

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."

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