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**To:** ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
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**Date:** 5/16/2018 12:59:19 PM  
**Subject:** EHT Big Tent Event

Greetings Mayor and Council,

I wanted to provide you with an update on the work that staff has undertaken to engage the public about ways to direct the net revenue generated by the Empty Homes Tax to support more affordable housing in our city.

As I wrote to you in late April, an online ideation platform was launched and participation on that platform has been impressive. To date, more than 100 ideas have been generated by the public. The three ideas with the most support to date include: supporting more co-op housing, increasing purpose-built rental accommodations, and buying more land for affordable housing. With more than 4,900 likes/dislikes and more than 400 comments, residents are also engaging with each other on the platform.

On Thursday, May 17, we are hosting an invitation-only "Big Tent" conversation/workshop at City Lab from 10 am to 3:15 pm where key stakeholders will participate in a day-long workshop (similar to the Arbutus Greenway "Design Jam" event) to review and synthesize the input we've received. Thursday's Idea Jam will bring together close to 60 residents and housing advocates to generate and prioritize new ideas and related implementation actions for reinvesting the Empty Homes Tax revenue. The top ideas of the day will be shared through a Dragon's Den style presentation where an expert panel will weigh in.

A summary of the public input will be included with the Housing Vancouver update to Council in June, along with recommendations to Council for investments in affordable housing.

Best,

Sadhu

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