

# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#46

November 7, 1991

## ELP expects new government to end forced employment of single parents

In B. C. single parents on welfare are often forced to look for work or training when their youngest baby is 6 months old.

This happens even if the mother has several other young children.

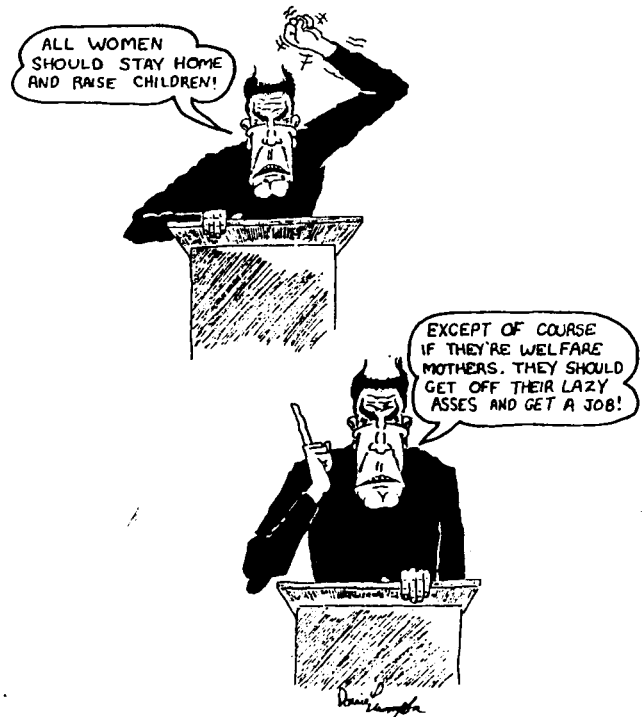
Single parents are also forced to say that they are looking for work when they fill out their cheque stubs.

For over a year a forced employment action group has been fighting to change this law. The group was organized by End Legislated Poverty.

Women on welfare have taken the government to court, gone to city council, held news conferences, and news events. The women have spoken out for themselves.

As a result, the NDP promised to end forced employment of single parents on welfare.

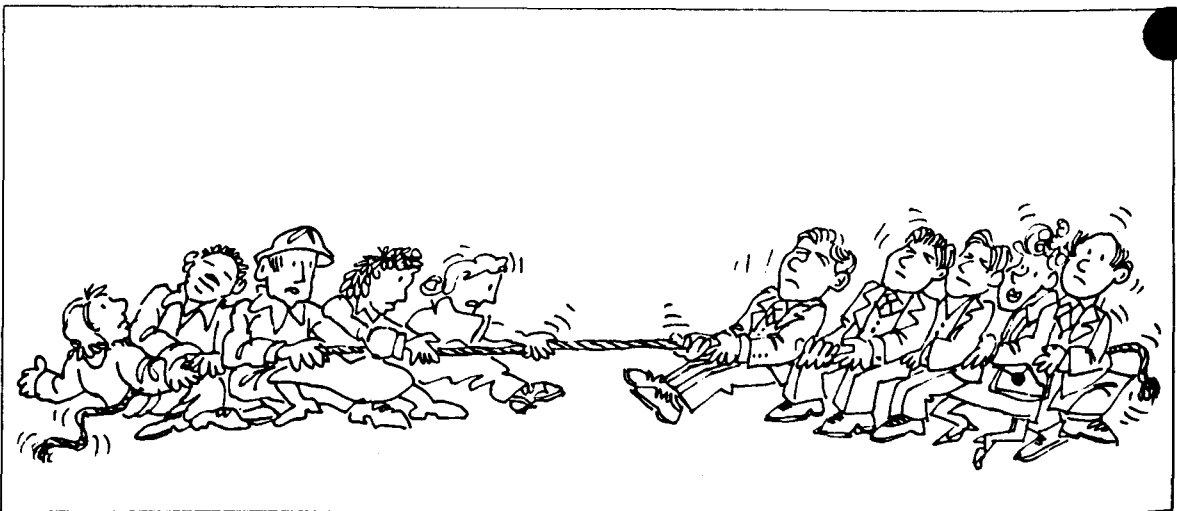
"This is not a promise that will cost the government much money," said ELP's Linda Marcotte. "We expect the new NDP government to end this hassle for women on welfare as soon as possible."



## How much money can you have and still get GAIN?

You can have some money and still get GAIN. You can have:

* Transients:	\$5.00
* Single employable under age 55	\$160.00
* Single unemployable under age 55	\$500.00
* Single persons age 55-59, single non Canadian handicapped, and single non-Canadian age 60 and over in Canada less than 5 years	\$1,500.00
* Single age 60 and up; single handicapped person	\$2,500.00
* Persons under age 55 with dependents	\$1,500.00
* Persons age 55-59 with one dependent (plus \$300 for each additional dependent)	\$2,500.00
* Person age 60 or over with dependents, handicapped person with dependents	\$5,000.00



## ELP more hopeful about school food programs

Just before the provincial election, End Legislated Poverty made a suggestion to Mike Harcourt. We suggested that he go to a school where they have a lunch program.

Harcourt did go. When he went, he made this commitment: "The highest priority when we sit down and set our priorities for the next year's budget is a school lunch program so kids don't come to school hungry each day."

Harcourt also wrote this in a letter to ELP: "New Democrats are strongly committed to providing provincial government support for lunch programs in schools where children go hungry. Programs

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

We already have lunch programs in 13 elementary schools in Vancouver, two schools in Victoria, and two in Surrey. But the need is great in many, many more schools. Committees are working in Burnaby, Nanaimo, Victoria, Surrey, and Vancouver to try to get the lunch programs expanded to more schools. People in Terrace also want to work on school food programs.

"We have to keep up the pressure on the NDP to make sure they meet their commitment," said ELP's Pat Chauncey.

SO YOU WANT TO APPLY FOR SUBSIDIZED DAYCARE.  
OKAY YOU HAVE TO FILL OUT THESE BASIC FORMS AND  
CONNECT THE DOTS PERTAINING TO THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR EXAMPLE: REASONING IS YOUR RETURNING TO SCHOOL  
FILL IN THE YING AND YANG FORM ON A-73 TO G-10  
AND RETURN TO EVALUATION DESKS 322 OR 178E!  
..... ANY QUESTIONS?



**Charity**  
is  
a  
**Bandaid**  
not a  
**Solution**

Christmas is coming. This is often the season when newspapers, TV, and radio have stories about charity.

These stories show the desperate situation of poor people. We don't have enough money. We don't have any presents for our children. We don't have housing, or decent housing.

Sometimes there are pictures with the stories. People are supposed to feel sorry for poor people and make donations.

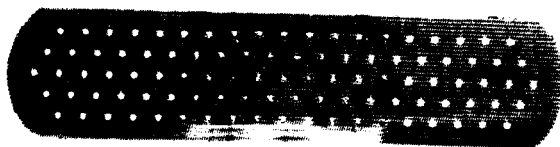
Sometimes there are interviews with the people who give to charity. They usually say that giving to charity makes them feel good.

There are interviews with the people who receive charity. These people usually say they are grateful for the charity. After all, it's needed.

End Legislated Poverty wants a world where charity is not necessary because people are not poor.

## The Charity Bandaid

- \* Charity creates a relationship of power and dependence instead of equality and respect;
- \* Charity makes the giver feel good while the receiver feels humiliated;
- \* Charity perpetuates inequality;
- \* Charity doesn't end poverty;
- \* Charity creates the illusion that people's needs are being met when they are not;
- \* Most people fall through the cracks of charity.



## The just solution:

- \* Create decent jobs;
- \* Raise the minimum wage to at least \$8.26 an hour;
- \* Raise welfare rates to the poverty line (about \$14,000 a year for a single person);
- \* Build affordable housing and bring in rent control;
- \* Base taxes on ability to pay;
- \* Say "no" to the free trade deal;
- \* Base government economic strategies on meeting people's needs, not on playing the game of competitive impoverishment.

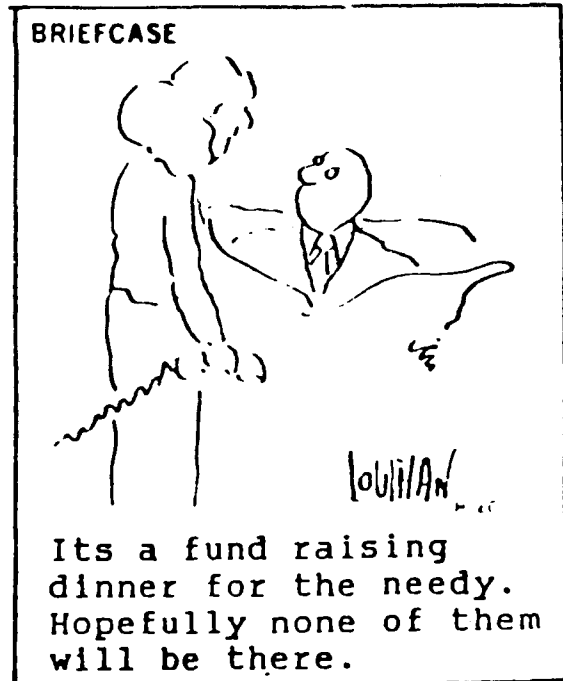
## What can you do?

- \* Write to your MP and MLA and tell them you support these policies;
- \* Support organizations committed to justice so we don't need charity;

\* Vote for politicians committed to policies that will end legislated poverty.

**What do you think of this statement about charity?** Call ELP and tell us. We'll print some responses in the next newsletter. Our phone number is 879-1209. Or write us a letter. Our address is:

*End Legislated Poverty  
#211 456 W. Broadway  
Vancouver, B. C. V5Y 1R3*



This cartoon shows how charity makes some low income people feel.

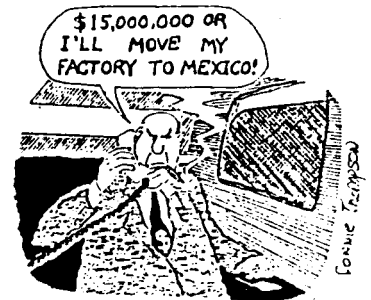
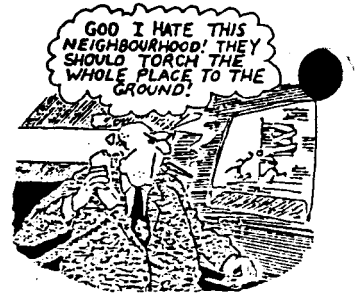
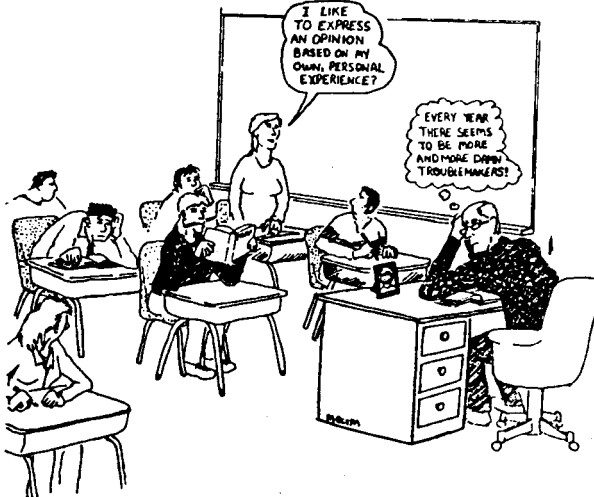
# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

**E** -- A conclusion that will benefit  
**N** all citizens of the "commonwealth"  
**D** society.

**L** -- The result of  
**E** having the power  
**G** to make laws,  
**I** to levy taxes,  
**S** and assign  
**L** the public wealth  
**A** to a particular  
**T** purpose or  
**E** use.  
**D**

**P** -- The state of anyone who  
**O** lacks a socially acceptable  
**V** amount of money for necessary  
**E** material possessions, such as  
**R** food, safe shelter, clothes,  
**T** and further, anyone who suffers  
**Y** from the "Poverty Mentality" of  
 feeling unqualified for common resources.

*By Gary Gust*



## Free law classes

All of these classes are free. Please register for the classes by phoning the number in brackets.

### Immigration law

Trout Lake Centre (876-9285).  
Wednesday Nov. 27th, 7 to 9 pm.

### Landlord and tenant law

Hastings Library (253-9440).  
Thursday, November 7th, 7 to 8:45 pm.

### Seniors' benefits--am I getting them all?

Riley Park Centre (879-6222).  
Wednesday, November 20th,  
2:15 to 3:15 pm.

### Welfare rights and GAIN

Gordon House (683-2554).  
Tuesday, November 19th, 7 to 9 pm.



# RISE UP



FOR A  
**PEOPLE'S  
PROGRAM**

## Get help with welfare from these groups

### **Downtown Eastside Residents' Association**

9 E. Hastings St. Phone 682-0931. Open 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.

### **B. C. Coalition of People with Disabilities**

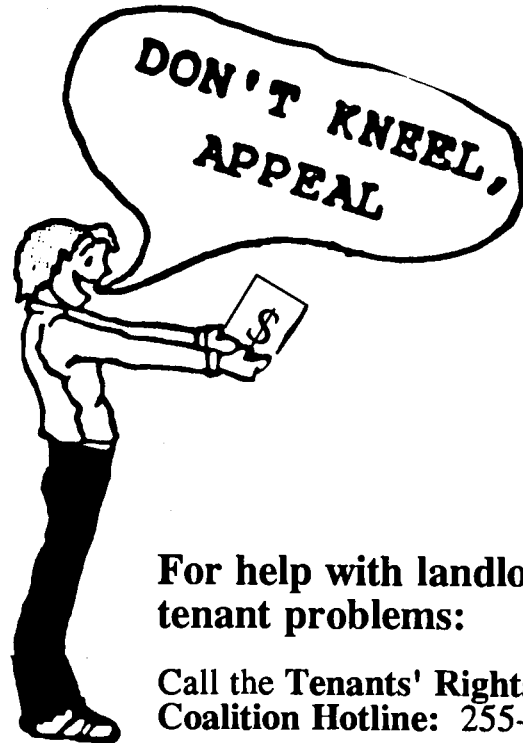
456 W. Broadway. Phone 872-1278. Open 9 to 5. Monday through Friday.

### **Downtown Eastside Womens' Centre**

For women only. Open 11 am to 5 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Open 12 noon to 5 pm on Wednesday. Drop in or call 681-8480.

### **Little Mountain Tenants' Association**

125 E. 37th. Phone 324-0555. Open 10 to 3 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 9 to 3:30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Open 12:30 to 3:30 on Wednesday. Legal Services may be able to help with child custody and restraining orders.