

# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#28

December 20, 1989

## HOW TO BECOME "UNEMPLOYABLE"

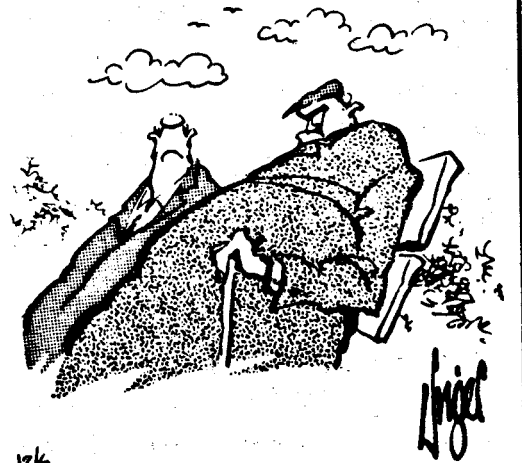
Is your worker demanding that you go out and look for jobs? If you have any mental or physical health problems that keep you from working full time all year round, you may be able to become

"unemployable." This would mean that you could get \$50 more per month and health care benefits. Also you wouldn't have to look for jobs until you are better.

For you to become "unemployable", your doctor will have to fill out a form. Ask your worker to give you this form. If you don't have

medical coverage, ask your worker to get the Ministry to pay for this visit. Then take the form to your doctor.

Call one of the groups on the back page if you need help.



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I went straight from a broken home  
to a fixed income.

#104 2005 E. 43rd, Vancouver, BC, V5P 3W8

## COURT DECISION MAY HELP MORE

A man named Bruce Fenton has won a court case that may help other people. Mr. Fenton is a patient at the Forensic Psychiatric Institute. He worked there making furniture and other things. But he was paid less than the minimum wage.

Mr. Fenton went to court because he thought he should be getting minimum wage.

Mr. Fenton's lawyers were David Mossop and James Pozer. These lawyers do lots of good work for low income people. They used the Canadian Charter of Rights to help win the court case.

The Charter says that "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal

benefit of the law without discrimination...." The Charter says that it is illegal to discriminate based on mental or physical disability.

In B. C. the Employment Standards Act says that the minimum wage is \$4.75 an hour. But a B. C. law also says that its okay if mentally or physically disabled people who are getting therapy or rehabilitation don't get minimum wage.. The judge found that this provincial law discriminates against

certain workers. Therefore it is against the Charter.

We now have to wait and see what happens. The provincial government may want to appeal the

# PEOPLE EARN MINIMUM WAGE

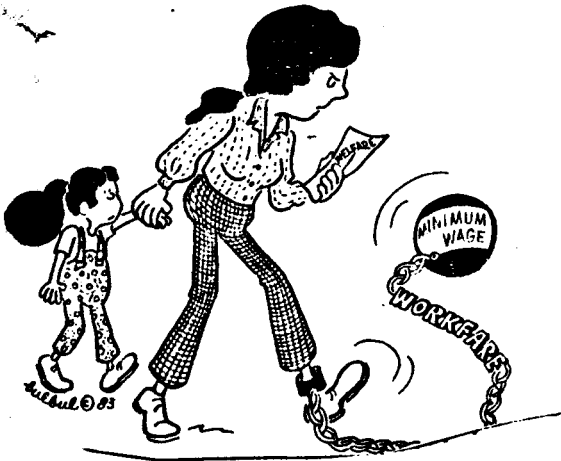
case. They would try to get a different decision. But if the decision stands, many

underpaid people may be able to collect the minimum wage for their work.

## USING THE CHARTER TO FIGHT POVERTY

Can the Canadian Charter of Human Rights be used to fight poverty? We don't know for sure.

But End Legislated Poverty is going to find out. We have received a grant from the Court Challenges Program and the Charter Committee on Poverty. They want us to figure out what actions low income people want that would end poverty. Do we want increased welfare, increased wages, housing, guaranteed adequate incomes, or other things?



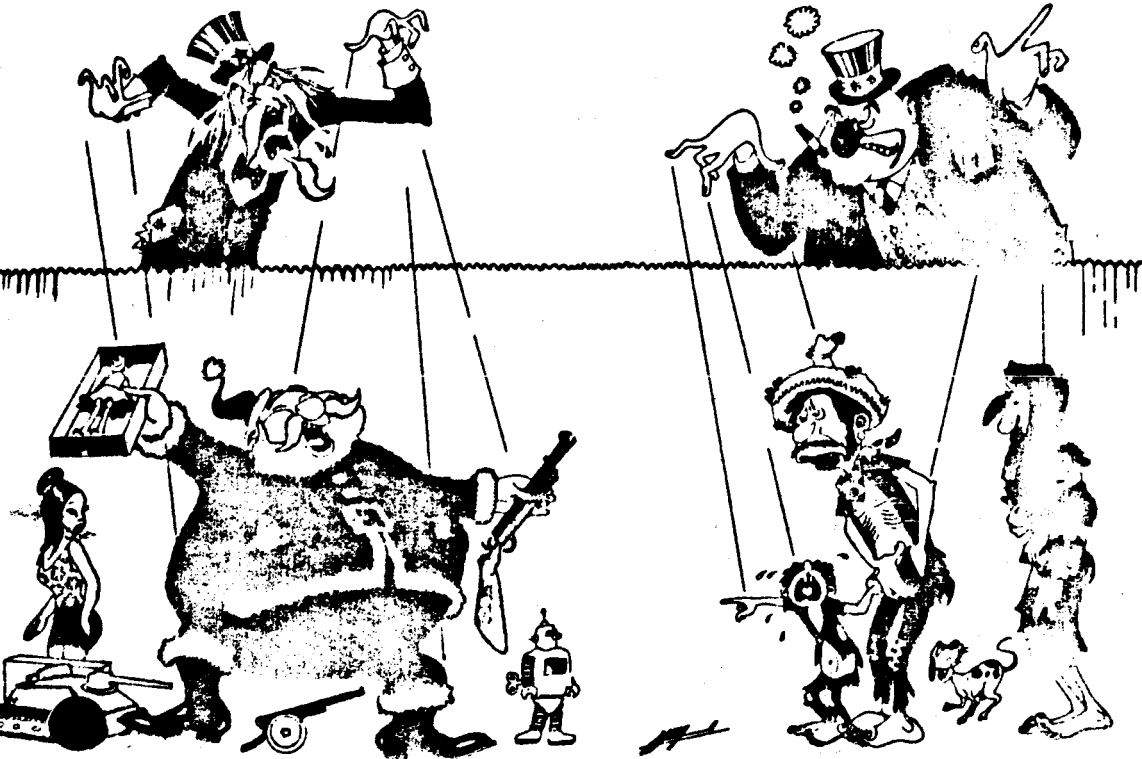
Then we are going to use lawyers to figure out if we can win those things with a court case based on the Charter.



# CHRISTMAS



# CARTOONS FROM MEXICO



## JUSTICE, NOT CHARITY

Merry Christmas from End  
Legislated Poverty.  
We'll be working for a  
new decade without

poverty. Give us a call  
if you want to help.  
Our number is 321-1202.

# THE GST WILL WIPE OUT JOBS

The Tory Government wants to put a new tax on Canadians. It would be 9% or 7% on nearly everything that we buy except food and rent. The tax would cost a lot. It would also wipe out jobs. Wood Gundy, a financial consultant, says the tax would wipe out 75,000 jobs. Marjorie Cohen, an economist, says it would wipe out 100,000 just for women. These pictures explain how the GST would wipe out jobs.

Let's help stop the GST. Write to Brian Mulroney  
Parliament Buildings,

Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. Tell him to stop the GST and to tax rich people and corporations instead. They can afford it.



# WANTED: ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS

Are you an artist? Can you sing songs or play an instrument? Have you taken some good pictures or made a beautiful quilt or wall hanging? Have you written poems or drawn cartoons?

space with examples of the creativity of low income people. We are especially interested in art or performances that show how poor people are fighting back against poverty and oppression.

End Legislated Poverty is having a conference on poverty in January. We want to surround our

If you are interested in contributing your work, call Jean Swanson at 321-1202.

# SEND YOUR CHEQUE TO THE BANK

Would you like to have your welfare cheque deposited directly into your bank account? Some people like to do this. It helps prevent muggings on cheque day. It reduces the chance that your cheque will be lost. And its good if you are moving.

If you want your cheque deposited directly into your account, ask your worker to do it. Or, you can call the Downtown Deposit Project at DERA. Their number is 682-5280.



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# WE GOOFED



**WE GOOFED!** In the last ELP newsletter we said there was a new advocate in the West End. Her name is Jonene Bicket. She'll help you out if you are having trouble with welfare. But we put the wrong phone number in. Her correct phone number is 683-2944.

## PROJECT LITERACY

Project Literacy want to hear from you if you dropped out of school. This is a group that wants to help people learn to read. If you are interested, call Ann Berger at 431-0194.

# GET HELP WITH WELFARE 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 to 11 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.

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