

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Woodwards Squat Reception Desk
Corner of Abbott & Hastings Vancouver (open 24 hrs)
Donations & supplies for ongoing support may be taken directly to the desk.
Please park on the east side of Abbott to avoid obstructing flow of traffic.

Woodwards Social Housing Coalition
Box 30 - 16 West Hastings Street Vancouver V6B 1G4
604-681-6686
Contact the negotiating committee for additional info on demands. Financial donations for ongoing maintenance of the squat should be mailed to the Coalition.

Anti-Poverty Committee
42 Blood Alley Square Vancouver V6B 1C7
604-682-2726 | Fax 604-687-4347 | apc@resist.ca
Contact APC for info on the "Give It or Guard It" campaign demands or to donate to the legal fund for the people arrested during the Britannia Police Riot of 03 October.

Friends of the Woodwards Squat
604-682-3269 ext. 6315 | friends@woodsquat.net | www.woodsquat.net
FWS publishes a daily newsletter & internet site. A preliminary inventory of items destroyed by the VPD is posted on site along with evidentiary documents pertaining to police violence, interviews with squatters, a chronology with links to photographs & more. FWS is a material support group & does not represent the squat.

Woodwards Legal Defense Fund
Box 21552 - 1850 Commercial Drive Vancouver V5N 5T5
604-682-3269 ext. 9909 | woodwards-legal-defense@resist.ca
Donations to support the legal defense of the residents arrested on 21 September and legal matters arising from the subsequent police action on 22 September may be sent to this address. Cheques should be payable to "Woodwards Legal Defence Fund."
The committee responsible for the administration of this fund reports to the Woodwards Social Housing Coalition and is accountable to that organization.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Woodwards Squat Native Caucus <livingstonechris@yahoo.com>
Western Aboriginal Representation Society <jackatease@yahoo.com>
Collective Opposed to Police Brutality <<http://resist.ca/~copb-van>>
Pivot Legal Society <www.pivotlegal.org>
Keeping Time <www.geocities.com/emithsilas>
Ontario Coalition Against Poverty <www.ocap.ca>
Squ@t!net <www.squat.net>

W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #28

HOUSING DEMANDS

FROM: THE WOODWARDS SOCIAL HOUSING COALITION;
THE ANTI-POVERTY COMMITTEE; AND
THE FRIENDS OF THE WOODWARDS SQUAT

TO: THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA;
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER; AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

DAY 42 – FRIDAY – 25 OCT 02

FORECAST: TODAY – STRUGGLE
TOMORROW – SOCIAL HOUSING

WOODWARDS SOCIAL HOUSING COALITION DEMANDS

1. Develop Woodward as social housing immediately. (There must be an allotment of housing in the building for aboriginal people equal to or greater than the percentage of aboriginal people in the Downtown Eastside.)
2. Reverse the cuts to social housing and all social services.
3. Draft a civic anti-vacancy by-law to seize and convert empty, abandoned buildings into social housing.
4. Full disclosure of all information regarding the proposed sale and development of the building.
5. The Federal government must fund and support the development of aboriginal business in the proposed commercial storefronts on the ground floor of Woodward. These storefronts must also include an urban native self-governing office with drop-in / support services and culturally sensitive native liaison workers from the community.
6. Decent and dignified immediate shelter for all homeless squatters forced from Woodward and asked to leave the sidewalk in front of the building.

The Coalition strives to further these demands however possible always in a non-violent way. The Coalition targets the government and business to pressure them to meet the needs of poor and working people in the province, as stated in the demands. The Coalition creates educational material and strives to use and generate statistics to expose the anti-poor, pro-business nature of the Liberal government's policies and to create informed social pressure for positive legislative reforms. We defend ourselves from attacks by the government and business community through positive, constructive initiatives (like opening empty buildings as homes and sustaining tent-cities) as well as through direct actions and mass mobilizations of people to disrupt and agitate the existing situation that kills people.

We seek to fight alongside the diverse groups of people who have stepped forward to support the Woodward Squat. The Coalition believes that the only way to change this desperate situation for the better is to stand together and fight alongside each other.

HOUSING DEMANDS FROM THE APC

1. The Federal and Provincial Governments must begin funding social housing immediately and build over 2000 units of housing a year in B.C.
2. The City must develop an anti-vacancy by-law to seize and convert privately owned abandoned buildings and property into social housing.
3. The Province and the City must develop rent controls to ensure that no one pays over thirty percent of their income to housing.
4. The Province must re-open all closed Residential Tenancy Offices and make no changes to the Residential Tenancy Act that would diminish the rights of renters.
5. Develop the Woodward building into social housing immediately and respect the rest of the demands of the Woodward Social Housing Coalition.

FWS DEMANDS TO THE CITY OF VANCOUVER

1. The City must disclose all information regarding the involvement of the Engineering Department in the Police actions of 21-22 September 2002 including the destruction of the possessions of Vancouver's homeless.
2. The City, through the Mayor's role in the Vancouver Police Board, must bring immediate disciplinary action against Chief Constable Jamie Graham for his unreasonable use of police force during the evictions on 21-22 September, the arrests at the Britannia Daycare and Canadian Tire on 03 October, and the arrests and detainments on 04, 05 & 23 October.
3. The City must direct the VPD to cease the ongoing daily and nightly harassment of the homeless at the Woodward building especially as it pertains to: (a) the issuing of verbal threats; and (b) the misuse of police vehicles. The City must prevent the VPD from engaging in any further unlawful harassment, detainment or arrest of the residents at Woodward.
4. The City must acknowledge and act upon in a timely fashion the demands of the Woodward Social Housing Coalition and the other community groups involved in the Woodward Squat insofar as these demands are within the City's area of functional responsibility.