

Support Demonstration for Woodward's Squat

Mike Krebs 6:42am Sun Sep 15 '02 (Modified on 11:42pm Sun Sep 15 '02)
address: 101 West Hastings (Hastings and Abbott) phone: (604) 812-2263

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.