

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

February, 1992

Better incomes for better lives

End Legislated Poverty has won two victories lately. We stopped forced employment of single parents on welfare. We got the provincial government to put \$7 million into school food programs.

Now we are going to try to get higher welfare rates and wages. End Legislated Poverty wants welfare rates at the poverty line and minimum wage at \$8.26 an hour

To get higher welfare and wages, we will probably have to do lots of things. We had to do lots of things to stop forced employment and get food programs. We had demonstrations, meetings, letters, news articles, and more.

The first thing we are going to do to get higher welfare and wages is this: we want to take hundreds of letters to the government before the next budget. The next budget

will probably happen in late February or March.

The letters are on the inside of this newsletter. One letter is to Joan Smallwood. She is in charge of welfare. The other is to Moe Sihota. He is in charge of the minimum wage.

You can sign the letters and write your comments. Then cut them out and put a stamp on and mail to ELP. We will take them to Smallwood and Sihota before the budget.

It will probably take some time to win. But, with your help, maybe we can!!



Free legal advice for women

The Law Students Legal Advice Program will give women free legal advice. They will give you advice on things like divorce, welfare, debts, landlord/tenant, wills, UIC, ICBC, family, and criminal law.

If you want legal advice from these students, call 822-5791 to make an appointment.

All of the law students who volunteer at the Womens' Legal Clinic are women. The clinic is open every second Tuesday evening until the last week of March. The office is in the downtown area. It is wheelchair accessible.

The law students are supervised by a lawyer.



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Better Incomes for Better Lives

Moe Sihota, Minister of Labour
c/o End Legislated Poverty
#211 456 W. Broadway
Vancouver, B. C. V5Y 1R3

Minimum wage



Dear Mr. Sihota,

This letter is part of a larger campaign for higher welfare rates and wages. These two issues are linked. Welfare rates act as an unofficial minimum wage. They are so low that people are desperate to get jobs—even at a minimum wage that doesn't pay enough to live on.

I strongly urge you to increase the minimum wage to \$8.26 per hour for everybody. \$8.26 per hour is what the minimum wage would be in June, 1991 if it were the same percent of the poverty line as it was in 1975.

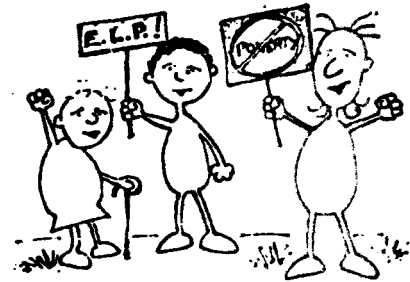
Yours truly,

(signature)

(print name)

(address)

(address and postal code)



My
comments: _____

For your interest: The Better Incomes for Better Lives campaign is part of End Legislated Poverty's campaign for higher welfare rates and wages.

Please send your signed letters to End Legislated Poverty, #211 456 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B. C. V5Y 1R3 as soon as possible. ELP plans to collect and deliver these letters to Labour Minister Moe Sihota before the provincial budget expected in the Spring.

ELP represents 28 groups from around B. C. Interested in helping out in this campaign? Call 879-1209 in Vancouver.

(fold here)

From:

Put
Stamp
Here

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

(fold here)

(tape or staple here)

(fold here)

From:

Put
Stamp
Here

To:

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

(fold here)

(tape or staple here)

Better Incomes for Better Lives



Joan Smallwood, Minister of Social Services
c/o End Legislated Poverty
#211 456 W. Broadway
Vancouver, B. C. V5Y 1R3



Dear Ms. Smallwood,

This letter is part of a larger campaign for higher welfare rates and wages. These two issues are linked. Welfare rates act as an unofficial minimum wage. They are so low that people are desperate to get jobs—even at a minimum wage that doesn't pay enough to live on.

I strongly urge you to increase the welfare rates to the poverty line for everybody. Everybody deserves the right to meet their needs for shelter, clothing, food, and other necessities. Current welfare rates are grossly inadequate.

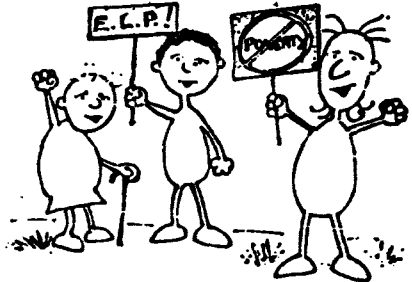
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THE YWCA
**Vancouver
Housing
Registry**

501 East Broadway
(between Main & Fraser)
Vancouver, B.C.
V5T 1X4

Hours:
Monday, Tuesday
Wednesday & Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday
2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Telephone: **873-1313**



For Tenants:

The YWCA's Vancouver Housing Registry is an information and referral centre for tenants in the City of Vancouver.

Our FREE services include:

- lists of vacant suites
- newspapers and telephones
- information on subsidized housing
- counselling
- advocacy for special needs people
- presentations to groups

The Vancouver Housing Registry is wheelchair accessible. If you are deaf you can contact us through the B.C. Tel Message Relay Centre at 681-2913, OR 681-1932 if you use a T.D.D.

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

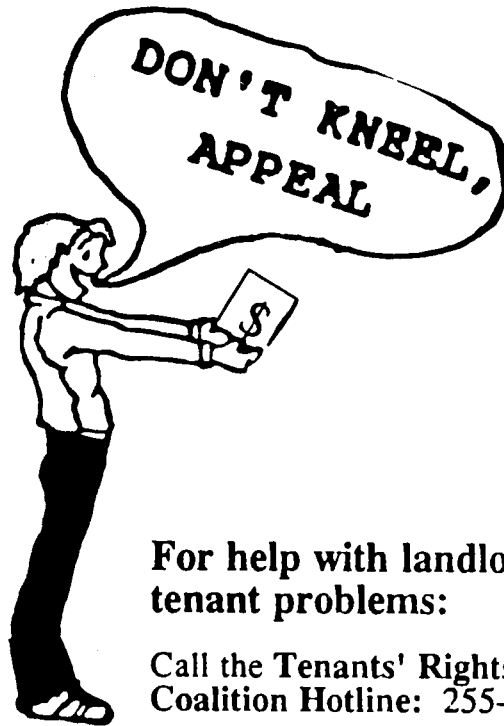
456 W. Broadway. Phone 872-1278. Open 9 to 5. Monday through Friday.

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.