



February 7, 2007

Mayor Sam Sullivan  
& Councilors of the City of Vancouver  
453 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Your Worship and esteemed Councilors,

**RE: Concerning Single Room Accommodations (SRA) Bylaw, Standards of Maintenance Bylaw & Homeless Action Plan**

The BC Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA) is a provincial organization dedicated to empowering persons living with HIV disease and AIDS through mutual support and collective action. The Society provides support, treatment information, advocacy services, and volunteer opportunities to more than 4,300 HIV-positive members.

I write to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the BCPWA Society to urge you to strengthen the SRA Bylaw, apply the Standards of Maintenance Bylaw, and demonstrate your commitment to purchase DTES hotels as promised in the Homeless Action Plan.

BCPWA urges the Mayor and Council to establish a moratorium on the conversion and demolition of Single Room Occupancies (SROs). SROs are often the only affordable housing option available residents in Vancouver living in circumstances of poverty. These people are often marginalized in other ways: many are seniors, unemployed, or living with a disability (including HIV/AIDS); others struggle with addictions and/or mental health issues.

If implemented, the enforced Bylaws will result in a significant improvement in the quality of life for many Vancouver residents who are presently unable to secure safe, affordable housing. We encourage you to enforce the existing Standards of Maintenance Bylaw immediately to ensure reasonable and respectable living conditions for these people.

Furthermore, the City's Homeless Action Plan mandates that City Council abide by their initial commitment to buy one hotel per year; the City has been negligent in its commitment for 2005, 2006, and 2007. It is our understanding that the City of Vancouver's 1.3 billion dollar property endowment fund exists for this very interest.

This city cannot afford more homeless people. We urge you to act now, for the more than 2,100 homeless Vancouver citizens, and for our members living with HIV/AIDS and thousands of others living on social assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Lewand, Chair  
BC Persons With AIDS Society