



**HOGAN'S
ALLEY
SOCIETY**

Addressing
Anti-Immigrant
Housing and Support
Services

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Land Acknowledgement

We recognize and acknowledge that Hogan's Alley Society is comprised of immigrants, some recent, some generations ago. We recognize that we benefit from the ongoing colonisation of this land, and thus that this acknowledgement is a process that requires more than a singular statement. We are constantly seeking out means to research and educate ourselves as to how to best honour the Indigenous communities and culture who continue to shape this land. We are grateful to be living and working in solidarity on the unceded and occupied ancestral territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Matsqui, Qayqayt, S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō), scəwaθən məsteyəx^w (Tsawwassen), səlílwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh), Semyome (Semiahmoo), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Sumas, and x^wməθk^wəy'əm (Musqueam) Nations of the lower mainland.



Ancestral Acknowledgement

In the centuries-old and ongoing ceremonial African Ancestral tradition of thankful libations as a life-giving and life-affirming community practice for supporting the wellbeing of Black communities. Libations can be wet-giving liquid to nourish and sustain, or dry libations offering our words and thoughts. This African Ancestral Acknowledgement offers a point of reflection on the past, provides context for the present challenges faced by Black communities, and supports a desire for a hopeful future.

The aim, spirit and intention is solemn recognition and reflection. It is an expression of gratitude, and request for the guidance and wisdom that has helped people of African descent survive and thrive through the ages.

Asé





MISSION

To advance the social, political, economic and cultural well-being of people of African descent (Black People) through the delivery of inclusive housing, built spaces, and culturally informed programming and operations.



VISION

Hogan's Alley Society envisions a society in which people of African descent are able to reach their full authentic potential, free from racism.

HOGAN'S ALLEY



50 years ago, racist public policies, urban renewal schemes and the construction of the Georgia and Dunsmuir viaducts displaced this diverse immigrant enclave and dispersed the Black community.

This displacement contributed to the lack of visibility and cohesion for Black community members in the following decades and even today.

In 1858, Black immigrants began arriving in BC from California, before settling in Vancouver in the early 1900s. It was a ten-block radius of the area currently called Strathcona that formed the nucleus of Metro Vancouver's first concentrated Black community.

HAS Housing Support Program



The HAS Housing Support Program supports the Metro Vancouver Black/African diaspora through intervention and advocacy, and with immediate support as it relates to housing and housing-related basic needs.

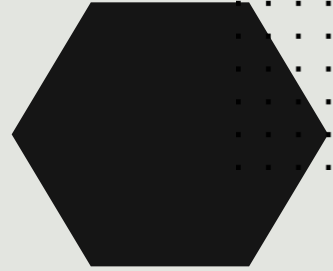
- Opportunity is fostered for HSP clients to plan toward longer term personal goals beyond housing
- Basic needs are addressed, allowing clients to focus on health and job-related health determinants

The Housing Support Program is focused on:

- Navigating systemic, structural, and interpersonal barriers for clients to secure affordable, suitable, accessible housing;
- Identifying & supporting with complex accessibility and/or harm reduction needs for clients;
- Supporting with Residential Tenancy disputes and conflict-resolution with landlords;
- Providing clients with basic necessities to uplift their quality of life and ability to withstand ongoing oppression.



HAS Supports for Newcomers & Immigrants



HAS recognizes that as descendants of stolen people, brought to stolen lands, our community is entirely composed of families once considered to be newcomers or immigrants. From this foundation, we have 3 programs that work to address the needs of newcomers and immigrants of Black & African descent

- HAS Housing Program
- HAS Cultural Support Program
- BGSN-HAS Black Student Homestay Program

These programs are focused on:

- Supporting newcomers with combatting isolation, mental health challenges, and accessing some of the housing-specific supports already available in British Columbia
- Enrolling expectant mothers into healthcare services and specific supports for newborns and young children
- Connecting folks with community of shared identity, cultural foods, English language classes, and contextualizing the options for planning additional goal-setting.



Anti-Immigrant Practices and Policies



Addressing Anti-Immigrant Practices and Policies imbedded in our Canadian Supportive Housing landscape is a critical aspect of our work, as it creates multiple barriers for newcomers and immigrants. This includes but is not limited to:

- Restrictive Work Permits
- Restrictive Wraparound support from agencies based on immigration status
- Credit Checks
- Requirements of Tax Returns
- Requirements of years of Previous Occupancy
- Electronic Forms with Mandatory Restrictive fields

We work against these practices by:

- Advocating directly with housing societies to speak to the needs of the Black community specifically
- Working with agencies such as Binta Financial that create credit history based on rent payments
- Supporting folks with job search and interview prep before they can access settlement agency support
- Meeting people where they are at with Likeskills training (financial, food, emotional/physical literacies)



HAS SOLUTIONS



The Housing Solutions Lab offers both effective approaches for creating affordable housing solutions and innovative policies, programs and findings from meaningful consultations with Black people with lived/living experiences.

Goals of the Lab:

- Understanding systemic, structural, and interpersonal barriers for Vancouver's Black communities to affordable, suitable, accessible housing;
- Identifying & mapping/exploring meaningful housing solutions for Black communities;
- Contributing to the National Housing Strategy

The HAS Community Land Trust is the keystone project of our society, which aims to re-establish our Black Community Hub.

- The Community Land trust is a Black Cultural Tradition, with New Communities as the first CLT being founded in 1969 by civil rights organisers in Albany, Georgia
- The CLT will have housing, community spaces, as well as integration of Black businesses.



Thank You!

“That Black migrant communities were systematically de-skilled upon their arrival is an often-overlooked facet of understanding Black poverty in Canada today. Indeed...even in moments when Canada required highly educated professionals, Black migrants meeting those exact criteria were nonetheless largely streamlined into low-skilled work and relative powerlessness.”

— Robyn Maynard, [Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present](#)

www.hogansalleysociety.org

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