

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



**4** Campaign news: Sex work report, Small claims booklet, Legal co-op, and booth team increases visibility

**6** RCMP report: To serve and protect (who?)

**8** Pivot staff and directors – who's who?



**10** Photography contest: meet 3 photographers

**11** Be a Pivot partner

Edited by Paul Ryan. Sub-edited by Jen Robertson.

Published by Pivot Legal Society  
PO Box 4438, Stn Terminal  
Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z8  
tel: 604-696-1322  
fax: 604-685-7813  
info@pivotlegal.org  
www.pivotlegal.org

# the pivot post

www.pivotlegal.org

News from Pivot Legal Society

Issue 2, Summer 2005

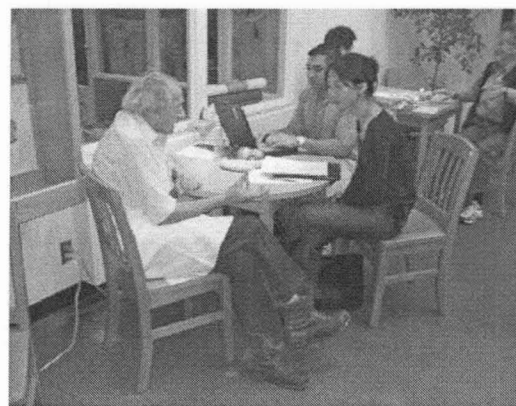
## Pivot's housing affidavit campaign kicks off

Pivot's housing campaign kicked off in July, with affidavit sessions taking place throughout Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES).

In this campaign, individuals with housing and homelessness issues are asked to give affidavits. These affidavits are written declarations, which are sworn under oath before a lawyer from Pivot.

The affidavit sessions to date included VANDU headquarters (the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users), the Carnegie Centre and the First United Church. At the sessions, Pivot lawyers and volunteers are providing direction to ad-

Continued on page 3



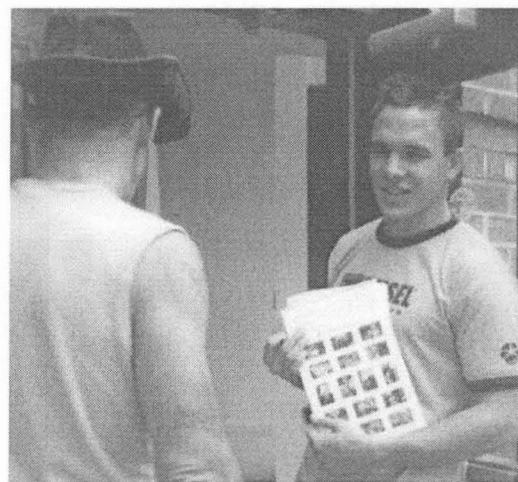
Pivot volunteers *Vernon Bajaj* and *Roanna Tay* taking an affidavit from a local resident at one of the Sunday Carnegie Centre affidavit sessions.

## Photo contest success

Next year's Pivot Downtown Eastside (DTES) *Hope in Shadows* calendar is in production after the successful photography competition in early July.

The Portland Hotel's Interurban Gallery generously provided the venue for the distribution of 150 disposable black and white cameras which were distributed to local DTES residents. Like the previous two competitions, contestants had three days to take photos based on a theme of "Community and Relationships," designed to showcase positive images of people in their active, diverse neighbourhood. Pivot Legal Society executive director John Richardson explained the choice of theme: "Few people realize it, but the Downtown Eastside is one of the most vibrant communities in the City. We

Continued on page 10



*Jared Nicola* welcoming a photography contestant back to the Interurban Gallery on July 7, after the three-day competition.

## Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the *Pivot Post*! As you'll see, it's been an interesting summer so far at *Pivot*. We've had lots of great new people join the *Pivot* team, and as a result our policing, sex work, and housing campaigns are all shifting into a high gear. It's going to be an exciting fall, and we're looking forward in particular to the launch of the 2006 calendar – this summer's Downtown Eastside photo contest saw so many great entries, and the upcoming calendar has a whole new look. Keep an eye out for it, and have a great summer!

John Richardson, Executive Director, Pivot Legal Society

### Personal insight and personal victory

I was very interested in the Missing Women story (*Pivot Post*, Issue 1). I happened to have missed the February 14th [Women's Memorial] march this year but did participate last year and the year before. I used to live and 'work' on the east side and know how mean the streets can be. I ended up using every available resource possible – shelters, food, laundry, legal, medicinal, and so on. I ended up getting out, luckily, and working in the healthcare system. I worked for both Shaughnessy and UBC hospitals in the housekeeping departments. I've since gone back to school. I'm now just finishing up my medical office assistant program, and starting my work practicum.

Marnee Kintworth, via e-mail

### A difficult situation

As an Indigenous person who has lived in the Vancouver area throughout most of my life, I would like to suggest that this paper display more stories and pictures of indigenous people of B.C. who are forced into the urban areas, as a result of this illegal treaty process that is happening now in this only unseeded province.

Your plan to get more lawyers involved is a great plan. As indigenous people it is very hard for us to access a lawyer for anything, as money is the greatest problem we have. In past years we as indigenous people spent more time in the justice system and the prison system, because

we could not get a lawyer to represent us. Many of our past cases were done on our own, [for example] with my husband and I representing each other. At times it worked, but we were always told that this was highly irregular or illegal. Thanks Pivot Legal Society. We need more societies such as yours.

Helen Mitchell, via e-mail

### Educational opportunities

If you decide to include something in the future about the "social structures" in the DTES, then something on educational opportunities might be particularly helpful. There are a bunch of organizations working together in the 'hood, and actually a number of them are meeting to talk about liaising.

There are also a number of lectures that might warrant inclusion in the *Post*. We hold a free public lecture series at the Carnegie every third Friday night and sometimes we've had lawyers in to discuss matters workshop style. At any rate, the *Post* looks great. Congratulations.

Peter Babiak, Academic Director, Humanities  
101 Community Program, UBC

## Pivot events

Make a note of these events in your diary!

Sept 26 2005 Downtown Eastside Photography Competition Award Ceremony and 2006 Hopes in Shadows Calendar launch. Venue: The Carnegie Centre.

Nov 8 – 27 2005 Downtown Eastside Photography Competition Exhibition. Venue: The Interurban Gallery, 1 East Hastings St.

Nov or Dec This year's auction will be in late November or early December. For more details contact Patti Pearcey [patti@pivotlegal.org](mailto:patti@pivotlegal.org)

December 8 – January 7 Portraits from the Downtown Eastside Exhibition in The Pendulum Gallery, The Atrium, HSBC Building, 885 West Georgia St. A selection of images from *Pivot's* past three DTES photography competitions.

**Housing campaign** from front page

vocacy resources and information about tenant rights. Affiants are provided with copies of their affidavits to assist their advocates in arbitration with landlords. Many affiants have indicated that with their new knowledge of tenancy law, and their affidavits, they were planning on confronting their landlords directly.

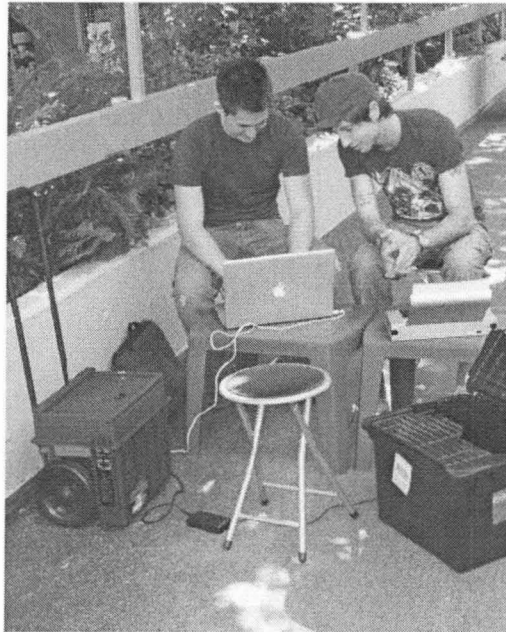
To do better outreach to people living outside, the housing team has constructed a “mobile affidavit unit” that provides power to laptops and a portable printer through a car battery, and includes tables and stools so the team can set up anywhere. Pivot has heard compelling stories from people living outside in the city’s parks, people who have fallen through our social safety net. One affiant said: “I am sleeping outside at Crab Park. I have been staying at Crab Park for about a week... When it rains I sleep near the washrooms under the overhang. It gets crowded under the overhang when it’s raining.”

Pivot has also taken affidavits about DTES hotels that aren’t fit for anybody to live in. Stories include descriptions such as: “Sometimes none of the toilets in the building work. There is no toilet paper... There is garbage, blood and excrement in the bathrooms, they are filthy.”

Affiants have also told Pivot volunteers and lawyers stories about illegal evictions, in which everything the tenant owns was thrown out or stolen by the landlord. Pivot volunteers have also been shocked to find out that many people in the DTES are paying off multiple damage deposits through their welfare because landlords have kept the deposits illegally. “I have been back to the [hotel] about eight times to try to get my damage deposit... I’m paying off my damage deposit from the [hotel] out of my welfare, \$20 per month, each cheque.”

The Housing Campaign is continuing to move towards setting up workshops with local organizations to educate members on housing rights and the arbitration system. Stay tuned, the Pivot Housing Campaign is just getting started! •

For more information please contact David Eby at [david@pivotlegal.org](mailto:david@pivotlegal.org).



*Pivot housing campaign volunteers Jody Morita and Chris Misura demonstrate Pivot’s new mobile affidavit unit. Its portability allows Pivot to do better outreach to people living outside. The unit provides power to laptops and a portable printer through a car battery.*

**Housing facts:**

- In 1998 there were more than 800 homeless people in Vancouver, with only 400 temporary overnight shelters. Since then, homelessness has risen by nearly 300%.
- The Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. estimated that 2002 social assistance levels only covered 45% of the minimum living costs for a single person. Government cuts have since reduced social assistance even more.
- Discrimination against the most marginalized members of society. Landlords often refuse to rent to sex trade workers and others who are unfairly viewed as “suspect tenants”.
- Landlords who flout tenancy laws. Many DTES hotels impose illegal “guest fees” on their tenants, forcing poverty-stricken visitors to pay \$10-\$20 for entry. Arbitrary evictions and the improper withholding of damage deposits are also common practices.
- The Residential Tenancy Act allows annual rent increases of 2% plus inflation without arbitration. This is making housing unaffordable for many of the poor.
- Vancouver’s Olympic economic boom is fuelling gentrification of low-income neighbourhoods, and as a result, people are being pushed out of their homes, with no place to go.

*“I had to set up in one of the camping spots near the Cambie Bridge, across from the sand volleyball courts... around the middle of June, I came back to the camp, and everything was gone... Now I live underneath the Cambie Bridge. I have nothing left.”*

**Quote from affidavit collected in the Pivot housing campaign**

## Sex work report and activist group

**B**uilding upon last year's report *Voices For Dignity: A Call to End the Harms Caused by Canada's Sex Trade Laws*, Pivot Legal Society is undertaking new projects surrounding protection of the human and labour rights of Canadian sex workers.

The sex work law reform project is focused on two initiatives. The first is a project aimed at addressing two important questions. First, what form of regulation, if any, should replace the criminal laws relating to sex work in Canada? Second, if decriminalization occurs, how will the rights and interests of sex workers be affected by other existing legislation?

To answer these questions, Pivot is examining the existing municipal, provincial and federal legislation that is relevant to decriminalized sex work by working with sex workers from various areas of the industry.

The major areas of law that will be reviewed are labour law, municipal law, social welfare law, corporate law, tax law, immigration law, family law, criminal law and health law. Legal models relating to sex work from other countries such as the United States (Nevada), New Zealand, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, and Australia are also being evaluated by Pivot for possible adaptation to the Canadian legal framework.

The objective of this project is to examine the effect of Canada's existing laws on sex work, and to evaluate whether these laws facilitate working and living conditions consistent with the rights, needs and interests of sex workers. Pivot's sex work law reform team is in the process of writing its final report, which will present an analysis of the laws from the perspective of sex workers and a set of comprehensive recommendations for law reform.

The final report will be submitted later this year to the Federal Government's Parliamentary Subcommittee on the Solicitation Laws, which is currently reviewing Canada's criminal laws surrounding sex work. The report will also be released to the public at the same time.

The second initiative, Sex Worker Activist Group, is a peer-run activist group for street level sex workers in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Started in September 2004, the group is working on several initiatives to increase awareness and increase protection for sex workers. The group will operate as an independent sister organization to Pivot once it has obtained its own non-profit status in the Fall of 2005. •

By Joel Lemoyre and Cristen Gleeson.

For more information contact [danica@pivotlegal.org](mailto:danica@pivotlegal.org), [cristen@pivotlegal.org](mailto:cristen@pivotlegal.org) or [katrina@pivotlegal.org](mailto:katrina@pivotlegal.org)

## Small claims court booklet in the works

**P**ivot will soon have a new tool on its belt to help make the police more accountable to the public. Work is nearing completion on a manual describing, in plain language, how to present a claim for damages in Small Claims Court. The manual is tailored specifically for those who have been mistreated by the police.

Among other things, the manual describes time limits for making claims, what might justify a claim against the police, and what to expect at various stages in a claim. The reader is walked

through filling out forms, presenting evidence and questioning witnesses. Key terms are defined and court protocol is introduced. At the end of the manual are some useful references, including important addresses and examples of previous claims for things such as wrongful arrest, unlawful search and unlawful seizure. There are also suggestions on where to look for more help with a claim. • By Gerald Crimp.

For more information, contact David Eby at Pivot at [david@pivotlegal.org](mailto:david@pivotlegal.org)

## Pivot booth team increases visibility

The new Pivot booth team has had a busy spring season. The team, which sets up tables around town educating the public about the important work Pivot is doing, and was formed in early Spring, has been present at a number of central locations.

The team had a tremendously successful week-long table at Granville Island Market. The Market generously provides space for one non-profit organization to do outreach every week. During our week in May, we discussed Pivot's work with hundreds of people, including many tourists. The response was remarkable and we received lots of encouragement and support.

High on the success of Granville Island, we set up tables at the Commercial Drive Street Festival, and the Vancouver Public Library's Community Days. Both of these events hosted many other groups and allowed us to exchange



*Pivot volunteer Roanna Tay adjusts the pamphlets on the table at Granville Island Market.*

ideas with the public and others working in the non-profit sector. Most recently, we set up at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival in July, where we increased Pivot's visibility in the Lower Mainland while listening to great music. We have plans for the Under the Volcano festival in August and some university "Welcome Weeks" in the Fall. • By Peter Wrinch.

## Legal co-op gearing up

If funding arrangements remain on track, Pivot Legal Society will launch Pivot Legal Cooperative at the beginning of 2006.

Vancity Credit Union has provided funding support to Pivot to help in the development of a business plan for the legal cooperative, said Pivot's executive director John Richardson.

The plan, which has been in the works for ten months now, is scheduled to be ready in early October. At that point, Pivot will begin raising money from foundations, donors, and investors to commence operations. The roll-out of the legal cooperative will be gradual, with the first lawyers beginning work in early 2006.

A cooperative was the preferred vehicle for Pivot's entry into the market for legal services, because its basic organizational model was focused on creating an empowered and healthy workplace with a community-oriented perspec-

tive that supports social engagement and public service. The cooperative model offers a natural harmony with Pivot Legal Society's objectives. Cooperatives also offer distinct business advantages, given their good reputations and the rapidly rising demand for socially responsible services across the consumer marketplace.

A principal motivation behind the Pivot Legal Cooperative is to diversify the Pivot Legal Society's sources of funds by tapping into a portion of BC's huge legal services market.

A further motivation is to build a new community of legal professionals and a new approach to the practice of law. The cooperative will promote a culture of service, a principled approach to legal practice, and will nurture a new generation of lawyers interested in developing their skills through a commitment to the greater good.

• By Gerald Crimp.

## To serve & protect (who?)

*“There were allegations of bias, so the investigation was handed over to the RCMP. Then the independent investigation is given back to the group originally accused of bias. Is this really a cover-up by the Vancouver Police Department?” – Pivot Legal Society spokesman, John Conroy, questions the handling of abuse allegations against Vancouver city police.*



courtesy Dan Murphy: The Province

*Diana Murru and Paul Ryan report on the summary of the RCMP's investigation into Pivot's **To Serve and Protect** report.*

When Chief Graham came out on March 31st to address the morning press conference announcing the RCMP investigation findings, he declared that the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) had been “cleared” of any misconduct.

What Chief Graham neglected to mention was that the VPD hadn't actually been cleared of all the reports of misconduct involving the residents of the DTES at all. He had internally reinvestigated the nine cases of police misconduct that the RCMP had found to be valid; then he had cleared the VPD himself. The rest of the cases were also open to interpretation, as it was

because of non-cooperation by the VPD officers with RCMP inspectors that many of the cases weren't counted.

The actual report, in which the RCMP detailed their investigation of VPD wrongdoings, was given directly to the VPD, without disclosure to Pivot or the complainants. The VPD, to date, has refused to provide the original report.

A few days later, Pivot director John Conroy's reaction was widely quoted: “There were allegations of bias, so the investigation was handed over to the RCMP. Then the independent investigation is given back to the group originally accused of bias. Is this really a cover-up by the Vancouver police department?” This quote was run alongside the cartoon entitled ‘Free Ride’ in *The Province* on April 6.

On April 7 *The Vancouver Sun* said that the events surrounding the RCMP probe of the Pivot document “suggest that we need to conduct a thorough review of the internal investigation process... That the RCMP and the VPD came to different conclusions, reveal that the investigation process is broken... An [independent review of the internal investigation process] could highlight what works and what doesn’t, and could determine the efficacy of allowing police to investigate themselves. In doing so, it could simultaneously protect both innocent members of the public and innocent members of the police.”

*The Province* ran a two-page spread a few days later with the headline ‘Watchdog puts heat on police chief’. The editorial, ‘Vancouver police chief must address RCMP concerns,’ included the observation that the “...VPD is ill-served by a police chief whose knee-jerk reaction in the face of criticism is to haul out the whitewash.”

On June 2, Dirk Ryneveld, the BC police complaints commissioner, called for a thorough audit of the VPD and directed the Chief to reconsider the way he had handled complaints substantiated by the RCMP.

A few hours later Graham called his own press conference. News 1130 described Graham as “visibly defensive” noting that he “stormed out of the room” at the end of the press conference. Later that day, evening news broadcasts covered complaints about not only the VPD misconduct allegations by Pivot, but many other alleged and proven abuses over the years. Global TV had an in-depth report about Chief Graham himself, highlighting problems that have occurred since he was appointed in 2002. The CBC report described the scene at Graham’s press conference as a “glossy” response to “what some are calling quite damaging charges.”

One of the most scathing commentaries on the treatment of the report was titled ‘Coleman needs to protect public, not cops’, from Michael Smyth of *The Province*. He compiled a profile of then Solicitor General Rich Coleman, and came to a troubling conclusion: “Whenever BC’s “top cop” [Coleman] is confronted with

evidence of police misconduct, his first reaction is always the same: Protect the old boys’ club.”

Smyth expressed his opinion that Coleman was not willing to protect the broad public interest if it came at the expense of the police force. He called this behaviour “a familiar pattern for Coleman,” backing it up with a series of past reactions to public concerns. Smyth described these in light of “Coleman’s move-along, nothing-to-see-here attitude toward alleged police misconduct.” This list included:

- The death of Frank Paul. The 47-year-old aboriginal man died of exposure after the VPD dumped him drunk and soaking wet in an alley. Coleman resisted repeated and widespread calls for an inquiry into Paul’s death, saying it would result in “public acrimony” toward the police.
- Six cops convicted of assault. After six VPD officers pleaded guilty to assault in 2003, Coleman rejected all calls for an inquiry. “It would be an exercise in name-calling,” he said.
- The missing-women file. Coleman wasn’t moved when relatives of dozens of women missing from Vancouver’s DTES accused police of bungling the case. “I don’t think there’s any necessity at this point for a public inquiry,” he said.
- When a VPD officer fell under suspicion of lying in court and stealing evidence in 2003, Coleman rejected calls for an inquiry. “I’m pretty confident in the Vancouver police force,” he said.

Since Smyth’s article ran, Coleman has finished his term as solicitor general, but not before appointing retired judge Benjamin Cassons to head an audit into police departments across the province. Cassons was the former police complaint commissioner before Ryneveld, and held the office when Pivot released its original *To Serve & Protect* report. At the time Cassons refused to meet with Pivot to discuss an external investigation into the 56 affidavits; however, his pro-police approach was rejected by Commissioner Ryneveld when Ryneveld took office. ●

## Pivot's directors

### Legal professionals

**Katrina Pacey** has been a driving force behind Pivot Legal Society since 2001, particularly for the sex work project, the policing project and the Pivot Legal Cooperative. A co-author on **To Serve & Protect** and **Voices for Dignity**, Katrina has made presentations for Pivot, including several to the parliamentary subcommittee on prostitution law reform. Katrina has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2002 and last year was elected president. Katrina practices law in Abbotsford with law firm Conroy & Company, which specializes in criminal defence work and prison law.

**Craig Jones** is former president of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. He is a graduate of UBC and Harvard law schools, and has been working on projects with Pivot for a number of years, including co-authoring Pivot's submission to City Hall on legal issues surrounding the safe injection site. Craig has written two books on mass tort and class action law, including **Theory of Class Actions**, which has been short listed for the Walter Owen Book Prize as best English language legal publication in Canada.

**Ondine Snowdon** is articling at a criminal law firm in Surrey. While at UBC, Ondine coordinated Pro Bono Students Canada, which placed law students with non-profit organizations. Ondine became involved with Pivot in 2001, was an affidavit taker during the policing issues affidavit campaign, and helped to prepare and organize the formal complaint currently being investigated by the Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner. In 2003, Ondine participated in organizing and implementing Pivot's sex work project and was a co-author of **Voices for Dignity**.

**John Conroy** is a criminal defense lawyer, and also works on administrative law issues involving post sentencing matters to do with prisons and parole, mostly in the federal prisons. John was the director and lawyer for Abbotsford Community Legal Services from 1975 to 1980, the first 'Community Law Office' in B.C. and then created, with others, the B.C. Prisoners Legal Services, acting as that organization's staff lawyer from 1980 to 1990. He is a member of the International Society for the Reform of the Criminal Law, a multi-disciplinary society with a secretariat in Vancouver.

### Constituency representatives

**Shari Allinott** has worked with Pivot for the past year as part of the steering committee of the sex work project. Shari was central to the development and implementation of this project in her role as a coordinator, meeting facilitator, and co-author of the final report, **Voices for Dignity**. Shari has also worked with PACE Society, where she volunteered in the office and worked with the housing project and various educational programs. She also works for the Chase Project, a health research initiative in the DTES.

**Julie Rogers** has volunteered with Carnegie Centre, the Housing Action Committee, the First Nations Caucus Working Group and VANDU. Julie is currently a board member with Save Our Living Environment and is employed at United We Can. Julie was involved with Pivot's 2004 photo contest and took four of the top 21 photos. Some of her photos appear in the 2004 calendar. Julie became involved with Pivot because of her concerns about access to justice, housing, and the protection of social services, particularly welfare and services for women.

**Chris Livingstone** has been a VANDU board member for two years, and has facilitated the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Societies dialogues, actions, & media. Chris, who was elected to the board in July, looks forward to promoting grassroots people's messages to promote the public good. Within Pivot Legal Society, he hopes to ask all policy makers to make responsible decisions where marginalized populations are at risk. As a First Nations person and a citizen of the Nisga'a nation, Chris applauds the efforts and contributions of Pivot, and he hopes to assist in the growth and empowerment of residents of the DTES.

**Rob Morgan** originally comes from Gitw'angak, which is in the Gitksan Territory in Northern B.C. He is a member of the Giskaas Tribe, which is part of Firewood Clan. Rob has been a resident of the Downtown Eastside for seven and a half years. He is particularly concerned about the marginalization of drug users and about police abuse of power in the DTES. He has been an active member of VANDU for the past five years and has been the President of VANDU since August of 2004. He is also a member of the Carnegie Community Association.

### Members at large

**Dave Diewert** has volunteered with the outreach program at The Lookout Society for several years, and was one of the founding members of the Political Response Group that tried to create awareness of housing issues in the area through street demonstrations. He participated in the Community Health Committee for the area and was a member of Resource Centre Advisory Committee. Dave has been a member of the VANDU Personnel Committee and was also responsible for renting the space at 327 Carrall Street, which he made available to community groups, including the safer injection site that operated there.

**Ann Livingston** has lived in Vancouver since 1970 and in the DTES of Vancouver since 1993. For five years, she has been employed as the Project Coordinator of Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU). She is currently a Board member of EMBERS. Ann was a founding member of Pivot Legal Society and has been on the Pivot Legal Society Board for three years.

**Megan Oleson** has worked with the Housing Action Committee, the People with Disabilities Coalition, the Anti-Poverty Committee and End Legislated Poverty, as well as Dusk to Dawn and VANDU. Megan is a registered nurse evaluating the INSITE supervised-injection facility. In 2004 Megan was honoured by the New York-based Human Rights Watch and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network with an international human rights "Award for Action" for her work on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.

**Francois Paradis** obtained a bachelor's degree in criminology at Simon Fraser University in the summer of 2004, and will enter first-year Law in September 2005 at UBC. Francois was Pivot Legal Society's Operations Manager from October 2004 until July 2005, responsible for the recruiting and managing of volunteers, ensuring the smooth operation of the office in general, and overseeing Pivot's information management systems. He was also involved in several of Pivot's legal campaign including policing issues and was a writer for the sex work law reform project.



## Pivot's staff & volunteers

### Pivot's staff

Pivot has continued to expand at a great rate. Most of the paid positions continue to be supported by grants for particular campaigns.



Pivot welcomed **Patti Pearcey** as director of development in June. Patti has worked actively in the legal and criminal justice field for 20 years as a researcher, fundraiser, consultant and community development specialist

and manager. She was a founding director of the People's Law School, the first public legal education organization in Canada. She was a founder and executive director of the B.C. Coalition for Safer Communities. Patti has also been a director, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime; co-chair, Interim Advisory Commission on Safer City Initiatives, City of Vancouver; a member, Federal Ad Hoc Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention; a director, Avalon Recovery Society and a member, International Planning Committee, Johannesburg, South Africa. She is the mother of three children.



**David Eby** joined Pivot from the Federal Department of Justice in June as a full-time lawyer just weeks after being called to the B.C. bar. Graduating in 2004 from Dalhousie Law School in Halifax, where he co-founded the Social

Activist Law Student Association (SALSA) and the IdeaLaw conference, David was awarded the Alistair Fraser Scholarship, the G.O. Forsyth Prize, and the Canadian Bar Association Scholarship. During his second year of law school, which he spent at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, David founded the Osgoode Law Activist Association (OLAA), was a key organizer with the SPINLAW conference and won the Charles Edward Woodward Award for academic achievement and the WeirFoulds LLP Prize in Administrative Law. David is the author of *The Arrest Handbook: A Guide to Your Rights*, published in 2003 by the B.C. Civil Liberties Association and has been an active volunteer with Pivot since the summer of 2002.



In May **Paul Ryan** was appointed as publications manager with responsibilities for the annual calendar project and associated Downtown Eastside photography competition and exhibitions. Paul, a New Zealander, was editor of an international Montessori education magazine in London, England for six years before moving to Vancouver last year. He is also responsible for managing the printing of reports, publishing the Pivot Post, and managing the website.



**Cristen Gleeson**, a criminal defense lawyer is a former chair of the board of Pivot Legal Society. In addition to coordinating the Sex Work Law Reform Project, Cristen has been involved in establishing the sex worker activist group and in representing

victims of police brutality. Prior to working for Pivot, Cristen worked as a junior associate with Gail Dickson, Q.C. where she appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on an appeal involving sexual and physical abuses to children in foster care. Cristen is currently coordinating the writing and editing of the final report for Pivot's second Sex Work Law Reform project.

**Francois Paradis**, Pivot's operations manager since October 2004, has left to study law at UBC (see his biography as a new director of Pivot on page 8). Thank you to **Jared Nicola** (UBC student, pictured working at the photography competition on page 1) who has taken on Francois's general operations responsibilities over the summer until the new full-time operations manager Peter Wrinch takes over in the Fall.



**Peter Wrinch** joins Pivot full-time in September after volunteering as the booth team coordinator. After graduating from the University of Toronto's Centre for Russian and East European Studies, Peter spent a few years

travelling in Russia and Asia working in communications before returning to Vancouver.

### Pivot's volunteers / summer students

This summer Pivot has benefited from thousands of hours of volunteer labour and sponsored student workers.

#### A huge thank you to:

- foreign students Eric Dupraz from Switzerland, and Cecile Souladier, from France.

- university students: Joel Lemoyre (Dalhousie), Christian Pangilinan (UBC), Christopher Misura (Dalhousie), Emily Rix (University of Toronto), Jody Morita (Harvard), Dan McGruder (Queens), Angelene Gaal, Surya Chaube (UBC), Avril Rose Colenutt (University of New Brunswick) and Michael Rozworski (UBC).

- Stuart Desbrisay, Simone Fortier, Helen Manner, George Guan, Brian Wu, John Lund, Gerald Crimp, Diana Murru, Eda Cetinkaya, Elaine Ryan, Rita Fromholt, Robert McGeachy, Shawna Gnutel, Vernon Bajaj, Albert Naudman, Elena Swift, Elisa Chinis, Emma Michielsen, Eugene Kung, Hendrik Beune, Jessica Dickson, Jessica Hadley, Kristin Helgason, Neil Chantler, Roanna Tay, Ronald Strand, Stephen Mulhall, Clayton Misura, Clayton Wilson, Elisabeth Finney, Bart Pukacz, Nellie Chang, David Harvey, Kathryn Colby, Rie Kawai, Louise Docherty and anyone not listed above.

Pivot's new volunteer coordination team began in July and their responsibilities include online position postings and initial interviews. Elisabeth Finney is in charge of online postings, and Betty Houle handles interviews and initial communications with potential volunteers. **If you are interested in volunteering for Pivot, contact Betty [betty@pivotlegal.org](mailto:betty@pivotlegal.org)**



**John Richardson** founded Pivot Legal Society with Ann Lvingston in the fall of 2000, while an articling student at Sierra Legal Defence Fund. In January of 2002 he began working for Pivot full-time as its executive director, a job that has

changed constantly as Pivot has evolved and grown.

**Photo contest** *from front page*

wanted to show people that, despite the poverty and suffering in the neighbourhood, there is this amazing sense of unity and togetherness among the people who live here.”

In a new addition to this year’s contest, entrants had the opportunity to receive tips and training from five professional photographers. Elaine Briere, one of this year’s judges and an internationally acclaimed B.C. photojournalist and filmmaker, was glad to volunteer her skills, but admitted that natural ability would be the most important factor. Before the training she said that she and the other professional photographers planned to instruct the fundamentals of photography, but “we cannot teach them how to see. Intuition is the essential ingredient for a great photo and entry into their world through their eyes.”

The top 40 photos were chosen by a panel of professional photographers: Stephen Osborne, Art Perry, Rosamond Norbury, Anne Grant, Chris Cameron and Elaine Briere. The winners will be announced at a breakfast award ceremony on September 26 at the Carnegie Centre, and featured in an exhibition at the Interurban Gallery in November.

A selection of the winning images will appear in the calendar which was designed by Brad Hornick. The calendar will be launched at the award ceremony. This year it will be larger than in previous years and will provide space for writing notes on individual days of the month. There will be more information about the subjects of the photographs, and about the DTES.

Another new feature will be a page of photographs of the actual photographers, with details about their lives. ●

**Three photographers**

*Three photo competition contestants talked to Robert McGeachy about their lives, their inspiration, and their photographic techniques.*

**V**elma Paquette, an aboriginal single mother, wanted to take “good” pictures of the Downtown Eastside that didn’t include needles or the sex trade. “People down here like sharing and communicating,” she told Pivot, which holds the contest yearly to highlight the positive and dynamic community living in the DTES.

“A lot of people don’t have a great perspective of the Downtown Eastside,” Pat Haram says. But the community-minded volunteer “never had a problem talking to anyone.” One of her favorite shots was in Gastown: a man drinking out of a fish fountain, who then proceeded to wash his hair. She asked his permission and snapped his photo.

Dan, a poet, entered the contest to “express my creativity.” He took carefully composed photographs of diverse subjects, ranging from a water level shot of the pagoda at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens, to a portrait of a friend’s puppy. “There wasn’t enough film to take all the pictures I wanted,” he said. ●

**Socially  
Responsible  
Christmas  
Gift!**

**Order your Hope in Shadows  
Calendar 2006 NOW**

**Only \$19.95 including tax, postage and packaging  
SPECIAL OFFER! Buy 3 for the price of 2 and save \$20.00!**

**To order the calendars, call Pivot at 604 696 1322**

## Be a Pivot partner

*The basic concept underlying both Pivot's name and its mandate is that a pressure point of social change exists at the intersection of legal and social boundaries. By advancing the interests and defending the legal entitlements of the most disenfranchised persons in society, Pivot aims for a 'trickle up' of compassion, respect and acceptance that will ultimately benefit all.*

**M**onthly donors help Pivot build a secure financial base by contributing to Pivot's strategy of building social capital in Canada's poorest neighbourhood through:

- legal research;
- legal education;
- strategic legal action; and
- law reform.

Nelson Mandela said "a good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." Supporting Pivot strategically with a monthly donation is a low impact way of making a high impact contribution towards positive social change.

### Volunteer-based

Pivot Legal Society is a volunteer-based organization experiencing overwhelming growth. When Pivot began in 2000 there was literally no budget, just a vision of what could be. Volunteers have made it happen.

Tens of thousands of volunteer hours over the course of Pivot's life have resulted in 10 hours of donated labour for every one paid hour worked. There are currently close to 100 uniquely talented and compassionate lawyers, writers and other volunteers dedicated to making Pivot's many activities run smoothly and efficiently.

"Rapid expansion since our inception in 2000 means building an infrastructure to support Pivot's work," says John Richardson, Pivot's executive director. "Our monthly donor campaign began in late 2004 and shows solid promise: we now have over 50 monthly donors averaging \$19 per month. Our goal is to double that by the end of 2005. Pivot needs monthly donors to help develop a stable base of monthly income to pay for basic operations, which in turn allow us to support a large number of volunteers. Monthly



*Pivot advances the interests and improves the lives of marginalized persons through law reform, legal education and strategic legal action.*

donors have become our partners in a very successful model of volunteer engagement and management, and the value of their contribution is multiplied many times over."

Pivot receives funding from private foundations, major donors and government, fundraising events and private sources for specific projects, but Pivot's core operations depend almost entirely on its individual supporters.

The best way to ensure that the Pivot Legal Society has the resources it needs to carry out its daily activities is by becoming a "Pivot Partner" and donating monthly. Not a "Pivot Partner"? Join Now! Pivot's goal is to attract 50 new monthly donors by the end of 2005.

By giving as little as \$10 a month, you are becoming an important part of our work, providing Pivot with a steady source of income that it can use to budget for and plan future programs effectively. •

To become a "Pivot Partner" mail your VISA or MasterCard information or a voided cheque and your contact info to: Pivot Legal, Box 4438 STN Terminal, Vancouver BC V6B 3ZB or visit [www.Canadahelps.org](http://www.Canadahelps.org)

To contact Patti Percy, Pivot's new director of development, e-mail [patti@pivotlegal.org](mailto:patti@pivotlegal.org)



## TOP 10 REASONS TO SUPPORT PIVOT

1. Pivot's use of the legal system as the tool of social change allows for robust victories that have widespread, systemic benefits for all people.
2. Pivot's focused strategic approach maximizes resources by addressing the most critical problems with the greatest potential for change.
3. Pivot's large, talented volunteer base means that financial contributions are leveraged many times over through donations of professional services.
4. Pivot's proven ability to use the mass media as a means of public education creates the conditions for social and political change.
5. Pivot's commitment to the personal empowerment of marginalized persons encourages individuals to make choices to improve their own lives.
6. Pivot's close integration and consultation with residents of the Downtown Eastside means that its objectives are clear, informed and relevant.
7. Pivot's multi-faceted legal, media, and empowerment campaigns operate synergistically, making its efforts for change very high-impact.
8. Pivot's independence from government funding gives it the freedom to undertake aggressive campaigns for law reform and institutional change.
9. Pivot's organizational structure creates distinct revenue streams for political and charitable activities, allowing both under a common mandate.
10. Pivot's integrates its objectives into its methods by emphasizing respect, compassion, integrity, courage, empowerment and impact.

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

## Support Pivot!

Why not become a member of Pivot Legal Society for \$25 per year? You can also become a much-needed monthly donor for as little as \$5 a month.

Please send us your details and we will contact you regarding payment details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ (day)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
Pivot Legal Society, 4438 Stn Terminal  
Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z8

**Tel. 604 696 1322**  
**www.pivotlegal.org**

## The Pivot Post sponsors:

  
**Banyen Books**  
3608 W. 4th 604-732-7912  
www.banyen.com


  
Pivot Post  
Cafe and catering  
30 West Hastings St  
604-683-0073 x. 279

**SharedVision.**

**Edible Planet**

CATERING ON LOCATION LTD.  
727 PRINCESS AVENUE  
VANCOUVER BC V6E 3E4  
PHONE 604 254 7777

  
Rising Breads

  
**HOLLYHOCK.CA**  
Retreat Centre