

# VANCOUVER NATIVE HEALTH SOCIETY

449 EAST HASTINGS STREET VANCOUVER, BC

#### **ABOUT VNHS**

- Located in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, the Vancouver Native Health Society's mission is to improve and promote the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of individuals, particularly focusing on the urban Indigenous community of Greater Vancouver.
- Our approach to health is holistic so that we can proactively address the social determinants of health rather than simply treating the illnesses they cause.
- By providing trauma and violence informed programs and services, we create a safe and community-driven environment characterized by a "culture of caring". This is an environment that is free of judgment and aims to restore the well-being of our clients.

#### We are a community and culture of caring that believes in health and healing for all.

"The Great Spirit is in all things. He is in the air we breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother. She nourishes us. That which we put into the ground she returns to us."

-Big Thunder (Bedagi) Wabanaki, Algonquin

"We reaffirm the inherent right of our Peoples to clean water,air, land and food, and the inalienable rights of our children to be born healthy and toxics-free." - 'The 3rd Declaration for health. life, and

defense of our lands, rights and future generations' - Adopted by the 3rd International Indigenous Women's Symposium on Environmental &Reproductive Health

SPIRITUAL

#### **EMOTIONAL**

"Our first teacher is our own heart. - Cheyenne "Everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease a herb to cure it, and every person a mission. This is the Indian theory of existence."

PHYSICAL

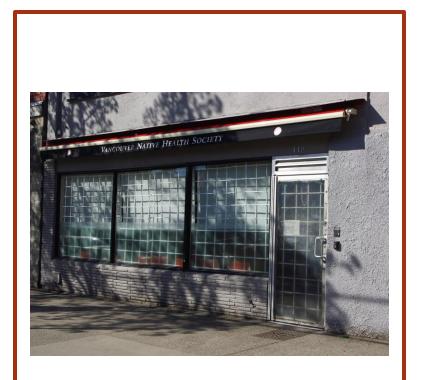
MENTAL

— Mourning Dove, Salish

## ABOUT VNHS CONT

- Indigenous culture is at the foundation of our approach to health and well-being. We incorporate all four aspects of the medicine wheel (physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health) into our services, programs and community building. As such, we are able to provide guidance through culture and create opportunities for individuals to move into a space of thriving.
- "As we strive to help people achieve balance in their lives, as well as in our own, it is our hope that we can contribute in some small way to whatever the term "Reconciliation" may mean." - Lou Demerais, Executive Director (1991 - 2019).

#### **OUR HISTORY**



- The Vancouver Native Health Society was established in 1991 to address the lack of healthcare for urban Indigenous people in Greater Vancouver.
- The philosophy of VNHS was founded on an Indigenous understanding of the deep connection between individual well-being and community: Good health in one is essential to good health in the other.
- VNHS grew from an after-hours medical clinic in order to provide services and programs to meet the needs of a client base struggling with overlapping social challenges and con-current health issues that often result from poverty. Our clients often deal with substance abuse, mental health, chronic disease, and homelessness.
- Today, VNHS delivers comprehensive medical, counselling and social services to Vancouver's Downtown Eastside community and beyond.

#### **VNHS PROGRAMS**

- Elders play an important role in incorporating cultural traditions into all programs and services offered at VNHS.
  Elders provide a sense of positive identity to Indigenous culture and spirituality and help insure our health services stay true to Indigenous teachings and knowledge.
- We provide access to trauma and violence informed care in a safe, supportive environment that understands and accounts for an individual's unique circumstances and experiences. When an individual feels as though their journey is understood, they will be encouraged and empowered to continue to seek out healing through their community.
- As such, we provide guidance through culture and create opportunities for individuals to improve their health and well-being, connect, and move into a space of thriving.



#### WHAT TO EXPECT AT VNHS

- A safe environment characterized by a culture of caring. This is an inclusive, community-driven organization that is free from judgment and works to restore and reactivate the wellbeing of our clients.
- Our Services include
  - Elders and Cultural programs
  - Dental and Medical clinic
  - Indigenous Early Years Services (Children and Family)

Serving our community through inclusive, accessible, and culturally-based healthcare and social services.

#### MEDICAL CLINIC



- The medical clinic is the gateway for most people who seek life changing help from VNHS. Although we care for many non-Indigenous patients, we are the only clinic in the Downtown Eastside that specifically focuses on the needs of Indigenous people.
- Most of our patients reside in Vancouver's poorest neighborhood with the city's lowest level of income and education rates and the highest health utilization rates and hospitalizations. They live against a backdrop of homelessness or sub-standard housing,violence, racism, unemployment, prostitution, and crime. They are amongst the most marginalized people of society and because of the complex biopsychosocial issues that exist here, providing appropriate health care to this population is very challenging. Traditional service delivery models are often ineffectual and unfortunately, many people receive limited to no care for their illnesses.
- We are a multidisciplinary and comprehensive care clinic responding to the needs of our Indigenous and non-Indigenous community. Our experience has shown that providing integrated, innovative and comprehensive health care can improve patient acceptance of care and treatment outcomes.

#### **CLINIC SERVICES**

Youth Clinic (Wednesday evening)

Women and children clinic (Wednesday afternoon)

HIV treatment program

Hepatitis C (HCV) treatment program

BOOST Therapy Team (Best Practices in Oral Opiod agoniSt)

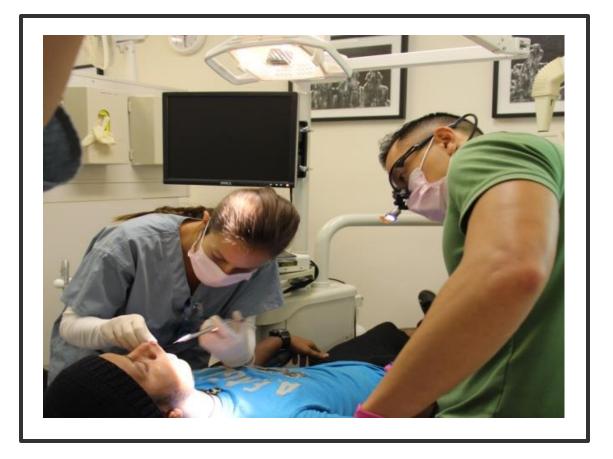
• A partnership with clinics across the province to systematically implement, measure, and share best practices in serving our patients with opioid use disorder (OUD).

## CLINIC HOURS OF OPERATION

 Monday to Thursday 9:30 am - 8:30 pm Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm Saturday 9:30 - 2:30 Sunday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Closed for lunch from 12:30 - 1:30

The clinic is open every day except statutory holidays.

#### DENTAL CLINIC



- Our Dental Clinic is now in its eleventh year of operation as a volunteer run facility.
- Apart from one paid managerial staff member, the clinic's services are provided entirely by volunteer dentists, hygienists, assistants and dental students.

DENTAL CLINIC DEPARTMENT HOURS OF OPERATION Monday, Tuesday and Friday
 WALK-IN BASIS from 8:45 AM to 12:30 PM
 The clinic will halt the patient daily intake once the maximum patient capacity has been reached.

 Administrative Services
 Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays (8am to 4pm) Closed for lunch from (12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

Walk-In: dental exams, cancer screening, x-rays, prescriptions, dental fillings, simple dental extractions.



By Appointment (once initial exam is completed): cleanings, complicated extractions, major surgical treatments, root canals. TREATMENTS OFFERED

# TREATMENTS THAT WE DON'T PROVIDE

#### Full Sedation

- Orthodontic treatments
- Prosthodontic treatment (crowns, bridges, dentures, partial dentures)
- Cosmetic treatments (veneers, teeth whitening)
- Documents

FEE SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER INCOME **ASSISTANT**, STATUS, **REFUGEES**, **PAROLE:** 

We bill each of the Government's programs without any exception.

It is the patient's responsibility to bring his/her care card number, status card, refugee letter, parole card with officer's contact information.

We are not able to accept any patient without this information.

It is the patient's responsibility to cover by donation any outstanding cost for all those treatments that are not covered under their respective programs (see fee schedule for people without any dental coverage).

Our office reserves the right to deny treatment beyond our office capacity and budgetary limitations.

#### SUGGESTED DONATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT DENTAL COVERAGE

Donation suggested fee schedule (cost may vary depending on the degree of difficulty and amount of work):

- \$20 for general exam and X-ray (without treatment)
- \$5 for every additional X-ray taken
- \$20 \$250 for dental extractions depending on the degree of difficulty
- \$40 \$150 for dental fillings depending on the degree of difficulty
- \$10 dental sealants (SFF)
- \$65 \$80 for dental cleaning from 1 2 appointments
- \$150 root canal for anterior teeth (single root) \$250 root canal for posterior teeth (multiple roots)

#### TU'WUSHT PROGRAM

- The Tu'wusht Program is an Indigenous-led initiative connecting people to food, nature and culture. This community inclusive program focuses on the urban Indigenous population who face the most barriers in accessing the natural environment and nutritious, traditional foods.
- Participants receive the opportunity to engage in food sustenance development through our community kitchen and land based activities.
- Participants have the opportunity to grow, harvest, and preserve food and medicinal plants while connecting with traditional Indigenous knowledge and one-another.







# HARVESTING TOBACCO & DEVILS CLUB



Tu'wusht hosts 2 weekly activity days on Tuesdays and Fridays 50 weeks of the year. There is a variety of on-going activities from season to season.Tu'wusht activities mainly take place at the UBC Farm which is on traditional Musqueam First Nations territory located at 3461 Ross Drive Vancouver (UBC South Campus).The community built structures include a traditional smokehouse, teepee and tool shed.

## RIGINAL CANCER CARE PROGRAM (ACCP)

- Aboriginal Cancer Care is a program launched by VNHS in response to the rising incidence of cancer among Indigenous people. The Cancer Care program strives to build a community of support for individuals who receive a cancer diagnosis, their families and loved ones, as well as cancer survivors.
- The Cancer Care program aims to:
  - Increase awareness and prevention
  - Provide screening opportunities for early detection of cancer
  - Create partnerships with existing cancer agencies and programs to build a culturally supportive cancer program within the Medicine Wheel's four quadrants
  - Build on the strengths of Indigenous people in managing their cancer journey
  - Offers health kitchens, talking circles, cancer resource information, education, support training and
  - Elder support.











## ACCP PARTNERSHIPS

- UVIC Self-Management BC The Aboriginal Cancer Care Program and Self-Management BC/UVIC's - Institute on Aging & Lifelong Health have been working together to deliver Self-Management workshops:
  - Cancer Thriving and Surviving
  - Chronic Conditions
  - Diabetes
  - Become a Leader Training
  - For workshop information check out the website http://www.selfmanagementbc.ca
- Mammograms Oral Cancer Screening
  - This is a joint partnership with the BC Cancer Agency to help screen high risk women for oral and breast cancers

## INDIGENOUS EARLY YEARS (CHILDREN & FAMILY)

Indigenous Early Years operates out of the Phil Bouvier Family Centre as well as in partnership organizations in the community.

- Aboriginal Supported Childhood Development
- Aboriginal Infant Development Services
- Building Blocks
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program
- Family Violence Program



#### ABORIGINAL SUPPORTED CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Supported Child Development (SCD) is a Provincial program, funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) that is designed to meet the needs of children requiring extra support. SCD recognizes the importance of inclusion and providing intervention and support in childcare settings during the early stages of development.

## ABORIGINAL INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Aboriginal Infant Development Workers support Indigenous families with children from birth to three years who are at risk of or already have a delay in development. It is our mission to provide support for families with Indigenous children through:

- Fostering and nurturing a safe and healthy family environment between families and community services
- Empowering families to become active participants in the community

The Aboriginal Infant Development Program can offer unique programs to help further your baby's skills and abilities through:

- Nobody's Perfect Parenting
- Aboriginal Parent Child Mother Goose
- Circle of Security Parenting Program
- Ages & Stages Questionnaire
- Infant Massage



# BENEFITS FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN

- Get to meet other families in the Vancouver community
- One to one consultation with the AIDP support worker
- Home visits
- Informal assessment of child and family needs that are culturally sensitive and meaningful
- Support positive parent-child relationships
- Cultural knowledge and activities
- Provide appropriate referrals when necessary or as requested

## PARTNERSHIP AGENCIES

- Britannia Community Services Center
- Broadway Youth Resource Center
- Cedar Cottage Neighborhood House
- Kiwassa Neighborhood House
- Mount Pleasant Family Center
- Ray-Cam Community Services Center
- South Vancouver Neighborhood House

#### **BUILDING BLOCKS PROGRAM**



- The Building Blocks Program is an early intervention home visiting program for first-time parents with children up to five years of age.
- This weekly visiting program is designed to support, maintain and enhance individual and family functioning by improving birth outcomes and parenting skills.
  - Enhance child development and provide families with access to early intervention services.
  - Referrals can be made from the last trimester of pregnancy until the baby is six months old.
  - Referrals are welcome by self or a service provider as long as the family gives consent.
  - Building Blocks is free and voluntary.

# BUILDING BLOCK PROGRAM CONT

 Building Blocks providers are comprised of Family Support Home Visitors Public Health Nurse and Social Work consultants. As a team, they offer support by listening to you and hearing your concerns; giving you encouragement; accompanying you to a variety of appointments; and, by sharing information about community resources, childcare, parenting, health and social issues.

## FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER PROGRAM

The FASD Program is a family-centred program that supports parents and/or caregivers that have a child 0-18 years old with FASD. Although the services are directed towards the child, our outreach workers assist families in learning about the special needs of their children.

#### Our support services include:

#### FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM

The Family Violence Program was established to foster and nurture safe and healthy family environments and empower families to become active participants in the community. We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and strengthen our families, our team and our community.



#### 8 WEEK INTERVENTION PROGRAM ABOUT FAMILY VIOLENCE

This program meets three times a week and is designed to help participants learn about violence, develop coping skills,, and communication skills

#### Topics include:

- Life skills
- Power and control
- What is abuse
- Warning signs
- Contributing factors
- Residential schools
- Children who witness abuse
- Trauma
- Anger
- Dealing with Stress
- Conflict Resolution
- Communication
- Nutrition
- Grounding techniques
- One to One Counseling

#### SHEWAY

- Sheway's Program model is based on the recognition that the health of women and their children is linked to the conditions of their lives and their ability to influence these conditions. Services are provided in response to the needs of pregnant and parenting women.
- Sheway provides comprehensive health and social services to women who are either pregnant or parenting children less than 18 months old and who are experiencing current or previous issues with substance use. The program consists of prenatal, postnatal and infant health care, education and counseling for nutrition, child development, addictions, HIV and Hepatitis C, housing and parenting. Sheway also assists in fulfilling basic needs, such as providing daily nutritious lunches, food coupons, food bags, nutritional supplements, formula, and clothing.



To engage women in accessing prenatal care and a range of other support during pregnancy.

To provide education, referral and support to women to help them reduce risk behaviors and in particular to reduce or stop the use of alcohol and other drugs during pregnancy.

To support mothers in their capacity as parents and caregivers.

To promote the health, nutrition and development of children born to women accessing prenatal care at Sheway in the period up to 18 months following their birth.

### SHEWAY GOAL &VISION

## SHEWAY PROGRAMS

- Food and Nutrition Services
- Primary Health Care Services
- Counselling Services
- Healthy Child Development
- Advocacy
- Community Education
- Fundraising



## INDIGENOUS HEALTH CONFERENCE

- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides the foundation to change the framework of our healthcare system and the nature of Indigenous health service delivery.
- We have nationally and internationally recognized rights to selfdetermination in health and governance and the right to recognize our distinct social and cultural institutions - yet these continue to be systematically denied.
- The National Indigenous Health Conference will be highly participatory and collaborative. The goal is to have energy and ideas moving from the ground up to ensure that the work is informed by those closest to the issues we seek to address with radical change to the healthcare Indigenous people are able to access.
- Join us in Vancouver on October 15-17th,2019 for this groundbreaking opportunity to create an Indigenous solution to the health crisis facing our people.



# INDIGENOUS HEALTH CONFERENCE MORE INFORMATION

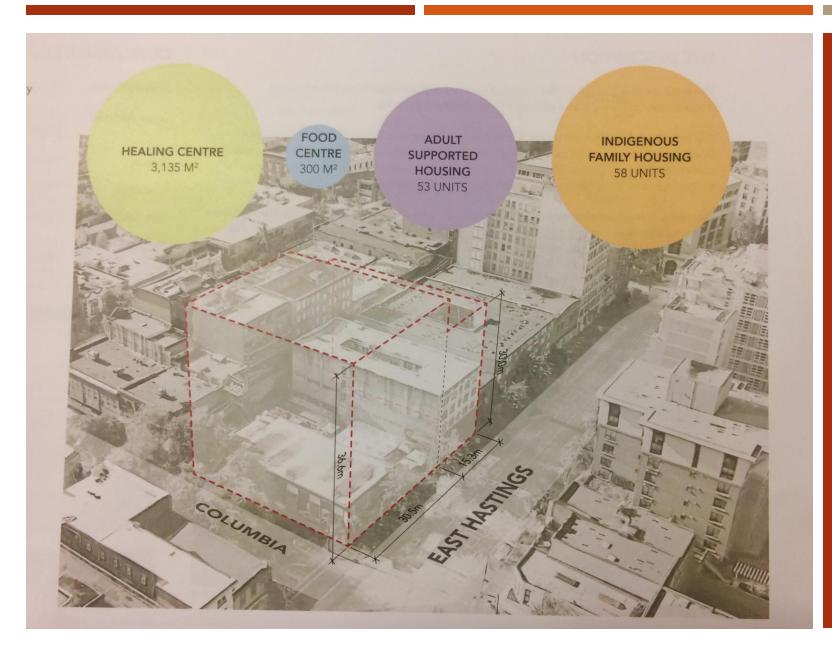
#### <u>https://www.nihcvancouver.com/</u>



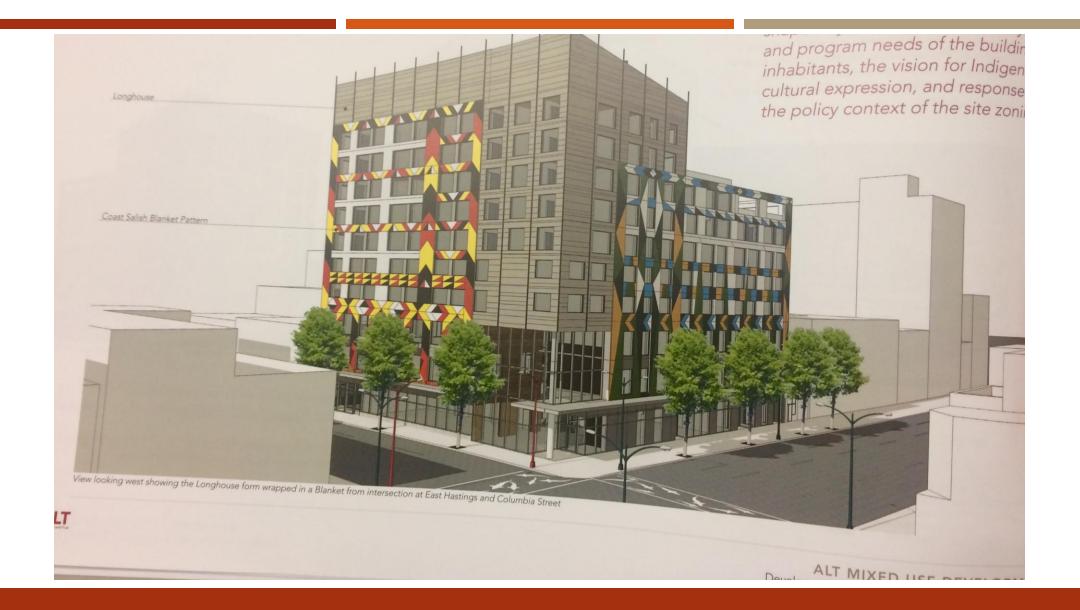
NEW BUILDING PROJECT

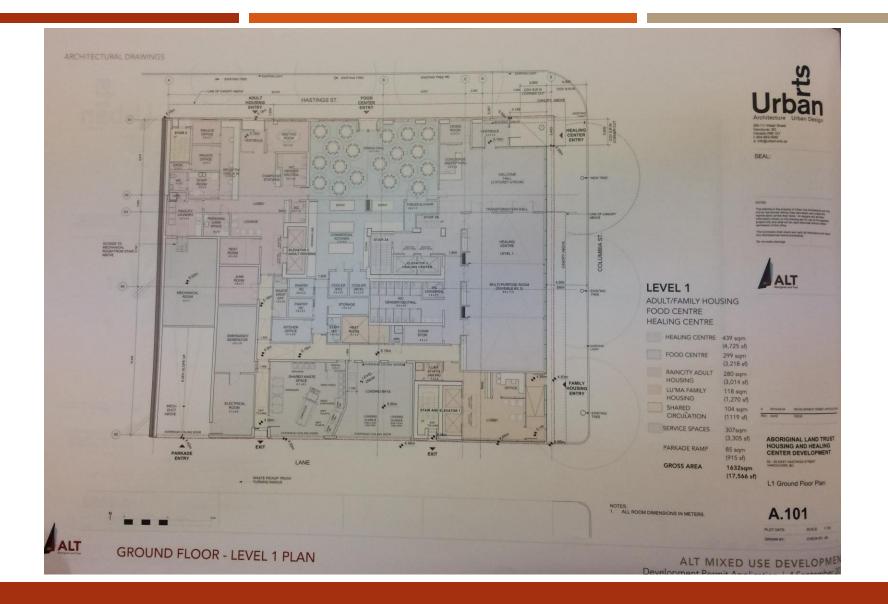
RIGINAL LAND TRUST

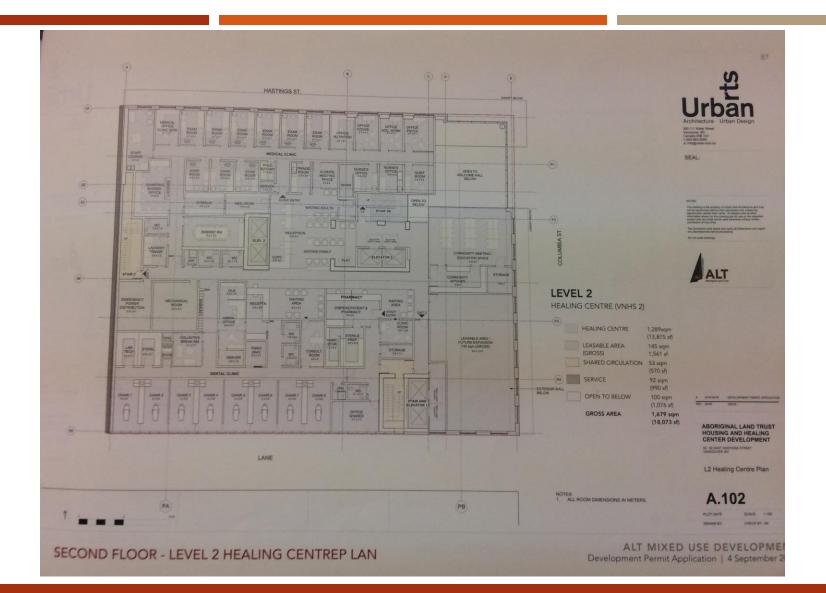
DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION 52 - 92 EAST HASTINGS STREET SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

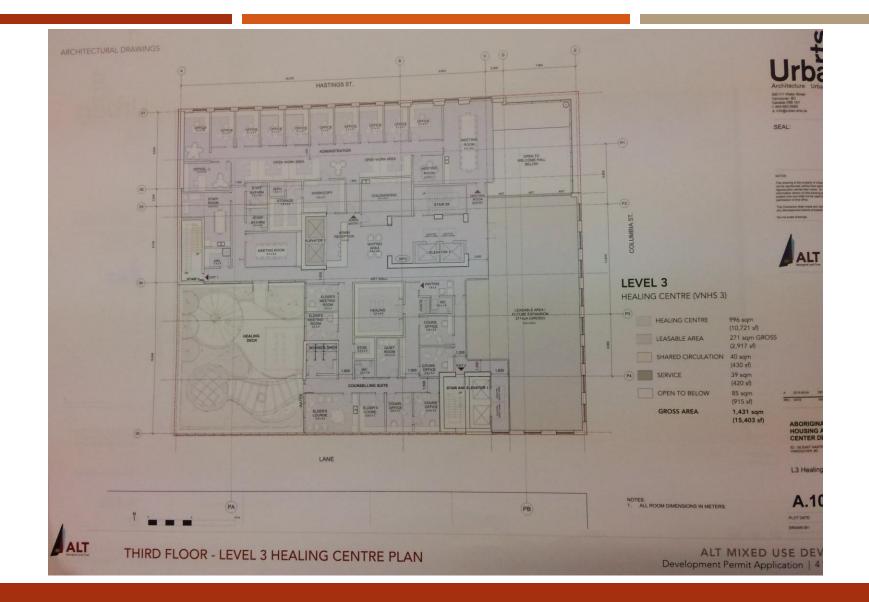


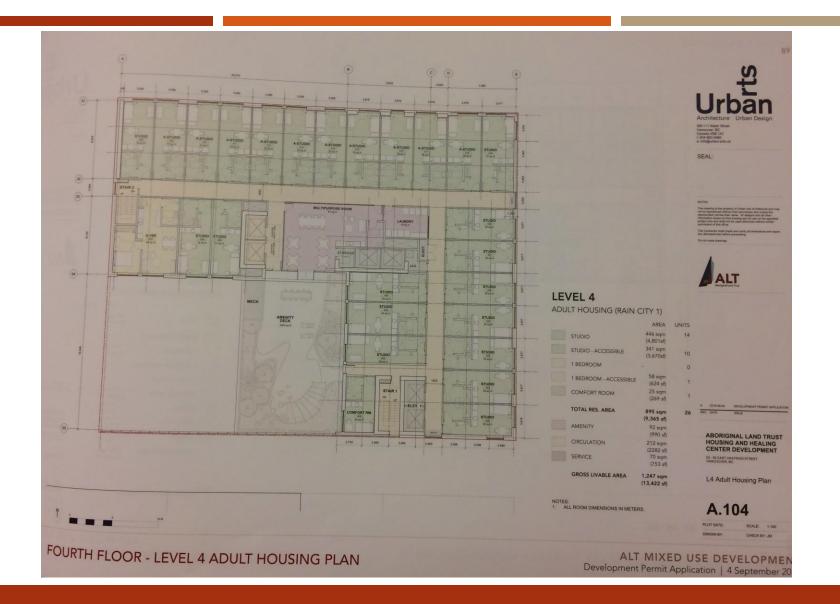
NEW BUILDING PROJECT CONT















# Thank you for joining us today 😳