

**From:** "Aaron Vidaver" <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:**  
**Date:** Mon, 11 Nov 2002 21:58:39 -0800  
**To:** "Dennis Watson" <[REDACTED]>



Dennis,

Thanks for the note. At the moment the battle is against the City's injunction application which they've put an astonishing volume of resources into. Details of it are at our web page <http://www.woodsquat.net> with daily updates. People are very busy just with the daily stuff to propose anything but an emergency plan if they bring the police in again. The only proposals about the building I know of are coming from private developers. BC Housing (a subsidiary of the provincial government) owns the building and is trying to sell it as quickly as possible, as I understand it. They've been very unreceptive even to communicating with people at the squat. I believe there are precedents for church-sponsored or non-profit-sponsored developments but I can't point to any examples. It's not something we've really looked into, though I'm sure longer-term pro-housing groups in the DTES have been examining models for a very long time, DERA for instance. If you come up with anything please let us know. And, yes, we certainly can use supporters in court on the 19th. It's BC Supreme Court at 800 Smithe, 9:45am.

Thanks,  
Aaron Vidaver  
Friends of the Woodwards Squat

"Dennis Watson" <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Woddwards Squat  
**Date:** Mon, 11 Nov 2002 14:42:58 -0800  
**To:** Friends@woodsquat.net [Full Headers]

Greetings,

I visited the squat today with my daughter and understand things are quite uncertain right now. I have been involved with many, union, community and church groups and would like to see some constructive proposals submitted to the city. This has become a real election issue in the civic elections and something positive might come from it.

Who owns the land? What if a private nonprofit group such as Habitat or 1st United were to purchase the site and turn it into social housing? The provincial liberals might be willing to let a private nonprofit group take the project over so they can wash their hands of it.

Would it be beneficial to have supporters of the squat show up at court? Thanks.

All the Best,

Dennis Watson

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