

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#14

July 20, 1988

GET ON CITY VOTERS' LIST

The city election for mayor, aldermen, school board and park board is in November.

If you want to vote you have to get on the voters list by yourself. No one will come to your door to help you fill out the form.

And you have to fill out a new form even if you were on the list and voted for the last 20 years.

Usually the city hires people call enumerators. They come to your door and put you on the voters list. But this year the city decided to save money by not hiring these people and not

creating these jobs. As a result about 85,000 people could be left off the list.

Most of these people will be tenants. Many of them will be people who have a hard time reading. Some will be people who don't read English too well. Many will live in on the East side.

Be sure you get on the list. Get your form at 7-Eleven stores, Mac's stores, most banks and credit unions, and many community agencies.



MOTHERS TRY TO GET \$50 BACK

Three Mothers from the Child Poverty Action Committee went to Victoria on July 11. They tried hard to get Claude Richmond to stop the \$50 welfare cut planned for October. Richmond is the provincial Minister in charge of welfare.

The cut will affect some families who are now called "unemployable."

Richmond thinks that taking \$50 away from single mothers will make them get a job.

Colleen, a CPAC member and mother of two, will lose \$50 in October if the cut goes through.

She showed Richmond and his assistant that

losing \$50 makes it impossible for her to find work.

The mothers showed Richmond a bare-bones budget. They tried to convince him that the cut will make kids hungry.

Richmond and his assistant held the opinion that mothers of six month old babies are just "sitting back" and not contributing to society.

CPAC is disappointed in Richmond's response. It looks like he still plans to take the \$50. The Child Poverty Action Committee is planning a tough fight.

If you want to get involved, phone Patricia Chauncey at 321-1202.



END LEGISLATED POVERTY MOVES

End Legislated Poverty
has moved. Our new
address is #104 2005 E.
43rd, Vancouver, B. C.
V5P 3W8. Our phone is
321-1202.

PARENTS

If you think your child might be apprehended, remember, parents have rights.

Here are some of the rights you have:

LEGAL RIGHTS: You have the right to get legal help. After a child is apprehended, the social worker has 7 days to go to Family Court. Try to get legal advice before the first court hearing. Call Legal Services (687-1831) or see a Native Courtworker. A lawyer can speak for you in court and can help to make sure that you get all your rights.

DOCUMENTS: You have the right to see any report of the social worker in your case and to see other legal documents or papers about the case. Ask for these before the day of your court

appearance so you have time to read them. After the court appearance you should keep a copy of all papers, including documents saying what happened in court. Then you can give these to your lawyer if you need to.

VISITING RIGHTS: You have a right to visit your child (this is called access) unless a judge says you can't. It is very important that you or your lawyer always ask for visiting rights at your first court appearance. Ask for visits at times and places that are convenient for you.

INDIAN BAND INVOLVEMENT: If you are a status Indian, the law says that your Band must always be notified of a

AVE RIGHTS

child apprehension. If you do not wish the Band to be further involved, tell the judge.

CHANGING THE ORDER:

Parents have the right to change an Order if they feel the Order was wrong. Some Orders are changed by being "varied." Some are changed by an appeal. Do not wait! In some

I KNOW THE KIDS APPRECIATE ALL I DO FOR THEM...



BUT THEY'D DUMP ME IN A MINUTE FOR SOMEONE WITH MONEY!

cases there are time limits, as short as 30 days. Talk to your lawyer or Native Courtworker right away.

Poverty is frustrating. No child should be abused or neglected but low income people have to work much harder to raise their children. If you need more money for your children, tell your worker you have an "unexpected item of need". This could be money for music lessons or hockey equipment or extra clothes for your child. Try to get a diet allowance so you can afford to buy milk and protein for your child. Try to get money for summer camping for your child. If your worker turns you down, ask for an appeal kit and see one of the groups listed on page 8.

CAMP CAPILANO

Despite the 40-39 vote in favor of keeping Camp Capilano the way it was, our favorite place was privatized.

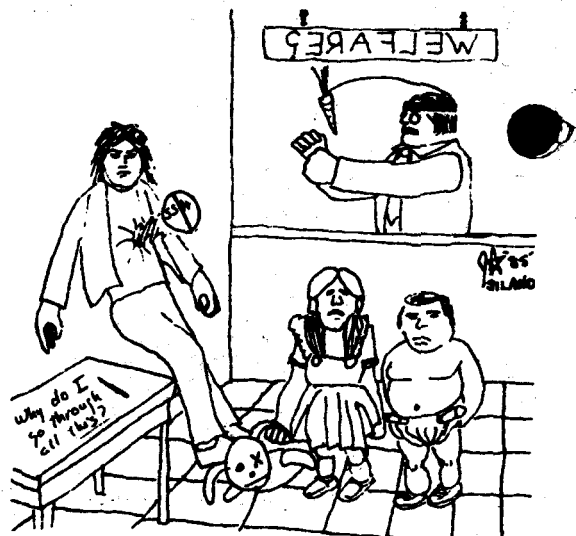
This means the camp director Jack Way had to leave at the end of June as the Greater Vancouver Regional District took the camp over.

Mom attended the meeting when the great vote was taken and has a great deal of information about it. Barney was the camp dog and a favorite of the children. Jack Way and his wife had to find a farm for Barney as they knew he could not adjust to the city. Barney is a big, lovable shaggy dog. Some people forget that animals have feelings too!

I was first introduced to Camp Capilano when a

group of children went there from Oppenheimer Park. I keep busy trying to learn more about the history of the area. I would appreciate hearing any stories so I could write them down.

Wayne Schmidt
(12 years old)



● SPITTING NAILS...

Sometimes I get so mad at welfare and the system that I could spit nails.

In June I had my annual review. I asked my worker for a dietary allowance of \$20, for an Incentive Program application, and for a handicapped pension application.

My worker asked me for another letter from my doctor to prove that I'm still "unemployable."

She told me to bring my Hydro receipt.

As a result of this. I had to make a bunch of phone calls and appointments. I had to go see my doctor. Eight or ten phone calls, three doctor appointments, and eight

miles of walking later, this is what I have:

--I kept my "unemployable" status.

--I got my dietary allowance.

--My doctor supports my handicapped application, so I might get this.

In other words, if you are patient, do a lot of walking, know your rights, make lots of appointments, and phone calls, and have a sympathetic doctor, you can sometimes get more money out of welfare.

I think its disgraceful that a person has to work so hard to get a little money that is their right under the GAIN Act and Regulations.

Name with held by request

CALL A SENATOR...

Time is running short to stop the free trade deal. It is possible for the Senate of Canada to stop the deal.

But they have to know that Canadians want this. Call the toll free number to the Senate (1-800-267-7362). Ask for one of the B. C.

Senators. Their names are Jack Austin, Ann Elizabeth Bell, Edward Lawson, Leonard Marchand, Raymond Perrault, George Van Roggen. Ask them to help stop the trade deal. The free trade leaflet inside this newsletter might help you explain why free trade will hurt low income people.

These groups will help you with welfare problems:

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

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

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

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