

# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#29

January 17, 1990

## COLUMBIA RESIDENTS WIN!

Residents of the Columbia Hotel in the Downtown Eastside still have a home. Not only that, their home is going to be fixed up. And their rent increases will be rolled back.

About 110 people live in the old hotel that has a beer parlour on the ground floor. Before Christmas many of the tenants received rent increase notices. The landlord wanted them to pay up to \$440 for one or two rooms.

Conditions in the hotel were awful. Communal washrooms were not cleaned. There was no heat. When the city forced the owner to get space heaters for

people, the fuses blew.

The Tenants went to DERA for help. Tenants of hotels and rooming houses have more rights now than they used to. They now have the same rights as residents of apartment buildings. Now they can speak out about crummy conditions without threat of eviction.

City Council decided to give the owners of the Columbia 60 days to clean up the place. If it is not cleaned up by then, the city will go in and do the work. The city will send the bill to the owner.

People who speak up for their rights can win!!

POEMS  
ART  
SONGS  
SNACKS

DIGNITY  
PLAYERS

YOU'RE INVITED

BUS FARE IF YOU  
NEED IT

JOIN OTHER PEOPLE WHO  
ARE FIGHTING POVERTY TO  
HAVE FUN!!!

PLACE: UNITARIAN CHURCH  
49TH AND OAK

TIME: FRIDAY, JAN. 26th  
8 to 10 PM



## 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.

# GOVERNMENTS COULD STOP HOUSING CRISIS

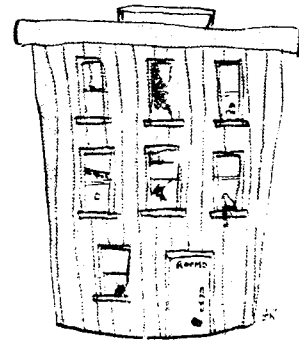
Vancouver is right on the edge of a major homelessness problem. Right now people do sleep under bridges and in abandoned buildings. Its bad. But its not as bad as Toronto or some American cities.

Hotels and rooming houses in the Downtown Eastside have always been a last resort before homelessness. But DERA, the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association, says that there are only about 50 vacancies in these places now.

The Ferry Market has been boarded up because people were staying in it. Officials suspect that the fire in the Shamrock grocery was caused because people were staying in the basement.

What could our politicians do to provide housing? There are two main things. Politicians have to make strong laws to save existing housing. And we need money from the province and the government in Ottawa to build more housing that people can afford.

If you have problems with housing, call the Tenants Rights Coalition at 255-3099. Or call DERA if you live in the Downtown Eastside. Their number is 682-0931.



## GET \$100 FROM

Is your income less than \$16,000 a year? If it is, you can get \$100 from the government for yourself. You can also get \$50 each for your children. Welfare won't deduct this money.

This money is called the sales tax credit. It gives you a little back on some of the hidden taxes you have been paying all year.

You have to fill out your income tax form to get the money. This can be pretty difficult.

All of these groups listed below will help you fill out the form. The help is FREE.

DERA, 9 E. Hastings. Open 9 to 4 Monday to Friday. DERA will help you now if you have a form that has been mailed to you. If you don't have a form, wait

til the first week in February. DERA will have forms then.

First United Church, Hastings and Gore. First United will start doing taxes in the first part of February in the afternoon. You will need an appointment here. Call 681-8365 to get the appointment.

Downtown Eastside Womens' Centre, 44 E.

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## GROUPS FIGHT UI CUTS AT SENATE

Some Vancouver groups are still fighting to stop the cuts to UI. DERA and the B. C. Coalition of the Disabled have already been to Ottawa to present a brief to the Senate against the cuts to UI. End Legislated Poverty will go on Jan. 18th.

# THE GOVERNMENT

Cordova. Learn how to do your own tax form. The Womens' Centre will help women do this. They will have workshops for this in February. Call 681-8480 for times and dates of the workshops.

Vancouver and District Public Housing Tenants,

246 E. Broadway. Open 9 to 4 Monday through Friday. They will start in the first week of February.

Little Mountain Tenants' Association, 125 E. 37th. Open 10 to 3 Monday through Friday. They will start in the first week of February.



# VOTE AGAINST THE GST

In April, you will be able to vote against the Goods and Services Tax (GST). This tax will increase the cost of nearly everything by 7 or 9%.

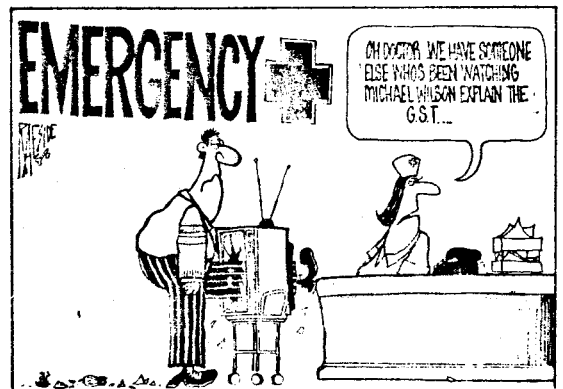
But maybe citizens can stop it. The vote will NOT be held by the government. It will be held by the Canadian Labour Congress and the Pro Canada Network. These groups have been fighting to stop the GST. Then also want to get a tax system where rich people and corporations pay more. We hope that the vote will pressure the government to listen to us and stop the tax.

We don't know exactly how the vote will be carried out. But we'll let you know. In the meantime, here is a letter you can send to Mulroney. Read the

letter first. Do you agree with it? If you do, fill in your return address and sign it. Then cut it out, fold on the lines, and tape or staple. You don't need a stamp. Drop it in a mail box.

Wait to see if you get an answer from Mulroney. Will you agree with that?

HERE IS  
THE LETTER:



ian Mulroney, Prime Minister  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Mulroney,

I am writing to demand that you scrap the GST and replace it with taxes on corporations and wealthy people who can afford to pay more taxes.

The GST will make me poorer. The tax credit won't be enough to cover the extra money I will have to spend on haircuts, coffee in a restaurant, clothing, phone bills, cable TV, Hydro, and nearly everything else. Besides that, the credit isn't even tied to inflation, so I will have to put out more money for the tax every year and get less and less back.

Meanwhile, your friends, the corporations, get a full tax credit so they don't have to pay extra.

The GST means that I have to pay the same rate of tax as Conrad Black or Jimmy Pattison and other rich people. That is definitely NOT FAIR.

I don't want the government to cut spending on necessary things like universal pensions, social programs, health, education, VIA RAIL, CBC, and UI. I think our country needs these things. Other countries have a tax on wealth. We need one here too.

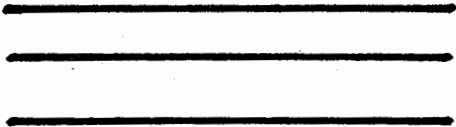
Yours truly

name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_

tape here

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-----fold here-----



no  
stamp  
needed

Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

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