

Dear brothers and sisters:

We are calling on your support once again, to stand in solidarity with the homeless people of the Lower Mainland. This July 2nd, a tent city will be erected to protest the catastrophe the BC Liberals' "New Era" has caused. July 2nd is also the date the IOC will announce which city has won the 2010 Winter Olympic bid. It is deplorable that this provincial government, which has created so much poverty, is investing so many resources into the bid campaign. If Vancouver is chosen as the host city, we can be sure the difficulties that face working poor people will largely increase.

Even without the Olympics and its fall-out, working poor people of this province are facing an unprecedented assault. The BC Liberals are preparing to go through with their 'two year out of five' program. This means that those who are now receiving Income Assistance will be forced off the rolls after two years. For many the deadline is this upcoming April 1st. Thousands of persons and families will be aggressively pushed into a rapidly depleting job market. Many will be made to work for the notorious 6-dollar training wage. This in turn undermines collective bargaining by manufacturing a massive pool of unemployed workers who are willing to work any job made available. Worse still is the mass homelessness that will be created. No person or family should be made to live in a shelter or on the streets. We say any government that does this to the people is a government that must be defeated!

The Anti Poverty Committee (an organization devoted to fighting for the rights of all working poor people) and the Housing Action Committee (an organization of poor people who live in hotels, shelters and on the street) have joined together to construct the tent city and make our 2 demands loud and clear. We demand from the BC Liberals that:

- 1) WELFARE IS A RIGHT-END THE 2 YEAR TIME LIMIT, NOW!
- 2) SOCIAL HOUSING FOR ALL IN NEED!

To make our action successful we are requesting a letter of support, endorsing our demands. We also need material and financial support. The most pressing need at the moment is for tents: the cost of one tent is \$35, for 15 the cost is \$525 and the cost for 30 is \$1575. The total cost for all of our start-up materials (other than tents) is \$2000. Any financial contributions are greatly appreciated. Cheques can be written out to the Anti-Poverty Committee and sent to #108 - 119 W. Pender St., Vancouver, BC V6B 1S5. Donations can also be direct deposited into our account at any Van City Credit Union branch. Any material donations can be delivered to our office at the address above. To arrange for a pick-up, please call us at 604-682- 2726. Please e-mail letters of support to apc@resist.ca.

In solidarity,
David Cunningham
APC Organizer

[Email 19 June 2003]