

LONG THE HAUL

FREE

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Speaking out about Poverty

Volume I Issue 8

End Legislated Poverty's Newspaper

November 1994

Coming Events

Nov. 4th, 9:30 to 4:00 PM.
Discuss what low income people in BC want to tell the United Nations Summit on Social Development. At the ELP office, #211 456 W. Broadway in Vancouver. Low income people welcome. Call Linda at 879-1209 for info.

Nov. 5th, 10 AM to 3 PM.
Uniting seniors to protect social programs. A conference at 411 Dunsmuir in Vancouver. Costs \$5. Lunch is \$3.50.

Nov. 7th, 1 PM at the ELP office.
ELP wages and welfare committee meeting to plan holiday ELP event. Low income people welcome. Call Linda at 879-1209.

November 14th, 3 PM. ELP
meeting about leisure passes in Vancouver, at the ELP office. Call Michelle Des Lauriers at 879-1209 for info.

Nov. 15th, **Parliamentary Committee on Social Security Review comes to Victoria.**

Nov. 16th and 17th,
Parliamentary Committee on Social Security Review comes to Vancouver. Call 1-800-208-9494 for info.

Nov. 17th, 7 PM at Britannia Centre. **Commercial Drive anti-poverty meeting in Vancouver.** For info, call William at 877-0185.

Nov. 19th. **Gay and Lesbian event on social programs.** Call Ellen Woodsworth for info at 253-3395.

December 17th: **Justice not Charity day in Nelson.** Call Elizabeth Caron for info at 354-3969.

Dec. 17th. **Vancouver Justice Not Charity celebration and fundraiser** for ELP. Call 879-1209 for more info.

Federal plan shuns rights for poor

Rights that poor people now have in the Canada Assistance Plan could be replaced by the two

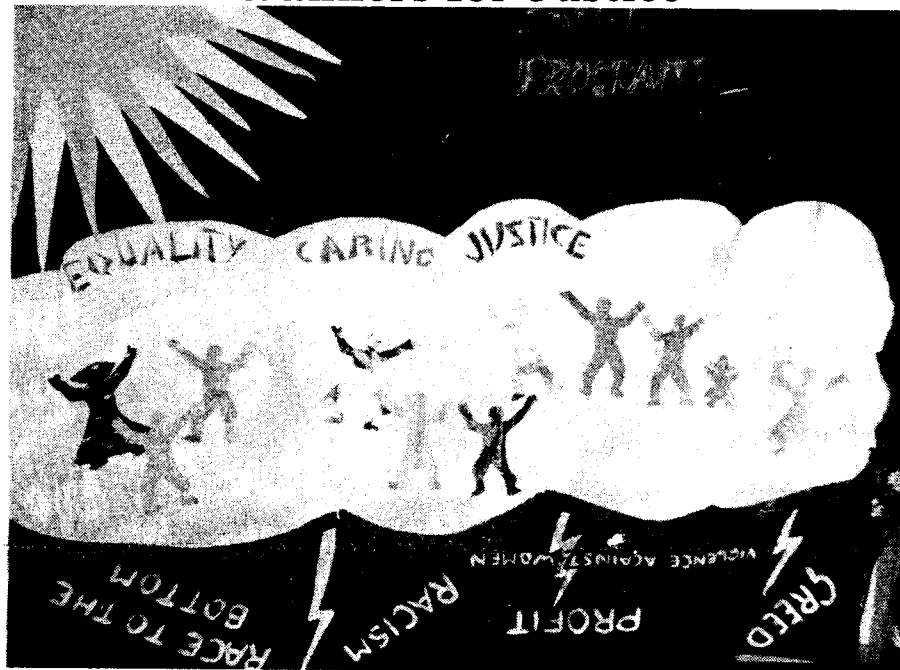
"values" of increasing employability and reducing child poverty.

That's what Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy's discussion paper on social security reform says.

CAP contains rights for poor people: the right to income assistance when in need; the right to an amount of income that takes into consideration budgetary requirements; the right to income assistance regardless of what province you're from; the right not to have to work for welfare; and the right to appeal decisions you think are unfair. If provinces don't comply with these rights, the federal government can stop its welfare payments to provinces.

Focusing only on weak values instead of legal rights is dangerous for poor people. In addition, promoting only "employability" and reducing child poverty ignores some pretty stark realities. Jobs don't exist for everyone. Most poor children aren't orphans. They have poor parents. Promoting only values like these would allow provinces to use welfare to force parents and single people into jobs with poverty wages or workfare. It could allow provinces to force single people without work into the streets. □□□

Banners for Justice



On Oct. 16th Vancouver women from several groups, including End Legislated Poverty, gathered to make banners in support of social programs. To get involved, call Miche at 255-6554.

Victory at Park Board

On September 26th, the Vancouver Park Board unanimously passed a motion that will help put Leisure Access Cards (LACs) into the hands of Vancouver Residents on GAIN. The LACs provide free admission to swimming, skating and skate rentals.

Right now people on GAIN and other low income people have a right to this card. The problem is that only a few people know about the policy. The Park Board doesn't advertise it.

At the meeting, Park Commissioners Tim Louis and Donna Morgan called for the Board to make people aware of their eligibility for LACs and to extend FREE ADMISSION to people on welfare to ALL facilities and services offered by the Park Board.

The Park Board voted to put notices into welfare cheques to inform people that they are entitled to the cards. This is a victory for low income people, but it is only the first step toward our goal of

making Park Board facilities and services accessible regardless of a
(continued on page 3)

Feds to chop \$7.5 billion more

The *Toronto Star* has uncovered a plan by the Liberal government to chop an additional \$7.5 billion from social programs in the next five years.

Funds for welfare, UI, and post secondary education would be slashed to make the \$7.5 billion saving. The 1994 federal budget already announced cuts of \$1.5 billion to welfare and \$5 billion to UI. A total cut of \$14 billion to these programs would decimate them.

"If the government is hiding plans like these, they're insulting us, not consulting us," said End Legislated Poverty's Linda Marcotte. □□□

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Thought control 1994

After reading Lloyd Axworthy's 89 pages on social security reform, you might think that this is George Orwell's 1984, not our own real day to day 1994.

Axworthy's document promotes unproven assumptions. It uses insidious, slick language to keep us from thinking clearly. And it blames the poor and unemployed for the lack of jobs, making us seem like con artists or drug addicts.

We're supposed to blame the unemployed for being dependent, not the economic system for creating too few jobs. We're supposed to accept that low income individuals, not corporations have to change their habits. We're suppose to assume that the only way to cut the deficit is by cutting social programs, despite Statistic Canada's figures showing the deficit is caused by high interest rates and low taxes on the rich and corporations.

We're supposed to work for miserly workfare benefits instead of getting a decent wage. We're supposed to think that training or counseling or information about job vacancies will magically create a job for us when it won't. We're supposed to assume that women

raising kids aren't already working and should be forced into poverty level jobs to improve themselves.

We're supposed to agree that taking money from certain unemployed and poor people and giving it to others will be an improvement--will even reduce child poverty!

Even Orwell, the inventor of Newspeak, couldn't have come up with a more creative use of the English language than Axworthy's report. "Employment development" services include counseling, training, and providing job vacancy information. They

don't really *develop any employment* at all.

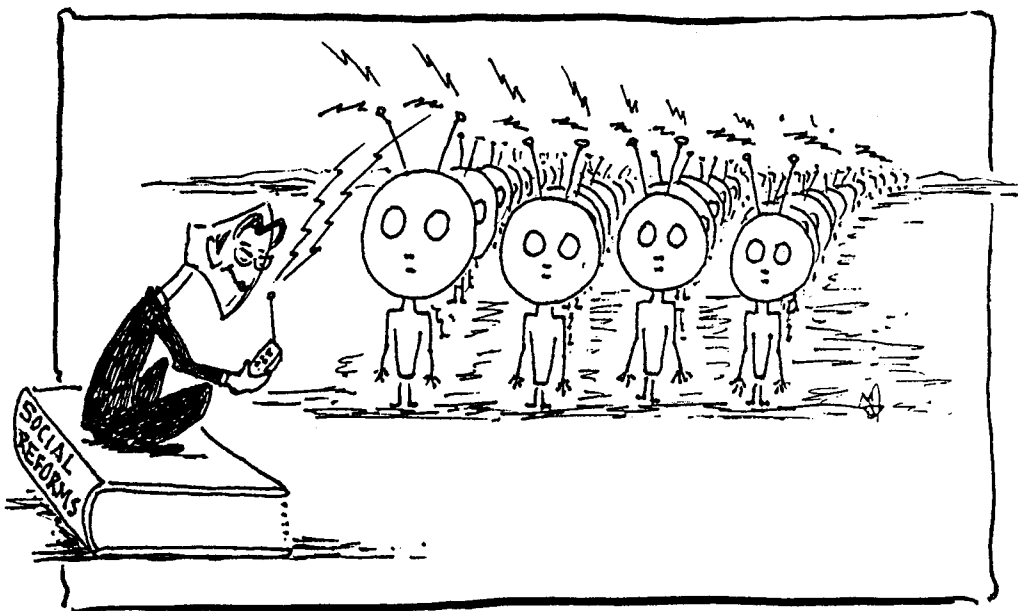
According to the report, people are unemployed, not because they have been laid off by corporations rushing to cheap Mexican wages, but because they have problems "often arising in childhood, and then passed on through failures in school..."

The government should "emphasize prevention" by "helping people...build the skills and work experience needed to adapt in a constantly changing environment," not by *preventing* corporations from fleeing the

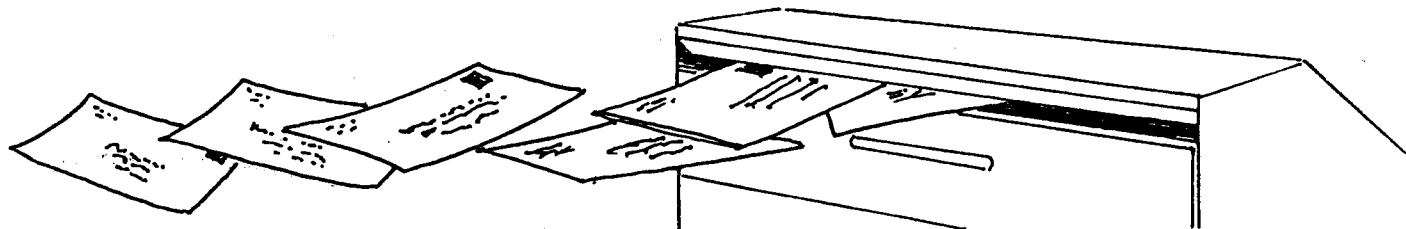
country with their profits and our resources.

We're not supposed to think about the rich getting richer. That's another no no. If the government can keep low income and working people fighting among ourselves for crumbs, the rich can keep paying their low wages, building their untaxed family trusts, escaping taxes through RRSP's and other loopholes. Of course they shouldn't be asked to, perhaps, give up the odd luxury vacation so the employed would have better wages or so the unemployed would have decent benefits. Axworthy is trying to change our language to make that just unthinkable.

This is where low income people must come into the picture. Our experiences show that Axworthy's thought control won't work. We know that training doesn't create jobs. We know that we aren't lazy. We don't think its fair to have to undercut wages of other people who have jobs or to force people on UI or welfare to work for benefits. We have to be loud with our reality, our voices. That's part of the solution. □□□



Dear ELP,



Likes history

I came across a copy of your Oct. *Long Haul* and am impressed with the amount of helpful information you've provided. The historical perspectives are particularly interesting as well as the listing of places where help is available, as well as continuing to put emphasis on those places where it is not or is inadequate.

Pat Murphy

Let's operate outside the system

I read with interest and delight, the letter by Kevin McNamee-Annett in the Sept. issue. What he said is succinct and correct.

I agree with you Kevin and here are some ideas to begin the reconstruction of humanity to a humane goal rather than a top down, bottom line goal. Everyone has something they are skilled at,

but lack the opportunity due to the legal barriers and economic reality that keep us in our position. I suggest that we begin networking with the farmers (small and hobby as opposed to agribusiness). They can produce a resource that we are all absolutely physically dependent on: food. We can provide skills or items of trade in exchange for food. We should operate outside of the capitalistic system to the fullest extent possible now and aim to function in complete independence of their restrictive, poverty enhancing regulations, their banks, political and bureaucratic sycophants and their pressure tactics, like racism, sexism, etc. that force our compliance and divide us against each other.

Let us move ahead to autonomy and self sufficiency. The words I hear Lloyd Axworthy spewing make the need urgent.

Jim

Vancouver Sun Richard Allen, chief economist for the B. C. Credit Union states, "If we had no UI payments and no social welfare, people would be out there taking jobs (what jobs?) and creating jobs (what with?) that perhaps they wouldn't be doing when they have the comfort (what comfort?) of UI or social welfare."

Until the people of this country realize the ultimate goal of the corporate dictatorship is not to raise third world living standards, but rather to reduce our standard of living to third world levels, working people will continue a downward slide.

Ensuring that corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share of taxes is a step in the right direction. We also need to end tax credits for off shore investments. Corporate tax credits should be geared to the number of jobs created. Tariffs on third world countries should be reduced when workers' wages are increased.

Gordon Judd.

We need better wages

In the May 26th issue of the

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Low income people help stop mega casino

"Whenever you have community based opposition to a mega developer and you win, its a major victory," says John Shayler, co-ordinator of the Carnegie Community Action Project in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Shayler was commenting in an interview on the provincial government's decision to stop for profit Las Vegas style casinos in B. C.

"In May," explained Shayler, "Everyone thought the casino was a done deal." But the Carnegie Community Centre Association hired Shayler to co-ordinate opposition to the mega



development that would have happened right in their neighbourhood.

The Association and Shayler helped get the groups opposed to the casino together so they could raise one voice in opposition; produced a drawing of the development showing how it would obliterate views in the Downtown area; held a rally on August 7th; organized petitions and letters to the government; attended lots of meetings; did media interviews; and debated with the developers at public meetings.

Now Shayler is meeting with local residents to learn what kind of development they would like on the expensive waterfront site that the casino developers wanted. So far, says Shayler, they want a public place, perhaps a market or multicultural market; maybe a First Nations Cultural and Historical Centre; perhaps a recreation facility like the Britannia Centre. "It shouldn't be a mega project for a private developer," says Shayler. "It should be experienced by local people and visitors if they want to drop in." □□□

Park Board win... continued from front page

person's ability to pay.

The Park Board put off voting on increased leisure access for low income people. It wants to hear from the presidents of the community centre associations throughout the city first.

Let's make the voices of low income people heard at the next meeting of the community centre presidents on November 14th. If you or your group want to help make leisure access the people's choice--not the president's choice--call Michelle at 879-1209 to get your name on the list of delegates to the meeting and come to a briefing meeting on Monday, November 14th at 3:00 p.m. at the ELP office. □□□

Campbell leaves welfare out of his letter

B. C. Liberal Leader Gordon Campbell wants to end the corporation capital tax. That was one of his main points in an August letter responding to ELP volunteer David Jaffe. Jaffe had asked Campbell about Liberal policies on social services issues.

Campbell said in the letter that some Harcourt government policies are "archaic or ineffective" and said the Ministry of Social Services needs "restructuring and refocusing."

He continued with a cliché about the deficit: "We must all learn to live within our means..."

In the second to last paragraph Campbell says that government should guarantee "that our health care system, our education system and our environment will be intact for present and future generations."

Did he forget to mention social services and welfare? Or is this a sneaky way of saying that a Campbell government wouldn't guarantee social services and welfare for present and future generations?

If you'd like a copy of the letter, call the ELP office at 879-1209. □□□

Justice not Charity event planned in Nelson

The Nelson Anti-Poverty Action Group is sponsoring a Justice not Charity event on December 17th from 1 to 4 PM.

Come and hear speakers on social program cutbacks, and the Ad Hoc singers. NAPAG hopes to have its social program banner ready to display. Snacks will be served.

For more information, call Elizabeth Caron at 354-3969.

Forum members stereotype poor

By Linda Marcotte

"Should the B. C. government reduce welfare rates to get people off welfare? Should it force single mothers on welfare to work when their children are very young? How can we break people's dependency on welfare? Should single mothers be encouraged to adopt their children out?"

As I listened to people talking, anger and frustration filled me. It was Oct. 6th and I was sitting at a large table with about 30 people, picked by the BC government to represent business, labour, seniors, youth, immigrants, and academia. The Premier's Forum for Opportunities for Working and Living was having a meeting.

I was shocked that the NDP government had picked people with such oppressive "poor people

hating" views to "review ... programs including pensions, health care, welfare, child care, education and skills training"



ELP and the Women and Social Policy Review Coalition had asked that low income people be

represented on the Forum. The government finally appointed me, after the first two meetings had already taken place.

When I spoke, I told them that we had progressed as a society to the point that we don't think men are smarter than women (thanks to feminism), and we don't think that people's skin colour is the most important thing about them (thanks to the anti-racist movement). But classism and the stereotyping of low income people is still too common. I was mad that I was hearing it at this forum. They were blaming people on welfare and UI for being poor. We are lazy and cheating the system in their eyes. I was so discouraged that most people in the groups seemed to be discussing how to fit BC's programs into the Federal plan to cut social programs.

Does the B. C. government really respect the opinions of the poor bashers it chose for its committee? Or is the Forum a way for government to try out new ideas and see how a cross section of people react? Will the ideas and reactions they see at the Forum help them to develop a strategy to "sell" the changes they want to the public?

While I was horrified at the attitudes of some people on the committee, Margaret Mitchell, the former MP, John Shields of the B. C. Government Employees Union, and Suzi Kilgour of the Hospital Employees Union were among a group that seemed definitely to be on the same side as low income people. □□□

Organizing around the province

South Okanagan group hosts ELP

By Rose Brown

On Sept. 23rd I gave a workshop in Oliver, a small town in the southern Okanagan. Here I met with seven people who have formed the South Okanagan Social Advocacy Council. This group, started in June, has been set up with direct funding from the Ministry of Social Services to provide advocacy and self help services covering a range of low income, anti-poverty and citizen's rights issues. It serves the Oliver, Osoyoos and Okanagan areas.

People at the meeting were very enthusiastic and interested in knowing what End Legislated Poverty does. "Our group

pressures the government and other people to understand that poverty is not an individual problem and that legislation keeps poverty going when it doesn't put up minimum wages and provides income assistance rates that are too low to live on adequately," I said.

When we talked about issues for poor people in the Okanagan, one person said, "Trying to exist on welfare itself is a problem. People come here and they can't find work. There is a whole lot of shame." Another person pointed out that the highest level of poverty is with single men. This is destroying the myth that poverty concerns only women

and children.

It was almost "information overload" as we tried to fit in so much in the three hours or so that I spent there. During lunch we watched the NFB film, "Them that's not," which is so good in showing low income people fighting back and speaking out about injustice in the welfare system. I showed the breakdown of wealth with its stark measurement of how 68.8% of the wealth in Canada is in the hands of the richest 20% of Canadians. The poorest 20% has no wealth at all. A brief look at ELP's corporate agenda charts followed, to help explain how the top group gets so much wealth, and how taxes on corporations and the wealthy have been consistently reduced. The corporate agenda is about serving the interests of rich people, I said.

One of the group's members, Lisa, said that she "really enjoyed this workshop. It has helped me look at things from a different perspective."

I left Oliver aware that there was a small informed group of people who could use the analysis we had worked together on, as they went on to do their community advocacy in Oliver. It's great news that group wants to join End Legislated Poverty.

Special thanks to Betty Lou Trimmer Bahnsen for making the arrangements for my visit and to all the group for participating. □□□

Organizers getting trained

The Neighbourhood Helpers are afoot in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, sponsoring a year long community organizing training program, primarily for activists and residents of the Downtown Eastside and East Vancouver.

The training principles used in the program are modeled on the popular education philosophy of Paulo Friere, as well as modern psychology, social analysis and the spiritual and cultural traditions that people bring to the group. People are encouraged to draw on their life experiences as a way of building trust and connecting the "personal" with the "political."

Participants in the program, which began in early October, were drawn from community groups working for social change. ELP volunteers attending the training are David Goodwin familiar to those who attend ELP's Commercial Dr. anti-poverty meetings, and Dave Ross, ELP board member from the Vancouver Richmond Mental Health Network. ELP staff person Michelle Des Lauriers also attends the sessions, as a participant and occasional co-facilitator. □□□



Four women from the South Okanagan Social Advocacy Council attend workshop with End Legislated Poverty's Rose Brown in Oliver on Sept. 23rd.

"NOCRAP" holds anti-poverty meeting in Vernon

By Rose Brown

NOCRAP! Now that's a great name! It stands for North Okanagan Community Response Advocacy Project. On Sept. 22nd NOCRAP together with End Legislated Poverty, organized a public meeting in Vernon. We wanted to give out information about ELP and talk with people about the federal social security review. NOCRAP wanted to raise public awareness about what their advocacy group does.

About 26 people came out and we had a round of introductions to start. People answered the question, what does poverty mean to you in Vernon?

"Poverty is 75% of my cheque going to shelter," one man said. "Fifty years ago I thought I could change the world. We are still at it and I want to know more," said another woman. Several people spoke about one hell of a lot of injustice that is caused by inequality.

I told people about the Social Security Review and the way it will make a lot more people much poorer as it forces people on UI and welfare to work and take jobs from those working now. I linked it to the corporate agenda and showed how big business in Canada has been pushing government to destroy the UI system. I explained that corporate taxes have been reduced so much that the deficit has gone up. Meanwhile we are told that the only way we can cut the deficit is

to cut social programs. These cuts discriminate against poor people by blaming us for an economic situation that the corporations control.

The discussion that followed was lively, with people focusing on what we can do. We talked about what actions are most effective to bring about social change that supports people. Some people thought that small actions such as working to get bus passes for low income people didn't contribute to change. Others thought that all our actions, no matter how small, were making a difference.

People suggested that we should complain and vote, recognize our common situations and the strength of co-operation, and, in Vernon, join NOCRAP or the Affordable Housing Group.

The meeting was successful in bringing folks together in Vernon and gave an opportunity to the people from NOCRAP to meet other advocates that had come from Salmon Arm.

Kym Howay said the meeting, "made me look at the bigger picture and realize things need to be done on a political level. We as advocates are dealing with the results of legislated poverty and we can lose sight of the real causes.

I would like to thank members of NOCRAP for their help in arranging things and for making my visit possible. □□□



AROUND THE GLOBE



Ottawa

Training doesn't end poverty

By Dave Jaffe

More training for the jobless won't necessarily lead to jobs or pull anyone out of poverty. The *Canadian Fact Book on Poverty* that came out last month points out that the proportion of poor families having someone with a post secondary education has soared to almost 30 percent in 1991 from 13.5 percent in 1981. The *Fact Book* also stressed that in the past ten years, the high rate of joblessness as well as poorly paid jobs led to the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. □□□

Regina

Women's conference agrees to social policy principles

Over 250 women from women's groups, anti-poverty groups, and unions agreed to a dozen basic principles for social policy reform in an historic conference in Regina Sept. 30th to Oct. 2nd.

The principles adopted at the conference will serve as guidelines for the development of strategies for intervention in the current federal review of social programs and for ongoing development of a feminist vision of social policy. They are as follows:

- We recognize that the current reform of social programs is taking place in the context of the globalization of the economy. "As long as there is 20% unemployment in this country, social programs cannot work. Social programs cannot carry the pressure of failed economic policies," said Sunera Thobani, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, which co-sponsored the conference.
- Social policy must be designed with a central commitment to eradicating poverty and to ending the inequality of women.

- We must reject the language of the government which blames, pities, patronizes, and promotes discrimination against people on social assistance. "The women's movement is committed to actively oppose welfare bashing," said Ms. Thobani.
- Funding to equality seeking groups is a government responsibility.
- The poverty of children must be seen in the context of the poverty of families. "The rights of children should not be pitted against the rights of their

Great Britain

UI under attack

Jobcentres in Britain have been told to double the number of people that have their unemployment benefits stopped for failing to seek work.

The centres have been told to challenge 135,000 people in order to tighten up on the "workshy."

In November the government is expected to introduce a new law that would replace UI benefits with a 6 month Jobseekers' Allowance.

"Jobcentres seem to be turned into places where the unemployed become targets instead of places where people can get help," said Alan Milburn, a Labour MP. □□□

Alberta

Industries may police themselves

Alberta may give industries such as pulp mills the right to police themselves on environmental issues, according to Environment Minister Brian Evans.

Don't hold your breath waiting for a new law giving people on welfare the right to police themselves. □□□

Ottawa

Trillionaire group wants low taxes for itself

By Dave Jaffe

The same folks that helped bring us the disastrous free trade deals are urging the federal government not to raise taxes in order to cut the deficit.

"Faced with severe fiscal problems, the federal government and some of its provincial counterparts will be tempted to raise taxes even higher," the Business Council on National Issues said last month.

The BCNI represents Canada's 150 largest corporations and brags that they have assets worth *over \$1 trillion*. If the government doesn't raise taxes, the other option is cutting services and programs that benefit low and middle income people. If these corporations had \$2 trillion in assets would they still think they couldn't afford to pay more taxes? Or would they still say that taxes "deter investment?" □□□

parents. Cuts to programs for adults will increase the poverty of children."

- We oppose access to Unemployment Insurance based on family income because it increases women's dependency on men.
- We are opposed to any form of coercion which ties any benefits to a work or training program. We are calling of the maintenance of the clauses in the Canada Assistance Plan which prevent these types of programs. "These programs are basically a cheap labour

market strategy, as it creates two types of workers, one well paid, and one not," said Francoise David, president of the Federation des Femmes du Quebec, another conference sponsor. "We are also opposed to using community and women's groups to generate workfare positions."

- Genuine reform of social programs must be done within a framework of respect for the 3 national peoples who make up Canada (Aboriginal peoples, people in Quebec, people in Canada outside of Quebec), recognition of and respect for rights of women with disabilities, lesbians and gays, and recognition of the multiracial and multiethnic nature of Canadian society.

"We have not heard Mr. Axworthy propose an employment strategy. He is proposing that people give up the right to income assistance and he will provide a training program with no real job at the end of it. Even a used car salesman can come up with a better deal than that!" □□□



Immigration policies promote cheap labour

By Nandita Sharma

Immigration policy is one of the main tools the government is using to create a society where 'cheap' labour abounds, disunity reigns and tensions are murderous for the least powerful members. Immigrants are scapegoated as the cause of our problems, conveniently directing public attention away from the real source of the problem, the corporate agenda.

In 1973 a 'guest worker' program began in Canada. With this program 'temporary' work visas are issued to a captive work force that is told either where to work, who to work for or what kind of job they can have. If any of these criteria are not met, the worker is deported to face worsening conditions in their home country. These workers have no right to unionize. Existing employment standards are not enforced and employers are given extraordinary power over their lives. Furthermore, 'temporary' workers do not have access to welfare or UI, even though they contribute their share of the costs.

Sound familiar? Well it should, because the current social security review is proposing to model the rest of the work force on the wage

levels, working conditions, and lack of a social safety net that guest workers in the country already live under.

These trends are not likely to disappear in the coming years. While the government plans more social program cuts, while workers find their hard-fought battles for labour standards and rights are being eroded, the number of workers given permanent resident status is declining. The number of 'temporary' or 'guest' workers is substantially increasing. For example, in 1987 only 28% of immigrants were given "landed" status whereas 72% were forced to work as guest workers. The guest worker program represents a regression back to an indentured servant model of work. Anytime there is a group of workers who have very few rights and little protection, it takes an extremely negative toll on all other workers.

We cannot not fall into the trap of blaming immigrants for this situation. Indeed, our ability to fight back against the cheapening of our own labour demands that we join with them in their struggle for dignity and a decent living wage! Unfortunately, many do blame the least powerful for the mistakes of society's most

(Continued on page 10)

Should education only be for the wealthy?

By Jean Karlinski, Canadian Federation of Students

Access to college and university for the poor and working classes will be all but wiped out if Lloyd Axworthy and the federal Liberals get their way.

In the name of debt/deficit reduction, the Feds are proposing to slash \$2.6 billion--about 25% of all funding from post-secondary education, and have user fees make up for the shortfall. The immediate result will be a doubling of already high tuition fees.

The feds are trying to justify such increases in user fees by claiming that the individual is the greatest beneficiary from a post secondary education, and should therefore shoulder more of the financial burden. In reality the vast majority of college and university

graduates are average wage earners who could graduate with \$60,000 to \$70,000 in debt under Axworthy's proposal.

What the Feds are forgetting is that no two individuals get the same financial benefit from post-secondary education. Obviously the fairest and most efficient way to recapture the financial benefits from post-secondary education to pay for the system, is a truly progressive taxation system. The Federation says that the only way to fund post-secondary education is through a combination of personal and corporate taxation, not through a user pay scheme.

The Canadian Federation of Students is devoting virtually all of it campaign resources to fight the cuts proposed by the feds, and will continue to work with its coalition partner, End Legislated Poverty, against Unemployment Insurance, Social Welfare, and Education cutbacks. □□□

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The impact of soc

Axworthy's discussion

On Oct. 5th Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy released his 89 page discussion paper "Improving Social Security in Canada." This paper is supposed to be the basis for consultations with Canadians between November 13th and December 16th. The report may be difficult for people on welfare or unemployment insurance to tolerate because it is full of oppressive language that blames the unemployed and people on welfare for not having jobs. However, if you want a copy of the 89 page report, phone 1-800-208-9494.

Here is a brief summary of the report from End Legislated Poverty's perspective. Keep in mind as you are reading the summary that the government has already announced cuts of \$1.5 billion to welfare and \$5 billion to UI; and that a leaked memo suggests an additional \$7.5 billion will be cut out over the next five years.

Employment Development Services

The report says that the "best form of social security comes from having a job." It then says the answer to unemployment is more personalized career counseling, more focused training, more opportunities for work experience and earnings supplements. It never mentions actually creating jobs or increasing the minimum wage. It appears that the funds for these services would be raided from existing welfare and UI programs.

What's behind this? Forcing more people into a workforce that doesn't have jobs for all, will force wages down, so Canadian wages will be more competitive with wages in the countries we trade with, like Mexico, or the Philippines. Giving wage supplements to employers who refuse to pay living wages, encourages even more people into the low wage workforce, and pits people who have supplements against people who don't. Why should taxpayers have to pay part of employers' wage bill?

What ELP wants: Jobs need to be created, if not by private companies, then by government. Minimum wage should be \$9 to \$10 an hour. Training should be available to people who want it, but people should not be forced to train in order to get benefits.

Government should stop blaming the unemployed for layoff decisions made by businesses.

Unemployment Insurance

The report suggests that UI be divided into two programs. One program would be for people who don't need UI much. The other would be for people who use UI two to three times in five years. For these people UI would become a sort of federal welfare. Unemployed people might not be able to get it if they had a working spouse or if they had money in the



Take from the poor to

bank. The government could gradually increase the number of weeks you have to work to get any benefits. It could reduce the amount of your benefit depending on how many times you claimed UI. The report also considers workfare or "trainingfare" for people who need UI.

The report also suggests reducing employers payments into the UI fund.

What's behind this?

Employers want to reduce the amount that they pay to support the workers they lay off. For about a year, corporate lobby groups have said but not proven that UI premiums are a tax on jobs. This is hard to believe because employers generally hire when they need new staff, not when they have extra money. They use extra money for profits.

social security reform

paper: What it says

Dividing UI into two groups will pit unemployed workers against each other, and make seasonal and part time short term workers even more desperate to work in low wage jobs, since they may not be able to get benefits at all, or their benefits could be extremely low. This measure would hurt women especially since many have part time, part year jobs and working spouses.

What ELP wants: UI should be funded properly. Employers should continue to pay their share of premiums. The system that we have now should be improved to



provide more benefits. Workfare and trainingfare should be illegal, as they force the unemployed to compete fiercely for the jobs that others already hold.

Welfare

The report talks a lot about the Canada Assistance Plan which provides federal funding to provinces for welfare and social services and rights for all Canadians around income assistance. (See page 1 for a list of CAP rights) It doesn't mention the rights under CAP but says CAP must be "reformed" to make it easier or compulsory for people to work at poverty jobs. It suggests "tilting" CAP funds toward "nutrition programs". The report proposed replacing the rights that poor people have in

CAP with the two "values" of increasing employability and reducing child poverty. CAP funds could be diverted from welfare to provide wage supplements for employers of low wage families, child care, and employment development services for people on welfare. The Child Benefit could be increased by \$1000 to \$1500 a year. But money for it would come from raiding welfare and UI funds and programs that benefit middle income people, not by taxing the rich.

What's behind this? Again, the government proposals are all in the direction of promoting working poverty. Although the paper talks a lot about the horrors of child poverty, nothing in the paper would end it. If part of welfare is turned into wage supplements for single parents, they could be required by provinces to work in poverty and leave their children all day.

By proposing to have "values" replace legal rights for poor people in CAP, the government is opening the door for a society like the U.S. where people have to live in hunger on the streets because they are not entitled by law to welfare. Single unemployed people would be targeted and forced to compete fiercely for low wage jobs.

By proposing to fund programs for children and employers out of existing welfare funds, the government would again let the rich off the hook and make the poorest of the poor, single people on welfare, even poorer.

What ELP wants: It all comes back to decent jobs and decent wages; a good UI program where employers pay their share; fair taxation where the rich and corporations pay more; a recognition that child poverty is caused by parent poverty; enforced legal rights for low income people to income at the poverty line; ending greed in order to end need. □□□



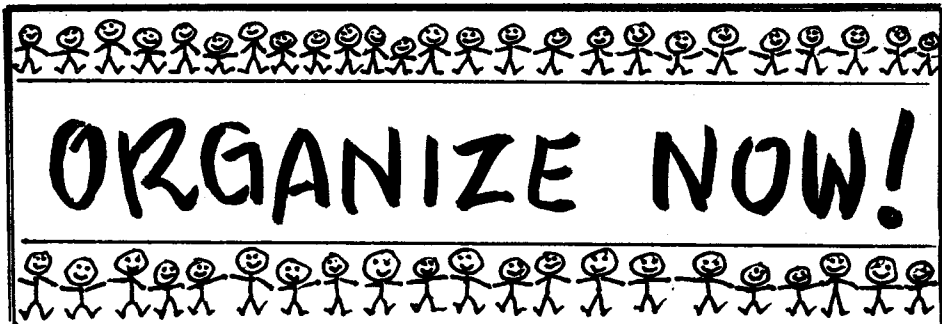
The Save Our Social Program message

Make these points in your letters, faxes, and calls to politicians:

1. **Make corporations pay their fair share of tax.** Canadian corporations owe about \$36 billion in deferred taxes. For a 34 page list of corporations that deferred taxes or paid a lower rate of corporate tax than the average working person, give ELP a call at 879-1209.
2. **The review should not be a cost cutting exercise.**
3. **Job creation and decent wages are a priority**
4. **Stop using language that blames poor and unemployed people for the mess that corporations and governments have created.**
5. **Workfare should continue to be illegal.** It forces unemployed people to take jobs that should be paid decently in order to get a miserly benefit.
6. **All people should have the right to an adequate income in Canada.** All the rights for poor people in the Canada Assistance Plan Act should be kept and strengthened (see page 1, Axworthy ignores rights)
7. **Most poor children are not orphans.** You can't end child poverty without ending parent poverty.
8. **Working poverty is not fun.** People should not be forced into poverty jobs. Minimum wage should be raised to \$9 or \$10 an hour.

Build on these points with your own thoughts.

Thanks to the Council of Canadians for the first three points and the idea.



Having your say

It won't be enough to tell the government what you think about their plan to chop social programs and push us into working poverty. But you might want to have a go at it anyway. You can use your presentation to develop your own and your group's understanding of what the government is up to. If the media covers your presentation, it might help educate people in your community about the issues. Don't spend a lot of energy on a brief. It would defy history if the government actually heard what low income groups are saying and did it. Spend most of your energy organizing to save social programs. If you'd like any help, give ELP a call at 879-1209.

To present a brief to the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development, contact:

Luc Fortin, Clerk
Standing Committee on Human Resources Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5A6
Phone: 613-996-1212
Fax: 613-947-5363

The Standing Committee on Finance is also traveling for pre-budget consultations. This committee is probably gathering reasons why it should chop even more programs ostensibly to reduce the deficit. Low income groups could probably give them lessons about how social program spending does not cause the deficit. To make a presentation, contact:

Martine Bresson, Clerk
Standing Committee on Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Don't forget to tell the Clerk that you are a low income group or person and need your expenses paid--all of them, including childcare. □□□

FLAWLINE

FRONT LINE ADVOCACY WORKERS

Unavailable equity considered as assets

~ by Anne Miles

A woman, who recently left her abusive common-law spouse, was refused regular assistance. The reason was that she has equity in the family home. She can't get at that equity and may not be able to for months or years, yet she qualifies for hardship benefits only.

Disabled from a motor vehicle accident, the client is unable to work at most jobs, at least until she

heals. Her emotional and physical state is such that she needs all the help she can get. On hardship, she was told that her children were ineligible for camp fees. All extra moneys such as GST were deducted from her cheque, leaving her very little for necessities after her rent was paid.

The client appealed refusal of regular GAIN. The tribunal decided that the client should stay on hardship but be topped up to the amount of regular benefits. This meant that each month, as she runs out of money, she is to phone her worker and ask for her GST credit back for gas money to get to medical appointments. Two thirds of the tribunal felt this solved everything with just one phone call each month.

Lack of communication between the worker and client caused major problems. She had to repeatedly ask for those extras that she'd be

getting on regular assistance. For someone in physical pain and emotional turmoil, who spends much of her time feeling overwhelmed, "one more phone call" is one more burden.

"The GAIN regulations need to be changed. Assets that cannot be immediately accessed should not be considered as assets."

The GAIN regulations need to be changed. Assets that cannot be immediately accessed should not be considered as assets. The client's rep suggested that the tribunal make a statement about how the law needs changing. She was told that there had been efforts to change this law for the past twenty years, to no avail. But think how much more aware the

general public is about battering than it was in 1974. Women are urged to leave battering relationships. These days, a woman is also encouraged to have her name on the deed to the family home so that she is not left destitute if a relationship ends. But if she's the one who moves out and needs to go on assistance, she ends up without even basic rates. □□□

MSS security deposit policy can cause problems for people sharing accommodations

~ by Joanne Shaw

On September 26th, a welfare recipient found shared accommodations to move into on the 30th. It is a house that is city owned and leased by one of the housemates, Darlene, who had already paid the security deposit to the city when she originally leased the house. Darlene required the client's portion of the security deposit, in order for the client to move in. But the Ministry of Social Services first refused to make a cheque payable to either the client or Darlene, and insisted instead on making the cheque payable to either a property manager or owner, in this case the city of Vancouver.

Luckily, Darlene and the other housemate had no objection to living with a welfare recipient, a status the client was forced to disclose about herself. Also, luckily, they were patient while Darlene and the client's FAW exchanged several telephone conversations over the following week. Eventually, MSS wrote a cheque payable to Darlene, and the client signed a form allowing the security deposit to later be returned to MSS. □□□

TIP

Welfare recipients needing to move either for health reasons including stress, or because the new residence has considerably cheaper rent, may get MSS to help with some of the moving costs. People can give their FAW a doctor's letter and three estimates for moving costs. This policy does not cover many other costs associated with moving such as mail forwarding fees or new phone and other utility hook-ups unless it can be documented as a medical need.

THE LAW FOUNDATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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



The British Columbia Welfare Joke Book

... WE'LL ALSO BE NEEDING A LETTER FROM YOUR DOCTOR STATING THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT.

FLAWLINE

FRONT LINE ADVOCACY WORKERS

Joan Smallwood tells FLAW members her housing strategy

~ by Joanne Shaw

Joan Smallwood Minister of Housing, Recreation and Consumer Services, and her assistant Jacquie Bobenic attended a

FLAW meeting

October 4th. There is no national housing strategy so Smallwood's provincial ministry is developing its own, which she described at the FLAW meeting. "Homes BC" attempts to deal with BC's need for housing in spite of a lack of federal funding," said Smallwood. It includes:

• **Homeless and homeless-at-risk.**

Non-profit sponsors will get help to build self-contained second-stage and permanent housing for people who may have an especially difficult time obtaining safe and secure housing. This is particularly aimed at people with alcohol and drug dependencies or mental

illness, women and children leaving transition houses, inner-city youth and young, single mothers.

• **Non-profit / co-op program.**

Non-profit sponsors will be

children and people with disabilities.

• **A bridging to home-ownership program.** Non-profit sponsors will be invited to propose new ways for family renters to build

• **A community initiatives fund.** This \$1.6 million will provide project grants for proposals that support advocacy and public education or pilot new housing-related services, and community

based housing projects.

• **Residential tenancy amendments.** Bill 50 is to be proclaimed December, '94. It includes:

- emergency repairs
- protection against discrimination because of someone's "lawful source of income", for example, receiving welfare.
- stiffer penalties for illegal landlord entry.
- a rent protection system (not rent control).

The Ministry of Housing published a book "Homes BC" which contains information on how non-profit sponsors can apply for funds for housing projects.

□□□



From left to right: FLAW members Margaret Ennengberg, Bridget Reanolds, David Mossop, Jeane Cook, Doug Hagerman; Jacquie Bobenic (Ministerial Assistant), Joan Smallwood (Min. of Housing, Recreation & Consumer Services).

assisted to build housing for low and moderate-income renters with a minimum of 60% of the units to be available for to low-income renters. Priority will be given to mixed-income projects designed for families with

limited equity in their own home. Priority will be given to current residents of social housing. This is intended to free up more social housing units for other lower-income renters.

Questions & Answers to and from the Minister

Q. There is a lack of access to tenancy arbitration due to location, cost, information officers, and a lack of a central registry to find landlord information.

A. The Ministry of Housing is looking for locations and funding to open more arbitration offices or have traveling arbitrators. The Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) will be able to waive the \$35 filing fee for tenants. Also, when hiring new arbitrators, the training will include tenant advocates and landlord's input.

Q. When the rent review process comes into effect in December, will people be able to file for previous grievances?

A. The rent review process will be retroactive until December, 1993. There will be 90 days for tenants to deal with retroactive problems.

Q. Sometimes landlords are difficult to get a hold of in an emergency.

A. Landlords will now have to post an emergency repairs contact number.

Q. Will rent increases between tenancies be regulated?

A. No. The RTB doesn't deal with rent increases between tenancies; only rent increases with the same tenant.

Q. Are there any changes regarding security deposits?

A. Security deposits will have to be refunded within 15 days of the move-out or else the landlord must make a case as to why it's not returned. Ongoing maintenance such as painting and carpet cleaning can't be deducted from security deposits.

If you have your own questions for the Minister, you can write her:

Joan Smallwood
Minister of Housing, Recreation
and Consumer Services
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

□□□

Joy MacPhail will meet with FLAW

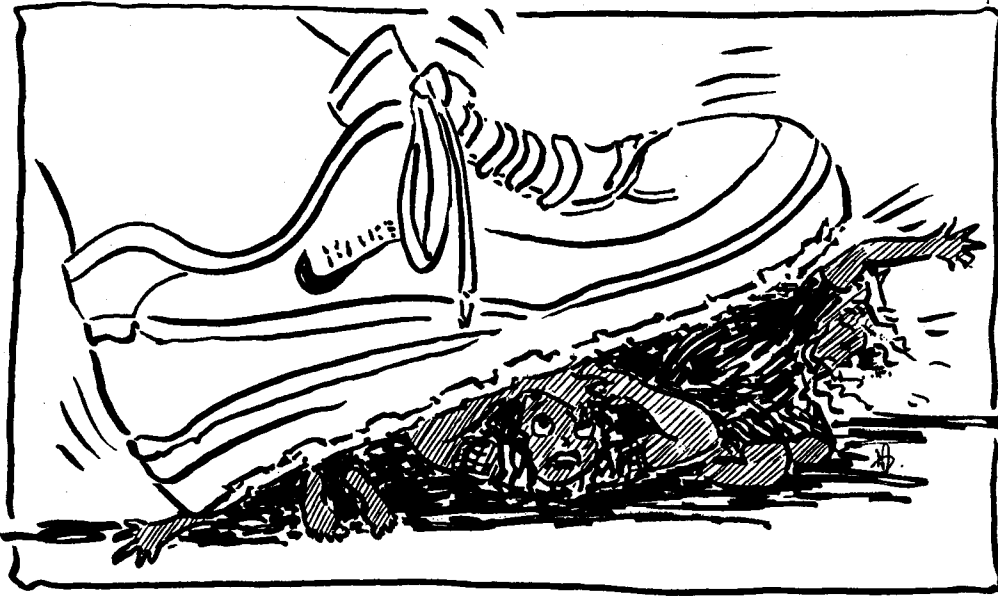
Minister of Social Services Joy MacPhail will attend the February 7, 1995 FLAW meeting to discuss issues that are important at that time to FLAW members.

THE  LAW
FOUNDATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

The Long Haul, Nov., 1994--page 9

Those fancy shoes are supporting injustice



By Sandy Cameron

Nike, with headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon, is the number one maker of sport shoes in the world.

Nike does not produce the shoes it sells. A significant number of the sport shoes it distributes, are purchased from contractors in Indonesia. This is also true of Reebok and other major sport shoe corporations.

Nikes made in Indonesia cost \$5.60 to produce, and sell in North America for about \$73 to \$135.

The young Indonesian women who sew them can earn as little as fifteen cents an hour.

"Overtime is often mandatory, and after an eleven hour day that begins at 7:30 AM, the young women return to the company barracks at 9:15 PM to collapse into bed, having earned as much as \$2 a day if they are lucky." (*Global Dreams*, by R. J. Barnet and J. Cavanagh, p. 326)

Nike responds to the charge of exploitation, as Barnet and Cavanagh point out, by saying that they've given jobs to thousands of

people who wouldn't be working otherwise. Those aren't decent jobs because they keep workers in a state of extreme working poverty.

The advertising for fancy sport shoes is high powered. For promoting Nikes across the globe, the super-athlete Michael Jordan, reportedly received \$20 million dollars in 1992--an amount greater than the entire annual payroll of the Indonesian factories that make them. (*Global Dreams*, p. 328)

What can we do? We can work for justice in our own country. We know that wages are being forced down as corporations move to where ever wages and taxes are lowest. People in country after country are forced by desperation to undercut the wages of people in other countries. This competitive impoverishment is making people poorer throughout the world. The Liberal Government's Social Reform Policy is part of that process, and is, in fact a cheap labour policy. By undermining unemployment insurance and making it harder to get, by cutting back on welfare for certain people,

and by forcing people to take training or workfare, low income people are used to undercut the wages and jobs of other people in Canada.

One way to oppose the Liberal social policy is to work for a minimum wage above the poverty line. But we can go a step further and work for a minimum wage above the poverty line in each country. This minimum wage could be enforced by the United Nations and international trade agreements--just like structural adjustment programs, only in a democratic direction.

No reason why those fancy running shoes can't support justice. □□□

Book Review

All the poverty statistics you ever wanted to know

The Canadian Fact Book on Poverty by David P. Ross, E. Richard Shillington, and Clarence Lockhead.

Before I started to read this book, I asked Jean Swanson what she thought of it. "Every statistic you wanted on poverty in Canada is in this book," she said. "If you can't find the statistic in this book, you probably won't find it."

Jean is right. In 150 pages the three authors who wrote this book for the Canadians Council on Social Development have produced a book with all the stats on Canadian poverty.

Do you want to find out how Canada stacks up against other countries when you compare rates of poverty? Turn to page 111.

Or, how many families and individuals were poor in 1992? Turn to page 37.

To make sure your community has access to these facts, go to your local library and ask them to buy the book. Contact the Canadian Council on Social Development, 55 Parkdale Ave., P. O. Box 3505, Station C., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 4G1. Their phone number is 613-728-1865 and fax: 613-728-9387. □□□

Immigration.. continued from page 6

advantaged. Racism, sexism and support for policies which aid in the impoverishment of most of the world's inhabitants and contribute to the international migration of labour continue to flourish.

The Liberal Government has recently announced changes which would make the lives of immigrants even more tenuous. It wants to eliminate any small opportunity that guest workers had of obtaining their rights in the country through being granted "landed" status. It is also blaming immigrants of colour for the Liberal parties own mistakes by stating that Canada's problems would be miraculously solved if it only accepted white immigrants from Europe - a classic case of scapegoating.

If this wasn't bad enough, the Reform Party is demanding that immigrants' basic civil and human rights *not* be protected by the Charter of Rights. It is also demanding that immigrants, even those granted "landed" status, be denied any access to social programs for a period of five years. This, of course, would create a group of workers who are much more desperate. This

benefits only employers who are able to exploit them further.

All of the reviews currently under way are about making us all much more desperate so that we will be forced to compete for the crumbs offered by corporations who are doing everything they can to turn our society into one where we are too busy fighting one another to do anything about the assaults on our humanity and our liberty.

To prevent this from happening, we must demand that all immigrant workers be given permanent resident status, have access to the same services as other workers, and be protected by the same rights as anybody else! This will help both immigrant and Canadian workers, and simply put, Canada needs more immigrants.

Furthermore, we must make a serious effort to organize with both immigrants and workers in other countries to bring wages up to the highest standard. Unless we stop being unwitting partners in the creation of cheap labour, we all lose out. □□□

Nandita Sharma is Vice President of the B. C. Organization to Fight Racism and a member of Women to Women Global Strategies.



This month's thanks

Thanks to the following volunteers who have helped out End Legislated Poverty this month: Lynne Melcombe, Bill Den Hertog, Barbara Sutherland, Sandra Pronteau, Denise Brown, Teckla Henderson, Maureen Davis, William Kay, Dave Jaffe, Dave Ross, Antoinette Saleh, Irene Schmidt, Joan Holloway, Erika Aumueller, Jerry L'Homme, Catherine Boren, Geri Werthner, Wilma Clearsky.

Thanks also to the Hospital Employees Union, Vancouver Public Library, Pulp Paper and Woodworkers of Canada, BC Nurses Union, and BC Provincial Council of Carpenters. □□□



ELP HELPS - information for low income people

GAIN survival tips

These tips are from the booklet, *Welfare rights and GAIN*.

Rent and food

1. Most people on GAIN are renters. Rents are often higher than the shelter allowance allows for. This means you will have to use some of your support money to pay the rent. Ask your worker for a food voucher when your support money runs out.

2. If you rent, apply to get in a co-op or social housing. Ask an advocate how and where to apply (advocates are listed on the back page.)

3. If you move to a cheaper place, the Ministry will pay for moving costs.

4. Ask your worker for a Crisis Grant for emergencies like having to replace stolen goods, pay off a huge hydro bill, winter coats, etc. There is no legal limit to the number of Crisis Grants you can get. If you need one, ask for it. If you are denied one, appeal it. Get an advocate to help you.

Earnings exemptions

1. After you have been getting GAIN for three months, you can earn and keep

- up to \$200 per month if you have dependents or
- up to \$100 per month if you do not have dependents.

2. If you are receiving maintenance, you can keep

- up to \$100 in maintenance and enough earnings to total \$200 a month if you have dependents or
- up to \$50 in maintenance and enough earnings to total \$100 a month if you have no dependents.

3. Earnings of children attending school full time are not considered family income, and the entire amount may be kept by the child or family.

4. Money you get from roomers, boarders, and babysitting is all considered income and is partly deducted from the amount of GAIN

you receive.

To get your free copy of *Welfare Rights and GAIN*, write to

Distribution Clerk,
Publishing Program, Legal
Services Society
Suite 300 1140 W. Pender
St.
Vancouver, B. C. V6E 4G1
□□□

Learning to organize



Susan Turansky, Joanne Lindy, Carrie Zadrazil, and Susan work on their own personal justice stories at the first ELP organizing class on Oct. 19th. If you'd like to attend the free class, call Linda or Rose at 879-1209.

When you apply for welfare

When you apply for welfare, it's useful to bring these things with you:

- Your Social Insurance Number card
- A photo ID
- One of the following: a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, credit cards, or citizenship papers
- Identification for each child

Also take as many of these things with you as you can:

- the most recent receipts for rent, mortgage, taxes, hydro, phone, etc.

- the card showing that UI has run out if you have been recently receiving UI
- CareCARD or other medical plan card
- bank book if you have one
- any other documents to prove the value of your assets besides your household equipment.

This information is in *Welfare Rights and GAIN*, a booklet published by the Legal Services Society. □□□



You're invited! Want to get involved in working to reduce and end poverty? Check out the list of coming events on the front page. Working for justice is fun and important!

Free law classes

These classes are provided by the People's Law School. To register or get more information, call the number in brackets. If you are unable to attend, please phone and cancel.

Vancouver. Separation and Divorce. Marpole Centre (327-8371) November 15th at 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

Vancouver. Welfare rights and GAIN. Champlain School (257-8315) Nov. 7th at 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

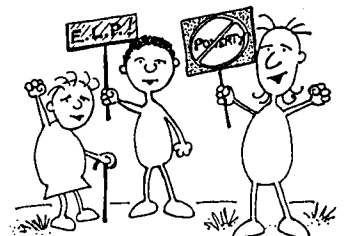
Vancouver. Women, money and relationships. Champlain School (257-8315) Nov. 16th at 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Coquitlam (937-0455). Library. Living Wills on Nov. 16th at 7:00 to 9:00 PM.
Maple Ridge (463-8884). School Board. Women and the Law. Nov. 15th at 7:00 to 9:00 PM and *Immigration Law.* Nov. 30th at 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

North Shore (987-8138). North Shore Neighbourhood House. Women and the Law. Nov. 23 at 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

Richmond (231-6405). Landlord and tenant law. Nov. 10th at 7:30 to 9:30 PM. □□□

Thanks to the **Legal Services Society** for funding for pages 11 and 12 of *The Long Haul*.



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

Grand Forks: Boundary Family and Individual Services Society. Counseling and legal support services for women, families, and youth. Call 442-5355.

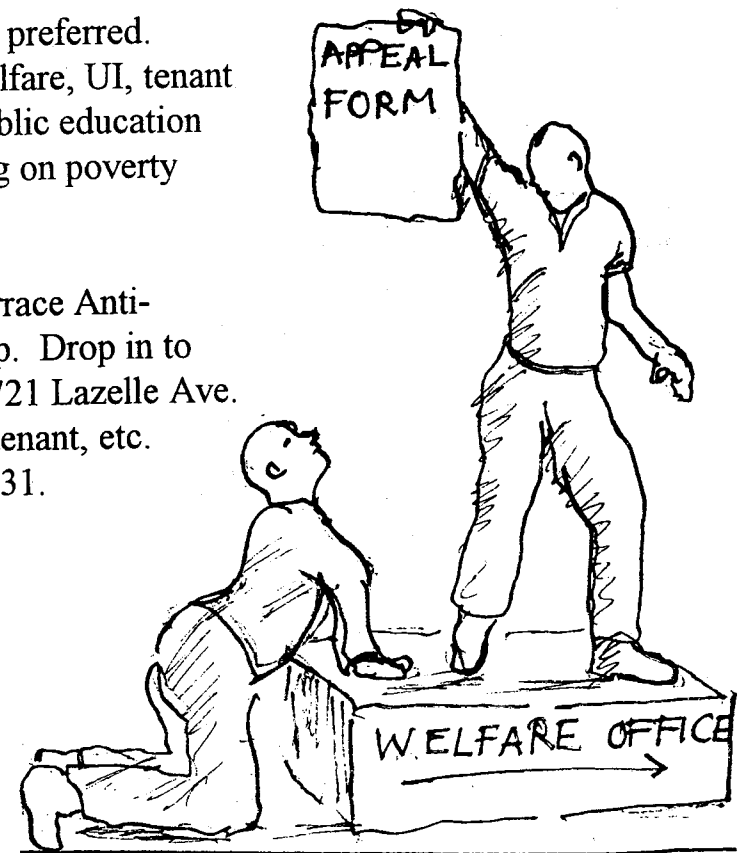
Grand Forks: Women's Support Services. Advocacy, counseling, support groups and referrals for women who have experienced verbal, emotional, sexual, childhood or financial abuse. Call 442-5355.

Greenwood: Boundary Creek Fighting Against Poverty Advocacy Society. Advocacy, information and referrals on human rights and income assistance issues. Call 445-6726.

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.



DON'T KNEEL: APPEAL!

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.

Powell River: Legal Services. Legal info, assistance with welfare,

pensions, small claims, landlord-tenant problems, etc. 4746 Joyce Ave. Call 485-9871.

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.

Vernon: North Okanagan Community Response Advocacy Project (NOCRAP). Phone 549-2847 for information and support. Social Services, UIC, tenancy and housing.

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

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

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