

Anti-Poverty Committee

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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 2072 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."

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