

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#38

Jan. 30, 1991

B.C. TOWNS WANT HIGHER WELFARE, HIGHER WAGES, AND AN END TO FORCED EMPLOYMENT

End Legislated Poverty has asked all the towns and cities in B. C. to pass resolutions calling for:

- *welfare rates to be raised to the poverty line;

- *minimum wage to be raised to \$7.50 an hour;

- *single parents on welfare to have choice about whether or not to look for work.

Towns and cities don't control these things. But ELP has asked them to tell Bill Vander Zalm to increase welfare and wages and stop forced employment of single parents.

So far these towns have passed one or more of the ELP

resolutions or similar resolutions: Alert Bay, North Vancouver, Fernie, Elkford, Township of Langley, Trail, Alberni Regional District, New Westminster, Powell River, Cowichan Regional District, Sidney, Central Coast Regional District, and the District of Kitimat.

Vancouver City Council has passed a resolution on forced employment. It will consider the resolutions on welfare and wages soon.



EVERYDAY WE SUFFER

I haven't had a decent Christmas in 40 years. I had a turkey dinner once at a hospital. I got shock treatment the next day. They called it "therapy."

I got nothin' now--I don't even have a warm room and clean sheets. I've got a room in the Downtown Eastside. It's the best I could find for \$300. I'm only getting \$394 per month.

I've worked for the Hudson's Bay truck driving and slumpin

(delivering packages). I helped build the Williams Lake airport. I've done warehouse work. I had a leg operation 20 years ago. It never healed. I'm on GAIN for Handicapped now, but I'm not getting my full cheque. I'm talking to DERA about that.

I just want to let people and the government know that not everybody is having a good life--not just at Christmas, but all year long, we suffer.

--By a Downtown Eastside Resident--



MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR TAX CREDITS

This year low income people should be able to get a Federal Sales Tax Credit of \$140 per adult. In addition, we should be able to get a GST Tax Credit in July and October, 1991 and January and April, 1992. The basic GST tax credit is a total of \$190 per year.

To get this money, you have to get your income tax form filled out. The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association will help you do this for free. They are at 9 E. Hastings St. They will start filling out the forms when they are available. Call first to see if the forms are in. The number is 682-0931.

Be sure to bring your T5007 tax slip if you got welfare or senior supplements worth over \$500 in 1990. The provincial government should mail this to

you before Feb. 28th. This is a new form and a new hassle for people. If you don't get your T5007 tax slip by Feb. 28th, call 660-1313 in Vancouver or 1-800-665-2928 outside of Vancouver.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Are you a handicapped person on the incentive program with SS&H? This is where you work for a non profit group as a volunteer and SS&H gives you \$50 for your work-related expenses. SS&H often says that you can only work on the incentive program for six months or 1 year.

However, if you are handicapped, and if your year is up, you may be able to extend the work for another year. Ask your worker to extend your work under section 14. If you need help, go to an advocate group on the back page.

SANCTUARY!

Some single mothers are working with End Legislated Poverty to have a Sanctuary on Feb. 15 and 16 to draw attention to the situation of single parents on welfare who are forced to look for work or training.

The Sanctuary will be at the Four Sisters Co-op Daycare. Childcare, food, entertainment will be provided. If you would like to get involved, call Pam or Jean at ELP (879-1209). The women plan to stay overnight at the Four Sisters with their kids, to invite the media to talk to them about their situation, and to invite supporters, and politicians to drop by.

The women had asked for a meeting with Social Services and Housing Minister Norm Jacobsen. Jacobsen said he wouldn't meet with the group because there is a case before the courts. But the women don't want to discuss the court case. They want Jacobsen to change the GAIN regulations

so they can look after their children if they choose to.

When Jacobsen refused to meet with ELP and single parents, we decided to have the sanctuary to draw attention to the cruelty and discrimination of forced employment legislation.

So far ELP and the women involved have done these things to try to get the government to stop forced employment of single parents on welfare:

- *Decided to get together with ELP to work on this issue

- *Asked towns to pass resolutions against forced employment;

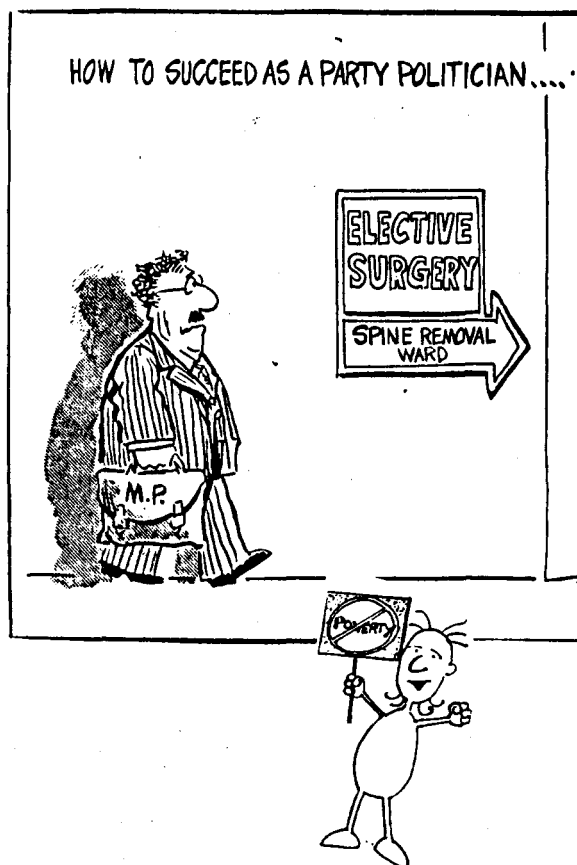
- *Helped get a court case started to challenge the forced employment law in court. Theresa Tressidder and Ellen Hiltz are the people involved in the case;

- *Asked for a meeting with Norm Jacobsen, the Minister in charge of this issue.

ELP GOES TO OTTAWA

Three people from ELP will go to Ottawa in February. They will talk to a Parliamentary Committee on Child Poverty. The ELP reps are Antionette Naffaa, Karen Shillington, and Linda Marcotte.

They will tell the politicians to stop increasing child poverty with UI cutbacks, the GST, high unemployment, and cuts to social programs. They will say that we need to end parent poverty in order to end child poverty. We can do this if we have higher welfare, higher wages, fair taxes, and job creation.



FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR WOMEN

The Law Students Legal Advice Program and Battered Women's Support Services will help women who need legal advice.

They will help with problems like small claims,

employer/employee problems, custody and access, immigration, human rights, UIC and welfare, and WCB.

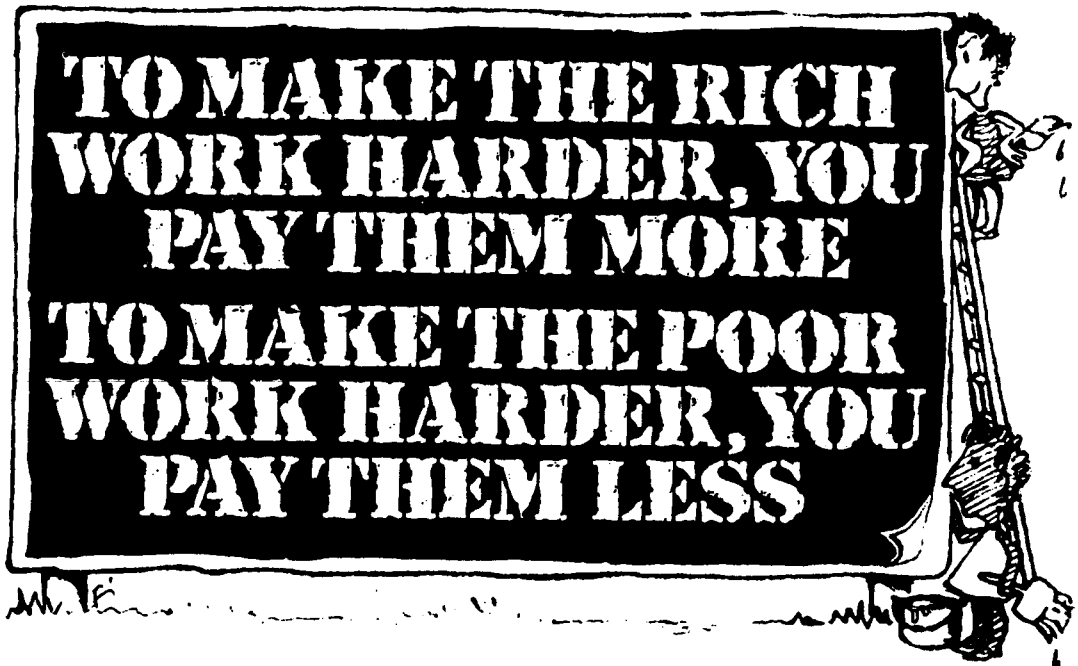
Legal advice will be available on Feb. 12, 26, and March 12. To make an appointment, call 228-5791.

GST ON HOTELS AND ROOMING HOUSES?

The GST Hotline says there is no GST on rooms that you live in if you pay less than \$20 a day. That would be about \$600 a month. If you live in a hotel or rooming house, you should not have to pay GST. The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association has all the information on this. If you live in a hotel or rooming house and the landlord charges you GST, call DERA at 682-0931.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE FAMILY DROP-IN

The Downtown Eastside Family Drop-in Program would like to invite families who live in the area to come to their program on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We provide activities and an informal space for you to come and talk, get support, and spend time with your kids. For more information, call Delilah at 689-2802 or 689-0488. We are at 101 East Hastings St.



MULRONEY IS MY SHEPARD

By Anita Gingrich

Mulroney is my shepherd; but
I shall want;

He maketh me to accept his
corrupt ways; he leadeth me
beside the still factories and
the abandoned businesses;

He restoreth my doubt in the
government; he leadeth me in
the paths of unrighteousness
for his name's sake;

Though I walk through the
valley of poverty, I will feel
his debt; for thou aren't with
me; will these guns and bombs
comfort me?

He prepareth a dull future in
the presence of our children;
he annoits my wages with
taxes so that my expenses
runneth over my income;

Surely hard living and poverty
shall follow me all the days

that he governs; and I will
dwell in his ways with protest.

WELFARE CANNOT ALWAYS TAKE MONEY OFF CHEQUES

Are you getting money taken
off your welfare cheque? Are
you getting less money than
you should?

Robert Finlay, a disabled man
on welfare fought with
governments in Ottawa and
Manitoba to stop deductions of
overpayments. He won! The
courts decided that the
government cannot take
money of his cheque for
overpayments, because that
would not leave him enough
money to live on.

If you are getting money taken
off your cheque, and you are
not sure why, talk to one of
the groups on the back page.
They will try to help you out.

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 to
Friday.**

**B. C. COALITION OF
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES, 456 W.**

**Broadway. Phone 872-1278.
Open 9 to 5 Monday through
Friday.**

FOR HELP WITH LANDLORD TENANT PROBLEMS:

**Call the TENANTS RIGHTS
COALITION Hotline: 255-
0546.**

FOR HELP WITH SERIOUS CRIMINAL PROBLEMS OR URGENT FAMILY PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE LAW:

**Go to the Legal Services
Society, 191 Alexander St.
Open Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, and Friday from 9
to 3:30, and Wednesday from
12:30 to 3:30. Legal Services
may be able to help with child
custody and restraining
orders.**

