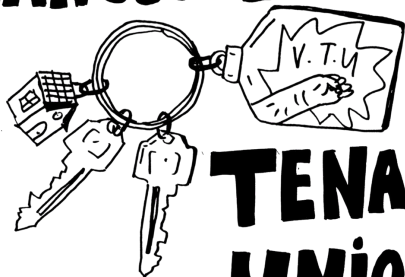


Tenant Collectives & Community Defence

VANCOUVER



**TENANTS
UNION**

Version February 2026

No Displacement!

In order to stop displacement, we need to fight for our neighbours at the building level. In Vancouver, when we talk about stopping displacement we mean fighting for long-term residents (especially those marginalized by class, race, health, homelessness and other factors), in order to secure safe, dignified and appropriate homes. This means being free of harassment, negligence, corporate speculation, and capitalist greed. Stopping displacement requires organizing and building relationships with our neighbours in order to share what we are experiencing and to keep track of the way that landlords and developers target the more vulnerable members of our community. We stop displacement and gentrification one tenant at a time, one building at a time and one block at a time.



What is a Tenant Collective (TC) or Tenants Association (TA)?

Tenant Collectives (TCs) or Tenant Associations (TAs) are two phrases that describe a formation of neighbours who live in the same building. TCs are a way to get to know your neighbours, build community, and come together to defend each other from landlords, developers, speculators and the police. TCs serve many different functions and each building has its own personality/way of doing things. There is no right or wrong way to create and build a TC, but it always starts with getting to know your neighbours!



Ways to Organize

Each TC has their own rhythm and goals. Here are some things to experiment with in your building or on your block:

- **Regular meetings** to update, reflect, and plan next steps. Rotating facilitation works well to ensure that the TC is collectively run.
- Planning events and sharing resources to build community in the building (a bulletin board can be a great way to share what's going on).
- Building a **rapid response network** so that tenants can respond quickly to emergencies.
- Doing **court support** for each other so that no one goes it alone.
- Writing **collective demand letters**, hosting **rallies**, and speaking to the **press** are common tactics to build power and put pressure on the landlord to address building issues & repairs.

This is not an exhaustive list — you and your neighbours can experiment with what makes the most sense for your TC!

“What you can achieve under the law is often limited because it’s biased in favour of landlords. But the legal system is just one of the tools at your disposal.

When we get to know our neighbours and work together in solidarity we can win so much more.”

Autumn, member of 1177 Tenants Collective, who fought off their landlords’ attempt to evict their entire building.

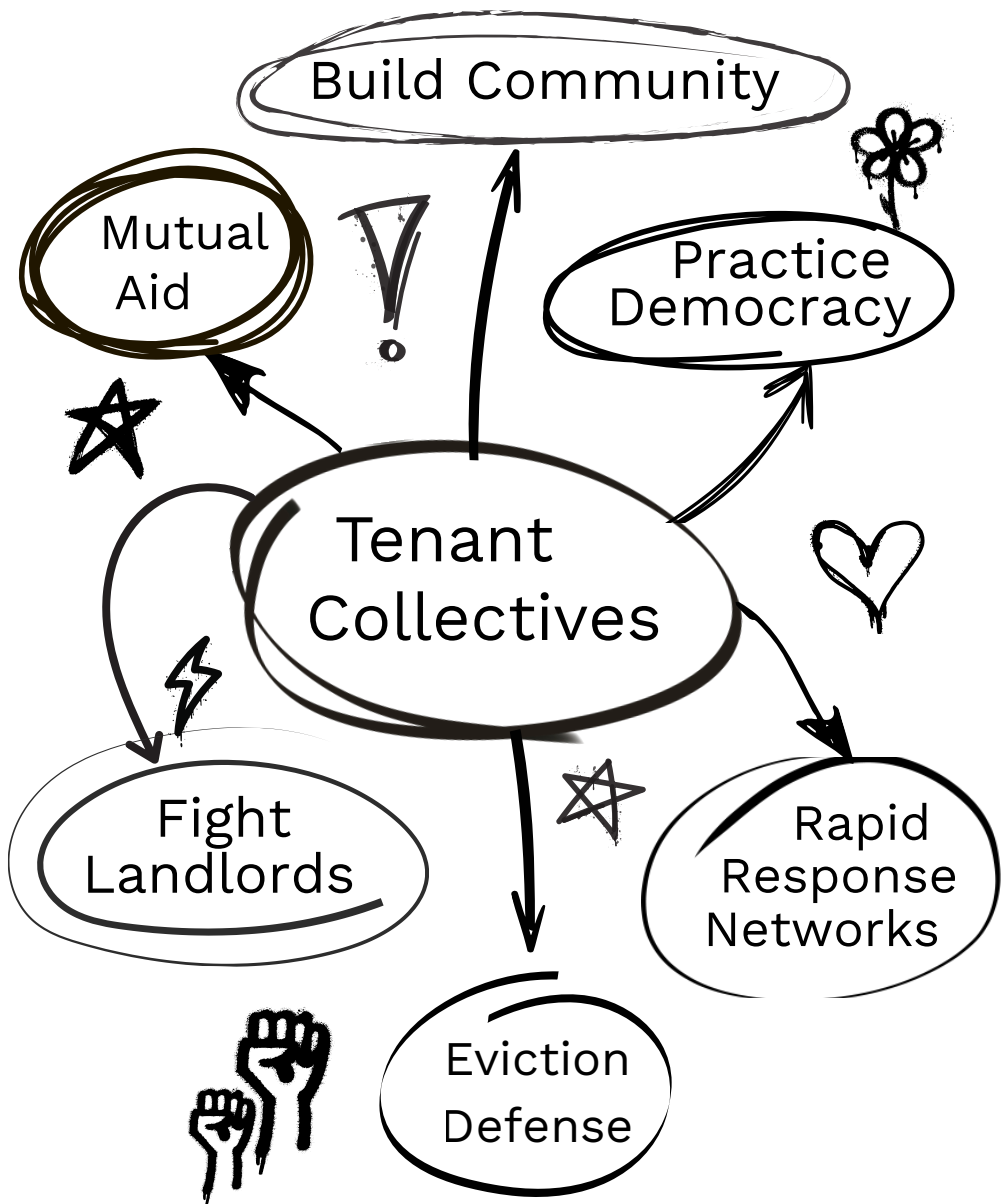
“After 7 years without heat, working together was the only thing that got action. And I love knowing my neighbors now! Of course, having heat is also fricking amazing!”

Saoirse & Ellen, Members of the Prince Edward Renters Collective (PERC) who fought to have the heat restored to several units.



Community Keeps Us Safe!

When we build relationships, we are able to defend ourselves! Here are some things a TC can do:



**“Don’t underestimate the power of just getting
to know your neighbours”**

**“Housing is a commodity now but it needs to
be socialized and only we can make that
happen.**

Of Everyone ... For Everyone!”

Jon and Marie, members of the Park Beach Tenant Collective (PBTC) who fought to save their homes, stop mass evictions, and improve conditions after Plan A Real Estate bought their building. Plan A quickly began an aggressive campaign to remove all long term tenants in order to increase profits through short term rentals.



Community Defense

TCs are a building block for larger neighbourhood formations such as **block collectives, neighbourhood chapters, and tenant unions** that connect working-class tenants. We use these different formations to organize ourselves at different levels so everyone has a voice and everyone is protected. Relationships with those around us keep us safe. When we build connections to the people we live close to, we not only create stronger, joyful, and mutually supportive communities, but also protect one another. Our relationships are what enable us to fight back & practice community defense against landlords, developers, police, border services who seek to deport our neighbours, and other arms of capital & government.

No one is coming to save us. We need to save ourselves by standing together.





Scaling Up Community Defense



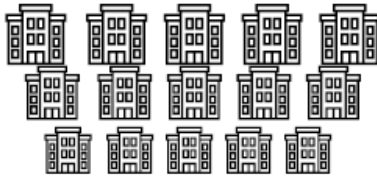
Organize a Tenant Collective



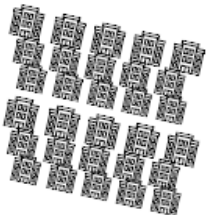
Organize a Block Collective



**Organize a
Neighborhood
Chapter**



**Organize a
Neighborhood
Chapter**

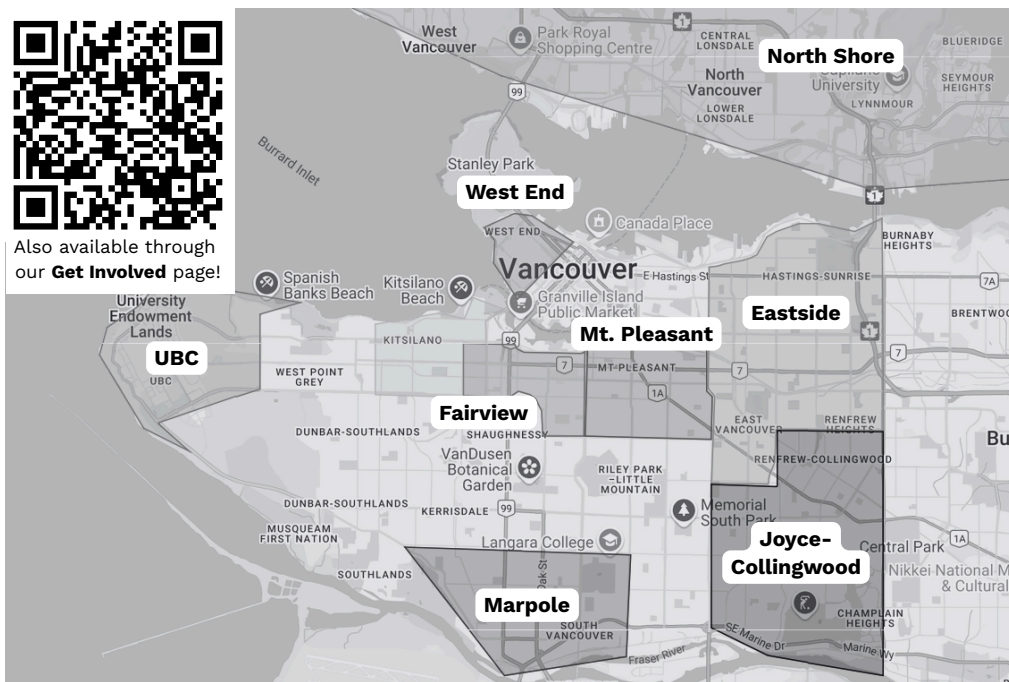


**Organizing a
City-Wide Union!**

Where do I start?



Also available through
our **Get Involved** page!



Our union is built in our chapters and spreads throughout the city - they're where most of the work in the union happens! **Connect with your local neighborhood chapter and join the fight!**

East Side: EastSide@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

Fairview: fairview@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

Mt. Pleasant: MtPleasant@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

West End: WestEnd@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

Marpole: marpole@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

Joyce-Collingwood: joycecollingwood@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

DTES: ourhomes@vandu.org

North Shore: northshore@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

UBC: ubc@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

Where do I start?

Today

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December 2025

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Month

SUN 30	MON Dec 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
		12pm UBC Cha 7pm Mt. Pleas	6:30pm Joyce		4pm Our Home	
7 2pm East Side 4pm ATUN Kitc	8 7pm Steering C	9 7pm Mt. Pleas	10 6pm R&D Pizz	11 6:30pm Fairvie	12 4pm Our Home	13 4pm Education
14 Newsletter sub	15	16 12pm UBC Cha 7pm Mt. Pleas	17 6:30pm Joyce	18	19	20
21 2pm East Side	22 7pm Steering C	23 7pm Mt. Pleas	24 6:30pm Joyce	25 6pm Newslette 2 more	26 4pm Our Home	27 4pm Education
28	29	30 12pm UBC Cha 7pm Mt. Pleas	31	Jan 1	2 4pm Our Home	3

Vancouver Tenants Union

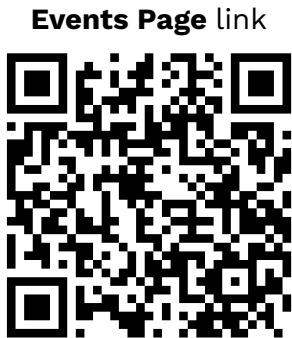
Events shown in time zone: (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time - Vancouver
Add to Google Calendar

Google Calendar

Stay updated with events coming up in the union through our **events calendar**, and show up to the meetings you're interested in!

While most of our work happens in chapters, our **working groups** support the chapter's work in different ways! Some of the working groups currently active in the union are:

- Communications + Design
 - Discussing Autonomy
- Education
 - Research & Data



Over 50% of Vancouver households are rentals, yet tenants continue to be disempowered and disconnected. We are fighting for the rights of tenants and the preservation of affordable housing. Everyone, regardless of economic status, lifestyle, ability, age, gender, race, sexuality, or citizenship deserves a safe, secure, and affordable home.

Produced by the **Vancouver Tenants Union** (2026)
with the generous support of, and in solidarity
with, the **Crown Heights Tenants Union**.



@vancouvertenantsunion



info@vancouvertenantsunion.ca

SCAN ME!



www.vancouvertenantsunion.ca