

Community Perspective

Strathcona Business Improvement Association

**The Strathcona BIA represents over 800
Business and Property owners and over 4500
employees**

in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

**It is the major light industrial area in
Vancouver**

Community Perspective

Strathcona Business Improvement Association

The Biggest single achievement of the VA from the business perspective is we now have a contact point, agree or disagree, to express our concerns regarding Policy and Planning.

Association Objective

- Renew the BIA through 2010

VA Contribution

- \$25,000 for consultants to assist in strategic planning

Community Perspective

Strathcona Business Improvement Association

Association Objective

- Strengthen members businesses

VA Contribution

- Funding Fast to Track Employment and the Social Purchasing Portal

Association Objective

- Protect members businesses

VA Contribution

- Safe Injection Site and increased police presence

Community Perspective

Strathcona Business Improvement Association

Association Objective

- Attract new businesses to Strathcona

VA Contribution

- Retail and light industrial space inventory being produced
- \$20,000 for mural and street improvement programs

Association Objective

- Partner with the community

VA Contribution

- Consultants and BIA working on Community Revitalization Plan with community stakeholders

Community Perspective

Strathcona Business Improvement Association

- As a Social Enterprise
Owner:
Food & Service Resource
Group Ltd.

Project:

Training for Multi Barrired
Individuals

Funding:

Ministry of Human Resources



Major Challenges:

- Low cost per participant Funding available
- System difficulties with success benchmarks
- No recognition of DTES specific barriers for clients (i.e. Housing)

Community Perspective

Strathcona Business Improvement Association

- As a Social Enterprise Owner:
Food & Service Resource Group Ltd.

Project:

Training for Youth-at-Risk

Funding:

50% HRCC



Major Challenges:

- Constantly changing 'goalposts'
- Lack of Communication to Service Providers
- 6-12 month contracts only

Community Perspective

Strathcona Business Improvement Association

- As a Social Enterprise Owner:
Food & Service
Resource Group Ltd.

Project:

Cook Studio Foodservice
- Catering and Baked
Goods Commissary



Major Challenges:

- Paying the bills and covering funding shortfalls with revenue generated through sales

Community Perspective

Vancouver Agreement Wish List from the street

- Job Training
 - Coordinate funding for job training programs in the DTES
 - STATUS: In progress with \$3.25 million dedicated to the area
 - CHALLENGES: Mechanism to distribute funds equally

Community Perspective

Vancouver Agreement Wish List from the street

- Social Enterprise Operations
 - Support social enterprises (for profit isn't a dirty word) dedicated to hiring local residents and contributing to the economic well being of the area
 - STATUS: Paradigm shift in attitude towards socially responsible organizations is occurring. VA is very supportive of this shift
 - CHALLENGES: Convincing local community groups that business must drive economic growth. Someone has to pay the bills!

Community Perspective

Vancouver Agreement Wish List from the street

- Social Enterprise Operations
 - Work with banks and government funding agencies to recognize the long term benefit of supporting social enterprises. Obtaining loans in an economically depressed area is a large struggle.
 - STATUS: Discussion with VA is ongoing. Hopefully, look for an expanded Cook studio satellite with a market operation, production kitchen and student housing available in the future.
 - CHALLENGES: Running a business while finding time to build business and financing plans for future growth.