

What is a Community Land Trust?



A CLT is an entity that can hold land under community stewardship. This turns lands from a private commodity into a community asset.

Let's break it down:

Community – CLTs are community-controlled. Through membership and a board, CLTs ensure properties are used to serve community interests.

Land – CLTs act as stewards for the land. This is slightly different than a co-operative which operates a specific building or business. A CLT can expand to transfer more land to community stewardship while also being less involved in the operational details of each property.

Trust – CLTs should hold land 'in trust' for the community. This means that social values and community interests should be factored for the long term. Long-term visions help preserve our community assets and create more stability for residents.

Land Trusts serve many purposes! The first Community Land Trust was created in 1969 by Black farmers in Georgia to collectively hold agricultural land. Today, CLTs are seeing a resurgence across Canadian cities. They're often used to keep housing affordable.

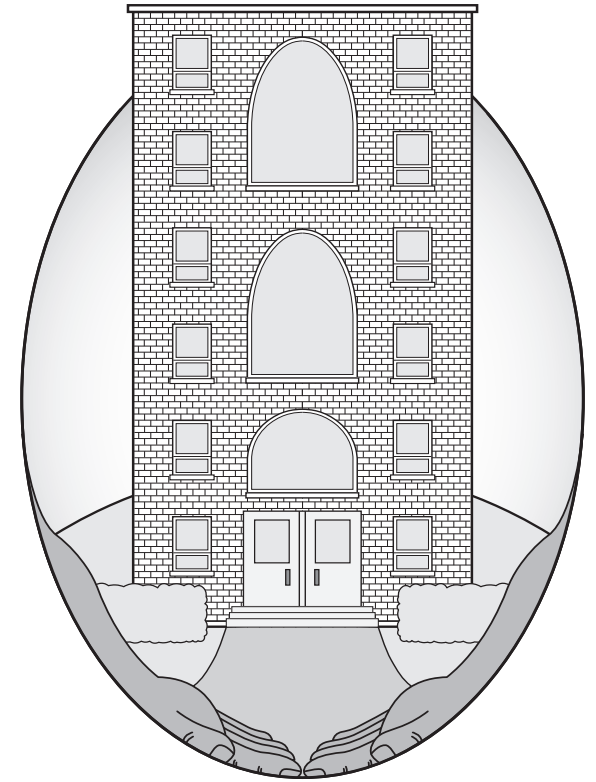
What could a Community Land Trust accomplish in West Broadway?

Better stability: 92% of West Broadway's households are renters. Tenancy protections offer short-term security, but most West Broadway residents don't have long-term control over their homes. A CLT could commit to long-term plans for the housing stock and involve residents in decision-making over their homes.

Decolonization: West Broadway has always been Indigenous land and a CLT will have to think carefully about its role on Treaty One territory. A Land Trust could return land to First Nations and Métis stewardship and involve Indigenous land and governance practices in its policies.

Better affordability: Almost half of our community struggles to afford rent. Most new development is too expensive for West Broadway residents, and older buildings are becoming less affordable due to rent increases. The private market does not serve West Broadway's affordability needs. A Community Land Trust could help keep rents as low as possible by drawing down government funding and eliminating profit margins.

Better quality: Despite the rising cost of housing, 36% of West Broadway's rental units are in disrepair. A Community Land Trust could ensure that value is reinvested to maintain and improve our homes.



A West Broadway Community Land Trust

West Broadway Community Organization is establishing a Community Land Trust to help keep housing affordable and in good condition. You're an important part of the West Broadway Community and we want your help!





Getting involved in the West Broadway Community Land Trust

It'll take a community to make this happen! If you'd like to be involved, please come to the upcoming engagement and planning sessions:

CLT Coffee House - Every Tuesday (December through March), 4-6pm, WBCO - 748 Broadway

Casual tea and biscuits to talk through questions about land trusts and West Broadway housing issues.

Session 1 - Thursday December 5, 5-8pm, Cornish Library - 20 West Gate

Topic: What is a Community Land Trust?

A look at the history of Community Land Trusts and what other land trusts are active across Canada.



Session 2 - Thursday January 9, 5-8pm, Cornish Library - 20 West Gate

Topic: A Land Trust on Treaty One Territory?

Teachings on Treaties and Indigenous land practices to consider how a land trust can contribute to decolonization.

Session 3 - Saturday February 1, 1-4pm, Westminster Housing Co-op - 145 Maryland

Topic: A Vision for West Broadway pt.1

A facilitated workshop to build a community vision for what a West Broadway Community Land Trust will accomplish and what is our main priority.



Session 4 - Saturday March 1, 1-4pm, Old Grace Housing Co-op - 200 Arlington

Topic: A Vision for West Broadway pt. 2

A second facilitated workshop for the Land Trust's community vision, focusing on how the CLT will operate and who needs to be involved.

Session 5 - Saturday April 5, 1-4pm, West End Commons - 641 St Matthews

Topic: Prepare for launch!

The final session will review governance documents and elect a provisional board for the Community Land Trust. A small meal and celebration will follow!

To register for these sessions or for more information on how to get involved, email housing@westbroadway.mb.ca or call (204) 774-7201 ext. 7.

With support from:



Community Housing Transformation Centre
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