



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



This past weekend was **International Women's Day**, a day rooted in political resistance. International Women's Day is a story of labour rights and a call to action for women's rights.

Our recent workshop examined the evolution of feminism, pivotal moments in the making of #IWD, and how we can become active allies.

Thanks to everyone who joined us to learn ways we can accelerate action as an individual, in our work, and at a systems level!

From the passing of ABC's supportive housing ban to the upcoming **April 5th by-election** in Vancouver, this is a crucial time for us to continue to use our voices to speak power and stay united in our collective fight for gender equity in the cities we live in.

If you live in Vancouver, check your eligibility and make a **[plan to vote](#) on March 26th, April 1st, or April 5th**. You can vote by mail if you request a mail-in ballot before March 24th.

Whether or not you can vote, **tell friends about the election.** Many people may not know it's happening and a friendly reminder from someone they know will help them get involved.

Monthly Highlights



In February, we:

- Hosted a speed-friending event for WTC members.
- Presented a new member learning series webinar on self care for organizers.
- Marched alongside 25 WTC members in the Women's Memorial March.
- Asked by-election candidates to commit to action on equity if elected.
- Rallied with Our Homes Can't Wait at city hall to protest **ABC's supportive housing ban**, held by a coalition of DTES organizations, residents, and allies.
- Supported WTC members to speak and write to council about the importance of supportive housing.
- Spoke at two council motions related to ABC's ban on supportive housing.

Updates from WTC

On **Saturday, March 29th**, Clara Prager, WTC's Manager of Civic Engagement & Advocacy, will be speaking at a panel event for **The**

Climate Reality Project's Leadership Corps training in Vancouver.

Starting at **2:30 pm**, the panel will be on the intersections of local government, green buildings, and equity in the climate movement. We hope to see you there!



[Attend Training](#)

Engaging with Local Government: Tips on How to Speak to City Council

Back by popular demand, join us on **Wednesday, April 9th** from **6 to 7 pm** (on Zoom) to explore opportunities to engage with local government. This workshop will include tips to speak to city councillors and how to advocate for change.

Tickets are \$10, but free for WTC members so sign up to [become a member](#) today.

Members can access the free code via Slack or in our past Member Dispatch.

[Purchase your Ticket](#)



Our 2024 Impact

2024 was another huge year for WTC. Our [annual report](#) is now live for you

to see what our community has been up to!

The report shares impact highlights on Watch Council & Local Advocacy, the Hot Pink Paper Campaign, Civic Engagement & Participation, Action Research, Truth and Reconciliation in Local Government, Panels & Events, Fee for Service Workshops, Communications, and more.



[Read our Annual Report](#)

Flyer: Share our By-Election Resources

Did you know we created a printable flyer based on our [by-election blog post](#) and [socials](#)?

This resource breaks down frequently asked questions about the by-election and how to get involved. Help us spread the word about the by-election! [Download](#) and print this flyer to share at your community centre, workplace, or with your neighbours.

If you share this poster, tag us on socials and we will amplify to our networks.

[Download the Flyer](#)

Watch Council Drop-in Sessions

WHAT IS A BY-ELECTION?
AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Every four years, residents across Vancouver elect their local mayors, councillors and school board trustees. This is called a general election.

If an elected official leaves their role early, a by-election is called between general elections.

WHY ARE WE HAVING A BY-ELECTION?
Two Vancouver city councillors elected in 2022 have stepped down.

On April 5, Vancouver residents will vote for two new city councillors to fill their empty seats.

TYPICAL BY-ELECTION TURNOUT IS 1/10 VOTERS

This could be you!

Register for upcoming Watch Council Drop-In Sessions ([Mar 17](#), [Mar 31](#)) to track, and influence local governments' decisions! WTC members can attend a bi-weekly session (on Mondays!) to:

- Understand the role local government can play in issues you care about.
- Navigate local government processes, like signing up to speak to council.
- Understand a specific agenda item or political decision and what it may mean for your community.
- Learn tips on how to write or speak to your councillors.

[Register for Sessions](#)



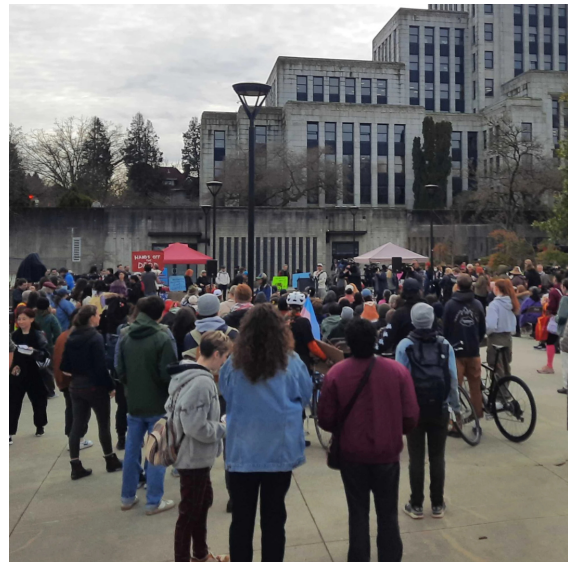
Statement on ABC's Supportive Housing Ban

On February 26th, Mayor Sim and five councillors from the ABC Party voted in favour of a motion to “freeze” the most effective tool at their disposal to address homelessness: housing with integrated support for residents.

We are sad and angry at the cruelty of those who supported the motion. We are disappointed that our elected officials would use our vulnerable neighbours as human bargaining chips.

We are also determined to keep fighting.

[Read the Full Statement](#)



BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TO SUPPORT TRANS* EQUALITY

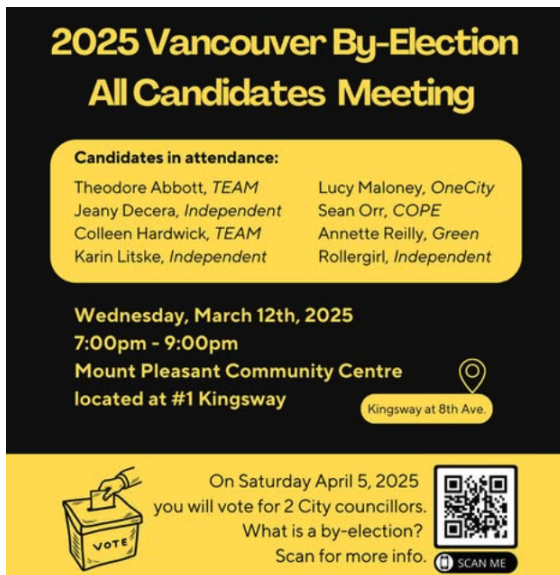
Date: **March 22, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST**
Hosted By: **Right To Be**

[Zoom Registration](#)

Bystander Intervention to Support Trans* Equality Training

On **Saturday, March 22nd** starting **2 pm EST**, this free one-hour interactive training will teach participants Right To Be's 5Ds of bystander intervention methodology (distract, delegate, document, delay, and direct).

There will be discussion on identities that fall under the trans* umbrella using the "spectrum of disrespect" tool. There will also be scenarios practice and a brief visioning exercise.



2025 Vancouver By-Election All Candidates Meeting



Candidates in attendance:

Theodore Abbott, <i>TEAM</i>	Lucy Maloney, <i>OneCity</i>
Jeany Decera, <i>Independent</i>	Sean Orr, <i>COPE</i>
Colleen Hardwick, <i>TEAM</i>	Annette Reilly, <i>Green</i>
Karin Litske, <i>Independent</i>	Rollergirl, <i>Independent</i>

Wednesday, March 12th, 2025
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Mount Pleasant Community Centre
located at #1 Kingsway

Kingsway at 8th Ave.

On Saturday April 5, 2025 you will vote for 2 City councillors. What is a by-election? Scan for more info.



SCAN ME

[Learn More](#)

2025 Vancouver By-Election All Candidates Meeting

Drop by the 2025 Vancouver by-election all candidates meeting at Mount Pleasant Community Centre happening this evening, **Wednesday, March 12th from 7 to 9 pm.**

Confirmed candidates attending: Sean Orr (COPE), Annette Reilly (Green), Lucy Maloney (OneCity), Theodore Abbott, Colleen Hardwick (TEAM), and Jeany Decera, Rollergirl (Independent).



Urban ReVision: BIPOC Mentorship Studio

Registration is now open for Cohort 3 of [Urban ReVision: BIPOC Mentorship Studio](#)! This program is for Black, Indigenous and people of colour youth based in Metro Vancouver that are interested in exploring urban planning and civic governance through hands-on learning, mentorship, and project completion.

This in-person program in Vancouver runs from April to June 2025. All participants will receive an honorarium.

Applications close March 23rd at 11:59pm.

[Apply Now](#)



Join us for our:
City Council By-Election
Meet the Candidates Public Forum

Monday, March 17th – 6:30PM to 8:30PM
In the Canucks Family Education Centre at the Britannia
(1655 William Street @ Grandview Park - 2nd Floor)

Move between tables to talk with your Council candidates or ask a question of any candidate during our open mic portion

*Confirmed candidates from: COPE, Vancouver Greens, One City and TEAM
(more info at [GWAC.ca](#))*

Meet the Candidates Public Forum

Grandview Woodland Area Council is hosting a free Meet the Candidates Public Forum next **Monday, March 17th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. This is an opportunity to move between tables to talk with council candidates or ask questions to any of them during open mic.

Confirmed candidates: Annette Reilly (Green), Colleen Hardwick, Theodore Abott (TEAM), Lucy Maloney (One City), Sean Orr (COPE).

The forum will take place in the Canucks Family Education Centre at the Britannia Centre.

Read, Watch, & Learn

- [Ask your MLA to save transit](#) from insufficient funding by April. The budget is under review and it's urgent we let them know right now how important transit is to us!
- Get involved in the federal election with [Apathy Is Boring's opportunities](#) for young Canadians to host their own street teams or table topics.
- Read [Living in Community's Advocacy Toolkit](#) on how you can advocate for sex worker rights in policy and practice change.
- Check out WTC's new civic resources for [Abbotsford](#), [Campbell River](#), [Chilliwack](#), [Delta](#), [Langley](#), [Maple Ridge](#), [Metro Vancouver](#), [Mission](#), and [Nelson](#)!
- Learn more about WTC's Former Co-Chair Dr. Joy Masuhara and Board Member Mita Naidu's [nominations for YWCA's Women of Distinction Awards](#).



www.womentransformingcities.org

[Donate to WTC](#)

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 Want to change how you receive these emails? You can unsubscribe from this list.