

Initial thoughts - Woodward's Vision

To begin solving the problems which have resulted in people sleeping on the street in our neighborhood, we will require unanimous sanction of this document by all levels of government, and every Province in Canada. The underlying factors exist across the nation and the problems are rooted in every ism that feeds the piranha, inequality. We have based our document on the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights because we recognize our duty as citizens to translate that vision into reality...it is those who suffer who must demand an end to that suffering.

Since this, our declaration, builds on the essence of the first study by organic intellectuals (that we know of), we will quote that study throughout this "position paper", "vision paper", "manifesto", .....

One of the quotes from that book is from a man we interviewed along the way, in prince george bc when he was asked the question what constitutes "home":  
"my home...that would be my grandfather's land...it's underwater now...ever since they put up the alcan dam in the 1960's"

PREMISE every new initiative must be a step towards autonomy of our village ... the downtowneastside village, which is multicultural -acknowledging and supporting our firstnations people in this, the final stand against genocide.\* we are creating the first working model of the urban village, complete with self-government AUTONOMY

This working model, based largely on FN culture, which was/is inclusive, and rules with consensus,

\*FN have been or are being forced, out of their natural habitat into the bread lines and bars...these people come from all over bc and are over-represented in every study on poverty/homelessness/A & D/hep C etc AND WE CAN PROVE IT (studies, etc etc etc stats)

they come to the city to take refuge from the dysfunction of reserves, where abuse of issues and people especially children is as rampant as it is anywhere, in any city. these conditions are exacerbated daily in smalltown bc as economy shifts. people have nowhere else to go but to the breadlines. and where will they sleep? the children, the babies, when they are kicked off of welfare?

many natives, reserve and non-reserve, are poor. they are no better or worse off than any person on welfare, yet the gov't would have the public believe that indians are well-off, rich, privileged...this deceptive tactic has, as desired, divided the people ( BUT NOT YET CONQUERED)

There is nothing left to do but dignify the citizens of the land especially FN who have been all but slaughtered without us batting an eye. And as spoken on P. 14 of View from the Sidewalk by a native in .....smalltown bc "natives have lost their spirit or close to it, once it's gone that's it"

Exploitation and imperialism have led to this condition, and a just nation will embrace the re-introduction of native ways of healing, native cultural habits and ceremonies, and the native respect for mother earth and all living things. FN methodology regarding prison reform, and initiation ceremonies and sweats designed to mentor the adolescent into adulthood are two examples of worthy inclusions in any plan for living.

from dyan's notes (to my best ability)...

HEALTH COMPONENT would include;

- health promotion
- a healing center
- adequate free safe water
- comfort areas, for rest and sleep for those without a permanent home to sleep in (reminding everyone that sleep deprivation has long been used as a war tactic - quotes anyone?)
- employment (through mentorship/apprenticeship in health promotion, foods etc)

25 Feb 2003  
Circulated @ meeting Bianca's table.  
w/ 6 people - Cesar, Mesto, - Jean +