

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#48

Sept. 18, 1991

Person with with real credentials writes book on homelessness

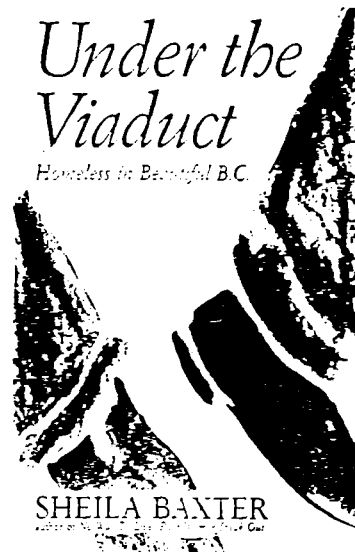
Sheila Baxter has written her second book, *Under the Viaduct*, homeless in beautiful B. C.

In the book Sheila interviews people who are homeless. They speak in their own words to the reader. She also interviews lots of people who are fighting against homelessness.

The book shows that poor people are smart about homelessness and have lots of solutions to it. Sheila shows that homelessness is not caused by bad people or sick people or drug addicts or by people who want to be homeless.

Sheila says that developers and politicians cause homelessness.

Sheila has been homeless herself so she knows what she's talking about.



Inside:

Harcourt answers questions on poverty

How to get registered to vote

Post Office Union works to prevent poverty

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers was on strike. Then they went back to work. The Union is still negotiating with its boss, Canada Post, when we wrote this article. Why are Postal Workers going on strike?

One reason is this: Canada Post wants to wipe out 14,000 union jobs. Canada Post wants to privatize these jobs in stores like Shoppers Drug Mart and Seven Eleven. They have already done a lot of this.

When postal services get privatized, workers get poorer. Privatization means that jobs paying \$13 an hour are changed to jobs paying \$5 or \$6 an hour. In other words, jobs that used to keep people out of poverty, now keep them in poverty.

End Legislated Poverty is supporting the Union. The Union doesn't want the government to change decent jobs into poverty jobs.



Public Service Alliance working against poverty

As we write this, people who work for the federal government are on strike.

Mulroney's Tory Government is their boss. The Government told these people that they can't have any raise this year. Some public sector workers have low wages. They take home about \$1300 a month. This is below the poverty line for a family of two or mre. It

is about the same as a family on welfare gets if they have three children.

The Government also passed a disgusting law. The law says this: If public workers get a raise, then other public workers will have to be laid off. This is a law designed to divide working people. Then we won't fight the government.

**Do you want to help
end the strikes?**

**Call your Member of
Parliament. Tell them to stop
privatizing post office jobs
and to improve post office
service.**

**Tell them public sector
workers deserve a fair deal,
which includes a raise. You
could also mention that people
on welfare need a raise, and
that minimum wage should be
raised a lot. Saying all these
things together helps build
solidarity among low income
and working people.**

**Here are phone numbers of
the Vancouver Members of
Parliament:**

- Kim Campbell, 666-8888**
- John Fraser, 261-8158**
- John Turner, 324-3553**
- Margaret Mitchell, 666-7414**
- Svend Robinson, 299-4022**

**Kim Campbell and John
Fraser are the only two Tories
on this list.**

Cut this out and tape over your mail slot.

**NO SCAB
MAIL HERE**

I support my letter carrier



Where do the Socreds and NDP stand on poverty?

End Legislated Poverty wrote to Mike Harcourt and Rita Johnston. We asked them four questions. These are the questions and the answers we received:

1. Minimum wage: Will your party raise it to \$8.26 an hour if elected?

Mike Harcourt: A New Democrat government will increase the minimum wage over time to more accurately reflect the cost of living. As an immediate step, we will raise the rate to \$5.50 an hour, effective Jan. 1, 1992. Following further public consultation and review, we will adjust the rates on a regular basis.

Rita Johnston:

(no response received)

2. Welfare rates: Will your party raise them to the poverty line?

Mike Harcourt: New Democrats recognize that current income assistance levels have been

seriously eroded by inflation and are well below the poverty line. A New Democrat government will move quickly to raise income assistance rates in recognition of increases in the cost of living--a first step in our commitment to raise rates to the poverty line. A New Democrat government will establish an Advisory Committee to conduct an annual review of GAIN rates, including representation from income assistance recipients and their advocates.

Rita Johnston:

(no response received)

3. Forced employment of single parents on welfare: Will your party change GAIN regulations so that single parents on welfare have choice regarding employment outside the home?

Mike Harcourt: Yes. New Democrats believe that a parent should have the choice of raising his or her own children. We will replace the coercive approach in

the current GAIN regulations with incentive-based programs designed to support the aspirations of single parents on GAIN for economic independence. Programs will include better child care, better access to post-secondary education and job training, a doubling of the basic earnings exemption under GAIN, a comprehensive review of alternatives for decreasing the barriers to employment facing GAIN recipients.

Programs funded must be non-stigmatizing and non-charitable.

Rita Johnston:

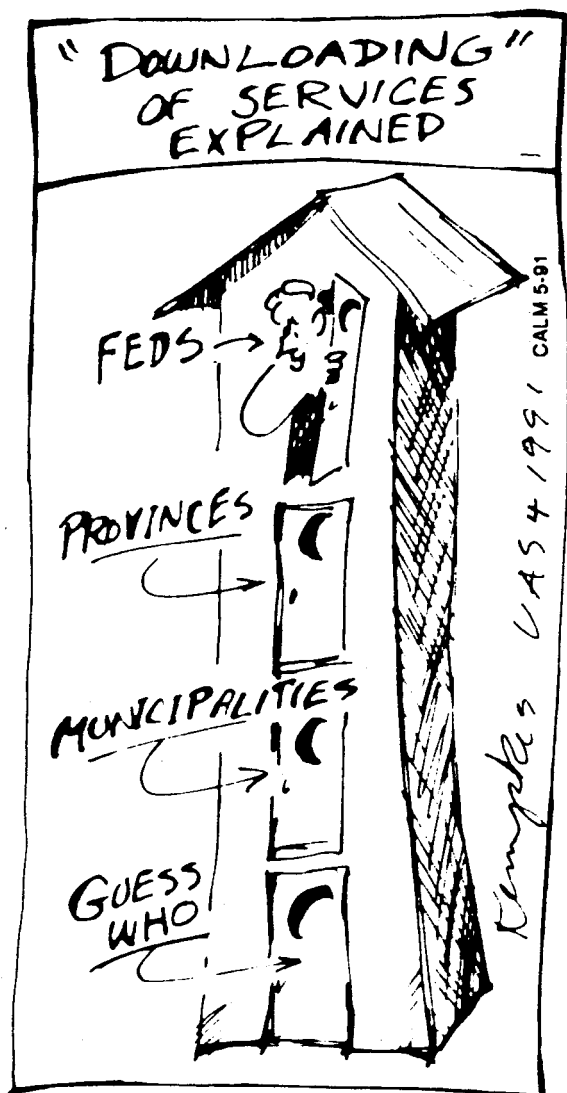
(no response received)

Rita Johnston:

(no response received)

- 4. School food programs: Will your party fund universal (within the school), non-stigmatizing, non-charitable school lunch programs in schools in low income areas throughout the province?

Mike Harcourt: New Democrats are stongly committed to providing provincial government support for lunch programs in schools where children go hungry. A New Democrat government will provide funding to assist local school boards and communities in setting up such programs.



FREE LAW CLASSES

Here are some free law classes.
If you want to go to the classes,
call the number in brackets first.

ICBC and personal injury
Britannia School (688-2565)
Oct. 7 & 8, 7:30 to 9:30.

Immigration and personal injury
Trout Lake Centre (876-9285)
Nov. 27, 7:00 to 9:00.

Landlord and Tenant Law
Riley Park Centre (879-6222)
Oct. 28, 7:30 to 9:30.
Hastings Library (253-9440)
Nov. 7, 7:00 to 8:45.

Seniors benefits—Am I getting them all?

Barclay Manor (689-0571) Oct. 3,
10:30 to noon.

Riley Park Centre (879-6222)
Nov. 20, 2:15 to 3:15.

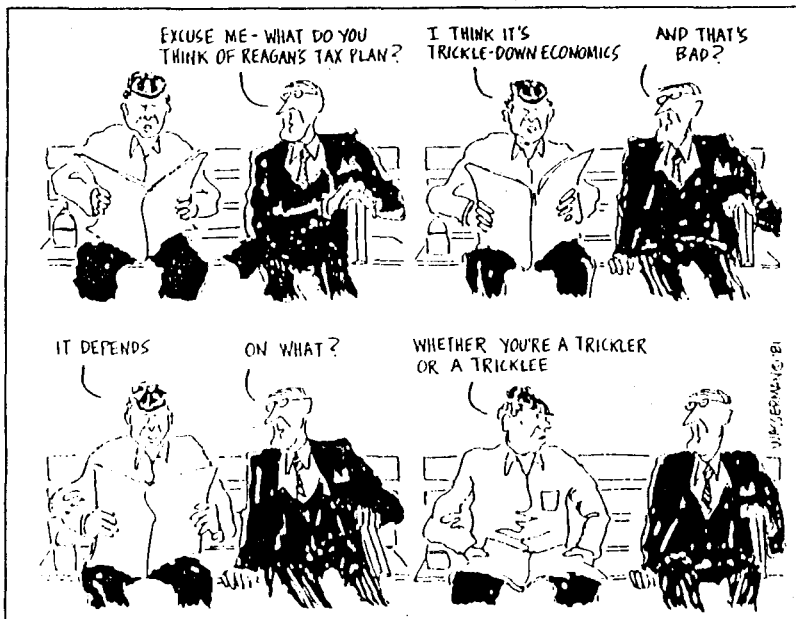
Loans to family and friends

Riley Park Centre (879-6222)
Oct. 16, 2:15 to 3:15.

Welfare rights and GAIN

False Creek Centre (665-3425)
Oct. 9, 7:00 to 9:00.

Gordon House (683-2554) Nov.
19, 7:00 to 9:00.



Registering to vote after the election is called

If you have a voters card, you are all set to vote in the provincial election. As we write this, the election has not been called. But it could be called any time.

The election happens 29 days after the Premier calls it. So it is up to Rita Johnston when to have the election. But it has to be before the end of the year.

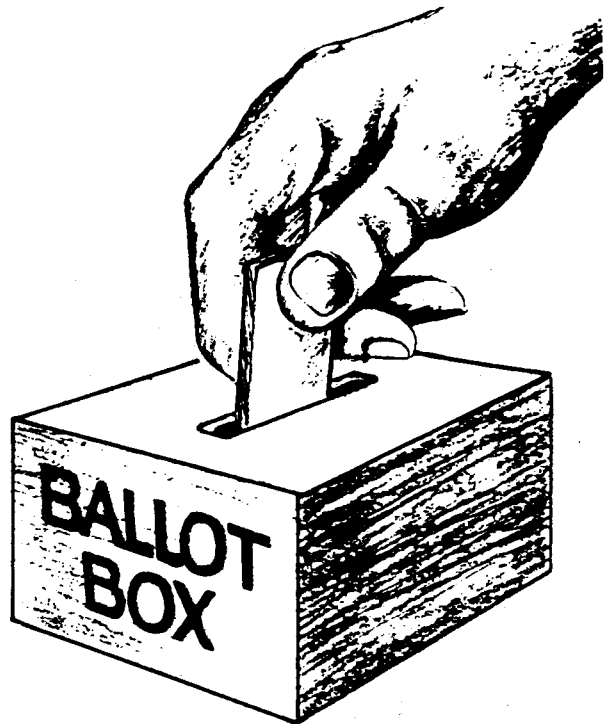
If you do not have a voters card, you can still vote if you are on the voters list.

If you aren't on the voter's list, you can register at the voters office at 475 E. Broadway in Vancouver. You have to do this in the first ten days after the election is called. Also registration centres will be set up in shopping centres and Safeways for the first ten days after the election is called.

Ads will appear in the Vancouver Sun and Province to explain where people can register.

If you are on the voters list, you will get a "Where to Vote" card in the mail.

This is our chance to chose the people who will represent us best!



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.

