



## July Newsletter

*Updates, events, and recommended reading from Women Transforming Cities.*



There's nothing more inspiring than watching communities take care of one another by creating space for their needs to be heard. We've been moved this past month as so many community organizations rallied their seniors, their youth, their 2SLGBTQIA+ neighbours to speak out for a kind of city they need.

We saw Chinatown organizers make sure that our senior neighbours had their own chairs to rest on as they spoke against the condo developments at 105 Keefer. We watched as recently immigrated high school students in South Vancouver practiced their speech to City Council, surrounded by neighbours to offer encouragement. We saw the level of care as organizers planned for snacks to nourish the folks who'd spend hours waiting for their time to speak.

Not every decision went the way we hoped. Not every motion passed as we would have wanted it to. But we were once again invigorated by the communities we collaborate with, the communities that make Vancouver such a vibrant place to live.

At Women Transforming Cities we never tire of putting our best efforts forward. We know that the road to systems change, to shifting power to transform our cities into places where communities' need are met is a long one. It requires time, community power, and funding to sustain our organization's impact and longevity.

Our fundraiser to sustain our efforts to create a city where everyone can belong, participate, and thrive ends soon. Please consider donating whatever you can, or spreading the word to others that every dollar counts.

In solidarity for the long haul,  
Women Transforming Cities

Donate

## Updates from WTC

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### We launched a new logo and website!

Visuals can be a powerful tool to understand what an organization is about. For a long time now, we've wanted a logo that better reflects our understanding of gender inclusion and expression. Updating our organizational look was a very important step, but it doesn't end there. While we've got a brand new website and logo, the most important work is how we make our spaces, programs, and initiatives inclusive and celebratory of all gender identities.



Explore our new site

### Congrats, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH)!

We've been collaborating with the Reframing South Vancouver Initiative to deliver workshops on community organizing, intersectionality, and how to understand and engage with local government. We were thrilled to see their organizing in action at City Hall with 30+ residents speaking to the motion

[Addressing Ongoing Inequities by Improving Social Infrastructure and](#)



[Access to Services Across South Vancouver & Marpole Neighbourhoods](#), which passed unanimously.

[Read our letter to council](#)

## Supporting Transit for Teens

Last month, we advocated to Vancouver City Council to support our friends at Family Equity Centre's campaign to push the province to expand their free transit from ages 0-12 to teens up to age 18. While we were disappointed it did not pass, we will continue to advocate for more free and reduced fare transit for people on low incomes, as laid out in our 2022-2026 [Hot Pink Paper](#) policy asks.

[Read our letter to Council](#)

## Staff Updates

Our Action Researcher successfully defended her thesis last month, *The Right to Housing is a Social Phenomenon: Lessons from Racialized Women About Community, Safety, and Landlords*. Victoria's research in the housing sector of Vancouver and Toronto has been such an asset to our own advocacy work. We also added a short term researcher to our team for the summer. Welcome, Chris Higham (she/her)!

WOMEN TRANSFORMING CITIES 3/5

## FREE TRANSIT FOR TEENS WOULD...

- Increase access to education, employment and recreation.
- Increase the use of mental health supports.
- Allow teens to experience their city, promoting social connection and inclusion.
- Allow families to thrive without the added expense.
- Enhance teen safety.



HOW CAN I FIGHT FOR MY RIGHTS?  
HOW DO I TALK TO AN ESB OFFICER?

### Procedural Fairness

Session 2 of Organizing 101 Series

I'm finally asserting my rights as a worker but don't know what my rights are in an Employment Standards Branch complaint!

We'll teach you your rights, common terms, what to expect and more!

This workshop will continue your introduction to your rights as a worker in BC and the steps you can take to protect them, as we build towards organizing your workplace!

**July 4, 2023 at 6 PM**

## Know your worker's rights

Join the Worker Solidarity Network's latest workshop, Procedural Fairness on **July 4 at 6:00 PM (PDT)** and learn the process for submitting a complaint with the Employment Standards if you feel your rights as a worker are being violated. They'll walk you through the process, key terms, and help empower you as a worker to know and protect your rights as a worker here in BC.

[Register Here](#)

### On Joy and Community:

A Fireside Chat for Black 2SLGBTQI+ people

July 6, 2023 via Zoom  
5:30pm-6:45pm EST

  
Brittany Hudson

  
hosted by  
Mofi Badmos

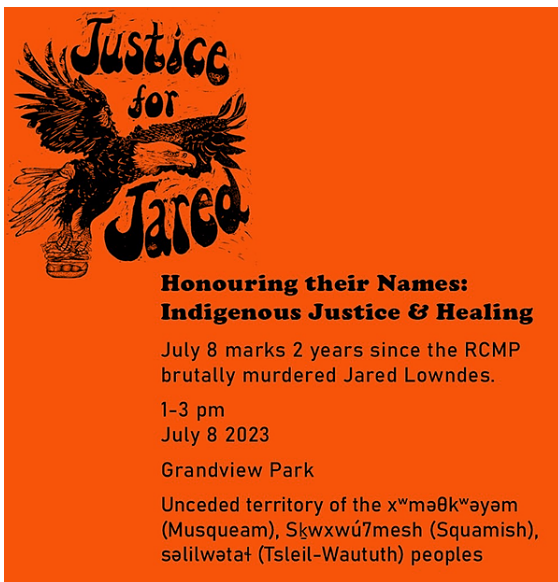
## On Joy and Community: A fireside chat for Black 2SLGBTQI+ people

This summer of pride it's important to centre joy. Join the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity's Brittany Hudson and Mofi Badmos to "delve into the critical roles that joy and community have played in both the life and work of our panelist and attendees." There will be a space to "share stories, ask questions, and connect." \*Note, this event is open to anyone who identifies as Black and 2SLGBTQI+.

[Register Here](#)

## Honouring Their





## Names: Indigenous Justice & Healing

Head down to Grandview Park (Commercial Dr. between Charles and William Streets) on **Saturday, July 8 from 1-3:00 PM** to honour the life of Jared Lowndes, who was killed by RCMP. There will be "art, ceremony, and speakers" and a chance to connect and heal with community. This event is organized by Defund604Network and #JusticeForJared.

[More Info](#)

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## Read, Watch, & Learn

- Read Pivot Legal and VANDU's report [Talking Back to the City: A manual for winning and resisting -local drug policy.](#)
- Read one of these 2SLGBTQIA+ Asian [book recommendations.](#)
- Listen to one of the [Canadian Women's Foundation podcasts.](#)
- Explore [this database](#) to see if your MP is a landlord.
- The BC Eviction Mapping project is working to make tenant protections stronger by researching where evictions are happening and to whom. Respond to [this survey](#) if you've ever been evicted or forced to move!
- Check out the academic journal [At the Intersection of Equity and Innovation: Trans Inclusion in the City of Vancouver](#) by friend of WTC Tiffany Muller Myrdahl.
- Read Health Justice's newest guide, [A Guide to Part 3 of the BC Adult Guardianship Act](#), to help adults experiencing abuse who are unable to seek support due to a health condition or disability.



[www.womentransformingcities.org](http://www.womentransformingcities.org)

[Donate to WTC](#)

Skw̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Sə́l̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

Questions? Email us at:

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