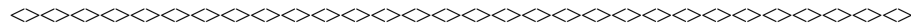


Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters Demands

1. Develop Woodward's 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's. 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's and asked to leave the sidewalk in front of the building.

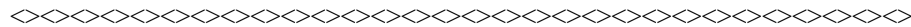


TO ALL SQUATTERS & SUPPORTERS OF THE SQUAT ~ Pivot Legal Society WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Volunteer lawyers & law students will be taking affidavits from any individuals who are involved with the squat. The affidavits will be used to defend against the injunction application by the City of Vancouver .

Pivot office on SUNDAY, NOV. 10 Noon until 4 pm 42 Blood Alley

It will take 30-45 minutes to have your story recorded and legally sworn.
Free coffee will be provided.



Woodsquat is published by the Friends of the Woodward's Squat. Please note that FWS is a material support group. It does not represent the Woodward's Squat or Woodward's Coalition for Social Housing and does not speak for any other of the many groups and individuals currently in the DTES housing action. For daily updates, background info, or contacts visit our website: www.woodsquat.net.

W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #39

SIX WAYS TO HELP THE WOODWARDS SQUAT

DAY 57 – SATURDAY – 09 NOV 02

1. Speak Out in Supreme Court on 19 or 20 November

The City of Vancouver seeks a court injunction and police enforcement order to “permanently restrain” Vancouver’s homeless from sleeping on any city sidewalk. The injunction application process permits affected squatters and their supporters to speak in court on 19 & 20 November during the hearing to address the injustice of the City’s proposed actions. Counter-claims against the City may also be presented at that time. If you wish to speak in court you must complete an “Appearance” form and deliver it to the Pivot Legal Society office at 42 Blood Alley Square (604-742-1843). Pivot is sponsoring an affidavit session on Sunday 10 November from noon to 4pm at their office and forms may be delivered at that time. Note: You may write “Woodwards Squat - Abbott and Hastings” as your address if you do not live in addressed housing. Appearance forms are available on-line (in pdf format) at www.woodsquat.net.

2. Schedule a Witnessing Shift

The Anti-Poverty Committee (604-682-2726; apc@resist.ca) schedules witnessing shifts at the squat. The very presence of supporters at the squat makes residents safer. Witnesses should bring video or still cameras if possible in order to gather evidence in case anything does happen. Also, the police are less likely to act illegally or too violently if they know they are being filmed.

“Over the last forty days that the homeless have stood their ground the city has shown only symbolic interest towards their responsibility to house and care for those forced into poverty. As opposed to taking a stand the city has used the police to make their point clear: that homelessness is illegal and poverty will be policed. The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) pretend their position isn’t political, however their repeated harassment and attack on the squatters proves otherwise. The VPD from the beginning, have harassed the squatters by driving by and blowing their sirens at night, forcing people out of their beds under threats of violence and arrest, and throwing peoples belongings into dumpsters.” - APC

3. Donate Clothing, Blankets, Equipment and Supplies

The rains are here and the temperature has dropped below zero at night. New people arrive daily because the squat is only safe place to sleep outside in the downtown eastside. Government agencies and shelters are even referring people to the squat. The squat currently needs: blankets, sleeping bags, bedding of all kinds, tents, inflatable air mattresses, tarps, rolls of plastic, winter jackets, sweaters, rain gear, socks, pants, shirts, gloves, scarves, shoes, toques. The squat is also looking for a large support organization that can donate disposable plastic or styrofoam cups, dishes and cutlery on an ongoing basis. Money donated directly at the squat is used to buy food and kitchen supplies to serve over 1,000 meals per day.

4. Endorse the Letter to VPD Chief Jamie Graham

On 16 October the Vancouver Police Department issued a statement to the effect that the residents at the Woodwards Squat aren’t really homeless and that they are really radicals trying to score cheap political points. These statements are intended to create divisions and provide a pretext for attacking a peaceful homeless encampment. Supporters of the squatters need to speak up now and tell the VPD to back off. If your organisation already endorses and supports this cause, please fax a signed copy of our letter. Copies of the letter are available on-line at www.woodsquat.net and may be faxed to Chief Constable Jamie Graham c/o Vancouver Police Board (604-257-3878). Please also phone, fax, or email the Anti-Poverty Committee (604-682-2726; apc@resist.ca; fax 604-687-4347) so we can publicly say that your group supports the four points in the letter.

5. Donate to the Woodwards Legal Defense Fund

Charges against the Woodwards 54 were dropped on 07 November. The legal battle, however, is not over. Many of those arrested inside Woodward’s lost personal possessions, such as sleeping bags, clothing, medication, ID and tools, which the police have never returned. Additionally there is the property belonging to the outside squatters which was simply crushed in City of Vancouver garbage-compacting vehicles on the evening of 22 September, when Vancouver Police sealed off the streets, demanded everyone leave immediately, then started brutally arresting. In total, 11 people were arrested. All were released the next day without being charged. The Woodwards Coalition is now considering legal action against the Vancouver Police Department and the City of Vancouver for the theft/destruction of people’s property, for the unnecessary and excessive use of force on September 21 (when over 100 cops stormed the building, including the riot squad and members of the Emergency Response Team who wielded automatic weapons), and for the violent and false arrests of 22 September.

Please make checks payable to the “Woodwards Legal Defense Fund” and mail to: P.O. Box 21552 - 1850 Commercial Drive - Vancouver BC V5V 5T5. For additional information on the fund contact the Legal Defense Committee at 604-682-3269 ext. 9909 or woodwards-legal-defense-admin@lists.resist.ca

6. Visit the Squat

The squat is open 24 hours each day. Stop by the reception desk at the north-west corner of Abbott and Hastings Street and say hello. Speak with residents in person and let them know you support their struggle for decent and dignified housing. Group visits from schools or community organizations should be scheduled in advance. Please remember to ask people first if you wish to take photographs.