



For Immediate Release

August 29, 2023

Message for Minister Ravi Kahlon from Dave Hamm and Vince Tao (VANDU)

We are disappointed, but not surprised, that you canceled our scheduled meeting on August 3rd. Your refusal to speak with community members most affected by BC Housing's policy failures does not inspire confidence in your commitment to your stated constituencies. If you continue to deny our community its right to civic process we assure you we will make sure we are heard.

It's as bad as ever out there for people on the street right now. They're getting no rest, no chance to catch their breath. Three times a day they're being swept off the street, more brutally and with more police force than ever before. With today's rain we know winter is already here: what is BC Housing's plan for the people on the street? There needs to be some foresight, some real action that will make a difference for people who are suffering.

We are not confident that you or BC Housing will house people most in need ahead of the winter. By continuing the practice of sweeps, your government is violating the Charter rights of every individual sheltering on the street. You have the power to put a moratorium on this violence by recalling the sweepers employed by the Provincial and Municipal government, whether its city engineers, police constables, or so-called 'outreach workers'. People will die if you do not. You can no longer ignore the problem and hope that it will go away.