

CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT / PUBLIC-INTEREST OP-ED

The Hastings Recovery Plan

A new deal for East Hastings: beds, bathrooms, detox, jobs, and safety.

Prepared for Great Scott for Mayor of Vancouver | DrainTheSwamp.ca | June 2026

Suggested website placement: Homepage pillar; Platform; DTES Reality; downloadable policy card.

The basic municipal test

Vancouver has built systems that can ticket a vehicle, tow a vehicle, enforce a meter, and process a parking dispute. The same city has not built an equally reliable pathway for a person on East Hastings who needs a clean bathroom, a shower, a laundry machine, a safe bed, same-day detox, and a job after treatment.

Vancouver has a system for cars. Build one for people.

The Hastings Recovery Plan starts with that moral and operational mismatch. The city cannot solve every federal or provincial failure alone, but it can stop pretending that visible misery is compassion. A humane city must measure outcomes: bathrooms open, beds available, detox wait times, overdoses, violent incidents, sanitation response time, employment placements, and resident safety.

Five public promises

- Beds: a clean, dry, safe place to sleep should be the minimum standard of public order.
- Bathrooms: public toilets, handwashing, showers, and laundry are not luxuries; they are sanitation infrastructure.
- Detox: same-day zero-barrier detox access must become a city-wide performance target, even where provincial partners control health delivery.
- Jobs: recovery should lead to paid work, city service jobs, sanitation teams, peer support, cleanup crews, and practical civic roles.
- Safety: public safety means fewer assaults, fewer overdoses, faster emergency response, safer sidewalks, and accountable policing.

How it should work

Need	City response	Evidence badge
Bathroom, shower, laundry	Deploy and maintain basic sanitation access near the highest-need blocks.	Campaign proposal / cost source needed
Detox demand	Create a Zero-Barrier Detox Access Fund and negotiate same-day capacity with provincial and nonprofit partners.	Legal and health-partner review required
Public safety	Use visible presence, public safety cameras where lawful, emergency call points, and response-time reporting.	Pilot concept / legal review required

Recovery employment	Guarantee suitable city-supported work pathway after sustained treatment milestones.	Campaign proposal
Outcome accountability	Publish monthly dashboard of beds, bathrooms, detox waits, overdoses, calls, cleanup, and job placements.	FOI pending / source needed

Campaign slogans that fit

- Beds, Not Tickets.
- Detox Before Tow Trucks.
- Same-day tickets. Same-day detox.
- Clean streets. Safe beds. Real recovery.
- Restore East Hastings: beds, bathrooms, detox, jobs, safety.

The accountability standard

The Hastings Recovery Plan should avoid personal attacks on named organizations or workers. The stronger political position is to audit the system: show the funding, show the outcomes, show the wait times, show the bathrooms, show the detox beds, show the deaths, show the jobs. A mayor should not need to prove every failure in advance to demand public measurement of the system receiving public money.

That is the political advantage of the plan: it is not ideology. It is a receipt check.

Source and verification note

Based on recent campaign planning around “Hastings Recovery Plan,” DTES sanitation, zero-barrier detox, recovery jobs, VPD accountability, and the comparison between rapid vehicle enforcement and slow human services.

Authorized by Scott Gilbert, Financial Agent for Scott Gilbert. Contact: scottgilbertvan@gmail.com. Campaign contributions and expenses will be reported as required under B.C. local election campaign financing law.