

Friends of the Woodward's Squat

Day 25 - 08 October 2002 - Tuesday

02/27 - 10 Oct 2002 - Thursday

Woodwards Coalition Demands

How To Support the Squat

Legal Defense Fund

21 September Eviction & Arrest of W58 - Video

22 September Police Violence, Property Destruction & Theft - Witness Statements - Preliminary Inventories (forthcoming)

03 October Britannia Daycare Police Violence - Witness Statements - Photographs - Update 1 - Update 2 - Update 3

Interviews & Writing from the Squat

→ links to each

Chronology with Links to Additional Documents

Contact Information for Affiliated Groups & Individuals

→ links to class file

Bibliography of Commercial Print Media Coverage (forthcoming)

W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. newsletter

Saturday October 26 - The Cops Are Freakin' Scary

Monday October 28 - W58 Legal Meeting

Thursday November 07 - W58 Court Appearance

Add

A Note on This Site

681-6686

681-6695 (outreach line)

DEMANDS

The Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters formed to fight for social housing as a solution to the housing crisis in Vancouver and all across British Columbia. When the Liberals froze social housing spending in March of 2002 they made a bad situation worse for poor people in the province. Homelessness, wretched living conditions and ridiculously high rental fees have made life dangerously unstable and difficult for many people in BC.

The Coalition opened the long empty Woodward's Building on Saturday September 14th to challenge and expose the government's negligence in addressing the needs of the poor and to directly meet the housing needs of the homeless in the city's core. The Coalition drafted a list of demands to define the movement for housing unfolding against the Campbell Government.

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.

The Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters 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's 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.

The Coalition is open to anyone who agrees with these basic points.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SQUAT

Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters
Corner of Abbott and Hastings St. Vancouver, BC
Phone (604) 682-2726 FAX (604) 687-4347

September 30th 2002

Dear Friends,

We the Woodward's Squatters are struggling to sustain our presence outside the Woodward's Building in our fight for social housing and we need your help.

Last night our security team counted 125 squatters, homeless, and their supporters, sleeping around the building. Everyday our numbers grow which is both exciting, but also increases our need for more resources.

We need your support in the form of donations (see list below). In return for your help, we will add your name to the list of our endorsers and supporters in our upcoming poster campaign, press conference and website. Anonymous donations are also respected.

Any resources you can contribute would greatly benefit the cause and society as a whole. Join the supporters in your community by supporting the Woodward's Squat.

How to help:

There are two ways you can contribute: 1. Bring down your donations, or 2. Items can be picked up.

1. Bring down your donations:

Donations can be brought down directly to the squat at the corners of Abbott and Hastings, or to the office at #42 Blood Alley PH (604)682-2726

2. Items can be picked up:

If you need help getting your donation down to us, just call us (604)682-2726 and we will co-ordinate a pick up.

Things we need (ongoing):

Food and Spices

Blankets, sleeping bags, etc.

Water, Juice, Coffee

Pillows, Quilts

Large cooking pots

Warm jackets, sweaters, socks

Disposable dishes and cutlery

Mattresses, foam pads and tents

Fuel-Fed Cooking Stoves and Fuel

Tarps and Rope

Cleaning supplies

Rolls of Plastic

Art materials (paint, markers, large rolls of paper etc.)

Hammers, pliers, nails etc.

Money for cooking materials and security (radios etc.)

Staple guns

8 1/2 x 11 and 11x 17 paper

Computer, printer

Ongoing photocopying access

Toilet paper, tampons and napkins

Soap, towels and toiletries

We appreciate your support towards the fight for social housing.

In Solidarity,

The Woodward's Squatters

THE "WOODWARD'S 58" NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

In the early morning hours of Saturday, September 22, 2002, the Vancouver Police Department Riot Squad stormed into the Woodward's squat which homeless people and their supporters had been occupying since the previous Saturday. 58 people were arrested and charged with violating a Supreme Court injunction. The squatters and their supporters have to return to court November 7, 2002 to face civil contempt charges. The two lawyers who have so far represented us cannot possibly handle all of our cases themselves. THEREFORE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE RAISE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR OUR LEGAL DEFENCE. PLEASE DONATE WHATEVER YOU CAN TO THE "WOODWARD'S 58 LEGAL DEFENCE FUND" AND ASK YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS, UNION, HOUSING CO-OP, CHURCH OR COMMUNITY GROUP TO DO THE SAME.

Please make checks payable to the "Woodwards Legal Defense Fund". Checks can be mailed to:

<http://www.woodsquat.net/>

10/9/2002

P.O. Box 21552
 1850 Commercial Drive
 Vancouver BC
 V5V 5T5

INTERVIEWS & WRITING FROM THE SQUAT

[Two Statements from the Last Night Inside by Chris & Ascaso \(21 Sep\)](#)
[Seven Poems & Statements from Abbott Street \(22-24 Sep\)](#)
[Casper Replies to The Vancouver Courier \(27 Sep\)](#)
[Statements by Two Homeless Punks \(27 Sep\)](#)
[Roughing it in the City: An Interview with Craig Ballantyne \(30 Sep\)](#)
[Victory Square Speeches by Toecutter, Sky & Rick \(05 Oct\)](#)
 Interview with Chrystal Durocher (forthcoming)
 Interview with Chris Keats (forthcoming)

CHRONOLOGY WITH LINKS TO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Day 01 - September 14 - Saturday - [Opening Day - Call for Support - 25 Photographs](#)
 Day 02 - September 15 - Sunday - [Support Demonstration - 20 Photographs \(scroll down\)](#)
 Day 03 - September 16 - Monday - [Four Updates - Squat.net Report](#)
 Day 04 - September 17 - Tuesday - ["Support the Woodward's Squat" Committee - 28 Photographs - IMC Video](#)
 Day 05 - September 18 - Wednesday
 Day 06 - September 19 - Thursday - [Demonstration for Social Housing - 37 Photographs - IMC Video](#)
 Day 07 - September 20 - Friday - [IMC Update - Working TV Documentary - Call for Support](#)
 Day 08 - September 21 - Saturday - 6am Eviction - Arrest of the W58 - [IMC Video](#) - [IMC Audio](#) - [Court Appearance](#)
 Day 09 - September 22 - Sunday - General Meeting - Community Picnic - [11pm Police Attack - 21 Witness Statements](#)
 Day 10 - September 23 - Monday - [Rally at Victory Square - Return to Abbott - Pivot Statement Regarding Detainment of Lawyer](#)
 Day 11 - September 24 - Tuesday - Press Conference - Rally to Defend the Woodward's Squatters
 Day 12 - September 25 - Wednesday
 Day 13 - September 26 - Thursday
 Day 14 - September 27 - Friday - [Occupation of BC Housing Office - Hardcore for the Homeless Benefit](#)
 Day 15 - September 28 - Saturday
 Day 16 - September 29 - Sunday
 Day 17 - September 30 - Monday - [Outreach Committee Begins Support Campaign](#)
 Day 18 - October 01 - Tuesday - [Call to Complete List of Property Destroyed by Police - Squat General Inventory](#)
 Day 19 - October 02 - Wednesday - Chris B. Released from Hospital - [Revised Demands Approved by General Meeting of the Coalition](#)
 Day 20 - October 03 - Thursday - UBC Rally - [Britannia Police Riot - IMC Report](#)

- Day 21 - October 04 - Friday
- Day 22 - October 05 - Saturday - Victory Square Rally
- Day 23 - October 06 - Sunday - Squatter Invites Queen to Woodward's (forthcoming interview with Chris Keats)
- Day 24 - October 07 - Monday - Day of Defiance & March to Woodward's - 4 Photographs
- Day 25 - October 08 - Tuesday

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AFFILIATED GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS

Please note that many different groups and individuals are involved in the Woodward's Squat and Tent City in a variety of capacities. The following list is not comprehensive. If you would like to be listed here drop us a line. Individual contact information is listed ONLY by request. We do NOT maintain personal information on individuals associated with the squat.

(01) Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters
Corner of Abbott and Hastings St. Vancouver
604-682-2726 Fax 604-687-4347

(02) Woodward's Squat Native Caucus
~~Corner of Abbott and Hastings St. Vancouver~~
livingstonechris@yahoo.com

(03) The People's Opposition
604-812-2263

(04) Anti-Poverty Committee
42 Blood Alley Vancouver V6B 1C7
604-682-2726 Fax 604-687-4347
apc@resist.ca
<http://resist.ca/~apc>

(05) Vancouver Area Network Drug Users
1st floor - 50 East Hastings Street Vancouver V6A 1M9
604-683-8595 Fax 604-683-8586
vandu@vandu.org
<http://www.vandu.org>

(06) Western Aboriginal Representation Society
contact TBA

(07) Pivot Legal Society
ann@pivotlegal.org
604-683-8595
<http://www.pivotlegal.org>

(08) Collective Opposed to Police Brutality - Vancouver
copb-van@resist.ca
604-682-3269 ext. 8397
<http://resist.ca/~copb-van>

(09) Downtowneastside.ca

<http://www.woodsquat.net/>

Woodward's Squat Office
~~Squat~~ 9 E. Hastings

<http://www.downtowneastside.ca/hot.html>

(10) Working TV

<http://www.workingtv.com/squat.html>

(11) The Reality Theatre

contact TBA

(12) Vancouver Independent Media Centre

604-688-4085

imcvancouver@ziplip.com

<http://vancouver.indymedia.org>

(13) Friends of the Woodward's Squat

friends@woodsquat.net

604-682-3269 ext. 6315

<http://www.woodsquat.net>

(14) Woodward's Squatters:

Skyy (f) insanehatred@hotmail.comwood

W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. Newsletter

The newsletter is published by the Friends of the Woodward's Squat as often as we can print it. Back issues will be available after the successful completion of the current housing action. Please address requests to FWS attn. Crazyhorse Junior. Most of the "content" of the newsletter is reproduced on this site in electronic form, as follows.

WS#1 - 20 SEP - Open House: Woodwards Squatters Denounce Police Threats & Woodward's Chronology

WS#2 - 22 SEP - Writing from the Squat & Courthouse Report with W58 Conditions for Release

WS#3 - 23 SEP - We Will Win: News of Police Attack & Photographs by Illara Sunburn

WS#4 - 24 SEP - Angel's Birthday: Victory Square Addresses & Letter to BC Housing, Police, City and BC Govt

WS#5 - 25 SEP - New Writing from the Woodward's Squat & Historical Photos of Vancouver Squats & Support Letter from Costa Rica

WS#6 - 27 SEP - Punk Issue: Writing & Photographs

WS#7 - 01 OCT - Roughing It In The Bush: An Interview with Craig Ballantyne

WS#8 - 02 OCT - Protect Your Stuff: Call for List of Property Destroyed by Police & General Inventory of Squat

WS#9 - 03 OCT - Rally at UBC: Squat Support & Legal Defense Info

WS#10 - 05 OCT - Britannia Arrestees (Update #1) & Photographs by Sean Britt

WS#11 - 07 OCT - Victory Square Speeches by Toecutter, Skyy & Rick

WS#12 - 08 OCT - Legal Update On Britannia Arrestees (Update #2)

Day 01 - September 14 - Saturday - Opening Day

[Text of flyer circulated on September 14]

WOODWARD'S

- We have waited 10 years!!!

<http://www.woodsquat.net/>

10/9/2002

- 10 years of broken promises and deals
- \$12 million for a falling down Woodward's parkade and ZERO for Woodward's housing
- Gordon Campbell will spend billions on a highway for the Olympics, an event that will likely cause more homelessness, while he couldn't care less about the Downtown Eastside so he cancels affordable housing plans for Woodward's
- Gordon is now giving away Woodward's to his developer friends
- Gordon Campbell doesn't care about housing in this neighbourhood, despite his "New Era" document which promises affordable housing
- Jennifer Clarke will be paying back her friends in Gastown who helped oust the Mayor by ensuring that Woodward's is sold and developed with NO housing for what the majority of Downtown Eastside residents could afford

BACKGROUND

1993 - Woodward's Store closes

1994 - Private developers, FAMA Holdings buys Woodward's, including the Parking Lot for \$18 million - FAMA flips the run down parking lot, selling to the City of Vancouver for \$12 million!!

Want more information?

Come show your support for Woodward's Affordable Housing - it's what we've been promised.

Jim Layton will be sitting in at the Woodward's Building on the corner of Hastings and Abbott on Saturday September 14th, 2002 from 2:00PM onwards.

Day 01 - September 14 - Saturday - Call for Support

Anti-Poverty Committee
9:39pm Sat Sep 14 '02

The Woodwards building was taken back today by folks in the Downtown Eastside!

IMMEDIATE SUPPORT IS NEEDED

First of all - come down tonight (Saturday) at 7:00 to defend the squat from the police.... the intention is to open the building up as a shelter tonight, so it ***must*** remain open and accessible.

Second - the squatters need food, supplies, blankets, mats, pots and pans to cook with and anything else you can offer (tobacco is good too).... please bring what you can to support!.

Most important, call folks and let them know asap to come down to the building and defend it from being taken away from us yet again!

Hope to see you at woodwards (Abott and Hastings)

Day 02 - September 15 - Sunday - Support Demonstration

Support Demonstration for Woodward's Squat

Sunday, September 15th 2002

6:30 PM at the old Woodward's building
101 West Hastings (Hastings and Abbott)

This demonstration has been called to support the Woodward's squatters in the battle for more social housing. The building was taken Saturday afternoon to protest the epidemic of homelessness in Vancouver. The problem of affordable housing in BC is very serious, and it became much worse under the BC Liberals with the freezing of all funding for new social housing projects. Woodward's was one of the many social housing projects that the Liberals cancelled, and the struggle for this building has been going on for almost a decade.

It is an outrage that people are forced to live on the streets while huge buildings like Woodward's sit empty. It is even more of an outrage to see high-end condos shooting up everywhere downtown, pushing land rents up and pushing poor people out of the area. Our living situations must not be left up to the whims of the real estate market: housing is a basic human right that we are all entitled to, and we must fight for it.

At this point, the police are trying to isolate the squatters, cutting off access in and out from the building at night. It is likely that without this measure, the building would quickly fill up with people, as there is plenty of space inside it and plenty of homeless people in need of shelter. We need to show our support by coming to the building Sunday night and ensuring that access to the building is not cut off again.

People can come down to the site to show support, and are encouraged to join the squatters if possible. Aside from that, the squatters need material support. The Woodward's squatters need:

- Food
- Blankets
- Mattresses

If you are able to donate any of these things, please come down to the building or call (604) 812-2263.

Day 03 - September 16 - Monday - Four Updates

(1) Update - 2002.09.16 - 14:16 Ken (cell) & Marwan (computer)

At 14:16 today (2002.09.16) three police cars are at the back of the building.

Police car numbers:

- * C8143
- * B8182
- * C8063

There are 7 (seven) cops, 1 (one) guy in suit, 2 (two) security guards and 1 (one) plain-cloth going in.

The cops claim to have a court order but they won't say what the court order is for. When the support people told the cops that there is no such court order, the cops then changed their story to "we just want to talk, it's the Canadian way!".

Our people think the cops are going in to serve a notice from the landlord to evacuate the building due to health

concerns.

(2) Update - 2002.09.16 - 14:30 Azad (cell) & Marwan (computer)

We have heard that the court order does not allow the police to move in against the squatters. But the courts have advised that the squatters evict the building for their own safety.

The judge has instructed that only one cop and one security guard to deliver the notice from the landlord.

So far 5 (five) of the cops have gone in, with 3 (three) security guards, 1 (one) suit and 1 (one) lawyer went in. The 2 (two) other cops are waiting by the cop cars at back.

There is one cop car (# D8002) with 1 (one) cop in it around the corner at the back of building.

Several other police cars are circling the building, about a two block radius. There is also a ghostcop car around, plate number RAK021.

A lawyer for the squatters has also gone in to the building.

More info will be posted as we receive it.

(3) Update - 2002.09.16 - 15:14 Azad (cell) & Marwan (computer)

The person in the suit is a BC Housing representative.

All individuals that went into the squated building have now come out, except for the two security guards that have always been on the first floor of the building.

The notice that was served is a court order from the owners to clear the building in 48 (forty eight) hours, citing safety concerns.

There are three owners to the building, they are:

- * Vancouver City
- * BC Housing
- * Geoffrey Hughs (spelling?)

The police informed some of the support crew outside, that since the notice has been served, the owners can file for an immediate removal notice which would allow the police to go in with full force to remove the squatters.

(4) Update - 2002.09.16 - 15:33 Azad (cell) & Marwan (computer)

Lots of politics will be involved in keeping this squat alive. There is big big big money in the background.

SFU, GasTown and another company are involved in the Woodward's building and surrounding area. They are planning on building offices, "nice" condos, another SFU campus and expanding GasTown.

So there won't be room for poor or homeless people in their plans.

This might make it very hard for the squatters to hold the building, as big money will be guiding the police's action.

If anyone has any contact or influence with any of the above mentioned groups, then please put some weight on them.

We are in the process of getting some of the groups at SFU involved...If you can help spread the word please do so.

Everyone is encouraged to come down and help support the squatters with equipment, tools, food, money or just a smile and a few words encouragement.

Day 03 - September 16 - Monday - Squat.net Report

Woodwards Building Squatted in Vancouver, Canada

Vancouver, Canada, September 16, 2002

<http://www.squat.net>

sabate <sabate@ziplip.com>

On Saturday, September 14, 2002, a group of homeless people and activists occupied a huge department building in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside that has been vacant for 9 years. During that time various different community groups and activists have fought to have the building converted into social housing, only to have the government agree, and then go back on their promise.

The Downtown Eastside is the poorest neighbourhood in Canada, and with the current Liberal government's cuts to social services, social housing, welfare, and the lowering of the minimum wage, poverty and homelessness are growing.

Out of this desperate situation, a group of people have squatted the enormous old department building and plan to stay their until it becomes social housing. Many people have set up camp outside the building and donations of food, mattresses and other essentials have been pouring in. The building is owned by the British Columbia Housing, and the government is threatening to get an injunction to evict the squatters because of "saftey issues".

As of Monday morning, September 16, 2002, the squatters are still occupying Woodward's.

For pictures and updates check

http://ontario.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=12087&group=webcast

Day 04 - September 17 - Tuesday - "Support the Woodward's Squat" Committee

"Support the Woodward's Squat" Committee

Bradley Hughes 12:45am Tue Sep 17 '02

The occupation of the Woodward's Building needs more organizational support. Everyone is invited to an organizing meeting to form a "Support the Woodward's Squat" committee. We will meet at 5:30pm on Tuesday September 17th at the coffee shop on the corner of W. Hastings and Richards, in Vancouver. The point of the meeting is to discuss how the organizations represented can work together to get more people and organizational banners out to support the squat. The more people and large organizations backing the squat and the demand for social housing, the harder it will be to remove the squatters.

In solidarity,
Bradley Hughes

Day 06 - September 19 - Thursday - Rally for Social Housing

RELEASE FROM THE WOODWARDS SQUAT 19 SEP 02

For Immediate Release
September 19th, 2002
Media Advisory

Woodwards Squatters call Press Conference
Friday, September 20th, 2pm
Inside the Woodward's Squat, corner of Hastings and Abbot

Woodwards Squatters Denounce Police Threats

After a successful rally of hundreds of people outside the Woodward's Building, the police spoke with a representative of the squatters inside. Cst. Dave Dickson said, "We are disbanding for now, but we will be back tomorrow. We will be back to remove people with force, and if they are violent we will use pepper-spray. We have stopped negotiating."

"This is outrageous," said Kaspar, a squatter. "We are not violent. We have not used any violence, and we have no intention of using violence. We oppose the police using violence to evict homeless people from the squat."

"We are constructive, not destructive," said another squatter named Jean. "We are for a constructive way of solving the problem of homelessness. We call this social housing. We are opposed to any destructive actions on the part of the police."

"The use of pepper-spray, legal prosecution, and imprisonment against people who are making homes for ourselves out of a derelict building that was slated for social housing is unquestionably immoral. This violates our human rights and international law," said a squatter named L.

"We would like to thank all those who came out to support our cause, including Councillor Fred Bass, Marg Prevost, MP Libby Davies, Jack Layton, MLA Jenny Kwan, Sheila Baxter, and Jim Sinclair, President of the BC Federation of Labour," said Jim Layden. "We will continue to fight the BC Liberal government, with whatever tools we can find. This Squat is one such tool, and we will use it -- we will peacefully occupy the Woodward's building until our demands for social housing are met."

Media Contact: Kerry Pakarinen and Jim Layden
Phone # 604-812-2263

Day 07 - September 20 - Friday - IMC Update

Woodwards Squat, Friday Sept. 20
by Nicole Lindsay
Friday September 20, 2002 at 09:41 PM
Reprinted from the Vancouver Independent Media Centre
<http://vancouver.indymedia.org/news/2002/09/17121.php>

Sept 20, 2002

Woodwards Squat, Vancouver B.C.

<http://www.woodsquat.net/>

10/9/2002

At three in the afternoon, the second floor of the Woodward's building is quiet. It's a huge space: even with several sections further into the building cordoned off with red tape, the area where squatters have left mattresses, blankets and other belongings is easily big enough to house seventy-five, maybe a hundred people sleeping on the floor. And this is just a small section of one floor of the building. Upstairs, where fewer windows are boarded over with plywood, several people have settled in—many have left for the afternoon, but their blankets and bags stake out the area. It's quieter up here, sunny, and the cool breeze coming in through several open windows is a relief after the dust and darkness of downstairs.

I sit in an open window with Anton, one of the people who has been at the Woodward's squat since Saturday. We talk, look out over the street below and the view of the city. It's a beautiful day, and up on the third floor of the Woodward's building, the view is magnificent. I imagine the view from top three floors is more of the same—million dollar views, without question.

But for the people living here now, the value of the view from this West Hastings heritage building is more symbolic than monetary. Through these windows they can look out at the street from inside a place they are calling home—for many, the first place they have called home for a very long time.

No one knows how long it will last. What began as a rally, a march and an impromptu occupation of a building that has long been the centre of a struggle for affordable housing, has turned into something much bigger than anyone expected. Since a handful of street community members and local poverty activists opened and entered the Woodward's building last Saturday, hundreds of people have arrived—some just to show support, others in search of a safe place to stay.

With a constant stream of people coming and leaving, organization is hard, but a core of dedicated and determined individuals persist. Last night, at a meeting that lasted for close to three hours, the loose collective of squatters and supporters hashed out a long list of issues surrounding the continuing squat: what to do when (and if) the police arrived, how to organize the day-to-day basics of keeping the squat running in a healthy, safe manner, what message needed to get out to the media and the public, how to raise support, keep people and supplies arriving. Although exhausting and frustrating, the open meeting worked—everyone who wanted to had an opportunity to speak, those who questioned or were unhappy with the process aired their concerns, and eventually, decisions were made. The process paid off. Shortly after the meeting had ended, a contractor named Julian arrived with an offer of tools and expertise. He had heard that renovations were to occur, he was ready to bring his tools and begin work. He was directed to the person in charge of organizing security and construction, and this morning arrived with his tools and began work. There is now a safety railing and stairs constructed for the entrance window, and the crew is in the process of building interior walls and floors (not in the heritage part of the building and completely removeable, just in case the structures should need to be moved to "Camp Woodward").

For a loosely organized coalition of homeless people, poverty activists, and supporters, the Woodward's squat has accomplished a great deal. They have issued press releases describing their motivations and intentions. They have requested and received donations from a variety of sources. On Thursday, called a rally in support of the squat, and they held a press conference on Friday. They have put together a network of leaders from diverse backgrounds to provide focus and organization for the group, and they have strived to accomplish everything through a process of open meetings in which everyone's ideas and views can be heard.

Kerry has been one of the individuals active in organizing the squat and getting the right message out to the public. This is no small task, especially when the idea is evolving, changing as the situation changes. At the press conference, one of the reporters comments that in an earlier statement, the squatters had said they'd occupy the building for three days. It's now been six. "This is an organic thing," they say. It's true—the squat has taken on an element of vitality. The people are impassioned. "That W on top of the building," Kerry states, "stands for more than Woodward's. Now it's the world watching us, it stands for our wishes and hopes. The world is watching. What are we going to do?"

It has been a long week, and for those who have been actively involved since the beginning, the stress and fatigue is beginning to set in. Jim, one of the organizers of the rally and march that led up to the occupation of the Woodward's building, is determined not to give up, though, no matter how exhausted he might be.

Tomorrow morning, exactly one week since entering the building, he has another radio interview. "We need to keep this going until everyone here has homes," he says. "We have people living here who have nowhere else to go—there are people here who are sick, we have disabled men, a pregnant woman. People need a place to live—we won't send them back to the street." What they need most now, he tells me, is for people to keep coming to the squat. "If we have more people, the cops won't come in. They're waiting for everyone to leave." That's something, he says, that won't happen.

When I talk to Crystal, twenty-four years old, six months pregnant, and homeless, it's clear that she, for one, has no intention of leaving. Earlier today at the press conference, she spoke of the squat as her home, as the people living here the only family she's got. After she was evicted from her apartment last week because she couldn't pay her rent, she says she stayed awake for three days, just walking, too afraid to lie down and sleep on the sidewalk. She could be in a shelter, she says, but that's just temporary, and since coming to the Woodward's squat, she prefers to be here, where her support is. What she needs is a permanent home, somewhere healthy and safe where she can have her baby, but the shelter support offered by welfare is hardly enough to house one person in Vancouver, except in rooming houses or slums—places where crime and drug use proliferate. And besides, Crystal feels safer here, where at least people look out for each other, where violence is not tolerated, and where a sense of camaraderie, support and common purpose prevails.

All Crystal really wants is to get some sleep. She's been here for three days, and hates the idea of climbing up and down the two ladders to the second story window that's been co-opted as the Woodward's squat's front door. But she recognizes, now, that she's something of an icon here, that her presence at the squat is a strong statement to much of what's wrong with how poverty and homelessness are dealt with by the government. She's been interviewed, photographed, videotaped and recorded. She's good-humoured, laughs about it, "but if anyone wakes me up to talk to any more media," she says, "I'm gonna go hormonal on 'em."

Day 07 - September 20 - Friday - Call for Support

Urgent - Woodward's Squat Needs Immediate Support

Come on Down, Stay the Weekend, Enjoy the Community Picnic!

An attempted police evacuation is expected at dawn on Saturday the 21st. The residents of the Woodward's Squat have resolved collectively to lock arms in the event of such a forced attempt and will continue their peaceful, non-violent occupation until their five demands are met. Your presence on Saturday morning is essential to keep the squat alive! Bring a blanket or sleeping bag and stay the weekend or just come up the ladder to talk with people about social housing issues throughout the day. Support outside of the Woodward's building is equally important all weekend long.

If you are unable to make it on Saturday, come down on Sunday the 22nd for a community picnic between 1 at 3pm. It's a potluck protest in support of the people inside & a celebration of the first week of occupancy!

DEMANDS FROM THE WOODWARDS SQUAT

1. Develop Woodward's into social housing immediately.
2. Reverse the cuts to social housing and all social services.
3. Draft a civic anti-vacancy by-law to seize and convert empty buildings into social housing.
4. Full disclosure of all information regarding the proposed sale and development of Woodward's.

5. Decent and dignified immediate shelter for all homeless squatters asked to leave the building.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WOODWARDS SQUAT

1. Join it. The more people inside, the better. There's plenty of room.
2. Stop by. Find out what's going on. Donate labour.
3. Donate supplies. The Squat needs: food, water, disposable containers & utensils, coffee, juice, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, mattresses, blankets, socks, shoes, plywood, hardhats, nails, hammers

For more info call (604) 812-2663.

LINKS

Photographs, video & audio files, and commentary at Vancouver Indymedia

<http://vancouver.indymedia.org>

An Illustrated History of Vancouver Squatting

<http://www.geocities.com/emithsilas/vansquat.html>

International Squatting News

<http://www.squat.net>

Day 08 - September 21 - Saturday - Court Appearance

Summary Report from the Courthouse

21 September 2002

The 58 residents of the Woodward's Squat who were arrested this morning were brought before a judge in twelve groups of three, four and five, between 11:15am and 1:50pm. The exceptions to this procedure were the four people treated as minors. These four appeared individually after 1:50pm. The conditions for their release were negotiated in closed chambers with a representative from Social Services. The prisoners were not permitted to speak with legal council prior to their appearance in the courtroom and were prohibited from speaking with council as a group.

Several of the native leaders had their shoes confiscated while being held in cells then forced to appear in the courtroom without them.

Given the choice between remaining in captivity until November 7th, the date of their hearing, and agreeing to four conditions of release, 53 of the 54 adult residents chose the latter. These include four "promises."

"I promise that I will strictly comply with the terms of the attached order and will otherwise keep the peace."

"I promise that I will not enter onto the Lands ... or any structure or building on the Lands, or encourage or counsel others to enter onto the Lands, without the express authorization of the Plaintiff."

"I promise that I will not obstruct or interfere with the operations of the Plaintiff, or its agents or employees, on the Lands or in any structure or building on the Lands."

"I promise that I will not obstruct or interfere with the access to, or egress from, the Lands or any building or structure on the Lands, by the Plaintiff or its agents or employees."

The one resident who declined these conditions was taken to the North Fraser Remand Centre and will appear in court again on Monday morning. In reply to demands for the return of clothing, medication, blankets, and other

<http://www.woodsquat.net/>

10/9/2002

personal objects, the Vancouver Police offered to prepare an inventory to be ready next week. Many of these items, however, are required immediately.

Detailed accounts and documentation of police actions during their violent eviction are in preparation.

Supporters are invited to attend a community picnic tomorrow (Sunday September 22nd) between 1 & 3pm. Bring food, instruments, clothing, blankets, water and an appetite for social housing!

Friends of the Woodward's Squat

Day 09 - September 22 - Sunday - 11pm Police Attack

Police Raid Woodward's Tent City: Brutalize Homeless People
APC PRESS RELEASE Monday September 23, 2002 at 02:29 AM

At 11:30 pm Sunday night, the police attacked the tent city that has been outside of the Woodward's building for the past eight days. This marks the second time in 48 hours that police arrested and brutalized people at the building site.

Dozens of people were arrested and the belongings of sixty people thrown into four waiting garbage trucks. The police stated that the reason for the brutal raid was that people were committing a bylaw infraction by obstructing the sidewalk.

Police cordoned off Abbott between Hastings and Cordova and two blocks squatters off the premises, and then without allowing people to gather their belongings and leave, the police started to arrest people at the site. Many were thrown to the ground and witnesses saw police beating people up during the arrests.

"I witnessed a homeless woman being grabbed by the scruff of the neck and thrown down by three police officers after she asked them where their heart was. They are picking on the homeless and poor," said Jack, an original squatter from the Woodward's building.

Police went so far as to arrest John Richardson, lawyer for the squatters arrested on Saturday morning, when he asked to speak to an officer who could provide more information on the charges under which people were being arrested.

Last Saturday the homeless squatted the Woodward's building to demand the province make good on their promise for social housing in that building. Early Saturday morning, 58 squatters were brutally arrested and evicted from their home in the Woodward's building.

The Anti-Poverty Committee demands the unconditional release of all people arrested at the Woodward's building tonight.

There will be a Community Meeting Monday morning at 10 am at Victory Square.

Contact: Mike Krebs, 604-779-7430

From: Tony Tracy <tony@tao.ca>
Subject: [pga-van] Update: WOODWARDS ARRESTS
Date: Mon, 23 Sep 2002 04:46:54 -0400 (EDT)

Approximately twelve people were arrested outside the Woodward's Building at Abbott & Hastings shortly after 11pm on Sunday evening. Police used a good deal of force & violence in conducting the arrests, and it is

unclear at this point what injuries the arrestees might have sustained. Included amongst the arrested was John Richardson, a lawyer who works for PIVOT who has represented previous Woodward's arrestees at their release hearings on Saturday.

After the police had conducted the arrests, they had a garbage truck pull up and dispose of personal possessions, mattresses, etc. which were on the sidewalk area outside the building.

A group of supporters is presently gathered outside the Vancouver Police Department building on Cordova Street at Main Street in Downtown Vancouver to continue with jail solidarity for the arrested.

The supporters have been told via another volunteer lawyer that the arrestees should be released overnight (likely within the next few hours).

A community meeting has been called for 10:00am Monday September 23rd at Victory Square (Hastings Street at Cambie) to address the Woodward's issue, etc.

Day 10 - September 23 - Monday - Letter to BC Housing, the BC Government, City of Vancouver, and Vancouver Police:

JAILS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE SOCIAL HOUSING

The Friends of the Woodward's Squat would like to bring to your attention a number of demands that were made upon you yesterday by the residents of the Woodward's Squat. Below are reprints of transcripts of the addresses made by Jim Leydon, Bev Meslo, Ivan Drury, and Christopher Livingstone.

We present them as a courtesy to you and strongly recommend that you act upon them immediately.

We should also stress that there is an enormous public outrage over the two sets of brutal arrests against the peaceful and non-violent residents conducted on 21 September 2002 and 22 September 2002 and the subsequent destruction of their personal possessions.

Our organization is in the process of documenting these two sets of arrests and compiling a list of every object that was taken or destroyed by the Vancouver Police.

Direct any questions you have regarding the demands to the four individuals. Our organization does not represent the Woodward's Squat. We can provide telephone numbers to contact these people if you do not already have them.

Aaron Vidaver
Friends of the Woodward's Squat

PS--Audio recordings of these addresses may be heard at the following internet address, along with 21 witness accounts of the police violence carried out during the second set of arrests. <http://vancouver.indymedia.org>

Day 10 - September 23 - Monday - Pivot Statement Regarding Detainment of Lawyer

PIVOT PRESS RELEASE
September 23, 2002

Vancouver Police Illegally Detain Local Lawyer Following Police Raid Against Woodward's Homeless

Vancouver--A local lawyer is preparing to sue the Vancouver Police Department after being arrested and held in custody overnight without cause.

John Richardson, executive director for Pivot Legal Society, was arrested on Sunday night around 11:45 p.m. while outside the abandoned Woodward's building. Police arrested Richardson for "obstruction of justice" a few seconds after he began crossing the Hastings Street crosswalk at the south-east corner of Hastings and Abbot Streets.

The arrest of Richardson followed a police raid outside the Woodward's building. Late Sunday night, officers of the Vancouver Police Department cordoned off a one-block radius around the building, and began kicking, harassing and arresting the more than 50 homeless people sleeping on the sidewalk. Richardson, who on Saturday represented many of the homeless people evicted from the building under the recent court injunction, came to advise his clients and record the police activity.

What he saw disturbed him.

"I saw a very large number of police officers engaged in a police action against the homeless people sleeping outside the Woodward's building," he said. "I saw them throwing people's belongings into garbage trucks with no regard for the personal value of that property. Especially disturbing was the fact that the officers I spoke with were unable to give any explanation as to their legal authority for acting as they did."

Richardson, who was placed in solitary confinement when he refused to consent to an illegal strip-search, spent nine hours in a bare 4 x 7 foot concrete cell. Eleven other people were also charged, one of whom suffered a dislocated shoulder during arrest. All were released the next morning, after Crown Counsel refused to approve the police charges.

Dean Wilson, president of the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, was at the scene when Richardson was arrested. "I caught the entire incident on videotape," said Wilson. "I can honestly say I am ashamed to be a citizen of the City of Vancouver, if that's the way the police will act. They should be ashamed of themselves."

Richardson remarked "It is ironic to be charged with obstructing justice when my role as a lawyer was observe and be available to advise people on their legal rights. The actual conduct of the Vancouver Police makes it doubly ironic. If police believe a municipal bylaw has been infringed, they have the authority to issue bylaw infraction tickets. That is the process under the law. They do not have the authority to cordon off city blocks, harass and assault people, conduct arbitrary arrests, and destroy personal property. That is not justice."

For more information, contact:
John Richardson (604) 742-1843
Dean Wilson (604) 723-3184

Day 10 - September 23 - Monday - Rally at Victory Square

Victory Square Speeches - 23 Sep 02 - Monday Morning
(audio recordings available at <http://vancouver.indymedia.org>)

Jim Leydon

We condemn in the strongest voice possible the violence and lies which surround the Vancouver Police

handling of the Woodward's Squat. We believe that this has the fingerprints of Gordon Campbell all over it. We call for the immediate resignation of the new police chief and expect all city councillors to state their opinion on this action that took place last night. We hold that these tactics are not appropriate in any civilized western society. We call on BC Housing Corporation to apologize for any role they have in this abuse of the homeless and ask that they agree to immediately open a significant part of the first floor of the Woodward's Centre for a homeless shelter. We will negotiate with them around this. We expect to meet with the Premier and we expect to meet with him quickly or there will be direct action in offices all over this province. We have had enough. This was too much. This is absolutely abysmal. That they come in with what can only be classed as jackboots and kick people in poverty, and kick homeless people, out onto the streets and into the alleys, away from places that we were holding as secure. What we were doing there was not a political action it was a humanitarian action. We were supported by the community. We were supported by churches. We were supported by union movements. We were supported by women's movements. We were supported by individuals. A farmer came here and brought us food to support the fact that we were taking care of the homeless. And the response to that by the new police chief, by the city, and by the province, is to come in and terrorize homeless people. That is not acceptable in western society.

Bev Meslo

It is disgusting that this province would allow the most disenfranchised, the most devastated, the most insecure population in the whole province, to lead the battle against the Liberal cuts. Here they are the weakest in our society standing up for the rest of us. When are we going to start acting in defense of them? Having said that, what is happening here is against the covenant that was signed by Canada with consensus of all ten provinces in 1987. It states that all human people have the human right to security of their person and their home. Because the Woodward's building has been fought for as social housing, because the Woodward's building was bought by Canadian people's funds to be social housing, it is therefore a regressive act on the part of the liberal government to now change it. That regressive act is a regressive act through to the United Nations. That regressive act can reach the Supreme Court of Canada and change the Charter of Rights within our country. Because that is a public building designated for social housing that they have taken away from us. So we will take this to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Ivan Drury

They're trying to scare us! They're trying to scare us because we're fighting in exactly the ways we have to fight. Last night we were sitting in a peaceful meeting on the sidewalk with the people who are homeless. With the people who had been removed from Woodward's. People who had been living in Woodward's who had taken up shelter in the only place that was left to them. Who had taken up shelter illegally in an empty building that is left empty by this government. They were removed with force by the police in service of the government who are interested in keeping this building empty. They are interested in keeping this building empty because they are attacking poor people. This was made painfully clear to the people who sat outside the Woodward's building out of lack of choice of place to go. People who banded together and slept outside the Woodward's building because they had no place to go. Because the government has made it so they have no place to go. Because the government cares about profit not about people. People were sitting outside of the Woodward's building with the people who had no place to go talking about how we can make it so that people have a safe place to go. How we can fight so that people have a decent standard of living. Very basic things. Guaranteed fundamental human rights. And while we're sitting and talking about guaranteeing our own fundamental basic human rights the police blocked off Abbott Street to the north and the south. They blocked it off with paddy wagons and cop cars and they sent patrols from both sides and ordered people to go away. They ordered people to leave and sleep in dangerous parks and dangerous alleys and dangerous shelters. They ordered people to disband from the community they have collected. When people said "we will not go" they arrested us. They dislocated my shoulder. They dragged us across the street and they threw us in jail. They did this without any legal justification. They performed an illegal arrest upon us who are a totally legal and peaceful assembly. The police did this because they are in service of the government. The government did this because they are in service of the business community. Because they are the business community. They do not represent the people down here. They do not represent the people in this province. And they do not represent us. They have made a terrible

mistake because we are not afraid. And we will win. And we will continue to fight. And we will win.

Christopher Livingstone

We request that all aboriginal governments and services come down here. Just because the government and the police turn their backs on their people we as native peoples can make sure that we're protected. We have a disproportionate amount of native peoples down here. We are poor. We do have issues. We need support here. We need people here. I want to invite the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Aboriginal Business Canada, and Aboriginal House to the table. It's got to be done. Just because every other government agency will turn their back on these people doesn't mean that we have to. It's not our way.

Support Letter from Costa Rica - To Gordon Campbell - Sep 23

Imagine the look of shock on the faces of some of my colleagues here in Costa Rica today to know that the government and police of Vancouver, Canada took the bedding and supplies away from HOMELESS people and threw them in a garbage truck. It is not only me who is shocked, angered, and disappointed today that HUMAN BEINGS could do something so low, stealing everything from people who have very little to begin with.

Not to mention arresting people for not having homes and therefore having to sleep in the streets. Yes, it should be ILLEGAL not to have a home. In fact, internationally, it is illegal, all governments have a responsibility to provide the basic needs, including shelter, to everyone. So, given the government has broken international human rights codes, the police should be putting them in jail at this very minute. Perhaps you should call your family and tell them you have broken international laws and are expecting to do some jail time for it tonight.

But no, you don't have to do that. You and your government can sit back with your salary increases and homes in Point Grey or West Vancouver, and your warm homes with beds, bedding, and kitchens full of food, and kick back while you watch television. No, you really don't have much to worry about.

However, you might think again. Because I have told a handful of people here in Costa Rica about what you have done. And yes, I think we can all imagine the shock for people here in Costa Rica to imagine that a country with governments much richer than their own has people living on the streets, and getting arrested for it! And having their sleeping bags stolen, in a climate much cooler than their own as well. These are not the kinds of abuses of people they expect to hear about from a country that portrays itself as a leader for human rights and as a so called 'developed' nation.

Today, this is the image of Canada a handful of people in Costa Rica have right now. But they will tell their friends. And other people from British Columbia in the world today will tell their friends. And other people in British Columbia that support the right for a poor to have a home will tell their friends. And more and more people will know what has happened this weekend, what your government has done. And more and more people will stand up, and say that this kind of behaviour and abuse of people in Vancouver, in British Columbia, and in Canada is unacceptable!! If you think you have seen protest in the last year, you haven't seen anything yet.

You, your government, and the police, are trying to discredit the action by poor people in Vancouver by stating that the 'protest has been taken over by hard core social activists'. Well, let me share one more thing with you today. This is called 'solidarity'. The people in Central America obviously understand it better than you: it means that when the poor are suffering, you don't stand by and let it happen. You don't watch it every day for a year, when you have the money and power to change the situation, but do nothing. You help out, you sit with people in support, you bring food, sleeping bags, and everything else they need to survive. And when the police steal their stuff, you come back again with more food. This is not a radical hard core activist concept, Gordon Campbell, this is what we call humanity.

You can arrest the poor and lock them up again and again, but they will not go away. And those of us, in solidarity with them around the world, will not go away either. So you might want to think again, because I think you have a few things to worry about today. There are more of us out here than you think, and we will win!

In Solidarity with the protesters at the Woodward's building,
Beth Clarke
Development worker, Costa Rica
Resident, Vancouver, Canada

Day 14 - September 27 - Friday - Occupation of BC Housing Office

On 27 September a delegation of 30 people from the Coalition occupied the BC Housing office in Burnaby and demanded to meet with officials. The following letter was then hand-delivered:

The Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters
Corner of Abbott and Hastings, Vancouver BC
Phone: 604-215-2263 Fax: 604-215-2287

Date: September 27th, 2002

To: The Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Affairs

From: Negotiating Committee, Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters

Re: Negotiations

While we were Squatting inside the Woodward's building you indicated that you would not enter into negotiations until we left the building. As you must be aware, we have met this requirement and are therefore demanding you immediately enter into negotiations around the interim as well as the end use of the building.

There is an urgent need for a solution to the homeless and housing crisis in our community and in our city. We expect that you meet immediately with us to discuss this problem. The media has reported that you indicated a willingness over the past couple days to meet with us. We will therefore assume that if communication does occur within the next couple days we are welcome to take this matter up with you personally.

Please reply to us at immediately at 604-215-2263 and fax the response also to 604-215-2287.

We urgently await your immediate reply,

Jim Layden
Benerice Fortier
Anton Pilipa
Chris Livingstone
Kerry Pakarinen

Negotiating Committee, Coalition of Woodward's Squatters and Supporters

CC: USA Funds (Canada) Inc.; Madison Bellevue Apartments Corporation; Strand Properties IV Corporation, previously known as 378866 B.C. LTD.

Day 18 - October 01 - Tuesday - Call to Complete List of Property Destroyed by Police

THINGS STOLEN OR DESTROYED BY COPS: SAT & SUN SEPT 21 & 22

Reprinted from *W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T.* #8

October 02, 2002

When the riot police arrested the W58 inside the building on Saturday 21 September everybody's property was left there for many days.

During that time dozens of security guards, police, housing officials, private contractors and construction and TV crews had access to the space and things "went missing."

The next night during the police attack the remaining property on the street was loaded into city garbage trucks and destroyed.

In both cases the police had NO LEGAL AUTHORITY to take this property. They will have to PAY to replace EVERY item that cannot accounted for and returned.

The legal team needs your list of items that were taken. Please provide as much details as possible on the attached form. Include:

1. Any ID that was lost.
2. Amounts of medication, food, drugs, and other supplies.
3. Clothing, bedding, and bags (colour, brand names).
4. Tools, cooking equipment, cell phones (brand names).
5. Journals, books, documents, paper.
6. Glasses, jewellery, musical instruments, keys.
7. Any other items of personal or financial value.

Contact Friends of the Woodward's Squat:

friends@woodsquat.net

604-682-3269 ext. 6315

www.woodsquat.net

Day 18 - October 01 - Tuesday - Squat General Inventory

CURRENT INVENTORY OF THINGS

TUESDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 01

Reprinted from *W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T.* #8

October 02, 2002

A rumour spread yesterday that the police would shut down the squat this morning. It didn't happen. But we want to compile a list of everybody's stuff in case they do come and try to trash the place again.

Please fill out the personal item list. If you pass it along to Aaron today or tomorrow he will add your list so there is a record. The list will be used by the legal team in the event of a future police action.

Last night at 10pm we recorded the following:

Cordova Camp: 4 tents, 22 mattresses.
 Abbott Camp: 32 tents, 49 mattresses.
 Hastings Camp: 17 tents, 35 mattresses.

Total: 53 tents, 106 mattresses.

Blankets and quilts: 182
 Sleeping bags: 24
 Chairs: 53
 Couches: 4
 Tables: 7
 Tarps: 19
 Wheelchairs: 3
 Bicycles: 6
 BBQ: 1

Sheets, pillows, & other bedding were not counted. Please include them on your list.

Day 22 - October 05 - Saturday - Victory Square Rally

Victory Square Speeches - Saturday Oct 5, 2002

Toecutter

This is unbelievable, guys. I have never seen an open, total defiance against the community, against the people. Just to come right up to us and say "No! I'm not giving it to you: simple as that. Deal with it!" I mean who the fuck is he to tell us that we can't have a home? That we can't have a place to live? I've been out there. I've seen what the cops can do. It's a travesty. Beating up a 13-year-old boy and then to add insult to injury by sending him to jail and causing him all the grief. I mean what are we going to do about this? I am so angry, my friends. I am so angry. I don't know where to begin. But you know what, guys, all I know is as long as I can breathe I'm going to be at that squat. Because goddammit Campbell can't take the simple thing away from me. I mean I could go to prison. The motherfucker closed down all the prisons! You know? What else do we have? We had three people left from the original bust in prison. One guy refused to sign because he didn't have a home and he figured "well, hell, why not stay here and get fed?" You know what I mean? But then he was on the juice. He was on the methadone program. So the motherfuckers said "hey, we're just not gonna give you your juice." Needless to say, the guy signed. All I have to say is: No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace!

Skyy

Hi! I'm Skyy and I'm from New Brunswick. I was travelling across the country and I decided to come to Vancouver to see what it was like here. Two days into the city I got really sick and I wanted to go stay at a shelter. I went to a soup kitchen and got them to call around and all the shelters were full. A health clinic told me that a squat just started up and I should go down there. So I went down there and it was awesome. Everybody got along like it was a big family. It was just rockin. I met so many friends here that I'll never forget. But besides that they wanted me to talk about Thursday. I went down to this demo and I just got there and these people were getting arrested. A clown of all people. He was a happy clown. He just put on a nose. And the cops decided they were going to beat him up and throw him in the little paddy wagon there and take him away. So everyone went and sat in front of the paddy wagon and it was like "no, just let these guys go, they

didn't do anything wrong." The cops were standing there smirking and laughing at all of us. They started to pull everyone apart and that's when shit started to happen. All I remember is I stood up and the cop kept pulling me and pushing me so I got thrown along the line. As I was going I saw a cop smash a 13-year-old boy in the face. And the kid was crying. He had blood gushing out of his lip. I honkered on that cop. I was like: "YOU FUCKING BASTARDS!" And I got arrested for assaulting three police. First was the one I honkered at. Then his partner got some of that spit on his arm so I got charged for that too. And while they were arresting me I accidentally tripped a cop who got a concussion from hitting his head on a cement wall. They pushed me and put the cuffs on a tad bit too tight, you know, "accidentally" and all, and they took me to jail. I was in jail for 30 hours not knowing what the fuck was going on. And they wouldn't let me talk to a lawyer. Then they made me sign a contact saying that I couldn't associate with anybody. I'm not allowed to wear a mask. It was like a conspiracy against Gordon Campbell, apparently. I'm not allowed within two blocks of Gordon Campbell. Basically, that's it. The cops were fucking brutal for no reason at all. Just like when we were upstairs getting arrested. The first thing everyone said when the riot cops came in looking as stone-cold as ever was "We're peaceful and we're not going to do anything wrong." But we're fighting for our homes. We want a home. We don't want to live on the street. That's what this is all about, this squat. We want everyone on the street to have a home. They fuckin beat us up, threw us away, and thought that would shut us up. But we came back the very next day. And that night the cops cleared out the street and they threw everyone's possessions away that they possibly could. They threw away beds that were donated. Some people's belongings were all in one bag. I'm sure a lot of you know what that's like. You carry your packsack on your back and that's your home. The fucking cops didn't have no dignity. They just threw everything away. And someone else asked me to mention when we have these protests and we have these things at the squat where we have rallies and we need your support, where are all you guys? I know a lot of you guys have been there but there's tons of you guys that came out for a show today. You should come out and support this more often! Thanks.

Rick

What I'd like to talk about is the cause and the reason why we have to go and occupy Woodward's and develop tent cities and so forth. The problem, the cause, is neo-classical economics. That is: privatization, deregulation, global free trade, and the free-flow of capital. That results in an uneven distribution of income causing more poverty amongst the people, forcing people to not have homes. We have no choice but to develop these tent cities. These are a must! And it's a product of today. And it's a part of the revolution that going to develop and build and spread. This is like a spark that's going to ignite the fire of the people of the east end! And WE WILL WIN! WE WILL WIN! WE WILL WIN! At two levels! At two levels! One: our victory over Woodwards. With the big W: WE WILL WIN. And: we will also win against the global imperialist capitalist pigs! We will defy the system! The capitalist system is doomed for failure! It has no choice. The system is finished! We will win as revolutionaries against the capitalists! And we will win over the building of Woodwards! WE WILL WIN!

Day 24 - October 07 - Monday - Day of Defiance & March to Woodwards

Vancouver Day Of Defiance!
vynd@hotmail.com

All Out October Seventh!

On October seventh the Liberals will return to the Legislature in Victoria. They will be met by a largescale demonstration. Another demonstration is being planned for the same day in Vancouver.

Rally and March!

Meet at the BC Hydro Building (333 Dunsmuir street)
12:00 noon. Monday, October Seventh.
Bring Down the Liberal Government!!

Endorsed by: BC Young New Democrats, L'Humanite, Vancouver Young New Democrats, CUPE local 2278, UFCW local 247, UFCW local 1518, Retail Wholesale Union local 580, Retail Wholesale Union local 517, Vancouver-Kingsway NDP

Link to Victoria Day of Defiance Page:

<http://members.shaw.ca/solidarity/index.htm>

Police Riot in East Vancouver Anti Poverty Committee News Release

Today, Thursday, October 3rd, 2002, over 50 police invaded an East Vancouver neighbourhood, violently arresting at least 7 people. The police were there to protect Premier Gordon Campbell's appearance at the opening of a new literacy centre at Britannia Public School and Community Centre. Residents of the neighbourhood were outraged that the man responsible for attacking our community through cuts to welfare, childcare, womens assault centres, education, and a host of other social services, would come to our community for a public relations stunt.

People slowly filtered into Grandview Park which is adjacent to the new centre. An older gentleman clown attempted to enter the event and was quickly taken by four police officers. Over a dozen police surrounded the man who now had blood dripping from his head. People surrounded the police demanding the release of the peaceful protestor. The police responded by moving in more police and arresting another man.

A growing crowd gathered chanting "Let them go!" School children and parents who were leaving the school joined in, with many kids scrawling signs of support as the crowd blocked the wagon, containing the two arrestees, from leaving. Police responded by violently dragging and moving people from the alley way. One of the arrested was a young boy, reported to be 13. He was slammed against a wall with blood in his mouth, many people reported seeing an officer point a gun at his head.

Arrests continued until the police dangerously raced their wagon out the alley attached to the public school. About 20 officers remained, using pepper spray on some people, refusing to leave the conflict. Eventually the police backed down, and the large crowd followed them out the alley onto the busy Commercial Drive. As the police dispersed, the crowd marched down the street back to the park chanting, "No more pigs in our community" and "We will win".

Hundreds of people in the community came together to protest a government which is attacking our neighbourhood and the province. In response we were met by over 50 police who invaded our neighbourhood, attacked and brutalized us, and took some of us away to their jails. It is apparent that this government must invoke a police state and police riot to implement their agenda. We must continue to organize against this government wherever they appear. This government is intent on attacking the lives of poor, working and marginalized people in this province. We will continue to build a strong movement against this government, across communities and this province, until they are defeated.

October 3, 02

For Immediate Release:

Press Conference; Friday October 4th, 2pm
Main entrance of Britannia Community Centre
(Just off Commercial Drive and Napier St.)

APC STOPS CAMPBELL FROM SPEAKING, POLICE REACT WITH VIOLENCE AT BRITANNIA COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Anti-Poverty Committee called a demonstration this afternoon against a Gordon Campbell speaking event. Gordon Campbell was scheduled to speak at a celebration of a Liberal Public / Private Partnership at the Eastside Family Place just off Commercial Drive. Following the promise made at the June 15th Art Gallery Demonstration, the APC planned to stop Campbell from speaking. "When the Premier tries to speak in public, we can't afford to be quiet," said organizer Anton Pilipa.

About seventy-five people showed up at 3pm to greet Campbell and tell him he's not welcome in the East Side. "It was a really quiet, festive atmosphere," said Commercial Drive resident Jenny Bigolo, "then the cops grabbed this old man wearing a clown nose and doing a mime routine. They arrested him and I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

The protestors surrounded the man being arrested and demanded that the police let him go. Instead, officer 1940 and officer S. Soo slammed the handcuffed man face first into the wall, breaking his glasses and bloodying his nose. When they loaded him into the wagon in the alley, the crowd blocked the wagon and demanded his release.

"Thirty of us sat down in the alley in front of the wagon and told them to let the man go." Organizer Devon Black said, "That was when they pulled out the pepper spray and started hitting people."

In response to the request from the demonstrators for the police to calm the situation down Officer 2072 punched a 13 year old Britannia High School Student in the face and drew his gun. The police assaulted several more people, using pepper spray on some. At the time of this release the people arrested are still in custody.

Black said, "We demand the officer in charge, Inspector Bob Houston, publically apologize, immediately release the people arrested today and drop the fabricated charges. Officer 2070 must be fired for the unprovoked and baffling assault on a thirteen year old child on his way home from school."

Black continued, "People in this province are outraged by the violent agenda being carried out by the Campbell government, and we will not be shut down by the use of even more violence at the hands of the police."

Media contact: Anton Pilipa: 604-779-7430

Police Riot in East Vancouver - Witness Statements

Statements are currently being collected, digitized, and transcribed. We have been advised not to post them at this time as incomplete statements by witnesses may be misused in court by police representatives. If you were a witness to police violence on 03 October please contact the Friends of the Woodwards Squat at friends@woodsquat.net.

Legal Update On Britannia Arrestees (Update #2)

Sunday, October 6th, 1:30 AM

Tonight at around 11:00 PM, Vancouver Police arrested Ivan Drury, an organizer with the Anti-Poverty Committee and the Woodwards Coalition of Squatters and Supporters. The police had a warrant for his arrest based on four charges, two counts of obstructing a peace officer and two counts of assaulting police. He was taken to the jailhouse at Main and Cordova, and, according to the police who arrested him, he will be held overnight. These charges stem from the demonstration at Britannia on Thursday at a scheduled Campbell

speaking engagement that was cancelled due to the protest. We are suspecting that Ivan will be asked to not associate with any APC members as a condition for his release, and at this point he has stated that he will refuse to sign any such conditions.

As many of you already are aware, this is one of many times in the past few months that the police have arrested political activists and organizers involved in the struggle against the BC Liberal government. This is the fourth time Ivan has been thrown in jail since June 15th; 54 people were arrested in the Woodwards building on the 21st, 11 more were arrested the following Sunday, and this past Thursday another 8 were arrested. The 8 people arrested on Thursday were all charged with either obstruction or assault on a police officer, and they were all given 'no association' orders as part of their release conditions, meaning they are to have no contact with anyone else who was arrested. These trumped up charges are based on the fact that these people are politically active and/or refused to comply when the police started arresting people without cause. We already saw this with the June 15th demonstration, where one person was charged with assaulting a police officer and held overnight, only to have the charges dropped later.

It is beyond doubt that the Anti-Poverty Committee (and other elements of the anti-Campbell movement) are under attack by the police. With the escalation in the charges being applied, clearly the government is shifting gears on us. The BC Liberals are using the police and the judicial system to crack down on our movement and halt our efforts to build a militant resistance to the Campbell regime. We are not going to back down, though. This will only strengthen our resolve and conviction, and so far it has also strengthened our support from other groups. We will defend ourselves on any front that they open up against us, and we will not be derailed in our struggle to defeat this government.

Of course, we can't defend ourselves against these legal attacks on our own, and any group/individual who is serious about stopping Campbell cannot stand by while the government cracks down on organizations like the Anti-Poverty Committee and the Woodward's Coalition. At this stage it is very true that an injury to one is an injury to all. Unless we work together to defend our comrades when they are attacked by the police, nobody will be able to build any sort of effective fight against the government in these conditions. Nobody. History has shown how effectively the state can destroy movements by arresting activists and hampering their ability to organize. We can't let them do this to us.

We, the Anti-Poverty Committee, are appealing to all individuals and organizations to help us defend ourselves in this legal battle with the police. We need lawyers willing to defend us immediately: we also need financial support to set up a legal defense fund, because we can't pretend that this is not going to happen in the future. We are asking any organizations and individuals with the means to donate money to help us set this up. Please call our office at 604-682-2726 if you are able to help us out with this, or call us at apc@resist.ca. We are an independent, grassroots organization that currently receives no sustained funding, and we need all the financial support we can get.

In solidarity,

Mike Krebs
Anti-Poverty Committee

Legal Update On Britannia Arrestees (Update #3) - October 7, 02

It is now a couple days since the police riot at Britannia Community Centre. There have been some developments politically and legally since the riot happened and the initial arrests were made. The police and Gordon Campbell have denounced the demonstrators as "thugs" and there has been another arrest made. The situation, however, has not essentially changed... people are still resisting the cuts being made by the BC Liberals and the Liberals and their Police are reacting violently and defensively because the defences and the organization of poor and working people in the province are taking shape and developing in a way that cannot

be stopped.

Legal Situation of the "Minors"

THE 13 YEAR OLD BRITANNIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Charges: Assault Police

Conditions: Non association with the other minor arrested / not to be within two blocks of the premier / not to carry a weapon / not to wear a mask in public.

Comments: He was assaulted (punched in the face and had a gun pulled on him) by a big cop (badge #2072). The police attempted to cover this with fraudulent charges against him of assault police. He was harassed and intimidated in jail.

"KASPER"

Charges: Obstruction Police

Conditions: Same as above.

Comments: The police stopped his wagon in a parking lot and asked him to step out and "be tough" with a circle of 20 officers. he refused. All throughout his time in jail he was harassed and intimidated... told "you want to be like those APC guys? We bootfuck them and love it," etc... Subjected to "psychological examination" and other intimidation tactics.

IVAN DRURY

Charges: 2 counts obstruction police; 2 counts assault police.

Conditions: Not to be within 100 feet of Gordon Campbell / Not be near the queen on the 6th or 7th of September / Not to wear a mask in public / Not to carry a weapon / To otherwise keep the peace.

Comments: The crown tried to stick Ivan with conditions of "non-association" and to "not be within 2 blocks of Campbell or Chretien or the queen" but he argued them with the Justice of the Peace and won. The JP decided that the imposed conditions did not have legal ground in the case and overthrew them. This sets an important precedent for the conditions imposed upon the other 8 arrested when they go into court on November 8th. Ivan was released from jail on Sunday October 6th at 5:30pm.

Ivan was picked up alone while riding his bicycle at Main and Cordova on Saturday October 5th at 11pm. He was flanked by 2 cop cars and told to drop his bike and backpack because he was not wearing a helmet. He was served with his warrant and was handcuffed. When he was being handcuffed, a truck rolled by full of undercover cops. They stopped to chant, "YOU WILL LOSE! YOU WILL LOSE!" and then drove away. It was clearly a planned operation.

All arrestees are scheduled to appear in court on Friday, October 18th at the Cordova and Main courthouse... room 100. All are encouraged to attend to encourage the fight against the conditions that have been imposed upon the initial 8 and proved illegal by the latter arrest. They cannot divide us, separate us or defeat us. We will not be intimidated by police harassment or brutality and WE WILL WIN.

I must make another plea for legal defense fund support. There are a total of 63 people being charged through the courts between the Woodwards squat arrests and the Britannia Police Riot. This requires a lot of lawyers and a lot of money in order to defeat their trumped up, harassment charges designed to over-occupy us and stop us from our real work. Together, we can defeat them on every front... even legally.

Solidarity; Ivan.

apc@resist.ca

604.682.2726

#42 Blood Alley

Saturday October 26 - The Cops Are Freakin' Scary

"The Cops Are Freakin' Scary!!!"

A Halloween Fundraiser for
The Collective Opposed to Police Brutality [COPB-Van]
Saturday October 26, 6PM - 12 AM
sliding scale \$5-10
At the IWA Hall: 2859 Commercial (at 13th)

Featuring Live Bands:
Submission Hold
Che Chapter 127, and
Free Verse (from Seattle)

Video screening:
"Through A Clear Lens", a short documentary on police brutality in Vancouver, produced by Headlines Theatre

<http://resist.ca/~copb-van>

*July 2002
COPB-Van
Tom Woida*

TOM

Monday October 28 - W58 Legal Meeting

The last meeting of the "Woodward's 58" before the first court appearance (on November 7) will be Monday, October 28 at 5:30 pm in Blood Alley Square. As only two of the group have lawyers right now, it is important that people not be coerced into taking a "guilty" plea if they don't have legal counsel. Pleas can be delayed if the person charged does not have counsel. For more info contact Calvin: 604-879-0017 or calvinwoida@hotmail.com.

We still need contact info for over 20 people from the W58. If you haven't passed it along leave a message with Friends of the Woodward's Squat at 604-682-3269 ext. 6315 or by email at friends@woodsquat.net. If you do not have a telephone, voice mail, email address or physical address, please tell us where we might find you on the street over the next few months or provide a number for a family member that you might be in touch with. Thanks! We're winning!

A Note on This Site

This site is coordinated by the Friends of the Woodward's Squat. It is NOT an official site of the Woodward's Squat NOR any of the organizations or individuals involved in this current housing action. It is NOT a subsidiary of any media outlet, commercial or otherwise, NOR does it receive any form of state funding, direct or indirect. Friends of the Woodward's Squat publishes the *W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T.* newsletter and does NOT represent the Squat. FWS is a support group that helped with supplies and garbage removal during the occupation & now with ~~legal~~ assistance for the Woodward's 58, the people who were subsequently attacked by police on 22 Sept, and people who lost their possessions in the garbage trucks after the Sunday night attack. Please direct questions about demands or specific support actions to the Woodward's Coalition or another of the many groups and individuals involved in defense activity.