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CARNEGIE

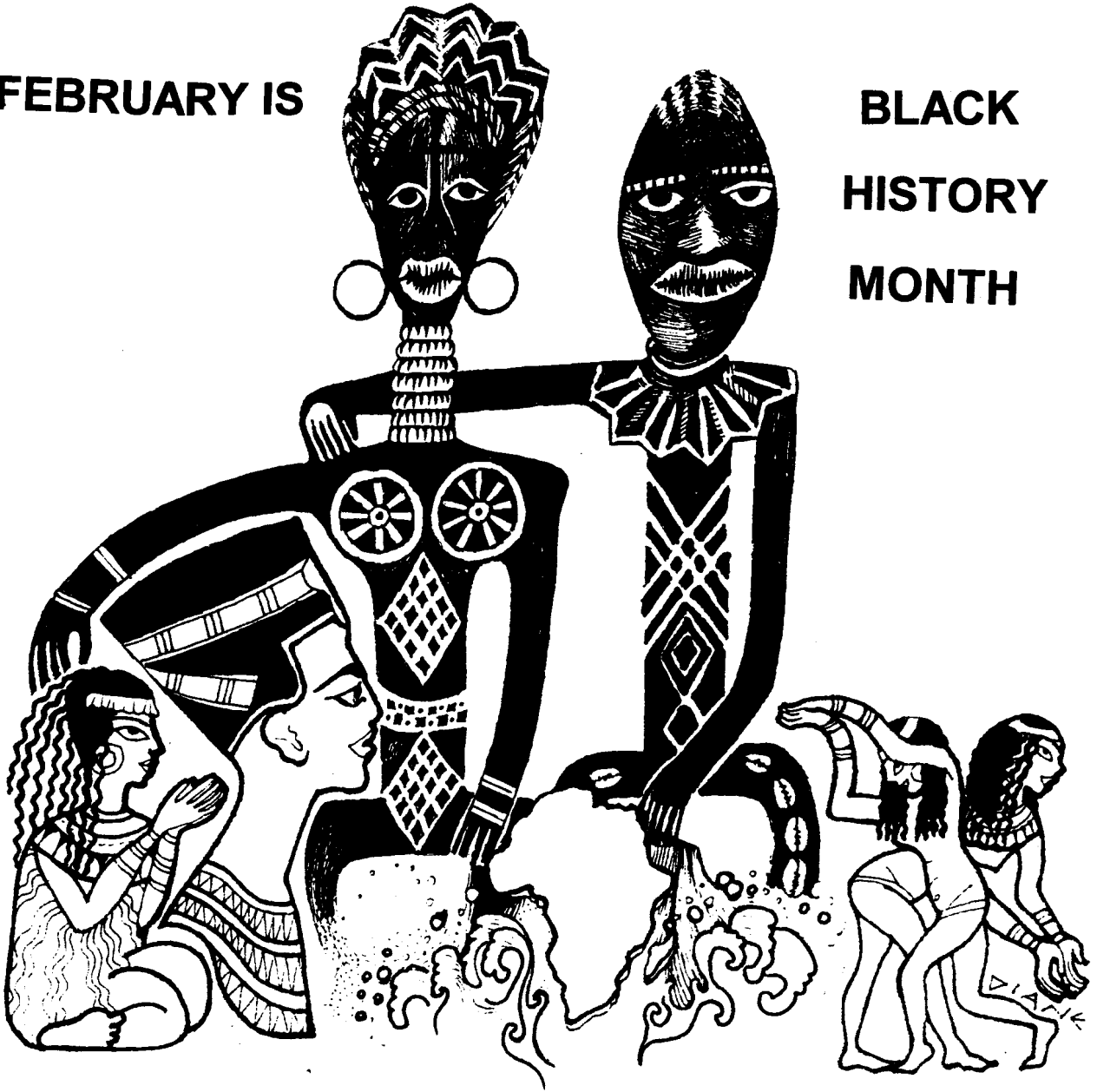
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 15, 2004

401 Main Street Vancouver V6A 2T7 (604) 683-2289

FEBRUARY IS

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH



Why We Need Black History Month All Year Around

From "Ghana Review" Vol 1, No. 6

Having lived in Canada for many years now, I have come to know the month of February as Black History Month. In fact, since 1926, February has been designated Black History Month in North America.

During one of the Black History Month celebrations here in Edmonton, I engaged in a chat with a gentleman who had come to find out what it was all about. During our conversation he kept asking me why do Black People need a month to celebrate their history? He wanted to know what is Black history? And if there is any history of African people at all to talk or read about.

I cannot remember the number of times I have heard or read somewhere that, as Africans, we have not contributed anything substantial to history. In fact, to many Westerners we have no history at all. This statement by a Columbia University professor is very typical: "Over the past 5,000 years, the black African had no written language; no numerals; no calendar or system of measurement. He did not devise a plough or wheel, nor did he domesticate an animal; he built nothing more complex than a mud hut or thatched stockade. The African had no external trade except in slaves of his own race, in ivory and (on the West Coast) in palm oil and mahogany."

The eminent Oxford University historian, Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper, said: "Perhaps in the future there will be some African history to teach. But at the present there is none; there is only the history of Europeans in Africa. The rest is darkness....and darkness is not the subject of history".

Margery Perham, a British scholar of Africa, wrote: "Until the very recent penetration of Europe the greater part of the [African] continent was without the wheel, the plough or the transport animal; without stone houses or clothes except skins; without writing and so without history."

What I have found troubling though is how many of us in the Black or African communities still believe some of these statements – despite the rise of the Afro-centric movement in North America. As someone interested in Black education, I find it a tragedy that many Black and African children grow up today convinced of their own inferiority. The

educational process largely ignores the contributions of Blacks to world civilization and is full of negative perceptions of Blacks and their culture. The school system in North America has continually perpetuated the historical myths and stereotypes about the African past.

I was almost moved to tears to read in a recent Canadian newspaper report about a Black student who until enrolling in a Black-Oriented remedial school never knew or read a book by a Black author. Students are not taught any African or Black history in regular classes. As one student put it: "They have always taken Canadian history, prime ministers, kings, queens. Maybe some US history. But they've never taken anything African". Or as another student said at a high school in Toronto: "History, Canadian history, English or anything else, was always about white people." In a Windsor high school where a history course in African history has just began, teachers observed how Black students are "amazed and absolutely intrigued about what they learn about the African past."

Their vital interest in the course would be the means to develop their learning skills –researching, reading communicating,." Already, teachers in Canadian schools have noticed "signs of a newly informed dissent...A few weeks ago one of my students stood up in his Grade 11 English class and asked why there weren't any black writers on the reading list- Through the influence of the black history course, a number of 'high-risk' students are taking on more academically demanding courses and faring well."

I have always believed what African American historian John Henrik Clarke said a long time ago that, to control a people you must first control what they think about themselves and how they regard their history and culture. Over time, many of us Africans have been injected with inferiority complexes, humiliation and cultural degradation as a result of the lack of knowledge of ourselves and our past. We have become caricatures and an inferior subset of the human race in the body of Western thought. Historian Asa Hilliard has said that no groups other than Native Americans and Africans, in the history of the United States, have undergone more defamation of character through distortion, omission, suppression of information and genocide.

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"Sign Language" 1887

Carter Woodson, who is credited with founding Black History Month, has written about how "the thought of the inferiority of the Negro is drilled into him in almost every class he enters and in almost every book he studies." There can be no freedom until there is freedom of the mind. I always remember the lyric by the late Bob Marley which says: "Emancipate yourself from mental slavery; None but ourselves can free our minds."

This brings me back to why there is a Black History Month in North America. Why is it so important to know our history? Carter Woodson was the premier Black historian to put forward the idea of African history as a form of Black cultural empowerment and emancipation. In his view, the knowledge and dissemination of African history would "besides building self-esteem among blacks, help eliminate prejudice among whites." In a speech in 1921 Woodson addressed the issue head on: "We have a wonderful history behind us... If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you: "Who are you, anyway? Your ancestors have never controlled empires or kingdoms and most of your race have contributed little or nothing to science and philosophy and mathematics."

If you will read the history of Africa, the history of your ancestors' people of whom you should feel proud, you will realize that they have a history that is worth while. They have traditions of which you can boast. Let us, then, study this history.

Traditional

Being one
with nature is
a chance we are given
spirits
do that naturally
it's called living

A heart is born wild and free

All the love inside is there
Unconditionally

Traditionally
Is
more than a state of being free

It's a part of life
you see

Traditional means so much
yes
It has a soft touch

Isidore Lahache



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

There are many books in the Vancouver Public Library about Black History Month.

The following are available from the Carnegie Branch:

“**Vernon Can Read**” by Vernon Jordan, a civil rights leader from Georgia. He writes about the struggles, changes and dangers of black life during the civil rights movement.

“**Whylah Falls**” by George Elliott Clarke, whose poetry sings with the rhythm of blues and gospel to tell the stories of the lovers, murderers and muses in a mythic community in Black Nova Scotia.

“**A Way of Being Free**” by Ben Okri contains a dozen non-fiction pieces about poetry, being black, and just being a human in this world.

“**A Song Flung Up To Heaven**” by Maya Angelou is one of the volumes of her autobiography, when she returns from Africa to work with Malcolm X only to find out he has been assassinated. During this period she experiences the Watts riots, and the renaissance of Black art and music in New York..

“**Black Like Who?**” by Rinaldo Walcott. This is the second printing of a ground-breaking study of black culture in Canada, first published in 1997.

“**No Crystal Star**” by Mairuth Sarsfield chronicles the inner strength of Black women living in Montreal’s Little Burgundy, and the musicians and gangsters at the popular black nightclub Rockhead’s Paradise.

“**Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl**” by Harriet Jacobs re-lives the harsh reality for a slave in the 19th Century.

“**Being Black**” is a book of Althea Prince’s essays.



Writing Workshop

Pathways Information Centre hosts the **dtes.ca** website, providing details about services available and training to find employment. This series of workshops are designed to help you tell your story, to see your self and life, and to share insights that helped you turn things around with others and the community at large.

Community News is a part of the **dtes** website, where information and articles on events and people in our community can appear, as well as a calendar of things going on.

The next workshop is at the
Four Corners Community Savings building, 2nd floor,
on **Monday February 23, 1 – 3 pm.**
Come and make writing, even journalism, part of the skill-set you have to find and keep a job.

As an added feature, articles and stories selected for publication on **Community News** can be paid for!

Facilitated by Paul Taylor

INTRODUCING THE "NEW" JOB SHOP

Benefit to you: Job search support leading to employment

Eligibility Requirement

- Unemployed BC resident entitled to work in Canada
- 19 years or older
- Motivated to work toward employment

What do we mean by "motivation"?

- Willing to devote your time to a job search
- Willing to participate in return-to work activities
 - ✓ Develop a resume
 - ✓ Identify a reasonable employment goal
 - ✓ Connect with potential employers

What is going to happen in the "new" Job Shop?


- Information interviews
- Support group

- Create a good resume
- Job placement
- Cold calling
- Faxing
- At least 3 contacts every day
- One-on-one coaching
- Learn to use computers
- Build interview skills
- Anything else that can help you get a job


The Secret of Getting a Job:

- Figure out what you can do that someone will pay you for,;
- Get clear about when and where you want to work; and,
- Introduce yourself to the person who can hire you.

The Job Shop supports residents of the DTES in their return to work. Participants develop and broaden the skills they will need to get and keep a job. Federally funded by HRDC, The Job Shop starts new participants every week. Program information sessions are held Tuesdays, at 1 p.m. Call 604-253-9355, Ext.234.





Need A Chance To Prove You're Ready, Willing & Able To Work?

Get the  you deserve!

Find out what your next step needs to be.

Call to attend The Job Shop Info session. 604-253-9355, ext. 234

Program funded by HRDC  Human Resources Development Canada  Développement des ressources humaines Canada



Classism is alive and well in our province.

Outspoken doctor wins key post:

Critic of Canada's 'Leninist' practices to represent B.C.

Premier Gordon Campbell's brother-in-law -- a noted physician who says Canada's "Leninist" medicare system uses East German-style tactics to brainwash the public -- has been named to a key national health post.

Les Vertesi, emergency room doctor and the former medical director at New Westminster's Royal Columbian Hospital, was chosen on Dec. 9 as B.C.'s government rep on the new Health Council of Canada.

The council is charged with monitoring the use of \$35 billion in health funding approved last year. It could also help set the agenda for re-tooling health care.

The appointments of Vertesi -- married to Campbell's sister Catherine -- and former B.C. auditor-general George Morfitt have not been announced by Victoria. Vertesi spelled out his philosophy in his self-published 2003 book entitled Broken Promises: Why Canadian Medicare is in Trouble. He makes repeated comparisons to communism, saying with medicare "we have brought the most destructive elements of Lenin's experiment home to bed with us."

Vertesi wants hospitals funded in a way that makes doctors and administrators accountable. He calls patients consumers and says the wealthy should be able to buy faster health care.

Vertesi, who was instrumental in founding B.C.'s acclaimed Advanced Life Support Paramedic program, said he was "approached by the minister" to serve on the council.

Terrie Hendricksen, executive director of the left-leaning B.C. Health Coalition, said Vertesi's prescriptions would tear down, not repair, the health system. "These ideas are not even on the edge; they're way out there." B.C. Nurses Union president Debra McPherson said having Campbell's brother-in-law on the council "does a great disservice to the people of B.C."

She said Vertesi's ideas are "almost wacko" and he should be recalled.

Women's Centres Call on Ida Chong for Emergency Funding

The BC Coalition of Women's Centre has written to the new Minister of State for Women's Equality, Ida Chong, for emergency funding to prevent the closure of Women's Centres across the province. All of the 37 Centres have had their only core funding cut by 100% effective March 31st, 2004.

Ida Chong has already gone on record as saying funding will not be restored to women's centres but instead will go to counselling and shelter programs. This is unacceptable, short-sighted and irresponsible. Women's Centres are often a woman's first contact for referral to other services in the community.

Many women who access women's centres need more than counselling and shelter or need other services altogether. This decision will do nothing but fragment services and leave thousands of women abandoned.

The BC Coalition has asked for a meeting with Minister Chong, to date this request has been ignored.

Previous reductions in Gaming Funding and other provincial cuts, combined with the elimination of core funding, have forced Women's Centres to begin the process of closing their doors. The majority of Centres have cut essential staff and/or programs and are bracing for closure.

Women's Centres provide a range of services to hundreds of thousands of women each year. In some communities, Women's Centres are the only service available to women.

The BC Coalition of Women's Centres is asking for the support of British Columbians in calling on Ida Chong and the BC Liberals to continue funding the 37 Women's Centres in this province. To join the fight please go to www.SaveWomensCentres.ca

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

49 W.Cordova
604-251-3310

NEEDLE EXCHANGE – 221 Main; 8:30am – 8pm every day
NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN – 3 Routes:

604-685-6561

City – 5:45pm – 11:45pm
Overnight – 12:30am – 8:30am
Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am

Free donations accepted.



Carnegie
NEWSLETTERS

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Contact
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Wai Ching
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Working for You

1070-1641 Commercial Dr., V5L 3Y3
Phone: 775-0790 fax: 775-0881

ONLY THE BANK IS LEAVING

The Four Corners Bank at Main and Hastings is shutting down services. There are still three other organizations in the building who will be continuing to provide services in 2004. Pathways Information Centre provides information and connections to all available services in the area. Fast Track to Employment and Aboriginal Connection to Employment will still be there working in their area. They all look forward to helping you as usual.

- 2004 DONATIONS**
- Libby D. -\$40
 - Barry for Dave McC. -\$50 Rolf A. -\$45
 - Margaret D. -\$25 Wm B. -\$20
 - Mary C. -\$30 Bruce J. -\$30 U'mista - \$20
 - Heather S. -\$25 RayCam -\$30 Gram -\$100
 - Paddy -\$30 Glen B. -\$50 John S. -\$80
 - Penny G. -\$21 Jenny K. -\$20 Dara C. -\$20
 - Sandy C. \$20 Audrey -\$20 Wes K. -\$50
 - Joanne H. -\$20 Christopher R. -\$25
 - The Edge Community Liaison Ctt -\$200
 - Peter T. -\$20 PG for PB -\$25 Anonymous -\$2

Get your taxes done for Free!

See Peter at DERA, 12 E. Hastings
Mon, Tues & Thursday: 10am-4pm
Friday 10am-3pm
Closed Wed and daily for lunch 12-1pm.



The Downtown Eastside Residents Association
can help you with:

- Phone & Safe Mailboxes
- Welfare problems;
- Landlord disputes;
- Housing problems
- Unsafe living conditions



Come to the Dera Office at 12 East Hastings Street

CFRO 102.7 FM co-op radio

listener powered radio



Community Directions

Dear Supporters:

Lunch à la Kart Services:

A Life Changing Opportunity

Eat, drink and consume all of our freshly made deli sandwiches and goodies. The Lunch Delivery Service is a social enterprise that is operated by individual entrepreneurs. It acts as a training program and a self-employment opportunity. All sandwich sales go back to each entrepreneur, which contributes to the social mission of improving the entrepreneur's confidence, health and earnings.

Lunch à la Kart Services will provide delicious food and reliable service. We hope that you will support the Lunch Delivery Service while helping us to accomplish our goals and change how people are cared for in our community.

We look forward to serving you in 2004

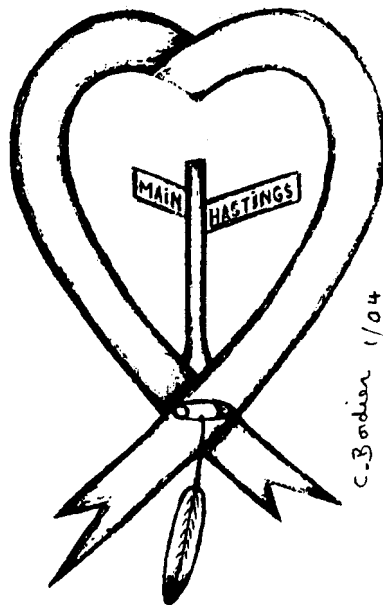
Yours truly,

Dawn Francois

Business Development Coordinator

30 W. Hastings ST

Ph: (604) 683-0073 ext. 279



desmedia workshops

Sundays at 327 Carrall St.

1:00 - 4:00 PM

We invite downtown eastside residents and members of the community interested in making videotapes, painting, writing, or telling their stories, to join us in collaborative and individual projects.

desmedia is a small art collective from different backgrounds running the weekly workshops, which center on expressing yourselves, documenting lives in the dtes, empowerment, and creativity. People are also invited to drop by and share their stories on video, draw, paint, or to have a cup of tea. Using painting, photography, video, and writing, you can develop works of self-representation and self-expression. Your participation forms the framework for the workshops.

For more info:

email: desmedia@rrrr.net

phone: 809-8774

The Unkindest Cuts

A sermon by Steven Epperson, given in a Vancouver church (of all places) on January 11:

9

Each year, April 1st is a day that should be welcomed by all of us serious people for its celebration of the comic vision of life. It is a day for jokes and pranks, for whoopy cushions, salt in the sugar bowl and bald faced (though harmless) untruths. We willingly give ourselves over to the carnivalesque undermining of the status quo and a momentary respite from bourgeois decorum. For one day in the year, we cavort about in the verbal livery of clowns. As an avid consumer of news media, and especially in view of its relentless coverage of catastrophe and mayhem, I have especially appreciated the nonsensical and clearly outrageously false "news" articles printed in the columns of some of our daily papers on April 1st. It's a day for whimsy and laughs. And, as one wag announced, for "remember[ing] what we all are on the other 364 days of the year." (Twain)

Unfortunately, the news we will be reading on the 1st of April 2004 about radical, punitive, and unprecedented welfare policies authored by our Provincial Government are no joke, no satire, no harmless prank. They are, instead, a social catastrophe in the making. I am talking about a Provincial Government and its Ministry of Human Resources, that as of April 1 of this year, will impose a two year time limit on eligibility during any five year period for welfare assistance to recipients without children, and will reduce the amount of assistance available to those with children. It also imposes a two year independence test requiring new welfare applicants to demonstrate that they have been financially independent for two consecutive years, and a three-week wait policy for any applicant receiving any kind of assistance whatsoever. Single parents, and by this we usually mean single moms, are being particularly hard hit. Child care subsidies and school lunch assistance have been slashed. Women's centres have been shut. And now shelter and financial support is being reduced. Some parents are afraid they will no longer be able to care for their children.

At a time when employment is stagnating and unemployment figures are spiking; at a time when workers in resource-based industries and the communities in which they live are struggling with the fall-out of the soft-wood lumber dispute, when tax-cut induced deficits are gouging government services; when support for the provincial government, whose leadership seems to be based each winter in a sunshine state of a foreign nation... I repeat, when their support is precipitously low, this province is about to embark on an ill-conceived, poorly researched, and sparsely documented social experiment that threatens the lives and well being of hundreds if not thousands of our fellow citizens and residents. An experiment with potentially devastating effects on both the tangible and intangible phenomena that cumulatively add up to a humane, compelling and attractive quality of life for ourselves and others.

You may well share my astonishment at this prospect. Astonishment. Indeed, 2000 years ago Cicero stated that "in extraordinary events ignorance produces astonishment" And how can we not be astonished by these extraordinary events? We have a government that relies upon our lack of information and our subsequent disconnect from the policy-making process. During the 2001 election campaign, Gordon Campbell, when asked if a new so-called Liberal government would reduce welfare benefits if they gained office, replied unequivocally that "We have no intention of reducing welfare rates." The Liberal's *New Era* election platform also said nothing about reforming or cutting welfare. (*A Bad Time to be Poor: An Analysis of British Columbia's New Welfare Policies*, hereafter cited *BTP*) And to *this very day* Murray Coell, Minister of Human Resources, chief of the very Ministry charged with responsibility for the province's social welfare, refuses to answer questions about how many people in this province may be effected by time limits, independence testing, and waiting periods. We were set up in ignorance. And we are kept in ignorance by a government that flaunts the responsibility for transparency that we expect from a democratically elected and representative government

Once in office, a social agenda emerged. Massive tax cuts, which disproportionately favour the province's wealthiest citizens and business corporations, ballooned the province's deficit Two years ago this month, in response to a manufactured fiscal crisis, the government announced that it intended to implement a dramatic programme...*surprise!*... of welfare restructuring; and that it would be cutting the operating budget of the Ministry of Human Resources by \$581 million over the next three years. That constitutes the largest budget cut for any provincial ministry.

The government mandated that budget savings would be realised through a combination of cuts to administration, services, welfare benefits and a further tightening of eligibility rules, in spite of its *New Era* platform and the previous assurances of its leadership. In due course 460 staff positions were eliminated. 36 welfare

offices across the province have been closed down, with an additional 26 slated for closure. And as you well know, child care, transportation support, a living minimum wage, enhanced education and training opportunities, an expanded use of earnings exemptions, and legal aid advocacy that extends equal access to justice for all – all of these features, central to the difficult but rational complex of criteria for articulating and achieving a welfare system that is a concrete and real expression of social solidarity in community in which we can have even a modicum of pride – all of these have been eliminated or drastically reduced by the Provincial Government. One is left to conclude, and perversely, that these policies actually discourage work re-entry.

In its February 2002 Budget, the Ministry forecast a 25% decline in welfare caseloads over the following three years even though the unemployment was expected to rise. (BTP 8) And I want to underline here that caseload reduction, not reentry by individuals into a quality job market, not reduction of poverty, has become the Ministry's principal means of measuring policy success. There are no performance measures or targets that focus on the reduction of the use of food banks or homelessness or evictions.

Surely this is the very kind of data that a Ministry entrusted by the public with oversight of social welfare would and should be expected to employ. Instead, we have a flawed system of "exit-tracking" by telephone surveys to monitor what happens to clients, a system that willfully neglects the facts of life for the 70% of clients who are homeless, mobile, or who cannot afford a telephone. And to top it all off, in what seems to be a clear conflict of interest, the Deputy Minister for MHR receives performance bonus pay for the successful caseload reductions in the system. It reminds me of the Fugitive Slave Laws in the States in the 1850s when federal judges were given hefty financial incentives for declaring a defendant a runaway slave, whether they were or not, and thus the lawful property of another human being.

If case load reduction is the prime imperative, if "pushing many people off of welfare into a weak labour market—a market characterised by increased competition for low wage work," - is the principal measure of success, then the outcome "will be increased hardship for both those on welfare assistance and for those already toiling in the low-wage work force." Greater competition for low-wage jobs will depress wages and earnings, thus harming the very people welfare reformers in government purport to honour—the deserving, working poor. (BTP, 5) Less money will end up in the pockets of people you know will immediately inject it into the local economy through modest, local consumer purchases, not like those whose Liberal tax cut windfalls end up being conspicuously consumed and invested in off-shore, tax sheltered accounts.

Welfare is an essential expression of how we recognise our moral obligations to each other. It is one of a myriad of ways in which we invest as a people in our commonwealth, in which we enhance our quality of life. It is one of the imperfect but essential ways that members of a decent society have chosen to look after one another when facing the hardships imposed by accidents, poverty, disability, unemployment, or domestic abuse. (BTP, 7)

One is left to conclude, that on these issues, and in the face of what may be a human catastrophe, our government is culpable of not only mean spiritedness but also of potential violations of fundamental human rights and of material bodily harm.

How have we come to such a shameful place in this fair land of ours with its embarrassingly rich beauties all around us? It's like something out of Dickens! How is it possible that in a country, whose *average* citizen espouses a socio-cultural outlook found only among the most progressive segment of the American population, (Michael Adams, *Fire and Ice: The United States, Canada, and the Idea of Converging Values*, 2003, 155) we are being sent on this fool's day errand? We are being asked to deliver this unkindest of cuts to the most vulnerable members of our community? We are being made complicit, by our elected government, in this undertaking, this demolition of commonwealth, this assault on the soul of our body politic?

I have heard you say that this government came to power because of the expression of the popular will to throw out its predecessor. That British Columbia has become distinctively prone to a political pathology of rapid cycling, of tossing its lot with now one, now another party and its promises of good government only to be disappointed. Only to have the cycle take another lurching turn. But we know that there is more to it than that. And that it begins with a party whose leadership dissembled before the electorate over two years ago about its true intent, in the same way that the current party in power in the States connived its way into power by selling "compassionate conservatism" like a bill of goods to a people who wanted it to be true. Who wanted to believe that a government could square the circle of fiscal responsibility and restraint with generous, compassionate attention to effective and humane social welfare and education of its youth.

It is a circle that cannot be squared because of the ideology that informs this dangerous social experiment and the people who are its true believers and practitioners. An ideology whose initial premise is that social justice, according to Frederick Hayek, the prophet of neo-liberalism and the philosopher king for Margaret Thatcher, her American allies, and seemingly a new crop of true believers in this province, that social justice is "meaningless" and a "sign of immature minds." That it is "unfeasible." And the pathetic, primitive, and toxic "religious" belief of malign special interests bent on arbitrarily coercing members of a free society to violate the rational, "impersonal" process of free markets. Markets: that impersonal, god-like system which brings about, Hayek and his followers claim, the "greatest satisfaction of human desires than any deliberate human organization could possibly achieve." (On Hayek, see Steven Luke, "Social Justice: The Havekian Challenge," in *Cannibal & Liberals: The Implications of Diversity*, 2003, 116-129)

I am not going to argue over the merits or faults of this position. Rather, this morning I simply want us to remember the sources and principles that gather us into community under this roof and that inspire our actions in the workplace, in our homes, and in this church. We are the heirs of a five hundred year old ethical and religious legacy. Inspired and activated by the "words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." By the wisdom of the world's religions which inform our ethical and spiritual life and call us to love our neighbours as ourselves. I have yet to discover that that injunction--love of neighbours - was made contingent upon whether they were *deserving* of it or not. Our principles move us to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. And this, the worth and dignity of the individual, can only be secured through social justice, *social* equity, and *social* compassion. And through a democratic process that thrives in an environment of mutual respect, transparency in government, a broad enjoyment of a decent living wage, a vigilant media, and widespread debate, consultation, and participation by all shareholders in our commonwealth. Commonwealth in a decent and democratic society...does this not call for an imperfect but necessary approximation, at *least* of equity in means and opportunity, equity in education and health, equity before the law...in sum, an equity of hope broadly distributed and enjoyed by the residents of this province? It is hope, that precious antidote to the idolatries of mind and spirit, that toxin against cynical irony, political resignation, and ethical lassitude.... It is hope that I feel is under assault, endangered in this grim *new era* whose politicians have declared open season against *us*: the working poor, the senior citizen, the disabled, the single mother, the hungry child, the kids in overcrowded classrooms, the overwhelmed case worker.

Last November, Mao Jomar Lanot, a 17 year-old student, lost all hope when he was beaten to death on the grounds of Tupper High School. What did we learn from Jomar's tragedy? Ken Annandale, Van Tech's retired principal put it like this: we don't have the resources we need to deal with social issues. "We don't have the ESL teachers we use to have, we don't have the counselors we used to have.. The bottom line is we've got schools full of talented kids and committed teachers, but we are under-resourced in terms of dealing with social responsibility.... There needs to be drastic changes in how we help our young people become part of our schools and of the larger community."

Don't tell us that social justice is a meaningless, primitive ideology. Don't tell us that it is the unfeasible and just wishful thinking of immature minds. Not when the provincial government has raided and despoiled the Ministry of Human Resources to the tune of 600 million dollars, the exact amount it is spending to upgrade the highway to Whistler. Who are primitives? That's what I want to know. And what are we going to do about it?

The eyes of this nation are focused on this province and its residents. Those who would kill good and just and equitable government by starving its capacity to extend the goods of social justice to all of its residents are sizing up their chances of success. For come April Fools Day, if this dangerous experiment, with its unprecedented budget cuts, time limits, waiting periods, independence testing, and its overextended social workers, if it is not stopped in its tracks by massive dissent, if reason, justice, and decency do not prevail here, then the programmes which fund and promote the social solidarity for which Canadians have struggled and of which they are justly proud are in peril. May we wake up, get educated, and act with reason, justice, equity and compassion as our guides. May it be so, and may we begin now!

Government Policy on Welfare and 2-year time limits:

As part of the province's emphasis on employment and personal responsibility, time limits were introduced in April 2002 in order to motivate employable income assistance clients to find jobs as quickly as possible. Employable clients who do not meet any of the 25 exemption criteria are limited to a cumulative 24 months (two years) of assistance out of every 60 months (five years). The 25 exemption criteria are designed to ensure that no one who is unable to work or who is actively looking for work will lose assistance. These include persons with disabilities, pregnant women, single parents with young children, people in a special care facility or people with an alcohol or drug problem.

Rates will be reduced as follows for those clients who fail to follow their legally binding employment plans after receiving assistance for a total of 24 months in a 60-month (five year) period:

- No eligibility for employable singles
- No eligibility for employable couples, with both adults at the time limit
- \$300 per month for employable couples with one adult at the time limit

For families with children, rates will be reduced by:

- \$100 per month for single parents
- \$100 per month for two-parent families where one parent is at the time limit
- \$200 per month where both parents are at the time limit

Exemptions:

Time limits only affect income assistance clients who are capable of working now. Only months when employable clients are receiving income assistance, and are expected to be actively seeking employment, count toward the time limit.

Time limits do not affect:

1. Persons with Disabilities
2. Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers
3. Pregnant women
4. Children under the age of 19
5. Single parents with a child under the age of three
6. Single parents precluded from leaving the home for purposes of employment because they are caring for a disabled child
7. Single relatives of a child under the age of three when the child is living in the relative's home (Child in Home of Relative assistance)
8. Single relatives of a disabled child living in their home when caring for the child precludes the relative from leaving the home for purposes of employment (Child in Home of Relative assistance)
9. Single parents with a foster child under the age of three
10. Single parents precluded from leaving the home for purposes of employment because they are caring for a disabled foster child
11. Single caregivers for a child under the age of three in an out-of-care living arrangement
12. Single caregivers precluded from leaving the home for purposes of employment because they are caring for a disabled child in an out-of-care living arrangement
13. People in a special care facility or private hospital or who require extended care
14. People precluded from leaving the home for purposes of employment because they are caring for a disabled spouse
15. People with an alcohol or drug problem that interferes with their ability to search for, accept or continue in a job
16. People with a mental health condition that interferes with their ability to search for, accept or continue in a job.
17. People with a temporary medical condition that interferes with their ability to search for, accept or continue in a job
18. People participating in an alcohol or drug treatment program that interferes with their ability to search for, accept or continue in employment
19. People leaving a violent or abusive relationship within the previous six months when the abuse or separation interferes with their ability to search for, accept or continue in employment

20. People participating in a Training for Jobs program (including Bridging Employment program and English as a Second Language program)
21. People receiving direct purchase services for employment training interventions where no Training for Jobs program providers exist in their community
22. People participating in an English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, literacy or upgrading program
23. People over the age of 65
24. People receiving hardship assistance including refugee claimants who have not yet been granted permission to take up permanent residence in Canada (i.e. "landed" status)
25. People who have an employment plan, are complying with their plan, are actively looking for work, but have not been successful in finding employment.

Expectation to Actively Seek Employment:

BC Employment and Assistance clients are required to sign an employment plan in order to be eligible for income assistance from the ministry. The Employment Plan is a legal document between the client and the ministry that outlines the steps that the client will need to take in order to secure sustainable employment. Employment plans encourage clients to focus, take responsibility and move quickly into employment.

***Not complying with employment plan includes:**

- failure to search for employment
- leaving employment without just cause
- dismissal with just cause
- failure to accept employment



Promise in the air blossoms showing just so slightly
 the beautiful racket at 8 am when schoolboys
 bounce concrete circus tricks at Lord Strathcona
 the air is lighter, less dense, the hookers less haggard
 being poor isn't so bad, relative to everything else
 today the dentist pulls 4 front teeth & I'll smile
 my toothless smile – who needs painkillers today?

my grocer's forgiving me, lends me papers
 even tho' I'm a pain, a regular pain, a regular
 she rips me off but forgives me that in itself
 beautiful spider plants, now humongous, were babies
 when Lucky Golden opens it's happy enterprise

even Jose, my old-time foe, crosses the street
 nothing much but he said something that in itself
 either love it or let it drown you I'm swimming today
 caught up in the current rush to blossom

R.Loewen

POETRY NIGHT

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH WILL BE ON
THE *SECOND* SATURDAY of the month-
MARCH 13

At 7 pm in the Carnegie Theatre
 Come and get your fill of the
DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE POETS,
SHIT DISTURBERS,
HISTORIANS (HERSTORIANS),
BALLADEERS AND RAPPERS

A Sizzling Spring Line-Up
 Plus Open Mike

Government Backs Down over Heartless Policy but won't release numbers

"(...) What they don't say is that at the last minute government added a new 25th reason for exempting people from the arbitrary time limit. The new exemption is "People who have an employment plan, are complying with their plan, are actively looking for work, but have not been successful in finding employment." Everyone on assistance has completed an employment plan because it is a requirement in the initial application. It has always been a requirement that employable people look for work. In other words, rule 25 exempts everyone and the two year rule was a cruel exercise that caused needless anxiety for people who are already down on their luck."

Here's how the number of exemptions grew from May 2003, after over a year with just seven categories, to adding one more in June 03, then to December 03 and 24 exempt categories.. and now on February 6, 2004 with the seeming catch-all of the 25th exempt category.

This must be monitored as to how the legislation (that perpetrated and perpetuated the massive roll-back in publicly-funded social services) will be applied on a day-to-day and case-by-case basis. Look for shocking invasions of privacy and virtual slave-waged jobs with business people/employers urged to report anyone who refuses to take such work to the government.

It's still unclear if the cutbacks to single parents with small children will go ahead, but nothing has been clearly stated. The shelter portion for many such parents was reduced. Can you accept the philosophy that making life as miserable as possible will somehow result in people abandoning their kids to little or no quality care in order to work for less than minimum wage indefinitely? This philosophy, this "New Era," ignores the thousands of very employable people seeking work full time as it is, with little consideration to the multiple barriers of poor parents or middle-aged recipients that are not medical or geographical – hence the reductions in services, school supports and good daycare.

Please remember at all times that Gordon Campbell and his cohorts are bought and paid for, and have proven beyond reasonable doubt that they are liars of the first order. Witness the late minister of human

resources, Murray Coell, ranting about the "socialist failures" – his moniker for the NDP – when boasting about the great numerical reduction in welfare cases. He actually said that because so many had stopped receiving benefits and their phones were 'not-in-service' they (in toto) must have moved away to their new jobs. It of course couldn't be that they were evicted or had their phone cut off due to lack of money... It's similar to Vanderzalm saying that kids going to school without bag lunches must be throwing them away; it couldn't possibly be that the parent(s) had no food due to the pitiful welfare rates.

I ask that advocates and anti-poverty groups keep an extra eye on the application of this still extant legislation and report any and all insidious activity. The ideation behind these changes is nefarious, and will just keep influencing and dictating policy from more subtle levels. Witness the "free" trade and satellite agreements that we only learn about after they are used to crush various rights and freedoms.

Curiouser and curiouser.

By PAULR TAYLOR

PRACTICING DEMOCRACY

A ground-breaking legislative theatre experiment

Produced by Headlines Theatre

March 3 – 21

The good news is that thousands of welfare recipients will not be cut off April 1. The bad news remains that after years of cuts to social services and welfare, poverty's effects are commonplace: crime, panhandling, homelessness and malnutrition are just part of the picture, and they're not going away. What would you do?

Vancouver City Council has unanimously agreed to consider the legal report derived from Practicing Democracy, marking a Canadian first: using Theatre to create law

It's directed and joked by David Diamond; created and performed by Vancouverites experiencing cuts to welfare. Admission is by donation - no one will be turned away for lack of money

Tickets: 604-871-0508 www.headlinestheatre.com

[Reservations Recommended!!]

Perilous Pursuits

Pursuing pathetic parameters of confining space
Others I glimpse are secretly taking quick sidelong
glances at decrepit sodden caved-in tent cities where
past and present circumstances necessitate extreme
survival measures brought on by the harshly callous
illusions of powerful political neophytes, not some-
what inexperienced, and their doomed rusty notions
of cruelty and punishment. They creak along in their
sordid sort of way, bogged down in rutted tracks
long since abandoned and spent. I pause standing
silent amongst this cluttered chaos / so-called order
to recognize and regard these tattered and torn cool
canopies as homes of brave souls. They are clean
and clear in the mind as they plod proudly on in
daily necessities.. maybe it will be soon that privi-
leged pompous masters collectively fall on their
imaginary yet bloodied swords and reap cruelty as
real as cold steel – vengeance for dastardly deeds
inflicted on the poor, stricken and infirm who rab-
ble-rouse in a decent way, survival still uncertain in
our bitter littered streets, but never to be crushed or
cast out. I rest briefly, content, wanted, and so privi-
leged to be right here, right now.

Robyn L.

My Life in One Verse (a Universe)

I live on an emotional rollercoaster
in a chemical amusement park
trying to find my way
through a constantly changing obstacle course
to the centre of a maze
where, I think,
there's a little piece of cheese for me
but there's no cheese
But I think there's a piece of cheese

David K. Temple

The *Newsletter* received three articles from Barry Bjornson of **Simple Recovery**. Apparently this is an addiction treatment facility or method that helps those with the disease in coming to terms with and beating alcoholism and/or drug addiction.

The articles are long and editing may detract from the message/method, so those interested in talking about and overcoming addiction can call Barry at 604-682-3269, ext. 6094; barrybjornson@Yahoo.ca



6th Annual Strathcona ARTIST AT HOME Festival



Wednesday February 18, 11:15am

The Jasmine Trio Traditional Chinese Music

When world-class musicians make Vancouver their home we are blessed with their superb music and talents. Vivian Xia (Yangqin- Chinese hammered dulcimer), Zhong-cai Yang (Erhu - Chinese two stringed fiddle), and Wen-ying Chen (Guzheng - Chinese zither) are exceptional award winning musicians whose dynamic music is inspiring, intense, lively and harmonious. A special enchanting après- Chinese New Year event featuring exquisite traditional Chinese folk music for our Strathcona Seniors. All welcome. *Free.*

Strathcona Community Centre, Seniors Lounge, 601 East Keefer

Friday February 20, 8pm

Strathcona Coffee House featuring Abbla Banji

It is amazing the artistic treasures constantly uncovered right here in good old Strathcona —home to immigrants and artists from all over the world. Arriving from Trinidad and Tobago on our fortunate door step is the multi talented musician Abbla Banji. With this breeze of good fortune comes an evening of music rarely heard in wintry and wet Strathcona- spicy Caribbean folk music and the upbeat tempos of calypso, reggae and soca rhythms. Come on out and welcome Abbla to our neighbourhood—and enjoy refreshments, dessert and heart warming Caribbean sounds with friends, family and neighbours. *\$5 suggested donation*

Strathcona Community Centre, 601 East Keefer Street

Tuesday February 24, 11:15am

Dragon River Shadow Theatre

Celebrate the Year of the Monkey with Dragon River Shadow Theatre's delightful shadow screen production of *Monkey Tales*. These ancient stories - well known in classical Asian literature and popularized through Chinese TV series, comics, Japanese anime and mainstream media - feature the much loved and clever, magical and eternally mischievous Monkey King. Bringing this charming rascal to life are Vancouver's finest Chinese shadow puppeteers—Zhungxi Wu, who grew up amidst the folk tradition of shadow puppetry in his home of Heilongjiang in the Black Dragon River province of northeastern China, and West Vancouver's Karen Wong, who has worked with Chinese shadow puppetry in New York and China, and with Vancouver Moving Theatre's six-time Jessie nominated *Tales from the Ramayana*. *Free*

Strathcona School Library 592 East Pender

Friday February 27, 8pm

Metis Urban Barn Dance

w/ Master Metis Fiddler Art Burd & Manitoba Metis dancer Yvonne Chartrand

Are we in for a treat! Grab your dancing shoes, your sweetie, your kids, your friends and your neighbours and head on down to Strathcona's barn-for-a-night to the lively Metis fiddle music and dancing of master Metis Fiddler Art Burd, rhythm guitarist Shirley Rodgers and Manitoba Metis dancer Yvonne Chartrand. Art Burd – one of Canada's finest Metis fiddlers – is a man with a touch on his fiddle that will have your feet tapping the minute you hear his spirited music. Think guaranteed lively and joyful music, great times and just a whole lot of fun. First-timers welcome. Yvonne will have you dancing in minutes to traditional Metis dances like *The Red River Jig*, *The Duck Dance*, *Drops of Brandy*, *The Belt Dance* and *The Rabbit Chase Dance*.

The Red River flows in Strathcona! *Suggested Donation: \$10 adults, \$5 children.*

Strathcona School Auditorium 592 East Pender

Friday March 5, 8pm

Strathcona Coffee House featuring The Laura Crema Trio

Strep-throat kept Laura from performing for us last year, but she's back this year fresh from the release of her new CD *Almost Blue*. A resident of Strathcona for over five years with roots in this neighbourhood going back as far as the 1920's, Crema has a voice that will heat up any cold winter's night. Join Laura and her band for some hot coffee and even hotter home grown Strathcona jazz.

"Laura Crema's sultry vocals pull you in deep into the dark, smokey room of some 40's speakeasy where torch songs spoke volumes from the heart...unadulterated musical silk, and not to be missed." Sue Braiden, CBC Radio

"Singer Laura Crema is poised to take centre-stage on the international jazz scene. Possessed of a powerful voice with great depth and resonance, she brings a warm, strongly emotive approach to classic torch songs".

Tom Keenleyside, flutenotes *\$5 suggested donation*

Strathcona Community Centre, 601 East Keefer

HISTORYWALK,

ART TALK,

HISTORYTALKS

Strathcona residents, historians and local activists share their wealth of knowledge about their work and the history of Vancouver's best neighbourhood. And find out why—in the words of John Atkin—city officials have learned that *'You don't mess with Strathcona'*.

Historytalk STRATHCONA/CHINATOWN: CITIZEN ACTIVISM IN COMMUNITY BUILDING

Thursday February 19, 7:30pm SCC Activity Room

During the 1960's and 70's, Strathcona was targeted for destruction with freeways and urban renewal. Fortunately, community members responded with a determination to safeguard the neighbourhood's future and initiate an innovative urban program that became a model for the entire country.

Hayne Wai, a Sessional Instructor at the University of BC and Executive Director of the Strathcona Property Owners and Tenants Association (SPOTA) during the Strathcona Rehabilitation Program, evokes for us the activism of 1960's and 70's with an insightful and indepth slide show presentation on the history of Chinatown and Strathcona. Refreshments and desserts will be served. \$5 suggested donation

Historytalk with JOHN ATKIN

THE TOUR OF NOTHING: THE FREEWAY THAT NEVER WAS

Sunday February 22, 1pm

Start at the southeast corner of Main and Union

Did you know that the Georgia Overpass is part of the Vancouver freeway system that Strathcona residents and activists brought to a grinding stop? When driving east over the overpass have you ever looked straight ahead and realized that – if successful – this planned freeway would have wiped out all hundreds of homes along Union and Prior Streets – including the now beloved Benny's and Union Street Markets?

John Atkin, Strathcona resident and author of *Strathcona: Vancouver's First Neighbourhood* will lead us on a tour of the Freeway That Never Was. We'll explore what's been lost (Hogan's Alley), what wasn't build (the freeway) and the consequences for Strathcona. We'll then top it off at the historic Ovaltine Café for our traditional Boston Cream Pie Gathering! Strathcona Residents \$5. Non-residents \$10

ArtTalk with BILL RICHARDSON

Tuesday March 2, 7:30pm

Strathcona is renowned for being home to immigrants from all over the world. 'Immigrants' from the city that surrounds our village like neighbourhood are also attracted to our vibrant community. Bill Richardson – CBC Radio host, Keeper of the Sad Goat, Steven Leacock Award winning writer – and here is the best part - new Strathcona resident, will read excerpts from his current work in progress and talk of his life and work. Phone 254-6911 for location.

Historytalk BUTCHERS, BAKERS AND CANDLESTICK MAKERS -HAWKS AVE ROW HOUSE TALES

Wednesday March 3, 7:30pm

They began as starter homes for mostly working class immigrants from Britain and Eastern Canada. Over the past century the row houses on the 700 and 800 blocks of Hawks Avenue have been home to a diverse cross-section of East Enders. Italians, Russians, Yugoslavs, Jews, Ukrainians, Blacks, Japanese, and Chinese residents all have left their imprint. All of the units have tales to tell. House genealogist (and proud row house resident) James Johnstone has just completed compiling detailed histories for all four of the Hawks Avenue row houses. Curious? Come and see what he's found out. Refreshments and desserts will be served. Phone 254-6911 for location.

IT'S SADIE HAWKINS DAY



So ladies, this is the day it is okay for a gal to ask her fella to marry her! If he refuses he has to buy you a dress. Okay, maybe that is carrying it a bit too far (except the dress part), so I am throwing a dance to give all us gals an opportunity for women to initiate the inviting out of the man of their dreams. 'The Sneaky Peats', a world renown band, has just returned from a whirl wind tour just for the occasion. Of course if one of these band members just happens to be a starry eyed gals dream date, he will have to meet the challenge of playing his musical instrument as he dances! P.S. This includes Carnegie Staff too.

SADIE HAWKINS DAY DANCE
featuring **THE SNEAKY PEATS**
Friday, February 20th, 2004
7pm - 10pm in the Carnegie Theatre

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Nadine couldn't use e-mail or phone to relay her message

The scrawled message could have been left weeks ago or just last night. The pleading tone of the request, the story behind the words, were enough to make me stop and just read.

We are used to talking on cellphones, e-mailing each other and even getting snail-mail.

But the homeless have to leave messages for each other by other means and I didn't realize that until I read a very private note on a very public garbage bin in an alleyway in downtown Vancouver, Nadine left a plaintive note to a loved one, describing how to find her. It said:

Right now it's 7am I'm leaving to go to the house of your friend that we slept at last. I'm just going and coming straight back unless you have left a message for me. If you didn't, baby please wait for me here. I've come to my senses. I miss you way too much and I'm trying very hard to find you. PLEASE 10 million times wait for me. I love you lots and lots with all my heart. I re-read your letter and babe, I have no doubts. Thank you for the other night. If I wouldn't have been so negative and insecure my love, it would have been absolutely perfect. Love you forever. Nadine.

I hope Nadine's message reaches the person for whom it was meant.

Petti Fong

Name this oaa couple



For those who guessed the Ms. as Colleen, you win! The dude is Frankenstein's Monster. "Frank" never had a name (poor guy).



Illustration Mildred Pierce

Congratulations to the Community

The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities would like to congratulate community groups for all their hard work speaking out against the Ministry of Human Resources' 2 out of 5 year income assistance time limit rule.

However, the Minister has yet to amend the regulation that gives legal authority to the time limit rule. Until this is done, exemption 25 can be changed or removed at any time. We call on the Minister to amend the regulations.

The Coalition has always said that the vast majority of individuals who remain on basic income assistance for long periods of time are people with mental, physical, or social impairments that make it impossible for them to seek or maintain employment. They should be receiving disability benefits and Enhanced Medical.

We provide one-on-one advocacy for people with disabilities seeking to access the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit and the Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers to Employment (PPMB) benefit. Please advise people who need help to apply for these benefits that we can help them.

Thank you again for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Anderson • President

Margaret Birreil, Executive Director

Misconduct Charges Sully Image of Canadian Police

The harsh image of Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers raiding a newspaper reporter's home and confiscating her files has roiled this country, which is proud of its heritage as a global proponent of human rights and civil liberties.

But the public discomfort was just the latest in a series of episodes that have caused the Canadian police to be accused of abusive practices or corruption. Police officers have been accused of robbery of jewellery and drugs, and of rigging evidence to put suspects behind bars in Toronto, and of abusing drug addicts in Vancouver. They have even been accused of dumping intoxicated Native Canadians on isolated snowy roads to freeze to death in the prairies.

On Wednesday, two Vancouver police officers were fired and four others suspended, after an investigation into a beating of three drug-dealing suspects in Stanley Park last year.

Most Canadian police officers appear to be as polite as the population at large, but the arrest earlier in January of six Toronto narcotics squad officers has shocked prosecutors and local criminal lawyers. The six are facing a variety of brutality and corruption charges; moreover, newly released internal police documents indicate that many more are involved.

"Each and every day in some courtroom in Toronto, some police officer gives perjured testimony, in my opinion based on over a decade of experience," said Edward Sapiano, a criminal lawyer. It was his database of accusations against Toronto officers that prompted an official investigation into a city narcotics squad. "Every city in the country has examples of police corruption," he said.



The Toronto scandal has followed a pattern that has emerged in New York and other American cities in which officers were suspected of having succumbed to the temptations of the great sums involved in the drug trade while internal investigative units were inadequate to monitor them.

The Toronto investigation is showing that the same officers accused of beating suspects for information are likely to be accused of producing tainted evidence and stealing narcotics.

An affidavit released by a Royal Canadian Mounted Police task force investigating the narcotics squad carried a report that a narcotics dealer had passed a lie detector test in which he stated that several officers stole the equivalent of \$50,000 in jewellery and cash when they raided his home. According to the affidavit, three more officers were reported to have stolen \$70,000 from a safe deposit box using a fake search warrant.

Canada is policed by a web of local and provincial forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a national agency with a longtime international reputation for efficiency. That image was bruised on Jan. 21, when officers raided the home and office of an Ottawa Citizen reporter, Juliet O'Neill. She had obtained secret documents about a Canadian citizen who was arrested as a terrorism suspect in the United States and then expelled to Syria.

Prime Minister Paul Martin said he was stunned by the raids, which were intended to find the source of the leaked documents, and he called for a review of the law protecting government secrets that was the basis for the search warrants.

But Ms. O'Neill's computer files and other personal documents have still not been returned to her, and newspaper editorials and opposition politicians are questioning whether the civilian control of the police is adequate.

"It is starting to look as if the R.C.M.P. is out of control," *The Toronto Star* said in an editorial. "It needs its political masters to call it to account for its outrageous actions."

Such commentary is rare in a country in which the brave Mountie on horseback in his smart red uniform is one of the prized national traditions.

"While brutality and fabricating evidence is fairly widespread," said Jean-Paul Brodeur, a criminologist at the University of Montreal, "we really don't

want to look too closely into police corruption because corruption is kind of a Canadian taboo."

But that attitude is now being tested.

A much publicized official investigation is continuing into the death in 1990 of Neil Stonechild, a Native Canadian teenager who was found frozen on the outskirts of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It has revealed that the Saskatoon police have followed a practice of picking up drunken Native Canadian men from the street, taking them away and abandoning them in the snow. One of Mr. Stonechild's friends said he saw him shortly before his death in a police car, handcuffed and screaming.

Over the last decade or so, at least four Native Canadian men have been found frozen to death in the snow around Saskatoon. One Cree man spoke out recently, saying that the Saskatoon police left him in the snow in January 2000, and that after he made the accusation, he began receiving anonymous death threats.

Human Rights Watch, an international human rights group based in New York, issued a report in May documenting cases of police abuse in Vancouver against drug addicts, including beatings, illegal searches and arbitrary arrests.[This was the PIVOT Report, commented on in the *Carnegie Newsletter*] But Mayor Larry Campbell of Vancouver disputed the conclusions of the report and the methods used in compiling it.

The police complaint commissioner for British Columbia recently called for a public inquiry into the 1998 death by exposure of a drunken Native Canadian man after police officers released him from custody and dumped him in an alley.

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS
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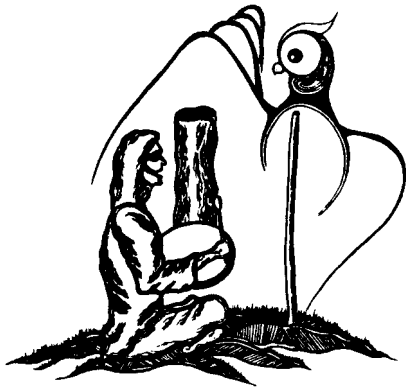


The Neighbourhood Safety Office is MOVING!

We are moving from 47 W.Cordova on February 1 and, as of **FEBRUARY 2nd, 2004** you can find us at our new address:

**501 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 1P9
phone 604-687-1772**

**Hard Targeting Meetings to be held at 45 West
Cordova (meeting room next to current space)**



'The Only Good Indian is a Dead Indian', judicially-speaking: The Bad Guys Win Again

This is a tribute to all of the native men and women who will die this week because of a legal verdict that absolves the so-called united church of Canada of any responsibility for its residential school crimes.

You won't hear about the deaths of these people. Alone, mostly impoverished, and awash in a sudden despair born of the knowledge that, once again, the criminals have won, they will end their lives because there is nothing left for them to do.

Instead, you'll hear about the people responsible for killing them.

United church leaders, for instance, will happily congratulate Judge Esson and the BC Court of Appeal for laying the blame for the residential schools entirely on the government of Canada, thereby saving their churches millions of dollars. But you won't read a single newspaper editorial that condemns such savings as being nothing more than blood money.

Why would you? There's never been anything wrong, legally or morally, with killing Indians here in Canada. Judge Esson and his cronies were very clear in their decision that pardoned the united church: they said by their actions that a century or more of murders, tortures, rapes and sterilizations are not punishable offenses, when they're committed by Christians against "pagan" Indians. For if they were, there'd be a lot of priests and nuns and united church officials sitting in jail by now.

It's always refreshing, in a perverse sort of way, to be awakened to the shit one is really a part of, when it is suddenly rubbed into one's face. This latest abomination committed by men in robes is an opportunity for "mainstream" Canadians to wake up to the murder we are still committing on Indians. I would even dare to say that the suicides and sufferings of the residential school victims really have no meaning at all unless they awaken us in this way.

I don't expect this to happen, of course; for why would a killer culture like "white Christian society" suddenly abandon itself and admit its crimes? And that is why this is a tribute to the dead, and not to the living. For it is the dead who are more real these days than the so-called "important people", and more worthy of my hope. When justice and hope have been murdered so easily and legally, and lie in an unmarked grave with so many innocent children, then what is left in this land of ours besides the utter absence of justice, and hope?

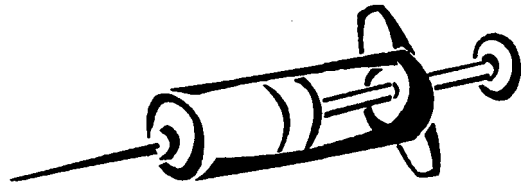
What name do we have for such a horrible void that fills what was once peopled by the living? Or do we even have one?

Until we do, and can name what we are, I speak only to the dead, and award them my highest tribute. For this land of Canada no longer has room in it for anyone but those who can kill, and protect the killers, and pay for it all.

To the dead, waiting to arise, I say only this: your time is coming. Just as surely as our time is over.

Kevin D. Annett
11759-248 St.
Maple Ridge, BC V4R 1H6
ph: 604-466-1804
kevinannett@yahoo.ca
www.hiddenfromhistory.org

'6 Treatment'



Youth represent the highest risk group for contracting Hepatitis C and HIV through injection drug use. Research has shown that younger injection drug users engage in high-risk behaviours to a greater extent than established users, including sharing needles and other drug equipment, engaging in sex trade work and using condoms inconsistently, increasing their vulnerability to blood-borne disease. There is real potential to reduce the harm associated with ongoing injection drug use in this group, given the rapid acquisition of Hepatitis C and HIV infection following initiation into use of intravenous drugs and their increased risk of drug overdose due to their relative inexperience with injection drugs.

Conditions for Access to a Supervised Injection Site:

Persons aged 16 years and over who meet the assessment criteria can access a supervised injection site.

The following persons are restricted from accessing a supervised injection site:

1. Persons under the age of 16.
2. Youth under the age of 19 who are obvious first time users, do not have a history of injection drug use and who do not meet the assessment criteria, as:
 - Supervised injection facilities are generally seen as an intensive intervention along the continuum of harm reduction services for an extremely marginalized population. Youth who do not have a history of injection drug use should access resources that can more appropriately address their level of need.
3. Individuals accompanied by children, as:
 - Restricting access is consistent with the principles of the Child, Family and Community Service Act, which identifies the need for parents to address the safety needs of their children by making appropriate alternative care arrangements; and,
 - Adults will be impaired in their abilities to parent the child after injecting their drugs and it would be questionable whether the adult can adequately care for and protect their child once they have left the facilities.

Assessment Procedures for Access of Youth Under the Age of 19 to a Supervised Injection Site:

Youth under the age of 19 will access the supervised injection site only when the youth shows obvious signs of physical addiction to injectable narcotics. When a youth presents at the supervised injection site, the RPIC (responsible person in charge) and a registered nurse attend. The registered nurse performs an assessment using the following criteria:

- * The assessment determines that the youth has a history of injection drug use and has previously bought injectable narcotics with the intention of self-use, and
- * The assessment provides appropriate and expedited referrals to primary health care, addictions care, shelter and/or mental health services as indicated by information gathered, demonstrated symptoms, and/or desire to access appropriate addictions care.

For youth under the age of 19 who request access to the supervised injection site but do not meet the above criteria, as well as those youth under 19 who are at immediate risk other than that associated with their physical addiction to injectable narcotics, the RPIC:

- collects as much information on the youth as possible, and
- makes a report to the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

BRUCE V.

HOPE SUSTAINABILITY DIVERSITY

PICTURE A WINDOW:

Join th Woodward's Window Display Project

Remember Woodward's Christmas & window displays? The City of Vancouver, in partnership with Western Economic Diversification Canada through the Vancouver Agreement, is launching a new project that celebrates the symbolism and history of the Woodward's building and showcases the talents of the community and its aspirations for the building's future.

The Woodward's Window Display Project features three separate month-long window displays, beginning in February and running through April, focused on the themes Hope, Sustainability and Diversity. We invite you to join in the process of visioning, constructing or installing these window displays. To get involved please call Christine Tapp:

christine_tapp@city.vancouver.bc.ca
or phone 604-871-6600

Right now: Displays of Hope, currently in the Woodward's Windows, were created by children in the AfterSchool Adventures program at Strathcona Community Centre.

Woodward's WINDOW DISPLAY PROJECT

Western Economic
Diversification Canada

VANCOUVER
AGREEMENT

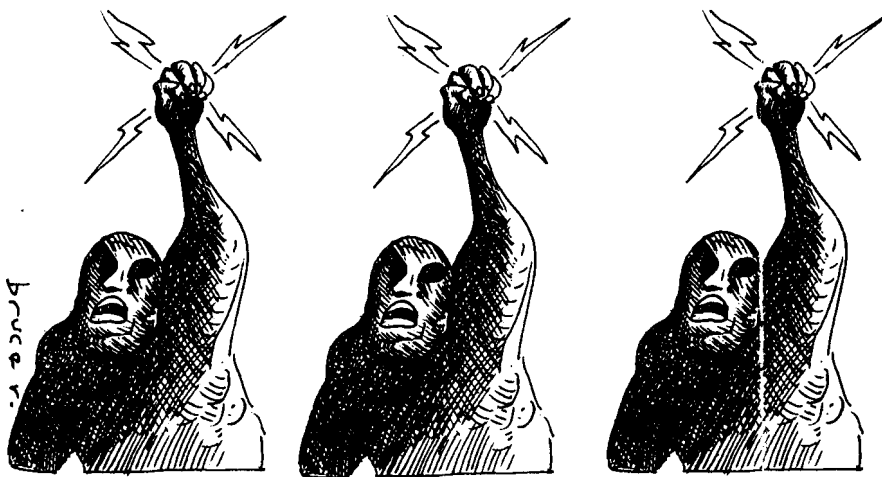
WE WILL MARCH THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY

Tell me brother, why are
Your eyes a-shining?
Your cheeks all a-glow
And your steps are climbing
Oh sir, I do not lie, I walk
With my companions
With the Truth of it all
My soul's a-trembling
I know to change the system
We shall rise up singing
And we will march through
The streets of the city

How can we turn away, my friend
When people are starving?
How can we keep quiet
When poor ones are suffering?
All along the avenue there
Are stories and tales
But a million dollar movie
Won't tell it all
Can you hear that sound?
The bells are ringing
And we will march through
The streets of the city

Tell me brother, tell me sister
Why's everyone kneeling?
Why does the heart not speak
And show its feelings?
It's not good to be afraid
Or to live in a trance
Why do they hum a funeral tine
When they should dance?
We will open out eyes
From this dream we will awaken
And we will march through
The streets of the city

Bruce Ray



bruce r.

Letter Home

Funny world when your son's only letter to you resembles the scrawlings of a 10 year-old, yet he's a man.. he types, almost lost to the mechanix of the actual alphabet

Carolyn Chute wrote a 1300-page book longhand, her own hand working the pen, so complete, so simple, a keyboard just a hyped typewriter with all the bells and whistles but you still have to have the kernel of invention

my daughter can process data, can intake symbols can transfigure them into images but can't create images herself.. and these are supposedly educated, better than average students

automatons in front of screens, aware of cows but never smelled a cowpie

the virtual world is here now who needs artists?

if you need a book just cut and splice beforehand-done creations.. tack and tape and, just like that,

you have The Brothers Karamazov – written by the deft hands of IBM

virtual sex where no one ever farts at the wrong time back in the good ol days this diatribe was sanctioned by the Free Speech Idiocom 2004.com

I'm not really an old brown-haired junkie with three offspring carrying my crazy genes from place to place – spreading lunacy...

I have scare to prove I bleed this fiction I call my life really does have scenes stolen from old reruns of Route 66

At my funeral I want all my children to take my ashes, roll 'em into a big ball of hash and smoke me I hope your future is half as interesting as your past once was

love, Robbie

FAIRYTALES

You're stealin' from the poor
and givin' it to the rich
in my fairytale book
that makes you
the cold-hearted witch
who stuffs children in the ovens' heat
and then serves up their hearts
for a sweet-meat treat
but there's gonna be a rumble
in this decaying asphalt jungle
when Ms. Christy's little cookies
start to burn and to crumble.

(chorus) —

So after the deal is closed
everyone will know
that our Empress and Emperor have no clothes
and our Queen and King are just phonies
El Gordo No Tiene huevos
and Christy Clark got no coghones.

Mr. Campbell PLEASE

you're brewin up a poison-fish soup full of PCB's:
the 3 million dollar cuts

you're cookin' up

for the children in our inner city
screams that we live in a city without pity

school hot lunches are trashed
counsellors to at-risk kids slashed

15 YEARS OF HARD WORK LAID TO WASTE
is THIS the victory you want to taste?

(repeat chorus) —

So after the deal is closed
everyone will know
that our Empress and Emperor have no clothes
and our Queen and King are just phonies
El Gordo No Tiene huevos
and Christy Clark got no coghones.

A Valentine by Maryd.

