

**Encouraging the development and mobilization of quality housing research**

**Homeless Research Knowledge Exchange – the beginning of a new learning collaborative at the University of Victoria**

By *Bernie Pauly*

While homelessness has been a key issue of concern in communities locally and globally pre-COVID, the inequities associated with homelessness have intensified during COVID. For example, there are fewer emergency shelter spaces, lack of water for handwashing, no place to stay at home or self-isolate. These conditions lay bare gross inequities and harms of homelessness. COVID 19 increased visible homelessness creating flash points for public controversy. With a rise in visible homelessness, there is an escalation of responses that often stigmatize or seek to manage rather than reduce or end homelessness. Managing homeless is more costly and increases stress and harms for people who are homeless. The purpose of the new *Homeless Research Knowledge Exchange* is to develop a strong and mutually beneficial community/university partnership to advance research excellence, dynamic learning opportunities, and impact a more sustainable future and approach to homeless policies, programs and practices.

A key benefit of the learning collaborative will be to mobilize knowledge for evidence based solutions to homelessness that engages researchers and people with lived/living expertise. This learning collaborative will include UVIC faculty and students who are interested in and committed to homelessness research in partnership with people with lived/living experience. We intend to grow unique expertise and model innovative and collaborative approaches to homeless solutions that will be recognized regionally, provincially and nationally for generating evidence based homeless solutions. Although essential to successful solutions, there are few opportunities for people with lived/living expertise to meaningfully engage in decisions that affect their lives and their voices are often invisible in public discourse or policy development. Through the collaborative learning process, we will identify key priorities for knowledge translation of existing evidence and inform priorities for knowledge generation that are informed by the expertise of people with lived and living expertise of homelessness. Our Knowledge translation approach focuses on the production of highly accessible resources for decision makers, service providers, and the public to inform homeless policies, programs and practices. Both graduate and undergraduate students will gain skills and knowledge about homelessness and have opportunities to participate in collaborative solutions to homelessness.

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**The Pacific Housing Research Network facilitates multi-sectoral research focused on housing affordability and sustainability, and fosters dialogue and collaboration among housing stakeholders across B.C. to encourage the effective application of research results to housing solutions.**

## Message from Our Co-Chair

In this issue I note that PHRN network members are working on multiple levels toward our shared goal of sustainable and affordable housing. Our research partners are contributing thoughtfully to mobilizing knowledge that is solution oriented. In that spirit, PHRN is preparing webinars focused on key intersections such as "covid, equity and homelessness", for example, and another webinar responding to the opioid crisis profiling new research on overdose prevention and response in washrooms.

We often broker housing related research partnerships between community groups and graduate students. We hope to follow this work with a regularly offered webinar on "careers in housing research."

Networking and collaboration toward solutions oriented research is important to all partners of the Pacific Housing Research Network. More information on our work will be found on our website: phrncb.com or follow us on twitter @researchPHRN.

*Dr. Bruce Wallace is a scientist with the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research and an associate professor with UVic's School of Social Work and the Co-Chair of PHRN.*



## Who is PHRN?

### Our Steering Committee:

Penny Gurstein (UBC), Co-Chair  
Bruce Wallace (UVic), Co-Chair  
Deborah Kraus (BC Housing)  
Elizabeth Tang (CMHC)  
Brian Clifford (BCNPHA)  
Nolan Beise (MITACS)  
Bernie Pauly (UVic)  
Carlos Teixeira (UBC Okanagan)  
Nathan Lauster (UBC)  
Marleen Morris (UNBC)  
Tricia Roche (Network Coordinator)

### Want to receive E-Newsletter from PHRN?

For up-to-date news on housing research, student opportunities, upcoming events, and other resources, subscribe by emailing: [phrn@uvic.ca](mailto:phrn@uvic.ca)

## Partner News

### BCNPHA

#### Welcome to the Housing Sector

The non-profit housing sector is a dynamic and rewarding field to work in, with a wide range of career paths to pursue your professional goals. And with the sector expanding throughout the province, there are many new job opportunities to explore. To support people beginning their housing sector careers, we've created the Welcome to the Housing Sector course. The course is self paced. In this course you will learn more about the non-profit housing sector including: the role of different levels of government in the housing sector; policy and legislation that guides the work of the non-profit housing sector; the role of key players in the housing sector in BC and more. For registration information:

<https://bcnpha.ca/events-learning/welcome-to-the-housing-sector/>

### PHRN Objectives:

1. To encourage networking, partnerships and the **sharing of findings** across researchers, knowledge users, and stakeholders.
2. To **support each other** in developing and conducting research.
3. To **leverage capacity** to find funding solutions for housing research and dissemination.
4. To **encourage students** to consider housing as an area of choice for their career.

### CMHC

#### Northern Access Round to Open Jan 2022

The Northern Access round of the Housing Supply Challenge will launch in Jan 2022. Led by CMHC, round 3 will fund supply chain solutions for northern and remote regions in Canada. The Housing Supply Challenge targets housing supply and affordability barriers that exist at the system level. The objectives for the Northern Access Round:

- Reduce time, cost, and risk to access required materials for housing in remote communities.
- Attract new ideas and partners to solve complex barriers to housing supply.
- Support collaboration with northerners to ensure solutions are the right fit for the community.
- Showcase outcomes so others can implement and scale solutions.

Supply chain solutions must be locally-relevant as northern and remote regions have unique and distinct needs. Each northern and remote community has unique considerations that include: climate, culture, infrastructure, environment. Look for the Northern Access Round to open in Jan 2022

#### Solutions Labs

National Housing Strategy Solutions Labs offer organizations funding and expertise to help them solve complex housing problems. The funding is used to explore new ways of making progress on a housing challenge. Solutions Labs are also called social innovation labs, design labs, or change labs. They are an innovative approach to tackling complex societal challenges that require systems change. Housing challenges may include affordability, social inclusion, northern and remote supports, Indigenous housing, environmental sustainability. Solutions labs provide a safe space for diverse perspectives to come together, for assumptions to be questioned and to experiment with housing solutions. Organizations receive funding to create project teams.

**Application Deadline January 17, 2022**

#### ... Homeless Research Knowledge Exchange – the beginning of a new learning collaborative at the University of Victoria

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This new initiative involves an action oriented learning collaborative involving academics with a commitment to homeless solutions working in partnership with people with lived and living expertise of homelessness. Through the collaborative, we will work toward a future of better policies, programs and practices to address homelessness.

We look forward to sharing our experience with the PHRN network as we move forward.

*Dr. Bernie Pauly is a professor in the School of Nursing, a scientist with the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (formerly CARBC), UVIC Community Engaged Scholar, and a priority lead for the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness."*

### BC Housing



**BC Housing's Women's Transition Housing and Supports Program (WTHSP)** funds more than 110 transition houses, safe homes, and second stage housing for women — with or without children — who are at risk of, or who have experienced, violence. WTHSP programs provide a temporary place to stay, support services, referrals and assistance in planning next steps. This series shows the annual data on demographics and outcomes. This information informs program planning as well as cross-government research and demonstrates accountability for funding of WTHSP.

<https://www.bchousing.org/library/vulnerable-distinct/womens-transition-housing-supports-program&sortType=sortByDate>

#### **Modular Supportive Housing Resident Outcomes**

BC Housing has undertaken a review of outcomes for residents of modular supportive housing units across the province soon after opening. Close to 20 reports have been completed so far. An interim report highlights key outcomes for residents of the first seven modular supportive housing developments, six months after the buildings opened in 2018, for buildings located in Vancouver and Surrey, B.C.

<https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/transition-from-homelessness/modular-supportive-housing-resident-outcomes?sortType=sortByDate>

#### **Housing Research and Education Project Highlights**

The latest edition of the BC Housing Research Centre Housing Research & Education Project Highlights is now available online. The user-friendly Web Flip Book makes it easy to browse the 74 projects profiled in this edition. This is one of BC Housing's signature resources for sharing knowledge, profiling the Research Centre, and all the impactful work that they do in collaboration with partners. You can also stay on top of the latest news and leading-edge research by

[subscribing to receive the Research Centre's quarterly e-newsletter.](#)

<https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/research-themes>

#### **Building Knowledge and Capacity for Affordable Housing in B.C. Communities**

Housing demand in non-metropolitan areas is affected by a number of factors. This webinar series explores how housing demand will be impacted in the coming years. Each webinar focuses on a specific region of the province with detailed information about population trends, housing stock, and the housing market. Based on research conducted by the Community Development Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia, these presentations provide data that can be used by developers, builders, planners, architects, and government in developing business models and plans.

<https://www.bchousing.org/building-knowledge-and-capacity-in-BC-small-communities&filterType=All%20Categories>

