

New Ideas

Rosemary brought an idea that has been with her for quite a while that she would like shared with the entire Coalition:

- Welfare doesn't give enough to eat
- We know that people need food in a dignified manner; the food bank model is inaccessible to many
- Whether they're on welfare, students at UBC, unemployed with prohibitive mortgages, people are struggling to get food
- There needs to be a way to rescue food without the food going to charities, and instead going directly to the people who want to pick up the food
- Organisations like Quest cannot handle all the food that is getting wasted
- We should set up a system, where people across the province could collect food leftover from companies and grocery stores keep what they needed for themselves and for their neighbours and then taking the rest to a central location like neighbourhood houses to be sorted and used for breakfast programs in schools, distributed etc.
- Rosemary says "Get paid in food, not wages."

There was a discussion about some of the places where different policies and initiatives are being considered and passionately discussed at the City of Vancouver as well as organisations like the BC Food Systems Network. There was a discussion about various community initiatives that have been set up to do this on a small scale, and the logistical difficulties. Rosemary emphasised that many of these initiatives are collecting food for foodbanks and charities, which many people cannot and will not access.

Mehak suggested that we need to try to refocus the housing debate from home ownership to the unaffordable rental market.

- Rosemary emphasised that there needs to be more Pet-Friendly Housing

PRC Update

Cynnimon and Tara represented the Action Team at the most recent PRC meeting. Cynnimon gave us an update on what happened at that meeting

We have two new co-chairs Paul Taylor of Gordon Neighbourhood House and Anastasia Gaisenok from Check Your Head.

United Way's funding stream for the PRC has closed, which shuts down one of the Coalition's main funding streams. We're now asking organisational members to contribute what they can. *There was a question about if there'd been any talk about organising fundraisers. The Neighbourhood Houses have cursorily talked about this, but not really*

There was a secret ballot vote to ask the BC Nurse's Union to leave the coalition due to organisational principles.

Mythbusters followup

The latest Poverty Mythbusters video has been released. After a week, it has 932 views on [YouTube](#), 2.3k views on the [PRC's Facebook](#), and 111 views on the [PFAT's Facebook](#).

How to best leverage video? Have Coalition Members suggested ways that they could benefit from the effort that went into it?

Raise the Rates has asked us to make a video about the Cost of Poverty. It would be a part of a wider series.

Has the Coalition applied to the Google for Non-Profits grant? You can get funding for their advertising.

Boosting could help, but disseminating it through partnerships is probably better.

Upcoming Dates

May 4: Outreach Team meeting

Purpose: for existing PFAT members to get together to refresh the outreach table materials and come up with responses to tough questions. More details below.

Hosted by: PFAT members Sharnelle and Mehak

Where: Renzo Coffee Shop (Commercial and Charles)

When: 6pm

May 5: Volunteer Outreach Orientation

Purpose: primarily for new volunteers to come and hear more about our work and how to talk to others about these issues, whether to friends and family or at outreach tables. Existing PFAT members welcome to come if you've never done outreach or to refresh your skills, or to see how these workshops are facilitated if you're interested in taking over facilitation one day! [Sign up here:](#)

<https://bcprcvolunteer.eventbrite.ca>

Hosted by: Staff Trish, Omar and Tanyss

Where: Suite 1400, 207 West Hastings St

Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7

When: 6:30-8pm

May 12: Facilitation Training

Purpose: for existing PFAT members to gain facilitation skills in order to facilitate school workshops, do community presentations, or host future Outreach Orientation sessions.

Hosted by: Staff Trish, Omar and Tanyss

Where: TBD, downtown Vancouver

When: 6-9pm

May 5th had very few sign-ups so there was a discussion on other ways to train-up volunteers

Potentially have a webinar for getting people trained up instead of a meeting

Creating a volunteer newsletter updating people on what is going on to encourage them to get involved, In the newsletter, list the upcoming events with an opportunity to sign up (but also making it clear that you need to receive training/have a phone chat etc. before actually appearing on a shift)

Make sure that new volunteers are always paired with experienced ones.

Look into recording may 5th (either to turn it into a webinar or just to be able to watch it back.)

May 12th: there was a discussion about potential locations. Ideally we could get the same room as today. The VanCity Terminal location is not good because of their security/ID requirements

Tanyss and Omar will look into creating a poll for both topics and dates of a Peernet workshop. There is interest among the Action Team, but apprehension about availability

An Improv group called the Instant Theatre Company is offering a free improve training session to non-profits. There is interest in the Action Team in doing this, but apprehension about availability, and how busy the summer is going to be. We will ask the Instant Theatre Company if they'd still be doing free sessions in September.

Mehak and Sharnelle can table at TEDx Kids in New West on May 15th!

Other outreach dates are:

June 15th: UGM Summer Connect

June 19th: Car Free Day Main St

July 15th-17th: Folk Fest (Jericho Beach)

Sign up for these dates on VolunteerSpot

1) Click this link to see our Sign-up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/gods3P>

2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Mehak might look into other ways to book volunteer slots, but that's what we're doing for now.

Potential Guest Speakers at the Action Team

In May, Rita Chudnovsky or Sharon Gregson from the \$10-a-day childcare plan campaign will come speak to the Action Team in May for Child Care month. Here are some other groups that the Action Team would like to hear from:

BC Food Systems Network (about the debates around programs and projects like Rosemary proposed)

BC Disability Alliance (about their work including advocacy on the recent minimal raise in disability rates/cuts to the bus pass program)

Canada without Poverty (about how poverty reduction plans in other provinces are working)

Citizens for Accessible Neighbourhoods (the newest member of the Coalition. The Action Team has never heard of them, and would like to know more about what they do)

Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC (about what can be learned from the recent Ontario changes to tuition in BC)

Megaphone (about their homeless deaths report and campaign)

MOSAIC BC (about confronting the arguments that we're seeing a lot of recently pitting refugees against other people living in poverty)

Pivot Legal