

Subject: solidarity with tent city
From: lubby@resist.ca
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Support and solidarity needed for the Olympic Tent City!

On July 2nd the IOC will announce the victor of the Olympic bid. All indications point to Vancouver as the site for the 2010 Winter Olympics. There is no need to outline the injustice the Olympics will have on the working poor of this province. We have seen all this before – the mass evictions, police brutality, undermining of aboriginal sovereignty, increased homelessness, and transfers of funding from social projects into corporate profit – during the devastation of Expo '86. Indeed these things are the only real legacy we have from Expo '86

The fact is the working poor are facing an unprecedented attack being led by the B.C Liberals. Persons and families now receiving income assistance are looking down the barrel of the two-year time limit. On April 1st of next year, thousands of people will be forced from the welfare rolls and pushed into a job market that is rapidly depleting. Many former recipients unable to find a job -that will most likely pay the notorious training wage, 6\$- will be shoved out onto the streets to join the already overwhelming army of the homeless.

It is unconscionable that the most 'vulnerable' of the working poor be used by the liberals and their financial backers as a tool to undermine collective bargaining. We say a government willing to sink so low is a government that must be defeated!

The working class struggle is one that must embrace and defend all working class people. The working poor who are currently on welfare, disability allowance, in the shelters, have been waging their battle of survival since the BC Liberals came to power. The heroic struggle of Woodward's was one of few examples of poor people coming together with a large diverse base of support to fight back! But the squatters of Woodward's with thousands of others still live in substandard accommodations and hundreds more are forced to live out on the streets. We hold the liberals accountable for this catastrophe, and we feel our selves responsible to fight them.

Given the disastrous cuts and the murdering policy of this government we re left with no choice but to defend our brothers and sisters. The Anti Poverty Committee (APC) and the Housing Action Committee (HAC) have decided to construct a tent city in a public park the day the Olympics are declared. We call on all community and labor support. We ask that all those fighting back stand behind our two demands; **SOCIAL HOUSING FOR ALL IN NEED! And WELFARE IS A RIGHT-END THE 2 YEAR TIME LIMIT IMMEDIATELY!**

What we need to make this tent city successful is material and financial contributions. Supply's like tarps, sleeping bags, tents and food are most needed.

Financial donations are needed. Cheques or money orders can be made out to the order of the Anti-Poverty Committee. They can be mailed to or dropped off our new office located at the Shelley Building – Suite #108 – 119 West Pender St. Vancouver BC V6B 1S5. You can also direct deposit sums of money directly to our account at VanCity Credit Union. For more information regarding in-kind or financial donations, please call 604 – 682 – 2726.

Please e-mail letters of endorsements to apc@resist.ca and most importantly spread the message and join is in our fight to win!