

EVERYONE'S PERSONAL PROPERTY

We are making a detailed list of everyone's property: what was left in the building, what was taken by police, and what was destroyed by police. See Aaron tonight or tomorrow so he can write it down if you haven't already. Make sure he gets your name & contact info especially if you might be leaving the squat soon.

JAILS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE SOCIAL HOUSING

This is a letter we sent out today to BC Housing, the BC Government, City of Vancouver, and Vancouver Police:

The Friends of the Woodward's Squat would like to bring to your attention a number of demands that were made upon you yesterday by the residents of the Woodward's Squat. Below are reprints of transcripts of the addresses made by Jim Leydon, Bev Meslo, Ivan Drury, and Christopher Livingstone.

We present them as a courtesy to you and strongly recommend that you act upon them immediately.

We should also stress that there is an enormous public outrage over the two sets of brutal arrests against the peaceful and non-violent residents conducted on 21 September 2002 and 22 September 2002 and the subsequent destruction of their personal possessions.

Our organization is in the process of documenting these two sets of arrests and compiling a list of every object that was taken or destroyed by the Vancouver Police.

Direct any questions you have regarding the demands to the four individuals. Our organization does not represent the Woodward's Squat. We can provide telephone numbers to contact these people if you do not already have them.

Aaron Vidaver
Friends of the Woodward's Squat

PS--Audio recordings of these addresses may be heard at the following internet address, along with 21 witness accounts of the police violence carried out during the second set of arrests.
<http://vancouver.indymedia.org>

TOMORROW'S EXPANDED ISSUE – POETRY!

Tomorrow's issue will have everyone's poetry and writing in it. Sorry we couldn't fit it in here today. We're still accepting stuff until midnight tonight. See Aaron for pens and paper. You can also speak into the tape recorder instead & we can transcribe it for you.

W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #4

FEATURING THE VICTORY SQUARE SPEECHES



24 SEP 02

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANGEL!

Victory Square Speeches - 23 Sep 02 - Monday Morning

(audio recordings available at <http://vancouver.indymedia.org>)

Jim Leydon

We condemn in the strongest voice possible the violence and lies which surround the Vancouver Police handling of the Woodward's Squat. We believe that this has the fingerprints of Gordon Campbell all over it. We call for the immediate resignation of the new police chief and expect all city councillors to state their opinion on this action that took place last night. We hold that these tactics are not appropriate in any civilized western society. We call on BC Housing Corporation to apologize for any role they have in this abuse of the homeless and ask that they agree to immediately open a significant part of the first floor of the Woodward's Centre for a homeless shelter. We will negotiate with them around this. We expect to meet with the Premier and we expect to meet with him quickly or there will be direct action in offices all over this province. We have had enough. This was too much. This is absolutely abysmal. That they come in with what can only be classed as jackboots and kick people in poverty, and kick homeless people, out onto the streets and into the alleys, away from places that we were holding as secure. What we were doing there was not a political action it was a humanitarian action. We were supported by the community. We were supported by churches. We were supported by union movements. We were supported by women's movements. We were supported by individuals. A farmer came here and brought us food to support the fact that we were taking care of the homeless. And the response to that by the new police chief, by the city, and by the province, is to come in and terrorize homeless people. That is not acceptable in western society.

Bev Meslo

It is disgusting that this province would allow the most disenfranchised, the most devastated, the most insecure population in the whole province, to lead the battle against the Liberal cuts. Here they are the weakest in our society standing up for the rest of us. When are we going to start acting in defense of them? Having said that, what is happening here is against the covenant that was signed by Canada with consensus of all ten provinces in 1987. It states that all human people have the human right to security of their person and their home. Because the Woodward's building has been fought for as social housing, because the Woodward's building was bought by Canadian people's funds to be social housing, it is therefore a regressive act on the part of the liberal government to now change it. That regressive act is a regressive act through to the United Nations. That regressive act can reach the Supreme Court of Canada and change the Charter of Rights within our country. Because that is a public building designated for social housing that they have taken away from us. So we will take this to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Ivan Drury

They're trying to scare us! They're trying to scare us because we're fighting in exactly the ways we have to fight. Last night we were sitting in a peaceful meeting on the sidewalk with the people who are homeless. With the people who had been removed from Woodward's. People who had been living in Woodward's who had taken up shelter in the only place that was left to them. Who had taken up shelter illegally in an empty building that is left empty by this government. They were removed with force by the police in service of the government who are interested in keeping this building empty. They are interested in keeping this building empty because they are attacking poor people. This was made painfully clear to the people who sat outside the Woodward's building out of lack of choice of place to go. People who banded together and slept outside the Woodward's building because they had no place to go. Because the government has made it so they have no place to go. Because the government cares about profit not about people. People were sitting outside of the Woodward's building with the people who had no place to go talking about how we can make it so that people have a safe place to go. How we can fight so that people have a decent standard of living. Very basic things. Guaranteed fundamental human rights. And while we're sitting and talking about guaranteeing our own fundamental basic human rights the police blocked off Abbott Street to the north and the south. They blocked it off with paddy wagons and cop cars and they sent patrols from both sides and ordered people to go away. They ordered people to leave and sleep in dangerous parks and dangerous alleys and dangerous shelters. They ordered people to disband from the community they have collected. When people said "we will not go" they arrested us. They dislocated my shoulder. They dragged us across the street and they threw us in jail. They did this without any legal justification. They performed an illegal arrest upon us who are a totally legal and peaceful assembly. The police did this because they are in service of the government. The government did this because they are in service of the business community. Because they *are* the business community. They do not represent the people down here. They do not represent the people in this province. And they do not represent us. They have made a terrible mistake because we are not afraid. And we will win. And we will continue to fight. And we *will* win.

Christopher Livingstone

We request that all aboriginal governments and services come down here. Just because the government and the police turn their backs on their people we as native peoples can make sure that we're protected. We have a disproportionate amount of native peoples down here. We are poor. We do have issues. We need support here. We need people here. I want to invite the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Aboriginal Business Canada, and Aboriginal House to the table. It's got to be done. Just because every other government agency will turn their back on these people doesn't mean that we have to. It's not our way.