

August Newsletter

Updates, events, and recommended reading from Women
Transforming Cities



This month we celebrate over a decade of advocacy with our anniversary film screening on Thursday, August 25th (Tickets are going fast, [grab yours here!](#)). In honour of our birthday, here's a brief *herstory* of what WTC has accomplished over the past ten years.

2011 WTC was conceived by Councillor Ellen Woodsworth at the World Urban Forum in 2004, but launches this year by the Chair of the Womens Advisory Committee Wendy Williams and Councillor Ellen Woodsworth.

2012 WTC holds its first event in the Vancouver City Council chambers to the sounds of the Raging Grannies performing songs of social protest.

2013 WTC begins to hold monthly dialogue cafes in local communities about important issues for women and girls and holds a national conference 'Engaging Women, Transforming Cities: Designing an Ideal City for Women and Girls.'

2014 WTC launches its first ever Hot Pink Paper Campaign highlighting the 11 key issues for women and girls in Vancouver. The campaign reaches over 10,000 people as WTC storms the city council chambers to hand the Mayor and City Councillors a pamphlet containing all of their policy asks.

2015 C.A.W.I. invites cities and NGO's to work on what becomes, "Advancing Equity and Inclusion" - A Guide for Municipalities. Ellen is invited to be the keynote speaker at the UN International Women Friendly Cities Conference in Turkey. Ellen Woodsworth submits a Wise Practice on behalf of C.A.W.I. from UN Habitat World Urban Campaign for Municipalities, which is accepted as the only Wise Practice from Canada.

2016 WTC hosts a UN Habitat Urban Thinkers Grand Tea Party at Heritage Hall, runs workshops for Advancing Equity and Inclusion, and founder Ellen Woodsworth speaks in Prague, New York, and (along with four other WTC members) at the NGO Forum in Quito, Ecuador. She also speaks at Smart Cities Conference in Uruguay.

2017 WTC commences a three year research project on systemic barriers to women's participation in local government in partnership with Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW).

2018 WTC runs its first 'Speaking Out at Council' workshop for women to increase participation in civic processes. The second Hot Pink Paper Campaign takes place in Vancouver, which includes both Mayor and Council report cards of policy commitments. Joy Masuhara launches the Women Friendly Cities Challenge at the World Urban Forum 9 in Kuala Lumpur.

2019 WTC launches Council Action (now known as Watch Council) to review council agendas. Ellen Woodsworth is invited to Iraq as a consultant and keynote speaker for an international project in northern Iraq. Ellen works with Mayor and Council to unanimously pass an amendment to the Gender Equity Strategy to put a gendered intersectional lens that is measurable on all departments for six years.

2020 WTC hires its first organizational staff member, Executive Director, Ash. Ellen is the first LGBTQ12S speaker at the Women's Assembly in Abu Dhabi. WTC and CRIAW publish their Systemic Barriers research and host three webinars on the findings. The staff team grows by two.

2021 WTC receives media coverage on renaming of Gladstone Secondary School, and opposing the 2030 Olympics. WTC board expands to 12 people. [TRC Action & Decolonization](#) research project begins. We host two workshops: "What Would Housing Look Like If Vancouver Were a Women-Friendly City?" and "Stories from the Intersections: Racialized Misogyny". We launch the new [Women Friendly Cities Challenge website](#) WTC founder Ellen Woodsworth becomes WTC's first Matriarch. We receive a Feminist Response and Recovery Grant from WAGE to expand our work in civic leadership across the province.

This year we've been working hard to [challenge and support City Council motions](#), [train a cohort of grassroots activists](#), and run our [2022 Hot Pink Paper Campaign](#). We've also hosted a [WTC Panel at the Pride Human Rights Conference](#) in Winnipeg.

We hope to see you all at SFU's Harbour Centre on **August 25 at 6 PM** to celebrate WTC and watch the documentary [Running with My Girls](#), a story that also celebrates the power of community organizing.

[10 Year Tickets Here](#)

To celebrate and help support our next 10 years of action we are looking for 10 new monthly donors.

[Become a Monthly Donor](#)

Updates from WTC



Registration is open for [Centering Equity Vancouver All Candidates Forum](#)

We've partnered with the [YWCA Metro Vancouver City Shift](#) to bring together moderator Ginger Gosnell-Myers and candidates from the major parties for Vancouver City Council to discuss how they are centering equity in their policy platforms, and what commitments they will make to ensure Vancouver is a city where everyone belongs. The event is both in-person (with limited seating) and will be live streamed online via Zoom. For more details and to register head to the [Eventbrite here](#).

Welcome to our team Victoria!

Another exciting addition has joined our staff team, an Action Researcher, Victoria. She is a Master of Arts student in the Department of Sociology at UBC and currently conducting a thesis to improve housing access for Black, Indigenous, and Women of Colour fleeing violence in Toronto and Vancouver. She is committed to lifelong



learning and meaningful knowledge exchange. She values building safe and inclusive spaces, dismantling oppressive policies, and implementing evidence-based and equity-centered practices to combat social issues.

Dear 2022 candidate,

If you are elected to Vancouver City Council, will you committ to....



Our HPPC policy commitment survey goes out soon!

We've compiled everything we've heard over the past few months of our Hot Pink Paper Campaign and have been working hard to narrow them down into policy commitments. We'll be sending these to each candidate running in the 2022 municipal election and will report back to all of you with their responses. This will help us understand where each candidate stands on the key issues that impact equity deserving genders most, to help inform our vote.

WTC was recently featured on CBC's On the Coast

Our Co-Chair, Trudi Goels, recently spoke about improving the public hearing process with Gloria Macarenko on CBC radio. We also got a chance to discuss our Hot Pink Paper Campaign and how to get involved in your local

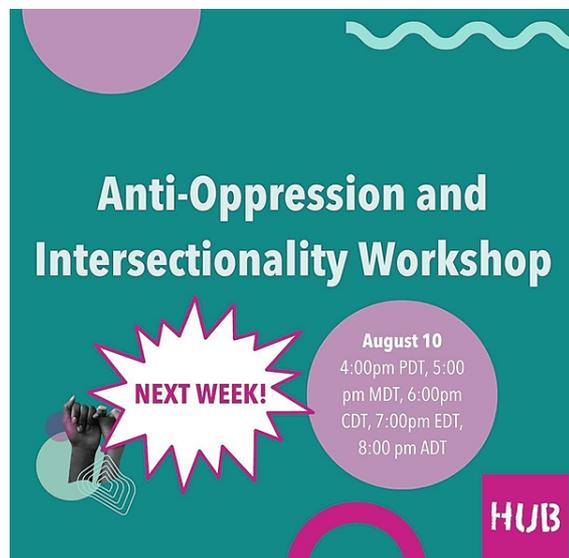


city government. Listen to the [full segment here](#).

Upcoming Events

[Anti-Oppression & Intersectionality Workshop](#)

Join this month's [HUB workshop](#) that will explain the importance of applying an anti-oppression lens in community organizing, along with "environmentalism in the context of settler colonialism, systems of oppression and intersectionality." The event will be online via Zoom on August 10 (4:00 PDT) and you can [register here](#).



[VWHC Charity Drag Show: Gender Inequality is a Drag](#)

Help support the [Vancouver Women's Health Collective](#) and attend what is bound to be one of the most fun fundraisers yet. With over twelve drag performances we assure you that raising money has never been so fun. Get your tickets for the **August 11 from 7-10 PM** event [here](#).



[Prison Justice Day 2022](#)

Join [Defund 604 Network](#) at Trout Lake Park (3300 Victoria Dr) on **August 10th from 6-8 PM** a memorial event "in solidarity with all communities impacted by incarceration." There will be speakers along with merchandise for sale whose proceeds will go directly to supporting prison abolition movements.



[Vancouver's Queer Film Festival is on from August 11-21](#)

This month choose from an incredible selection of queer films to see both in-person or to stream from the comfort of your own home. How many films can you fit into ten days time? With this year's lineup, we bet a whole lot. Check out the schedule, film times, and buy tickets at the [festival's website here](#).



[Black Block Party on August 27th](#)

Head to the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza anytime between **1 and 9 PM on Saturday August 27** for the block party of the summer. Celebrate Black art and culture and listen to some incredible performances. There will also be food for sale and lots of Black owned businesses to support. For more details [visit their website here](#).



Take Action

- End daily displacement and dispossession in the Downtown Eastside and support the latest grassroots community action to Stop the Sweeps by [taking their pledge now](#).

Read, Watch, & Learn

- Read the [2022 Street Sweeps Report](#), a call to end the cyclical displacement and criminalized poverty that occurs in Vancouver's DTES.
- Listen to [this incredible Pride podcast series of CBC's The Early Edition](#) featuring queer stories and a segment with our very own Co-Chair, Joy Masuhara, and Founder/Matriarch, Ellen Woodsworth.
- Check out [Vancouver's voter's guide](#), an amazing resource to better understand how to vote in this upcoming election.
- Listen to [Buffy, a CBC podcast](#) about Buffy Sainte-Marie one of the most prolific singer-songwriters of the past century
- Read [The Road to Safety - Indigenous Survivors in BC Speak Out against Intimate Partner Violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#) a report by BCAAFC and BWSS.

[Become a WTC Member](#)



Women Transforming Cities acknowledges that our work takes place on the stolen, unceded, ancestral territories of the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

Questions? Email us at:
info@womentransformingcities.org

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