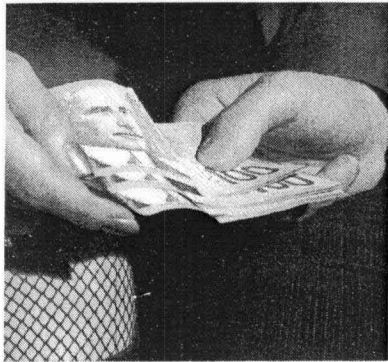




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News from Pivot Legal Society

Issue 3, Winter 2005/06

Vancouver's low-income housing crisis:

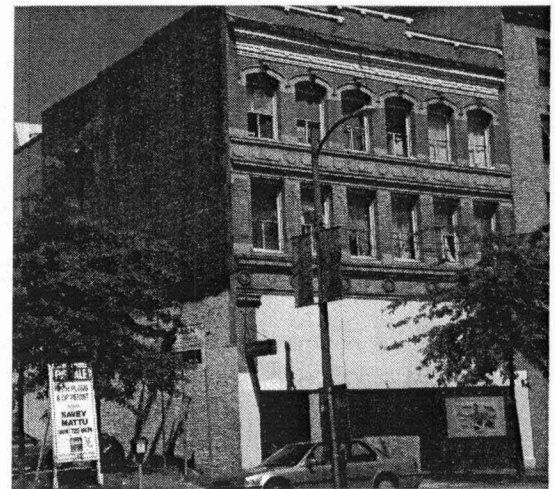
Hotel residents to sue City

Residents of the Downtown Eastside Pender Hotel are taking the City to court with Pivot Legal Society over human rights abuses and destruction of property.

Imagine waking up in your apartment on a regular day, heading outside, and immediately being detained by a police officer who tells you that if you leave, you'll be charged with a criminal offence.

Imagine that police officer taking you to a small holding area beside your building. All of your neighbours are being held too. Imagine the officer telling you that you are contaminated with something, but he can't tell you with what, and the emergency crews on site

Continued on page 8



The Pender Hotel. Residents report being badly treated by City of Vancouver officials.

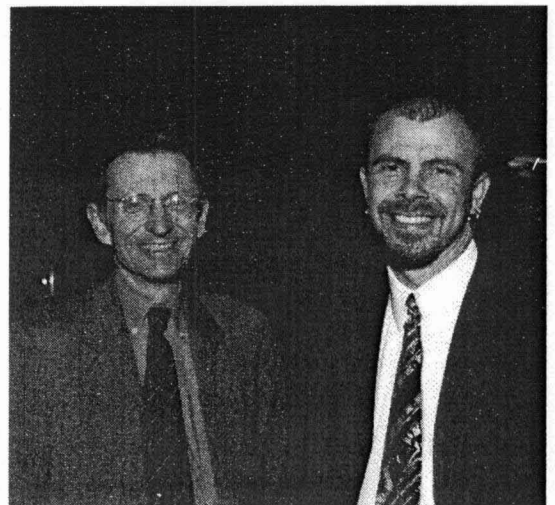
Pivot co-founder honoured

Pivot's executive director John Richardson has been inducted into an international fellowship by the Ashoka Foundation, recognizing his vision of strategically using the law to advance the rights of the most marginalized members of society.

In November, Richardson attended an awards ceremony at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC. Along with the honour of being named an Ashoka Fellow comes a three year stipend, which frees John's salary to go into other areas of Pivot operations.

The Ashoka Foundation is named for a third Century Indian emperor who dedicated his later years to social welfare, economic development, and religious tolerance. The Foundation has

Continued on page 9



Bill Drayton, founder of the Ashoka Foundation with John Richardson at the presentation of the Fellowship in Washington D.C.

Welcome

It was a breakthrough year. We've grown from two staff people to seven, expanded our offices, and launched a new housing campaign, in addition to ramping up our policing and sex work campaigns. Our policing campaign achieved some important victories in 2005, as you'll see in the newsletter. In 2006, I expect Pivot's sex work and housing campaigns to achieve real impacts as we begin to see the results of the last year of intensive research and preparation. 2006 will also see the official launch of Pivot Legal Cooperative, a new Pivot initiative aimed at earning money to fund public interest litigation through the sale of legal services. Stay tuned for more about the legal co-op! Thank you for your support, may you have a great and relaxing holiday and a Happy New Year. **John Richardson, Executive Director**

Mayoral candidates at the Downtown Eastside debate co-sponsored by Pivot in early November.



DTES groups host municipal all candidates' debate

Downtown Eastside organizations invited mayoral and council candidates to the Shaw Theatre on Hastings to take part in the Downtown Eastside debate on November 10. A full slate of candidates, including Jim Green, Sam Sullivan, James Green, Pedro Mora, David Cadman, Raymond Louie, Ann Livingston and Kim Capri, debated some of

Vancouver's most pressing issues, Charlie Smith, Editor of the *Georgia Straight*, moderated the event and the candidates answered questions drafted by the sponsoring organizations (Pivot Legal Society, the Portland Hotel Society, the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, VANDU, and the Gallery Gachet), on policing, sex work, housing, addiction, and the arts. The audience also had a chance to ask candidates questions. The event was well attended by members of the community, and had a strong media showing. Pivot wishes to thank all the sponsoring organizations, Charlie Smith, the Pivot volunteers, and Carnegie Centre for their help organizing the debate.

Annual auction success

Pivot Foundation's third annual Christmas Auction was held Monday, November 21, at the One Lounge, at 1 West Cordova Street. The Artie Devlin Swing Trio created a festive atmosphere as attendees bid on both live and silent auction items. The bidding was especially competitive on the travel packages. The auction raised over \$10,000 for the Pivot Foundation.

New Years "Know your rights" workshops popular

Lawyers from Pivot Legal Society are scheduled to offer four rights workshops in January for groups as diverse as Kwantlen University College criminal law students, Vancouver's Check Your Head youth group and the Crystal Clear crystal meth user support group. Rights workshops help individuals know their legal obligations when they interact with the police.

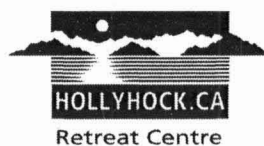
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New pro bono law award

A new law award sponsored by Pivot Legal Society and Pro Bono Law BC was announced by Thomas Berger O.C., Q.C. at the opening of the Hope in Shadows retrospective exhibition on December 8. The BC Pro Bono Award will be given annually, and will recognize the thousands of hours of free legal services donated by lawyers and law firms behind the most interesting and high-impact pieces of public interest litigation in B.C. The inaugural award will be made in the spring of 2006 at a dinner sponsored by Pro Bono Law BC and Pivot Legal Society.



Guest speakers Thomas Berger, O.C., Q.C., and SFU executive director Ann Cowan, with Pivot director Deb Abbey and executive director John Richardson at the retrospective opening.

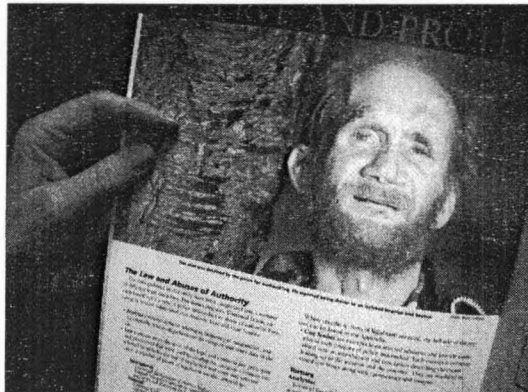
Abuse claims to go court

Pivot Legal Society filed an application at the B.C. Supreme Court on November 23, asking the Court to review decisions made by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Chief and the B.C. Police Complaints Commissioner.

VPD Chief Jamie Graham and Complaints Commissioner Dirk Ryneveld, had dismissed almost all of the 50 complaints made by Pivot in the 2002 report *To Serve and Protect*.

While the Pivot complaints led to VPD policy reforms in breach arrests, seizure of property, use of force, internal investigations, charter rights and notebook use – as well as a province-wide audit of the complaints process – only two of the 50 complaints were substantiated by the VPD, and even those complaints were only partially substantiated.

The independent RCMP investigation of the VPD had substantiated 14 complaints, despite widespread non-cooperation by VPD officers involved. Only 11 of 29 witness VPD officers allowed themselves to be interviewed by the RCMP, and at least 45 officers failed to cooperate – including the Police Chief. “Once the RCMP investigation was complete, the Chief overturned the results with an unauthorized and



The *To Serve and Protect* report was published by Pivot Legal Society in 2002.

secret ‘reinvestigation,’” says John Richardson, Pivot’s executive director. “Despite finding the Chief was biased and had acted outside the law, the Commissioner relied upon his findings to dismiss our client’s complaints.”

Pivot is asking the Court to overturn the Chief’s re-investigation, and also to overturn two of the Commissioner’s decisions: first, to send complaints back to the Chief to reconsider, and second, to rely on the Chief’s reinvestigation in his final determination of the complaints.

“The bottom line is that police cannot investigate themselves,” says Richardson. “If the Court finds

Continued on page 9

Beyond Decriminalization report due

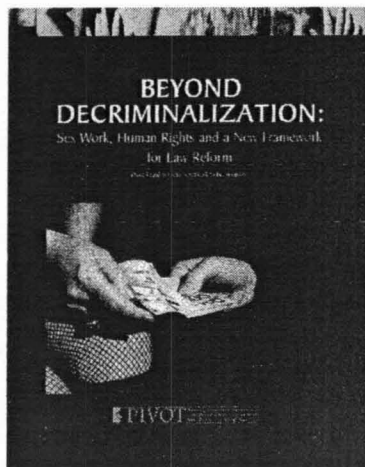
*Danica Piche previews the new sex work law reform report, **Beyond Decriminalization: Sex Work, Human Rights and a New Framework for Law Reform** which is due to be released in the spring.*

What is the right legal response to the complex issue of prostitution in Canada? This question is swiftly becoming a controversial national debate, prompted by the creation of a federal parliamentary subcommittee charged with the examination of federal legislation that applies to prostitution.

Many areas of legislation are presently either inapplicable or irrelevant to the sex industry because the industry is largely criminalized. If the criminal laws governing consensual adult sex work are repealed, a whole range of legislation will become both applicable and relevant to the sex industry. For this reason, existing legislation in the following areas must be assessed:

- Municipal law;
- Employment and labour law;
- Social welfare law;
- Income tax law;
- Human rights law;
- Criminal law;
- Immigration law;

***Beyond Decriminalization** will be published in February.*



- Family law; and
- Company law.

This report is based on the lived experiences of sex workers, and sets out to anticipate the relevance and impact of these areas of legislation if the laws surrounding adult prostitution are repealed. It is intended to serve as a starting point for law and policy makers who may be questioning whether other legislative changes are necessary in addition to criminal law reform.

Pivot's sex work law reform projects

For several years, Pivot has advocated the repeal of Criminal Code provisions relating to adult prostitution. This position arose from research carried out in the first phase of Pivot's Sex Work Law Reform Project. The resulting report, *Voices for Dignity: A Call to End the Harms Caused by Canada's Sex Trade Laws* argued that the criminal laws surrounding adult prostitution violate the constitutional rights of sex workers and should be repealed.

Beyond Decriminalization presents the research and analysis conducted in the second phase of Pivot's Sex Work Law Reform Project and is based on the following premise: before criminal law reform is carried out, it is important to consider how laws of general application would impact the sex industry in the event of the repeal of Criminal Code provisions relating to adult prostitution.

Scope of the report

Beyond Decriminalization contains front-line accounts from individuals who have experience working in the sex industry under the current criminal laws. Project participants include street level sex workers, independent out-call sex workers, independent in-call sex workers, employees in escort agencies and employees in massage parlours. The expertise of a diverse group of sex workers is presented in order to ensure that the views of those most directly affected by any law reform initiative are taken

into account by law and policy makers. The following guiding principles for law reform are proposed:

- The opinions and experiences of sex workers must be given the utmost consideration in any law reform initiative affecting the rights and working conditions of sex workers;
- Sex workers must be given the opportunity to participate in law reform in a meaningful way;
- Law and policy makers must ensure that current and future laws conform to the human, labour and employment rights guaranteed under Canadian law as well as international human rights instruments; and
- Policy analysis and law reform undertaken by the Canadian government must be gender-based, racially sensitive, and conscious of socio-economic differences.

Approach to law reform

This project has proceeded on the basic principle that all persons are worthy of dignity and respect, and that their perspectives and experiences must form the cornerstone of any law reform that will affect them disproportionately. The dignity, empowerment and political participation of sex workers is central to Pivot's work, and their opinions are the foundation of the findings presented in this report.

The sex workers who participated in this project asserted the view that difficult choices made under constrained conditions are still choices and, indeed, many project participants challenged the view that they are not capable of making "real" choices. Sex workers are in the best position to describe what it is like to work and live under the current social and legal framework. Law and policy makers must acknowledge this expertise.

Another fundamental principle, expressed by project participants, forms the basis of this analysis: consensual adult sex work is a legitimate profession. Exploitation certainly exists within the sex industry, as it does within many professions, but project participants were consistent in their opinion that sex work should be



Sex workers are in the best position to describe what it is like to work and live under the current social and legal framework. Lawmakers and the public must acknowledge this expertise.

recognized as a legitimate form of work. On this basis, sex workers should be entitled to the same labour and human rights protections as those working in any other occupation. Sex workers stated that they want and deserve the same respect afforded to other workers in Canadian society. •

The first sex work law reform report (**Voices for Dignity**) is available online at www.pivotlegal.org. **Beyond Decriminalization** will also be available online in the spring. To obtain a copy of either report, or for more information, contact Danica Piche danica@pivotlegal.org.

Recent developments

On December 13 Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network released **Sex, work, rights: reforming Canadian criminal laws on prostitution (2005)**. In this report the Network calls for the decriminalization of laws surrounding prostitution. The Network makes this recommendation based on its finding that the criminal law contributes to extreme health and safety risks for sex workers and violates the legal rights guaranteed to sex workers under both international and Canadian human rights law. The Network also calls on all levels of government in Canada to commit to the meaningful participation of sex workers in social and legal reforms beyond the criminal law. Pivot's Sex Work Subcommittee fully supports the findings and recommendations of Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. The Network's report can be viewed at: <http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/sex-work/SWreport.pdf>

Downtown Eastside Uptown

Lori Dunn reports on the impressive Hope In Shadows Retrospective Exhibition and how it tops off a successful calendar project.

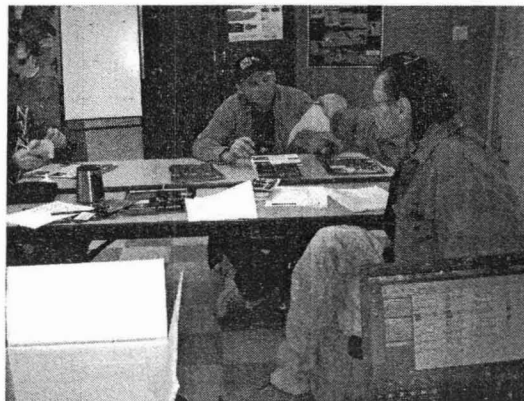
The Hope In Shadows retrospective exhibition of the best exhibition photographs from the past three years opened at the prestigious Pendulum Gallery on West Georgia Street with a gala evening on December 8.

Speakers included Pivot Foundation's Deb Abbey, Ann Cowan, SFU executive director, and the Honorable Mr. Thomas Berger O.C., Q.C. Berger also announced the launch of a new B.C. Pro Bono Award which will recognize the highest impact *pro bono* efforts of lawyers and law firms (see report on page 3).

The Hope In Shadows calendar was launched at the Downtown Eastside Photography Contest award ceremony at the Carnegie Centre on September 26. Guest presenters included *Di-Vinci City Hall* actors Venus Terzo and Stephen Miller, who helped hand out \$3,000 in prize money to the top photographers.

Training for calendar street sellers began in the Carnegie Centre after the ceremony. The training took on a new local dimension this year, as one of the top sellers from 2004, Thomas Clough, was recruited as a trainer. Between late September and the middle of December, Clough and Kathryn Colby did the street sales training. Clough brought in many local people to be trained, resulting in a 20 percent increase in sellers from last year – a total of 120 people.

Thomas Clough (right) teaches the calendar sales class at LifeSkills. More than 120 people were trained between late September and the middle of December.

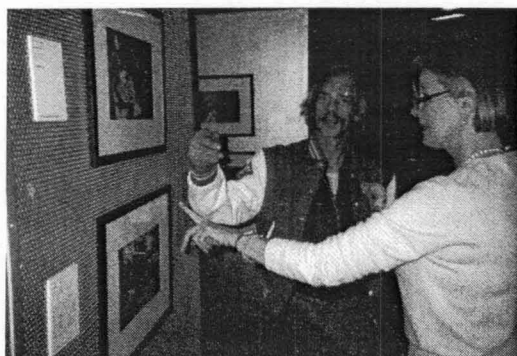


First place "Woman & Son" by Jo Mangatal and "Playground" by Russ Zillman. The top prize of \$500 was shared between a husband and wife this year. Jo and Russ swapped their cameras by mistake, and the top shots were on the same camera.

Like previous years, new sellers received training on how to sell, a free calendar and an official photo ID City License – printed from a laptop to a portable printer and laminated before each training session ended. After the first day, training was held twice a week at LifeSkills, who generously provided the facilities to Pivot.

In November, the winning photos from this year's contest were shown in a three week exhibition at the Portland Hotel Society's Interurban Gallery. More calendar street sales training took place there during opening hours, giving the exhibition an interactive feel.

Pivot's publications manager Paul Ryan, who coordinated the calendar project, said that the biggest change to this year's calendar was the



Photographer Hendrik Beune talks with Philippa Harris about one of his photographs at the Pendulum exhibition opening.

new format: “We added more information about the photographers and the subjects. The calendar now has room to write notes on the days and we even marked significant local days such as the anniversary of the opening of the Carnegie Centre and the annual February 14th Missing Women’s March in the Downtown Eastside.” This year posters and postcards printed with the calendar have been useful for advertising in bookstores and cafes around town, Ryan added.

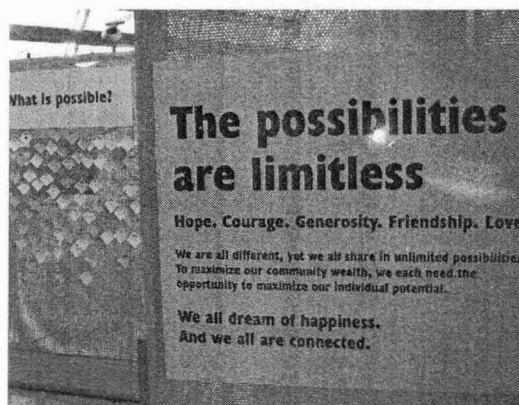
Like previous years, calendars were also sold by retailers, many of whom gave 100 percent of money raised back to the calendar project. This year the Pivot booth team helped sales too: calendars were sold by the booth team on Granville Island, the UBC Bookstore, at a Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) gift fair in early December and on Robson Street on Human Rights Day, December 10.

Ryan said his personal highlight was the award ceremony, when he saw the pride on the faces of the winning photographers, “I’m glad they were captured in the video at the retrospective exhibition,” he added.

As well as viewing the 11-minute video, shot by Lorinda Earl and edited by Emily Carr Institute student Rhonda Hall, visitors to the Pendulum Gallery Exhibition could see one of the disposable cameras used in the contest, read some of the newspaper clippings from the three years of the contest, and contribute to an interactive ideas board. ●



The huge aluminum pendulum silently swings above the Hope In Shadows Retrospective Exhibition in the HSBC Building, 885 West Georgia Street. The exhibition closed on January 7, but a pdf of the catalogue is available on the Pivot website.



Visitors to the exhibition contributed to an interactive ideas board.

Why not buy your calendar or a framed, limited-edition, signed print of one of these moving photos? (\$195 each, or three for \$395, 50% of the after-developing and framing proceeds, discounted by Total Graphics and Artrageous, goes directly to the photographer). Visit www.pivotlegal.org for more details.

Thank you Kelvin Beaudette from the Romonov Gallery and Chris Keatley from the Pendulum Gallery for the extra efforts you have made in helping with this exhibition.

Pender Hotel *from front page*

won't provide you with any treatment. You are detained without access to water or a washroom for seven hours, and when you are given food at hour six, the media is there filming you eating.

Imagine that while you are kept in the holding area, the police and the fire department smash in the security door at the front of your building and break down the door to your room, even though you offer your key. When you are released and the officials involved apologize, telling you that this whole thing was an unfortunate incident, you find that your apartment door is off of its hinges and the front door of your apartment building has been made useless.

This incident, as hard as it is to believe, actually happened to tenants of the Pender Hotel in the Downtown Eastside on September 14 after one City of Vancouver fire official said he felt faint and smelled fumes during a routine fire inspection. Seven residents of the Pender Hotel with the help of Pivot are now taking the City to court to hold them accountable. "The Pender wasn't in great shape to start with," says Pivot lawyer David Eby, who is acting for the tenants, "but when the City was finished with it, the place was uninhabitable by anyone's standards. Unfortunately, my clients can't afford to go anywhere else."

Following this incident, the City of Vancouver did not provide any security to prevent theft from the damage they caused, even though the Pender is located in the poorest and most desperate neighbourhood in Canada. The officials involved refused to meet with Pivot after the event to discuss what they did wrong and how to prevent it from happening again. They also wouldn't repair the doors they broke or even issue an order to require the Pender's owner – a court appointed trustee – to fix the doors.

Eby went into the holding area while the tenants were detained, meeting with the people who would soon be his clients. "It was an unbelievable event, the parking lot was surrounded by police. It's hard to imagine something like this happening in Yaletown or the West End," said Eby. "The residents of the Downtown Eastside

don't deserve this type of treatment, and we think the court will agree."

The Pender Hotel pleadings will be filed in the Provincial Court of B.C. (Small Claims Division) claiming \$140,600 in total damages for the seven tenants. The maximum claim per tenant under the new Small Claims Court rules is \$25,000. A court date has not yet been set. •

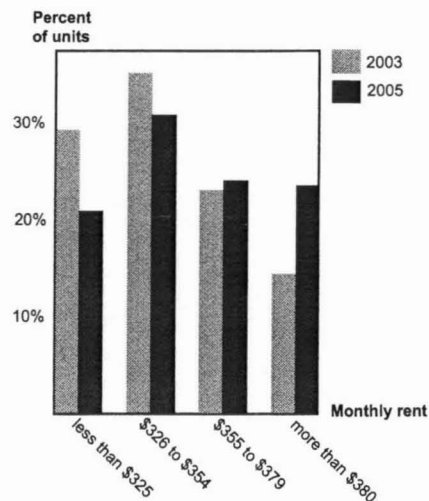
Low income housing disappearing in Vancouver

Pivot Legal Society released its analysis of the City of Vancouver Housing Centre's 2005 Low Income Housing Survey on October 27.

Pivot's analysis, informed by a meeting with the Housing Centre and additional information released by that group to Pivot, showed that rather than a modest increase of 99 housing units for low income singles in Vancouver over the past two years, that there had actually been a 514 room loss over the period, which is the equivalent of one room lost every other day.

Pivot's survey found that the rooms were lost to a variety of factors including conversion to

Monthly Single Room Occupancy (SRO) rent distributions, Vancouver downtown core 2003 and 2005



student housing, rents skyrocketing over \$380 a month (welfare recipients only get \$325 per month for shelter and \$185 per month to live on), and buildings closing to be converted to condos or tourist use. Over the same period, the number of people sleeping in the streets and shelters of Vancouver counted by the GVRD homelessness survey increased by 663.

In addition to the survey, over 150 affidavits from people in housing crisis and who are homeless have been collected by Pivot since August. These affidavits will form the basis for Pivot's housing report due out in 2006, as part of an ongoing project funded by the Vancouver Foundation. ●

See the full report at www.pivotlegal.org.

Policing campaign from page 3

in our favour, it will be a call for provincial legislators to recognize many of the problems that are built into our current police oversight system." As its remedy, Pivot is asking the Court to order the Commissioner to reconsider the Pivot complaints based on the external RCMP investigation alone. ●

Ashoka from front page

elected over 1,500 Fellows from 53 countries since 1982. An Ashoka Fellow is a social entrepreneur, someone who has discovered innovative solutions and the potential for change in their own corner of the world. Once elected, Fellows benefit from being part of the Ashoka fellowship for life.

The election process is rigorous. It is not enough that a nominee has a big, new idea, they must also possess the creativity and entrepreneurial qualities necessary to act on the idea in a way that causes social change, conducted with a high ethical standard.

Over the years, Richardson, through Pivot, has proven his mettle. Pivot has launched campaigns on housing, policing, the sex trade and addiction work to ensure human rights and

The new Police changes because of Pivot

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) has changed its breach arrest policy, property seizure policy, notebook policy and other policies as a result of Pivot's compound police complaint, filed almost two years ago.

Some of the most significant changes are to the VPD 'breach' policy, which governs the practice of arresting and removing people to other locations without charges. The new policy corrects specifically several errors in existing practices, setting out, for example, that "Vehement emotional verbal expression of disagreement with police does not constitute a breach of the peace." It also forbids transporting people to isolated locations or other municipalities, and requires officers to comply with their 'duty of care' by considering vulnerabilities, such as suitability of clothing and mental state, before 'breaching' people.

Two other changes to VPD policies touch on seizure of property and keeping of police notebooks. The RCMP, in their investigation of the Pivot complaints, found that VPD officers were not documenting property seized correctly and also found the quality of notebook records kept by VPD officers were substandard. The new policies set strict guidelines governing police documentation of property seized and interactions with the public.

freedoms in Canada are protected. In 2004, Pivot was recognized by Human Rights Watch with the international "Award of Excellence in Human Rights and HIV/AIDS."

Pivot aims for a 'trickle-up effect' of human right protection and social integration that will benefit everyone. "By advocating on behalf of society's least fortunate individuals, we create systemic change," says Richardson. "People on the edges of society are like canaries in the mine. They go down first. They are the litmus test of the balance and health of a community. Most people understand the need for compassion, but not everyone sees how their welfare is linked to that of the most disenfranchised. The idea behind Pivot is that when you raise the floor, everyone in the room goes up." ●

Pivot Foundation's Board of Directors

Ed Levy (Chair) is adjunct professor at the W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics at UBC, bringing knowledge gained in senior positions at the biotechnology company QLT. He serves as a member of the health sector advisory committee to the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Ed served on the Board of BIOTE Canada 1999-2002.

Frances Wasserlein (Secretary) is a communications specialist living in Half Moon Bay on the Sunshine Coast. Recently she was the producer of the B.C. Bioneers Conference in October 2005. From 1998 until 2004, she was the executive producer of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival.

Deb Abbey, founder and former CEO and President of Real Assets, is the author of two best-selling, seminal books on social investment in Canada, *The 50 Best Ethical Stocks for Canadians* (co-authored with leading social researcher Michael Jantzi) and *Global Profit and Global Justice – Using Your Money to Change the World*.

Dana Bass Solomon is celebrating her fifth year as CEO of Hollyhock on Cortes Island, B.C. She brings over 20 years of senior management skills in the hospitality and social business arena, to her work at Hollyhock. Hollyhock is an international

centre for cultivation of human consciousness, well-being, and social impact.

John Nicola (Past Chair) is the CEO and Chairman of Nicola Financial. John has been working in the financial services industry since 1974. He provides strategic leadership to the Nicola Financial Group, and exercises this passion by providing innovative solutions to a client's complex problems.

Dr. Peter Mortifee (Past Chair) is a medical doctor and a clinical assistant professor in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at UBC. Peter is currently the director of a number of charitable organizations and foundations where the focus of his contributions relates to corporate structure, investment management and financial sustainability.

Katrina Pacey is a practicing lawyer who has been a volunteer with Pivot since 2001. President of Pivot Legal Society's board of directors, she has volunteered her time on a wide range of Pivot projects, but most recently she



has focused her energy on the sex work project, the policing project and the Pivot Legal Co-op. Katrina was a co-author on two major Pivot reports, *To Serve and Protect* and *Voices for Dignity*.

Bruce Poon Tip is the founder and CEO of G.A.P. Adventures. Founded in 1990, G.A.P. Adventures has grown to become Canada's largest adventure travel company. Bruce is the 2002 Recipient of the Canadian Entrepreneur of the Year Award. His company was recently recognized by *Profit* magazine as one of Canada's fastest growing companies.

John Richardson is a co-founder of Pivot Legal Society and its current executive director. A graduate of Pearson College and the University of Victoria Law School, John has a long history of social, environmental, and political activism. In 2005, John was awarded an Ashoka Fellowship for social entrepreneurship.

Pivot Foundation's Mission

The Pivot Foundation raises funds to sponsor charitable projects aimed at assisting homeless and disenfranchised persons. The Pivot Foundation gives grants to organizations that undertake legal referral and assistance services, in particular in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Foundation director Deb Abbey and John Richardson at Pivot Foundation's October fundraising event.

New Pivot Legal Society director

Danica Piche joined Pivot as the director of the sex work law reform project in September.

Before joining Pivot, she worked with the United Nations, specializing in the areas of refugee law and democracy. She has worked with refugees and asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation, served as an observer for the

2004 election in Ukraine and as a training officer for the 1999 popular referendum in East Timor. Nationally, she worked with the National Organizing team of a political party for Canada's 2004 federal election.

Danica has contributed to law reform through her work with legal and advocacy groups, including

Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. She assisted in the planning and delivery of an international conference: "A Symposium of Future Directions for Human Rights" at Rutgers University.

Danica holds degrees in law and international relations and a diploma in peace and conflict studies.

Pivot's new campaigner

Tracie Park is the newest addition to Pivot's development team, and she intends to double grassroots support for Pivot Legal Society.

Pivot's monthly donors contribute over \$1,500 per month. The Pivot Partners program has grown by 50 percent this year. As Park notes: "The goal is to achieve 100 Partners by the end of the year, which would double the amount of support since spring."

Those who sign up as Pivot Partners and pledge to make a small monthly gift will receive a Pivot t-shirt and a chance to win a valuable painting by local artist Diana Kemble. Park says Pivot Partners are among the most valuable contributors to the success of Pivot. "Because Pivot Partners give monthly, we can count on



Tracie Park (left) in action.

those funds throughout the year. Partners help cover our basic operating costs – giving us more freedom to shift gears quickly when new priorities arise."

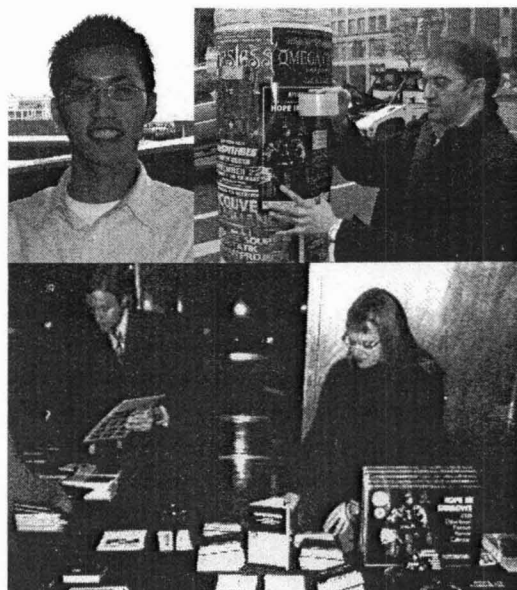
To become a monthly donor contact Tracie at 604 696 1322 or tracie@pivotlegal.org.

Thanks volunteers!

Throughout the Fall we have had a number of students and recent graduates doing internships at Pivot. We'd like to take this chance to thank them:

Melissa Klages is a graduate of the law program at Dalhousie University. She is working as an intern at Pivot before starting her articles in Vancouver; Danny Yoo is from Seoul, Korea and majored in computer science at HongIk University – at Pivot he is responsible for the computer network system; and Ismael Garcia, a law graduate from Barcelona, Spain, worked with Pivot for several months up to the beginning of December. Surya Chaube and Marilyn Mattenley worked with the development team. Lorinda Earl and Lori Dunn worked with Patti Pearcey on the auction and coordinated the opening of the retrospective exhibition. Graphic designers included Michael Rozworski, Joyce Chang (from Korea), John Velohoen and Thomas Girard. Thanks to Thomas Girard, Daniel Winks, Skaker Jamal and Angelene Gaal who braved the cold Vancouver rain on Remem-

brance Day to put up Hope In Shadows posters. Thanks to Kathryn Colby and Thomas Clough who trained street sellers at LifeSkills. Finally, thanks to the volunteers who helped out at all the Booth Team events, the award ceremony, the auction and the two exhibition openings, especially to Angelene Gaal and Betty Houle.



*Left: Danny Yoo
Right: Ismael Garcia putting up a Hope In Shadows poster.*

The calendar table at the retrospective opening: Kelvin Beaudette and Betty Houle.



You can make a difference...

I would like to become a **Pivot Partner** and give every month:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$75 \$_____ (other)

Please debit my account on the 1st or 15th of each month

Option 1: I enclose a void cheque

Option 2: Please charge my credit card:

VISA Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiration date _____

Name on card _____

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Occasionally Pivot shares its list of supporters with other like-minded organizations. Please tick if you would like to be excluded from this list.

Pivot Legal Society

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email: info@pivotlegal.org

website: pivotlegal.org

PIVOT Advancing the interests and improving the lives of marginalized persons through law reform, legal education, and strategic legal action.

"The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread."

Anatole France

Vancouver's Downtown Eastside — the poorest neighbourhood in Canada — is a window into extreme problems of homelessness and housing, addiction, prostitution and police oversight.

Pivot's high-impact social justice advocacy uses the law to advance the interests and protect the rights of marginalized people. Campaigns focus on law reform, legal education and strategic legal action. Pivot aims for systemic change to improve the quality of life of those most in need, and as a consequence, the quality of life of everyone in society."

"Pivot is doing the work for all of us, tackling the toughest issues and needs of our time... they deserve all of the support that we can give them."

Joel Solomon, Endswell Foundation

It costs just \$400 to keep Pivot open for one day. We ask you to join us, at whatever level you can, to support legal initiatives on behalf of marginalized persons. You will have a strong impact on not only Vancouver's Downtown Eastside community, but indirectly, on everyone in society.

...and you have made a difference

Pivot Legal Society has had an incredible year and we want to thank everyone who contributed to it. Over the last 12 months, both the staff and budget have grown allowing the organization to work on issues important to all Canadians. By supporting Pivot you are providing immediate help to members of our community most in need. Beyond that you are contributing to what all Canadians aspire to — justice and equality.