

**From Rita Wong • 14 Oct 02**

(Letter to BC Housing and BC Government regarding cancellation of Third Annual Affordable Housing Week 13-20 October)

Dear Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Abbott,

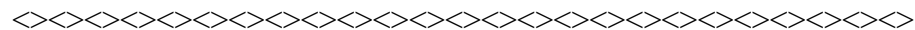
I am writing to ask why the Affordable Housing Week has been cancelled.

Accessible housing for everyone continues to be an urgent matter, as the Woodward squatters have so movingly and dedicatedly demonstrated. Their demands are timely and important, and should be implemented if the government is serious about demonstrating a commitment to affordable housing. ...

If you have visited the Woodward building recently, you will know how peaceful and well-organized the squatters are. They have made the space around the Woodward building a safe community for homeless people (including pregnant women), and have achieved a great deal without any of the resources the government has at its disposal. I hope the government stops wasting its money on police brutality (squatters have been strip-searched, their few belongings violently thrown away, and have borne the brunt of police violence against the poor), and starts devoting resources to public housing.

I look forward to hearing from you about affordable housing, which is crucial and deserves your support.

Sincerely, Rita Wong <rita\_wong@sfu.ca>



Friends of the Woodward Squat  
www.woodsquat.net  
friends@woodsquat.net  
604-682-3269 ext. 6315

**W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #23**

**THREE SUPPORT LETTERS  
DAY 37 – SUNDAY – 20 OCT 02**



**TOMORROW: MONDAY OCT 21**

**5:30pm Anti-Campbell Demo**

At the Pan Pacific FWE Conference

**8pm Poetry Night at the Squat**

Poetry & Music on Abbott!

**TUESDAY OCT 22**

**2pm Vancouver City Council Meeting**

The Woodward Redevelopment Plan by Madison Bellevue Apartments Corporation will be presented by the City Manager.

## From Michelle McHugh • 18 Oct 02

Dear Woodward Squat residents,

Today I had the privilege of sitting in on a Woodward's Squat house meeting, and I would like to thank the individuals and organizers who made room in the circle and allowed me to listen to the discussion of issues affecting them as a community.

I had come to Woodward's early to snap a few photos and talk with squatters about what may happen, or what is likely to happen, to their home in the days, weeks and months ahead. I am an independent writer/journalist, and also a strong supporter of affordable housing and the squatters movement in this city and others in North America.

I had been in New York City August of this summer and saw first hand the on-going fight for squatters rights and the protection of their homes in the lower-east side of Manhattan. In 1995-6 I lived in a squat in Toronto and understand the importance of focus and solidarity on one issue--affordable housing and social justice NOW for the growing number of homeless and working poor in urban centres across this nation.

The main stream media is a parasitic entity, and the negative reports seen in nightly broadcasts or daily print is an unfortunate side effect to promoting awareness about homelessness and the fight for dignity in affordable housing. All main-stream media in North America, certainly in the last decade, has shifted their perspective to the right, and coverage on issues surrounding affordable housing, homelessness or poor is always subject to sensational coverage (which more often than not, translates into negative coverage) Main stream media should be denied access to interviews, photo-ops and on-camera interviews at every possible opportunity. One solution to generating awareness is target not-for-profit community newsletters and publications and independent media organizations.

The road to squatters rights is long, hard, and often unfulfilled. Planned action, organization, dedicated volunteers and focus on the

main issue is the key to making Woodward's a success (from today's house meeting) Squatters, homesteaders, and advocates for affordable housing and social justice are always harnessed with a plethora of social problems government, authorities and healthcare officials have cast aside. I would like to offer volunteer support to the Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters.

A friend in the community, Michelle McHugh <mmchugh@shaw.ca>

## loved the real • by kym • 14 Oct 02

(an internet reply to an interview with Chrystal)

thanx so much for telling your story. i would love to hear more stories from folks there. i send out to my list serve and try and keep people up with what is happening. these real stories are what is real about all of this.

we need homes for everyone! your words chrystal move right in and help folks see the truth, how it is we get along and manage as communities. the newspaper and the "system" would have us all believe we cannot organise amongst ourselves, we are just a bunch of idiots...

all the stereotypes are smashed when the stories come out of The Woodward's Squat.

in solidarity and hi to travis!!!!

see ya'll soon as my health allows.