

Dear Sir or Madam,

12/08/2003

As you may recall, on October 17<sup>th</sup> a forum was held at the Carnegie Centre. About 200 people participated, including Shelagh Day, Gwen Brodski, Libby Davies, and possibly even you! I am writing to you on behalf of a group of outreach workers in the Downtown Eastside who attended that workshop and who have continued to meet. We have come together from a variety of agencies to discuss the April 1<sup>st</sup> welfare cuts. We are seeking creative, constructive responses to the government cuts and ways to assist those in danger of losing their housing as a result.

During our discussions it was suggested that we do a large single night count of homeless persons over a wide geographic area in Vancouver. The information gathered would serve as a baseline count that would be compared to another count in June 2004. It is our goal to do this in a professional manner hoping to gain results credible to a wide range of people. The information gathered would then be used to lobby the government to reconsider its approach to balancing the budget. We are currently working on gathering the 50+ people it will require to do this properly. But we can only count those outside, not those with out homes inside various agencies. This is where we need your help.

In order to provide an accurate count of persons without homes we require your assistance. What we are asking of your agency is the following:

1. That on the night of January 17, 2004, you would count the number of people spending the night in your facility.
2. That you would record that information on the attached document, also noting their gender, race and approximate age.
3. That you would call the following number and relay that information by 1:00am on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>. (604) \_\_\_\_\_
4. That you would return the filled out document by mail in the attached envelope on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
5. That you would agree to do this once more in June 2004.

All information gathered will be treated professionally and with sensitivity. We would be willing to share our results with you after each count. A phone call or email declining or accepting the invitation to participate would be helpful. Please call \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ or email: [homelesscount@hotmail.com](mailto:homelesscount@hotmail.com)

For your general information we have also attached a sheet outlining the procedure for the evening of December 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have staff or volunteers interested in assisting with the count of persons sleeping on the street that night please have them contact \_\_\_\_\_.

Your assistance in this matter is both greatly needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Julie Linden  
On behalf of the Woodward's Social Justice Coalition