



BALACLAVA!

the daily newspaper of the 2010 anti-olympic convergence, a project of the Vancouver Media Co-op

FEBRUARY 14, 2010 • ISSUE FIVE • UNCEDED COAST SALISH TERRITORY

VANCOUVER.MEDIACOOP.CA • 2010.MEDIACOOP.CA



'Criminal Element' is Vanoc and IOC

ORN says state violence disproportionate to protest damage by Moira Peters



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO

Alissa Westergard-Thorpe of the ORN

FEB 12 – Police used disproportionate violence in arresting and detaining protesters during this morning's Olympics resistance "Heart Attack" march, said representatives of the Olympics Resistance Network (ORN) at a press conference this afternoon in Pigeon Park in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

"We witnessed excessive and disproportionate use of state forces," said Peggy Lee, of ORN's legal committee.

She described hundreds of riot police armed with a diverse array of weapons, including AR-15 assault rifles, shields and batons, forcibly detaining unarmed protesters.

An unconfirmed 13-15 arrests were made, all against peaceful protesters who had not caused property damage, including several protesters who were arrested after the demonstration had dispersed and they were leaving the intersection of Robson and Jervis Streets, according to Lee.

A Vancouver Police Department release today described a "criminal element" that "marched among about 200 legitimate protesters... breaking windows, turning over boxes and clashing with police."



PHOTO: CHRIS BEVACQUA

Gord Hill of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation agreed that a criminal element had infiltrated the protest.

"I'm glad you brought up the criminal element. The IOC and VANOC is the criminal element, pillaging public coffers, the effects of which we will see long after the Games," with cuts to health care, affordable housing, education and meaningful social services, he said.

"Gangs like the VPD, the RCMP, CSIS and CAF make up some of the 17,000 thugs in our streets."

Hill said he disagreed that police were reacting fairly to the damage done by protesters to buildings and buses in downtown Vancouver.

"Buildings are not made of flesh and tissue. They are made of concrete and steel." Hill said buildings were targeted because they belong to the corporations – The Hudson Bay, The Toronto-Dominion Bank – that do damage to flesh and blood humans.

Alissa Westergard-Thorpe of the ORN said compared to the violence to human beings sponsored by the state of Canada, the demonstration resulted in "minor property damage."

The march today was a "successful disruption of the messaging of the Olympics," according to Westergard-Thorpe.



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO

TARGET: Hudson's Bay Co.

Saturday morning's Corporate Heart Attack witnessed the store fronts of banks and department stores smashed and paint bombed. One target, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), represents the colonization of British Columbia directly through its own involvement in the colonization and genocide of Canada's Indigenous populations. As the oldest corporation in North America, HBC forcefully controlled the fur trade in British-controlled North America and even acted as a colonial government itself in Western Canada.

According to no2010.com, "Under the HBC agent James Douglas' administration, the 1862 Small Pox Epidemic hit, starting in Victoria. It quickly spread throughout the coast, killing an estimated 1 in 3 Indigenous people. Government officials helped spread the epidemic by forcing Natives out of Victoria at gunpoint, knowing full well the impact this would have as these people then returned to their villages, carrying the deadly disease as they went."

Now, as the official department store sponsor of the 2010 Olympics, HBC continues to exploit Native culture by stealing Cowichan sweater designs after refusing the Cowichan tribe's proposal to produce sweaters for HBC's line of Olympic clothing.

EXCERPT from the ORN Solidarity and Unity Statement

Despite our differences in analysis and strategies we believe we have a significant opportunity to come together and voice our opposition to the 2010 Olympic Games, and to find ways to support each other in our complementary efforts to expose this two-week circus and the oppression it represents to many communities and sectors.

This is especially true since police and security forces already have and will continue to surveil, target, infiltrate, repress, and attempt to divide our movement. We realize that we may have many differences in analysis and tactics and such disagreements are healthy. However we believe such debates should remain internal and we should refrain from publicly denouncing or marginalizing one another especially to mainstream media and law enforcement. In particular, we should avoid characterizations such as "bad" or "violent" protestors. We respectfully request that all those in opposition to the 2010 Olympics maintain our collective and unified commitment to social justice and popular mobilization efforts in the face of massive attempts to divide us.

After the Protests: Police Behaving Badly

- Gord Hill of no2010.com gets \$115 ticket for cussing (sec. 2(2) (b) "using abusive language" Safe Streets Act)
- Cyclist and known organizer is arrested on E. Hastings for "riding on sidewalk" (he was officially charged with obstruction.) Witnesses say that he stood up for a homeless man hassled by Police in Pigeon Park. see hilarious video: vancouver.mediacoop.ca/video/2750
- Two legal observers ticketed for jaywalking on E. Hastings.

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT AND I FEEL FINE

... "best TV news show I have seen, maybe ever"
Daniel Pinchbeck
Author of 2012: THE RETURN OF QUETZALCOATL

"...I'm a big fan"
Barry Silverthorn
Producer END OF SUBURBIA

"...best TV on the web"
Stephen Marshall
GUERRILLA NEWS NETWORK

WATCH ONLINE AT SUBMEDIA.TV



PHOTO: MURRAY BUSH

REPORT FROM THE STREETS with 2010.mediacoop.ca

FOLLOW US! Go to twitter.com/vanmediacoop and click "receive mobile updates" to receive trusted tweets.

FLICKR AND YOUTUBE! Tag your pics and videos #no2010 or #report2010 and they'll show up at 2010.mediacoop.ca.

INTERNET Hit up 2010.mediacoop.ca and hit "add report" to update.

TIPS! Email us vmc@mediacoop.ca or post to our website. You can also call us and (604) 630-6864 and record audio reports.



PHOTO: CHRIS BEVACQUA



PHOTO: ARIEL WETZEL



PHOTO: IAN PAUL

Morning Routine: Coffee, Brush Teeth, Smash Capitalism

CORPORATE HEART ATTACK DISPLAYS GROWING SOLIDARITY by Paul Kitz

Friday night's peaceful rally and march to BC place was an astounding success and a great display of solidarity. According to Cynthia Oka "it's also really important to have days of action where people can be autonomous in terms of how to express their dissent... and to just really be in solidarity with each other knowing that we do have the same goals and to be respectful of that."

Saturday morning's Corporate Heart Attack event, calling on a diversity of tactics to be employed in clogging some of the city's main arteries downtown, was an incredible demonstration of how far that solidarity extends. Present in the march from Thornton Park were banners from the Council of Canadians, Gatewaysucks.org and even PETA, groups who do not generally engage in property destruction, flying alongside the black of the Black Bloc and the Anti Poverty Committee.

When asked why she was there, Giselle, one of the protestors, expressed that "this isn't just about sports, it's

about the destruction the olympic machine carries through different communities." Well, Saturday morning it was protestors' turn to carry destruction into the corridors of commerce downtown. As Barry Kayde put it; "today's a day to fuck shit up a bit and disturb business as usual... this obviously isn't a 'building the alternatives' day, we'll do that tonight." When asked why he employs the tactics he does Barry replied that "the idea of militancy, in and of itself, displays a degree of commitment to what we're talking about and also cranks up the heat on decision makers and power holders who have to recognize that there are insurrectionary tendencies within the broader social justice movement, and those are growing. As we saw [at Friday's rally] there's more and more support for that from the more mainstream movement."

Cynthia Oka is one of those people who would not participate in property destruction. Her chosen mode of disobedience is to "[use her] body as witness. That's part of the risk of today...we're expecting a severity of force so we're

coming equipped with gas masks...It fucking sucks that we have to do this to exercise our civil liberties and our human rights...but we do."

As for Barry Kayde, he holds no naive belief that the average Olympic-goer will have an epiphany at seeing their action and join them in the streets. In a bittersweet comment that is heavy in truth, he states that "most people know shits pretty fucked up out there and just don't feel like it's their responsibility. It's just not good enough. Things won't get better until those people start waking up."

The brave people who hit the streets (and corporate sponsors) and faced an army of riot cops are already looking to the future. In the words of one of the medics present "We hope that a resistance movement will continue on after. Instead of the Olympic Resistance Network we hope to have just the Resistance Network."

LEGAL UPDATE As of Feb. 14, 2:45pm
There were thirteen arrests yesterday. Nine people were released. Four people are still being held at the jail at 222 Main, but lawyers are hopeful that all will be released later this afternoon. Solidarity with all our comrades, and thanks to everyone who did jail support yesterday.



Protester escapes the grips of the Police. Photos: Insurgent Photo



Photo: Isaac Oommen

Circassians Call for Solidarity with All Aboriginal Peoples

by Isaac Oommen

Protesters from the Circassian ethnic group held a rally strategically outside Science World at 2pm decrying the Winter upcoming 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

As streams of Russian Olympic fans watched, Circassian speakers outlined the ritualistic massacre of their people by the Russian government, as well as the International Olympic Committee's lack of caution in holding the games on the site of a genocide.

"Indigenous people and stolen land is what we have in common," Circassian activist Tamara Barisk said. "They disrespect us on top of it by bringing the Olympics to these places. Even a hundred years after the land was taken, we face forced assimilation and culture loss. We face this every day. Native people here understand what we are going through."

A diverse group of protesters, including BC indigenous groups, Gateway action coalitions and StopWar were on-hand to show support with the Circassians.

As for First Nations people and Vancouverites opposed to the Olympics, Tamara instructed, "Rise up, and let your views be heard."



Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

missingjustice.ca

Rally for Homes
NO MORE EMPTY TALK
NO MORE EMPTY LOTS

Monday, February 15th | NOON
Pigeon Park (Carrall and Hastings)
 Coast Salish Territories
 Vancouver

Organized by THE DTES WOMEN CENTRE POWER OF WOMEN GROUP
 with support from over 50 organizations.
RALLY FOR ALL DTES RESIDENTS AND SUPPORTERS!
 Food will be served.

SUPPORT THE OLYMPIC TENT VILLAGE!
Endorsed by STREAMS OF JUSTICE.
 Stay the evening, night, or morning.
 Dinner will be served daily by Food Not Bombs at 9 pm.
 www.olympictentvillage.wordpress.com

EVENTS

February 15th, 12:00 Pigeon Park: No More Empty Talk, No More Empty Lots! Rally for housing and tent village kick-off with all our neighbours and supporters. Food will be served.

6:00pm anti-war demo. March to leave at 6:30pm, Vancouver Art Gallery: An anti-war and anti-militarization moving spectacle!

LEGAL INFO

BCCLA Arrest line (if you are arrested): 604-689-9540

BCCLA Support line (friends and families missing someone): 604-689-9547

BCCLA Tip line (to report misconduct): 1-866-610-0385

Arrest/misconduct reports: orn-legal@riseup.net

ORN Legal Weblink: <http://olympicresistance.net/content/legal-information>

VIVO MEDIA ARTS 2010
SAFE ASSEMBLY

Forming a Counter Public | February 12-28 2010
 1965 Main Street Vancouver BC | By Donation

AFTERNOON SCHOOL | Discussions engaging critical theory and contemporary art. Monday-Friday 15-19 + 22-26, 2pm

EVENING NEWS | Social Forum for residents, media, activists, researchers, and artists to report on and discuss their experiences and observations surrounding the Olympics. Submit your documentation, projects, and stories to VIVO between 4 and 6pm or contact via information below. Feb 13, 17, 21, 23, 25, 7pm

RADIO | 91.5FM and online stream. Ongoing pre-recorded and live programming invited.

+ SAFE FACADE + SOCIAL PROPAGANDA MIXING MACHINE
 + VANCOUVER (DE)TOUR GUIDE + COVERING UP
 + NOISE POLLUTION PLAYGROUND + WHITE PILLOWS

eveningnews.vivo2010@gmail.com | 604.672.8337 ext 3
 vivomediaarts.com | vivoeveningnews.wordpress.com
 cineworks.ca/events | vancouverstourguide2010.com

Corporate Spotlight:

2008 profits: \$ 943,000,000

\$200 million sponsorship, exclusive telecommunications partner.

Bell is a subsidiary of BCE Inc., Canada's largest communications company. The firm's Bell Wireless branch is part of the national cell phone oligopoly, with 6.5 million mobile customers through Bell Mobility, Solo Mobile and 50 percent owned Virgin Mobile. Bell provides internet and wireless services, and wired phone lines. BCE owns part of CTVglobemedia, 100 per cent of Virgin Mobile Canada, and electronics chain The Source.

Bell Aliant is a subsidiary of BCE that sold its defence, security and aerospace division to CAE in 2008. Slogan: "La vie est Bell."