

Vancouver Hosts International Housing Partnership's 7th Annual Summit

Chief executives from 50 of the leading nonprofit housing organizations in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia convened in Vancouver, British Columbia, during the week of October 15th for a peer exchange and a series of related meetings. The event was hosted by the Housing Services Corporation, an Ontario-based organization that is in the process to bringing together a network of the top housing groups in Canada.

This was the seventh annual leadership exchange of the International Housing Partnership (IHP), which encompasses more than 150 nonprofits from the four countries, with a collective portfolio of nearly one million affordable homes.

The central theme of the Vancouver Summit picked up on the conversations held in Washington, DC, last October, focusing on how IHP organizations are transforming their business models across the four countries and on the critical need to measure and communicate effectively regarding the impact IHP is having on the lives of places and people.

Key discussions focused on new financing mechanisms to access capital markets, asset management strategies, and new opportunities and advanced practices on supportive and senior housing. "We're all aware of the growing importance of senior housing as our populations age and live longer," noted Hunter Johnson, chief executive officer of LINC Housing in California and chair of the Housing Partnership Network's IHP contingent. "But one of the great wake-up calls at the meeting was when Neil Hadden of the UK cited a statistic that projected that by 2050 fully 25% of the UK's population will be more than 90 years old."

Linked to IHP but separate from the program, the week began with a business meeting around the creation of a potential vehicle in the US to own and manage portfolios of scattered site rental housing in response to the foreclosure crisis. Participants included fifteen HPN members, as well as British and Canadian colleagues with expertise in that type of housing looking to collaborate and potentially invest in US efforts. Another business discussion focused on procurement issues and opportunities for US, Canadian, and Australian groups to partner with sophisticated procurement enterprises in the UK.

Other highlights included an aboriginal welcome by Chief Ian Campbell, an address to the group by Rich Coleman, the British Columbia cabinet minister responsible for housing, and visits to the Olympic Village and to an art gallery operated by the Vancouver Native Housing Society for a discussion about social enterprise.

The 2013 IHP Summit is planned for Sydney, Australia next October. For more information, contact [Manuel Muelle](#).