

# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

# 23

May 23, 1989

## "MOTHERS WILL NOT BE FORCED TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT," SAID CLAUDE RICHMOND

The sacred government is making single parents on welfare look for work.

Last year, you were "unemployable" if you had 1 baby under 6 months old OR two or more children under twelve years. Now all parents with kids who aren't young babies are called "employable." This means that you have to say on your cheque stub that you ARE looking for work.

There are many problems with this. Parents ARE

working by looking after their children.

Decent affordable childcare is not available. Decent paying jobs are not available. A mother with two children would have to make \$10.47 an hour to reach the poverty line.

Parents will have to say that they are looking for work in order to get the money they need to feed their children and pay rent. There is constant stress and anxiety.

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# CHILD POVERTY FORUM II

Concerned people packed the Unitarian Church on May 13 to make recommendations to stop child poverty.

Child poverty is still a huge problem in Vancouver.

This is because welfare rates and wages are so

The Forum called for a raise in the welfare rates and wages to reflect the real cost of raising children.

Affordable housing is a

major problem for low income families in Vancouver.

Recommendations about housing included stopping illegal suites closures, building affordable social housing, and 100% taxation on land speculation.

Come to a Child Poverty Action Committee meeting to find out about the recommendations. For more information call Patricia Chauncey 321-1202.

## PARENTS AND JOBS ... (continued from page 1)

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

According to the law, you do have to make reasonable efforts to secure employment. However, if you get into trouble about this, End Legislated Poverty has a

letter from Claude Richmond. He is in charge of welfare in B. C. In the letter, Richmond says: "Mothers will not be forced to accept employment." If you want a copy of the letter, call 321-1202.

# HOW TO USE EMERGENCY SERVICES

The provincial government has changed Emergency Services again. A lot of people are confused.

If it is after 4:30 pm and you need a place to stay and some food, phone 660-3194. The person at this number will tell you where you can go for a bed. If you already know where the hostels are, you can go directly to them without phoning. You

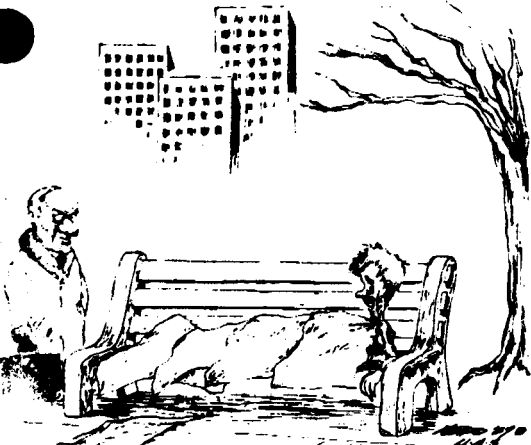
should be able to get a bed if one is available.

If you do not have ID you can still get a bed. You do not have to be on GAIN to use emergency services.

If you need emergency childcare, you should call Zenith 1234. This is the helpline for children. You will get a worker on the line. There is no guarantee that you will get childcare. It depends on the situation.

Emergency Services is giving food vouchers for Safeway instead of meal tickets.

If you need help getting on welfare so you don't have to depend on Emergency Services, see an advocate at one of the groups on the back page.



*Now if it were a TAX shelter you were looking for...*

# CANADA CAN AFFORD DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL

We can't build housing for low income people. It would be too expensive.

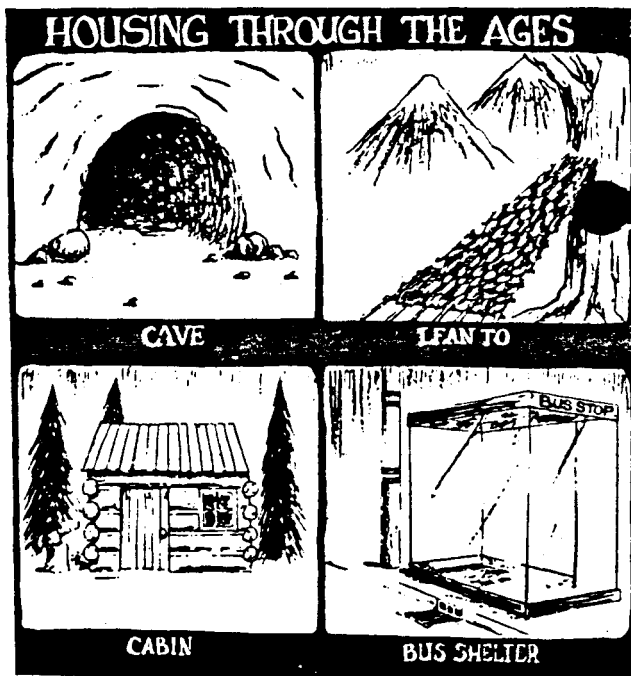
Ever hear that excuse?

Jim Karpoff is the NDP Member of Parliament for Surrey. He spoke at the Child Poverty Forum in Vancouver on May 13th. Karpoff gave us the facts to fight that excuse. He said that rich people get more money from the government for housing than poor people do.

He said that people with less than \$5000 a year get an average of \$32 a year in housing subsidies. People with \$10,000 to \$20,000 get an average of \$171 a year. If you have an income of \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year, you get about \$1312 per year.

But if you are rich--if your income is over \$100,000 a year--the average person gets \$6,753 worth of tax loopholes.

Karpoff said: "If the government can afford housing for the rich, they can certainly afford housing for the poor."





### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## GETTING KICKED OUT OF YOUR HOME?

Demolitions of good, cheap housing are continuing at an alarming rate. It won't save your home, but now Vancouver landlords have to give you at least six months notice if they want to demolish a house or apartment building. This gives a bit more time to look around.

If your place is going to be demolished or renovated or changed into a condominium, the Tenants Rights Coalition wants to know about it. The Coalition is trying to collect facts and figures about how many people are losing their homes. Call 255-0546.

# THIRD WORLD POVERTY IS HERE

BY PATRICIA CHAUNCEY

I attended a conference called "Woman Initiating Change" with women from all over the world.

I felt guilty talking about our poverty compared to Africa, Cenral America, or the Phillipines..

I know that more of our kids die here form the effects of poverty than die of cancer. I know that we don't have enough money to feed or care for our kids.

I spoke with a woman from Africa.

She told me to tell our women that we should use the animal droppings to paint our walls. We would stay cool if we did.

I told her that most of us don't own farm animals and that the landlords would evict us if we did.

I told her that we had to deal with the cold in the winter.

I told her that landlords don't like us to hang up our laundry because water drips on the floor and clotheslines are ugly..

She told me to tell the women to plant local plants in the garden that will with stand the heat, cold and the floods.

I told her that most of us live miles from the country and that we have cement in our yards or that we can't use them.

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## THIRD WORLD POVERTY ...(continued from page 6)

I told her that many places won't even let you rent if you have children.

She said, "What kind of a country is this? There is so much here

and your woman are as poor as our woman... maybe poorer!".

A woman from the Phillipines turned to us and said, "Your women sound like our women."



For quick information on your rights as a tenant, call the Tenants Rights Hotline at 255-0546

If you have a complicated problem and it may be better to talk to someone face-to-face, the Tenants Rights Coalition and Legal Services Gastown office jointly run a tenant legal clinic every Saturday. No appointment needed.

### Tenant Legal Clinic

Saturdays 9 am to 12 noon  
191 Alexander Street  
Vancouver

# GET WELFARE HELP FROM THESE GROUPS

**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION,**  
9 E. Hastings. Phone 682-0931. Open 9 to 4 Monday through Friday.

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

**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 Monday through Friday.

**B. C. COALITION OF THE DISABLED,** 456 W. Broadway. Phone 872-1278. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

## REGISTER TO VOTE

Did someone come to your home to register you to vote in the provincial election? If not, call 660-6848. The Voters List office will send you a form to fill out and send back. You must be registered in order to vote in the next provincial election.

