



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



We are so excited to share with you some events we've been brewing over the last few months.

First, we've launched a new series of [learning workshops](#) aimed to equip you with the skills needed to advocate at the local level. We'll be bringing our community a new workshop each month, so keep your eyes out!

Secondly, we've partnered with British Columbia Law Institute (BCLI) to offer [a space to discuss ways to improve our current public hearing system](#). As you may recall, we sent a letter to Vancouver City Council urging them to improve the public hearing process back in 2022. [In this letter](#) we wrote:

*We want folks who experience oppression in our communities to have a real voice in decision making. It's the role of council to make this possible at council meetings. It is silencing to sit through meetings where one feels demonized and stigmatized by the perception of who they might be.*

If you have thoughts on how to make the public hearing process better, we hope you'll join us. More information on our events can be found below.

In solidarity,

Women Transforming Cities

## Monthly Highlights

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- WTC's staff team set our organization's goals and can't wait to show you what's to come!
- WTC endorsed [Social Housing and Human Rights Campaign](#) calling on the Prime Minister and Minister of Housing for a real solution to the housing crisis.
- WTC held our first book club of 2024! Our members had a great time connecting in-person (with a few tuning in online) to discuss *When Women Were Dragons*.
- WTC endorsed [Canadian Drug Policy Coalition's Vision for BC Drug Policy](#) calling for drug regulation, decriminalization, addressing the root causes of poverty, and access to detox, recovery, and treatment options.
- WTC staff and volunteers joined a year long Climate Transitions Cohort led by Tamarack Institute.
- WTC welcomed back a part-time staff member to our team who is helping with action research, Chris Higham (she/her).



**CALL TO ACTION**

We call on the Prime Minister and the Minister of Housing to fulfill their legal obligation to realize the human right to housing and:

- Create a minimum of 50,000 net new rent-geared-to-income social housing units each year for 10 years, starting now. These units should be targeted for those experiencing core housing need and homelessness and have rents permanently set at no more than 30% of household income.
- Invest in the acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of new and existing public, non-profit, and cooperative-owned housing that meets the unique and varied requirements of people experiencing core housing need and homelessness.

To add your endorsement, visit:  
[tinyurl.com/4aa3yzeh](https://tinyurl.com/4aa3yzeh)



## Updates from WTC

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### [Understanding Local Government + Your Ability to Affect Change Workshop](#)

Join us for our first learning series workshop on **Feb. 20th at 5:30 PM** as we explore:

- What municipal governments are responsible for
- How local governments make decisions
- Why local governments matter
- How you can engage to influence your decision-makers

Workshops are \$10, but free for our members so sign up to [become a member](#) today. *Members can access the free code via Slack or in our Member Dispatch coming next week.*

[Register](#)

## [How Would You Renovate the Public Hearing Process?](#)


Join us at our virtual town hall on **February 28 at 6:00 PM** to provide your thoughts on how to improve BC legislation around public engagement.

We want to know:

- Is there a better way to engage the public?
- When and how should First Nations be engaged in land-use decisions?
- What are some tools to reduce barriers to housing?

**Your participation will help shape BCLI's recommendations for changes to the law, so please join us!** Note: you don't need to anything about the current process to join.

[Register](#)




## UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT + YOUR ABILITY TO AFFECT CHANGE

A WTC LEARNING SERIES

A workshop about local government, why they matter, and how to affect change with your local decision makers.

**FEBRUARY 20**  
**5:30-7:00 PM (PST)**  
**ON ZOOM**





## How Would You Renovate the Public Hearing Process?

We want to hear from you!

**FEBRUARY 28**  
**6:00 PM**



## Civic Resource Launch Coming Soon

Do you find navigating local government confusing? You're not alone! From understanding what goes into Vancouver's budget to knowing what kind of decisions a city council can make there is so much to learn about local government. We've been working on a set of resources to make civic engagement easier and can't wait to share them. Keep an eye out for the launch of our easy to understand, all-in-one-place, civic resources that will help you influence your local decision-makers!



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## Upcoming Events



### Women's Memorial March on Feb. 14th

[Sign up to volunteer](#) or join us as we march around the DTES, for the Annual Women's Memorial March. The march is led by Indigenous women and LGBTQ2S+ people to honour missing and murdered women and girls, especially the overwhelmingly disproportionate impacts on Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people, and their families and communities. We hope to see you there.

[More Info](#)

### Free Concert & Climate Change Discussion



On **Monday February 12 at 7:00pm** *The Art of Change: Chapter One - Sounds* will take place at Vancouver Heritage Hall (3102 Main St.), a free concert and dialogue "to spark conversation and connection to climate action." Sword Fern Collective organized the event to drive climate change education that centres hope and compassion. "Whether it's your first or hundredth time talking about climate change, there's a place for you here!"

[Register](#)



## **Decolonizing Reproductive Justice- Indigenous Voices**

This virtual Zoom panel on **Saturday, February 17 at 10-11:30 am (PT)** features an incredible lineup of Indigenous speakers who you don't want to miss. They'll cover the colonial history of abortion and reproductive health care in Canada and the need for equitable reproductive health and justice for all. Donations cover speaker honorariums, so donate what you can!

[Register](#)

## **Pages on Stage: A Black Storytelling Event**

QMUNITY is celebrating queer Black history in Vancouver with a free event at the Vancouver Public Library

## Pages on Stage: A Black Storytelling Event

In-Person 2SLGBTQIA+ All-Ages

In celebration of queer Black history in Vancouver, QMUNITY's BHM Advisory Committee brings you a special gathering centered on storytelling.

**When?** Saturday, February 24 @ 1-4PM

**Where?** Vancouver Public Library (Central Branch)



qmunity.ca | @qmunity | +1 604-684-5307

(Central Branch) on **Saturday, February 24 from 1-4:00 PM.**

"Through laughter and introspection, this event will be a celebration of love, joy, and self-discovery. The location is fully accessible, and ASL interpretation will be offered. Masks will be available, and encouraged."

[More Info](#)

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## Read, Watch, & Learn

- Explore and attend one of The Black Arts Centre (located in Surrey) [programs for Black History Month](#)
- Donate to the [Vancouver Black Therapy Fund](#)
- Read a book by a Black feminist author this month. Recommendations include: [Bad Feminist](#) by Roxane Gay, [Hood Feminism](#) by Mikki Kendall, [Your Silence Will Not Protect You](#) by Audre Lorde, and [Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth](#) by Warsan Shire
- Read the report [Unobstructed Journeys: Dismantling Barriers to Gender Equality in the Workplace](#)
- Endorse [Social Housing and Human Rights Campaign's call on the provincial government](#) to fulfill their legal obligation to realize the right to housing
- Peruse the report [Practices and Inspiration for Sustainable Transportation Equity](#)
- Endorse [Canadian Drug Policy Coalitions's To End a Crisis: Vision for BC Drug Policy](#)



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

[Donate to WTC](#)

Women Transforming Cities acknowledges that our work takes place on the stolen, unceded, ancestral territories of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. Questions? Email us at: [info@womentransformingcities.org](mailto:info@womentransformingcities.org) Want to change how you receive these emails? You can unsubscribe from this list.