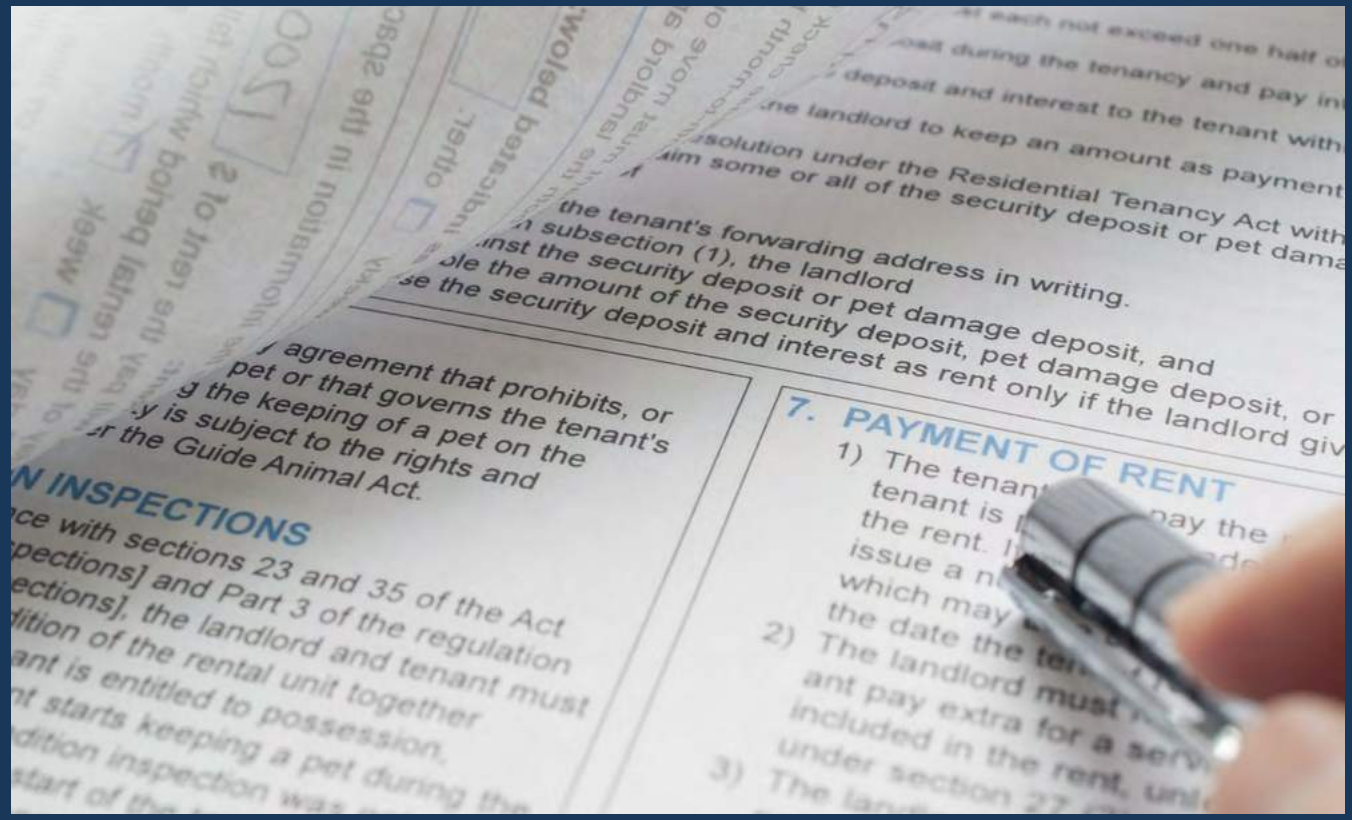
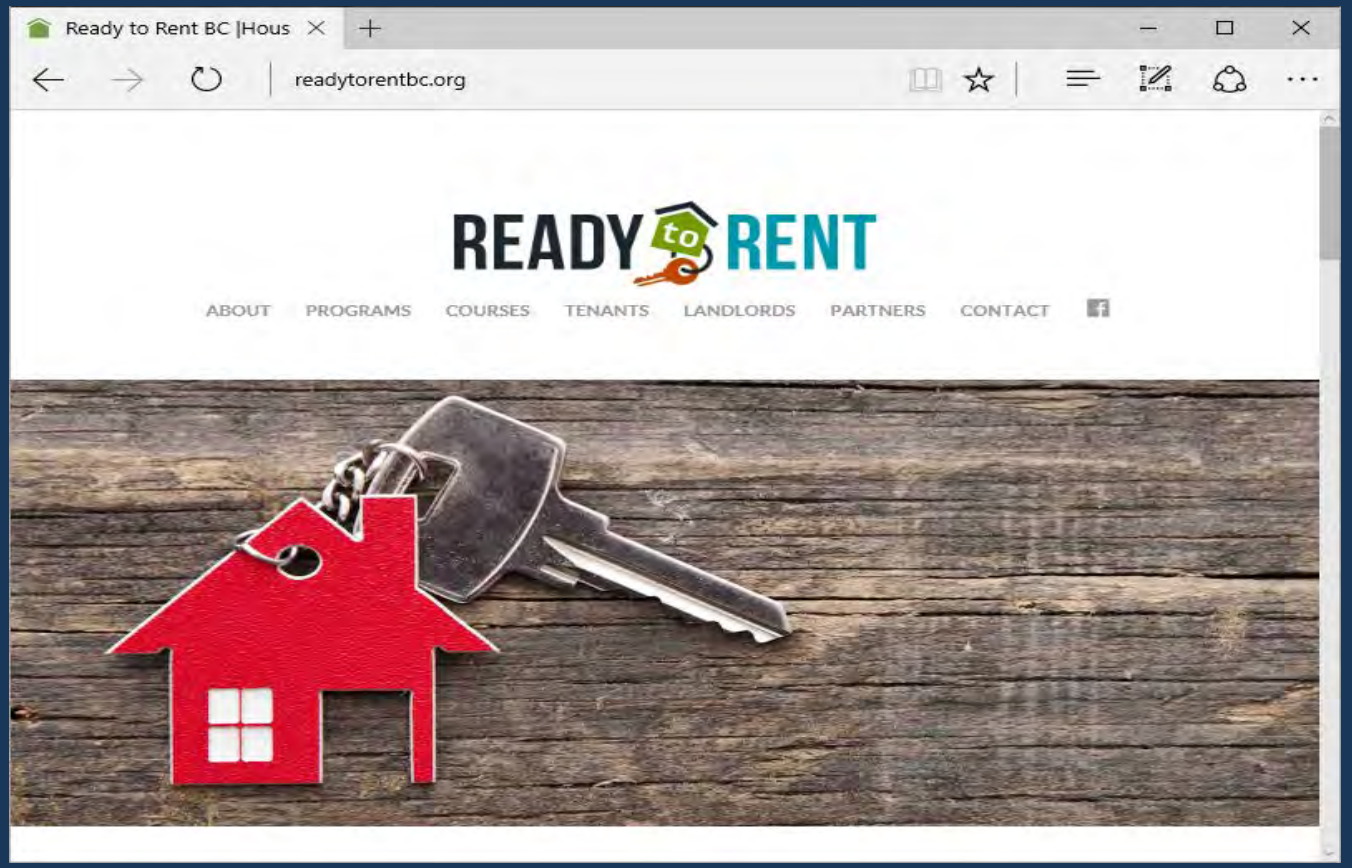
Education for Housing Stability



Being a good tenant is not an innate skill

Vision: community well-being through housing education and support

Mission: to deliver housing education and related services



The Big Picture

Landlords

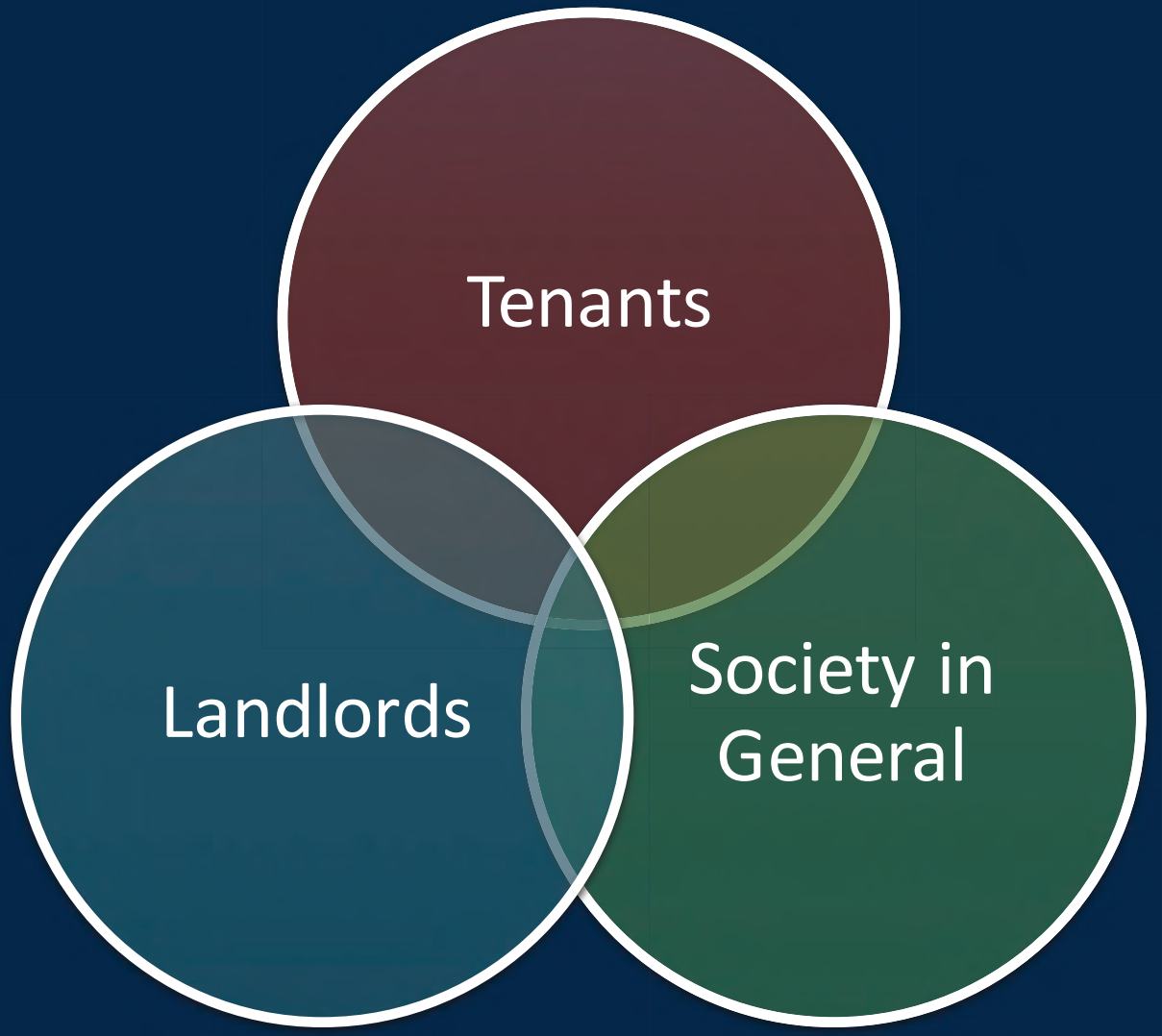
Landlords want renters to pay their rent, respect their neighbours and look after the property.

Renters

Renters want a safe and affordable home to live in that is taken care of by their landlord.

The goal of Ready to Rent is successful tenancies.

The Challenge: Unstable Housing



The Challenge: For Tenants

Finding housing:

- New or returning to renting
- Bad past experiences
- Discrimination
- Limited references or solid credit history

Keeping housing:

- Do not know their rights and responsibilities
- Lack rental skills/experience
- Need to avoid eviction

Increasing costs:

- Housing costs are high
- Moves and evictions are costly

The Challenge: For Landlords

Finding tenants:

- Rental applications only tell so much
- Lack of means to qualify reliable tenants

Keeping tenants:

- Tenant turnover is costly and time consuming
- Lack of convenient process for conflicts and disputes

Increasing costs:

- Housing expenses are high

The Challenge: For Society in General

- Homelessness
- Instability
- Lack of affordable housing
- Discrimination
- Overburdened community organizations
- Increased costs
- Reactive responses (‘Tent Cities’)

Solution: Ready to Rent

Solution: Successful Tenancies

RentSmart supports successful tenancies by providing 3 things:

1. Educated Tenants and Landlords

2. RentSmart Certificate

3. WalkWith Support

RentSmart is the key to successful tenancies.

Education for Housing Stability

Solution
Who Takes R2R Education?

Anyone Who Wants To Be a More Successful Tenant

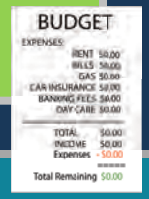
- **Youth Coming Out of Care**
- **New Renters**
- **Downsizing Seniors**
- **Young Adults**
- **First Nations Moving Off Reserve**
- **Leaving Corrections**
- **People Facing Big Life Transitions**

The RentSmart Course covers:

Tenant Rights and Responsibilities

Landlord Responsibilities and Expectations

Budgeting and Planning for Housing Affordability and Stability



Living with Roommates, Housemates and neighbours

Effective Communication Skills

Maintenance Do's and Don'ts

Crisis Management, Safety and Pests

RentSmart is the key to successful tenancies.

Solution: Educated Tenants & Landlords

Educated tenants and landlords are the solution to the following challenges:

- Conflicts between tenants and their landlords, neighbours, or roommates
- Rental arrears
- Not following the law (illegal tenancies)
- Lack of timely repairs
- Expensive evictions
- Tenancy turnover
- Unintentional damage to property
- Units in poor shape

RentSmart Benefits: For Tenants

Solution: RentSmart Certificate

The RentSmart Certificate is the solution to the following challenges:

- Selection of tenants
- Application confidence
- Discrimination (levels the playing field)
- Lack of references (it acts as one)
- High competition in tight markets

RENTSMART
GetRentSmart.ca

Solution: WalkWith Support

RentSmart graduates can access “WalkWith” coaching support to help navigate and address issues or conflicts that may arise around housing.

WalkWith Support is a solution to the following challenges:

- A go-to place for tenants and landlords to initiate problem-solving conversations
- Connection to community resources
- Reduction in crisis moves
- Determining if formal dispute resolution is required

In Summary

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
Jane Doe
has successfully completed the RentSmart course
RENTSMART

Demonstrating Value - I

readytorentbc.org/demonstrating-value

DEMONSTRATING VALUE

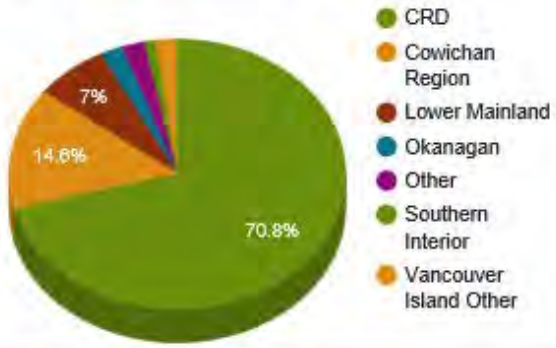
1676

RentSmart Participants To Date

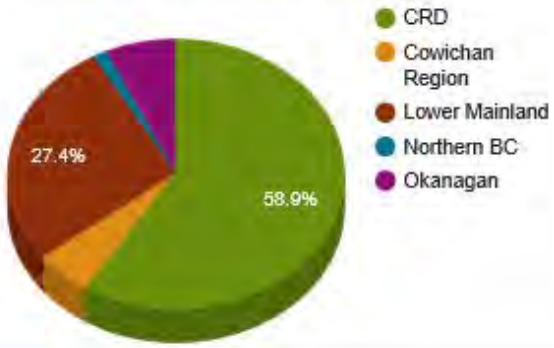
503

RentReady Participants To Date

RentSmart Courses by Region



RentReady Courses by Region



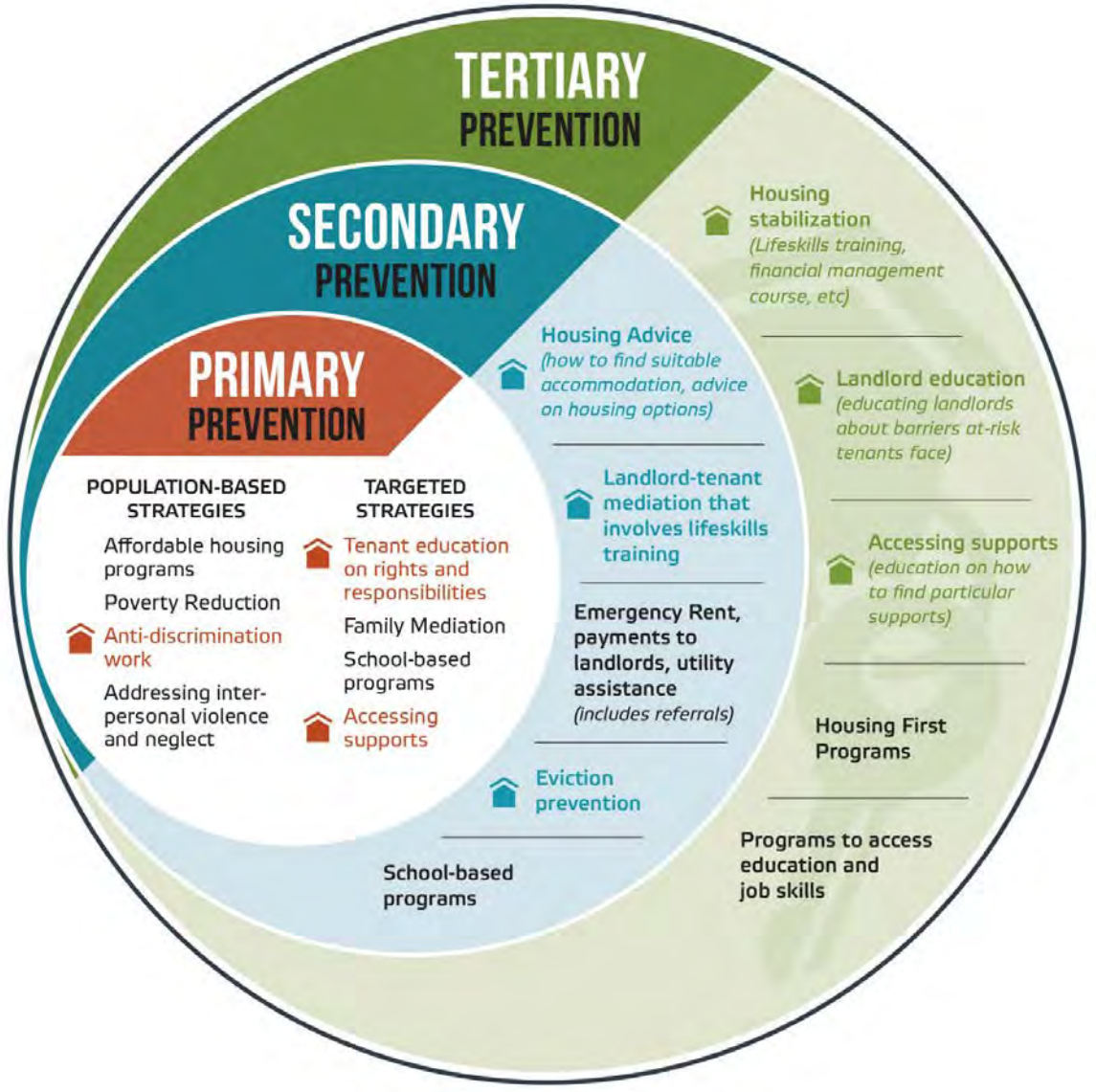
Education is key...

- Over 2000 participants since 2009
  - 100% said knowledge increased
  - 92% said confidence increased
  - 86% said maintaining their housing was easier
  - 72% said finding a place to rent was easier

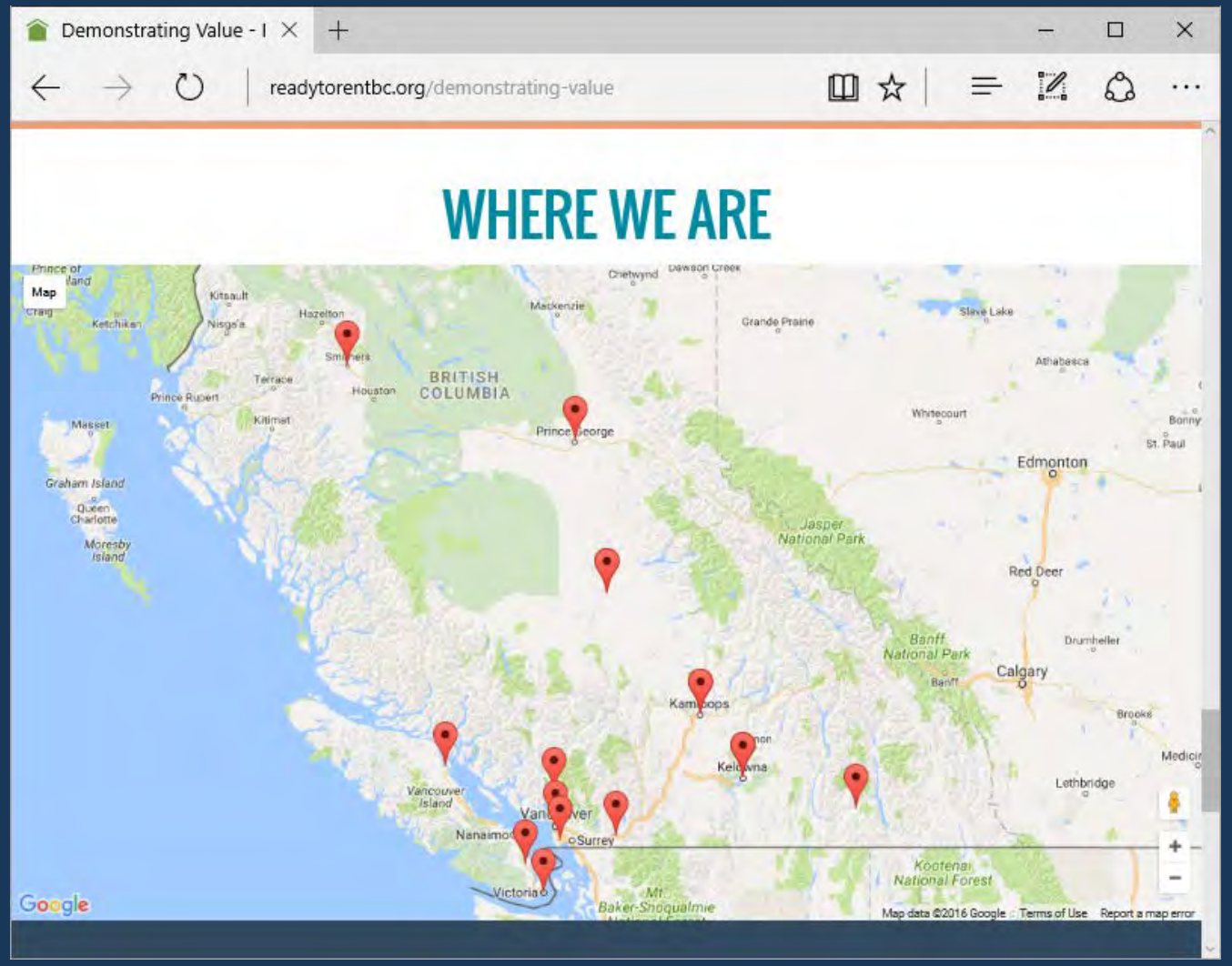
  - 66% used the RentSmart certificate
  - 70% said it helped them in securing their housing

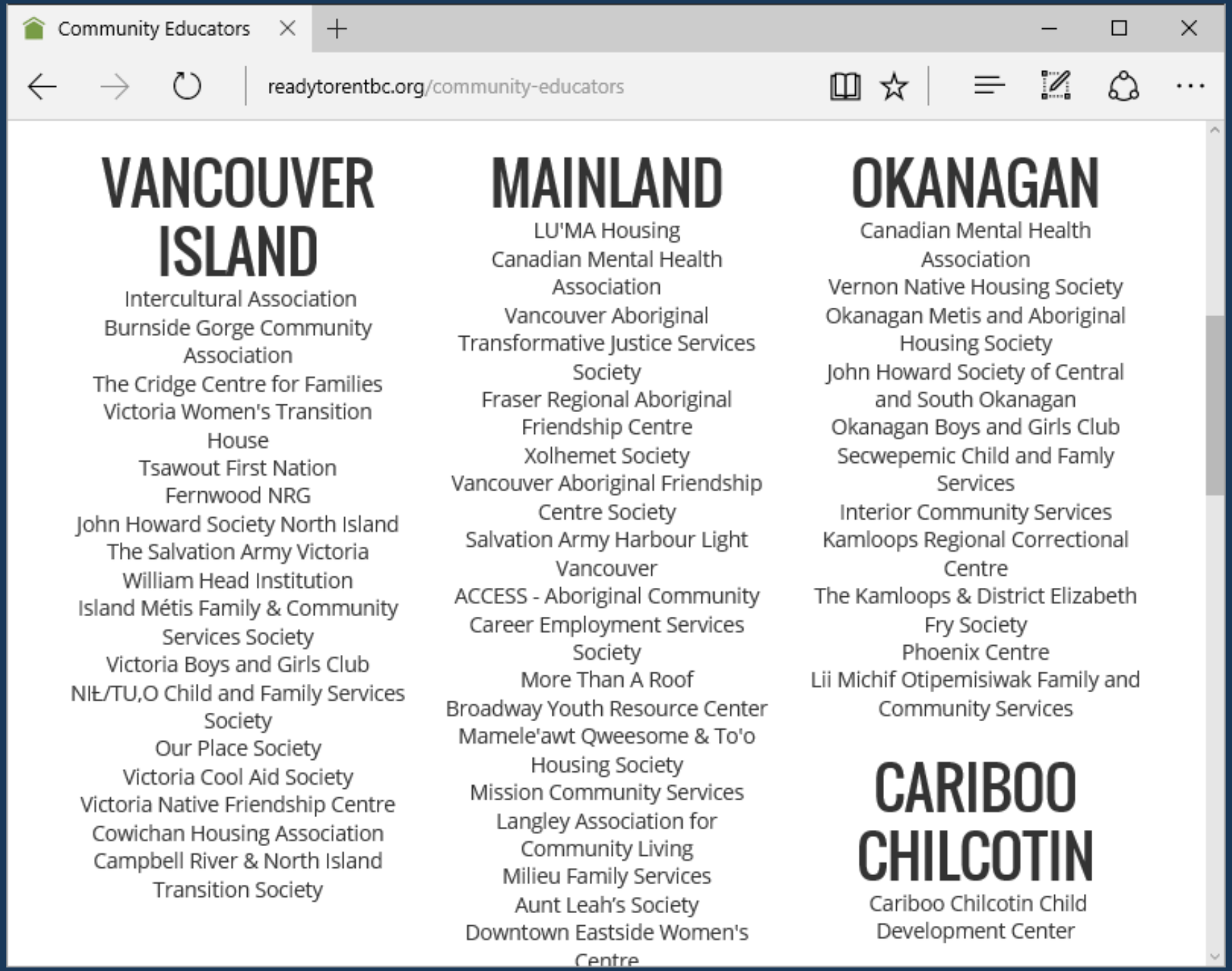
    - 2015 Participant Impact Survey

READY to RENT



Ready to Rent is growing…





VANCOUVER ISLAND

Intercultural Association
Burnside Gorge Community Association
The Cridge Centre for Families
Victoria Women's Transition House
Tsawout First Nation
Fernwood NRG
John Howard Society North Island
The Salvation Army Victoria
William Head Institution
Island Métis Family & Community Services Society
Victoria Boys and Girls Club
NIŁ/TU,O Child and Family Services Society
Our Place Society
Victoria Cool Aid Society
Victoria Native Friendship Centre
Cowichan Housing Association
Campbell River & North Island Transition Society

MAINLAND

LU'MA Housing
Canadian Mental Health Association
Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society
Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre
Xolhemet Society
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Salvation Army Harbour Light Vancouver
ACCESS - Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society
More Than A Roof
Broadway Youth Resource Center
Mamele'awt Qweesome & To'o Housing Society
Mission Community Services
Langley Association for Community Living
Milieu Family Services
Aunt Leah's Society
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

OKANAGAN

Canadian Mental Health Association
Vernon Native Housing Society
Okanagan Metis and Aboriginal Housing Society
John Howard Society of Central and South Okanagan
Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
Secwepemic Child and Famly Services
Interior Community Services
Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre
The Kamloops & District Elizabeth Fry Society
Phoenix Centre
Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services

CARIBOO CHILCOTIN

Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Center

Certified Community Educators

- ▶ Train the Trainer + 2 courses annually
- ▶ Model is nimble:
  - Certified facilitators (3 years & recertification)
  - Fee for manuals and certificates
  - Ready to Rent is certifying body for facilitators and graduates; common standards and branding
  - Common measurement and evaluation

RentReady & RentEd: certified community educators can deliver

4 day Train the Trainer

Course covers:

- Prevention and housing stability
- Curriculum review and teaching
- Key facilitation and educator skills
- Adult education principles and transformative training

Network of Community Educators

- Bi-monthly webinars
- Bi-monthly newsletters
- Collective impact measurement
- Strong brand and standards
- BC-wide support
- Network and movement for prevention

Thank you!

www.readytorentbc.org

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