



**HOGAN'S
ALLEY
SOCIETY**

From Barriers to Belonging: A Virtual Roundtable on Advancing Racial Justice and Newcomer Belonging

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Pathways to Prosperity November 2025



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 məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), səl'ílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh), Semyome (Semiahmoo), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Sumas, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (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



HOGAN'S ALLEY



Black Californians began 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.

50 years ago Vancouver's Georgia and Dunsmuir viaducts displaced this diverse immigrant enclave and dispersed the Black community.

In 2022 the City of Vancouver signed an MOU with Hogan's Alley Society to redevelop the block when the viaducts come down





Context: Black Community & Housing Barriers



HAS Housing Solutions Lab Research Data

- 1% of BC population - 40,000 people(now over 60K)
- 52% reside in private rental market
- 67% are underhoused
- Predominantly low income
- Disproportionately represented in PiT homeless counts
- 54% of Black renters living alone are rent-burdened, with many earning less than \$20,000 annually.

Data Collection & Gaps

Lack of disaggregated race-based data; financialization of rental housing sees large landlords acquiring older stock and shifting rental markets.

HAS Programs Snapshot



HAS Community Land Trust – HAS signed an MOU with CoV in Sept 2022 to redevelop the Hogan's Alley Block once the viaducts come down.

Nora Hendrix Place - 52 Unit modular housing development prioritising at risk Black and Indigenous folks

Housing Support program – Intervention and advocacy for Black residents of Metro Vancouver experiencing housing insecurity and eviction

Cultural Program & Land-Based Stewardship – Land-based gardening, community and cultural programming for the Metro Vancouver Black community

Student Homestay Program – Partnership with UBC BGSN to support Black International students with homestay



Discussion Questions

Table 1AB



Supporting Multi-Barriered Groups & Immigrant Health / Newcomer Belonging & Health Access

Groups may choose 2–3 questions to explore based on interest and time.

1A. Supporting Multi-Barriered Groups & Immigrant Health

What are the most common barriers newcomers with multiple challenges face when trying to participate in Canadian social, cultural, civic, and economic life?

How do these barriers differ across groups (e.g., refugees, people with disabilities, racialized communities, LGBTQIA+ newcomers, older immigrants)?

What role does intersectionality play in shaping the newcomer experience?

1B. Newcomer Belonging & Health Access

What strategies help newcomers feel a genuine sense of belonging in their local community?

What barriers do newcomers face in accessing mental and physical health services (e.g., cost, language, cultural stigma)?

How can settlement agencies bridge the gap between newcomers and the Canadian health-care system?



Discussion Questions Table 2AB



Culturally Responsive Practice / Trauma-Informed & Trust-Building Approaches

Groups may choose 2–3 questions to explore based on interest and time.

2A. Culturally Responsive Practice

What does “culturally responsive” settlement service mean in practice?

How can service providers avoid cultural tokenism while still honouring cultural traditions and identities?

Do your organizations practise cultural humility? In what ways can cultural humility improve client relationships and outcomes?

2B. Trauma-Informed & Trust-Building Approaches

What are examples of micro-aggressions or cultural misunderstandings that can occur in settlement work, and how can these be equitably resolved?

What actions build trust between newcomers and service providers, especially for those with experiences of trauma or discrimination?

How can service providers embed trauma-informed practice into daily work with newcomers?



Collective Reflection & Next Steps



Join HAS in advancing culturally-informed affordable housing

• • •
• • •
• • • Prioritize early intervention models whenever possible

• • •
• • • Embrace race-based and culturally relevant data collection in your work
• • •

• • • Support Community Land-trust models





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

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