

# Anti-Poverty Committee

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November 19<sup>th</sup>, 02

**TO: LARRY CAMPBELL, MAYOR CITY OF VANCOUVER**  
**FROM: THE ANTI-POVERTY COMMITTEE**  
**RE: STOP INJUNCTION PROCESS IMMEDIATELY**

Congratulations on COPE's "landslide" election victory. This election enjoyed record voter participation largely because COPE represented the feelings of many poor and working people in the city. Some of these were squatters at Woodward's who had never voted before in their lives. We are confused as to why you would have your people put "VOTE COPE" buttons on the homeless at Woodward's while campaigning and then allow the injunction against them to carry on. We hope you weren't making empty promises using the homeless to further political goals and campaigns.

The City has repeated its intention to find housing for people yet only 25 or 50 beds have been identified as available. It has been estimated that 150 people or more have regularly been staying at the squat and the only solution is to provide living spaces for all of them. What solution do you envision through this injunction process? Some regard the injunction as a way to house the homeless in jail. The courts fabricate and focus on "illegal activities" that have allegedly happened at the squat to justify this ridiculous process.

At an IWA Hall campaign forum, veteran COPE councillor Tim Louis promised that if elected he would immediately tear up the injunction "and throw it wherever things like that belong". Through campaign promises and platforms COPE has indicated a commitment to resolving the situation at Woodward's by seeking solutions rather than attacking and arresting people. This commitment implies COPE's immediate intervention to stop the injunction process. People trusted you; many people still trust you. This issue has the power to justify and cement that trust. We are all afraid of what it would mean if that trust was broken.

We can all work together on the homeless crisis, or we can fight it out for the next three years. Back down on this injunction, and let's start our working relationship off on the **LEFT** foot. The people at Woodward's are sick from living outside in the cold. Forcing them from the Woodward's property will not bring them housing or make them well.

Allowing the injunction to proceed will bring about the violence of the riot police, and the continued escalation of Housing Campaigns. Jail cells are not adequate housing. The people stuck sleeping around Woodward's are some of the most threatened and vulnerable in the City and they thought COPE was a friend; they don't need any more enemies.

In Solidarity;

**ANTI-POVERTY COMMITTEE**

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CC: City Council, City Staff, Media

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