

# Anti-Poverty Committee News

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## Tent City: The Retreat is Over

The Victory Squat has initiated the campaign that will defeat this government. For over two weeks the squatters have stood their ground at Victory Square and demanded social housing for all in need and the end to the two year time limit for welfare. The Victory Squat, no matter where it might be located, will not end until our demands are met. We have chosen to fight and we will win!

One of the first tasks of the Liberals when they came into power was to place a moratorium on funding for low-income housing. Campbell and his cronies put 1700 units of social housing under review, abolished 650 units of un-allocated units and froze all new social housing projects including those previously approved. All this while the number of homeless is expanding and overtaxing a shelter system that is totally inadequate (at least 500 people are turned away each month by four of the largest shelters).

The federal government has not created one unit of social housing since 1993 although 25% of Vancouver's population qualifies for it. Our municipal government applauds the Olympic bid while at least 85 residents of hotel room are thrown out yearly due to tourist conversions. With the two-year time limit, our provincial government is going to force former welfare recipients into a depleting job market which will undermine the collective bargaining of unionized workers in the Liberals' favour. Any government that attacks the people in such a way is a government that must be defeated! We refuse to stand aside and remain silent.

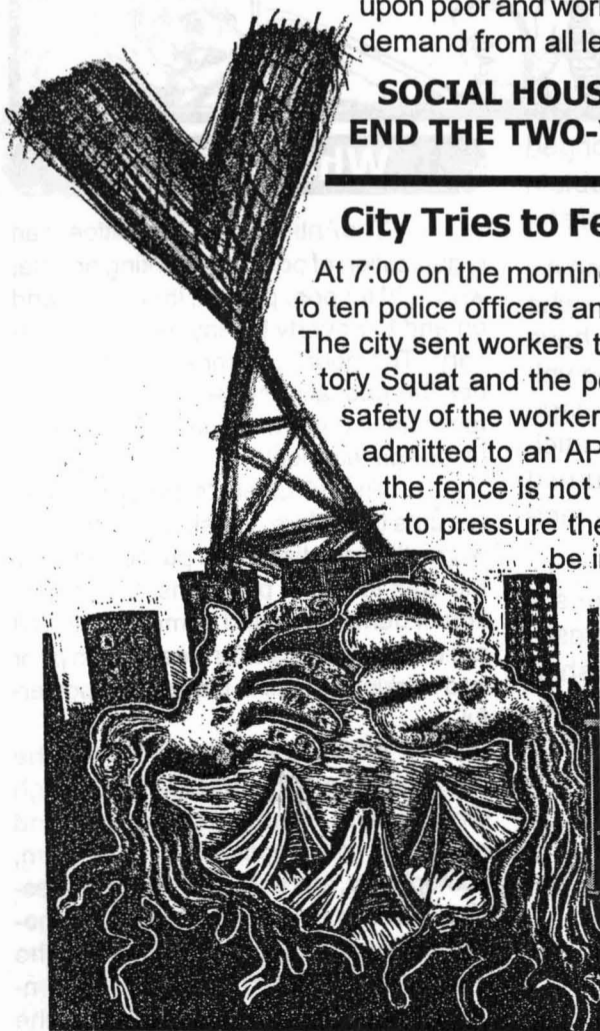
The Anti-Poverty Committee and the Housing Action Committee, with the solidarity of our supporters, will continue fighting back by all means necessary against this government. We call on you to join our common front and defeat this government.

We have erected the Tent City to draw awareness to the assaults upon poor and working people in this province. We demand from all levels of government:

**SOCIAL HOUSING FOR ALL IN NEED!  
END THE TWO-YEAR TIME LIMIT NOW!**

### City Tries to Fence in Homelessness

At 7:00 on the morning of July 23rd, squatters awoke to ten police officers and a dozen park board workers. The city sent workers to build a fence around the Victory Squat and the police were there to "ensure the safety of the workers." A park board representative admitted to an APC member that the purpose of the fence is not the upcoming construction, but to pressure the squatters out. But we will not be intimidated! The fence only exposes the absurdity of the city's way of dealing with the homeless catastrophe. While the fence was being constructed squatters tied banners to it reading: **HOMELSSNESS IS A STATE CRIME and STOP THE WAR ON THE POOR!** Please come down to the Victory Squat to show your support and solidarity. Bring banner material because there is plenty of fence to cover.



## APC Housing Demands:

1. The federal and provincial governments must begin funding social housing and build over 2000 units of housing a year in BC
2. The city must develop an anti-vacancy by-law to seize and convert privately owned abandoned buildings and property into social housing
3. The province must re-open all closed residential tenancy offices and make no changes to the residential tenancy act that would negatively affect the rights of renters.
4. The city and the province develop the Woodward's building with all units to be social housing immediately.
5. The province recognizes that welfare is a right and must be available for all in need, no questions asked, no exceptions made.

## Get on the list of Endorsers, Donators and Supporters

-Association of Poor People in Nagai Park - Osaka Japan -Stepping Stone Vision -Helping Spirit Lodge Society -Arrows to Freedom Drum and Dance Group -Co-op Radio 102.7 FM -Palestine Solidarity Group -End Legislated Poverty -Hospital Employees Union -Downtown Eastside Residents Association - DERA -Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users -NO GAMES 2010 Coalition -No One Is Illegal Vancouver -Woodwards Legal Defence Committee -Bus Riders Union -Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society -WARS -Prepare the General Strike Committee -disAbility Coalition To Stop the Cuts -Harm Reduction Coalition -Aboriginal Women's Action Network -Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group-SFPIRG -Simon Fraser Students' Society -Battered Women's Support Services -The Truth Commission Into Genocide in Canada -Organizers Training Group -Lower Mainland Coalition For Social Justice - LMCSJ -COPWATCH Vancouver -Franciscan Sisters of Atonement -First United Church Mission -South Asian Students Alliance -Sound Resistance (co-op radio) -University of British Columbia Social Justice Centre -Ethical Environmental Consulting -BC Government Employees Union Component 603 Social and Educational and Health Services -Equal Chance Club -Woodwards Coalition for Social Justice -Ontario Coalition Against Poverty -OCAP ONT. -Peterborough Coalition Against Poverty -ONT. -Toronto Disaster Relief Committee -TDRC ONT. -La Clac Lodgement - QUE. -Comite des Sans Emploi - QUE. -The Tent City Montreal - QUE -The Valley Anti-Poverty Initiative (N.S.) -Dignity Village (Portland Oregon) -Queers United Against Capitalism

**Victory Squat is on the move! Sat, July 26 at noon Rally & March at Victory Sq.  
We will be marching to a new location and setting up shelters.**



## Welfare is a Right: APC Welfare Campaign

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, APC hosted a welfare forum at Willingdon Library in North Burnaby. It was an informative discussion on how to fight the Liberal welfare cuts. APC is hosting forums on the cuts to welfare in as many Lower Mainland communities as possible. It is going to take all welfare recipients and their supporters to unite in a historic fightback to stop the changes in welfare. The two year time limit, the 3 week wait, the two year independence rule, the disability reviews, and other welfare changes have made BC's system the most violent in Canada. We know that on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 38,000 people will be cut off welfare! Educating and uniting poor people who feel isolated is a big part of building our movement. If you would like to host an APC Welfare Forum in your community contact: [apc@resist.ca](mailto:apc@resist.ca)

## Get Involved in APC

**APC General Meetings**  
Every Tuesday, 6pm, 327 Carrall,  
beside Pigeon Park, Childcare

### Donate

APC relies on donations from individuals and organizations. You can make a cheque out to the Anti-Poverty Committee and send to 108-119 W. Pender St. Vancouver, BC V6B 1S5

## APC Casework Update

APC has been working hard to keep up with its casework responsibilities while maintaining a presence at the Tent City. We are in desperate need of more casework volunteers. Currently we are running casework and flying squad workshops at the Tent City. These workshops empower the homeless campers and teach us how to present casework in a logical/simple format. We use direct action casework to fight back against the illegal actions of landlords and in welfare offices. We are presently handling several different welfare cases, as well as helping some of the squatters to apply for welfare. For those interested in becoming a volunteer caseworker, or joining a flying squad we will be having workshops in the coming month.

## Police Raid Safe Injection Site

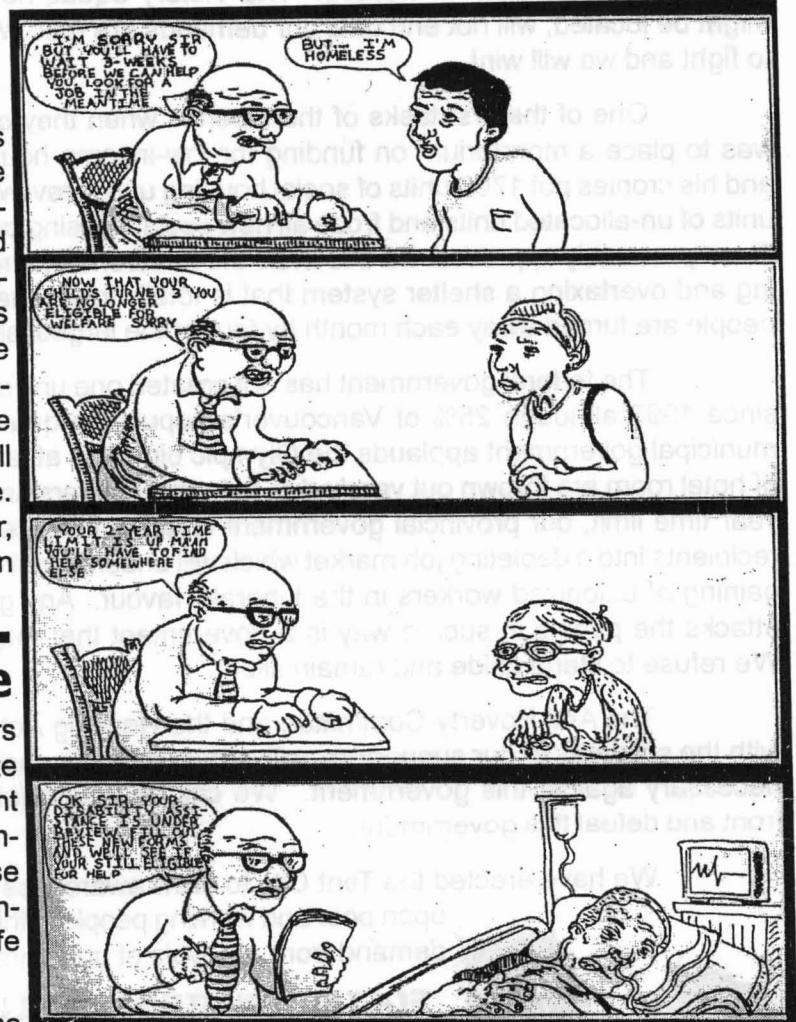
On the night of July 20<sup>th</sup>, three police officers forced their way into 327 Carrall, the Safe Injection Site and questioned and detained people accessing the front drop-in area. The officers involved had no warrant to enter the private premises, and had no reasonable cause to enter, in fact they are violating an agreement that involves Mayor Larry Campbell, City Council and the safe injection site.

While the site volunteers managed to remove the police from the premises, the intimidation and harassment has a prolonged effect of deterring drug users from accessing a place where they can obtain clean supplies, have access to a nurse and inject in safety.

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) is once again exposing its anti-harm reduction stance and its sick disregard for the lives of people who live with addiction and people who live in poverty. Although they claim to have working partnership with health authorities, they refuse to meet with the volunteers operating the safe injection site at 327 Carrall, they refuse to engage in any community forums on policing in the DTES, and they refuse to participate in Harm Reduction and Anti-oppression workshops. They have turned their backs on fulfilling their role in a harm reduction partnership and protecting the rights of injection drug users.

The safe injection site sees 25-35 people every night inject under supervision of a nurse, and 2-4 people a night accessing referrals to low threshold treatment, like methadone clinics, detox and recovery facilities, and shelters. In one month the safe injection site exchanges 5000-6000 needles. Recent studies have shown that an increased police presence have reduced the number of people accessing the safe injection site to two. This is more than unacceptable. The VPD must be accountable. Please lend us your support by volunteering for a safety and security shift at 327 Carrall. Contact Megan Oleson at 604-251-3127.

Show your displeasure with the VPD by contacting Mayor Larry Campbell at 604-873-7685 or through email at [larry\\_campbell@city.vancouver.bc.ca](mailto:larry_campbell@city.vancouver.bc.ca) or contact Chief Jamie Graham at 604-717-3535 or through email at [jamie\\_graham@vancouvercity.bc.ca](mailto:jamie_graham@vancouvercity.bc.ca).



## What is APC?

The Anti-Poverty Committee is an organization of poor and working people, who fight for poor people, their rights and an end to poverty by any means necessary. The poor face constant attack under the capitalist system and these attacks have only intensified under the BC Liberal government.

The BC Liberal's brutal policies - the cuts to welfare, the six dollar training wage, the privatization of public services, the cuts to social programs, the restriction of democratic and human rights - all are designed to transfer wealth from poor and working people to the rich and powerful.

APC is committed to fighting the brutal policies of the BC Liberals through direct action, mass mobilization, and casework. We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia, and all other forms of oppression. APC is an independent and democratic organization open to anyone who agrees with our basis of unity. We are committed to working in solidarity with the struggles of other progressive movements, locally, nationally, and internationally, to end poverty and injustice.