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CC : friends@woodsquat.net
Subject : GIVE IT OR GUARD IT VANCOUVER
Date : Wed, 23 Oct 2002 19:20:48 -0400 (EDT)

GIVE IT OR GUARD IT!

Saturday, October 26th. Two public actions:

One:

Meet at Broadway and Commercial;

12 Noon, Saturday October 26th

We will be leafletting to expose the federal, provincial and civic government's negligence in addressing the homelessness and housing crisis in BC. We will be announcing the locations of vacant, government owned buildings and our intention to take them as social housing unless the government does it first.

Two:

A delegation will leave Broadway and Commercial at 1pm to move to another location for a press conference and to continue distributing the information.

The intention of these actions is to issue an ultimatum; they are not an action unto themselves, but rather the beginning of the Anti-Poverty Committee Housing Campaign and involvement in the nationwide "Give It or Guard It" campaign. As part of this campaign, organizations across the country will be pressuring the federal government as well as the provinces and city governments to build social housing and to either turn their abandoned building into housing or guard them against being opened as squats.

Anti-Poverty Committee 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 Woodwards building into social housing immediately and respect the rest of the demands of the Woodwards Social Housing Coalition.

We need people to take part in the actions Saturday to present a strong, unified threat to the government and to carry the full weight of the ultimatum. This really began on Tuesday the 22nd, when we delivered a letter to council, disrupted their meeting and forced them to hear us. It is important that we continue the public presentation of this campaign on Saturday the 26th to show that all across the country we are united and all demanding the same things: decent, dignified housing for everyone.

We Will Win.