

LETTER OF THANKS

Hon. Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator
on Homelessness <homelessness-sansabri@hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>
c/o National Secretariat on Homelessness <www21.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>
165 rue Hotel de Ville Street, 8th Floor,
Hull, Québec K1A 0J2

Day 88 of the Woodward's Squat
Monday 10 December 2002

RE: "I can assure the Hon. Member that if the community groups want
to support the Woodward's building we will be there."

Dear Hon. Claudette Bradshaw,

Thank you for your commitment to securing the Woodward's building
for low-income occupants. Our community group has been unable to
get the British Columbia government to even acknowledge receipt of
our letters regarding the housing crisis in the City of Vancouver. We
are relieved that the federal government will be supporting our group
and like-minded groups working at the street-level in the fight for
decent and dignified housing.

We look forward to working with your office, the City of Vancouver,
and other community organizations in Vancouver over the coming
months. If you would like more information about our innovative
housing solutions please feel free to contact us at any time.

Aaron Vidaver
Friends of the Woodward's Squat
Mutual Aid Housing Association
Vancouver, Coast Salish Territory

W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #54

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROMISES WOODWARDS

DAY 88 – TUESDAY – 10 DEC 02

Day 83 of the Woodward's Squat
Thursday 05 December 2002
House of Commons, Ottawa

Ms. Libby Davies (Vancouver East, NDP): Mr. Speaker, close to 100 homeless people are facing imminent eviction from their makeshift tents around the Woodward's building in east Vancouver. The newly elected City Council there is urgently trying to line up alternate housing. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for homelessness, will she give her commitment that she will work with the city to provide the federal funds necessary so that people are not left on the street? Will she work with the community to secure Woodward's as affordable long-term housing?

Hon. Claudette Bradshaw (Minister of Labour, Liberal.): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Hon. Member that one of our best communities for the homeless is the community of the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. The Mayor and Council of Vancouver have done a tremendous amount of work. I can assure the Hon. Member that if the community groups want to support the Woodward's building we will be there. I also want to assure the Hon. Member that the community groups are working very hard to ensure that the homeless have a place to sleep.