

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

**Housing Research Collaborative Takes Shape**

At the 2017 Housing Central Conference, Dr. Penny Gurstein announced the formation of the Housing Research Collaborative (HRC) under the umbrella of UBC’s School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP). In the intervening months, HRC has attracted a wide group of housing researchers in the academic, government, community and non-profit sectors who agree that there is a critical unmet need for research and policy analysis to address today’s urgent housing issues. HRC is already a hub for a number of collaborations with community partners on themes ranging from homelessness, to housing data gap assessment, to comparative international housing policy. As of September, thanks to three-year funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, HRC has a full-time research coordinator, Craig E. Jones, a PhD candidate in the UBC Geography Department.

The founder of the collaborative, Dr. Gurstein, describes HRC as a sustainable housing research centre that generates policy directions, research, and practical guidance for government, community organizations and the private sector in addressing today’s affordable housing challenges. Since its informal beginnings in 2016, an advisory group of housing research from all sectors has identified a number of core issues and associated research questions, and developed a framework based on three principal areas of focus: research and policy support, data generation and analysis, and knowledge mobilization.

In the coming year, program priorities include the identification and completion of a number housing research projects with Mitacs funding that link community research needs with graduate student researchers; knowledge-sharing workshops to be held in three BC municipalities; and a public panel event on a topical housing issue. Technical priorities include the creation of a web-based housing data portal and research hub.

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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

As we issue this newsletter I am sending this note from the 12<sup>th</sup> national Harm Reduction Conference in New Orleans. I am among several British Columbia researchers and service providers here who are presenting on substance use and harm reduction within housing and shelter programs. A few of these presentations have roots in PHRN and Housing Central past events.

“Harm Reduction Interventions in Emergency Shelters: Opportunities and Challenges during an Overdose Crisis” is a panel presentation where I am presenting research from UVIC’s Canadian Centre for Substance Use Research (CISUR) along with Geoff Bardwell from British Columbia Centre for Substance Use Research (BCCSU) and Amelia Ridgway with RainCity Housing. In a different panel, Shannon Riley and others from Vancouver Coastal Health are presenting on “Safer Washrooms Save Lives” which builds on research presented in 2015 with PHRN at Housing Central. Check out this useful resource:

[“Overdose Prevention & Response in Washrooms: Recommendations for Service Providers”](#).

I look forward to discussing these and many other housing research opportunities at the PHRN sessions within the upcoming Housing Central conference November 18 and 19 in Vancouver. New this year is a Research Dialogue session Sunday Nov 18 at 3:30pm – a chance for anyone with a research question to discuss their needs informally with researchers and research funders. Join us!

PHRN Co-Chair Dr. Bruce Wallace (UVic)

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

For up-to-date news on housing research, student opportunities, upcoming events, and other resources, subscribe online at

<https://phrNBC.com/subscribe-to-our-e-news/>



## 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)  
Virginia Holden (Housing Policy Branch)  
Tricia Roche (Network Coordinator)

## Partner News

### BCNPHA

We all have a stake in creating a future where everyone has access to a safe, secure and affordable home. That’s why it’s more important than ever that the community housing sector mobilizes effectively to lead the evolution in value-added partnerships, and to collaborate on cutting-edge solutions that will take advantage of new investments to address affordable housing throughout the province.

Housing Central is here to help make that happen. Join us November 18 -20, 2018 at the Sheraton Wall Centre, Downtown Vancouver.



### 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.

Register here : <https://bit.ly/2NX1gB9>

[phrNBC.com](http://phrNBC.com)

Pacific Housing Research Network

### CMHC – Evaluation of a Movable, Modular Affordable Housing Pilot Project

Through CMHC's Affordable Rental Innovation Fund's first funded project, the Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency (VAHA) has created the 220 Terminal Avenue development that setup moveable modular units on currently undeveloped, city-owned land. When the land is needed for a permanent development, the units can be moved to another vacant site. The modular units form a three-storey building that features 40 single occupancy suites with self-contained bathrooms and kitchens, individual climate control, and private living space. The building features include indoor and outdoor amenity space, central laundry and a number of wheelchair accessible suites on the first floor.



After the residents moved in, a team of research consultants conducted a post-occupancy evaluation to collect data and explore the social, financial and technical elements of this pilot project including: building operations, energy consumption, a tenant survey, accessibility analysis, and construction and operating costs. CMHC will provide presentations and research reports on the key findings. Information on lessons learned, the factory-built design and social inclusivity will provide insight into the feasibility and replicability of this innovation approach to affordable housing for residents on low- and fixed-incomes.

### BC Housing - Seminars & Webinars This Fall – Building Smart with 2018 BC Building Code Changes

Learn about changes in Part 9 of the BC Building Code that will come into force at the end of 2018. These will include new provisions for stairs, guards, sound transmission and seismic requirements, accessibility, energy and water efficiency standards, and other design elements. A series of 17 province-wide seminars and webinars delivered fall 2018 and early 2019 will explore a variety of approaches to comply with the coming changes. The focus will be on requirements that apply to single family and low-rise residential buildings. The seminar was developed in collaboration with the Building and Safety Standards Branch, CHBA-BC, BOABC, EGBC, ASTTBC, AIBC, and new home warranty providers. More information from the BC Housing on Building Smart [here](#).

### ....Housing Research Collaborative

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The interim [website](#) describes some of the collaborative [initiatives](#) underway: a data working group has been meeting to identify data gaps in relation to critical housing research questions; a collaboration with community organizations is underway to develop an evidence-based framework for inclusive communities of care that provide spaces of belonging for people receiving non-institutionalized care; a study of how structural factors in the housing market shape pathways into and out of homelessness; and comparison of housing policies and paradigms in Canada, Australia, England and the US. Funding for these initiatives comes from academic, government and community sources.

Having concluded her 10-year term as SCARP Director, Dr. Gurstein will work with HRC as its founding director to develop a sustainable governance model for the long term, while continuing to teach and supervise students in her role as SCARP Professor. She will also continue as co-chair of the Pacific Housing Research Network.

### BC Housing



#### Community Acceptance Series: Overview

<https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/tools-for-developing-social-housing/bk-case-study-community-acceptance-overview>

This report summarizes case studies documenting experiences of new supportive housing that gained neighbourhood acceptance. The purpose is to share lessons learned and support housing providers in addressing community concerns and building positive relationships with neighbours.

#### Business Transformation II – Skillsets and Core Competencies to Facilitate Business Transformation in the Non-Profit Community Housing Sector

<https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/sector-transformation/business-transformation-2-skillsets>

The non-profit community housing sector is experiencing many changes that affect its operating environment. This study is the first in Canada to examine business transformation, from an organizational development perspective rather than purely a housing policy or financial lens. It captures the decision-making of housing organizations that have undertaken purposeful change to plan for long-term business sustainability.

#### SRO Renewal Initiative

<https://www.bchousing.org/partner-services/major-projects/sro-renewal-initiative>

The SRO Renewal Initiative (SRI) was created to renovate 13 single-room-occupancy (SROs) hotels in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Chinatown, and Gastown areas. The project helped address the issue of homelessness in Vancouver and preserve affordable housing. These renovated units now provide safe and affordable accommodations for approximately 900 individuals at risk of homelessness.

#### A Scan of Leading Practices in Affordable Housing

<https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/housing-affordability/scan-leading-practices-affordable-housing&sortType=sortByDate>

Affordable housing is a growing concern across B.C. This scan of leading practices is part of a larger project that seeks to understand the challenges and capacity needs for small communities to deliver affordable housing, as well as practices that result in successfully increasing affordable housing supply.

#### Consumer Guide – Solar Photovoltaic Systems for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings

<https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/consumer-maintenance-renewals/consumer-guide-solar-photovoltaic-systems-multi-unit-residential-buildings&sortType=sortByDate>

Solar photovoltaic (PV) system prices have dropped considerably. Low and mid-rise multi-unit residential buildings typically have larger roofing areas for the installation of a PV system, and the energy benefits may offset some of the buildings' common electricity consumption. This guide provides comprehensive information on installing a PV system.

