

Strategy Proposals Substantive Points Guide

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Strategy Proposals substantive points

1. Intro

The following document is based on four different proposals that have been presented respectively by Joey, Waldo, Benerice and the "Action Program" group. It has been put together to facilitate discussion and decision-making for each proposal as well as giving a clear and simple overview of them all. This document has been divided in two main categories: substantive points and membership criteria.

2. Substantive points

This section presents each proposal individually and has been divided in four categories: Objectives, Implementation, Strategic Execution and Prioritization.

a) Proposal to decentralize power and build community in the APC presented by Joey Only.

Overall Strategy

i) Objectives

- One Fight, End Poverty

ii) Implementation

- Flexible Campaigns
(create accountable teams of three, have as many sub-campaigns as we have groups of three, make room for members to take initiative and develop their own campaigns, dish out as many organizing tasks to as many people as possible, cultivate our community, maximize the potential of APC, have an open and inclusive organization, work in different communities and abroad like other towns, regions, ethnic centres, cultural communities and subcultural communities, work in communities around us)

- Change our main campaign every six months.

iii) Prioritization

- Olympic campaign (main campaign)
- Women (sub - campaign)
- Housing (sub - campaign)
- Direct action casework

b) Class Struggle, a perspective, presented by Waldo.

Overall Strategy

i) Objectives

- Get political power.
- Create an alternative to the political dominant system.
- Develop an independent and democratic mass movement.
- Create a strategy that assumes most of the problems due to the class struggle.
- Start a popular war against the BC Liberal government.
- Create the ideal conditions for radical political changes.

ii) Implementation

- Mass mobilization
- Organize unemployed people and low-wage workers who are not involved in any unions or organizations.
- Economic and massive boycott.
- Organize long massive blockage in different areas.
- Education
- Organize massive actions in order to change the political conditions like for example to prepare for the General Strike.
- Focus on specific and important dates and get prepared to organize around these dates like for example the next provincial elections in 2005 or April and May 2004.

iii) Prioritization

- Find out about the Liberals' strategy and tactical steps.
- Find out about every aspect of this government policies.
- Set up a calendar for actions.

- Start to work on a large coalition with the objectives of replacing this government.
- Develop and expand our structure.
- Reach other communities.
- Create the ideal political conditions to build a unity network.
- Put our demands on the top of any agenda that could replace this government.
- Define our type of struggle in a way that is morally acceptable for poor people.

c) Strategy Proposal - Loose coalition, presented by Benerice.

Overall Strategy

i) Objectives

- Build an anti - poverty mass movement against the BC Liberal government.
- Expand the organization.

ii) Implementation

- Build loose coalition for action around different issues.
(provide organizational structure tactics and support people in organizing themselves against the BC Liberal government, developing links with a wider range of people and different communities, acting as a mobilizing body and empower people with organizing, develop an approach to organizing that will expand our group by facilitating the involvement of individuals from different communities, organizations, unions, etc, work in open partnership with other organizations, communities and people who are not members, empower people with organizational skills, delegate and expand the fight, unify people against the BC Liberal government)

- Organize forums, workshops, strategy meetings around specific issues with a focus on collaborating with other groups and organizations in the process of organizing with the objective of creating an anti - poverty mass movement.
- Act as a mass disruptive political body and an emergency response team (be the first to do the ground work).

iii) Prioritization

- Identifying our allies.
- Building a unity network with organizations, unions and communities.
- Approach groups, organizations, communities and unions to work with us in organizing and mass mobilizing to build an anti - poverty mass movement.
- Mass mobilize and activate people with the objective of creating a mass movement.
- Bring the focus of our work on key issues that best approach the mass needs.
- Actualize the potential of mass political actions from the mass.

d) Action program to confront the Liberal government and crisis in BC, prepared by former APC members.

Overall strategy

i) Objectives

- Unify the working class and build a diverse, broad based and democratic mass movement of poor and working people in order to become a major opposition movement in BC against the Liberal government in absence of a viable and revolutionary leadership.

ii) Implementation

- Campaigns

(Pick campaigns that will deal with issues affecting a broad segment of the working class, make campaigns accessible to all poor and working people in presentation and involvement, develop campaigns with an approach that shows the issues as vast problems that affects everyone and that everyone can easily identify with, ensure that clear connections are made between the different issues that we address and allow coordinated efforts between them)

- The four primary objectives of campaigns are :

1. To mobilize and activate people.
2. To unify the working class against the false divisions create by the ruling class throughout history.
3. To develop our organizational skills and expand the notion of who "we" are.
4. To bring focus to our work by selecting key issues that best approach our goals.

- The working issues for the four primary campaigns should be :

1. End the training wage
2. Welfare
3. Housing
4. Fight the cuts to women's programs and services

- Networking and alliance building

(Developing working relationships with organizations, to gain exposure to other organizations membership, to joint projects with other organizations, expanding the political dimensions of our organization, our analysis and our capacity, to effectively intervene in the politics of other organizations and to shift these groups towards more militant politics)

- Popular education

(provide information to working class people about the different attacks being waged against them, giving people information about what we think about the situation, our political analysis and the action we are taking against these attacks, to assess the consciousness of people, to get feed back from the mass on their experiences and analysis, to get a better idea of how people perceive our politics and our approach to organizing)

- Internal Education

(To be more effective in all aspects of our work, to elevate consciousness within the group on different issues such as racism, sexism, homophobia, etc, to ensure that we have a broad-based working class group, encourage education through work, build a skills sharing method in regards to organizing like computers, press releases, layout, public speaking, networking and research, do educational work in terms of what the enemy is up to like which MLA's head which ministries, specific legislation relevant to our work, basics statistics on employment and unemployment and the demographics of the working class in BC, do educational work on the international situation, encourage people in the group to look outside BC and consider the broader picture, raises our understanding of how capitalism and imperialism create poverty)

iii) Strategic executions - Campaigns

Campaigns

1. End the training wage

a) Objectives

Short term

- Organize low-wage workers in the fight against the provincial government.
- Fight to raise the wages of all workers by starting at the bottom.
- Organize where unions traditionally stay away from: the working poor, women, people of color, immigrants and youth.

Long term

- Look in the possibility of setting up a labor of our own.

b) Implementation

- Primary demand: End the training wage.
- Supporting demands: Raise the minimum wage to 11\$/hr, demands addressing the changes to employment standards and issues of illegal or undocumented workers.
- Focus on the service sector to push for increases in wages and rights for low-income workers.
- Target specific constituencies (youth, people of color and illegal workers, women, working class university students).
- Reach these constituencies in their own environment, through people and groups that can connect us with them and through ways that can reach them and that they can relate to.

(access high schools, make links with the BCTF and individual progressive teachers, target parents of young people earning the training wage, table, leaflet, public presentation, network with activists students and do workshops at university campus, network with advocacy groups like MOSAIC and PICS, ethnic community centres and organizations, anti-racism groups, ensure that our material is translated into a variety of languages, build closer ties with different women's organizations, network with organizers and advocates at women's centres and groups like Justice for Girls)

- Develop different outreach workshops for each groups and organizations.
- Get endorsements for our campaign from all the groups we network with.
- Develop a broad outreach and educational work.
(Leafleting, job clubs, forums and public meetings, picket business, create a campaign poster)
- Diversify our leaflets and pamphlets on different aspects of the training wage and our campaign against it.
- Target, poster, sticker and distribute our material in and around business using the training wage.
- Build links with unions (BCTF, BCGEU, CAW, BCFED).
- Set up meetings with unions about working with us on this campaign and encourage them to get involved in the fight for low-wage workers' rights.
- Organize campaign meetings around specific employers and actions at business headquarters.
- Call for boycotts.
- Target the government like Graham Bruce and the Employment Standards office.
- Conduct our own research and keep on top of other research being done that relates to the training wage and other issues of low-wage workers.
- Study the general changes in the economy.

c) Prioritization

- This campaign should be one of the main priorities of APC.
- Start to highlight why we are doing this campaign.
- Outreach and education.

(Focus on a very broad-based outreach, identify the key groups that we should focus on for this campaign).

2. Welfare

a) Objectives

- Use the welfare campaign as a strategy for mobilizing and unifying the working class against the false divisions created by the market labor of state capitalism and concretely overcome these separations.
- Mobilize and empower people to defend their basic rights of subsistence.

b) Implementation

- Focus on approaching the falsely divided groups (unemployed, transitionally unemployed, employed).
- Consistent Outreach on broad level through survival and defense strategy.
- Use tactics such as education, casework and mobilization.
- Expose the links between unemployment and the worsening conditions of the wage market.
- Pressure wage workers to see welfare issues as their issues.
- Pressure organized labor to directly partake in casework and direct actions such as flying squads.
- Mass-mobilize through coalition building.
- Expose the fundamental inequities of the "Welfare State" and discredit social democracy.
- Isolate the links between welfare destabilization and exploitative employment to build a mass movement against capitalism and all levels of government.
- Include a clear and coherent analysis of the root causes of poverty, false divisions of the working class and government/business connections in all of our propaganda and education literature.
- Mobilize groups networked with into co-ordinated but independent flying squads.
- Mass inclusive action around the first year of the Bills 26 and 27 (April 2003).
- Begin research on the legal challenges for the 24 in 60 months time limit and other regulations that will be creating a crisis (April 2004).
- Forums, literature and propaganda should be use for education, mobilization and alliance building/networking.

(Forums, literature and propaganda should portrait issues in the context of the campaign, encourage tactics and strategies consistent with the general vision of the campaign, provide a space for people to organize and mobilize towards actions and concrete steps in pressuring this government, should be aimed in developing alliances, should be specific to issues and to target communities and constituencies)

- Act as allies towards dependent and institutionalized communities without becoming support base.
- Develop literature for self-advocacy.

c) Prioritization

- Develop community specific and culturally appropriate literature around race, gender and ability awareness that pertains to systemic discrimination within welfare bureaucracy.
- Develop connections with labor and community groups through active alliances and networking.
- Concentrate outreach and networking in outlying districts of Vancouver (starting with Surrey, Burnaby, New-Westminster, etc).

3. Housing

a) Objectives

- Expand into all areas of the Greater Vancouver and focus on the areas that have low vacancy rates, high numbers at risks and widespread poverty.
- Organize tenants associations

b) Implementation

- Strong and persistent outreach strategy with the objectives of mass based mobilization.
- Identify specific constituencies and target them with an outreach strategy (single mothers, youth, disabled people, seniors, immigrants).
- Build resistance to attack municipal governments in various regions in the Lower Mainland.
- Develop forums, workshops and literature on housing that are region and constituencies specific.
- Build a network of groups across the province and the country on that issue.
- Target, leaflet, do workshops, recruit and network with people in other groups and organizations.
- Use innovative, militant and effective tactics with a commitment to strategic escalation used in conjunction with outreach (strategic demonstrations, rent strikes, occupations, homeless encampments, squats, residential tenancy casework).
- Expose the relationship between housing and welfare.
- Develop a housing rights fact sheet.
- Attack private property rights with squatting actions.

c) Prioritization

- Identify our enemies and strategically target them (municipal, provincial and federal government, private sector)
- Build an overall strategy that specifies the way in which we will target each of our enemies individually.
- Build our actions in the context of that overall strategy.
- Clearly communicate our intentions and demands to our enemies, our allies and the general public.
- Clearly articulate how our actions will move towards meeting our objectives.
- Organize three major meetings in different areas of the Lower Mainland (Port Coquitlam, Surrey, Month Pleasant) around the housing crisis.

(The objectives of these meetings are to target people in high-risk areas, who are in a pre-crisis situation in order to mass mobilize them around housing and to build towards a major action.)

- Organize and outreach towards setting up a major action.
- Identifying the constituencies we will target.
- Identifying other groups working on housing.
- Documenting the resources available through these groups.
- Mobilizing organizers to work on the campaign.
- Research the housing situation in the different poor areas of the Lower Mainland.
- Set up regular and targeted leafleting and literature drop off in the different poor areas of the Lower Mainland.
- Develop literature that is specific to each communities that we want to target with proper translation.

4. Legal defense

a) Objectives

- To defend ourselves and our allies against political attacks (arrests, legal charges, physical assaults, media propaganda, internal division agitation) by the state government through its agitational infiltrators, repressive police force and corrupt legal system.
- To build a network of allied communities and groups around the commonality of these attacks and the need for unified defense.
- To outsource our concrete legal needs to supporters and expand our contacts, knowledge and skills in order to activate quiet supporters and expand the movement against the BC Liberal government.

- To expose the Liberals and all governments as reliant upon racist, sexist and overall oppressive policing to cripple social movements and control poor and working people in BC and around the world.

b) Implementation

- Incorporate our organizational propaganda / fundraising legal public work into a broad and networked campaign against state repression of communities of color / indigenous people / "illegals" etc, based along fundamental principles of solidarity.
- Put on joint forums, panels, tours.
- Release joint propaganda.
- Support other communities' struggles explicitly and implicitly.
- Organize actions of support for and with other communities and organizations.
- Incorporate updates in allies, calls of support into our publications.
- Put ourselves in the role of "supported" to offload legal work (fundraising, legal co-ordination onto supporters like unions, student groups and other progressive organizations) and build dynamic connections with other communities and groups.
- Approach other groups to do propaganda work for us (publish our articles in their periodicals, write things in support of us, put on events for us).
- Enlist "impartial" organizations to take on our cases publicly (BC civil liberties association to defend our charter right to organize).
- Establish internal security protocol to be adopted in the same manner as our basis of unity (respectful conduct and security measures to reduce the hazards vulnerable oppressed people are faced with when working with APC internally, behaviour and conduct at demos to address such concerns as "inappropriate" police agitation and inclusivity).
- Approach legal fundraising in a targeted way to mobilize people around the material aspects of legal defense (establish timelines and projected funds necessary to win court cases, begin this with the Britannia case by raising 10,000\$ by March 31st).
- Expose the relationships with the other campaigns.
- Relate legal question to oppressed people in the labor market, on welfare, etc.

- Examine the realities of social movement organizing and dissidence (negative impacts for people of color, women, single parents, children, illegals, disabled and focus on how to minimize these impacts within the context of effective actions).
- Set up jail support mechanisms, network of lawyers and propaganda work.

c) Prioritization

- Begin work immediately on the Britannia police riot case in conjunction with the Skelkwew'welt protection centre, produce a joint pamphlet and organize a forum together.
- Establish campaign dynamic internally.

(how it works with other campaigns and set an internal security code of conduct to combat agitation)

- Joint efforts with other organizations, build connections with diverse communities provincially with international analysis.
- Produce comprehensive literature with analysis outlining the relevance of defense work both for APC organizationally and in the context of involvement in a broader community.
- Put on workshops for internal education around security protocol proposal.
- Work on putting up provincial speaking tour with another group (college, university campuses).
- Mobilization in co-operation with others "illegals" and international laws' domestic application and relevance.
- Begin to work on legal union presentation for networking and to ask for legal support material (money, lawyers).

5. Fight the cuts to women's programs and services

This part, consist mainly of the historic and an analysis of the women condition and the women movement provincially, nationally and internationally. There is only a few areas that are suggested to work on for our women campaign.

Suggested areas of work for our women campaign:

- Welfare cuts.
- Child -care cuts.
- Violence against women in general (including how increases violence).

- Violence against in the different ethnic and aboriginal communities.
- Cuts on women centres (including sexual assault centres).
- Cuts on women legal aid services.
- Equity
- Racism

iii) Prioritization

- Campaigns

(Reassess our campaigns whenever new cutbacks happen, pare back and focus on the more important fronts, stick with the campaigns we have and develop new ones where necessary, expanding the involvement in our group with the people directly affected by these cutbacks)

- Communities and regions

(Prioritizing communities and regions on which to focus, reflect the diverse demography of the working class in the Lower Mainland in our organization, identify the areas in the Lower Mainland where poor people live, branch out as much as we can to other areas, establish contacts and bases of support throughout working class communities in BC)

- Tasks and tactics

(Mass demonstrations, forums, direct actions, leafleting and press work, assess which tactics and tasks are the most important)

- Networking and alliance building

(Build relationship with other organizations that represent poor and working people in many capacities attend other groups meetings to observe and participate, provide enough time for APC activists to implement our most important task: outreach)

- Expand the idea of who "we" are.
- Examine what work we have not done and what we need to do in order to be in any way representative of the working class in the city.
- Unite people, groups and organizations under attack by the Liberal government.
- Reflect in our actions our objective to unite the working class against the government and ruling class.
- Discuss our political motivations and differences in reference to all our campaigns and actions.
- Build momentum.

3. Membership criteria

A new Membership criteria definition was described in one of the different proposals that have been presented to the general membership. You can find that description, with its new changes and additions, in the "Action program to confront the Liberal government and crisis in BC" prepared by former members of APC.

1. All members must agree with the basis of unity.
2. All members must agree to abide by the code of conduct.
3. All members must attend an orientation session to read, discuss and understand : Our basis of unity, the code of conduct, a history of the group, the overall strategy of the group, the different campaigns visions and strategies and our organizational character including the structure.
4. All members must be interviewed to clearly articulate their motivations for joining the group and their potential commitment to the group. The body delegated to the interview process would report at general meetings and the general membership would vote on accepting or refusing the new members. (simple majority).
5. All members must actively participate in at least one of the campaigns or committees.
6. All members must attend at least one general meeting per month.