

targetting, harassment and arrest of citizens involved in the Britannia demonstration, on the following days, 04 and 05 October. We demand that the ongoing harassment of the Woodward's homeless cease immediately: in particular the misuse of police vehicles to intimidate the homeless at night. We demand to know who ordered the police action on the afternoon of 20 October when 11 VPD motorcycle officers stopped on Abbott Street and yelled threats about "moving day," to name but one example. Our homeless population in Vancouver now lives in fear of police violence during the day as well as during the night. This must end. You can stop it. We demand that you stop it. Our third demand is that you recognize and act upon in a timely fashion the entirely reasonable demands of the Woodward's Coalition for Social Housing, the Anti-Poverty Committee and the 17 other community groups involved in the Woodward's Squat insofar as those demands are within your area of functional responsibility. We will win.

We will not stand for the sale of the Woodward's building to a private developer.

– Shannon

We oppose anything less than 50% guaranteed deep core funding.

– Beverley

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W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #26

WE WILL WIN ☀ WE WILL WIN
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WE WILL WIN ☀ WE WILL WIN
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DAY 40

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“Hope all is going well at Woodward's—the determination with which squatters have stayed and repeatedly taken the building has been very inspiring for us in Montreal. Stay in touch!”

– Message from CLAC logement in Montreal 23 October 2002

WEDNESDAY – 23 OCT 02

THREE PRESENTATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL 21 OCTOBER

(see link to audio recordings at www.woodsquat.net)

Shannon Bundock

We will not stand for the private development of the Woodward's building. We will not stand for the sale of the Woodward's building to a private developer. We have a list of demands that have been endorsed by over 20 groups including major unions as well as community groups and women's groups. As there are over 150 people at the tent city this is what has been endorsed. One third of those people are natives. The police should not attack or remove people in any fashion whatsoever. The people should only be removed to decent and dignified housing. Winter shelters are inadequate for this housing. We also have a letter from the Anti-Poverty Committee which we are delivering to City Council now. This letter has a demand around the housing crisis in Vancouver as well as across the country. We're delivering it to the Provincial Government as well as the Federal Government. The demands that are on this that are specifically addressing the city: We demand the development of the Woodward's building into social housing immediately and respect for the rest of the demands of the Woodward's Social Housing Coalition as well. The Province and the City must develop rent controls to ensure that no-one pays over 30% of their income to housing. As well the City must develop an anti-vacancy bylaw to seize and convert privately-owned abandoned buildings and properties into social housing. I would like to deliver this letter at this time.

Beverley Jones

My name is Beverley Jones. I am one of the squatters. We oppose any suggestion that the homeless in front of Woodward's do not want social housing for themselves. We oppose anything less than 50% guaranteed deep core funding and we know that the proposed subsidies are not guaranteed and expect that the City will demand guaranteed funding as part of this arrangement.

Aaron Vidaver

Good Afternoon. My name is Aaron Vidaver and I am here as a delegate of the Friends of the Woodward's Squat. I am also a member of the committee

of the Woodward's Coalition for Social Housing which is responsible for the Woodward's 58 Legal Defense Fund and the legal suit currently being prepared against the Vancouver City Police Department for destroying the personal possessions of the homeless camped on Abbott Street on 22 September. Friends of the Woodward's Squat is a support group that provided assistance with supplies and garbage removal during the inside occupation of the building and now assists residents with material support on the outside. We do not represent the Squat and receive no public funding, directly or indirectly, from any government agency. We do publish a daily newsletter called *W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T.* and maintain a web site at www.woodsquat.net. I've brought issue #17 which contains a preliminary inventory of items destroyed or stolen by the Vancouver Police Department on 21 & 22 of September of this year. While our organization has not had time to review Policy Report RTS No. 03026, released to the public just five days ago on 17 October, we believe that the housing crisis in the downtown eastside requires immediate attention. This crisis must be addressed by the City by 25 October in conjunction with the BC Government and BC Housing. An immediate political solution is required and this must occur prior to any deliberation over the logistics of the long-term redevelopment of the building and the volume of co-operative public housing that will exist inside it. There are an average of 157 homeless people living at the Woodward's Squat per day. Tomorrow is Day 40: Seven days inside, 33 days outside. Day 40 of the Woodward's Squat. The leaves began falling from the trees two days ago. Our citizens and residents must not be left on the street in dangerous alleys and in dangerous parks this winter. We expect you, Council, to announce what you, the Council, are going to do about it by the end of the business day on 25 October. That's this Friday. If you fail to act by this time, our moderate organization will endorse and proceed with, and actively encourage others to proceed with, more militant participation in the nation-wide "Give It or Guard It" campaign. This is our first demand. We have three other demands. First: We demand that the City disclose all information regarding the involvement of the Engineering Department in the Police actions of 22 September. The City worked in conjunction with the VPD to destroy the possessions of Vancouver's homeless—blankets, pants, shirts, socks, shoes, jackets, IDs, medications, diaries, food—you can read our preliminary inventory list for yourselves, if you can stomach it. We can't and we won't. Second—and this is a multi-part demand—We demand that the City, through the Mayor's role in the Vancouver Police Board, bring immediate disciplinary action against Jamie Graham for his unreasonable use of police force in the evictions of 21-22 September, the police action at the Britannia Daycare on 03 October and the detainment of arrestees at the Canadian Tire parking lot at 1400 East Hastings that same day, as well as the subsequent