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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 3/11/2022 4:06:38 PM
Subject: [Upcoming news release: Collective Agency project launch \(March 14, 2022\)](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release on March 14, announcing the Better Together: Neighbourhood Collective Action Pilot Program.

The pilot program aims to improve a sense of safety and connection for all residents, reduce stigma, improve access to support services for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and maintain cleanliness. Better Together will take place from March 2022 until December 2023 in three pilot neighbourhoods.

Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at approximately 9 AM on Monday, March 14, 2022.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
March 14, 2022

**New pilot launching in three Vancouver neighbourhoods aims
to increase connection and address community issues**

The Better Together: Neighbourhood Collective Action Pilot Program is coming to Mount Pleasant, Downtown South and Olympic Village.

The pilot program aims to improve a sense of safety and connection for all residents, reduce stigma, improve access to support services for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and maintain cleanliness. Better Together also seeks to enhance communication and collaboration between stakeholders to build positive relationships and address community challenges.

Approved by Council on March 2, it will work with local residents, including those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, businesses and community stakeholders to create a proactive approach to addressing community challenges.

Recognizing many circumstances are rooted in trauma associated with colonialism, racism and gender-based violence and reinforced through the same, priority issues include those related to the impacts of mental health, poverty and unsheltered homelessness.

“Everyone deserves to feel safe in Vancouver, but we know for some people that isn't the case. Unsheltered residents in particular face many challenges and we know our community wants to respond with care, compassion, and support. That's what the Better Together pilot is about,” says Mayor Kennedy Stewart. “By proactively addressing community challenges and helping neighbours access mental health, housing, and other supports, we can make sure everyone in our community feels safe and supported.”

Better Together builds upon the former Neighbourhood Integrated Service Team (NIST) and the current Community Advisory Committees (CAC) models. City staff will act as key contacts by facilitating connections, tracking responses and solving problems to foster effective communication and positive relationships between service providers and businesses.

The City's Homelessness Services Outreach Team (HSOT) will also enhance their support in the three pilot neighbourhoods and conduct morning outreach to connect people sleeping outdoors with support and facilitate access to services.

The program will also work with local non-profits to support low-barrier employment opportunities as well as provide education and training to community members in the pilot neighbourhoods on the impacts of trauma, colonialism, racism, gender based violence, poverty and unsheltered homelessness.

Better Together will take place from March 2022 until December 2023. Read more in [our report](#).

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