

## Communication File – BC Housing

### Purchase of Veronica Block

(formerly the Burns Block)

*Detailed signature lines and automatic email headers stating the email is from an outside agency have been removed from this document.*

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### 2021-03-22 (1:30pm) Phone Call requesting assignment

The VP Operations and VP Development called Janice Abbott and asked her if Atira would assign the Burns Block sale to BC Housing.

### 2021-03-29 Meeting (Virtual) set by [Staff, BCHousing] with Janice and [ED, BCHousing]

Subject: Discuss 18 West Hastings Street (Burns Block)  
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting  
Start: Mon 2021-03-29 11:00 AM  
End: Mon 2021-03-29 11:20 AM  
Recurrence: (none)  
Meeting Status: Accepted  
Organizer: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Required Attendees: Janice Abbott; [ED, BCHousing]  
Categories: Virtual Meeting

(Teams information removed)

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 29, 2021 9:39 AM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Cc: [ED, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 West Hastings Street Appraisal

Morning.

Can chat any time after about 10:30 and before 2 p.m.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 9:28 AM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [ED, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 West Hastings Street Appraisal

Janice – Have you obtained the green light from your board to assign this contract? When would you be free to discuss this file later today?

Cheers,  
[Staff, BCHousing]

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: March 29, 2021 9:27 AM  
To: [Appraisal Firm]; [Appraisal Firm]  
Cc: [ED, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing];  
Subject: RE: 18 West Hastings Street Appraisal  
Importance: High

**Redacted** & **Redacted** – We are going to our board this week to approve the assignment of the purchase and need your final report. Please resend if you have not already.

Cheers,  
[Staff, BCHousing]

From: [Appraisal Firm]  
Sent: February 16, 2021 1:59 PM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: 18 West Hastings Street Appraisal

Hi [Staff, BCHousing] - Sorry for the delay. Attached is a draft of our appraisal.

Regards,  
**Redacted**

**2021-03-31 Email from Janice to [Staff, BCHousing], [ED, BCHousing]**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 30, 2021 9:19 AM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: Burns Block

Morning.

We are good to assign and the owner is good to close on the 15th. That said, there are currently only 11 vacancies and the owner pays a \$2,000 per unit penalty for every occupied unit over 21 (they are required under the contract to provide 21 vacancies, I think). It would be great to get in, start talking to tenants to let them know it will be supportive housing and to offer them alternatives. I am going to assume most/all will want to move. We have some bigger, nicer units across the street at Olivia Skye we can offer.

Kukstemc,  
Janice Abbott (she, her, hers)

**Response by [ED, BCHousing]**

From: [ED, BCHousing]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:36 AM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: Burns Block

Thanks for the update Janice, I take it no other tenants are slated to move out at the end of March or before April 15th?

Also wondering if your lawyers completed a title review (as part of your due diligence) that you could share.

I see there was an Open House at Olivia Skye a few weeks back. How many units are still available?

Cheers,  
[ED, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott  
To: [ED, BCHousing]; [Redacted]  
Subject: RE: Burns Block  
Date: March 30, 2021 11:06:00 AM

Hey.

I think we have about six currently available and another eight moves outs scheduled for April 1st. I will have to put a hold on them if we think this is a viable alternative.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**2021-04-08 Email from Janice to [ED, BCHousing], [Staff, BCHousing], [ED, BCHousing]**

**From:** Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** April 8, 2021 8:18 AM  
**To:** [ED, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]  
**Subject:** Burns Block  
**Importance:** High

Good morning.

I need to figure out the Burn's Block today. Any updates after yesterday's excom?

Kukstemc,  
Janice Abbott (she, her, hers)

**Response by [Staff, BCHousing]**

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 8:20 AM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>; [ED, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: Burns Block

BCH still wants to take ownership. Are you available this afternoon 2pm? If not, I can adjust the meeting invite I just sent.

Cheers,  
[Staff, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: April 8, 2021 8:25 AM

To: [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: Burns Block

I confess I am more than a little disappointed [about assigning sale], but promise to get over that before our call. My day is jammed, sorry, but I can chat on my drive to Richmond, between 12:45 and 1:15. I can probably move my 10 a.m. and chat then. Otherwise its 4:30.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

***Response by [ED, BCHousing]***

From: [ED, BCHousing]  
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 10:26 AM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>; [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: Burns Block Purchase

Hi Janice,  
Gorka has just bumped up today's Teams meeting from 2:00PM to 12:45-1:15.

If you don't have Teams downloaded to your phone, you can call in on the conference # in the invite.

A couple of things we'd like to discuss:

- 1) Closing date – currently Apr 21st. Will we moved that up or stay as is
- 2) Lease for main floor commercial space – we'd like to have our legal counsel draft the lease as part of the closing documents. Need to pin down – who is lessee, lease duration, monthly rent, T.I.'s – how is the \$150K applied
- 3) Target tenant population

Look forward to speaking with you soon,

[ED, BCHousing]

*Instructions for setting up conference call removed*

**2021-04-08 Email from [VP, BCHousing] to Janice**

From: [VP, BCHousing]  
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:43 PM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: FW: 18 W Hastings

Confirming that the below is accurate.

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: April 8, 2021 1:41 PM

To: [ED, BCHousing]  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [VP, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing];  
Armin Amrolia <aamrolia@bchousing.org>; [Director, BCHousing]  
Subject: Re: 18 W Hastings

Hi [ED, BCHousing].

Yes, commitment has been made to Atira that they will be the operator of 18 W Hastings.

Atira has just confirmed that their intended operating model for Burns Block is women only, abstinence focused. This will not directly align with the decampment response as not all women from the camp would be willing to go to an abstinence-focused program building. There will need to be some shifting around of tenants from other Atira buildings and free those spaces up for people coming from the camp.

Do you want to submit a joint excom? or separate excom submissions? I can get a draft ready for next week.

Thanks.

[Staff, BCHousing]

From: [ED, BCHousing]  
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:22 PM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [VP, BCHousing] [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, VPHousing];  
Armin Amrolia <aamrolia@bchousing.org>  
Subject: 18 W Hastings

Hi [Staff, BCHousing]

At [Staff, BCHousing] direction, we are seeking to purchase 18 W Hastings Street via assignment of a contract from Atira who has the property under contract currently. We are going to Excom next week to get the assignment approved.

The sale is proposed to close either the 15th of April or the 19th. My understanding is that commitments have been made to Atira to appoint them as Operator. Can you confirm. Given that I believe it was Angela's intention that we utilize the property for decampment spaces we want to deliver this into operations as quickly as possible.

Are you able to get an Excom in next week to select Atira as Operator if the purchase is approved and provide an operating budget? This will save time getting the property operational.

Thanks  
[ED, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott  
To: [VP, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings  
Date: April 9, 2021 6:37:00 AM

Hi [VP, BCHousing] and to confirm, the Burn's Block will house women who are committed to reducing and or exploring stopping substance use. This could include women from the park who are looking for this kind of environment. Atira Women's Resource Society staff would love to be in the park to meet with women to see who may be interested in exploring this option. [Redacted], the program manager at The Rice Block, a like program operated by Atira, could maybe start by meeting with [Redacted]. [Redacted] is Anishinaabe-kwe, a nurse and generally pretty awesome. [Redacted] maybe knows some women at the park who are looking for this kind of an environment. We wouldn't have to say where or which building.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**2021-04-13 Email from [Staff, BCHousing] to Janice**

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:11 AM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>; [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hi both,

I've just been informed that BCH is purchasing the Burns Block, and the purchase is set to close this Friday – which means BCH will be listed on the Land Title Registry and because of that we could get questions from media/the public. I'm checking with our Ministry to see if they would like to announce the purchase or instead just reactively respond to media questions as they come in, but also want to see if you have a preference on this? Also, given that there isn't a formal operating agreement in place yet, would you like Atira to be included in the public facing messaging at this time? I've copied in [Staff, BCHousing] and [Staff, BCHousing] here from our comms team who typically lead on the tenant engagement and neighbourhood engagement. We think there will be a need to connect in with current tenants and neighbours to inform them of the purchase and plan for the building. Would your team like to be involved in the tenant engagement at this time or would you prefer we lead?

Thanks and happy to hop on a call if that's easier.

[Staff, BCHousing]  
#1701 - 4555 Kingsway, Burnaby, V5H 4V8

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: April 13, 2021 11:15 AM

To:[Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hey [Staff, BCHousing].

We definitely prefer to be involved in tenant engagement, the sooner the better, and we are easy on whether or not we are involved in the announcement. What do you think?

Kukstemc,  
Janice

***Response by [Staff, BCHousing]***

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:21 AM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>; [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Thanks Janice, good to hear. I think it would be helpful to be as transparent as possible with tenants and the public.

I understand the vacant units will be prioritized for women who are committed or are seeking to move away from substance use. Would some of the rooms be available to women who are currently in Strathcona Park who may fit the future operational model of the building, or would the building not be open by the end of month? Perhaps that's a question I should ask my team too.

***Response by Janice***

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: April 13, 2021 11:29 AM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hi again.

Our intent is to open ASAP so yes, by end of month and yes, would be open to women from the Park who fit the model.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

***Response by [Staff, BCHousing]***

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: April 13, 2021 12:57 PM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>; [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Thanks Janice. I'm copying in [Staff, BCHousing] from my team who will be leading on drafting a news release and QA. He'll share those with you once they're available. Thanks.  
[Staff, BCHousing]

(this thread continues further below as *2021-04-14 Email Response from [Staff, BCHousing] to Janice & [Staff, BCHousing]*)

**Response by [Staff, BCHousing]**

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Date: April 13, 2021 at 1:03:21 PM PDT  
To: [Staff, BCHousing], Janice Abbott  
<janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>, [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hi everyone,

Thanks [Redacted]. It's lovely to meet you Janice and talk with you again [Redacted]! We can certainly draft a tenant communication and any notification to the neighbourhood. [Redacted] has been keeping us in the loop. It will be important for tenants to know about the transition in operations, operator, and owner, all of which we can draft into a letter and keep you involved Janice and [Redacted]. We can work with [Redacted]'s team regarding delivery to tenants and will draft this ASAP.

Thanks everyone,  
[Staff, BCHousing]

**2021-04-13 Email from Janice to BCH: [Staff, BCHousing], [ED, BCHousing], [ED, BCHousing]**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: April 13, 2021 1:13 PM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing], [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: Fwd: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hey and trying to keep up. Have we assigned this sale to you? I don't remember signing anything – I mean I will course, just confused.

Begin forwarded message:

(emails above from *2021-04-13 Email from [Staff, BCHousing] to Janice* added here)

**Response by [ED, BCHousing]**

From: [ED, BCHousing]  
To: Janice Abbott  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing], [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase  
Date: April 13, 2021 2:34:50 PM

Hi Janice,

Our lawyer has promised to send the assignment asap. You can expect it by end of day at the latest. As mentioned, it will be subject to Board Approval. We expect to be able to remove this subject condition by tomorrow afternoon.

Then, we will amend the Purchase & Sale Agreement from closing April 21st to closing April 16th. This will likely be signed off on Thursday (but will not require Atira's signature as the P&S Agreement will have already been assigned to PRHC).

Cheers,  
[ED, BCHousing]

***Response by [ED, BCHousing]***

From: [ED, BCHousing]  
Sent: April 13, 2021 4:02 PM  
To: 'Janice Abbott' <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing], [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: FW: 18 W Hastings purchase - Assignment

Hi Janice,

PRHC has now executed the attached Assignment agreement and it is ready for your signature on Page 3.

Please sign and return to me at your earliest convenience.

Regards,  
[ED, BCHousing]

***Response by [ED, BCHousing]***

From: [ED, BCHousing]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:21 PM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: FW: 18 W Hastings purchase - Assignment  
Importance: High

Hi Janice,

The purchase and funding (including operating funding) was approved at today's Excom.

Please sign and return the attached Assignment agreement.

We will have our lawyer prepare the notice that PRHC (the assignee) has waived the subject condition and deliver same to you shortly after receipt of the fully executed Assignment.

[ED, BCHousing]

**Response from Janice**

From: Janice Abbott  
To: [ED, BCHousing]  
Cc: [Staff, BCHousing]; [ED, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase - Assignment  
Date: April 14, 2021 3:33:00 PM  
Attachments: BCH (18 W Hastings) Assignment and Assumption of Purchase

Great news. Thanks all. Signed assignment agreement attached.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**2021-04-14 Email Response from [Staff, BCHousing] to Janice & [Staff, BCHousing]**

(this thread carries on the conversation in the thread above called *2021-04-13 Email from [Staff, BCHousing] to Janice*)

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:58 PM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>; [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hi there Janice,

Attached are our draft Burns Block news release and QA documents for Burns Block, for Atira's review.

You'll see that I've highlighted a small handful of areas in both docs, with comments attached. I'm hoping you or someone else from Atira will be able to fill in a couple blanks in these spaces, as well as provide a quote for the release.

Also a quick note that purchase of this property is now set to close on Monday, April 19, and that publication of the release has been pushed accordingly to that same day.

Given that things are still moving fairly quickly on this announcement, any expediency with which you can get back to me with your updates would be greatly appreciated.

Would it be at all possible to provide your review and additions **before EOD today**?

Thanks much!  
[Staff, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:49 PM

To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Cc: [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: FW: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hi [Staff, BCHousing].  
Sorry not to see this sooner. If you have questions, give me a call – 604-813-0851.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**Response by [Staff, BCHousing]**

**From:** [Staff, BCHousing]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:01 AM  
**To:** Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hi there Janice,

A few quick questions for you:

- You'd updated the news release to say that there are 31 units at this site, but all of our notes say 30 units. Just want to double-check this adjustment.
- On that same note, would this additional unit add to the current 17 vacant units or to the current 13 occupied units?
- For question 10 of the QA (What is meant by this building being intended as supportive housing for "women who are committed to reducing or stopping entirely their substance use?"), could you provide more details as to how this kind of operation is processed? I have the support services roundup from your notes on the news release, but I'm wondering if tenants will need to, say, sign a contract, make a verbal agreement, etc, that they will abstain from substance use? Will people have to move if they don't live up to that goal? I'm guessing the answer to both questions is "no," but I'd still like to have it confirmed either way.

Given the tight timeline for this, would you be able to get back to me with these details in the next hour?

Thanks!  
[Staff, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

**From:** Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:07 AM  
**To:** [Staff, BCHousing]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Morning [Staff, BCHousing].

See comments below.

Kukstemc,

Janice

([Staff, BCHousing]'s *email details removed as they are repeated above.*  
*Janice's response in highlights*)

- You'd updated the news release to say that there are 31 units at this site, but all of our notes say 30 units. Just want to double-check this adjustment.  
I've sent a note to Reliance to confirm. I understood 31 units, but could definitely be wrong.
- On that same note, would this additional unit add to the current 17 vacant units or to the current 13 occupied units?
- For question 10 of the QA (What is meant by this building being intended as supportive housing for "women who are committed to reducing or stopping entirely their substance use?"), could you provide more details as to how this kind of operation is processed? I have the support services roundup from your notes on the news release, but I'm wondering if tenants will need to, say, sign a contract, make a verbal agreement, etc, that they will abstain from substance use? Will people have to move if they don't live up to that goal? I'm guessing the answer to both questions is "no," but I'd still like to have it confirmed either way.  
No, this is not an abstinence based program. It is a program where women can explore abstinence, getting on a safe supply and or reducing their substance use over time where abstinence might be the long-term but not the immediately goal. Women are not asked to leave if they use but there are increased expectations about behaviours – so women cannot put other women who want to stop using for example, at risk of using. Hoping this make sense.\

**Response by [Staff, BCHousing]**

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:21 AM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: Redacted@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hi there Janice,

This is all great information! For your FYI: I just hopped off the phone with our project DM, and he has provided 100% confirmation that there are 30 units total.

Thanks again,  
[Staff, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:43 AM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Cc: Redacted@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Rats to that (losing one unit, even if only in my mind). Thanks [Staff, BCHousing]!

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**Response by [Staff, BCHousing]**

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 12:57 PM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hey there Janice,

One more very quick question on your feedback for the news release – to whom at Atira should the quote you sent me be attributed, and what is their title?

Thanks!  
[Staff, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:00 PM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Cc: Redacted@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Well, it was me/I wrote it. How does this work? Can I put someone else's name in it? Happy to...).

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**Response by [Staff, BCHousing]**

From: [Staff, BCHousing]

Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:01 PM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Haha, right yes of course. All apologies for the probably unnecessary question – I'll ensure the quote is attributed to you

[Staff, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:02 PM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Cc: [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

I am not committed to my name being there. Happy to attribute it to someone else. How about [Redacted]? I will ask her. [Redacted], Executive Director, Operations.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**Response by [Staff, BCHousing]**

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:24 PM  
To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Cc: [Redacted]@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Ahh, great! Thanks very much, and please let me know if [Redacted] expresses any objections.

[Staff, BCHousing]

**Response by Janice**

From: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:27 PM  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

She is good..:).

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**Response by [Staff, BCHousing]**

From: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:44 PM

To: Janice Abbott <janice\_abbott@atira.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase

Hey there Janice,

Quick question for you: For the art-in-recovery program you added to the 18 West Hastings news release, the Ministry is wondering if it would be incorrect to refer to it as an "art therapy program?"

Thanks!

*Response by Janice*

From: Janice Abbott  
To: [Staff, BCHousing]  
Subject: RE: 18 W Hastings purchase  
Date: April 15, 2021 3:45:00 PM

No, it falls into that larger category for sure.

Kukstemc,  
Janice

**2021-04-16 Email from Janice to the Atira Board of Directors**

**From:** Janice Abbott  
**Sent:** April 16, 2021 8:27 AM  
**To:** Redacted  
**Cc:** Redacted  
**Subject:** Burns Block  
**Importance:** High

Hi everyone.

After a long negotiation, we assigned the Burn's Block deal to BC Housing yesterday. This was not my preferred way forward, but if BCH/PRHC owns the building it comes with \$1.3M in operating subsidy, which means we can house all women at \$375/month and provide supports, as opposed to the mixed income model we were proposing for financing reasons. I don't really understand why the Province has to own the asset, but it has something to do with an accounting rule and the women's and children's housing program. We are going to do an abstinence focused program – a sister program to The Rice Block where we offer 12 beds for women to prepare for treatment and 24 beds to explore what abstinence or reduced substance use looks like for them post treatment. In the end I felt the opportunity to fully meet our mandate and mission to support women outweighed our desire for Atira to own the asset. I trust/hope you all agree.

My understanding is this purchase and the awarding of the program to Atira will happen sometime today (BCH really doesn't give you much time to get your feet under you) and we will assume operations on Monday afternoon. We are scrambling to be ready.

As mentioned at the Board meeting, having this building back in the community (and out of Reliance's hands - <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/its-gotten-worse-and->

[worse-gastown-residents-besieged-by-homelessness-on-their-doorstep](#)) is a significant win for everyone. Here's an article I found about how the closure of the Bruns Block impacted one woman: <https://chodarr.org/sites/default/files/chodarr1241.pdf>

Let me know if you have questions or concerns. Thanks everyone.

Janice Abbott (she, her, hers)  
Chief Executive Officer, Atira Group of Women Serving Agencies  
help end violence against women and children