

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

50

March, 1992

Ottawa's child benefit is a big hoax

The Tory government released its Budget on Feb. 25th.

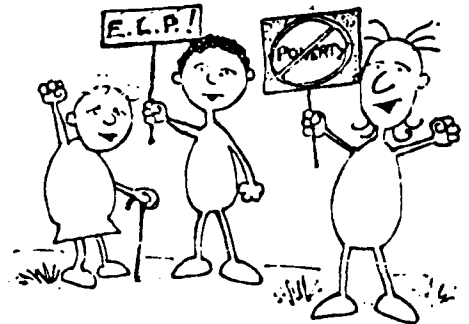
The government said it was starting a program to help low income families. They said that families would get up to \$144 per month per child.

In fact, there is no new money for families on welfare. The government in Ottawa is going to combine the family allowance and child tax credits that people get now. Instead of getting a family allowance once a month and a child tax credit at the end of the year, you'll get the payments

made every month. But the amount of money, over the year, is the same.

For low income families that work, the government will throw in up to \$500 extra, depending on how much you make. This will be a small help to people who work at slave wages.

The government also ended the co-op housing program and the court challenges program. Court Challenges was a program that helped poor people take important issues to court.



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.

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

Affordable housing

Are you a family that is having a problem finding decent affordable housing?

B'nai Brith Women's Building Society wants to build 40 units of family housing. This group is trying to get BC Housing Management Commission to provide money for the housing.

You can get applications for the housing at Eastside Family Place,

Rights for foreign live-in domestic workers

The Legal Services Society has a new booklet on the rights of foreign live-in domestic workers.

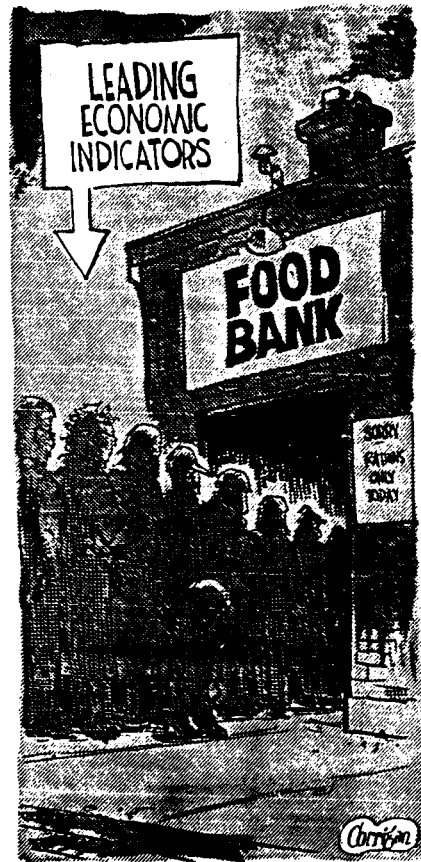
The booklet tells you what the minimum wage is. It says what to do if you have a problem with your boss.

There is lots more information in the booklet.

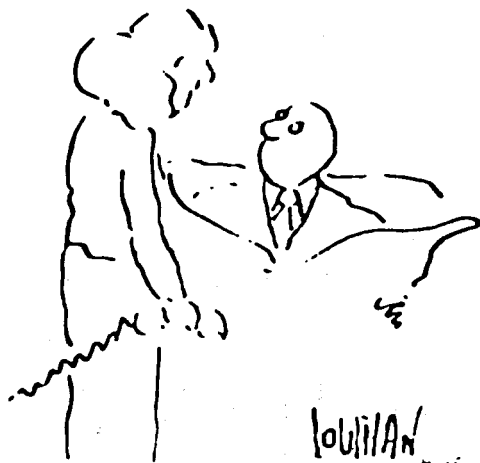
Call Legal Services at 688-2565 to get your free copy.

Salvation Army Family Services, Vancouver Housing Registry, Jewish Family Service Agency, Britannia Elementary School, Richmond Family Place. We need your applications now.

The group can't guarantee that you will get housing. But filling out the application will get you on a waiting list.



BRIEFCASE



Its a fund raising
dinner for the needy.
Hopefully none of them
will be there.

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

PORTERFIELD



So this is a cornucopia.

Charity...what c

What experiences do people who
use charities have?

What does it make you feel like?
Grateful? Humiliated? Both?
Neither?

What would you like to know
about charities? Do corporations
get tax breaks for donating? Do
rich people donate much?

Who do charities benefit? The
poor? The rich? How?

Are charities replacing jobs and
decent welfare rates?

What ideas do you have for
improving charities? How could
we change our system so we don't
need charities?

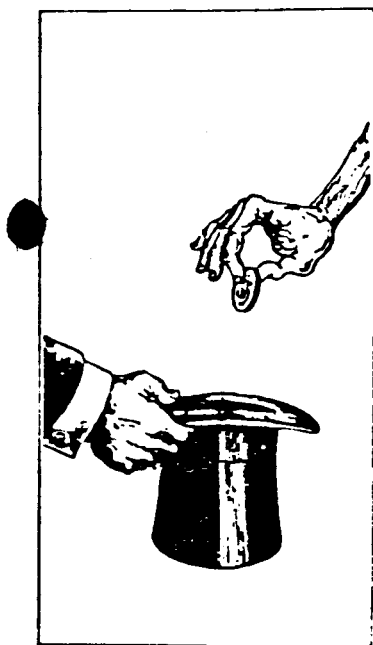
Any more questions about
charities? End Legislated Poverty
has a project about charities. I
want to set up meetings with
people who use charities. We will
pay your busfare, childcare, and
provide snacks at each meeting.
At the meetings you can discuss
charity with other people who use
charities. Hopefully, we'll come
up with some good ideas we can
share with government, the
media, and people who run
charities.

do you think?

Want to be involved? Call 879-1200. We'll let you know when and where there's a meeting for you. The meetings will start in the first half of April.



"I'll be all right. I was suddenly overcome by a wave of compassion for the poor."



"That's our problem, Charlie—the more we get, the more we want."

You can help tenants get more rights

The Tenants' Rights Action Coalition is trying to get the law changed for tenants.

They want the government to abolish security deposits, bring back rent control, and allow tenants to deduct the cost of repairs from their rents.

You can help. Fill out the letter on the next page and send it to the tenants coalition. They will see that Moe Sihota, the government person in charge of rental issues, will get your letter.

Having problems dealing with welfare?

Gus Long of FAPG recommends that you use these slogans (thanks for the tip, Gus):

Smile !

**It makes 'em wonder
what you've been
up to!**

**No one ever said
it was going to
be easy, but
this is ridiculous !**

Hon. Moe Sihota, Minister of Labour and Consumer Services
c/o Tenants' Rights Action Coalition
2681 E. Hastings St.,
Vancouver, B.C. V5K 1Z5

Dear Mr. Sihota,

Over the past 15 years tenants in B.C. have had to endure the slow erosion of their rights at the hands of the Social Credit government. While tenants' rights and the supply of affordable housing have decreased, rents have continued to rise and many tenants have lost their homes and many more are at risk of homelessness.

B.C. tenants are now hopeful that the New Democrat government will work to make affordable housing for all a reality in this province.

I realize that change takes time, but there are several changes you could make now that would cost very little to implement and would greatly improve the lives of tenants in B.C.

I strongly urge you to:

- * **abolish security deposits**
- * **bring back rent controls**
- * **allow tenants to deduct the cost of necessary repairs from their rents if the landlord will not do them.**

Yours truly,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City and postal code _____

Further comments:



PUT
STAMP
HERE

Tenants Rights Action Coalition
2681 E. Hastings St.
Vancouver, B.C.
V5K 1Z5

