

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Rally and Press Conference Tuesday, May 22nd 10 a.m. 1850 Adanac, Vancouver BC

East Vancouver tenants protest illegal and hazardous renovations by landlord Ashurwin Holdings, Lorenzo Aquilini CEO

Bullying property manager, unpermitted renovations, illegal renovations, incessant noise, and the release of asbestos throughout the building among tenants' many grievances

May 17 2012, Vancouver – On Tuesday May 22nd, 2012, the tenants of the 1850 Adanac, along with the Vancouver Renters' Union and MLA Shane Simpson (NDP), are rallying together to shine a spotlight on Lorenzo Aquilini's flagrant disregard for tenants' health, safety and residential tenure.

Ashurwin Holdings purchased the the three story building last year, at which point renovations began occurring one unit at a time. Amazingly, all renovations in the building have been unpermitted, rendering all recent renovations completely illegal. Worse, the landlord did not hire a qualified expert to safely remove pre-existing asbestos from the drywall, thereby releasing asbestos throughout the building via these unpermitted renovations. As a result, last week Worksafe BC ordered all renovations be stopped.

"I'm very concerned about the manner in which tenants have been treated in this building," said Maureen Bourke at 1850 Adanac. "The landlords have no regard for our health and safety, both physically and emotionally. We could be facing health issues down the road having been exposed to asbestos. People in the building have been receiving illegal rent increases and a number of tenants have already been renovicted. People are feeling very vulnerable here. The fear of losing our homes, is very real. There are few if any affordable options for renters in this city, and many people are choosing to leave the Province altogether. We need affordable housing NOW, and greater protection from the RTA."

A recently renovicted tenant Jeff Mohoric stated, "As a tenant of 15 years, I've been disrespected. When they bought the building I was bullied by the new management and was served a 10 day eviction notice. I was good tenant for 15 years and now the new management, Ashurwin Holdings, wants to gentrify the building."

On Tuesday morning, please join a number of brave tenants along with the Vancouver Renters' Union and MLA Shane Simpson as they rally and speak to the above issues.

Affordability, Stability, Solidarity

Vancouver Renters' Union