

Prepared for the Vancouver  
and District Labour Council

# **B.C. NEEDS A PUBLIC INQUIRY**

A quick primer on the issues, and  
what needs to be done.

## WHY?

Tens of thousands of British Columbians have been affected by this multi-layered and ongoing crisis – their government owes them an investigation that contributes to finding solutions.

A public inquiry is the best way to learn the truth about a crisis that has claimed thousands of lives, and has made B.C. the most unaffordable province to live in.



## **THIS AFFECTS US ALL**

As a civil society actor, it's our responsibility to have a voice in matters that affect our union members, and by extension, working British Columbians.

Unions are in a unique position to call for an inquiry as thousands of workers have been thrust into first responder roles on the frontlines of the opioid crisis and so many are affected by the ongoing housing crisis.

# THE MORE WE LEARN THE MORE WE WANT AN INQUIRY.



77%

## Think the government should call a public inquiry.

Support for a public inquiry has stayed stable over three polls since June 2018.

Support is consistently in favour of a public inquiry across age, region, incomes, vote intention, and demographics.

BC Liberal supporters  
(34% Definitely, 45% Probably)

BC NDP supporters  
(47% Definitely, 33% Probably)

BC Green supporters  
(47% Definitely, 32% Probably).

63%

## Are following the issue closely

This is an increase compared to June (48%) and August (53%)

There is also an increase in the amount of people following the issue very closely.

This number will likely only increase given the extended play the issue has got in the media.

84%

## Would consider this when deciding how to vote in an election.

More than four-in-five British Columbians consider issues on money laundering, opioids, and real estate "very important" (49%) or "moderately important" (35%)

Just 3 percent of British Columbians would not consider this issue as important at all in determining their vote.

**Affordability is ranked as the #1 concern by members.**

People in British Columbia have been squeezed by the rising cost of housing. Rents and real estate prices have outpaced wages for years.

In response to the affordability crisis the BCGEU launched the Affordable BC campaign in 2017 to address the underlying issues faced by renters and owners alike. While local and provincial government has addressed some of the issues, the real pressure on people in British Columbia remains.

Now we have new revelations from media and police reports that the red hot real estate sector has been driven by the proceeds of crime in this province.

Peter German, a retired RCMP Commissioner has an ongoing investigation into the links between money laundering and the real estate, luxury vehicle, and horse racing sectors.

Peter German's report is expected by the end of March.

The public is pleased overall that the government is taking action on the issue, and the public supports the government's actions on the file. A vast majority of the province believes that a Quebec-Style Anti-Corruption Office should be permanently established as a result.

	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Should BC establish an Anti-Corruption Office	80%	9%	11%
How do you feel about government response	68%	24%	8%
How the current response affected your perception of government	68%	26%	6%