

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

End Legislated Poverty (ELP) is a coalition of 40 B.C. groups, including anti-poverty groups, welfare advocates, unions and churches, working together to force governments to reduce and end poverty.

ELP's objectives are:

-To organize low income people -To educate on the need to end poverty and create decent jobs -To encourage unity and co-operation between unpaid and paid working people -To develop joint campaigns with organization representing unpaid and paid working people

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

Welfare -We are organizing for a better welfare system, including higher rates. Call us to get your free ELPKIT to help you organize people in your community about this issue. Call us collect for ideas and support.

Homelessness -initiating and supporting the National 1% Solution Campaign, urging all levels of governments to increase housing budgets by 1%.

Panhandling -working on a case against the City of Vancouver and the province of BC in order to stop anti-panhandling laws.

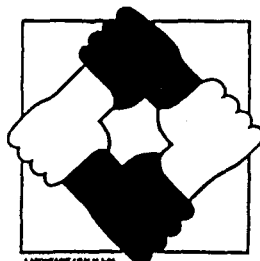
Economic Rights -urging all levels of government to include "economic and social human rights" in human rights legislation.

ONGOING WORK

- Working with coalitions to keep national standards for social assistance, health care and education.
- Producing and distributing a monthly newsletter, *The Long Haul*, which is circulated to over 5,500 people, including low income people and allies.
- Holding regular meetings of welfare advocates.
- Organizing meetings and workshops for low income and anti-poverty groups throughout B.C., including regional training schools outside of the lower mainland.
- Working for our Justice Program.
- Taking action on attacks on poor people as they occur and educating people on poverty issues.
- Responding to government requests for briefs on issues that effect low income people.
- Educating people on the corporate agenda.
- Exposing the effects of the MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) on low income people.
- Working with other community groups and coalitions, such as the Stop the Cuts Coalition.

WHAT IS LEGISLATED POVERTY?

ELP believes that unemployment and poverty is not the fault of individual people living in poverty. We believe poverty is *legislated*. In other words, poverty is created by laws that are passed by government legislatures. For example, low minimum wage and welfare rates are government policies which keep people living in poverty.



ELP'S JUSTICE PROGRAM

ELP's Justice Program was agreed to by member groups as the basis of unity for ELP's work. The Justice Program states ELP's long range goals, which if enacted would significantly reduce poverty.

1. **Income** -increase welfare rates to the National Council of Welfare poverty line. Increase the minimum wage to \$10 per hour.
2. **Jobs** -strengthen the government's investment in full employment.
3. **Services** -Free medical, dental, prescription drugs, bus pass, phone costs, quality child care and social housing supplied to those living below the poverty line. Reinstate national standards for welfare, education and health.
4. **Poor Bashing** -eliminate the discrimination, stereotyping and promotion of hatred against poor people
5. **Against the Corporate Agenda** -urge governments to create policies for human rights instead of corporate rights.
6. **Taxes** -Reinstitute taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations -eliminate taxes for low income people

PAST ACTIONS

1990 -Developed a Corporate Agenda Workshop to show the systemic causes of poverty.

1991 -ELP worked to get low income people registered to vote in the provincial election.

1991 -ELP's campaign to end compulsory employment for single parents on welfare in BC was successful.

1992 -ELP's campaign which resulted in provincial funding for universal, non-stigmatizing lunch programs in 152 B.C. schools. As of the summer of 1999, there are over 300 provincially funded school programs.

1994-ELP's Wages and Welfare Committee organized a "Justice not Charity" rally in Vancouver.

1996 ELP began a campaign to end discrimination against low income people by politicians, mainstream media and the general public.

1996 ELP worked with the "Workfare Hurts One and All" (WHOA) coalition to oppose the provincial government's regressive BC Benefits legislation.

1998 -Jaquie Ackerly, president of ELP, represented NAPO at the UN covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to advocate for the rights of low income people and bring attention to the loss of social programs.

1998 -ELP produced a poster to spread the message that Canada should provide adequate food, clothing and shelter for all citizens, as they promised in the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Groups in ELP's coalition include:

*Advocacy Centre, Nelson * Advocacy Outreach Centre, Salmon Arm * BC Teachers' Federation, Vancouver *Boundary Advocacy Group, Greenwood *Boundary Poverty Action Society, Grand Forks *Branching Out, Dawson Creek *Bulkley Valley Anti-Poverty, Smithers * Carnegie Association, Vancouver *Christ Church Cathedral, Surrey*Comox Valley Anti-Poverty Social Action Group, Courtenay *Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, Duncan * Down-town Eastside Residents' Association, Vancouver *Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, Vancouver * Downtown Handicapped Assoc., Vancouver *First United Church, Vancouver *Handicapped/Low Income Society, Vancouver* Justice & Peace Unit, Vancouver *KamloopsActive Support Against Poverty* Kitimat Anti-Poverty * Langley Advancing Against Poverty *Lower LightStation * NAC - BC *Neighbourhood Helpers, Vancouver * North Okanogan Community Law Office * One Plus Advocating Association, Okanogan *Penticton & Area Women's Centre *Phillipine Women's Centre, Vancouver *Society of Organized Services, Parksville *South Okanogan Urban Native Delegation Society, Penticton *Sunshine Coast Advocacy Action, Gibsons *TAPS, Victoria *Tenant's Rights Action Coalition *Terrace Anti-Poverty Group Society *Unitarian Church *Vancouver & District Public Housing Tenants Association *Vancouver Richmond Mental Health Network * Vancouver Status of Women *Vernon & District Women's Centre Society, Vernon.

Funding for ELP includes:

Ministry of Social Development & Economic Security, City of Vancouver, The Law Foundation of British Columbia, Legal Services Society and donations from various groups, unions and individuals.

ELP is a part of a larger movement fighting for the rights of people living in poverty.

You can become involved by:

- Joining ELP's working committees.
- Volunteering with ELP or any of ELP's coalition member groups.
- Writing articles and letters to *The Long Haul* about issues that matter to you.
- Phoning or writing to your local politicians to let them know how you feel about the changes that are happening and what really needs to be done (eg. more jobs, higher minimum wage, higher welfare rates.)
- Giving financial support to ELP or its member groups if you are able.
- Starting a group in your area - ELP can help you get started.
- Speaking out to friends and neighbours about issues important to you.
- Subscribing to *The Long Haul*.
- Finding out about ELP's campaigns and getting involved with them.
- Anything else you can think of!

It's your voice that counts!

Call us collect.

If you need more information, phone numbers and addresses for politicians, have a group that is interested in joining ELP or wish to volunteer, please contact us at the address at the address and phone number below:

End Legislated Poverty

211-456 W. Broadway

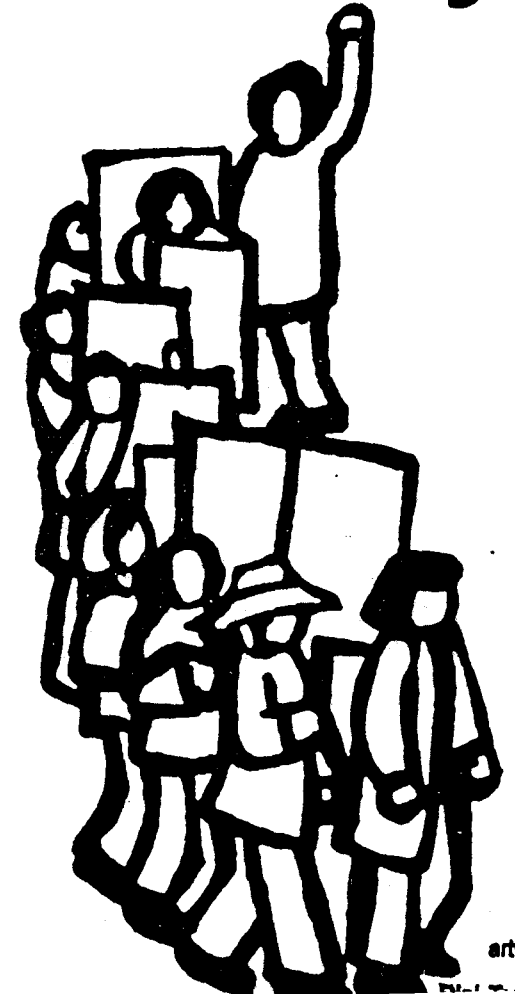
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