

ANTI-POVERTY COMMITTEE

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We acknowledge that we are on Coast Salish Land.

The APC is an organization of poor and working people representing the interests of those on welfare, or those who need dignified housing. Our members volunteer their time; we have no funding, and no leaders. We have limited resources but lots of strength.

The Anti-Poverty Committee committed itself to maintain outside support for the Tent City. We have been responsible for legal work. We have organized to make sure that supper arrives every night by either cooking it ourselves or finding other organizations to prepare meals. We fundraised \$2000 to buy tents while also soliciting for donations of money, sleeping bags, tents and tarps. Everyday APC members have given their time to be at the squat socializing and dealing with the many complicated issues that arise.

We have made mistakes, but we have not failed to provide the outside support that homeless people could not have done alone. We will continue to support the Tent City. We have not given up, we have not abandoned the squatters and we do not make decisions for the squatters. We have not manipulated anyone. Despite constant attack from media, police, politicians, saboteurs, and those who would like to see us fail, we remain committed to the cause of fighting homelessness.

We stand in solidarity with the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society and support them in the political expansion of the Tent City to Crabtree Park. This was a tactical move to push the fight to the next level, and tie up the hands of the Park Board. We know that on April 1st 2004, there will be 38,000 people cut off of welfare in BC. We stand together to provoke a government that creates homelessness as a policy.

WELFARE IS A RIGHT, END THE TWO YEAR TIME LIMIT NOW!!
HOUSING IS A RIGHT, SOCIAL HOUSING FOR ALL IN NEED!!