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# THE LONG HAUL

Speaking out about Poverty

Volume I Issue 2

End Legislated Poverty's Newspaper

April 1994

## Where's the wealth?

In 1992 the Royal Bank made a profit over over \$63 million and paid \$0 in taxes.

A Royal Bank teller in British Columbia making \$25,000 paid \$5,732

A low income person making \$9000 a year, (about \$6000 below the poverty line) paid \$800 in taxes.

It isn't fair!

By not paying their fair share of taxes, the corporations are putting our social programs, our jobs, and our country at risk.

Members of the Action Canada Network are organizing an action campaign on the issue of corporate taxes.

"Where's the wealth?" is part of a long term strategy aimed at changing the political debate to focus on attacking the greedy instead of the needy.

Actions planned across Canada include skits and leafletting at the Royal Bank in Winnipeg where the bank manager will be presented with the world's largest tax

invoice. In Kitchener-Waterloo activists are filling out tax forms on behalf of tax avoiding corporations and mailing them to Finance Minister Paul Martin. For more details on corporations that don't pay taxes, see page 9. □□□

## Feds threaten UI

If leaked reports on probable changes to social policy are true, Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy will be living up to his last name. It looks like he's planning to "ax" unemployment insurance, the Canada Assistance Plan, and welfare and UI benefits for young people.

Leaked reports of changes in federal social policy appeared in the Vancouver Sun and the Globe and Mail on April 8th.

According to the articles Axworthy or his hand picked Task Force of "experts" want to give employers a break of billions by ending their contribution to unemployment insurance premiums. Right now

unemployment insurance is funded jointly by employers and employees. For every \$1 that employees have deducted from their cheques, employers contribute \$1.40. If the media sources are accurate, workers would have to more than double their contribution to UI.

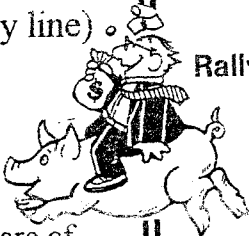
(continued on page 3)

### Where's the Wealth in Vancouver?

Rally and skit with Raging Grannies

All welcome

May 2nd, 1166 W. Pender, noon



## GAIN report finally released

The long awaited report of the GAIN advisory council of the Minister of Social Services is now available. It's called "The First Step". Its main recommendation, to raise welfare rates by \$75 a month immediately, is being ignored by the B. C. government. The government raised rates by \$11 per month last Feb., less than the cost of living. The Council is made up of 15

British Columbians, several of whom are or have been on welfare. Co-chairs are Cecile Guay of the federated anti-poverty groups of bc, and Sharon Manson-Singer of the Social Planning and Research Council. End Legislated Poverty's rep on the Council is Sherrill Gullickson. To get a copy of the report, call 1-800-668-1445.

See a list of the Council's recommendations on page 7. □□□

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### The Adventures of Hatchet Man

HATCHET MAN SITS IN HIS LAIR ON THE HILL, SCHEMING NEW WAYS TO KEEP THE RICH HAPPY AND THE POOR IN THEIR PLACE...

The Long Haul April 94

LLOYD

LET'S SEE... WE'VE ALREADY GOT THE UNEMPLOYED SCRAMBLING FOR NON-EXISTENT JOBS...

...AND THE EMPLOYED ARE FRIGHTENED ENOUGH TO PUT UP WITH ROTTEN PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS...

AH-HA! GOT IT! WE'LL HAVE THE WORKERS PAY THE WHOLE U.I. PREMIUM!

Later, at the Board Meetings:

"... AND SO, WITH MY NEW PLAN, YOU GET TO KEEP YOUR SHARE OF U.I. PREMIUMS."  
"— BRILLIANT, HATCHET MAN, BRILLIANT!"  
"— HEY... I'M JUST DOING MY JOB!"

# "Self sufficiency" for the poor or welfare for business?

By Linda Marcotte

Last year, when Joan Smallwood was Minister of Social Services, the Self Sufficiency Project, a project that came out of an idea from a meeting of the Organization for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD) was announced. B. C. and New Brunswick would participate in this experiment to get single mothers off welfare.

The first we heard of it was when Gordon Berlin, who works with a group funded by the Ford Foundation in New York, came to the End Legislated Poverty office to explain the project to us. That was in December, 1991.

Berlin told us that Employment and Immigration Canada had given contracts in the \$75,000 to \$100,000 range to "lots of people to think about this." None of the "thinkers" were poor people or anti-poverty groups.

The theory behind the Self Sufficiency scheme is that women get stuck in a poverty trap of low self-esteem, diminishing work ethic, and motivation. The pilot project costs the federal government \$67 million and is 3 years long. It provides a wage supplement to women in the project who find

work. The project will pay women half of the difference between their actual wage and a top wage of \$30,000 in New Brunswick and \$37,000 in B. C. The project involves 5000 people in New Brunswick and 8000 in B. C., but half of these people are a control group who give their permission to be interviewed and studied but don't get jobs or money.

Val is a single parent with the new Langley anti poverty group, DEFI (Dignity and Equality through Financial Independence). She has until June 1 to get a job and still be

in the program. She's getting desperate.

"Our criticism of this kind of wage subsidy comes out of Val's words: 'I'll take anything.'"

She's applied everywhere in the area. She says, "I think it's a good idea, but if you can't find a job, what then? It's like holding out food to a starving (person). I've only got until June 1st to find a job and I've looked

everywhere. I'm frustrated. There are no jobs. There just are no jobs. The closer it gets to June, every day that passes and I don't find a job, I get more desperate. I'm in debt and I need to get off welfare. I'll take anything."

No one can blame people like Val for using the project and trying to do the best they can for their family. But we do blame the government for setting up a project that can't help reduce poverty.

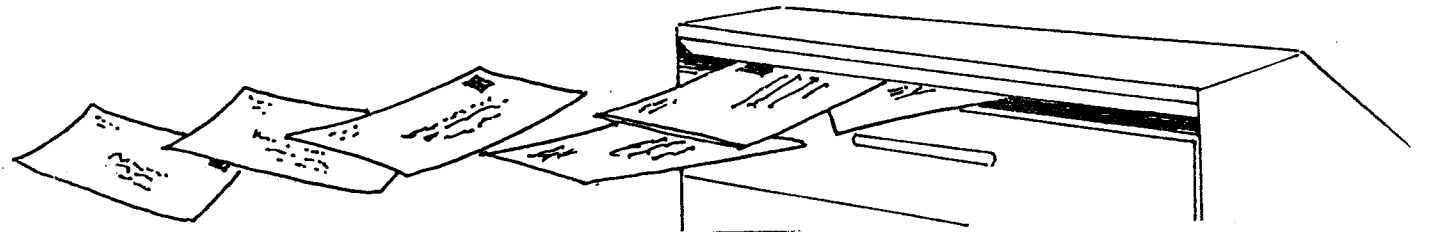
ELP's criticism of this kind of wage subsidy comes out of Val's words: "I'll take anything." It's a perfect situation for employers to have people desperate to take any kind of work and any wage. The real dependents of the system aren't people on welfare but employers, dependent on cheap, scared workers. The big business lobby groups have been asking government for social programs that benefit them.

Look for more of this kind of program with the federal restructuring of social programs. It's a way to make poor people feel that poverty is their fault and a way to provide welfare for employers. □□□



...and they wanted to sign me up for some new "study". So I said to them, "Look, all I want is a decent job. Is that so difficult?"

Dear ELP,



## Pleased with The Long Haul

I was very pleased to receive a copy of your new newspaper, *The Long Haul*.

I am a handicapped person with one dependent and I receive GAIN for Handicapped. Though I feel very grateful that social assistance is there to help us, I always feel very helpless, sad and angry when the media so often prints, or reports negative things on TV or in the newspaper, about people on social assistance. I personally know many low income people. Some are working poor, some are too mentally or physically sick to work. Some are looking for jobs but unable to find them. All of them have been honest, caring people.

I'm sure that if the statistics were known, the percentage of people that are poor and dishonest would be no higher than people that are rich or middle income and dishonest.

When I saw on TV that they might fingerprint people on assistance, I cried. It is very demeaning to have to receive any monetary assistance and it adds to your feelings of shame and low self worth to be made to feel like a criminal.

The reason I enjoyed your paper was because I often feel very alone and helpless in my situation. I was very uplifted to know that you are fighting so hard to try to help poor people maintain some dignity. It encourages me to know that others do care. I usually feel so powerless, so I appreciated that some of your articles let me know who to write to on various issues. Thanks again for all your work for so many people who are helpless and unable to defend themselves for fear of oppression, discrimination, utter hatred or just a lack of understanding that so many people seem to feel towards poor people.

-name withheld by request-

## Thanks for the help

On behalf of the B. C. Government and Services Employees Union, Local 1703 and the employees at Army and Navy Stores, we want to thank you for the co-operation and support you gave us, so readily, during our recent struggle to reach a collective agreement.

We were able to ratify a new contract on April 8th without a work stoppage.

Thanks again for your help and best of luck to your in your endeavours.

Lynda Barry, Staff Representative

## Newspaper is terrific

I think your new newspaper is just terrific. Here's a small donation to help you keep up the good work.

Olive Johnson



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## A new Human Rights Act could stop welfare bashing

People on welfare could use a Human Rights Act to challenge the kind of welfare bashing that happens in the *Vancouver Province, Sun*, and on UTV--if the Act were changed to include "source of income." That's the opinion of Human Rights Coalition activist Susan O'Donnell.

Last summer the "Discriminatory practices prohibited" section of the Act came into effect in B. C. This section says:

*"No person shall publish, issue or display or cause to be published, issued or displayed any statement, publication, notice, sign, symbol, emblem, or other representation that*

*(a) indicate discrimination or an intention to discriminated against a person or a group or class or persons, or*

*(b) is likely to expose a person or a group or class of persons to hatred or contempt*

*because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age of that person or that group or class of persons."*

O'Donnell says that if low income groups can lobby to get "source of income" included along with "race, colour, etc.", people on welfare would at last have an instrument of self defense against welfare bashing media and politicians.

Right now the Human Rights Act is under review. Special advisor Bill Black will be holding hearings on how the Act should be changed. End Legislated Poverty will be making a proposal to include source of income in this and other sections of the Act. ELP would like to have a powerful presentation for Black. If you have stories of how you were discriminated against because of being on welfare, send them in. ELP won't use your name if you don't want it used. Also, if you have stories about how media stories on welfare fraud have affected you or your family, ELP would be interested in hearing them. Your voices can help send a powerful message to the government. Give us a call at 879-1209.



### Feds threaten UI (continued from page 1)

The reports also says that government could be planning to end the Canada Assistance Plan which provides money to provinces for welfare. CAP also lists rights that poor people have to appeal, to not have to work for welfare, and to get enough money to meet their basic requirements.

There is also talk of a proposal that would forbid anyone under 25 from taking UI or welfare. Instead they would have to go to some kind of training or workfare (cheap, forced labour).

To make the whole mess seem more palatable, the leaked report mentions a sort of guaranteed annual income for people with children. Perhaps this would be along the line put forward by the Tory's Barbara Greene. Greene wanted children to have incomes of their own from the government so that their parents could work at minimum wage. □□□

## B.C. FORBIDS DISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF.

Sex

Sexual Orientation

Disability

Family Status

Age, and

(maybe in 1994)

Source of Income



DAVE J.

## Slum landlords surveyed

In Port Alberni many tenants are at the mercy of landlords who allow homes to deteriorate. Low income children live in fire traps with broken windows, rickety stairs, faulty wiring, poor heating, and bad well water.

To make matters worse, low vacancy rates make it so rental accomodation is very hard to find. This means that desperate tenants are forced into substandard and shoddy housing that is overlooked by city council.

Members of Low Income Folks Together, Pt. Alberni's anti-poverty group, have had enough and are in the process of doing a survey of slum accomodations and landlords. The information will be presented to Port Alberni City Council to be used as an argument for housing maintenance standards and for the development of social housing.

Folks from LIFT recently travelled to Nanaimo where they presented a brief to Housing Minister Joan Smallwood's travelling committee on rent protection.

If you are a low income tenant in Port Alberni and want to get involved, call Mickey Smeele at the Port Alberni Women's Centre, 724-7111. □□□

## Video to expose training programs

Richard Nichol森 and Patricia Chauncey have been running all over Victoria with a video camera and microphone interviewing unemployed people.

These people have attended employment training programs that left them unemployed, exhausted, behind a few bucks, and depressed.

They are starring in a film exposing job training failure and giving suggestions about things that would help them better than current job training appears to.

"The more we film the more we realize that job training is probably a scam and a public diversion from the issue of serious unemployment and the loss of decent jobs," explained Patricia Chauncey.

Richard Nichol森 is a skilled photographer and is working on a grant from Victoria city council to video important issues in downtown Victoria.

If you want to take part in the film or watch it when it is done, call Patricia Chauncey at 383-8778 in the Victoria ELP office. □□□

## Kamloops Anti-poverty group gives up on Advisory Council

This letter was sent by Active Support Against Poverty in Kamloops to Joy McPhail, Minister o Social Services.

Dear Joy,

Re: Advisory Council

The Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty Society decided not to nominate anyone for a position on the Advisory Council at this time. We are very disappointed with the current policies of your Ministry.

It is our opinion that the Ministry is not responding to any input from the Advisory Council. Until we can see that the Advisory Council is an effective means to work with the government, we will not be involving ourselve in the process.

Darlene McBain, Chairperson

# Organizing around the province

## Anti-Poverty groups rise up in Langley and Coquitlam

By Linda Marcotte

Dignity and Equality through Financial Independence (DEFI) in Langley and the Tri-cities Anti-Poverty Coalition in Coquitlam are having regular meetings and have great projects that they're working on.

DEFI members are meeting with business people from Langley's Chamber of Commerce to talk about employment and training issues. They are going to be making presentations to Langley Parks and Recreation Centre and local sports and fitness centres for policies to make these facilities accessible (free) to people living below the poverty line.

They are supporting each other to learn their welfare rights and get them with the help of Gerry de la Garza and the Langley Legal Assistance Centre. Gerry and LLAC did a lot of work to get the group started. With ELP they sponsored a public meeting in February and the group holds its twice monthly area meetings at the LLAC. If you live in the Langley Aldergrove area, call Gerry about DEFI's next meeting. Expenses

## LIFT sews a garden

*Spring has sprung,  
the grass is riz,  
I wonder where the  
activists is?*

In Port Alberni you will probably find them outside preparing the group for a new community garden similar to Strathcona Community Gardens in Vancouver or James Bay Allotment Gardens in Victoria.

The garden will give low income people a chance to grow a few vegies and an opportunity to get together to hatch schemes for social action.

"We needed a very practical project to pull people together and this one has the direct benefit of fresh air and home-grown food," explained the enthusiastic Reverend Kevin MacNamee from LIFT.

If you are interested in finding out how to get a garden plot of your own call Kevin at 723-8332. □□□

for transporation and childcare are reimbursed and they have great snacks. Gerry's even working on having a supper meeting.

Val, a DEFI member, has been interviewed on CBC radio talking about her experience with the Self Sufficiency project (see the article in this issue on that project). I helped the group apply for funding to take part in the B. C. Human Rights Act review and got it.

From a day long workshop a year ago in February that ELP and the SHARE Society of Coquitlam organized, came one person who was enthusiastic about getting an anti-poverty group started in the area. Charlene Wagner started another group for young people wanting to leave prostitution and the street. With ELP, she organized another day long workshop in February and the new Tri Cities Anti Poverty Coalition was formed.

Their first project was to make an application for money to help low income people in the Port Moody, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam to participate in the B. C. Human Rights Act Review. Unfortunately they didn't get the funding, but they are going ahead with the project anyway.

They've developed a questionnaire about human rights and discrimination and they are going out to get poor people's responses. They're also setting up meetings with representatives from the police, MSS, financial institutions, Vicim Services and the court system where group members have been treated badly because they are First Nations women or single mothers on welfare. They intend to tell people about their experiences and ask for changes.

They're supporting each other to get information about their rights on welfare and going with each other to see their MSS workers and appealing decisions they disagree with. I'm impressed with the high level of trust and commitment, generosity and spirit that members of the two groups have for each other and for people in their communities. I was working in the two areas for over a year with the hope something would happen for low income people and I'm so happy the groups are there and active. □□□

## ELP goes to Northern towns

By Linda Marcotte

Rose Brown and I, both End Legislated Poverty organizers, went to Dawson Creek, Kelly Lake and Prince George in March. We gave talks about federal social program changes, provincial human rights laws, the new welfare changes, and did corporate agenda workshops in all three places. We want to thank everyone who took the time to meet with us and help us organize meetings. We had a public meeting the first night at Northern Lights College. Judy Dejarlais organized it. We showed a film, *Them That's Not*, and the people talked about

conditions in Dawson Creek for poor people.

The biggest problem is lack of work and housing. The housing you can afford on a low wage or welfare is run down. Housing and heat are very expensive. The people who came were hoping more that education would help them. We talked about attitudes and how people who are not poor will say there's no poverty in Dawson Creek.

We met Margaret Belcourt from Kelly Lake who was taking a course  
*(continued on page 10)*



## Young women get active in GAP

By Patricia Chauncey

The GAP program in Saanich is an alternative education program for girls. Some of those girls are pregnant or are already mothers with small babies and toddlers. Many at a young age are coping with adolescence, education, motherhood and the hard realities of poverty.

They invited me to come to give a workshop so they could explore poverty issues. We met for three hours and talked about the rich and the poor. We talked about the deficit and about government restructuring of social programs. We looked at the strings that show the distribution of wealth in Canada and brainstormed ideas for the girls to use for their own action program.

In the end the girls decided to tackle a public housing complex

management that is taking away their free washing machines and giving a contract to a washing machine business that will charge them lots of money to do their laundry.

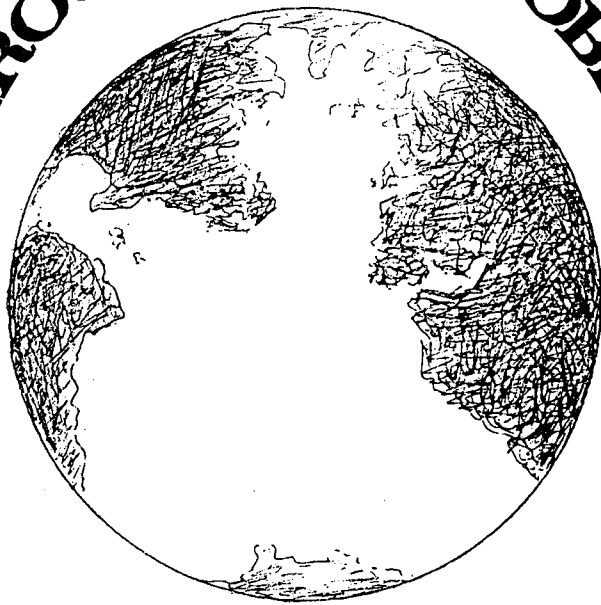
They plan to get involved in the panhandling issue in Victoria and ask the government to fund a housing project with 24 hour services for youth who are living on the streets all over Victoria.

They also wanted to make sure that they had a chance to speak to the Premier about low welfare rates and will circulate ELP's welfare letters through the school. They will even help deliver them with pleasure.

They have workshops and guest speakers all the time and said that the ELP workshop was the best yet!

Their next meeting is set for May 2nd. □□□

## AROUND THE GLOBE



### Ontario

## Anti-poverty groups fight welfare policies

The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) turned up the heat on Bob Rae's NDP government and its welfare policies on April 14th.

The Coalition sponsored four demonstrations, three of which took place in Ontario, and one in Montreal.

In all four demonstrations OCAP's main demands were for the Ontario government to provide jobs or decent income to people on welfare, instead of spending \$40 million to hire welfare police.

"In Montreal a group of unemployed people occupied offices of the NDP," John Clarke, the provincial OCAP organizer, reports.

They demanded that the federal NDP distance itself from Rae's welfare policies.

In Ontario pickets appeared before a provincial government building in Sudbury. In Ottawa 60 people marched on the constituency office of Evelyn Gigantes, the NDP minister of Housing.

At the same time at noon 400 people gathered at the provincial legislature at Toronto's Queen's Park. The crowd included people from groups that are part of OCAP, people wanting better child care, and homecare, and four unions.

They denounced the NDP government's attempt to blame the people on welfare for being on welfare.

"The NDP government will spend \$40 million in the next two years to hire 540 welfare police," says Clarke. "These people will conduct a systematic audit of every person on welfare."

Clarke points out that there are over 1.3 million people on welfare in Ontario. "In 1993 200,000 recipients had their cheques cut."

### Vancouver

## Guerilla media strikes again

First there was the *Vancouver Stump*. Then the *Glib and Stale*. On March 23, Guerrilla Media struck again with *The Vancouver Providence* (yes, the "d" is supposed to be there).

*The Providence* was slipped into Vancouver news boxes on welfare cheque day, March 23rd, by subversive newsies who opened the boxes with 75 cents, then

wrapped the real *Province* in the *Providence*. The *Providence* looked remarkably like the *Province*, but the whole paper was a parody of media coverage of welfare and welfare fraud issues.

One article, for example, describes a pilot project of giving \$210 in McVouchers for food to all Lower Mainland welfare recipients. The McVouchers could be cashed in for McBeak and McHoof sandwich treats,"

### Mexico

## Good news from Chiapas

By Sandy Cameron

When two or three thousand mostly Mayan Tzetal soldiers of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) occupied six towns in Chiapas, Mexico, in early January, 1994 to protest the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and to demand social reforms, I feared that the Mexican army would swoop down and crush the rebellion.

According to Marc Cooper in an article entitled "Starting from Chiapas--The Zapatistas Fire the Shot Heard Around the World," this uprising has too much support to be crushed easily.

The uprising was for democracy, and against a corrupt government and a global economy that made people poorer in a downward spiral of competitive impoverishment. The political strategy was brilliant. Instead of calling for a revolutionary dictatorship that would have turned all Mexico against them, the Zapatistas called for two things

### United States

## Big companies rake in the dough

America's 500 largest corporations made about \$10 billion more last year than the year before. That's what Fortune magazine says. In spite of the facts that profits were up, jobs were down. Total employment in the 500 largest U. S. corporations dropped 300,000 to 11.5 million.

The biggest three corporations, ranked by sales, are General Motors, 1st; Ford Motor Company, 2nd; and Exxon, 3rd. □□□

along with a Get-a-McJob kit consisting of a clip on tie, and a Korporate Kulture Coloring book.

Two pages are devoted to facts about coverage of welfare fraud by the *Vancouver Sun and Province* and UTV.

If you'd like a copy, send \$2 to Guerrilla Media, PO Box 65746, Vancouver, BC V5N 5K7. Or, call ELP at 879-1209 and we'll send you one if we have some left. □□□

most Mexicans supported: truly free elections and real democratic reform.

With presidential elections this August, the ruling party (PRI) of President Salinas has the difficult task of convincing the people of Mexico that it cares about justice. This situation is a good opportunity for opposition candidate Cardenas whose father Lazaro is remembered by poor people as the boldest of the Mexican reformist presidents.

The murder of PRI presidential candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio, has complicated the situation, however, and President Salinas might delay the August elections because of it. In fact, some people think that the extreme right in Mexico might have engineered this murder. If the elections go ahead, the PRI can emphasize law and order (military oppression) rather than social justice.

Unfortunately, the ruling PRI is associated with electoral corruption and violence. Many people think President Salinas would have lost the last presidential elections in 1988 except for electoral fraud. More than 260 political activists, most of them members of the opposition, have been killed in Mexico since those 1988 elections.

In his article Marc Cooper said that the Zapatistas have widespread support in Mexico, and he described a pro-Zapatista rally he attended in Mexico City that attracted 250,000 Mexicans. The rally included the masked wrestler, Super Barrio, and vendors who sold stenciled T-shirts proclaiming "I am a Zapatista" and "All of Mexico is Chiapas".

Today Mexico is in turmoil as citizens plan for the August election in an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. According to Cooper, though, the corporate propaganda of the global economy has been discredited by the Zapatistas, and they have brought hope to Mexicans and the world.

One way to support the Zapatistas is to fight against NAFTA in Canada. This fight is not over as business leaders say. It is just beginning. □□□



## Articles from our readers

### Thoughts on "using the system"

By Anne Miles

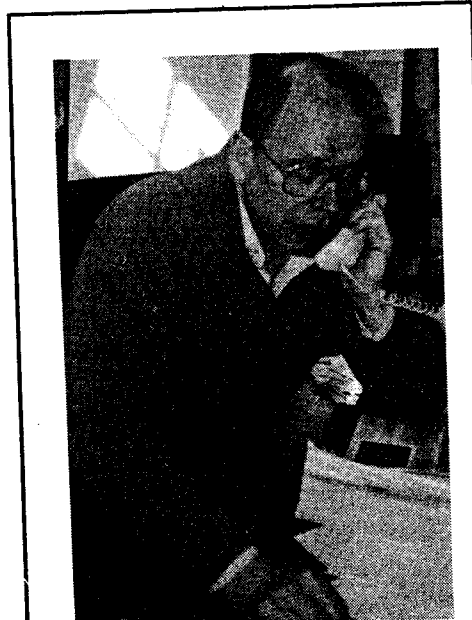
The other day a neighbour who sometimes pays me to do typing dropped by. The conversation turned to landlord and tenant matters. My neighbour said, "Do you know that most landlords in B. C. operate at a loss?"

"I don't believe that!" I exclaimed. After all, how could landlords be operating at a loss when housing is such a sellers' market right now? He then explained the kinds of tax deductions he can get because he shares his house with a lodger. He's been told by an accountant that he can deduct for such things as the inconvenience of having to share his space. By the time a landlord has finished inventing deductions it looks to the tax people as if he actually lost money, when, of course, he didn't or why would he bother to rent out accommodation?

This all seemed very ironic to me. I have a friend who is fortunate enough to own her own home even though she is on welfare. A few years ago she decided to rent her downstairs suite to another low income person. She charged this young man \$100 a month, the amount of earnings a single parent was allowed to keep at that time. The idea was that he would get adequate and affordable housing and she would get some extra money. Or so she thought! What happened was that MSS deducted the \$100 as "unearned income." Unlike landlords who operate at a "loss" because of such intangibles as "having to share space", my friend was not even to be given consideration for extra costs, such as increased Hydro bills, that her tenant would create. Do I detect a double standard here?

My neighbour informed me of other tax shelters available to those affluent enough to "need" to reduce their income tax. Getting rid of such breaks for higher income people would (like the abolition of RRSP's), go far toward dealing with the deficit and freeing funds for social programs.

Why is taking advantage of such tax shelters considered respectable, while being on welfare is not? If you accused these affluent people of scamming, they'd point out that what they do is legal. Well, so is being on welfare. Why is use of the system for low income people who have no other choice considered something to be ashamed of, while use of the system by the affluent is considered to be clever money management. What's going on here? I'd say it's scape-goating. □□□



Writer, cartoonist, and ELP volunteer Dave Jaffe tackles the phone in ELP's Vancouver office.

### Cheque line-ups make us angry!

By Sandra Asiebu

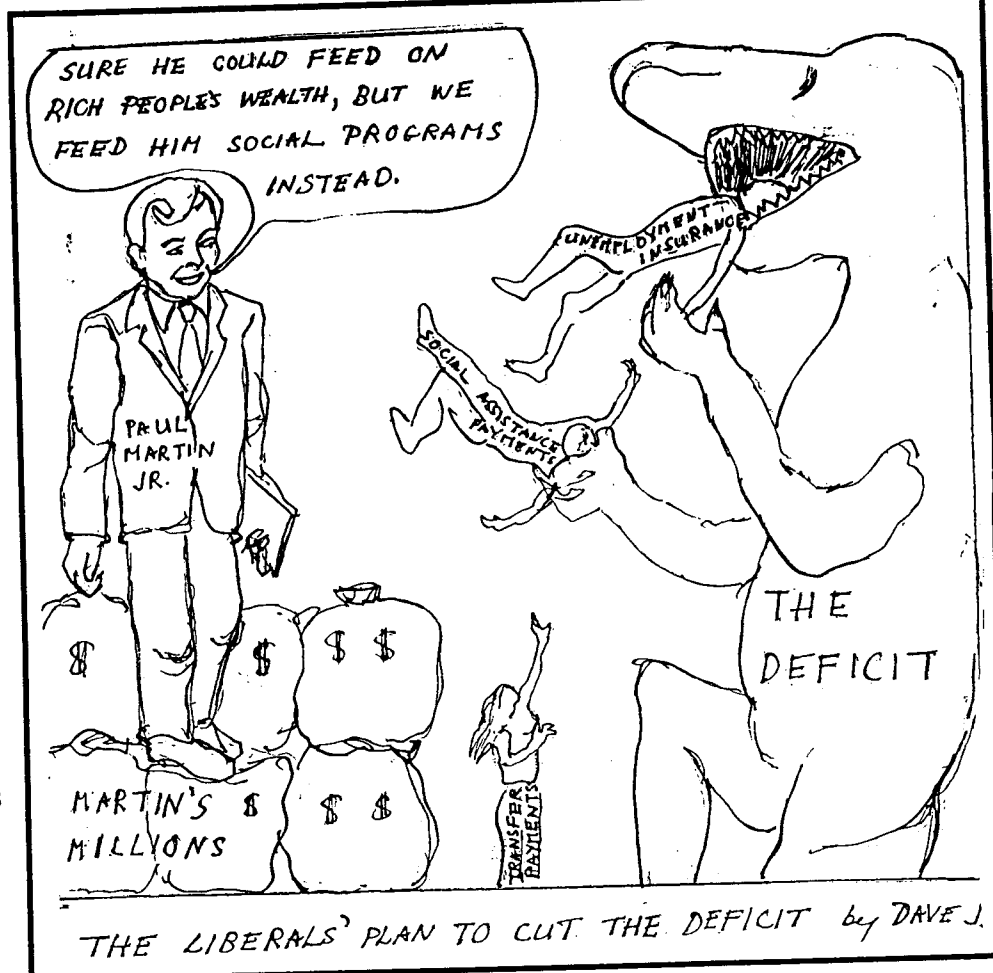
I heard the announcement the night before welfare day on a local radio station in Vancouver. It said that in order to receive a welfare cheque, employable people without children must go to their local office and stand in line. Whatever happened to the yearly review MSS does on every recipient?

My first reaction was "pick, pick, pick." Low income people have enough problems and pressures without adding to them and complicating their lives even more.

The Ministry says...and the clients do. Welfare recipients are not puppets on the strings of the holder, or are we?

Many recipients were frustrated by this new policy--downright angry!

Advocates for low income people from End Legislated Poverty joined the welfare recipients to protest the policy. Linda Marcotte of ELP said that "the government wants to give the message that you'd better take any job rather than stay on welfare because if you don't you're going to be humiliated." I agree. Lets be more considerate and understanding to those on the receiving end of the stick. Stop welfare bashing! □□□



### The axeman cometh: the rise of Finance Minister Paul Martin

By David Jaffe

Once upon a time he attacked Brian Mulroney for slashing social spending in order to reduce the deficit.

Today Liberal Finance Minister Paul Martin is doing the same thing he blamed the Progressive Conservative government for. "We are told that we can no longer afford to be compassionate," the then 51 year old Liberal leadership hopeful told a crowd of young Liberals in 1990. "That is the most classic example of 1950's thinking I can envision."

For every \$1 spent now on social needs, the millionaire shipping magnate pointed out, \$5 is saved down the road by avoiding high costs of health care, crime and drugs.

Martin was beaten in the Liberal leadership race by Jean Chretien. Today Martin, like most Liberal cabinet ministers, claims he wants to preserve Canada's social safety net. Yet some people believe that Martin is planning to make even deeper cuts than those proposed by Brian Mulroney's government.

His father's connections must have helped propel Martin to the top of the Canadian business heap.

In 1981 he was vice president of Canada Steamship Lines, a huge shipping company that itself was a part of the even bigger Canada based multinational, Power Corporation.

Martin borrowed \$180 million in the early 1980's to buy CSL from Power. Today Martin's worth is conservatively estimated at \$30 million.

Just listing Martin's immense holdings takes up 2 and a half sheets of paper,

In fact, Martin owns so many companies that a recent story in the *Vancouver Sun* points out, Martin's assets could pose "potential conflict of interest problems" for his role as a cabinet minister.

Martin's bid for the Liberal leadership in 1988, though unsuccessful, assured him a cabinet seat once the Liberals formed the government. After the Liberal victory in the 1993 election Chretien appointed Martin as Finance Minister.

This appointment was a clear signal to the business community that the new Liberal government would be very conservative.

As Finance Minister, Martin brought down a budget in 1993 that cuts out \$7.5 billion in social spending over the next three years.

Yet for all his tough talk about deficit cutting, Martin's companies don't help cut the deficit at all. In 1990 Martin's holding company, the CSL Group, which in turn owns at least 20 other firms, made a profit of nearly \$20 million.

The CSL group paid no corporate taxes. In fact, as the B. C. Federation of Labour points out, "In 1990 CSL received tax credits of \$400,000." □□□

# Is public consultation making you lose your focus?

By Patricia Chauncey

Are people who fight against legislated poverty too caught up in public participation processes? Government committees have been set up to ask us how we feel about children and families, rent protection, health, the environment, GAIN, and even the entire social program structure in Canada.

**"You could be convinced... to accept policy changes that need to be thoroughly discussed and researched by other poor people and their allies."**

It sounds too good to be true and is very flattering to be asked for our opinions about the laws that we know need to be improved. But you also have to be very careful. Here are some questions to ask to determine how useful a government consultation process is for low income people.

**How far has the process gone through the bureaucracy before public input is called for?**

The government may only be looking for socially acceptable language to apply to legislation

that has already been drafted. The shorter the time frame, the stronger the chances are that this true.

**Are you controlled by a rigid structure?**

It was very hard to ask questions about rent controls at a recent landlord and tenant public consultation. Hired staff actively discouraged questions that weren't part of their agenda even though they were important to low income tenants.

**Does the process allow you to address issues like the redistribution of wealth?**

If not, why are you there?

**Are you being asked to choose to decide which low income program to slash?**

This is very tricky. It's a good tool to divide our communities when we have to decide whether to save, for example, funding for children with disabilities or young offenders. We should probably be looking for new funds, not cutting programs.

**How does the committee membership reflect the community affected by the legislation being considered?**

Are there are lots of titled, powerful people on the committee and no one from the low income community? Are the people who

are supposed to represent low income people really middle income service providers? Are low income people tokenized and overpowered by committee bureaucrats and members?

When I co-chaired the Community Panel on Child Protection I was told once that there were many other people on welfare who could replace me and who would be grateful to take part in such a high profile committee. It made me feel angry and disempowered. I couldn't imagine that comment being used on the judge or the ombudsman serving on the committee.

**Will you have the opportunity to reflect ideas back to your home organization?**

You could end up being co-opted if you are sworn to secrecy. You might feel more comfortable as part of the committee because there is less struggle, you like staying in fancy hotels, and because sometimes your only social contact is other committee members. Under these conditions, you could be convinced as an individual to accept policy changes that need to be thoroughly researched and discussed by other poor people and their allies.

**Do you have to consider serious questions about social**

**service and income distribution with corporate representatives?**

Oh great. Who benefits when you end up consulting with and giving low income people's arguments to people whose companies have often lobbied for changes that increase poverty? Corporate representatives are primarily interested in profit. Having their mugs shown taking part in these processes is just free advertising. If business leaders were really concerned about poverty, they would start paying their share of taxes and argue for an increased minimum wage.

It seems to me that it is more important to have a loud and thriving community of low income people who identify their own needs and can figure out solid strategies for change on their own terms.

Here's hoping you can take time out of your busy schedule to attend the next anti-poverty meeting in your community. And by the way, see you at the next government consultative process! □□□

## Wages, welfare, and wealth

By William Kay

Poverty lines are arbitrary, with people of every political stripe drawing the line at an income level compatible with their own political agenda.

But we can see what wages are being paid in today's labour market and get a better picture of the income levels that motivate people to work and the capacity of our society to endure increased social spending.

According to Statistics Canada (November, 1993) the average gross weekly wage for British Columbians is about \$564.

At the high end of the wage scale are people working in mining (\$1020 per week), railways (\$944), and utilities (\$919). In



total there are about a dozen categories of employment paying more than \$900 a week. Also near the top end of the working class

pay scale are loggers and heavy construction workers.

At the low end of the pay scale are general retail merchandise workers (\$308 per week), gas station attendants (\$255), shoe and fabric workers (\$237), food and service workers in the hotel industry (\$232) and general food and beverage workers (\$208).

For the officially unemployed, the average weekly benefit paid last November was about \$260.

The average single employable on welfare gets about \$130 a week.

But none of that information is an argument for redistribution of income from the higher paid elements of the working class to the lower paid and unemployed. If anything, these figures show that very few workers are paid less than half the average income and virtually no workers are consistently making more than twice the average.

At the same time our economy contains various "businessmen" whose incomes go over \$1 million. Surely if there is to be any redistribution on income, or of power, it should be at the expense of the richest group and not the workers. □□□

### The First Step

These recommendations are in *The First Step, the report on the Minister's Advisory Council on GAIN:*

- ☛ GAIN rates increased \$75 per case per month immediately
- ☛ End distinction between shelter and support
- ☛ Set up public process to set rates for Feb., 1995
- ☛ Maintenance exemption to be increased to \$150 for one child and \$200 for two or more children
- ☛ Lump sum maintenance payments to be exempted up to asset level
- ☛ Change the definition of handicapped to include concepts of impairment, severity, and duration
- ☛ Money and services must meet the needs of people with disabilities regardless of age
- ☛ Community based jobs and training pilot projects to be set up in two communities
- ☛ Delivery of services to be guided by concept of meeting needs, not controlling budget
- ☛ Training and professional development for Ministry staff
- ☛ Ministry must treat staff with respect and dignity
- ☛ Social services and interpersonal skills should be included in hiring criteria

### Write to Dear ELP

Do you have comments about *The Long Haul*? Want to disagree with any of the articles? Do you have points you think we should have considered and didn't? Write a short letter and tell us about it. Don't worry about spelling and punctuation. The computer can do that. It's your ideas that are important. Try to get the letters in before the 15th of the month. If you want help with writing, just call ELP at 879-1209. Letters may be edited.

# FLAWLINE

## FRONT LINE ADVOCACY WORKERS

### Advocacy training in Kamloops

~ by Darlene McBain  
Kamloops Legal Services

The Kamloops Branch office of the Legal Services Society of BC has recently completed an advocacy training session sponsored by the Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty Society.

Fourteen participants received certificates for attending the training, which started on March 3, 1994 and ended on April 7, 1994. The sessions were held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday evenings at the Seniors' Centre on Victoria Street in Kamloops. Three people attended from the Clearwater Access Centre and they will be doing advocacy work in the Clearwater area.

Due to the recent cutbacks and changes to the

Ministry of Social Services policy, there has been a sharp increase in the number of people requesting assistance for welfare appeals from the Legal Services office. It is going to be an asset to our community to have trained lay advocates to help with this work.

The most common types of appeals we are doing in our area at present are:

- denial of GAIN for Handicapped Benefits
- denial of Social Assistance due to allegations of welfare recipient being in a "common law" relationship
- denial of crisis grants.

Our congratulations to ELP on the merging of the newsletters to create *The Long Haul*. It is essential in these difficult times that information be shared by those of us who are working for social justice. Keep up the good work! □□□

### UIC rules lesbians are spouses

The Unemployment Insurance Commission has ruled that two women are spouses after one quit her job to follow another to a new city. Lisa Jeffs quit her part-time job in November to be with her partner, Michelle Owen, who has found a job in Toronto. The appeals board found that Jeffs had "just cause" for quitting her job and was eligible for unemployment benefits. *Outlines, March/94 & Angles, March/94.* □□□

## VICTORIES & PROBLEMS

### Dear FLAWline:

On the morning of April 8th, 1994, I contacted the Ministry of Social Services and Housing at my office and spoke with a worker who was filling in for my regular worker. I explained that I had no food or diapers for my son who is 21 months old. I was waiting for my GST cheque to come on the following Monday. I asked the worker if I could possibly get a crisis grant to buy the things I needed.

I was told I would have to wait until Monday, and that in order to even get a voucher, I would have to provide a written list of where I spent my money; then they would "consider" giving me a voucher "maybe". I then spoke to the Supervisor who said "why don't you put your son in "care" as a possible alternative. She said that they didn't consider food and diapers for a baby an "item of need".

I then contacted Victoria where I was told the same thing. I responded, "Like hell I will - I will never give up on any child" I love my son dearly.

It seemed like the people I encountered were doing more toward breaking up my family than helping.

~ A fed up welfare recipient.

### Dear Fed Up:

Sorry to hear you've had such bad luck with those particular ministry staff. If the worker refuses a food voucher, or something else you need, get an advocate.

It's not so unusual to run out of money half way through the month, since the welfare rates are about half of what it takes to be at the poverty line. There's no reason why the worker could not approve a food voucher, knowing that you would have no money until the following Monday.

By the way, running out of money is not reason enough to assess someone as unable to care for her child. It would be good if the new Human Rights Act had a clause stating that no child can be apprehended simply because their parents lacked money. The purpose of welfare is to prevent poverty neglect and suffering; giving you a food voucher certainly fits within that definition.

You can appeal the poor treatment you received. Get an advocate. Check out the numbers at the end of this newspaper or call ELP to find an advocate in your area.

~ FLAWline



THE LAW  
FOUNDATION  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Law Foundation of British Columbia funds the FLAWline section of The Long Haul.

We would like to make Victories & Problems a regular feature in *The Long Haul* and we need your letters to do this. Share your victories with our 5000 readers or ask advice from an advocate.

Write to: **Victories & Problems**  
c/o Joanne Shaw  
#211, 456 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3



# FLAWLINE

## FRONT LINE ADVOCACY WORKERS

### Save our Appeal System

~ by Joanne Shaw

**The Ministry of Social Services hired a consultant to report on the welfare appeal system. The consultant, Marylee Stephenson attended the FLAW meeting April 5th to hear from several advocates. She is hired to report to MSS about all sides.**

According to Pam Morrison, Programs Director, Ministry of Social Services, it was the Minister, Joy MacPhail who initiated the review. This was apparently based on concerns from the general public, many that came from the round table.

Ms. Morrison assured us that the review process has nothing to do with the Ministry losing appeals. She said that the concerns had nothing to do with who won past appeals, but were

related to the process, such as problems getting nominees.

The strengths and weaknesses will be weighed and then a comparison to other systems will be made. BC has the most informal welfare appeal system in Canada.

Dr. Stephenson's report will go to the Minister or MSS executive staff early May. If the report does recommend a change to the appeal system, input would again be sought before any changes would happen.

Many FLAW members expressed hope that the appeal system would remain intact. (See comments on this page)

You can still give your input around the welfare appeal process, but DO IT QUICK. It can be an informal fax or letter.

**Marylee Stephenson  
#2, 1726 Commercial Drive  
Vancouver, BC  
V5N 4A3**

**Phone: (604) 253-3554  
Fax: (604) 253-9533**

□□□

### New welfare regulations are appealable

**Joy MacPhail's changes to the welfare policy have finally shown up in the regulations. Single parents with their youngest child 12 years old, and affected by being forced to seek employment, can appeal. For that matter, any client affected by any of the changes has the right to appeal.**

#### Lost or Stolen Cash or Endorsed Cheques

If there have been previous requests for assistance as a result of lost or stolen cash or an endorsed cheque, funds must be administered.

#### Security Deposits

The payment of a security deposit must be accompanied by an "Assignment of Security Deposit" form which allows MSS to receive the client's security deposit when the client moves out in the future.

#### Proof of Seeking Employment

An employable person, other than a single parent, shall submit proof that he is actively seeking employment.

#### Eligibility Requirements for Single Parents

Single parents did not have to seek employment, but now do when their youngest child turns 12 years of age. Unless the client has a child with a physical or mental condition that requires the parent to be at home.

Talk to your FAW if you need child care, training, work clothes, an answering machine, etc.

#### Exempt Income

Two new items are NOT considered as income when determining if someone is eligible for GAIN.

1. Funds received as a BC sales tax credit.
2. Payments by the Ministry of Health to individuals infected with HIV from blood or blood products, or to surviving spouses or their dependent children. □□□

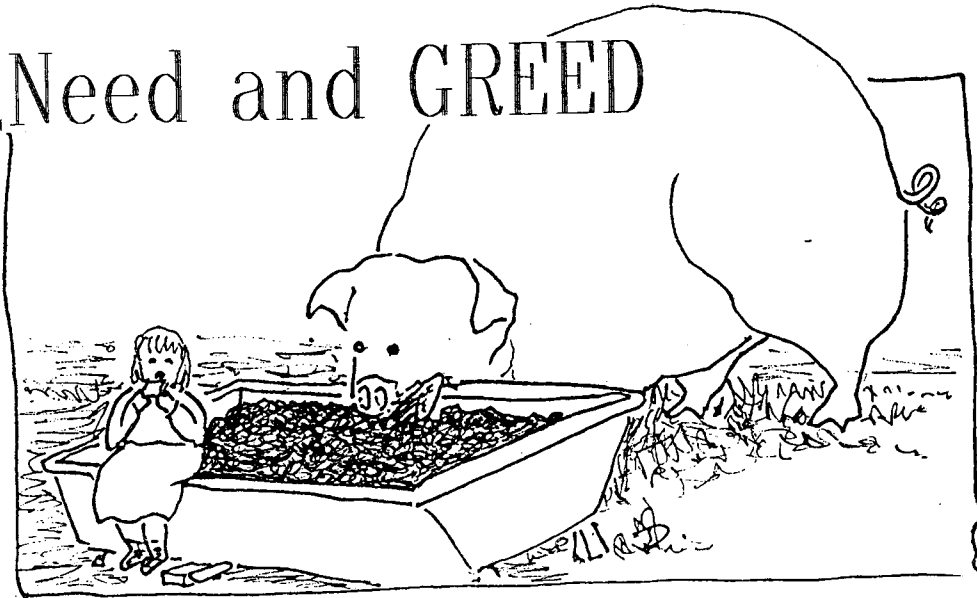
#### Some of the comments from FLAW members about the appeal process were:

- It's a good appeal process.
- It's good that its not a legalistic appeal process.
- Misinformation is often given to clients by some front line MSS staff.
- It is independent and non-legalistic which is good as it allows easier access.
- Problems occur finding nominees.
- There is discrepancy between rural and urban areas.
- Access to an advocate can be a problem.
- Some FAWs will help and direct clients to advocacy groups.
- Leaving information about advocacy groups in welfare offices is sometimes not allowed.
- Some clients feel intimidated in attempting to appeal. Others do not know about the appeal process.
- MSS continuously denies clients things that they should not deny. Unless the client appeals, MSS gets away with it.
- The appeal form is backwards. The reason for being denied should be written so you know what to appeal.
- The appeal process is cheap for the ministry.
- Poverty rates are 50% below the poverty line. People need additional stuff, yet badly needed items are refused. Increasing rates to the poverty line would eliminate many appeals.
- The law can override policy during appeal

The Law Foundation of British Columbia funds the FLAWline section of The Long Haul.

**THE LAW FOUNDATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

# Need and GREED



## Examples of corporations paying no corporate tax

Corporation	Year	Pre-tax profit	Income tax paid	Credit
Argus Corp	1991	\$27,525,748	0	0
Chevron Canada	1991	\$108,182,000	0	\$2,752,000
Gaz Metropolitan	1992	\$111,043,000	0	0
GW Utilities	1992	\$95,000,000	0	\$10,000,000
Royal Bank	1992	\$63,000,000	0	\$65,000,000

## Examples of corporations owing \$100,000,000 or more in deferred taxes

Source: *Globe and Mail* report on business Jan. 25, 1994

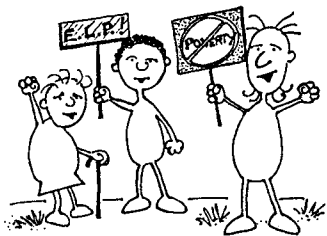
Corporation	Amount deferred
Alcan Aluminium	US \$ 955,000,000
BCE Inc.	\$2,377,000,000
Bell Canada	\$1,898,700,000
Canadian Pacific Enterprises	\$1,092,100,000
Canadian Pacific	\$1,930,600,000
Chrysler Canada	\$ 620,600,000
Cominco	\$ 244,196,000
General Motors Canada	\$ 621,154,000 (1991)

OK. OK. We'll stop listing them. If you would like a copy of the 4 page list of corporations owing over \$100,000,000 in deferred taxes, call the ELP office at 879-1209. The total in deferred taxes on this 4 page list is about \$29 billion 192 million dollars. Think what a difference this would make to the deficit if it were paid. Imagine how much money we could have for social programs if corporations even paid 5% interest on their deferred taxes! Five percent interest on these deferred taxes would amount to about a billion and a half dollars a year. Imagine what would happen if you deferred **your** taxes!

## How poor is poor?

The poverty line is untold riches to most people living in poverty. That's because most poor people in Canada live far below the poverty line of about \$15,000 a year for a single person in a city.

According to the *Globe and Mail*, the average poor family in 1991 brought in \$7400 less than the poverty line. Over a quarter million families were more than \$10,000 below the poverty line. About 200,000 families were between \$5000 and \$10,000 below the poverty line. □□□



## How to get *The Long Haul*

Would you like to get *The Long Haul* every month? If so, send your name and address to ELP, #211 456 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B. C. V5Y 1R3. *The Long Haul* is free for low income people. If you can afford to send a donation, that would be great. When you are finished with your copy, pass it on to a friend or take it to your local library. If you want to distribute copies of *The Long Haul* in your community, call ELP at 879-1209. We can send you a bundle of them on the bus.

(continued from page 4

at the College. She told us about a performance the following evening of the Kelly Lake children's dance group at the children's art show. They were such a hit!

We talked to the paralegal worker and the lawyer from Dawson Creek Legal Services. They are doing lots of GAIN appeals.

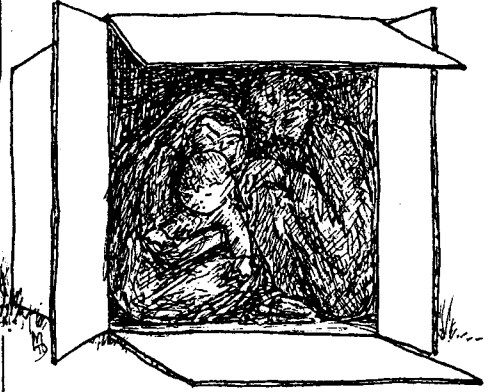
We met with Linda Weeber from Branching Out. They're getting 70 calls a day for their 3 advocates. Six new fraud inspectors are in the area.

"They say there are no homeless people here, but we had lots of people living in the street in boxes," said Linda. "The police round them up and they go into detention at 2 or 3 in the morning. We have street kids, little kids and adults. The scary part for a lot of people is to put political pressure on and talk about poverty issues. Everyone knows everyone." Linda is working on another project to develop a strong child advocacy group.

Rose and I met with 12 people from the Native Learning Centre. A man talked about going back to the bush and trying to make it hunting and fishing and trapping because the system wasn't working for him. One woman talked about having to start a business because there were no other options for making a living. No jobs after training was a big issue with everyone.

In Kelly Lake we showed the film again and started a good discussion about poverty. We met Sheila Letendre, the worker hired to organize and cook the school lunches. While we had been in Prince George, Dennis Campbell from Kelly Lake told people at the College meeting how ELP had helped the people there lobby for changes to improve their community. One of the changes they got was the lunch program. The lunch that Sheila made was delicious and it was fun to see and (and eat) the results of ELP's work lobbying for the provincial lunch program.

In Prince George Marilyn Dale organized a public meeting. People said that there were lots of men 18 to 30 years old needing



advocacy and out of work. "Is there work here," we asked? "No work, there really is no work here." We also met Vicky Hartley and Deb Stuart who are working on an anti-poverty action group in Quesnel.

The people we met on the trip generally seemed overwhelmed by the poverty in their own lives. They were going back to school, hoping that training would help them out a bit. Advocates are overwhelmed by the number of cases they have to deal with to get people their rights. People have a good grasp of what's happening in their own lives and communities. Rose and I came with a picture of what is happening at the federal and provincial level. We could share information so people don't feel so isolated. Lots of people wanted to have more connection to ELP and signed up to get *The Long Haul*. □□□

## This month's thanks

Thanks to all the people and groups who helped End Legislated Poverty out in April. Here are some of them:

Thanks to Harold David, the Teaching Support Staff Union, Hospital Employees Union Royal Arch Local and Olive Johnson for donations. Thanks to Joan Holloway, Dave Ross, Dave Jaffe, Maureen Davis, and William Kay.

Thanks to Terrie Hendrickson, Paul Leighton, Trish Hanna, Tekla Hendrickson, Diane LeClaire, Geoff Meggs and the old Pacific Tribune, and Lynne Melcombe for editing the ELP columns.

Thanks to all the volunteers on the Island: Cindy McLaren, Danielle Moon, Richard Nicholson, Donald Twa, Ivan Livingstone, Dorothy Livingstone, The Social Responsibility Committee of the Unitarian Church, Grace McDonald, Alex Holmes, Tim Russell.

## NPA council says "no" to people with disabilities

The human rights of people with disabilities to use Crab Park in Vancouver have been wiped out by Vancouver's Non Partisan Association (NPA). The NPA has a majority on city council.

The B. C. Coalition of People with Disabilities says that in its letter to community groups. The BCCPD wants everyone to help them make city council change its mind. They want an overpass at Columbia Street so that people with disabilities can get to Crab Park.

On March 17, Vancouver council rejected the overpass by one vote. Area residents and people with disabilities had been fighting for it for over 7 and a half years. Crab Park is a beautiful waterfront park in the lowest income neighbourhood in Vancouver. Area residents fought for the park for years. They squatted there in tents to

preserve the space for local residents.

Finally the park was developed. Only one problem remained. To get to the park, people have to go over a steep overpass. The overpass is too steep for wheelchairs to go up and dangerous for them to go down.

Human Rights activist Joan Meister filed a human rights complaint about the overpass. In 1989 the Commission ruled that the overpass did not provide acceptable access. It ordered the Port of Vancouver to solve the problem. City staff from the Engineering and Planning departments supported the new overpass.

**Action:** To support people with disabilities who want to use Crab Park, write to Mayor Philip Owen and Council, City Council, 453 W. 12th, Vancouver, B. C. V5Y 1V4.



*The Mad Chopper strikes again*

## B. C. government raises costs for medicine

Who says we have universal medicare in Canada? These changes for Pharmacare and the Medical Services Plan went into effect on April 1st:

### Pharmacare

The Universal or Family Plan

- The deductible for Universal Pharmacare increases to \$600.
- Pharmacare will now reimburse 70% of the eligible cost after the deductible is reached
- Persons paying a subsidized MSP premium qualify for the 100% reimbursement after the deductible is reached

The Plan for Seniors

- Seniors will now be required to pay 100% of the dispensing fee up to a maximum of \$200 per calendar year.

Low Cost Alternative Drug Program

- Pharmacare will now cover only low cost alternative drugs where an alternative exists.

MSP patient visit charge

- The Medical Services Plan continues to provide coverage, with an annual

limit, for the services of supplementary benefit practitioners, including chiropractors, naturopaths, physiotherapists, massage therapists, and podiatrists. However, the patient visit charge increases from \$5 to \$7.50.

- Persons paying a subsidized MSP premium remain exempt from the patient visit charge. □□□

## UI cuts taking effect

On April 5 most people on unemployment insurance began receiving lower benefits because of changes in the federal budget.

In addition, people won't be able to collect UI for as many weeks. The exact number of weeks varies with where you live and what the unemployment rate is there.

On July 3 other changes will happen. People will have to work at least 12 weeks to get UI, instead of 10. Also benefits will be cut to 55% of earnings. It used to be 57% for most people. However, if you support a family, you will get 60% of your earnings in weekly UI payments. □□□

## People on welfare need good service

The Minister of Social Services has an Advisory Council. The Council is supposed to make recommendations about changing welfare. They have just put out their first report. It is called, *The First Step*. The report lists these as some of the qualities of good service in a Ministry of Social Services office:

- ☞ promoting education of Ministry staff on poverty issues
- ☞ equalizing the power balance as much as possible
- ☞ making decisions on the basis of need, not budgets
- ☞ respecting the dignity of people on welfare and their culture
- ☞ recognizing the client's right to self determination and choice
- ☞ fairness
- ☞ avoiding stereotyping
- ☞ giving full explanation of decisions
- ☞ admitting mistakes and lack of knowledge
- ☞ displaying qualities of polite, personal, sincere and caring service.

# ELP HELPS - information for low income people

## Free Law Classes in Vancouver

These free law classes are given by the People's Law School. Space is limited. Register early. Classes will only go ahead with 10 or more people. Register by phoning the number in brackets.

**Alternatives to Court.** This class explains the mediation process and how it can be used by couples separating or divorcing, Small Claims Court,

or business conflicts. Kensington Centre (327-9401) Wed. May 25, 7:30 to 9:30.

**Co-operative Housing.** How are co-ops formed, what is the CMHC program? Membership qualifications, financing and the responsibilities of members. Champlain School (257-8315). Monday, May 30 7:00 to 9:00.

**Custody and Access.** Champlain School (257-8315) Wed. May 11, 7:00 to 9:00. Mon. May 30, 7:30 to 9:30.

**Family Violence Issues.** Champlain School (257-8315) Mon. May 9, 7:00 to 9:00.

**Landlord Tenant Law.** Barclay Manor (689-0571) Mon. May 16. 7:30 to 9:30.

**Unemployment Insurance.** Sunset Centre (325-1202) Tues. May 17. 7:30 to 9:30.

**Welfare Rights and GAIN.** Sunset Centre (325-1202) Tues. June 21 7:00 to 9:00.

## Get help with welfare problems from these groups

These groups have advocates who will help you with legal and other problems. The advocates are people who will stick up for you. They are not lawyers, but they have experience getting people their rights.

### In the Lower Mainland

**Downtown Eastside Residents Association.** 9 E. Hastings, Vancouver. Phone 682-0931. Open Monday through Friday.

**First United Church.** 320 E. Hastings. Come on Monday through Friday, 9 to 11 am.

**B. C. Coalition of People with Disabilities.** #204 456 W. Broadway, Vancouver. Phone 872-1278. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

**Law Students Legal Advice Program.** For help with a wide variety of legal problems. Locations throughout the Lower Mainland. Call 822-5791.

**Tenant's Rights Coalition Hotline.** Phone 255-0546.

**Legal Services Society.** 191 Alexander St., Vancouver. Open 9 to 3:30 weekdays

except Wednesday. Open 12:30 to 3:30 on Wednesday. For help with welfare, serious criminal problems or urgent family problems related to the law.

**Federated Anti-Poverty Groups of BC.** Phone 533-4818 for information and referral.

**Battered Women's Support Services.** Crisis line is 687-1867. Support groups, legal advocacy, counseling.

**Langley Legal Assistance Centre.** Phone 530-5811. Appointments preferred. Drop-ins welcome. Welfare, landlord-tenant, small claims, wills, etc. #204 20189 56th Ave., Langley.

**United Native Nations.** Phone 688-1821. Appointments preferred. Help Aboriginal People apply for status, get documents, medical services. Help with welfare, child apprehension, etc.

**Welfare and Handicapped Persons Rights.** Welfare, UI, CPP, etc. Call 852-3744 for appointment or drop in at #61 2800 Allwood St., Clearbrook.

**Downtown Granville Tenants' Association.** Tenant, CPP, UI, welfare

rights. Drop in at 1067 Granville, Vancouver. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

### Outside the Lower Mainland

**Victoria:** Together Against Poverty. Phone 361-3521. Appointments preferred. Help with welfare, UI, tenant problems. Public education and organizing on poverty issues.

**Terrace:** Terrace Anti-Poverty Group. drop in to Room 200, 4721 Lazelle Ave. Welfare, UI, tenant, etc.

**Pt. Alberni:** Pt. Alberni Women's Resource Society. Call 724-7111. Prefer appointments. Help with family court, women and children's counseling, transition house.

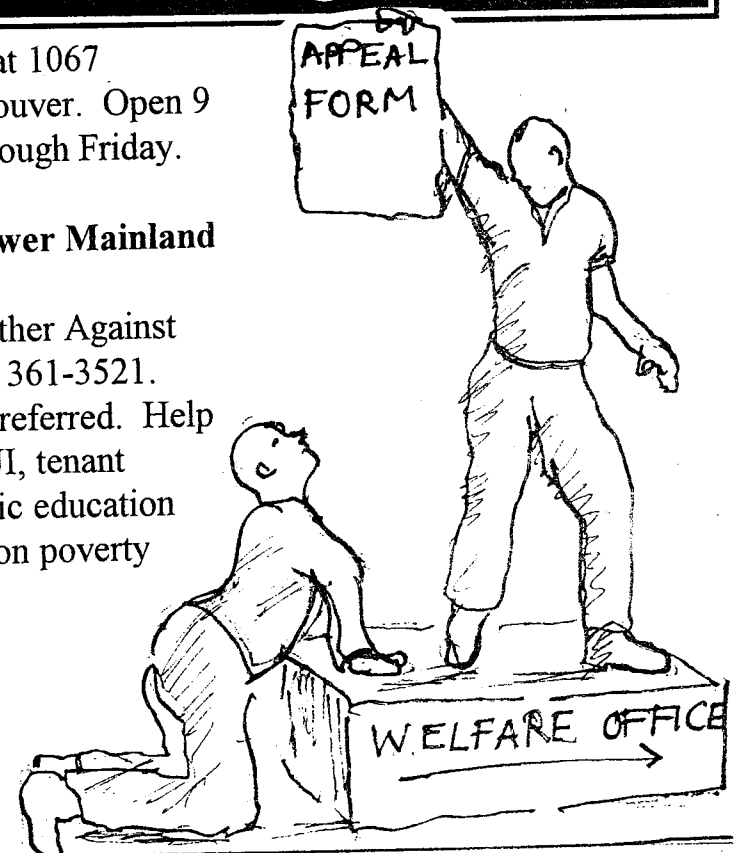
**Nelson:** The Advocacy Centre. Phone 352-5777. Prefer appointments. Open Monday through Thursday 9 to 4 at #4 560 Baker St., Nelson. Welfare, handicapped, custody and access, separation and divorce, child apprehension,

sexual abuse, wife assault, etc.

**Prince George:** Active Support Against Poverty. Phone 562-6112. Welfare, resumes, filling out forms. Tenant drop in clinic. Free clothing.

**Tenant's Coalition Hotline:** 1-800-665-1185.

**B. C. Coalition of People with Disabilities Hotline:** 1-800-663-1278.



**DON'T KNEEL: APPEAL!**

If your group would like to be listed in this section, call ELP at 879-1209.