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CC : ocap@tao.ca
Subject : [APC-Announce] GIVE IT OR GUARD IT VANCOUVER!
Date : Mon, 21 Oct 2002 16:51:59 -0400 (EDT)

(Please Forward Widely)

GIVE IT OR GUARD IT!

The Anti-Poverty Committee Joins a Canada Wide Housing Campaign:

In 1995, the Federal Government cut their funding for social housing, leaving the responsibility to the provinces. British Columbia was one of only two provinces to provide decent, affordable housing to poor and working people who need it and suffer without it. The Liberal Government changed that as soon as they took power; cutting funding for social housing and abandoning responsibility to under-funded, overburdened municipalities who in turn are trying to contract the projects privately. Now, after making applications for arbitration incredibly difficult for renters by closing the downtown Vancouver Residential Tenancy office, they are planning to gut the Residential Tenancy Act. There is now no new social housing being built in the province or anywhere in the country and the rights of market renters are being stolen away.

The Woodward's Squat has brought the issues of homelessness and housing crisis into public attention in B.C. throughout the past month; the same has been true in Quebec with the Squat in Quebec City, in Ontario with the Toronto Pope Squat, and the recent squat in Victoria. Housing issues in Canada go far beyond homelessness, touching the lives of all poor and working people in the country. The struggle for decent, dignified and affordable housing is one that affects everyone and addresses all levels of government as responsible and negligent.

GIVE IT OR GUARD IT!

The APC joins organizations and people across the country in the call to build and to convert abandoned buildings into social housing. If they are unwilling to build it, they will have to guard it because WE WILL TAKE IT! On October 26th, in solidarity with new squats being opened in Ontario and Quebec, the Anti-Poverty Committee will announce the addresses of the empty buildings in Vancouver that are owned by the city and the province. We will open these buildings and fill them with people unless the Government does it first.

DEMANDS:

1. The Federal and Provincial Governments must begin funding social housing immediately and build over 2000 units of housing a year in B.C.
2. The City must develop an anti-vacancy by-law to seize and convert privately owned

abandoned buildings and property into social housing.

3. The Province and the City must develop rent controls to ensure that no one pays over thirty percent of their income to housing.
4. The Province must re-open all closed Residential Tenancy Offices and make no changes to the Residential Tenancy Act that would diminish the rights of renters.
5. Develop the Woodward's building into social housing immediately and respect the rest of the demands of the Woodward's Social Housing Coalition.

Add your organization to the list of groups that endorse these demands and campaign:

Name of organization: _____

Contact information: _____

Fax / Email / Call Endorsements to:

Anti-Poverty Committee

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