

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#17

October 18, 1988

GET THAT DOCTOR'S LETTER

If you are called an "unemployable" person by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, you MUST get a letter from your doctor. The letter must say that you are still

"unemployable." You must give the letter to your worker. If you don't do this, the Socred government will cut \$50 off your welfare check.

About 20,000 people in B. C. have received a letter from their worker about this. Some are single people. Some have children. The \$50 cut will make it even harder to eat and pay

rent. More children and adults will be hungry. But the Socred Minister in charge of welfare says the \$50 cut will "help in becoming independent."

If you do not have your own doctor, you could try going to one of these clinics:

REACH CLINIC, 1145
Commercial Dr. Phone:
254-1354.

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY
HEALTH CLINIC, 412 E.
Cordova. Phone: 255-
3151.

MID MAIN CLINIC, 3998
Main. Phone: 873-3666.



Dear Ministry of Social Services and Housing

Having received your application for continued functioning we firstly, before acceding, must determine a few fundamental if purely formal (please be assured) facts pertaining to the existential validity of your claim for status within the framework of our reality.

Please be so inclined, therefore, to define to our satisfaction the following term:

DIGNITY

Please be advised that should your organization fail to comply with our request within a reasonable quiltzob of disbobulationary conflexity, we will be unable to further process your claim.

Sincerely,
THE LUMPEN-PROLETARIAT

CITY ELECTION. REGISTER ON ELECTION DAY

REMEMBER: The city voting list is different than the federal voting list. If you aren't on the city list, you can still register on election day. Watch the next newsletter. We'll tell you where to vote for city elections.



FIGHTING THE \$50 CUT

As single parents we are being forced to lose \$50 and being reclassified as employable. This is the Ministry's so-called "work incentive program". This announcement caused much stress and emotional upheaval for myself and many others.

For myself, I lost the last bit of self-worth that I had. What am I going to do? As it is, I can't adequately feed my children all month. With \$50 less a month, it seemed impossible. My answer at that point was suicide. Luckily my suicide attempt failed.

I was internalizing my rage at the Socreds for treating single parents so shabbily and for having so little regard for our children's lives.

Through End Legislated Poverty I was connected with a lawyer at Legal Services Society who was interested in fighting MSS&H's decision on the cutback. The Ministry has made this an unappealable decision, once again taking power away from the people. For myself, it's giving me my own personal power back.

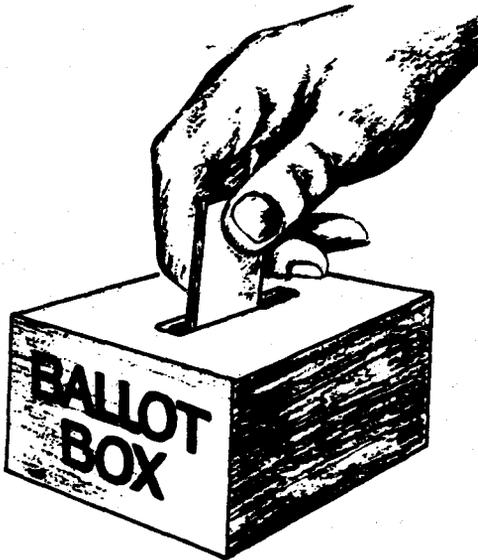
By Anita Archambault

FEDERAL ELECTION:



Your vote could make a big difference in the federal election. The election is on Monday, Nov. 21. Most groups that are fighting poverty think that if the Tories get in, we will have more poverty, lower wages, higher taxes for poor people, and taxes on food.

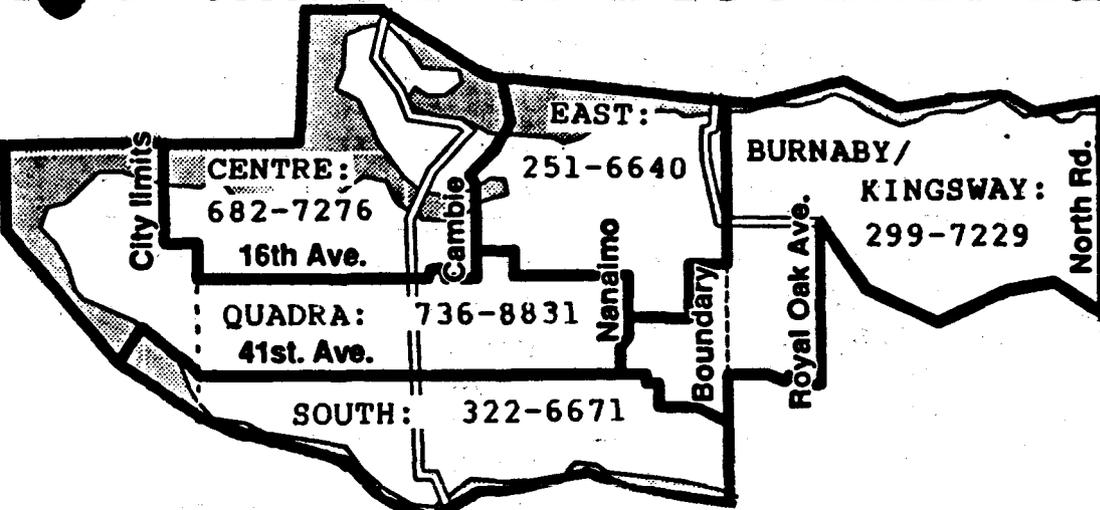
The Tories have already



promised that they will give us free trade with the U. S. In the U. S. welfare rates are as low as \$81 a month (in Washington State) and minimum wages are \$1.40 an hour in Texas. Nine states have no minimum wage. Also, in the U. S. millions of low income people have no health insurance. There is no family allowance or child tax credit. And pensions for our elders are lower. This is the kind of society that the Tories want us to "harmonize" with.

The Liberals are against this free trade deal. The NDP is opposed to free trade period. So voting in this election will be our last chance to stop the trade deal easily. It will be much harder to stop after its is in place.

ING MAKES A DIFFERENCE



GET ON THE FEDERAL VOTER'S LIST

In order to vote in the federal election, you have to get on the voters list. Between Oct. 14 and 20th, people called "enumerators" are out knocking on doors and registering people to vote. They should have called at your home. But if they didn't, you can still get on the list.

If you are on the list, you will receive a card in the mail from the "Returning Officer." The card will say that

you are on the list. If you don't get the card by Halloween (Oct. 31st, Monday), call the number for your riding (the area that you live in). Someone will come to your house to put you on the list. Look at the map to figure out which riding you live in.

You can also go to the office of a political party. They will usually help you get registered. The last day to get on the list is Nov. 4th.

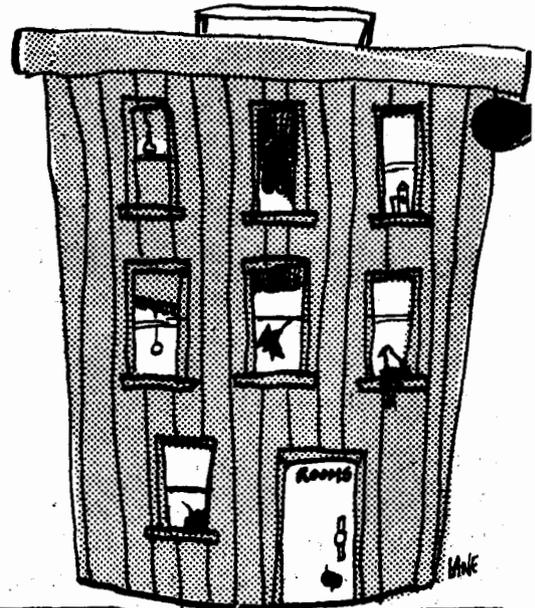
CITY ELECTION: VOTE FOR HOUSING

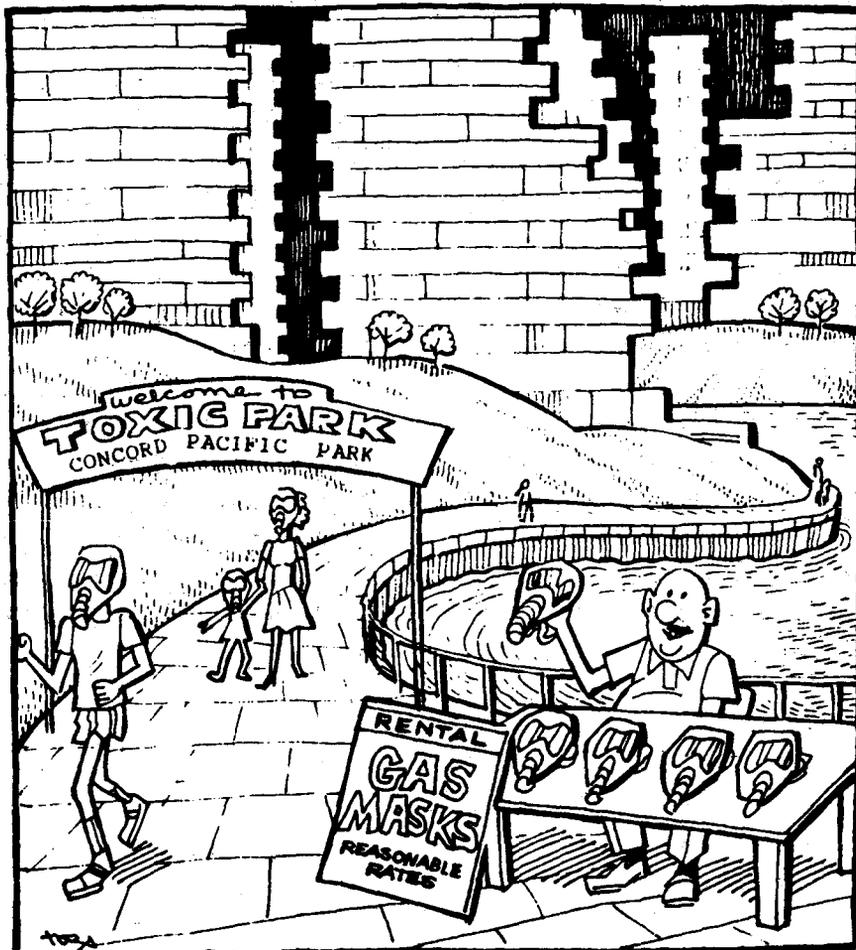
We need more housing that people can afford in Vancouver. Over 17,000 people are on the waiting list for affordable housing. The land that used to be the Expo site would be a good place to put it.

End Legislated Poverty, the B. C. Housing Coalition, the Civic New Democrats, COPE, and Jean Swanson, who is running for Mayor, all think that the developer should put more housing there.

All of these people told city council that we need at least 33% of the housing for low income people, and some for middle income people. But the entire NPA council, including Mayor Gordon Campbell, turned this down. Now the city

has a policy that will require only a token amount of low income housing on the Expo lands. COPE, the New Democrats, and Swanson have a record of fighting for more housing for low income people. If they are elected, they will change this policy and negotiate strongly for more affordable housing





Concord Pacific is the huge company that bought the Expo lands from the provincial government. Some of the land is contaminated with chemicals that cause cancer and other diseases. The worst contamination is in the place where Concord Pacific wants to put a park. They say that people don't spend much time in a park. Therefore, its okay to have more cancer/causing chemicals there than on land where housing will be built. End Legislated Poverty and other groups have called for a complete cleanup of the land so there is no danger to people.

CONFUSED ABOUT ELECTIONS?

The CITY election is on Saturday, Nov. 19th. You can register at your polling station in the CITY election. A flyer should be delivered to your door. It will tell you where to vote. The CITY election is about housing on the Expo lands. It is about closing basement suites. It is about feeding hungry children. The FEDERAL election is on Monday, Nov. 21st. You must be on the

FEDERAL voters list by Nov. 4th. See pages 4 and 5 for the phone numbers to call if you are not on the list or don't know. The FEDERAL election is about free trade deal. It is also about more sales taxes (maybe on food). It is about childcare. It is about who should run our country: big business and the market system or people using their votes.

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.