



Housing Action Committee Newsletter



HAC Calls Bullshit on Guest Fees!

The Housing Action Committee has released thousands of guest fee cards throughout the DTES and uptown south. The cards are to inform residents of their rights that are being blatantly abused, as well as being a declaration to the powers that oppress us that we will fight back! **We are sick and tired of being exploited by poverty pimps and welfare workers and we are sick and tired of being extorted by slumlords.** We will fight tooth and nail for our rights to be respected. We do not expect anyone else to defend our brothers and sisters, so we will do so by any means necessary! Our municipal government, COPE-majority City Council, has abandoned poor people in the DTES, they have turned a blind eye to the injustices we face and have sided with those who abuse us. **We demand a by-law prohibiting the unreasonable charging of guest fees immediately!** Our demand has been ignored by council who, when discussing it at City Hall, conveniently passed the buck. We refuse to accept their silence.

Because COPE and other goofs who make millions off our poverty refuse to respect our rights, we must fight and we will fight to win!

Our Mission Statement...

The Housing Action Committee (HAC) is an organization of poor people fighting back against poverty. We understand that:

- ★ Our conditions and positions within this system are constructed by people with power. Those who abuse their power to exploit and discriminate against us must have their power removed by us.
- ★ We must empower ourselves as well as our brothers and sisters so that we can struggle against injustices and have real control over our own lives.
- ★ The housing crisis, which marginalizes and dehumanizes us, is only one aspect of the class war. Homelessness is no accident – keeping the poor in destitute and miserable living conditions is key to keeping them oppressed and silent. We refuse to remain silent. We know that only together can we fight back and win, so we organize in our streets in our shelters and our hotels. We fight against racism, classism, sexism, homophobia and all forms of oppression.

We will pick our fights and win them by every means necessary.

★ ★ ★ HAC Attacks! ★ ★ ★

A brief history of the Housing Action Committee...

March 4, 2003 – The Housing Action Committee crashed Jean Chretien's announcement of federal shelter funding. We made it clear to the Prime Minister that shelters are no solution and that what we need is SOCIAL HOUSING NOW!

March 22, 2003 – VANDU, led by the Housing Action Committee, holds a demonstration that snake marches through the Downtown Eastside and Gastown to protest the addition of 50 police to this area. We demand that there be no new cops until a Safe Injection Site has been opened!

March 27, 2003 – 3 HAC representatives show up at a City Council budget meeting to voice their objection to the VPD's planned occupation of the Downtown Eastside.

April 7, 2003 – The City-wide Enforcement Team (the 50 new pigs) land in the DTES and begin their hostile occupation. The harassment and intimidation which we all expect from cops in this neighbourhood become even more intense.

The Coalition for Harm Reduction, of which HAC is a member, opens 327 Carrall Street as a drop-in and Safe Injection Site in response to excessive policing.

April 8, 2003 – HAC crashes City Council! For the first time since their election, the COPE-majority Council were called on their bullshit. HAC showed up in force to let each and every councilor and Mayor Larry Campbell know that we refuse to stand by silently while they participate in the killing of our brothers and sisters.

April 15, 2003 – A HAC flying squad showed up to the first meeting of the Four Pillar Coalition, which is led by Larry Campbell. The voice of poor people from the DTES was so objectionable to the goofs who try and run our lives that HAC members were forcibly removed by the room by VPD kingpins attending the meetings. As he was leaving, Mayor Campbell gave HAC members a big 'fuck you' as he left.

Later the same day, HAC showed up at La Floata restaurant in Chinatown and disrupted a COPE fundraiser.

May 17, 2003 – The Housing Action Committee led the Coalition for Harm Reduction's Safe Sites Save Lives Demo. This demonstration snake marched through the Downtown Eastside and Gastown, stopping for speakers at most of the intersections and blocking traffic. This was a successful and empowering protest for all who attending and showed our brothers, sisters, supporters and opponents that we will not take this shit anymore!

June 18, 2003 – This was the day that the Housing Action Committee proved to all of the goofs in Council and on the Police Board what real power is: the people's power! When HAC showed up to the Police Board meeting at the Main Library downtown, the cowards chose to shut down the meeting rather than deal with or confront the rage and fury that their oppressive policies have incited. The Police Board and VPD officers attending had no idea what they were up against and ran away with their tails between their legs...another HAC victory!

July 2, 2003 – Tent City Opens! The Victory Squat was opened in Victory Square Park on this day. It has since had to move, as COPE Council proves them-selves to be goofs over and over again by filing for injunctions to have homeless people removed from park after park. The struggle continues! Support your local squat!

See A. 9/03