

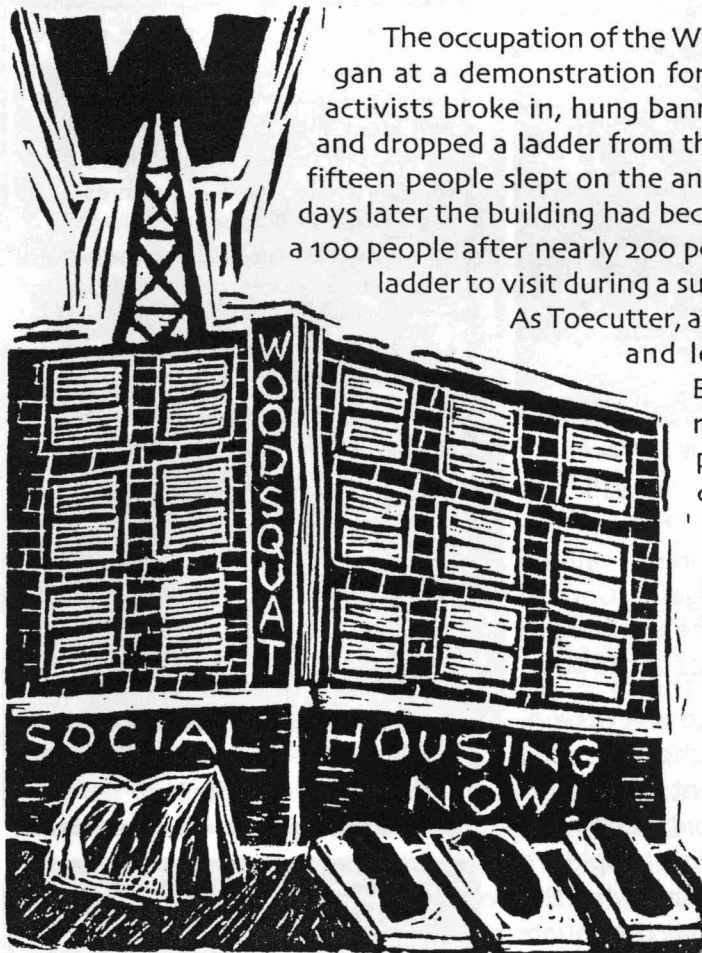
# Anti-Poverty Committee News #8

42 Blood Alley Sq. Vancouver, BC V6B 1C7 604-682-2726 apc@resist.ca Oct 02

## WE WILL WIN!

### The Woodward's Squat and the Movement Against the Liberal Government

The Woodward's Squat started on Saturday, September 14th at high noon. The building that stood empty at the command of the NDP and Liberal governments for ten years had finally been revitalized in the most meaningful way possible: it had people in it!



The occupation of the Woodward's building began at a demonstration for housing when three activists broke in, hung banners out the windows and dropped a ladder from the awning. That night fifteen people slept on the ancient wood floor. Six days later the building had become home for almost a 100 people after nearly 200 people had climbed the ladder to visit during a support demonstration.

As Toecutter, a squat security captain and longtime Downtown Eastside "homeless" resident, said: "I feel so powerful. I feel like I can do anything."

The squatters organized themselves, held nightly meetings and coordinated sub-committees to carry out all the tasks of the squat. They rotated positions of responsibility and immediately incorporated newcomers into the decision-making process and organization.

The only rules were mutual respect and a commitment to work. The squatters knew the only way to defend such a huge open building was with masses of people inside and masses of supporters outside; they knew that success would not as much be a sustainable squat as a sustainable movement in the province for housing and against the government. The Liberals saw this taking place, and that is when they sent the police in.

*con't on page 2*

### Police Riot in East Vancouver



14 year old beaten and arrested by the police, Britannia Community Centre, October 3rd, 2002

At an action earlier this summer, the APC made a commitment to shut down Campbell's speaking events whenever possible. On the morning of October 3rd, members of APC and the Woodward's squatters took a bus to UBC after they heard Gordon Campbell was speaking at an event at the UBC Library. Though we were unable to stop him from speaking, Campbell had to sneak in and out of the building to avoid a crowd of 200 angry students, unionists, and squatters. Later that afternoon, Campbell was scheduled to speak at a celebration of a Liberal Public/Private partnership at the Eastside Family Place in East Van and APC quickly called a rally to meet him.

As about 200 people assembled  
*con't on page 5*

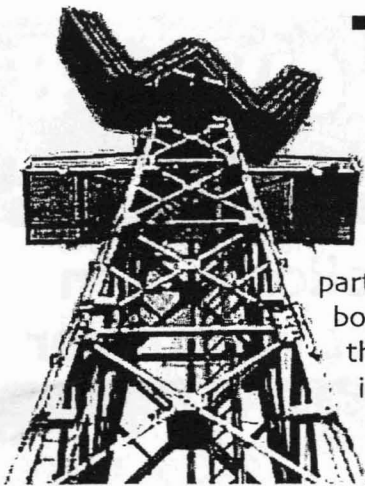
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**defeat this government!**

# The Woodward's Squat

*con't from front page*



The "Woodsquat" in its occupation form lasted exactly one-week before it was violently evicted by over a hundred heavily armed Swat team and riot cops. The Vancouver Police Department filled the hollowed out building with the booming of battering rams for ten minutes before the hastily built barricades gave way. They burst in to find fifty-six squatters sitting in a circle. They were beaten, arrested and dragged across the pocked and dusty floor to the wagons waiting in the parkade. Later that day, the squatters

left Supreme Court and returned to the building to set up a tent city beneath the awning around the perimeter.

In March of 2002 the Liberals first attacked social housing by cutting it from their budget altogether. Their second assault was channelled through the police when batons and handcuffs gutted the Woodward's Squat; their police also performed the third and most clumsy attack when they attacked people sleeping outside Woodward's. On Sunday, September 15th at 11:30 pm the police arrested homeless people on the sidewalk

and threw them in jail, swept all their belongings from the sidewalk and threw them in a dumpster. For many people in the province, the government had finally exposed itself as no different from big business, valuing empty real estate above the vulnerable people suffering at its gates. Gordon Campbell demonstrated once again and unquestionably that he is willing to do anything to protect rich people from the needs and demands of the poor.

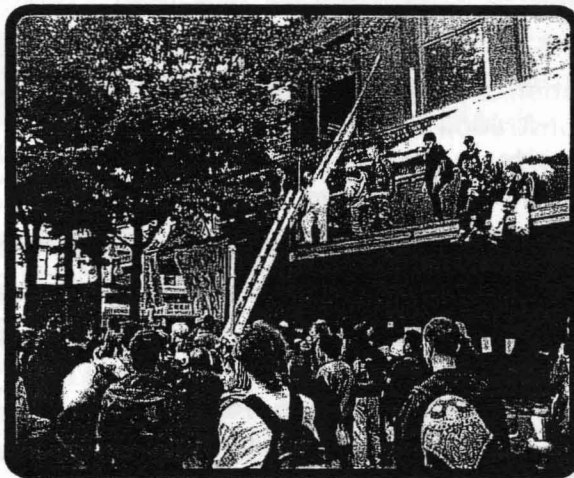
The Liberals tried to scare people by sending the police after them, tried to divide people by spreading lies about "weapons" and the APC, tried to hide their actions by arresting and threatening independent media, but

they failed. Instead of being afraid, people are bold and angry. Instead of splitting, people are drawing together. Instead of hearing what the government says, people see what the squatters are fighting for and are coming out in massive support for the rights of poor and working people in the province. The Liberals have stripped away their own mask as a corporate power and the Anti-Poverty Committee and the people in British Columbia are rising up to

*-Ivan Drury*



*Ricky, a defiant squatter, speaks at a rally on September 24th outside Woodward's*



*Supporters outside Squat at rally Sept 24th*

## Ongoing Support Needed for the Woodward's Squatters

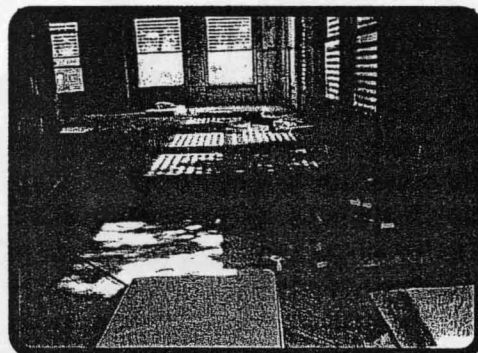
Food and spices, water, juice, coffee, blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, large cooking pots, warm jackets, sweaters, socks, disposable dishes and cutlery, mattresses, foam pads and tents, fuel-fed cooking stoves and fuel, tarps and rope, cleaning supplies, rolls of plastic, art materials (paint, markers, large rolls of paper, etc.), hammers, pliers, nails, tools and building supplies, money for cooking materials and security (radios etc.), staple guns, 8 1/2x11 and 11x17 paper, computer, printer, ongoing photocopying access, toilet paper, tampons and napkins, soap, towels and toiletries

You can bring down your donations directly to the squat at the corner of Abbott and Hastings, or to the office at #42 Blood Alley between Water and Cordova, a block from Woodward's. If you have items to be picked up call 604-682-2726.



*Fight: \$1 billion for a highway, nothing for homes*

organize against them and fight back.



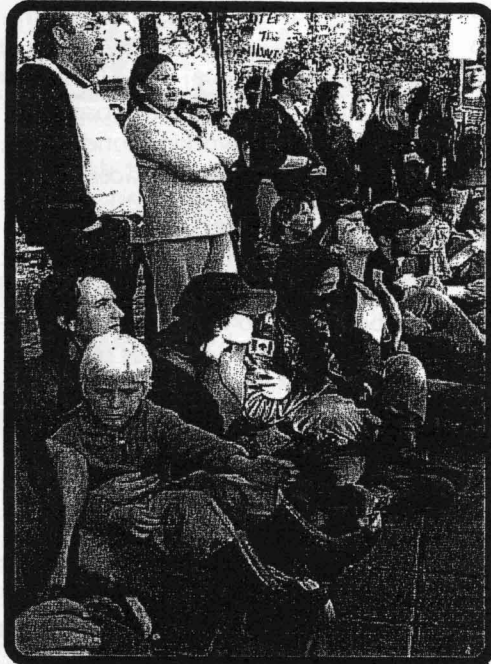
*The bedroom, 3rd floor of Woodward's*

**social housing now! social housing now!**

# Police Riot in East Van

*con't from front page*

bled on the north side of Grandview park, an elderly man dressed as a clown and doing a mime skit, was violently arrested by the police. Immediately the dynamics of the event changed. The people surrounded the arresting officers, walled them in with signs and wood, and demanded the release of the man. Officers 1940 and S.Soo slammed the handcuffed man face first into a wall, knocking his glasses off and bloodying his temple. Police back-up arrived and the man was loaded into a paddy wagon. The crowd then moved to block the wagon from leaving the premises. Another violent arrest took place when a group attempted to block the wagon with a dumpster. The people demanded the release of those arrested, asking for the charges to be dropped. The police responded with more brutality: they kicked, hit, pushed and dragged people from the path of the wagon.



*People linking arms in front of police*

As Britannia School was dismissed, the crowd was joined by parents, teachers and many students. With the increased numbers and strength, an arm-locked contingent of 30 sat on the ground in front of the wagon and held it stationary for 20 minutes. During this time the crowd attempted to negotiate a release with a "promise to appear" for the two held. Police beat people off the street, including the children who had sat down to join the protest. Officer 2072 punched a 13 year old Britannia School student in the face and more officers moved in on the child, handcuffing and further brutalizing him. A man, attempting to shield the child from police blows, was also arrested. Police assaulted several more people, using pepper spray on some. Eight were arrested, including two minors. Police then faced a serious stand-off situation. After demanding that the police leave the area and stop escalating the situation, they finally retreated.



*Police try to arrest people linking arms and sitting in front of police wagon, outside Britannia, Oct 3rd. photos by Sarah*

For the arrestees the situation was only beginning. The paddy wagons were driven to an empty Canadian Tire parking lot. The door to one of the wagons was opened and those inside were faced with a sea of cops challenging them to step outside to "straighten things out". Thankfully, they refused to leave the wagons. After being held for over 24 hours, the 8 were released with charges varying from "disturbing the peace" to "assaulting a police officer." All were given conditions, including not being allowed to associate with each other or be with two blocks of the premier.

The violence used against the crowd was a direct result of the Liberal agenda to silence dissent and intimidate people. The police created a situation where it was abundantly clear that they were protecting the ruling class. The police were violently and aggressively playing their role in the Liberal government's campaign to transfer all power, wealth and resources into private hands. The actions of the police on Thursday afternoon were only a small part of the battle we are facing in BC. As Gordon Campbell attempts to lead the province into a draconian era the people will resist. Thursday's police riot radicalized people and has shown that the public is mobilized and prepared to fight. It was a victory for this mass-based movement which is working to destroy the Liberal government and all the thugs who support their oppressive regime.

*- Shannon*



*Another person violently arrested by the police*

**stop all police brutality, harassment and intimidation!**

## Record of Police Abuses & Violence

- After their arrest two men were driven to the parking lot at Canadian Tire where they were held handcuffed in a stuffy wagon for an hour. There were around 25 cops around the wagon when one angry cop threatened one of the men. He said: "Why dont you come out here now, tough guy?" When the man refused, the cop said, "It doesn't matter, we know where you live and we'll come take you out."

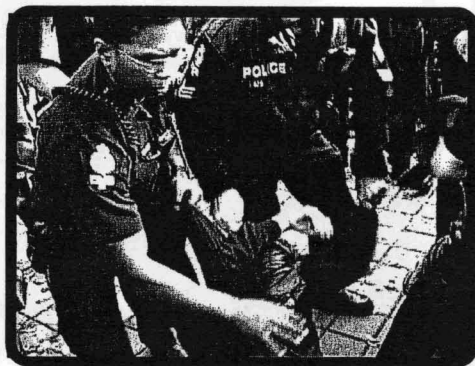
- Two arrestees were denied phone calls. One was denied for seven hours.  
- The 14 year old Britannia high school student was assaulted (punched in the face and had a gun pulled on him) by officer #2072. He was harassed and intimidated in jail.

- Another minor was harassed and intimidated in jail. He was told "you want to be like those APC guys? We boot fucked them and love it." He was subjected to "psychological examination" and other intimidation tactics.

- When Ivan was arrested on his bicycle, a truck drove by full of undercover cops who stopped to chant, "YOU WILL LOSE! YOU WILL LOSE!" and drove away. At his earlier arrest the night of September 22nd, outside Woodward's the cops dislocated his shoulder.

- Most arrested at the two raids on Woodward's had bruises and cuts from forceful arrests and tight handcuffs.

- One man was so badly pepper sprayed, he was suffering two days afterwards.



*APC Organizer Anton Pilipa getting dragged around by the VPD*

## APC Legal Defence Fund

The increasing victimization of APC activists and organizers by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) makes it necessary for us to build a defence movement in order to effectively fight against this VPD witch hunt. Last week while biking home, Ivan Drury, a well-known APC organizer, was stopped and arrested by the VPD and spent 24 hours in jail. This is his fourth time arrested by the police and one of many times an APC member has been arrested in the last 6 months because we are opposing Campbell's Liberal government for their assaults on the people of BC.

In our opinion no serious movement that fights for peoples' rights can sustain itself and continue to grow unless it can defend itself and its members against state repression. APC is determined to conduct an effective campaign to protect the lives and rights of APC members abused by police totalitarianism on a political and legal level. APC has started to take legal actions against the arrest of its members and the disruption of democratic and civil civil by the VPD. In order to make this defence effective and victorious we need to dedicate thousands of dollars for the legal process. For this simple reason we formed the APC Legal Defence Fund. In the fight against police attacks against activists and militants we are depend on your support and your generous financial contribution to the APC Legal Defence Fund. Please call or email APC for more infomation.

- Ali

## Other News

### APC Supports Fired Worker

Mike Palecek is a member of Local 247 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW). Mike was employed as a warehouse worker by Western Grocers, that is until they fired him for organizing a health and safety campaign.

Mike had been organizing against the management-imposed DCAM system, a demeaning and unsafe form of workplace "speed-up" which breaks all tasks into pre-set time periods. Since the introduction of the DCAM system at Western Grocers, workplace injuries have increased significantly.

Just as the Liberal government attacks the poor through cuts to welfare, social housing and the \$6.00/hour training wage, their friends in business are using the current employer-friendly environment against workers who organize on the job for better working conditions and against unsafe work practices.

Unlike most workers, Mike has a union to support him: UFCW 247 has filed a grievance and Western Grocers may very well be forced to reinstate Mike (hopefully owing him thousands of dollars in back pay). Most workers, however, do not even have basic protection, because the Liberals have gutted and weakened the already-inadequate Employment Standards Branch.

The Anti-Poverty Committee endorses the demands of Local 247 of the UFCW to immediately reinstate Mike Palecek, end the DCAM system and protect the health and safety of all workers, as well as their right to union organization. An injury to one is an injury to all, and fighting together we will win! - Calvin

**POLICE ATTACKS & LIBERAL CUTBACKS**  
**3-5pm, Saturday Oct 12th**  
**Britannia Auditorium**  
**APC Community Forum to solidify demands for the next Police Board Meeting**

**stop all police brutality, harassment and intimidation!**

# The Fight For Social Housing

After the eviction, many arrests, city workers and police throwing their homes into the garbage and many other abuses, a delegation of 20 people from the Woodward's squat went to the main office of BC Housing in Burnaby. The object of this mission was to deliver a letter to Shane Ramsay, CEO for BC Housing, to forward to George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, in the name of the Woodward's Coalition. This letter was about the negotiation process that Abbott said he would be willing to begin as soon as the squatters left the Woodward's building. George Abbott was contacted the week before about a meeting the squatters set up on September 19th to discuss a number of demands regarding the sale of the Woodward's building.



One of many meetings inside the squat

With the exception of Geoff Hughes, who showed up at a meeting involving different community organizations and the Woodward's Coalition at the Carnegie on October 1st, none of these parties have answered the demands from the squatters to sit down and negotiate. Geoff Hughes attended that meeting because he tried to sell-out anybody involved in the fight for Woodward's, speaking about "affordable housing", which is not social housing and at a rate too high for the Downtown Eastside community. He also talked about business projects that didn't seem to involve the Downtown Eastside community whatsoever and sounded more like a gentrification project than anything else. He did not appear concerned with the demands from the Downtown Eastside community for social housing.

Now that the squatters are no longer occupying the building, they are demanding Abbott and the other parties fulfil their obligation to sit down with them and negotiate. The squatters are still waiting for an answer from Abbott regarding the letter delivered to Shane Ramsay. This shows a deliberate unwillingness from the BC Liberal government, or anybody else involved, to do anything about the crisis for social housing in the Downtown Eastside or anywhere else in this province.

- Benerice



Woodward's photos by Marwan and Kara  
Front illustration by Kara

## The Woodward's Coalition Demands

1. Develop Woodward's as social housing immediately.
  - a. There must be an allotment of housing in the building for aboriginal people equal to or greater than the percentage of aboriginal people in the Downtown Eastside
2. Reverse the cuts to social housing and all social services.
3. Draft a civic anti-vacancy by-law to seize and convert empty, abandoned buildings into social housing.
4. Full disclosure of all information regarding the proposed sale and development of the building.
5. The federal government must fund and support the development of aboriginal business in the proposed commercial storefronts on the ground floor of Woodward's. These storefronts must also include an urban native self-governing office with drop-in support services and culturally sensitive native liaison workers from the community.
6. Decent and dignified immediate shelter for all homeless squatters forced from Woodward's and asked to leave the sidewalk in front of the building.



The police and garbage trucks hauling away people's homes outside Woodward's, Sept 27th

**Legal Support for the Woodward's 54**  
Please make checks payable to the Woodward's Legal Defense Fund  
P.O. Box 21552  
1850 Commercial Dr.  
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5T5

**reverse the cuts to social housing and all social services!**

## Other Actions

### ROAST THE LIBERALS Abort Mayencourt / Lose Lorne

Queers are demanding that gay BC Liberal MLA, Lorne Mayencourt, stand up for the interests of the community he claims to represent. Mayencourt, who prides himself as a hero of the queer community, has supported every action his government has taken to attack gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in this province. Mayencourt and the BC Liberals are clearly enemies of the people of this province.

We demand:

1. The restoration of the BC Human Rights Commission.
2. Funding for queer youth support programs.
3. Health care for people living with HIV and AIDS.
4. Health care for transgender/transsexuals.
5. Re-funding of social services.

**Demonstration Against the BC Liberals and Lorne Mayencourt**  
At the Vancouver-Burrard 1st Annual Riding Association Dinner  
Thursday, October 17th 5:30pm  
Pan Pacific Hotel @ Canada Place  
Food Provided

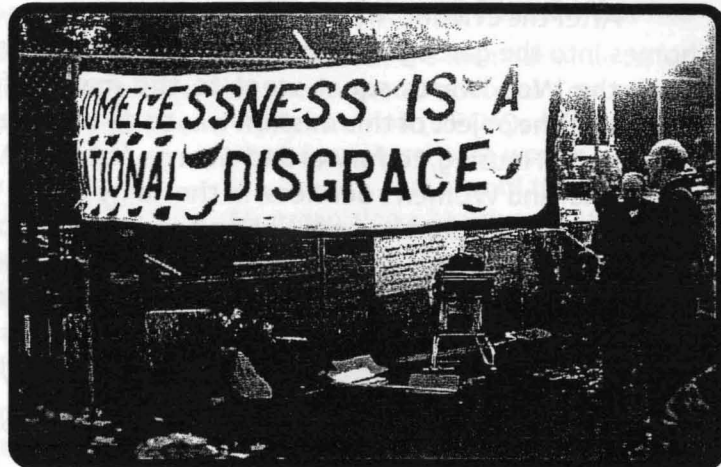
For more information and endorsements contact: QUAK - quak@resist.ca or 604-684-XTRA ext.2242

### OCAP: GIVE IT OR GUARD IT

To build on the success of the two month old Pope Squat, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) is planning a round of 'give it or guard it' actions for October 26th. The idea is to select empty buildings and publicly announce a time when they are to be reclaimed. Letters will even be sent to the authorities informing them of the details. They will then have the choice of letting the takeovers happen or putting a line of cops in front of them to 'protect' housing from the homeless.

## Squat Report from across the Nation

Twelve hours before the Woodward's Squat was raided, across the country in Quebec City, a squat that had been occupied for four months was raided and violently evicted by the police and city officials.



Toronto Tent City eviction, Sept 24, 2002 photo by Gary Morton

Like the Woodward's Squat in Vancouver, the Quebec City squat had been planned as a brief occupation to politically protest the housing crisis, but it quickly became a home for many poor and homeless people. They took it on the eve of the civic elections and it became an issue that swept the city and united poor and working people around the fight for social housing and the fight against poverty in Quebec.

The same week that these two important squats were forcibly evicted, the longest running squatting community in Canada, Toronto's Tent City, was shut down by the land owner, Home Depot, and the city of Toronto. For as long as four years people had built shacks and cabins and created a community out of vacant land and poverty.

In three cities across Canada poor people had took what they needed to survive, and what was withheld from them by three levels of government.

They took the housing they needed, and in the same week, the three different governments stole the housing back, forced it's vacancy and their homelessness once again. It's almost like they want us to organize and stand together across the country against them and we will. Whether it's the Liberals in BC, the Tories in



Opening of Quebec City squat

Ontario or the PQ in Quebec, they have the same agenda and the same allegiances. Vacant land and empty buildings are good for the real estate market and bad for poor and homeless people. It is clear now that poor and homeless people must stand together across the country and fight against these governments and their markets. We must fight for housing fight for survival.

- Ivan Drury



Two month old Pope Squat in Toronto

**decent and affordable housing for all!**

# The Campaign to End Campbell's Training Wage

## Community Meeting: APC Vows to Target Businesses and Government

The Anti-Poverty Committee held a community meeting on September 16th for our Campaign to End the Training Wage. The BC Liberals brought in the training wage last November to allow new workers to be paid \$6/hour for their first 500 hours of work. In reality, this wage is being used against both new workers and people with experience, and is undermining wages across the board, especially for marginalized workers already making far less than they deserve.

The meeting was organized to talk about how the training wage is hurting low-wage workers and how to effectively build a campaign against it. It was attended by about 80 people, and started out with a panel discussion, where both people from the APC and guests talked about different aspects of the \$6 training wage. Lisa Wulwick of the Anti-Poverty Committee, talked about the role of big business in lobbying the government for the training wage. Joseph Chiu, a low-wage worker, talked

about his experiences at many jobs working for far below the minimum wage and the need to oppose the training wage. Jeff Keighley of the Canadian Auto Workers Union explained how the training wage is affecting contract negotiations for unions, and brought up the challenges involved in organizing low-wage workers. Adrian Fu from the APC showed how this legislation is an attack on youth, pointing out that youth unemployment has actually increased since the training wage came into effect, despite claims by the BC Liberals that lowering the minimum wage help young workers find jobs. Tania Willard



Lib-  
would  
from  
high levels

of unemployment that plague Native communities, and how the many people forced to move to cities to find work will be forced to work for the training wage. Ali Yerevani from the APC discussed how the training wage is affecting immigrant workers as well as the need for strong, militant leadership in the movement against the government.

After the panelists finished, there was a question and answer period, followed by an open discussion about how to effectively campaign against the training wage. The major things discussed included the need to target both business and government, the importance of working with other community and labour groups in this campaign, and the need to involve both low-wage workers and patrons of businesses that are using the training wage. We signed up a number of new people to our Campaign to End the Training Wage, and the event was a success. We will continue to hold meetings like this that give people a chance to share their views and get involved in the fight against the training wage and other brutal policies that the BC government is using against us.

-Mike Krebs

## Expose Campbell's Big Business Backers: Nov 4th at the Hyatt!

On November 4th, the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA) is holding a Gala dinner and Awards ceremony at the Hyatt Regency. The BCRFA has played an important role in lobbying for policies that will mean more profits for business at our expense. They pushed hard for the training wage, the gutting of Employment Standards, and the axing of the Human Rights Commission. They have also developed a new partnership with the Labour Minister Graham Bruce, where the association has been assigned its own Employment Standards Officer to investigate employment standards complaints brought against BCRFA member businesses. The partnership is designed to ensure voluntary compliance with employment standards, meaning basically that the government will let business police itself. We know perfectly well that business will not police itself, otherwise why would we have to file Employment Standards claims in the first place?

Join the Anti-Poverty Committee on November 4th when we demonstrate against the BCRFAs role in drafting the BC Liberals attacks on poor and working people in BC. Join us in exposing the business-driven nature of this government. Together we can build a movement to end the training wage, end the control of

business interests over our lives, and defeat this government.

**Demo Against the BC  
Restaurant and Food  
Services Association  
6pm, November 4th  
at the Hyatt**

**stop Gordon Campbell's training wage!**

# 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 attacks 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 these brutal policies through direct action, mass mobilization, and casework. The APC opposes racism, sexism, homophobia and all other forms of oppression. We are an independent organization that is 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.

## Financial Support Needed!!

**Can you help financially support the work of the Anti-Poverty Committee? We can accept cheques made out to "Anti-Poverty Committee" or direct deposit through any VanCity Credit Union.**

## Problems with welfare, landlord or boss? Maybe you need Direct Action Casework

APC provides poor and working people with militant support when they are being attacked, robbed, or given the run-around. We do this by mobilizing people to defend the interests of one person or family. It is a practical form of solidarity that will help people survive through the struggle to defeat this government.

# Call 604-682-2726

walk-in: 42 Blood Alley Sq. Van BC email: [apc@resist.ca](mailto:apc@resist.ca)



**house the homeless! feed the hungry! care for the sick!**

## APC Events

**Demo at the Police Board**  
2:30pm Wed, October 16th  
Vancouver Public Library

**Community Meeting on Cuts to Disability (DB2)**  
location and date to be announced

**Give It or Guard It Action for Housing**  
October 26th  
location and time to be announced

**Listen to the Fight Back!**  
APC on Co-op Radio 102.7 fm  
6-8pm Wed, October 30th

**APC Strategy Conference**  
10-4pm Sunday, November 3rd  
Wise Hall, 1882 Adanac St.  
corner of Victoria and Adanac  
Childcare, food and coffee provided

**Expose Campbell's Business Backers**  
Demo against the BCRFSA  
6pm Monday, November 4th  
The Hyatt, 655 Burrard St.

## Get Involved...

**General Meetings**  
Every other Tuesday, 6pm  
October 15th & 29th  
327 Carrall Street  
Childcare and coffee provided

**Training Wage Campaign**  
Leafletting every Saturday, 12pm  
call for locations  
Meetings every Thursday, 5:30pm  
at the APC office

**Casework Meetings**  
Every Monday at 5 pm  
at the APC office

## APC Office Hours

**Mon-Fri 10am-6pm**  
**Sat 12pm-5pm**  
**42 Blood Alley Sq.**  
b/w Water & Cordova, off Carrall  
**tel: 604-682-2726**  
**fax: 604-687-4347**