

# THE LONG HAUL

Speaking out about Poverty

## Stop promoting hate

End Legislated Poverty will hold a demonstration outside CKVU TV on June 23 at 2 pm. CKVU, at 180 W. 2nd in Vancouver, has aired TV programs that "expose people on welfare to hatred and contempt." This would be illegal according to B. C.'s Human Rights Act if "social condition" were in the Act, along with race, colour, sex, etc.

ELP wants to draw attention to the review of the BC Human Rights Act by Bill Black. Black will be hearing submissions on changes to the Act in Vancouver on June 28.

ELP wants it to be illegal to promote hatred against people on welfare because of their 'social condition'. We also want changes to the Act so that landlords and employers can't discriminate against people on welfare.

One other request is that children shouldn't be apprehended from their parents just because the parents are living in poverty. Call Bill Black at 822-9021 to find out more about the Human Rights Review. □□□

## Nelson Centre gets its money

By Kandace Kerr

We won! We won! We won!  
Last month we reported that the Ministry of Social Services had cut funding for the Advocacy Centre in Nelson by \$22,000. We organized letter writing and phone campaigns, got petitions going, and faxed offices of our local MSS, the regional MSS, and our MLA's.

We were overwhelmed by the support we received. So was MSS, we assume, because our

funding to the end of June has been reinstated, and negotiations are underway for another year-long contract. The Minister, Joy MacPhail, will meet with us when she visits Nelson in late June.

Our NDP MLA's Corky Evans and Ed Controy, played a big part in getting our funding back. So did the clients who wrote letters of support and signed petitions, the municipal councils and community organizations and good folks who wrote letters and phoned the offices and buttonholed politicians and asked questions and demanded action. Thank you. □□□

## Low income people work for better human rights



About 35 people attended an ELP meeting on human rights at the Carnegie Centre in Vancouver on June 4. They talked about ways they are discriminated against as low income people, and filled out forms showing what changes they would like in the Human Rights Act.

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## Consultation or manipulation?

A leaked federal government document says that the government plans to use public relations techniques to get the public to accept its decisions on the cheap labour strategy (alias social policy reform). Understanding the methods the government may use to influence our opinions might help us avoid being manipulated, and set our own agenda. Here are some of the things the leaked report says:

- ☛ "We propose to approach the

Canadian Banker's Association to allow distribution of the 'workbook' throughout all Canadian bank branches and trust companies...this initiative will provide significant third party credibility to the reform process."

- ☛ "Close watch needs to be kept on fallout from Alberta Budget. What works there will be used in SSR (Social Security Reform) as well."

- ☛ "Consensus is unlikely--need to get public to accept final decision. Consultation will...prepare Canadians for trade-offs; build understanding that choices will be necessary."
- ☛ "Focus test core message language" and Action Plan and options. (*Editor's note: with focus testing, groups of ordinary citizens are paid to give their opinions and feelings about issues.*)

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## Come to ELP events in the Lower Mainland

•  
A demonstration at CKVU  
TV  
against the promotion of  
hatred  
of people on welfare  
Thursday, June 23 at 2  
p.m.

180 W. 2 Ave. Vancouver -

•  
Public Meeting - The  
Future of Social Programs  
in Canada,  
Thursday, June 30  
from 11a.m. to 1 pm  
Carnegie Centre, Hastings  
and Main in Vancouver.  
Lunch will be provided.

•  
New anti poverty/support  
group  
in the Renfrew  
Collingwood area of  
Vancouver  
Saturday, July 9 from  
11a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Renfrew Park Community  
Centre - 2929 E 22.  
Lunch will be provided.

•  
Busfare provided at all ELP  
events

# Those seductive words

## Why we should say "cheap labour strategy" not "social policy review"

By Jean Swanson

When *The Globe and Mail* came out with its articles on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's job creation strategy, I realized we've (me, at least) been duped again. The OECD represents 25 of the richest countries in the world including Canada. Their idea of how to create jobs is to keep minimum wage low and to slash social programs!

Furthermore, Lloyd Axworthy, our Minister of Human Resources, has already slashed programs, has done nothing about low minimum wages, and says that Canada is already following OECD type policies.

The OECD and employers' groups say that these measures will make workers more flexible. Their flexibility is our desperation. These policies will do nothing but force people to work for lower wages. Canada and the European countries would end up like the U.S. where unemployment is relatively low, but poverty, and infant mortality rates are the highest in industrial world.

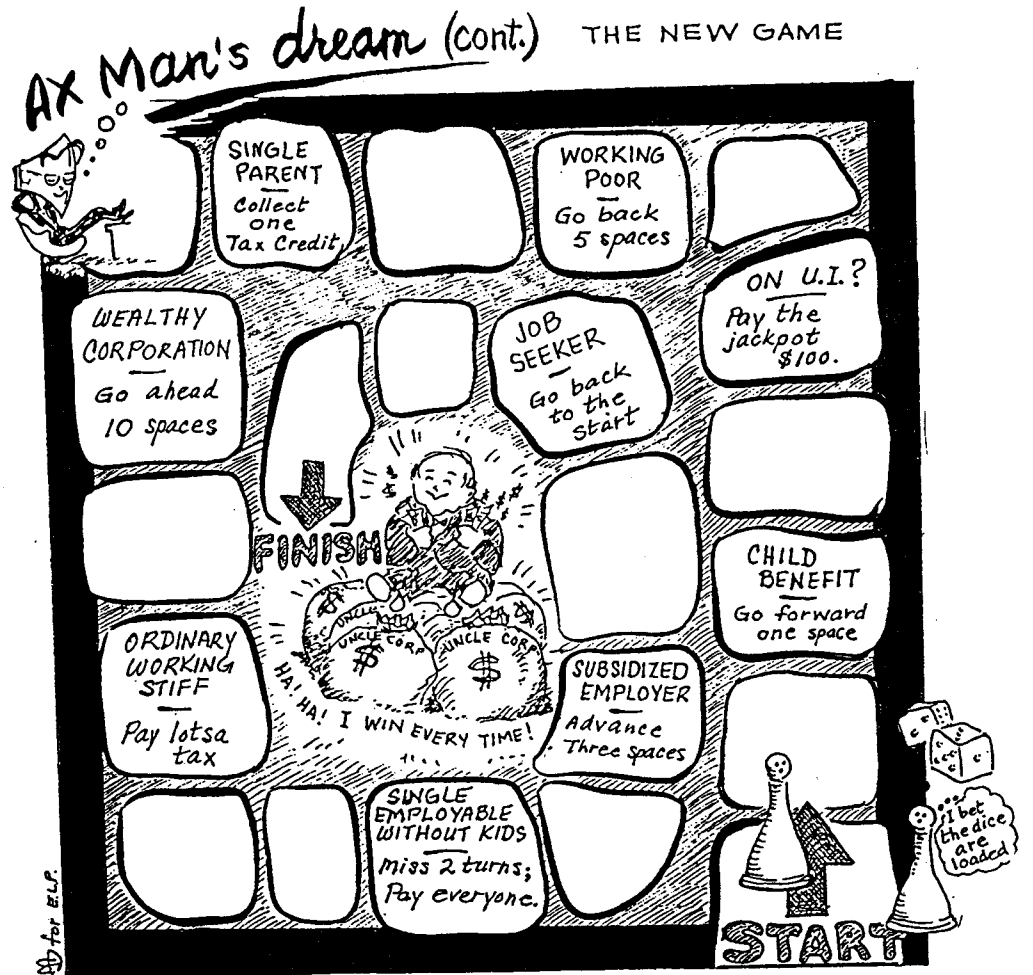
The articles woke me up to the real meaning of Axworthy's "social policy review." Those words! They take the urgency out of the debate. They make programs that our lives depend on seem like an academic exercise. They imply that an objective process is taking place. Those seductive words! They take the human beings out of the debate--the minimum wage worker, beating her brains or muscles out on a boring job (that *doesn't* promote self esteem) and still living \$6000 a year below the poverty line--the single parents wanting decent lives for their children, exhausted by work at minimum wage jobs--the millions of people, not just in Canada, but in Europe and the States who are humiliated with twisted rhetoric like "social benefits sap the motivation to find new work" when there are no jobs to find.

The OECD story shows that Axworthy's review is just one little part of a 25 country strategy to bring in policies that will promote cheap labour and more poverty in the richer countries. It's part of the competitive impoverishment that we talked about in the free

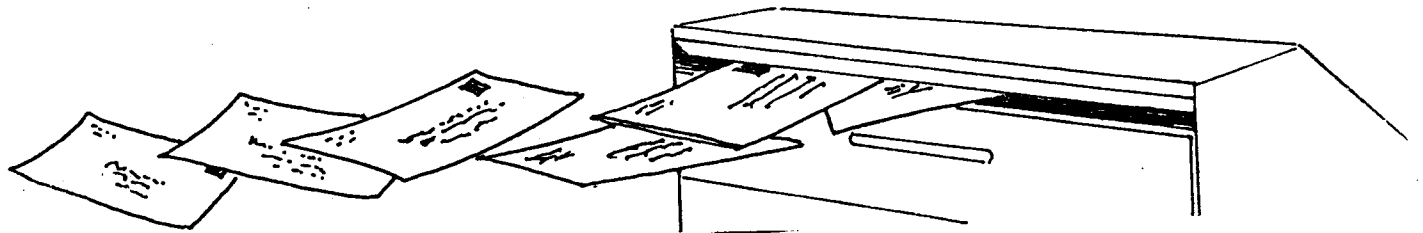
trade debate.

Let's start our struggle to preserve and improve living standards by naming what we're up

against. It's not "social policy reform". It's a cheap labour strategy. We can be the ones who tell the truth. Pass it on.



Dear ELP,



### Victoria Unitarian Church goes national

In March *The Long Haul* you read (we hope) that the Social Responsibility Committee of the Victoria Unitarian Church was moving to support the positions of End Legislated Poverty and the National Action Committee on the status of women against the wholesale and hasty reform of our social safety system. Since then this committee has drafted a lengthy brief which was presented at the national Canadian Unitarian Council in Edmonton on May 20th.

The brief was based on Canadian and Unitarian values of respect for human dignity and social responsibility, combined with progressive and compassionate ideas about our economy. It concludes that there are better ways to improve our social structure than those proposed by the federal government. These

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better ways take into account that the people who have benefited from our present financial mess should now be cleaning it up. It also shows that the poor, unemployed and single mothers on social assistance have not created huge deficits and incredible tax exemptions for the rich and the corporations. We want everybody to know this. We are glad that the Unitarian churches and their social responsibility committees are one of many Canadian organizations who in the next few months will stand with us in the building of a tight network of solidarity and social justice to fight for a decent and just society.

Joop Schuyff, Victoria

### Missing Gary

Gary Colley was and always will live in our hearts and minds as a man who never gave up a challenge, helping anyone and everyone no matter who they were. He worked very very hard

at the single mothers' food bank, making sure he didn't leave out a single person whom he thought needed his help.

Gary, I know you are here with us and your work will carry on forever.

I always called Gary "your handsomeness #1" and Robin (Loxton) "your handsomeness #2. Gary, you may not be here in body, but your work and spirit will be with us all forever. God bless you, your handsomeness.

Gael Marriot, Pitt Meadows

### German anti-poverty activists face same issues Canadians do

Thank you very much for your friendly letter with all the very interesting information about ELP's views on new developments in official social and labour market policies in Canada. I think we have a lot in common. There is

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## SFU janitors shafted

By TJ Baker

Simon Fraser University, which touts itself as "the summit of higher learning," has shown itself to be stuck in the gutter when it comes to labour relations.

For ten years SFU has hired Empire Maintenance to supply janitorial service. This year, the University chose not to renew Empire's contract and hired Marriott Corporation in its place. As a result, 60 unionized Empire employees making an average of \$10 an hour were fired and replaced with non-unionized Marriott staff making roughly \$7 an hour. This move will save SFU \$ 300,000.

On May 3rd and 4th former Empire employees set up a picket

line on the road leading to the University. This picket was respected by most of SFU's unionized staff and construction projects were halted. While some students joined their janitors on the picket line, most were indifferent towards the people who have picked up after them, some for as long as 17 years.

Those who supported the janitors were skeptical of claims by the University that they had no alternative to the cost-cutting measures, especially in the face of reports that the University's vice president was recently awarded an early retirement package worth \$275,000.

One fired janitor was told by Marriott that she should "go to University" to upgrade her skills. She is 57 years old. □□□

## Coquitlam women work for rights

By Linda Marcotte

The women in the Tri-Cities Anti Poverty Coalition are working really hard. They got over 50 questionnaires about human rights filled out by people at welfare offices in their area. They'll be using the information to make a presentation to the Human Rights Act review. The group applied for funding for two projects and got over \$2000 this week. The women hope to start a community garden for the summer and to continue their training as advocates for people in the Tri Cities area. Congratulations and keep up the excellent work Sally, Tracy, Jennifer, Charlene, Joanne and everyone else in the group. Thanks for your energy, courage and commitment to making things better for low income people. □□□

## End discrimination against poor

People with a criminal records shouldn't discriminated against in housing, employment and when applying for assistance. Children and adults should not be discriminated against because of poverty."

Those were some of the suggestions made by the 35 people who came to ELP's public meeting about the B.C. Human Rights Act Review at Carnegie Centre on June 4th.

Peter Beaudin, a worker with the BC Human Rights Coalition spoke about how the Act works now and answered questions about the review.

People told their stories about the lack of protection against gross discrimination and violation of their rights. Then they filled out ELP's questionnaires about what human rights they needed. □□□



## Casino plan is selling illusions

By Muggs Sigurgeirson,  
President, Carnegie Community  
Centre Association

Las Vegas is in the business of selling illusions. That's what people go to Vegas for, and that's how the casinos make their money.

But now the corporate dream-spinners are coming right to B. C. to peddle the biggest illusion of all--that a billion dollar gambling palace on the Vancouver waterfront would be a boon to the economy and a good thing for the people of B. C.

Of course there would be a few casualties along the way, like the residents of Canada's poorest urban neighbourhood, the Downtown Eastside. Remember EXPO '86, with a thousand evictions of low income people to make way for rich tourists? Well, that was just a six month fair. This casino would be year round, round-the-clock and permanent.

Not only would it mean the destruction of the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood, but it would put Vancouver more in the hands of the high-rollers, making life an even bigger gamble for

people on low and fixed incomes across the city.

And it's not just a Vancouver issue: the casino would also hurt small communities around the province, siphoning off tourist business (again, just like EXPO), depressing wages and living conditions.

We also need to ask whether needed public services should be financed out of such a socially-destructive and unstable source of revenue as gambling.

Ironically, the biggest push for the casino is a sector of the trade union movement which is focused on construction jobs. But the opposition is too widespread and growing that there's a good chance the casino will be defeated if we keep the pressure on.

The provincial government is now conducting a review of gambling regulations, so a good way to help is to write to Premier Mike Harcourt (c/o the Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B. C. V8V 1X4) or contact your local MLA and tell them to tell the Vegas boys to peddle their dreams somewhere else. □□□

## "Poverty Game" reveals interesting behavior

By Susan Turansky

"The Poverty Game" Collective is a small group of people who play a board game set up similarly to monopoly. The players are all single mothers on welfare and they must make it around the board every month they are on welfare. They have a few windfalls and many obstacles.

Last month I played a poverty game with counselors from the Vancouver School Board. I was one the people who got to hand

out the money and take payments for groceries, hydro, rent and other expenses that kept cropping up throughout the month.

Some of the participants very quickly got extremely frustrated and angry. They didn't like us very much. Some tried to cover their uncomfortable feelings with jokes. Some tried to put off paying bills and one tried to talk me into letting him not pay a few dollars by saying he didn't have the money. When I refused, he came up with the money.

No one reported bingo earnings or small amounts received from a relative or boyfriend, even when they were told they could be charged with fraud if they did not report all they money they received. At the end of the game, I discovered that some people had "stolen" money from other participants and one had even tried "dealing drugs" but couldn't find anyone with enough money to buy any.

During the debriefing, the people I talked to readily admitted that all

they had had was a little taste of poverty and that was all they wanted. One person talked about a friend who lived on \$1900 a month. I didn't say that I had been under the impression that was not too bad an amount to have every month. □□□

# Organizing around the province

## Working at ELP-persistence and resistance

By Linda Marcotte, ELP organizer

Writing is good for me for a lot of reasons. Today I'm thinking - writing lets me think about the issue I'm writing about, which is my ELP work. The pace as an organizer here is very fast and hectic. The phones are constantly ringing with calls for help, information, support and criticism. People drop in and want to learn how to organize, volunteer or consult with us. I try to listen and think about each person as if she/he were me (sometimes I even succeed). There are always two conflicting thoughts as an undertone to this activity. I'm lifted up by our drive and passion for justice for our kids and other low income people, and I'm

overwhelmed by the enormity of the change we're asking for. Do the End the Arms Race workers feel the same about their job description, I wonder? Ending poverty means being single minded and dedicated to stopping classism, the ugly thoughts in your head as well as the ugly actions out in the world. It means

educating people, lobbying, and insisting that what we are asking for is not only right, but possible. My inspiration comes from our lives of persistence, strong will, creativity and caring for each other. If you have worked or talked with me, thank you. I feel like I keep growing because of you. □□□

### Sunshine Coast

## Learning from mistakes

By Anne Miles

We are in the middle of doing a couple of welfare advocacy cases, one of which will be going to tribunal and one of which will, hopefully, be decided outside of tribunal. We got bested in the last tribunal we did and are now poring over every bit of material we have in the office on the correct way to conduct tribunals. We strongly advise other advocates not to go into a tribunal without knowing all you can about the procedure. We were sorry, last time, that we didn't. It is true that an MSS tribunal is not a court of law and that it ought to work on the basis of common sense. Unfortunately, because it is not a court of law, the fact that normal rules of evidence don't apply can work against the client.

All we can say from our last experience is "go into it with your eyes open and make very, very sure that the chairperson is, in fact, neutral" We hope to tell the story of our disastrous tribunal sometime in *The Long Haul*, but right now we are working on ways to rectify at least part of the damage done. We've also been working on the landlord-tenant problem from hell.

We are trying to get together a

video for the social services review project. People's main fear is that they may be identified, even if their names are not used. A use for those left-overt Harcourt masks?

Donna (Thomas) and I are feeling somewhat discouraged and burnt-out but at least one of the people we've done recent advocacy for is interested in being an advocate herself, plus one of our former volunteers is talking about getting involved again, so there is little danger of us closing at the moment.

The school where Donna works as a custodian is the only one in our district with a school lunch program and Donna, as part of their Health and Safety Committee, will be distributing ELP's lunch program feedback forms to parents there. □□□



## Spanish speaking group to tackle policy changes

By Jean Swanson

On June 7th I attended a fascinating workshop with the Society of Spanish Speaking Women in Vancouver. Irene Policzer, one of their members, had invited me to come and talk about social policy reform.

The women were from Mexico to Argentina and Chile. They had been in Canada from one month to 20 years. Although most of them hadn't heard of the "social policy review" they had plenty of experience with welfare, UI and low wage jobs.

They want to work for policies that create good jobs, fair pay, good employment standards. They want to end discrimination against immigrants which they and their children experienced in every part of their lives. They thought that education on racism should be a requirement for all teachers and social workers, and people should have a little bit of power to influence the system. □□□

## Thanks to the ELP volunteers

On June 8 over 25 adults and kids came to the ELP volunteer appreciation dinner at the ELP Vancouver office. We ate a tasty and enormous dinner catered by the Philippine Women's Centre. There was a short meeting before we ate and some of the ideas that we came up with will be enacted throughout the summer. One popular plan was to have educational training sessions about the economy and our work. By the way, you can hire the Philippine Women's Centre to cater your "do" by calling 322-9852. □□□

## ELP's new organizer gets introduced to the Island

By Rose Brown

On May 24 & 25th I was in Victoria and Nanaimo. It was Pat Chauncey's last week of work with us at End Legislated Poverty. As the Victoria Office was closing, there was tons of work to do sorting through files and deciding what would come back to Vancouver. Two of Pat's wonderful volunteers Cindy

Barker and Donald Twa were doing a fabulous job helping with the clean-up.

I met Susan Noakes and Eileen Henry who work with Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS). ELP's Island office has been shared with TAPS. In July I will be doing a Corporate Agenda workshop with them and I am looking forward to it.

Pat and I met Robin Adair, a reporter with CHEK TV, while we were walking out to get lunch. He said he was sorry Pat was leaving

and that it had been a pleasure working with her. He also said that he had appreciated having an ELP contact in Victoria.

In Nanaimo Pat and I met with Karen Shillington, Mary Walsey and Janna Johnson who are members of the Association For Better Communities. We talked about the Social Security Review and ELP's submission and our video of people talking about what we want for a just Canada. Janna is working to get a Nanaimo contribution to this.

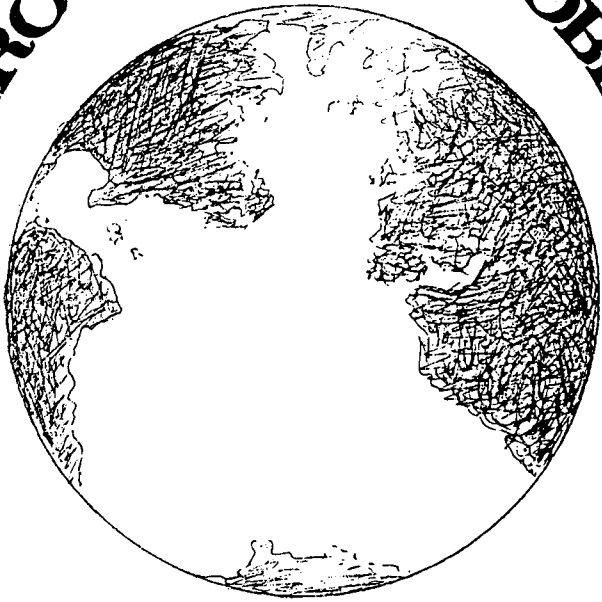
The Women's Centre in Nanaimo had a part time job posting for a Volunteer Co-ordinator and 75 women applied for this job. Yet one more piece of evidence of the job shortage.

To all the many people in Vancouver Island that I haven't contacted yet You'll be hearing from me! □□□



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AROUND THE GLOBE



Great Britain

## Poor dying younger

A study published in the British Medical Journal shows that life expectancy for poor people in Britain is getting worse for the first time in 50 years.

According to the study, poverty, not personal behavior, is the greatest risk to health. Death rates in some poor areas of Northern Britain are four times higher than in richer areas.

"If risks as great as these resulted from exposure to toxic materials, then offices would be closed and populations evacuated from contaminated areas," wrote Dr. Richard Wilkinson in an editorial in the Journal.

**"If risks as great as [the risks of poverty] resulted from exposure to toxic materials, then offices would be closed and populations evacuated from contaminated areas."**

**Dr. Richard Wilkinson**

The Journal also reported on a study of 6,191 British men. It showed that those who became unemployed or took early retirement were twice as likely to die during the following 5 and a half years as those who stayed working. □□□

## What's happening with welfare across Canada?

*At the National Anti-Poverty Organization's board meeting in Ottawa on May 14-17th, board members reported on what is happening with welfare in their provinces.*

### Ontario

Deborah O'Connor reported that "The biggest new problem ... is the mounting backlash against the poor. The backlash is led by the media, who are led by the corporate agenda, and aggravated by government leaders like Bob Rae and Jean Chretien who publicly trash the poor." A vigorous fax campaign, says O'Connor, led by legal clinics and taken up by anti-poverty groups prevented the province from actually cutting welfare rates.

Every welfare file in Ontario is "under review" for fraud. Anti-poverty advocates are enraged by a policy that requires school officials to fill out attendance and progress reports for children of people on welfare. If the form is not filled out or if a child has an attendance problem, the parent's benefits could be cut off.

### Alberta

Louise Rusinek reported on the De-Klein of Alberta. "Things are bad and quickly getting worse." Premier Ralph Klein is moving to privatize health and education and cut education payments. Alberta will soon have a two tiered health and education system, one for the rich and poorer service for the rest.

Klein has cut funding to people on social assistance including handicapped and seniors. Working people have had their wages cut

back or frozen and lost a lot of buying power.

### Quebec

From Claire Wallot: Unemployment has dropped from 12.8% (December, 1993) to 11.4%, not because jobs have been created, but because 50,000 people have stopped looking for a job out of despair. About 20,000 free meals are distributed across Montreal everyday primarily because housing costs are so high. Daycare workers have been going on strike to protest their working conditions.

From Francois Dumaine: People of all ages are told by welfare to get their parents to contribute to welfare unless they meet certain conditions. Formerly this only applied to people under 25 years of age. But there was a court case which found that the regulation discriminated on the basis of age. So the government simply made the regulation apply to people of all ages unless they meet certain conditions like having a university degree, having children, etc.

Quebec also has a job corp for people on welfare. Non profit organizations create a list of people on welfare who are available for work. They then try to find other employers who will hire them, and negotiate a wage. Usually, because the non profit group needs to make money on the deal, the person on welfare gets less than the employer pays.

### New Brunswick

Pamela Coates reported that people are being trained for no jobs. People over 50 years old are picking up cans, cleaning beaches,

and cutting brush. Women are being forced to name the father of their child in order to get welfare. Coates is afraid that the government is not "concerned about poor people at all and as a result more people will be living on the streets, children going hungry, more crime and stealing." Single employables only get \$257 a month. One Voice for All is an anti-poverty group that fasted in November to draw attention to welfare cuts.

### Manitoba

Laura Steiman reports that poverty is growing and programs are being cut. "For the first time in history welfare workers are urging even single parents with very small children to leave the kids and look for jobs for a starvation wage of \$5 an hour.... Politicians and social welfare authorities officially deny that such practices are policy--yet--but continue to launch trial balloons of hints and threats about policy changes that will force single moms back to work.... Welfare for single "employable" has been slashed by \$30 a month.... Pressure on people to carry out endless searches for non-existent jobs has never been greater."

### Yukon

Marnie Mitchell reports Willard Phelps, the Minister of Social Services publicly said he believes young girls get pregnant intentionally to receive more money from welfare. Since the NAPO meeting, the Yukon government has told single moms on welfare that they have to start looking for work when their youngest child is two (reduced

from six). The government also hired five welfare fraud inspectors.

### PEI

On May 18th the government of Prince Edward Island announced three cuts affecting people on welfare. Close to 40% of the rent allowance of single employable people will be cut; the GST credit will be deducted from welfare, and the amount of money available for transportation will be reduced.

Anti-poverty activists in PEI, led by NAPO board member Valerie LaPointe, are mounting a Canada-wide campaign to stop the cuts.

You can help. Send a letter to **Alan Buchanan, Minister for Social Services and Catherine Callbeck, Premier** Government of PEI P. O. Box 2000

Charlottetown, PEI, CIA 7N8.

### Saskatchewan

Bonnie Morton and Janice Wotherspoon reported that Bonnie has spent the last year fighting to end workfare and forced training programs that lead to disempowerment. The fraud squad has taken on a new identity, "verification worker." Housing is expensive and inadequate. Prostitution is thriving in Regina. □□□



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# Ending poverty is the real issue

Creating low wage, part time, temporary jobs won't help anyone

By Terrie Hendrickson

It amazes me that the issue of employment regardless of the quality of the employment, seems to be the focus of government and the media, while the issue of poverty is ignored.

Employment deals with information you can measure-- statistics, numbers, percentages, graphs, profits, budgets...Poverty, on the other hand, deals with people, quality of life, emotions, the big picture, social issues.

Improving employment numbers is easy if you don't have to think about the lives behind those numbers. Add the right wing economic focus of "competitive workplace" and "flexible workforce" and you end up with an international report by the OECD like the one reported on the front page of the Globe and Mail on June 6. It was called *OECD can't solve jobless puzzle.*

*Member countries urged to trim labour, social regulations.*

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, of which Canada is one of 25 member countries, spent two years and

probably hundreds of thousands of dollars, trying to figure out why joblessness has been rising in the industrial countries over the last 20 years, and what can be done to fix it. They appear to have no idea why. There was no talk of economic restructuring, downsizing, or free trade that helps corporations move easily between countries searching for the cheapest labour and lowest government standards.

**BUT...**

Amazingly enough, the OECD has 57 proposals to solve the problem they don't understand. At the top of the list is weakening labour and social regulations like high minimum wages and strict working hours, and trimming social benefits that "either burden the employers too heavily or are so generous that they sap the motivation to find work." Haven't we heard this before?

Lloyd Axworthy must be patting himself on the back, since he's right on track with the OECD. By proposing to slash social programs (excuse me, reform social policy) and remove the burden of UI payments from the employers, he's

half way there. I will bet my next UI cheque that his solutions for job creation will include weakening labour standards to create a "flexible workforce", meaning a workforce so desperate it will accept low paying, part-time jobs, that can compete with low wage labour in poorer countries.

The OECD "solutions" are simply a continuation of the corporate agenda that we've been



ELP volunteer and writer Terrie Hendrickson does some filing in the ELP office.

hearing from our own government, media and North American corporations. Their "solutions" simply move industrialized nations like Canada toward the "competitive impoverishment" of an economy based on a desperate workforce willing to take any job available in order to survive.

Ending poverty should be the issue. □□□

## Welfare and the minimum wage

By William Kay

If welfare pays too much, according to the conservatives, it creates a disincentive to work at low wage or "entry level" jobs. On the other hand, according to the social democrats, if welfare is too low it ceases to cover the bare necessities of the recipients leading to untold misery, crime and protest.

With this in mind, consider the following arithmetic. A person earning the minimum wage and working full time earns about \$11,000 per year on which they would pay about \$1,800 in income tax leaving them with "take-home" pay of \$9,200 per year (or about \$770 per month). From this one would have to subtract transportation costs, work clothing expenses and a host of other costs associated with the job itself which together would probably approach \$100 per month hence making the true economic gain of the job to the worker of approximately \$670 per month.

A single employable person on welfare earns \$535 per month but in reality, through crisis grants and occasional bus passes and the like, many people over the year, would have an average monthly benefit of closer to \$600. Add to this, the up to \$100 one is allowed to earn without benefit deduction, and a figure not unlike that of the minimum wage workers monthly income emerges.

Hence an argument for "welfare-as-work-disincentive" could be made. However this does not settle the issue for our provincial economic and social policy planners. The conservatives would argue for a reduction in welfare rates whereas the social democrats would view the same statistics as being a powerful argument for raising the minimum wage. □□□

## Book Review

### *The Prosperous few and the restless many*

By Sandy Cameron

*The Prosperous Few and the Restless Many* is the title of a small paperback book that was put together after three interviews with Noam Chomsky in late 1992 and early 1993. Chomsky was interviewed by David Barsamian, and the book was published by Odonian Press in 1993. It costs \$7.25, but you could ask your library to buy it if they don't have one already.

In plain English Chomsky gives his opinion on a wide range of concerns including the global economy, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), U. S. intervention in Somalia, racism, class, human nature and circumstances, fascism and religious fundamentalism, and hope for the restless many.

The new global economy, says Chomsky, depends on the ability of capital (money) to move around the world without restriction. Transnational corporations can export jobs to low wage parts of the world, and force working people to compete against each

other in a spiral of competitive impoverishment.

One consequence of this global economy is that it extends the Third World model of a small group that is extremely wealthy and a large group that is extremely poor to the industrial countries. We can see that two-tier society forming in Canada now.

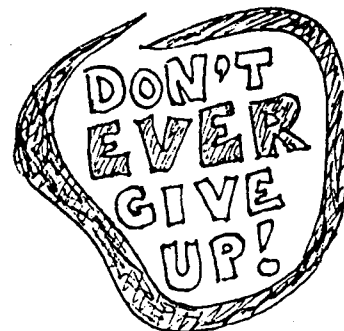
A second consequence is that national governments are losing the power to govern their own countries. New international institutions, basically answering to transnational corporations, like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank, along with trading structures like NAFTA and GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), are not accountable to the voters in democratic countries, and their decisions can override national legislation.

Chomsky points out that many people don't know that the above consequences are happening, and they don't even know that they don't know. They do have, however, an uneasy sense of losing control of their lives. Some become alienated from all institutions, and feel that nothing

works for them. Others turn to narrow, rigid, simplistic ideologies for answers.

Chomsky's not pessimistic, though. He says we have freedom of speech in North America, and we should use it. There's a constant battle between people who refuse to accept domination and injustice, and those who are trying to force people to accept them.

This book is useful because Noam Chomsky helps us cut through the political mush that smothers us. He also helps us sharpen our analysis and understand more clearly the destructive forces in the global economy that are killing us. □□□



# A minimum wage worker speaks out

*Governments all over the world are cutting social programs so people will have to take low wage jobs. Does anyone care what life is like with a low wage job?*

*The Long Haul interviewed Ian on June 12. Ian is in his early 20's. His name has been changed to protect his job.*

**Long Haul:** Where do you live?

**Ian:** I'm staying in a hotel room. I pay \$340 a month. Its very small for the money, kind of skid row type environment. Not the kind of place I like staying in at all.

**Long Haul:** Why are you staying there?

**Ian:** I have to stay there cause I don't make enough money. A one bedroom apartment costs about \$575 a month in Vancouver. I don't even make that in two weeks of work.

**Long Haul:** Tell me about your job.

**Ian:** Right now I'm working in a restaurant. It's a very monotonous and boring job. The people I work with don't treat me with much respect at all. I find that I don't get along with them in a way

where we can relate on a one to one level. They're just not the same type of people as me in terms of what I feel I've gone through. I think they tend to be really disempowering. I'm working nights. It's only part time and I get about 20 hours a week at \$6.00 an hour. Its not enough to meet my expenses.

**Long Haul:** Lots of politicians are saying that it's important for young people to work because it builds their self esteem. Does this job build your self esteem?

**Ian:** No it doesn't. It's almost like I'm a slave. I just go through the motions. I don't see how its building my self esteem or confidence.

**Long Haul:** What do you do for food and fun?

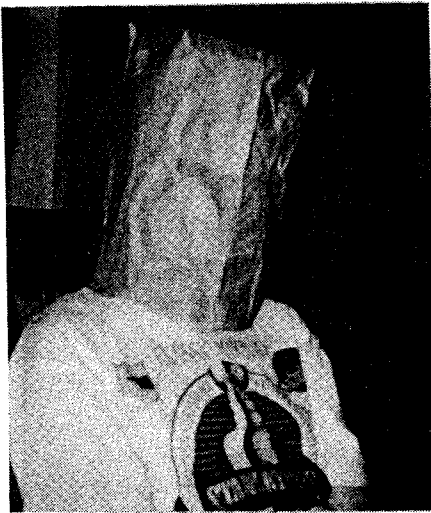
**Ian:** Not much for fun.. Sometimes I just go out and I tend to overspend cause I don't get out much. For the food part, I don't have a fridge in my place so I

mostly eat where I work which is ok but its not too nutritious.

**Long Haul:** What would you like to do with your life?

**Ian:** I'm not sure exactly. I'd like to get into University and work towards a degree and discover for myself what I want. I'd like to get

## Hidden but not silenced



**"Ian" poses with a bag over his head. If minimum wage workers speak out on their wages and working conditions, they could be fired.**

out of the restaraunt business . It's not for me. Hopeully I can get a student loan and another part time job to help me do that.

**Long Haul:** The federal government has announced the Youth Job Corp. With this program some young people will work for 6-9 months in their community. Then they'll get a voucher worth \$2,000 to \$3000. They can use the voucher for their education, for a loan for a small business, or for a subsidy for their next employer. The government is considering not letting youth who take advantage of this program collect UI or welfare when its over. What do you think of this idea?

**Ian:** I think its a bad idea. To start a business you need at least \$50,000. For university you need about \$11,000 a year including tuition and books. An employer should pay you. You shouldn't have to pay them. It's almost like writing a lifetime contract on someone to say, if you accept this, you can't get further help. I think this is a simple quick fix to appease a few people in power with money. It's a total business ripoff.

**Long Haul:** What do you think about minimum wage?

**Ian:** There has to be a fair minimum wage, around \$9 or \$10 an hour. It should be raised in line with the cost of living. One thing I find very frustrating about my

work is that all my money goes to rent, food, and other necessary expenses. I can't save for anything of value. So its very hard to keep up my interest and motivation in going to work. You're always going to be in a position of serving the employer if you're the employee. I don't see why employers couldn't pay \$9-10 an hour. I think most employers get tax breaks and advantages that we don't even think or or know about. They say they don't have the money but I think a lot of them have more money than they say.

**Long Haul:** Is there anything else you'd like to say?

**Ian:** From my standpoint, I think that its really unfair to be in poverty while you're working because you can't be positive about your situation. You see other people with money enjoying their life in a way that's less stressful. I think in this society there is really too big a difference between the rich and the rest of us. There should be more money for school so you can get out of poverty. If you're poor, education is about the only way out. They're cutting back on loans and grants for school, everything to help you get out of poverty. It's just not fair at all. □□□

## Manipulation??..

*(continued from page 1)*

☛ Encourage provinces and academics to support and lead the Social Security Review by mixing business interests with social activists.

The "trade-offs" the government will encourage us to make will probably be trade offs between single parents and single unemployed, or working poor and people on UI. Let's make sure that we add the rich into the trade off calculations. See the article on page 10 about tax loopholes for the rich that could be closed to end poverty.

The official plan is to set up forums where business people, academics and provincial government officials will outnumber social activists. Low income people can counter that by setting up our own forums featuring low income people. □□□

## Why we need to end poverty

### Rich kids live longer than poor

*By David Jaffe*

Julia's parents are on welfare. "We're staying here right now," this nine year old says, as she plays outside a Victoria motel where she and her family are living.

Alexandra is a 14 year old whose father is a lawyer. "I like to play the piano, go hiking and collect Madonna tapes," says this west side Vancouver resident.

Alexandra may not outlive Julia. But at 14 she's got more years to look forward to than Julia will when she is 14. Chances are that Alexandra will also live more years free of disabilities than Julia.

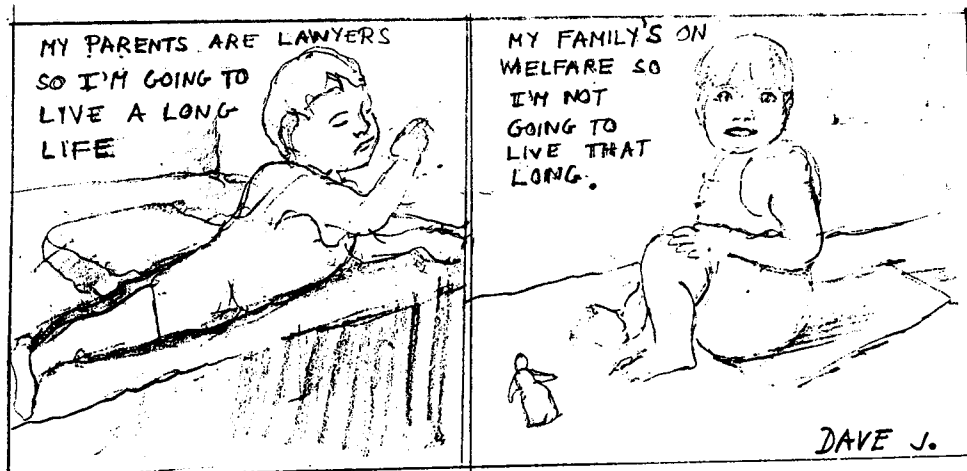
"A young boy from an upper middle class family will outlive a boy from a family on welfare by 7 years," says Dr. Clyde Hertzman, a fellow at the Canadian Institute of Advanced Research.

For women, Hertzman points out, the differences are somewhat smaller. "A girl from a wealthy family will live 3 and a half years longer than a girl from a family on welfare."

Researchers pinpoint what Hertzman calles "the biological impact of a powerless, stressful life" as the reason for these differences in life expectancy. A person on welfare has far less control over their life than a child of a doctor, lawyer, or successful business person.

"Control over your life determines life expectancy. The more education you have, and the more you earn, the more control you have over your life. So the longer you live." □□□

## LIFE CHANCES



# FLAWLINE

## FRONT LINE ADVOCACY WORKERS

### For sale: Law Students' Legal Advice Manual

The Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) recently published its 18th Edition of the UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Manual. Hundreds of BC organizations use this one-of-a-kind resource.

LSLAP is a non-profit organization that provides legal advice for people in Greater Vancouver who are unable to afford a lawyer. Approximately 200 law students volunteer with the program which serves over 5000 clients per year. Each year LSLAP revises and updates the manual.

The manual is comprehensive and easy to use, and provides a clear analysis of a wide range of legal matters. It also includes updated legal forms and precedents. It is organized into 21 chapters and covers topics such as:

- GAIN
- ICBC
- Employment Law
- Landlord/Tenant Law
- Family Law
- Small Claims
- Wills & Estates
- Women and the Law
- Citizenship
- Criminal Law

□□□

**THE LAW  
FOUNDATION  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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

The Long Haul, June,  
1994--page 8

### Schaff challenges child support tax

~ by Joanne Shaw

Brenda Schaff is hoping to have her day in federal court to challenge the taxation of child support payments. Her income tax appeal which was set for hearing May 30, was adjourned. On June 21, she and her lawyer will try to get her court date back.

Ms. Schaff is taxed on the child support payments she receives, while her ex-husband does not have to pay income tax on that money. Ms. Schaff is arguing that this is discrimination because of family status. If she were married, any money her spouse gave her to spend on the children would not be taxed. But it is taxed since she is divorced.

A Quebec woman won a similar case May 3, where it was found that there was discrimination because of family status. Brenda's case is slightly different, as she is challenging the rights of poor children under Sections 7 and 15 of the Charter. It will be the first time the rights of people in poverty are challenged in this way. We'll keep you posted. □□□

To order your copy of the  
**LAW STUDENTS'  
LEGAL ADVICE  
MANUAL 18th EDITION:**

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c/o Room 158, Faculty of Law  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1**

Phone 822-5791 with questions.



## VICTORIES & PROBLEMS

### Dear FLAWline:

On May 6, 1994, I lost a tribunal. I was denied a crisis grant in the amount of \$1800 for a share purchase in order to get a two bedroom apartment in the co-op where I currently live with my parents. I explained that my son, who is 22 months, needs his own room. It was available to me at \$450 per month, the amount I currently pay.

~ A Fed Up Welfare Recipient.

### Dear Fed Up:

Sorry you lost your tribunal. You may want to try again, stressing that secure housing reduces "poverty, neglect and suffering", especially for children. That's how Linda Mix, former advocate at DERA, won a similar tribunal.

Adequate housing is unaffordable for many people. Co-op housing, owned by a membership society made up of its tenants, sometimes offers sliding scale rents based on ability to pay. This is one option to unaffordable housing. But many co-ops require several hundred dollars for a share purchase. This is pretty hefty for someone with a low-income.

Someone could try asking for

money from MSS for this purpose, with an agreement signed by the co-op that if the client moves out, any shares owed would be returned to MSS and not the client. This is the same type of agreement MSS now makes with landlords when giving clients money for security deposits.

MSS may refuse to do this for a co-op share purchase, so as not to set a precedent where other clients will ask for the same thing. But it could be argued that even if a precedent is set, not very many clients will come to MSS for such money, simply because there are not very many co-ops available.

There is also the option of a loan through CCEC Credit Union (254-4100 in Vancouver). They often give loans to low-income people as long as the co-op guarantees the loan. Good luck.

~ FLAWline

We need your letters. 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

### Harcourt's Ultimatum affects Francophone advocate's work

~ by Joanne Shaw

Hate graffiti, aimed at Quebecers, was painted on La Boussole's building, only a few days after Harcourt gave Quebec his ultimatum. Some people believe the premier's comments to the media influenced the graffiti.

Premier Harcourt, during the week of May 17th, said that Quebec could consider British Columbia its biggest ally if it stays as part of Canada, but that if the province left Canada, it could consider BC it's worst enemy. Harcourt is not alone in wanting Quebec to stay, but threatening doesn't seem like the way to go.

End Legislated Poverty developed a position on January 8, 1992, to recognize the inherent right to self-determination for Quebec. ELP supports Quebec to make its own choice whether to stay or separate, since they have much more invested in the outcome than BC does.

Harcourt, with his threatening ultimatum, sounded a lot like he did when he said last September 21, 1993, "We want to clear the cheats and deadbeats off welfare rolls." Both comments appeal to the worst, not the best feelings people have.

Harcourt's ultimatum to Quebec could cause an increase in Quebec bashing. Whenever Harcourt has made comments to the media about welfare fraud, we would notice more complaints around the ELP office from welfare clients being bashed.. Harcourt is not responsible for other people's violence toward Quebecers, but the comments he made were hateful, and they have a heightened impact because he is premier.

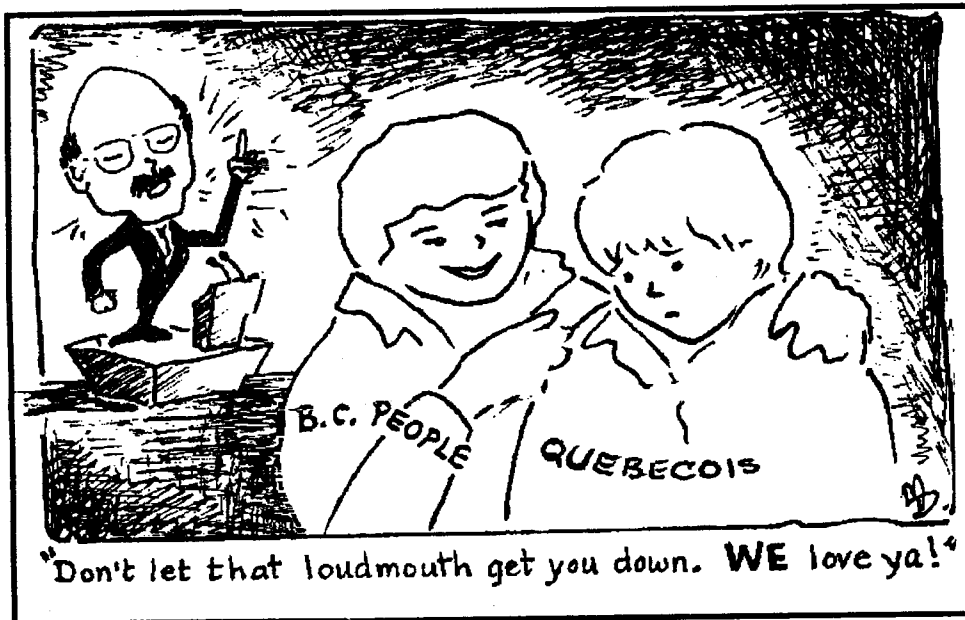
In Quebec right now, there's a shortage of blue collar jobs like construction work, mechanics and drywalling, which is sending many trained labourers to BC. This is according to Andrée de Repentigny, Coordinator of La Boussole, a Francophone drop-in centre in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Some of these people are in need of welfare when they arrive, the same

as when people arrive from any other province. But Andrée observes what seems like a double standard in the way Francophone welfare clients are treated, compared to clients from other provinces.

Many of her clients have been told by FAWs that they should go

anything to do with Quebec's politics.

Andrée describes the Quebec-bashing that happens in the welfare office as the client being treated as suspect, sometimes given just enough money for the month and told to go home afterwards. Of course, many FAWs are excellent



back to Quebec — that they'll have a hard time finding a job since they don't speak English. "Well, they already realize they have to learn English," Andrée says. "But the worker should be helping them, not trying to send them back to Quebec." People relocate to find better job prospects all the time. Quebecers have the same right to do this as people from other provinces.

Andrée said that Quebec bashing is prevalent. "Sometimes people will see a Quebec license plate and start yelling at the driver." She said that a woman was physically assaulted as the attacker screamed at her about Quebec separating from Canada. She doesn't have

and would never bash anyone.

Sometimes, after this treatment, the client gets discouraged, thinking "Maybe I can't find a job here. Maybe I should go home." But they couldn't find a job back home — that's why they left in the first place. The bottom line is that Quebecers are often treated like they are not from Canada. Instead of using someone's language as an excuse to try to send people to Quebec, MSS could support these clients to find a job.

There's only one employment centre in the Lower Fraser Valley that offers services in French. There are no readily available English language programs for Quebecers, and French speaking

Canadians need and deserve this as an option. Some informal English classes are offered for free, through centres such as La Boussole. Welfare generally won't pay for the more intense, structured classes through the school board. Of course, you can appeal this..!

Andrée does welfare advocacy when she has the time, even though it's not part of her job description. She said she's fairly isolated from other advocates. (She hopes this will change since she just discovered FLAW meetings.)

Often, she joins the client in the welfare office as a translator. It's controversial whether someone should do both translating and advocacy at the same time. Ethically, a translator should translate exactly what is said — no more, no less. Also, ethically, if someone knows the welfare laws and could help the client, the client has the right to know. So, Andrée translates word for word in the MSS office, and informs the client at a later time of the law.

Even better, she would like to work with advocates from other agencies. She hopes others may be able to advocate for French speaking clients with the help of her translating.

Andrée de Repentigny can be contacted at:

**La Boussole Francophone  
Centre of the Eastside  
578 Powell  
Vancouver, BC  
Telephone: 255-5158**

□□□

**TIP: The Regional Director of MSS may, but is not required to assign GAIN for Handicapped benefits retroactively up to 12 months prior to the decision that a person is eligible [from section 6 of the GAIN regs].**

**THE LAW  
FOUNDATION  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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

The Long Haul, June, 1994—page 9

## South Central depicts poverty

By Sandra Asiegbu

How often do TV sitcoms have poverty as the main theme?

Shows such as *Martin*, *Living Single*, *Full House*, and *The Simpsons* all show upper middle class and families that are even richer than this. It's good to see success stories but reality's not like these shows.

The sitcom *South Central* is a different kind of sitcom with a mother who seems real. She's a divorcee who's lost her secretarial job because of cutbacks. Her cheques bounce at the grocery store.

One of her sons won't talk and won't stop sucking his thumb. Her daughter Tasha pouts when her mom won't buy her a jacket. But it's her teen son Andre who gives her the most trouble. He carries a beeper and calls women "bitches". When he's challenged about the sexist name, he says, "It's just an expression."

Andre's mother has already seen one of her sons die due to gang violence. She fears that Andre will be killed too, by the police. This black sitcom is a hit and really tells it how it is. It takes place in one of Los Angeles' poorest neighbourhoods. This is where a huge riot started in 1992. Yet this sitcom also relates to what happens in parts of Vancouver.

*South Central* airs every Tuesday at 8 PM on Channel 23. Watch it. I'm sure you'll enjoy it. □□□



### How high should wages be?

Is it right that some chief executive officers (CEO's) of corporations get paid a million dollars a year while some workers get \$6 an hour?

The Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives has published a list of CEO salaries and compared them to the average wage of workers in their sector.

Bob Kadlec of B. C. Gas, made \$500,000 in 1993 while the average wage for workers in that industry was \$48,204. Kadlec only made about 10 times what the average worker in his industry makes. He made 42 times what a minimum wage worker makes.

Lawrence Bloomberg of First Marathon Securities made \$6,904,000 in 1993. The average worker in his industry made \$38,584. Bloomberg made about

20 times what the average worker made. He made 581 times what a minimum wage worker makes.

### End poverty by taxing the rich

The CCPA's *Monitor* for May, 1994 also reports that poverty could be ended in Canada by reducing tax breaks and loopholes for people like Kadlec and Bloomberg. The *Monitor* says that \$13.4 billion is needed to bring all poor Canadians up to the poverty line. They have a list of over \$19 billion worth of tax loopholes that could be closed to provide the \$13.4 billion. They include partial taxation of pension investments like RRSP's (\$11.91B), ending the small business tax break (\$2.18 B), and ending fast write offs for exploration and development expenses. □□□

## Don't grieve, work by teleconference

By Rose Brown as told to David Jaffe

On May 30th I went to a conference called Women and Sustainable Development at the University of B. C. to be part of a panel.

The part of the conference that interested me most was a very interesting teleconference. About a dozen women sat around a table. In the middle of the table was a big box. Wires came out of the box and at the end of each wire was a microphone.

The teleconference dealt with women in Newfoundland and Labrador and the problems they face now that the fishery has collapsed.

The women gave us an overview of the 500 year history of this important industry. They told us how a recent moratorium on cod

fishing has led to 40,000 people losing their jobs and hundreds of thousands of others being indirectly affected.

Communities have virtually collapsed, others pointed out. Most women have not been compensated by the federal compensation program. Youth have fled the now desolate fishing communities.

Wife abuse has soared as jobless fishers see their life's work vanish. Health, education, and social programs have been slashed way back as government revenues dry up. "It hasn't just hit women," one person said, "The collapse of the fishing industry has hurt nearly everyone."

I went away from the conference dismayed by the suffering of the people in Newfoundland and Labrador but heartened by their spirit of resistance.

The teleconference also perked me up because it filled me with

ideas for ELP.

Newfoundland and Labrador are huge areas full of isolated communities. If these isolated communities can teleconference, why can't we do the same in B. C., I wondered. Teleconferencing has some big pluses going for it. If ELP held a teleconference around B. C. we could hear from all the different groups what's going on in all areas of the province. It would deepen our analysis of what's happening. We could listen to each other more than we do now. It could also save us money.

Linda Marcotte and myself wouldn't have to use scarce funds traveling around B. C. The money saved could then go for provincial organizing schools. Last, we could plan actions that all groups in ELP would know about. "We can't just grieve," a Newfoundland woman said. "We have to work." □□□

Letters continued from page 2...

not only the similar situation of ongoing cuts in the social safety nets, but also the existence of an ideological mainstream (media, politics, established society) who blames more and more the victim and denies the real causes of unemployment and poverty.

As far as I know the social safety nets in West Europe are better than in North America. Especially West Germany has a relatively comprehensive social state. In my opinion this is due to specific historical reasons and the frontier status of West Germany against the alleged world communism. Now that so-called socialism has collapsed and Germany has been reunified, the conservative liberal coalition is trying to dismantle more welfare, UI, and social rights than it has in the last nearly ten years.

We are in a weak position. That's the reason why we try to organize at the local level. We try to organize as unemployed, poor people and ...people in more or less precarious status... We know of the limitations of the local approach. Therefore we try to get in contact with other local unemployed and poverty groups.

It is worth it to discuss our own experiences, our own forms of self organization, our own strategies and knowledge against unemployment, poverty and other forms of injustice. Your letter, your very good newspapers, leaflets, and analysis give us the feeling that we are not alone. That in other places people live in similar situations with similar aspirations, trying to fight against the mainstream, because we don't want to bear the situation like it is.

Ulf Broecker, Unemployed workers group, Oldenburg, Germany  
(Could anyone translate Ulf's German material for ELP?)

### This month's thanks

Thanks to all the people who have helped End Legislated Poverty this month.

Thanks to Cindy Barker and Donald Twa in Victoria. Thanks to Terrie Hendrickson, David Jaffe, T. J. Baker, Maureen Davis, William Kay, Wilma Clearsky, Margaret Carlson, Mary Anne Cantillon, Trish Hanna, Sandy Cameron, Nils Roberg, Antoinette Saleh, Dave Ross, Julia Brook, Lynne Melcombe, Sandra Asiegbu.

Thanks to the HEU for a donation.

**The Long Haul, June, 1994--page 10**

## New tenant law will help tenants

By the Tenant's Rights Action Coalition

Housing Minister Joan Smallwood introduced major amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act on May 23rd. The most important part of the new law is the rent protection system.

The rent protection system is not as strong as we'd like. But the old Act was terribly biased against tenants. We think the government has helped to balance landlord-tenant relations.

Thanks to all of you who participated in consultation meetings with the Housing Ministry in February and March. We know that all the voices raised at those meetings helped convince the government to change the law. We all deserve credit for a job well done.

None of the changes will come into effect until at least December. Here is a sketch of them.

### Rent protection

The new system is weaker than we wanted. *On the negative side:*

- When you move, the landlord can charge the next tenant any rent at all. This means there is no protection for affordable housing over the long term.
- Rent increases will be allowed to pay for improvements. They won't be rolled back when the improvements are paid off.

*On the positive side:*

- No increase will be allowed if repair orders are not obeyed
- No increases for cosmetic improvements
- If a building is sold, the new landlord won't be able to raise rent for existing tenants so he can pay for a high building price.
- Tenants will be allowed to group their disputes and go together to one hearing.

### Unlawful entry

Tenants can ask an arbitrator for permission to change their locks and keep the only keys if the landlord has entered the suite illegally. The tenant has to pay for the locks.

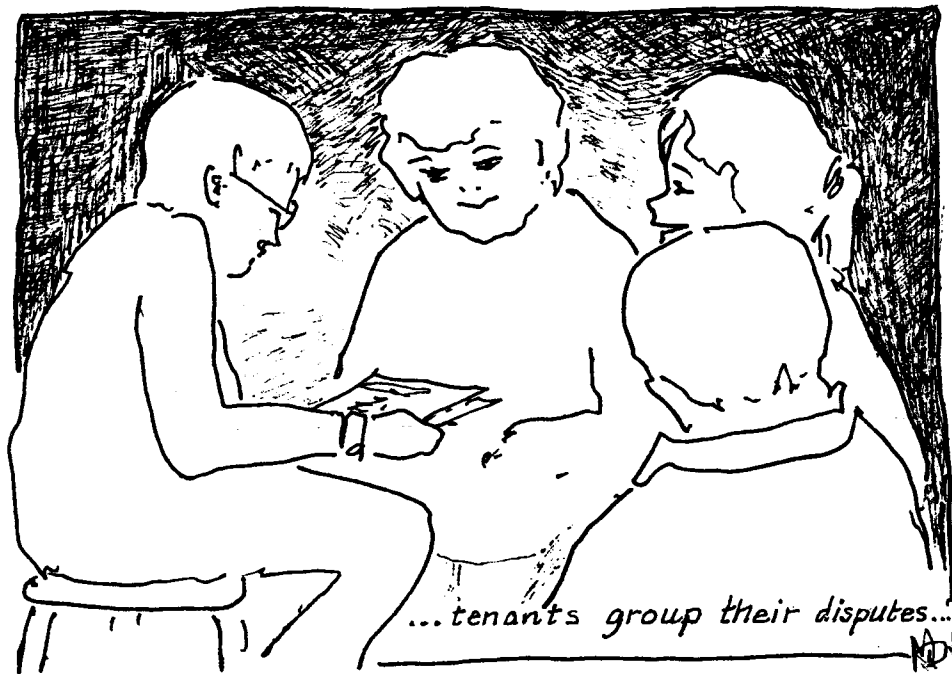
Tenant harassment has been added to the Act as an offence. Landlords can be prosecuted if they threaten or harass a tenant for pursuing

an arbitration hearing.

### Income discrimination

The Act will ban discrimination based on the tenant's (or prospective tenant's) source of income (like welfare). Tenants will be able to file complaints of income discrimination with the Human Rights Council.

If you want a copy of the amendments, call TRAC at 255-3099 or 1-800-665-1185. □□□



## Tenant Tip #2-- Getting your landlord to do repairs

By the Tenant's Rights Action Coalition

Last month we told you how to use the Residential Tenancy Branch to force your landlord to do repairs. If you live in Vancouver or Nelson you can also call your City Hall and complain. City inspectors might then look at your place and tell the landlord to do the repairs.

What if the landlord still doesn't do repairs? The inspector will usually give you a report that you can use at an arbitration hearing. This might help you prove that the situation is serious.

**Be careful!** Some suites are illegal under City zoning bylaws. Your suite might be in a house that is in an area

that is supposed to be for one family houses only. If your suite is illegal, city inspectors might shut it down and force you to move. But the arbitrators and the Residential Tenancy Branch don't care if your suite is illegal. You can still go to an arbitration hearing even if your suite is illegal.

### Withholding rent

You must pay the rent. If your landlord ignores your request for repairs, you might feel like not paying. If you refuse to pay the rent, the landlord can evict you. The law is on the landlord's side.

If your landlord ignores an arbitrator's order to do repairs, you can go back to the Tenancy Branch and ask

the arbitrator to enforce the order. The arbitrator can order you to pay your rent to the Tenancy Branch, not to your landlord, until the repairs are done.

### Better law to come

Changes to the Residential Tenancy Act should make it easier to get repairs done. They won't be in effect until at least December. With the new law, arbitrators will be able to help tenants in 3 ways.

They will be able to:

- give the tenant permission to do minor repairs and deduct the cost from the rent, if the landlord doesn't obey a repair order
- reduce the rent until the repairs are done

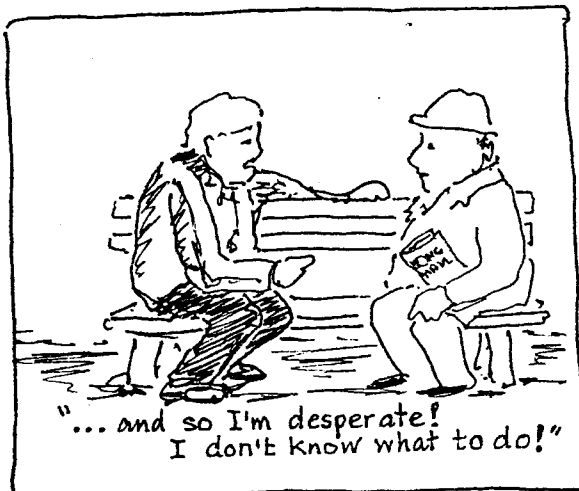
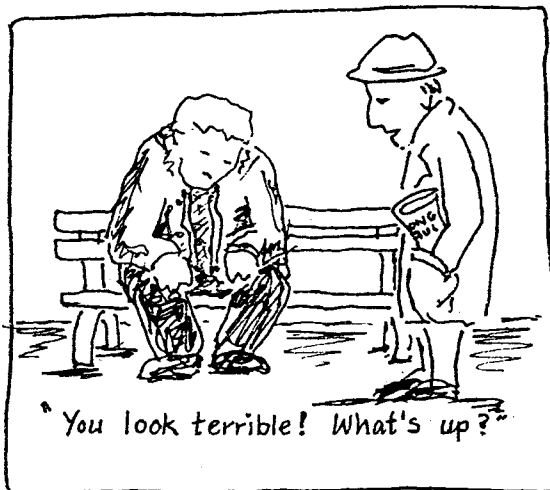
- deny any rent increase if repairs have been ordered but not done.

For help getting your landlord to do repairs, or for other help with tenant problems, call TRAC at 255-0546 in Vancouver or 1-800-665-1185 outside the Lower Mainland. □□□

### Residential Tenancy Branch

Vancouver phone: 660-3456  
Victoria phone: 387-1602  
Anywhere else, go to your B. C. Government Agent or B. C. Access Centre (look in the Blue Pages under Government of British Columbia)

# ELP HELPS - information for low income people



## 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 11:30 am. Phone 681-8365.

**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. Phone 635-4631.

**Gibsons:** Sunshine Coast Advocacy Action Group. Welfare, UI, and other advocacy and education about poverty. Phone 886-2425. Open Monday and Wednesday 10:30 to 12:30.

**Smithers:** Bulkley Valley Anti-Poverty Group. For welfare advocacy. Contact Ruth Milne at 847-2840 or Vince or Diana at 847-8959.

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

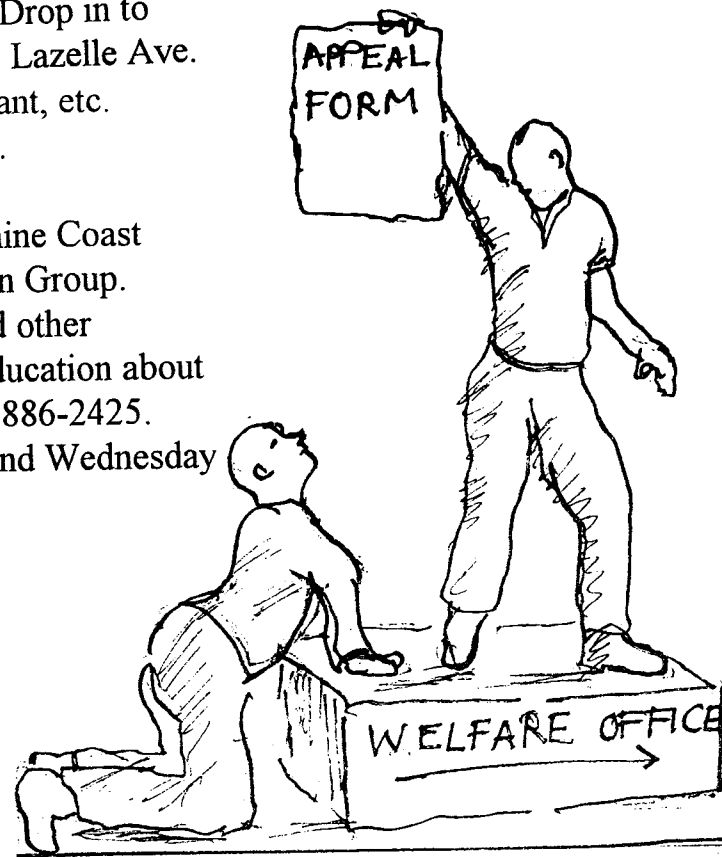
**Nelson:** The Advocacy Centre. Phone 352-5777. Prefer appointments. Open Monday through Thursday 9 to 4 at #4 560 Baker St., Nelson. Welfare, handicapped, custody and access, separation and divorce, child apprehension, sexual abuse, wife assault, etc.

**Penticton:** Legal Services. Legal info, assistance with welfare, pensions, small claims, etc. #103 304 Martin St. Phone 493-0210.

**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.