

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

#3

NEWSLETTER

July 21, 1987

Will hungry kids get fed?

Remember all those newspaper articles about hungry children? Remember the headline: "Vancouver Schools to feed hungry kids"?

It's true, the Vancouver School Board is spending about \$1200 per month to feed about 500 kids. Of course there are 10,000 kids on welfare in the city, and many more poor kids who have working parents. The \$1200 per month works out to about 10¢ per child per day.

It will buy one thin sliver of cheese or

about one-third of an apple for each of the 500 kids. The School Board was doing this before the headlines.

What else are they doing? At a meeting on June 29th, the Board

continued on page 2



Hungry kids

continued from page 1

voted down a motion by COPE trustee Phil Rankin to start a school lunch program at Britannia.

Instead a committee on Hungry Kids will study the motion. No poor people are on the committee.

People from community groups told the School Board they should do two things:

- *tell the provincial government to raise welfare rates and minimum wages.
- *start a proper food program in the schools.

Instead the NPA trustees decided to keep on doing what they have been do-

ing, give teachers and students information on budgeting, do more research, and buy some refridgerators.

A new group called the Child Poverty Action Committee is hoping to get lots of parents to the School Board meeting in September to start fighting for proper food programs, and higher welfare rates and minimum wages.

You can help

If you'd like to help, call Pat Chauncey at 435-7624 or Jean Swanson at 321-4355.

Human Rights and GAIN — 3

Young people on GAIN have won a small victory.

The B. C. Human Rights Council says that the provincial government does discriminate against people under 26 years old.

Welfare checks for young people are \$25 less than for older people.

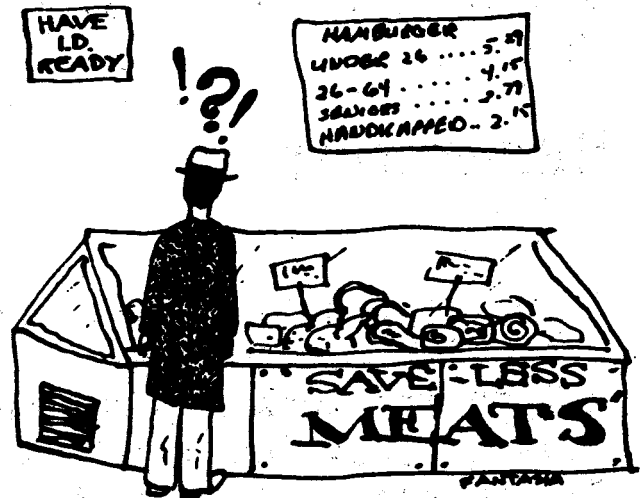
The case was brought by the B. C. Human Rights Coalition on behalf of all young people on GAIN.

But the Human Rights Council, which was hand-picked by the Socred government, didn't tell the government to pay the money back. It

didn't even tell them to stop discriminating.

Later this summer a court decision on the same issue is expected. Maybe the judge will tell the government to stop paying young people less.

As it is, welfare rates for young people are at about 36% of the poverty line.



Welfare Tips:

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These groups may be able to help you with welfare problems:

VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS ASSOCIATION, 246 E. Broadway. Phone 872-8648. Open 9 to 4 Monday through Friday.

LITTLE MOUNTAIN TENANTS ASSOCIATION, 125 E. 37th. Phone 324-0555. Open 10 to 3 pm Monday through Friday.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH, 320 E. Hastings. Come Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 am.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, 9 E. Hastings. Phone 682-0931. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

UNEMPLOYMENT ACTION CENTRE, 146 E. Broadway. Open 9:30 to 3 pm, Monday through Thursday. Phone 875-8311.

Remember:

If you are denied what you need, try not to take it out on the worker. Workers have to obey instructions. Try to stay calm and get help from an advocate.



only rights you have
the rights you know.

See us if:

We can:

*You need information about your rights.

*Phone your worker.

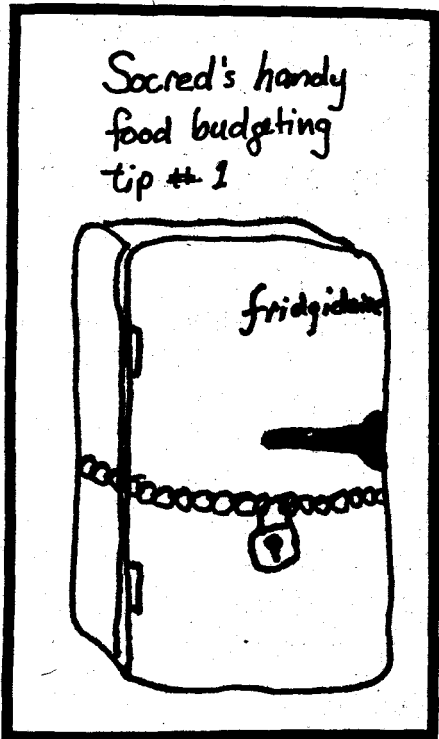
*Your welfare office has made a decision you think is unfair.

*Go with you to the welfare office.

*You're trying to get a handicapped pension.

*Help you with an appeal.

Our advocates know the law. We
have already won many cases.



I CAN'T AFFORD TO
RETIRE----- FOR THE
LAST FORTY YEARS I'VE
BEEN BLOWING ALL MY
MONEY ON FOOD, CLOTHING
AND SHELTER.

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6 — Good Samaritan Law:

Should we have a good samaritan law in B. C.? That's a law that would mean people could give food that spoils to the food bank. The food bank would try to check it out. But if the people who ate the food got sick, the person who donated it wouldn't be responsible.

Washington state has a law like this. It says:

"A person...who...donates an item of food for use or distribution by a non profit organization shall not be liable for civil damages or criminal penalties resulting from the nature, age, condition, or packaging of the donated food."

That means that food banks in Washington try to get donations of fresh produce that is "mostly useable", frozen meats, and other food, and out of date products, as well as food that doesn't spoil.

A good samaritan law would mean, for example, that food not used at a fancy hotel banquet could be donated to the food bank.

A good samaritan law might mean more donations. But it could also mean:

- *A greater chance of people in food lines getting spoiled food and getting sick;

- *More acceptance of the idea that low income

Help for the poor or _____ 7 crumbs from the rich?

people should get the crumbs from the tables of richer people (when we should really have decent jobs and better welfare rates so we can buy our own food).

What do you think?

Fill out this form with your answer and hand it to the person who gives you this newsletter. Or tear off the form and send it to End Legislated Poverty, 2005 E. 43rd, or phone us your answer at 321-4355. Thanks for your help.

What do you think?

I think B. C. should have a good samaritan law

I think B. C. should not have a good samaritan law

Your comments: _____

You're not alone

Feeling all alone and poor? Well, you may be barely surviving on a low income, but in B. C. you're not alone. The latest statistics from the Ministry of Social Services and Housing show that there are 247, 327 people on GAIN.

In addition, about 175,000 B. C.ers are unemployed. Tens of thousands more work at wages that are below the poverty line.

Tenants



Tenants Rights
Action Centre

682-6341

Ste. 203 1104 Hornby St., Vancouver
Mon. to Thur. 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

GROUPS IN THIS COALITION INCLUDE

Fort Nelson Advocate and Anti- Poverty Group	First United Church	Federated Anti- Poverty Group
Downtown Eastside Residents' Assoc.	New Westminster Unemployed Action Centre	B.C. Teachers' Federation
Vancouver Unemployed Action Centre	Organization of Unemployed Workers	Branching Out Dawson Creek
Unemployed Teachers' Action Centre	Vancouver & Dist. Public Housing Tenants' Assoc.	Downtown Eastside Womens' Centre
Tenants' Rights Coalition	Vancouver Status of Women	B.C. Association of Social Workers
Little Mountain Tenants' Assoc.	Single Mothers' Action Committee	Dandelions
		White Rock Food Bank Advisory Board