

BALACIWA!

April 15-30, 2010

Issue #10

– unceded Coast Salish Territory

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Update on Teztan Biny Fertile Resistance vs. UVic

by Black Thunder

At the end of March, the kkanadian environmental assessment agency held a public consultation to listen to the voices of Taseko Mines and the Tsilqot'in opposition to the project, as well as to others implicated in the public debate about this project. The results of this consultation will be made public at the end of April. The government of so called "British Columbia" has already approved the project for Taseko Mines. The company is proposing to destroy Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) in order to build the gold and copper mine.

The evaluations and consultations are organized by governments that do not have jurisdiction over the unceded territory of the Tsilqot'in people, and are in their very foundation colonial and capitalist institutions. It is thus not a shock that these consultation processes rarely work to the advantage of Indigenous peoples who struggle along with their allies in defense of nature.

Demonstrations against the project were organized on February 12 and on March 22nd in Williams Lake at the beginning of the kkanadian consultation. For more information about the relations between the Tsilqot'in people and Teztan Biny (Fish Lake), watch Blue Gold: The Tsilqot'in Fight for Teztan Biny (Fish Lake).

ENGOS and Tar Sands

Companies plan, cancel secret meeting in Vancouver

by Dru Oja Jay

A secret meeting between top Canadian Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS) and tar sands corporations was cancelled after word of the meeting spread beyond the initial invitees, according to two emails leaked to The Dominion.

Ten representatives each from tar sands operators and high-profile environmental groups were invited to the "informal, beer in hand" gathering. The David Suzuki Foundation, Environmental Defence Canada, Forest Ethics, Pollution Probe and Tides Canada were among the invited environmental groups. Merran Smith of ForestEthics was listed without affiliation, as was Tzporah Berman, who worked to privatize BC's rivers as director of PowerUp Canada, and who is slated to start work this month as Greenpeace International's Climate Campaigner. Among invited oil companies were Shell, ConocoPhillips, Total and Statoil. Leading tar sands investor Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) was also on the guestlist.

According to emails obtained by The Dominion, the meeting was later cancelled, owing to "the level of tension" between "a subset of companies and a subset of ENGOS."

by Isaac Oommen

On March 24 University of Victoria students and allies planted vegetable gardens on the University lawn. UVic bulldozed the gardens, only to find the guerilla gardeners return on March 31st to set up again. On April 9 UVic had ground crews remove the second garden. "Our demands were very simple," said Matthew Christie, media co-ordinator with Fertile Resistance. "For a sustainable agriculture program on 30 acres of unused land, and for communal food-growing

areas on campus so students can grow and share food."

The UVic website called the removal a reclamation of land, and is reported to have threatened students involved in the action with potential academic penalties.

"The decision was made by a small group of people in the administration," said Christie. "They did not consult students before they decided on an action that impacts 24,000 people."



COLLATERAL DAMAGE BY FREEXERO.COM

Enviros should sever ties with "Big Greens"

by Rising Tide North America

"For far too long Big Green groups like the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Conservation International (CI), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and many others have allowed their financial and political relationships with Corporate America to compromise their positions on the biggest ecological crises in history. These groups, ostensibly fighting on our behalf, have chosen to ally themselves with the very corporations that we must stop to avert catastrophic climate chaos.

Rising Tide North America opposes the influential hold that corporate polluters have held on the Big "Green" groups for decades and calls on those groups to sever these relationships."

(Read the full statement online at www.risingtidenorthamerica.org)

(Screw the) Earth Day: April 22 Fast Facts

- Invented in 1970 by Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson.
- Designed as a college level "teach-in" about pollution
- Earth Day Canada is chaired by an investment banker and partners with Toyota
- Earth Day US is sponsored by UPS, Siemens, Wells Fargo, partnering with the "Big Greens"



HEAT Score

By Wendy Pedersen and Murray Bush

VANCOUVER - Residents at the Northern Street Shelter are vowing to start a tent city if their shelter closes on April 20.

"It's just wrong," said resident Stuart Fraser. "The cost of decent housing is ridiculous. This is my home - it's not the best home, but it's home. We'll try to stay here - otherwise we're going to the parks." Residents are demanding that the facility and others like it stay open. They have launched a petition addressed to all levels of government that states, in part: "The 'homelessness issue' is not going away. I am not an issue - we are not an issue."

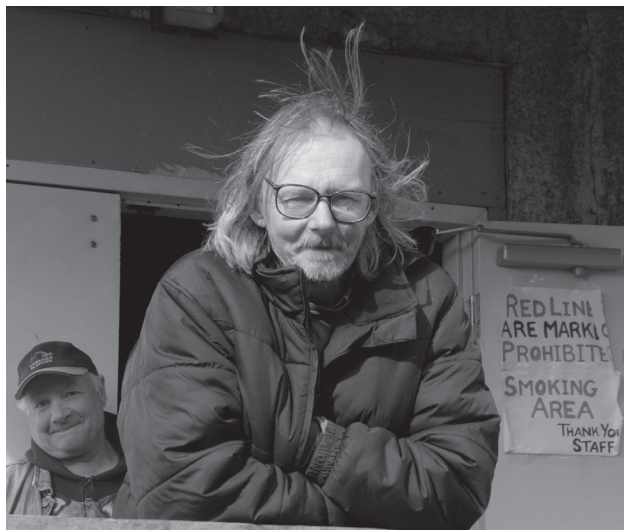
The City-owned shelter houses 100 people a night and is one of seven HEAT (Homeless Emergency Action Team) facilities used during the Olympics and now slated to close by the end of April. The City says the province would have to provide funding for them to stay open. Housing advocates say the closures will push the number of homeless sleeping on the streets of Vancouver to more than 1,000 from 400.

Dave, a shelter regular, said "The same thing happens again and again. Shut it down and we go right back to sleeping outside, like a circle that goes round and round. We all need this shelter."

Activists from the Citywide Housing Coalition, Downtown Neighbourhood Council, Carnegie Community Action Project and Pivot Legal Society are working with the residents. They are asking for sponsors for 100 red tents to give to shelter residents thrown back on the street.

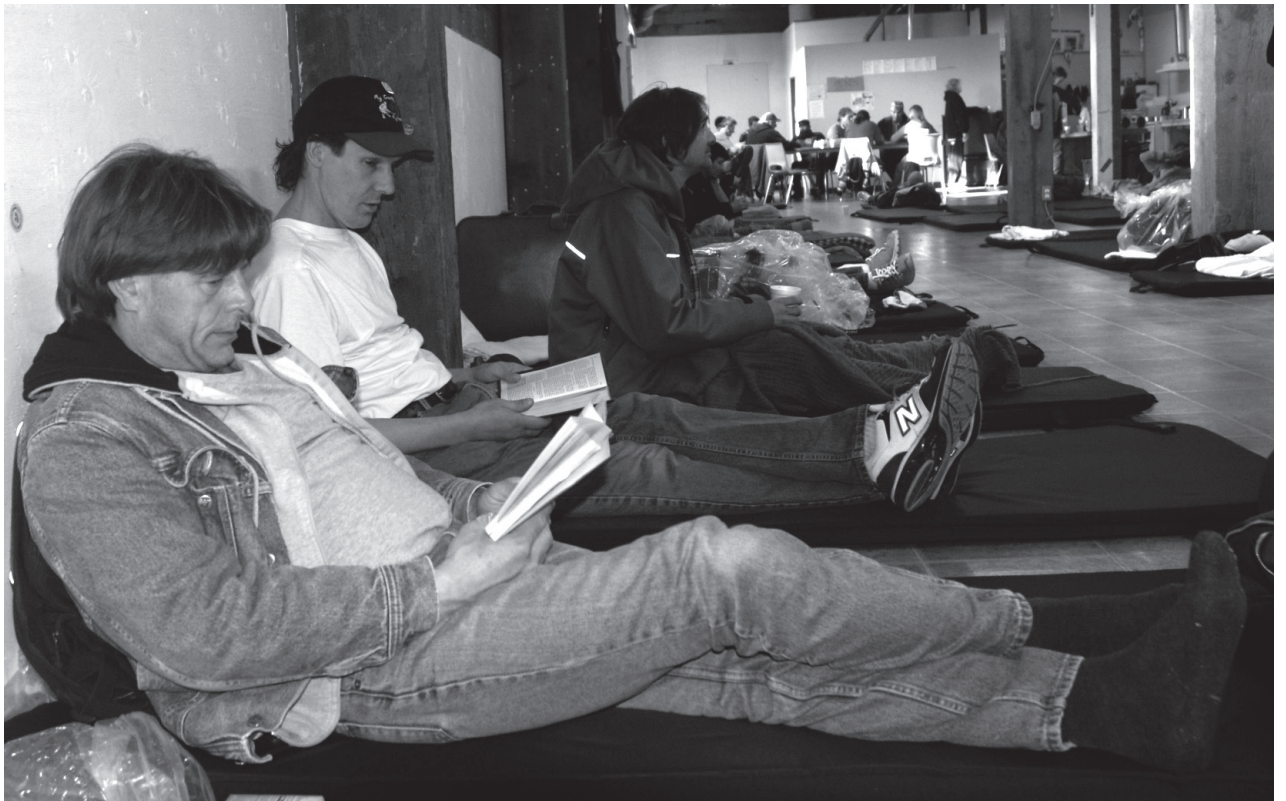
Resident Cory put it in perspective: "If I didn't have this place I'd be in jail. If it's cold and rainy outside, sometimes I think I'll do something illegal just to get inside for the night. I can't find work. As soon as they find out I'm homeless, they don't want to hire me."

For more information contact the Carnegie Community Action Project: 604.839.0379



Shelter resident Stuart Fraser

flux photo



Northern Street HEAT shelter houses 100 people a night.

flux photo

MEC's support for Israel's war machine

by Boycott Israeli Apartheid Campaign

March 30 was the Global Day of Action for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israeli apartheid and in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Activists across Canada targeted Mountain Equipment Co-op March 27-30, calling on MEC to end its "partnerships" with Israeli factories, including Israeli military designer and contractor Source Vagabond.

In Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria dozens of activists held information pickets and protests at MEC stores, giving out thousands of leaflets to MEC members.

In Victoria, protesters performed an anti-apartheid rap routine inside the MEC store while in Toronto a flash mob urged MEC to "drop" Israeli apartheid by dropping made-in-Israel products on the floor. In Vancouver many members signed and delivered letters calling on MEC management to stop using Israeli factories for MEC brand products, including seamless

underwear and hydration systems.

The first Global day of BDS in 2009 was established in the wake of Israel's military assault on Gaza that killed over 1000 Palestinian civilians, according to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem (btselem.org).

For more information on the MEC campaign goto www.boycottisraeliapartheid.org.



UBC AMS and Pit Pub Cancel Fundraiser for Anti-Olympic Arrestees

by Isaac Oommen

A fund-raiser for protesters arrested during the Olympics that was to be held on 6 April was cancelled at the last moment by University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society (AMS).

"AMS Services made it clear to Pit Pub that the cancellation was because they were politically

uncomfortable having an anti-Olympic event on campus," said Alissa Westergard-Thorpe from the Student Justice Centre (SJC). "They were afraid of upsetting the RCMP detachment here."

Westergard-Thorpe said AMS even insinuated that SJC was a front for the SACA, which is helping the arrestees fight their cases. AMS refused to comment on the matter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

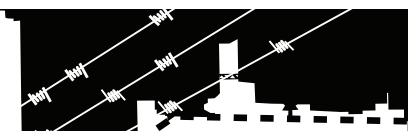
APRIL 20 VMC meet-up on the G20, 6pm, 16 E Hastings, Buzzer #102

APRIL 22 Conflict in Chile Movie Night, 7pm, Rhizome Cafe, 317 East Broadway

MAY 1 Workers Control not Border Controls, 7:30 pm Free!, Rhizome Cafe, 317 East Broadway

Solidarity with 2010 Anti-olympic Convergence Arrestees

During the Anti-Olympic Convergence in Vancouver, a total of 27 people were arrested, 10 of those with charges. Three of those with charges didn't file for diversion, which is a way to avoid a judicial treatment of the offense, or agreed to plead guilty to get reduced sentences



A group of arrestees and supporters have formed the Solidarity with the Anti-Olympic Convergence Arrestees (SACA). SACA will be raising funds for the legal costs, estimated at \$19,000.

Most of those arrested were targeted for being vocal organizers against the games.

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<http://saca.resist.ca>

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