

Encouraging the development and mobilization of quality housing research

## UBC Re-Ignites Multi-Level Dialogues on "Housing for All"

This past May, the UBC School of Community & Regional Planning successfully hosted a unique series of events, Housing for All, which brought together housing stakeholders from across sectors, and across the globe. Housing for All, funded by a SSHRC Connections grant on the Future of Public Housing, took place from May 20-23, and included an opening keynote with panel discussion, a multimedia art exhibition, an academic workshop, and a community dialogue focused on scenario-building.

Dr. Peter Marcuse gave his opening keynote, "Just Public Housing?," to the packed Interurban gallery of over 100 attendees. A lively discussion with a panel of key housing experts followed, inspiring thought-provoking questions from the audience.

The talk marked the opening of the multimedia exhibition, which was open to the public for the entirety of the event series. Housing videos, archival films, art installations, and real artefacts gave attendees new perspectives of how the housing crisis affects everyone, from youth in foster care to teachers in Kazakhstan.

UBC also hosted a three-day academic workshop, where international housing experts discussed the present and future of public housing.



Sharing diverse stories from Singapore, Brazil, Israel, UK, eastern Europe, USA and right here in Vancouver, the workshop was an excellent opportunity to share diverse housing supply strategies and initiate a collaborative network for knowledge sharing and policy review in multiple regions across the world.

Finally, the community dialogue convened diverse stakeholders from policy makers, to service providers, to international academics. The group developed four scenarios for the future of Canada's housing system, to help us envision our ideal housing future. These scenarios will soon be formally released by the Future of Public Housing project. For more details on the Future of Public Housing Project see:

<http://www.futureofpublichousing.ca>

## In This Issue

<b>Housing for All</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A Message from our Co-Chairs</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Thank-You to Leslie Brown</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Partner News</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Hot Off the Press</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Student News</b>	<b>4</b>

**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.**

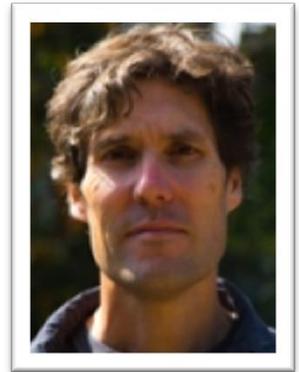
# Message from Our Co-Chairs

The Pacific Housing Research Network unites researchers in the community and university along with policy makers and housing providers. While our distinct work is vital, by collaborating we are extending the reach of our research in the hope of accelerating efforts toward affordable and sustainable housing in British Columbia. To that end, we host the annual symposium which showcases BC research on housing related topics. This year, we are delighted to see the expansion of the networks' research communications capacity with a new website and social media tools. Research summaries will be available on our website and provide a snapshot of research underway across British Columbia.



In this issue of our newsletter, we share information from network members: new research from CMHC, BC Housing and BCNPHA. Additionally, we are delighted to share findings from a unique event on the future of public housing and a new book on the housing experiences of immigrants.

While much important research is taking place in BC, there is much left to do. As a network, we continue to encourage graduate students to consider housing as an area of choice for your career.



We look forward to hearing from you,

PHRN Co-chairs Penny Gurstein (UBC) and Bruce Wallace (UVic)

## CLICK! Conference Updates

Take a look at the BCNPHA website for links to many of the interesting presentations that took place at the CLICK! Conference, November 22-25, in Richmond, BC.

Updates can be found at:

<https://secure.bcnpha.ca/SITES/Conference>

## PHRN Objectives:

1. To encourage 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.

## Thank-You to Leslie Brown



Dr. Leslie Brown has stepped down from her co-chair position with the PHRN Steering Committee. We thank her for her dedication to the network.

Her exceptional work has cemented relationships between the diverse stakeholders of the network –

allowing PHRN to become an effective research/policy/practice network. We are delighted that Dr. Brown remains engaged with the network as the lead of the Aboriginal Housing pillar of our work.



## CMHC's Housing Observer Online

The Canadian Housing Observer is CMHC's new online resource for timely and relevant data, analysis and knowledge to support informed decision making about Canadian housing markets. It includes case studies, report extracts, videos and housing tools — all of which can be easily shared in social media-friendly formats.

Did you know the Canadian Housing Observer's more than 800 data tables can now be found conveniently all in one place? Also, check out CMHC's Housing Market Information.

## Housing for Older Canadians

Which sectors of the housing industry are involved in seniors' housing in Canada? How can the housing market for seniors be segmented effectively? What are the steps involved in determining the feasibility of a proposed seniors' housing project, assessing the competition or developing a strategy to attract the right target market? These are just a few of the questions that sponsors and developers need to answer before embarking on any project that's aimed at one of the fastest-growing segments of the housing market: Canadians 55 years of age or older. This five volume series will help developers, non-profit groups and other stakeholders better understand the changing needs of Canada's seniors.

### Revised!

*Volume 1 — Understanding the Market* provides a broad overview of the seniors' housing market in Canada and of trends in seniors' housing arrangements, incomes and retirement.



## BC Housing

BC Housing, along with the Office of Housing and Construction Standards, and financial support from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, commissioned Sentis Market Research to conduct the **Seniors Housing Intentions Survey**.

The purpose was to learn more about the types of housing and related supports that will be needed in BC over the medium and long term as a larger proportion of the population becomes seniors. The survey included adults 55+ across the province, with a focus on the northern communities of Kitimat, Port Edward, Prince Rupert and Terrace. Participants were asked questions relating to aging-in-place and whether they are planning to move in the next 5 years. They were also asked to identify factors that are likely to influence where they live, such as accessibility, proximity of family or friends, amenities, public transportation, and home maintenance.

The final report contains detailed findings from the research conducted across the province and in the four northern communities. Individual summaries for the total province and northern communities are also included.

Several **Industry Research Projects** have also been completed and are available at [www.hpo.bc.ca](http://www.hpo.bc.ca). These include:

- An online illustrated guide to help builders and home designers build walls in wood-frame construction with R-22 or greater effective thermal performance.
- A guide that consolidates best practices for air sealing and insulation retrofits (i.e. building enclosure weatherization) in BC homes.
- A guide that promotes best practices for builders with respect to geotechnical issues when selecting a site and constructing single and multi-family residences.

## Live Webcasts — NHRC Working Session



### National Housing Research Committee Annual Meeting

You are cordially invited to register for the webcasts of the 2015 session of the National Housing Research Committee (NHRC), which will be broadcast on the Internet from Monday, November 23 to Wednesday, November 25, 2015, in both official languages. The NHRC remains Canada's premier venue for the broadcasting of housing research and a great networking opportunity for housing researchers and policy makers.

Please visit [nhrc.ca](http://nhrc.ca) for more information!

## Partner News (continued)



### BCNPHA Expands the Canadian Rental Housing Index

In September, 2015, BCNPHA provided a major update to the Rental Housing Index through a national expansion. The Index now covers more than 800 municipalities and regions in the country, providing an in-depth examination of rental housing affordability across five key indicators. The launch spurred nearly 400 individual news stories across the country and helped to make rental affordability an election issue.

This month we will release another update, focusing on demographic, work-force, non-profit, and rental demand for British Columbia. Demographic data will examine rental supply and affordability for seniors, young people, Aboriginal people, immigrants and families for communities that have more than 500 renters in each category. In addition, you will now be able to view the top five most common jobs renters have in your community, as well as neighbourhood data for larger municipalities. We have also layered in rental demand projections from research we undertook in 2012. Non-profit housing providers are also a big part of the affordability solution for renters, and the Index will now include information on the number of non-profit societies, buildings and units in your community.

Visit [rentalhousingindex.ca](http://rentalhousingindex.ca) to find out more!

### Who is PHRN?

#### Our Steering Committee:

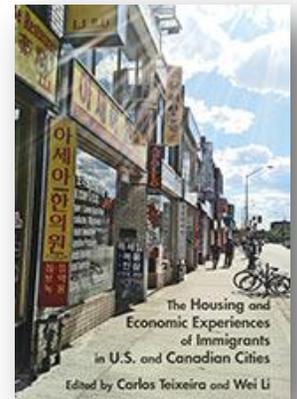
Penny Gurstein (UBC), Co-Chair  
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Elizabeth Tang (CMHC)  
Nolan Beise (MITACS)  
Bernie Pauly (UVic)  
Jill Atkey (BCNPHA)  
Carlos Teixeira (UBC Okanagan)  
Cecile Lacombe (UVic)  
Nathan Lauster (UBC)  
Virginia Holden (Housing Policy Branch)  
Deborah Kraus (BC Housing)  
Tricia Roche (PHRN Co-ordinator)

### Hot Off the Press

We are thrilled to announce the release of PHRN Steering Committee Member Carlos Teixeira's new book, "The Housing and Economic Experiences of Immigrants in U.S. and Canadian Cities," with Wei Li of Arizona State University.

From University of Toronto Press:

"Since the 1960s, new and more diverse waves of immigrants have changed the demographic composition and the landscapes of North American cities and their suburbs. *The Housing and Economic Experiences of Immigrants in U.S. and Canadian Cities* is a collection of essays examining how recent immigrants have fared in getting access to jobs and housing in urban centres across the continent." Find out more at <http://www.utppublishing.com>



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www.phrncb.com

Thank you to  
our partners!



### Student News

Opportunities for graduate student research funding, professional development, and travel internships are available through MITACS.

Find out more at  
<http://www.mitacs.ca>

### Want to receive E-News updates from PHRN?

PHRN will bring you up-to-date news on housing research, student opportunities, upcoming events, and other resources!

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