

Canada's Slum: The Fix

The Globe and Mail and CTV examine what's wrong with Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and how to fix it

Toronto, ON (February 13, 2009) – Close to a decade of robust public spending hasn't bought change for Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Now, in a ground-breaking series beginning Saturday, February 14, The Globe and CTV investigate why shovelling cash into the country's worst slum has had so little impact. In print and online this month and next, *Canada's Slum: The Fix* discards conventional wisdom and lays out four fresh solutions to the Downtown Eastside's woes. The series culminates in a public forum hosted by CTV's Mi-Jung Lee on Tuesday March 24 at 7 p.m., in partnership with the University of British Columbia.

The public forum will feature four experts with backgrounds in architecture, public policy, international development and education, all of whom advocate departures from conventional wisdom on the Downtown Eastside.

"Huge amounts of money have been spent on the Downtown Eastside, but little has changed," says Patrick Brethour, The Globe's British Columbia Editor. "We'll do more than catalogue that failure. We'll lay out a path to transform the Downtown Eastside – and push policy makers to take it."

When the 2010 Winter Games begin one year from now, the world will be watching Vancouver and its Downtown Eastside, a blighted neighbourhood that still draws in the desperate and tormented from all over the country. *Canada's Slum: The Fix* aims to change the conversation, to change minds and to compel political leaders to act -- long before the Olympic Games.

To buy tickets to the public forum, which will be held at UBC's Robson Square campus, and for slideshows, stories and online discussions about the Downtown Eastside, visit www.globeandmail.com.

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