

Special Resolution for the Creation of a Language Access Fund

WHEREAS, the Vancouver Tenants Union's (VTU) Constitution states that one of the organization's core values is Solidarity in Motion, defined as being "in solidarity with tenants in other municipalities, provinces and communities experiencing housing crises, and support the founding of other tenants unions and resistance groups."

WHEREAS, the VTU may use its size and influence to support diverse communities of tenants in their autonomous struggles for the right to housing.

WHEREAS, to build a strong tenants movement, the VTU must devote resources to multilingual organizing and ensure that its events and actions are inclusive of tenants who speak languages other than English.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Vancouver Tenants Union will devote a portion of \$2000 of its budget as the Language Access Fund. The Language Access Fund is to be topped up to a consistent level of \$2000 at the start of every third month on an ongoing basis, to a maximum amount of \$8000 per year.

The Language Access Fund will have three components:

1. \$1000 to be reserved for interpretation for regular VTU functions, such as General Meetings and Annual General Meetings.
 - a. Interpretation can fall under activities such as payment for sign language interpretation or honorariums for multi-language translators
2. \$500 to be reserved for translation for organizing activities of the VTU.
 - a. Organizing activities may include the production of print and web materials in languages other than English, honorariums for translators, hosting VTU meetings in languages other than English.
3. \$500 to be reserved for a Solidarity Fund for Multilingual Tenant Organizing. These funds are to be made available on request by sending a written application via the Vancouver Tenants Union website or email. Approval of the application to be reviewed by the Vancouver Tenants Union Steering Committee within two weeks of receiving the application. Applications will be approved based on the following criteria:
 - a. That the application be submitted by a grassroots or community-based group, not on behalf of a political party, for-profit organization or a non-profit organization in which tenants do not make up the majority of its leadership.
 - b. That the application be used for the sole purpose of multilingual tenant organizing.
 - c. That the application include an approximate dollar amount needed and a description of the intended use of funds for the purpose of multilingual tenant organizing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, should the Steering Committee have serious reservations about approving applications for the Solidarity Fund for Multilingual Tenant Organizing for any reason besides an application not meeting the above criteria, the application review process will be extended, to be approved or denied by membership at the next General Meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Language Access Fund should be available to use for the stated purposes above without member approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Vancouver Tenants Union Language Access Fund be evaluated in 4 - 6 months to assess if it is producing the intended result AND/OR is sustainable when considering the financial security of the organization.

Moved by:

Sydney Ball
Ben Ger
Yi Chien Jade Ho
Nat Lowe