

Greater Victoria Acting Together for the Common Good (GVAT)

At GVAT, we believe that by acting together we have the power to change our communities for the better.

We do more than sign petitions and protest. We listen to each other, we organize and take action. We find common ground for the common good.

We aspire to replicate the experience of the Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA)

We are ...

- Forming a broad based alliance of community groups, labour, faith and educational organizations, all working together for the common good. In Vancouver there are currently 52 member organizations within MVA, representing over 200,000 people from across the Lower Mainland.
- Based on the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) model of community organizing. The IAF model has over 60 active community alliances across the US, Canada, the UK, Germany and Australia and has a proven track record around the world: most notably in England, where *Citizens UK* persuaded the London Olympic Games Committee to become a living wage employer.
- Different from other organizations in that we start by listening to our members and building relationships, we identify our common ground and then take collective action.
- Building an organization that is powerful enough to enable people to act collectively on the issues that affect them the most.
- Building on the long, proud history of collaborative social action in British Columbia.

We are not ...

- A new political party. We are political, yet non-partisan. We are committed to working with politicians – at every level and from every party – to make our cities better places for everyone.

We believe ...

- That engaged citizens are the cornerstones of healthy communities and vibrant democratic societies. We teach our members active citizenship and give them the skills and confidence needed to become leaders in our communities.

Over the past year we have been forming a steering committee. Now we're seeking member organizations. Here is the type of action that we want to achieve:

- On October 9, 2014, delegations of MVA's 52 member organizations held a Municipal Election Accountability Assembly at the Italian Cultural Centre. Over 800 people filled the hall to hear MVA's proposals on **living wage, affordable housing, improved transit** and **stronger communities**. Politicians of all parties committed to work with MVA to make these proposals a reality.

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