

## PANDORA SQUAT DEMANDS

We refuse to leave this building until our demands are met.  
Our demands are as follows:

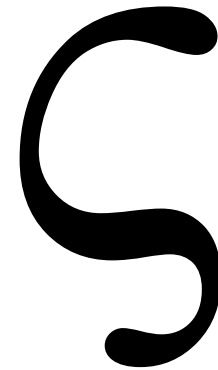
1. To develop the building into social housing immediately with the allotment of housing in the building for indigenous people equal to or greater than the percentage of indigenous people in Downtown Victoria.
2. Reverse the cuts to social housing, welfare, shelter funding and all other services.
3. Draft a civic anti-vagrancy by-law to seize and convert all empty, abandoned buildings into social housing.
4. Full disclosure of all information regarding the sale and development of this and all other used buildings in Victoria.
5. Stop Economic Evictions: Implement a Guaranteed Annual Liveable Income.

## SUPPORT THE PANDORA SQUAT

Endorsement from community organisations is necessary through contacting the squatters' email address or going down in person. We urge groups to issue statements in support to the city of Victoria, the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, Women Services (that deals with housing), and BC Housing Corporation. The Pandora Squat may be reached by email at: <squattinforhomes@ziplip.com>.

Updates at Victoria Independent Media: <http://victoria.indymedia.org>

# W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #21



# NEWS FROM VICTORIA

New Squat on Pandora Street Opened Yesterday!

DAY 34 – THURSDAY – 17 OCT 02

## Update #1 WEDNESDAY 16 OCT 11PM

11 pm wednesday, all is well at the Pandora St. squat. The squatters have spent the evening meeting to discuss all the details involved in having a safe, respectful, and liberated space, as well as getting to know each other. The police presence has been almost non-existent as of dusk as they have gone away to get an injunction against the squatters which they will probably acquire sometime tomorrow. The absurdity that motivates their actions is astounding as they continue to protect private property with no regard for peoples health, dignity and safety. The squatted building is housing many who would otherwise be sleeping on the cold streets tonite. Is it a crime to take over an abandoned building that has been empty for 15 years while many people both sleep and die on the streets? The city and Victoria pigs certainly think so, but are we suprised? It is nothing new at all to see them protecting the agenda of gentrification and the interests of the rich and buisness owners and criminalizing poverty .

The time has been long overdue for the poor, marginalized and homeless people of Victoria to seize what they need to survive in the form of a public squat! This is new for Victoria and hopefully a step in upping the ante in our fight for housing for all. As many shelters' funding have been cut, as well as all funding to affordable housing, the Tenancy Act has been changed to give landlords even more power to abuse and expolit renters. Peoples' shelter support from their welfare cheques has been reduced while rent is soaring high here in Victoria. These are just a few of the attacks on the poor and marginalized of this province and it is clearly time to organize together to fight back against these injustices and demand what we all need to survive. By seizing unused buildings and taking direct action against the system that wants all poor people to die or quietly disappear we are making our voices heard through this concrete action instead of begging someone else to do it for us.

The squatters need tons of support so please come down and participate!

Thank you for your support. Now the time is even more critical than this afternoon. We need YOU to come down and help us keep watch over nite and into tomorrow. We have good numbers inside and are here to stay until they take us away or give in to our demands! Either way, we are all empowered by taking this action and view it as more pressure put on the greedy elite to give us what every person deserves!

## Update #2 THURSDAY 17 OCT 1PM

On October 16, 2002 at 2pm homeless people, anti-poverty activists and supporters occupied an abandoned building at 528-532 Pandora. These buildings were built in 1882 at the beckoning command of the Colonialist, R. Finlayson. 100+ years later they have been sitting vacant for 12 and 15 years, while hundreds of people sleep on the cold streets. Every year in BC homeless people die on the street while countless buildings in the province are left to rot by their greedy owners and malicious governments.

This building could house many people who need affordable housing. Up until one month ago, it was owned by the city of Victoria, who could have fixed up the many rooms, bathrooms, and kitchens to provide needed housing. Instead it was sold to a private company who refuse to disclose with us what their plans are for this building. During mid-morning on Thursday at the squat, the private company's developer representative and lawyer (escorted by the police), came into the squat to tell us that they are applying for an injunction. As soon as they acquire this injunction from the courts, we expect the police to serve it to us and enforce it very shortly afterwards. The head cop who was present said they will arrest people who do not leave. Hence, WE NEED SUPPORT TO COME TO THE SQUAT ASAP!!

On Friday at 2pm we will be holding an open meeting to negotiate our demands, specifically Demand #1. This invitation is being sent to current and prospective City Counsellors, a British Columbia Housing Corporation Representative, the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Womyn's services, a Representative of Solid Roofs and Autonomous Roots Housing Cooperative, the owner of the building, and all local independent and mainstream media.

## INSIDE SQUATTERS NEEDED!

Supplies Needed: Water, Food (hot and cold), Tobacco, Blankets, Building tools and supplies, Flashlights, Rope, Coffee, Sawdust, Buckets, Fire extinguishers, Coleman stoves, Coleman lamps, Camping supplies for outside campers, Lighters, DONATIONS

Please come down for any length of time to donate any of the above items, or to stay and keep watch outside the building. Tell others you know and ask if they can come down to show their support. Pitch your tent outside in support or hang out for a whole night or just a few hours.