances safely with sterile equipment. H2HSCS staff can observe and intervene if needed, often saving the lives of people who are also accessing the in house healthcare. The site, located at Hope to Health Research & Innovation Centre, is also an access point for harm reduction materials for the larger community.

At the end of May 2020 we opened the Kingsway Community Station, a place for women (trans and cis) who are at high risk of overdose, sexual and physical violence, and the multiple impacts of health inequities during two

health emergencies. As well as washrooms, the seven day a week Station provides computer access, WiFi, phones, snacks, and harm reduction materials. The Peers working there focus on building relationships, safety planning, bridging connections to other services, sharing knowledge of the housing market, and information about predators in the area.

March of 2021 saw the relocation of our Thomus Donaghy Overdose Prevention Site (TDOPS) from a trailer outside St Paul's Hospital to a permanent location inside at Seymour and Helmcken. The Site provides drug testing, naloxone kits and training (naloxone can temporarily reverse the effects of an overdose), and a safe, quite place to use. The OPS was renamed after Thomus Donaghy, a Peer Worker who was killed last year, and a mural of his likeness was reproduced on the windows. The original artwork (bottom left) was done by the always incredible graffiti artist Smokey.

The Peers at all three of these addresses are trained to respond to an overdose, something that sadly happens every day. But the Peers are also doing amazing work by reducing isolation, strengthening communities, and providing a connection, so that people can live healthier and safer lives.



It's important infrastructure that's often overlooked during a pandemic - clean and safe toilets and sinks. Now the City of Vancouver, and other partners have a solution.

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@CityofVancouver

citynews1130.com/category/local/



Associate Director Amelia Ridgway speaking to media about the Kingsway Community Station

More Growth on the Sunshine Coast

RainCity has received so much support from the people who live and work on the Sunshine Coast, and we are learning so much as we work alongside the people of the shishalh Nation. This support and working together has led to us expanding our services in order to address the growing needs of housing and the negative impacts of the ongoing drug poisoning epidemic.

We were able to open the Sunshine Coast's first public Safe Consumption Site was opened at the end of July 2020. The numbers of people dying from poisoned drugs rose considerably on the Coast as well as other less urban areas throughout the province. Working together with Vancouver Coastal Health, the local Community Action Team, Mayor and Council, and many community members and resources, the need of establishing the site became clear.

The site provides harm reduction supplies and naloxone kits, and the supports available include peer witnessing and support, overdose response and education, naloxone training, drug testing, information about safe supply, detox and treatment options, and referrals to other agencies. The site is also open for people who use inhalants.

In the middle of March 2021, we were excited to open Modular Housing on School Road in Gibsons, our second one on the Sunshine Coast. It provides 40 units, 4 of which are wheelchair accessible, to people who have a history of homelessness in the community of Gibsons. As well as support programming and an Indigenous Cultural Liaison and peer Support Specialist, there is a tenant lounge, free laundry facilities and a bagged breakfast and one hot meal a day.



As people moved in, members of the community made sure they felt welcome. There is welcoming artwork outside the building, a collaboration between two Nations: Simon James, from the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, and his apprentice, elder Sheryl Rivers, from the Squamish Nation. Inside the building is art painted by Robert Davidson donated by a community member, and each month different art is featured from Gibson Elementary students (an example above).

And to make folks feel warm inside and out, the Sunshine Coast Quilters' Guild and the Comfort Society provided all 40 residents their very own quilt! Not only are these quilts comfy and beautiful, they are tangible examples of the community letting the tenants know they are welcome here. So thanks again to Janet, Linda, Lois, Jean, Lynda, Nona and everyone else who quilted these wonderful quilts and presented them to the tenants.



Sunshine Coast Quilters' Guild's Comfort Society from left to right: Janet Flumerfelt, Linda Child, Lois Anderson, Jean Whitehead, Lynda White, Nona Fellows.

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

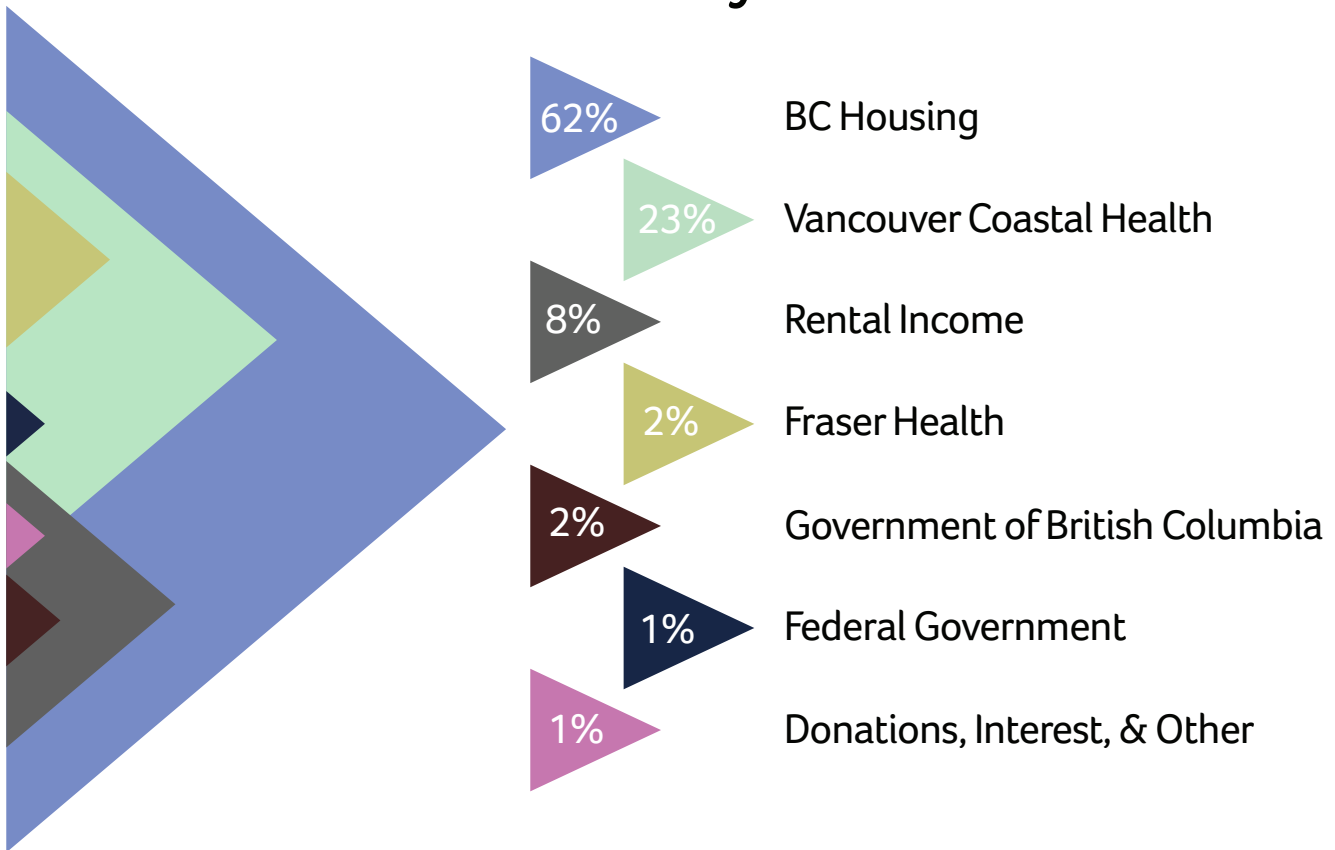
	2021	2020
Current Assets	\$ 8,597,963	\$ 7,117,7565
Restricted Cash	1,571,198	1,564,329
Capital Assets	54,301,198	56,455,362
Total Assets	64,470,996	65,137,456
Current Liabilities	10,512,305	10,473,290
Long-term Debt	31,021,459	30,440,792
Forgivable Loans	14,548,479	15,121,441
Deferred Contributions	9,435,066	9,332,380
Total Liabilities	65,517,309	65,369,903
Unrestricted Funds	(3,157,306)	(2,401,021)
Restricted Funds	2,110,993	2,168,574
Net Assets	\$ (1,046,313)	\$ (232,447)
Total Assets	64,470,996	65,137,455

Summarized Statement of Operations

	2021	2020
Government Funding	\$ 35,787,408	\$ 31,247,293
Tenant Rental Income	3,327,611	3,299,305
Amortization of Deferred Cap, etc	1,012,846	971,670
Donations	289,785	169,569
Interest & Other Income	169,081	243,183
Total Revenue	40,586,731	35,931,020
Wages and Benefits	28,732,619	25,423,689
Property Management	5,343,092	4,313,468
Amortization	2,184,670	2,191,853
Food Services	2,084,488	1,196,480
Financial and Administration	1,520,256	1,810,352
Program Support	1,535,472	1,305,892
Total Expenditures	41,400,472	36,241,892
Deficiency of Revenue over Expenses	\$ (813,866)	\$ (310,714)

You can obtain a complete copy of our annual audited financial statements by contacting us:
raincityhousing.org/about/reports-and-financials, or 604.215.3047, or info@raincityhousing.org

money in



money out



Transitional & Long Term Housing: 1189 people living inside, including children and their mothers in homes with supports, as well as people receiving support 24 hours a day.



Year Round & Seasonal Shelters: Over 900 individuals receiving emergency shelter, three meals a day, and referrals housing.



Indigenous Cultural Services & Peer Services: Established throughout almost all of RainCity, these two programs connect with almost three thousand individuals throughout the Lower Mainland and Sunshine Coast.



Outreach Teams: 295 people in BC's lower mainland receiving ongoing support, regular visits, and advocacy to maintain housing.



Administration: Our frontline staff are able to do the work they do because of our Admin Team - Human Resources, Finance, IT, Payroll - everything from keeping the lights on to welcoming new employees to RainCity.

Larry Adams, Melisse Adams, Alida Ali, Alike Gladwin, Gail Angevine, Suzanne Anton, Erin Arnold, Jean Arthur, Ardith Bailey, Stephen Bailey, Mercedes Baines, Doug Baker, Scott Baldwin, Todd Barber, Connie Baxter, Robert Beck, Mehul Bhagat, Manmeet Bhatia, Cheryl Bigelow, Monica Bittel, Annie Boivin, Robert Bonas, Adam Bowron, William Boyko, Andrew Boyle, Penny Bradley, Kathryn Jordan Brewer John Briscall, Stephen Brown, Steve Brown, Jeffrey Buttle, Sharon Buzik, Kirsten Calder-Sutt, Stephe Caldwell, Braeden Caley, Elizabeth Campbell, Michael Carter, Darren Luce, CDM2 Lightworks, Chambar Restaurant, Angela Chang, Debbie Chau, Bernie Clark, Sherry Cooper, P O'Brien, Diane Corbett, Ian Cromwell, Toni Crow, Gail Cryer, Jennifer Cudlipp, Tom da Cruz, Anne Dane, Susan David, Kelly Davison, Laurie Dawkins, Lynne Desjardins, Ann Devine, Christina Ding, Nicolas Dufort, Norm Chin, Raquel Edwards, Chuka Ejeckam, Denis Fafard, Julie Glover, Amy Ferguson, Andrea Flanderkova, Suzie Fox, Alexa Fraser, Philip Freeman, Beverly Gallagher, Crissy George, Rica Geronimo-Ubeda, Shannon Gerrie, Heather Gilmore, Lionel & Beryl Gingras, Canada Helps Giving Tuesday, Jennifer Goberdhan, Christina Grammenos, Greater Vancouver Food Bank, Jonathan Guballa,

Thank you to the all of these individuals, companies, foundations, and those who make a monthly commitment for being a part of the RainCity Housing Community.

Eva Habib, Daphne Hales, Maureen Halford, Juli Halliwell, Sarah Hamid-Balma, Yuzhen Han, Liz Hankinson, Daphne Harding, Jude Harms, Tamara Harvey, Rebekah Hatherly, Patti Hayes, Jean Heineman, Zander Hill, Linda Ho, Rita Ho, Lucas Ridle, Peter & Kimberley Holloway, Barbara Hughes, Marietta Hurst, Tracy Hurst, James Hylands, Graeme & Karen Illman, Heather Imrie, Gordon Inglis, Allwest Insurance, Laura Ishiguro, Chris Demwell & Iglia Ivanova, Anna Jaschinski, Lindsey Jerke, Arianna Johnny-Wadsworth, Carol Jones, Trevor & Janice Jones, Chalys Joseph, Syma Khan, Angela Kinder, Lois Klassen, Alyssa Koehn, Jacqueline Koo, Joan Korpan, Siu Yung Kwok, Eleanor Lacasse-Young, Ellie Lambert, John Lamont, Kathleen Larkey, Kimberly Larson, Nathanael Lauster, Joan Lawrence, Michele Le Noble, Judy Lea, Patricia Lee-Nobbee, Jonathan Lehrer, Alicja Lenarczyk, Rachel Lewis, Johanna Libbey, Kaitlyn Licata, Jen Newsted, Wen-Shing Liu, Nicole Lochmatter, Jennifer Lofkrantz, Jordan Lok, Peggy Louise, Brian Lydall, Heather Lyon, Sarah Macdonald, Al MacKay, Diane MacLachlan, Narissa MacLeod, Christina Maes Nino, Gerard Major, Leila Maleki Samian, Patricia Marck, Katie Marsh, E. Mavis Marteinson, Andrew Martens, Ruth Marzetti, Kathleen L Mason, Patricia McDonald, Kathleen McElwain, Shannon McInnes, Kimberley McMullen, Andrea McQuade, Ruth-Ann Meadows, Ciara Meissner, Robert Menzies, Summit Middle School, Tristan Miles, Martha Miller, Kendra Milne, Wendal and Wendy Milne, Joan Mitchell, Warren Mitchell, Jim Moncrieff, Scott Morishita, Stephan Mueller, Tsuki Naka, Judith Neamtan, Bill Newton, Abbe Nielsen, White Lotus Divine Healing, Robin Orr, Florence Osubronie, John Oystensen, Christina Pali, Christina Parihar, Paul Pavlik, Agnes Pereyras, Rebecca Permack, Lori Pickering, Marcia Pitch, Pomerleau Inc, Abby Porter, Julie Pratt, Perform For Pride, Kerri McLeod, Tuomo Rahkola, Mark Ransom, Fiona Youatt, Chris Reburn, Rick Smith, Rosemary Reynolds, Beth Ringdahl, Connor Roff, Rogers Foundation, Havelock Rolfe, Martin Rose, Harley and Eleanor Rothstein, Jaclyn Ruth, Theerin Sakiya, Kimberly Sayson, Lorelei Schneider, Terence Schultes, Naomi Scott, Keith Seyer, Aleicia Sharp, Kathryn Shaw, Rachel Sherman, Jason Shevolup, Nathanael and Katelyn Sieb, Joanna Simpson, Melody Sizer, Geoffrey Smith, Ione Smith, Leah Smolar, Kathy Snowden, St Mary's Hospital, Carrie St. Martin, Fiona Steele, Joel Stitt, Marie Shannon, Sunshine Coast Community Foundation, Sunshine Coast Labour Council, Janet Sutherland, Starr Switzer, Reka Sztopa, Geoffrey Tanner, James & Irene Taylor, Mei Teh, Chaim Zbar, The Co-operators, Zacks Family Charitable Foundation, Rebecca Thomas, Camilla Tibbs, Jomar Tigcal, Paula Tognazzini, Kristin Helgason, Karl Torbicki, Jordan Toye, Marlene Triggs, Barbara Trip, Everard Trip, Paul Tupper, Kelly Tweten, Jason Kempt, Chantel Vo, Sarah Vollett, Victor Waese, Michael Wagler, Tanner Waldo, Lois Walker, Linda Warner Sarah Warner, Susan Werner, Joan Williams, Breanne, Williamson, Dawn Williamson, Danae Wilson, Cody Winter, Withers Family Fund, Emily Yakashiro, Shiva Zadeh, Sonia Ziesche

All of your donations bring us that much closer
to providing a home for every person!

