

# Metro Network for Social Justice

NOT JUST ANOTHER NEWSLETTER!

# MNSJ

February '95

## VIGIL TAKES TO THE ROAD

The vigil organized by the MNSJ and the simultaneous lobby of the federal Liberal caucus when they visited Toronto from Feb. 1-3 was successful beyond our hopes. Media coverage was great, there was a measurable impact in favour of social programs, and over 25 MP's from across Canada - including Lloyd Axworthy - joined our soup line on the sidewalk outside the caucus meeting. The combination of a highly-visible vigil outside the caucus hotel and a skilled lobby by the Paying for Canada coalition on the inside worked extremely well.

Now the vigil is on the road to take the message about viable alternatives to cutting social programs throughout the province. A tour sponsored by the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice and the Ontario Social Safety Network with resources from many allies kicked off with a press on Valentine's Day. The first stop on the tour was Sault Ste Marie, and it will end up in Ottawa on Feb. 27th, the day before the budget is expected to be handed down. The tour is being co-ordinated by Catherine Goulet of OCSJ, at (416) 441-3714.

## METRO BUDGET DEPUTATIONS ON FEBRUARY 27th

With all the hype over the upcoming federal budget, it's easy to lose track of the Metro budget - one which has a more immediate and direct impact on many in Metro. Metro Councillors are currently considering a 5% cut to the overall Metro budget, including an \$11.257 million cut to the \$161.8 million Community Services budget. Don Richmond, The Commissioner responsible, has warned Metro Councillors that a cut of this size would require the closing of a Home for the Aged or a Hostel, and the severe reduction or elimination of other services, such as the emergency dental care program for welfare recipients.

Although a small property tax increase could preserve the Community Services budget, Metro Councillors are attempting to freeze taxes in an effort to appease voters, and to bring Metro taxes in line with those of the surrounding areas of Halton, York, Peel, and Durham. The danger of this approach is the further breakdown of social harmony, public safety, and quality of life in Metro.

The MNSJ is encouraging members to tell Metro Councillors that the Community Services Department should be exempted from the cutbacks. On Monday, Feb. 27th, Metro's Human Services Committee will be meeting to decide the future of community services in Metro. Come to Metro Hall on that day and let Councillors know that community services should not be on the chopping block! Please see the flyer enclosed with this newsletter for more details.

We are also encouraging individuals to sign the enclosed form letter and to fax it to their Metro Councillor prior to Feb. 27th. For more info on our campaign to save community services, call Brent Patterson at 598-4945.

## BUDGET DEMO AT BANK OF CANADA

A group known as the Ad Hoc Committee Against the Cuts is organizing a noon-hour rally in front of the Bank of Canada's Toronto office at 250 University Ave on Thursday, Feb. 23rd. The purpose is to call attention to the Bank's role in determining economic and fiscal policy. For info call: 925-3825.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Listed below are meetings & events of interest to activists in the Metro area. If you have additions for the calendar, please fax information to Bill Howes at fax 445-8405.

Feb. 23	Budget Demo at Bank of Canada, Toronto
Feb. 23	Armine Yalnizyan: "The Real Alternatives"
Feb. 24	Workshop on the Vietnamese Community
Feb. 25	Int'l Women's Day in North York
Feb. 27	Metro Budget Deputations on Community Services
Feb. 28	Federal Budget expected
March 1	MNSJ Steering Committee meets
March 1	Health Care Forum - Designing a Better System
March 4	Int'l Women's Day March
March 7	Public Forum on the Drought in Zambia
March 8	Int'l Women's Day
March 11	Fiesta de la Amistad (Friendship Festival)
March 21	MNSJ Steering Committee meets
March 21	Int'l Day for the Elimination of Racism
April 11	MNSJ Steering Committee meets
April 28	Day of Mourning for Workers Killed on the Job
April 28	
May 7	Mayworks Festival
May 1	May Day
May 6	Men Walking Against Male Violence
Sept. 30	MNSJ Annual General Meeting

## MASSIVE DE-REGULATION PLANNED BY FEDS

Greenpeace is ringing the alarm bells on Bill C-62, a "Regulatory Efficiency Act" - sweeping legislation that will allow corporations to get around existing federal regulations in all industries. The Act would allow businesses to arrange "compliance agreements" instead of following existing regulatory laws. Affected will be all federal jurisdictions, but initial target areas include the health, food and drugs, biotechnology, mining, automotive, forest products, and aquaculture industries.

Greenpeace is demanding that the bill be withdrawn, and urges supporters to call their MP's offices for a copy of the bill and to convey concerns about the environmental and health & safety implications of the proposed Bill C-62. For info: David Robbins at (416) 345-8408.

## WORKSHOP ON VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY

The Jane/Finch Community & Family Centre is hosting a workshop in the Cultural Awareness series on the Vietnamese Community. To be held on Feb. 24th from 9:30am till 2:00pm, the workshop will include a discussion on cultural, religious, and traditional life in the Vietnamese community. It will look at current issues and challenges facing the community and it will discuss how service providers can better serve this community. There's a small admission fee which includes a traditional Vietnamese lunch. Daycare is available free if requested in advance. The workshop will be held at Driftwood Community Centre, 4401 Jane St. For more info call Mamoun Gamal at 633-2733.

## DEMOCRACY OR D'MOCKERY?

That's the name of a monthly speakers' series organized by the Council of Canadians. On Thursday, Feb. 23rd at 7:30pm at 155 College St, Armine Yalnizyan of the Social Planning Council will speak on "The Real Alternatives" to cutting social programs. Admission is free.



## DEALING WITH THE RAVAGES OF WAR

"The Balkan Express" is a one-woman play by the Company of Sirens which opens March 9th at the Poor Alex Theatre. It's a personal account of the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia, a series of essays that record the frightened faces and the souls of all casualties; refugees, children, soldiers and their victims. It's a courageous voyage of a woman caught aboard the train called the Balkan Express, the train that is very old, but is still running. For information call (416) 975-9642.

## FRIENDSHIP FIESTA AT SCADDING COURT

New Experiences for Refugee Women (NEW) is offering a "fiesta de la amistad" or friendship festival with fun, food, dancing and a cash bar. It will be held on Saturday, March 11th at 7:00pm at Scadding Court Community Centre (Bathurst & Dundas) and tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. All are welcome, and proceeds are used to welcome women refugees. For more info: Elena at 469-0196.

## FORUM ON ZAMBIAN DROUGHT

Frontiers Foundation and Self-Help Development are sponsoring a public forum on Zambian Drought & Structural Adjustment on March 7th from 6:30 till 9:30pm at OISE Auditorium, 252 Bloor St. W. Panel members will address the topics of African women & structural adjustment, the Zambian drought and needs for action, and Canadian farmers & corporate agriculture. Admission is \$5.00, and the evening includes entertainment with childcare provided. For more info call Ron MacDonald at (416) 690-3930.

## OPSEU'S "LABOUR OF LOVE"

OPSEU, the union representing provincial government employees, has launched a campaign entitled "Labour of Love" to prevent scheduled closing of the Thistletown Regional Centre in Etobicoke. The campaign is being waged in co-operation with the families of the more than 400 special needs kids who rely on the Centre. The campaign, which includes a petition for mass circulation, is designed to pressure the Ontario government to keep the facility open. Parents of kids who use the Centre as well as the 300 staff of the Centre say the closing would carry a tremendous social cost. If you'd like copies of the petition or would like to help with the campaign, call Meriam Edelson at OPSEU: (416) 448-7442.

## GREEN INITIATIVES - CONFERENCE DATE CHANGED

The Green Work Alliance is organizing a one-day conference entitled "Labour/Community Strategies for Creating Green Communities". **The original date of Saturday, March 4th has been cancelled in deference to International Women's Day, and the conference will now be held at a later date.** If you'd like more information or can help organize the day, call Nick di Carlo at the CAW: (416) 497-4110, ext 464.

## JOBS WITH "THIS MAGAZINE"

"This Magazine", Canada's leading alternative magazine, has job openings for a Circulation Manager and for a Business Manager. Both are part-time positions. The deadline for these positions is February 20th. For more info call (416) 588-6580.

## JOB OPENING IN WOMEN'S CENTRE

The Women's Counselling Referral & Education Centre (WCREC) is looking for a Resource Co-ordinator. The position is full-time and permanent and is in a unionized workplace. The Centre is a community-based women's organization which provides assessment and referral to counsellors/therapists and to counselling services for women in Toronto & area. Women of colour and aboriginal women are particularly encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications & resumes is Feb. 24th. If you'd like more information, call (416) 534-7501.

## ETHNO-RACIAL/POLICE BRIDGE

The City of York Community & Agency Social Planning Council (Y-CASP) is looking for a Project Co-ordinator for their Ethno-Racial & Police Bridging Project. The job will involve bridging gaps between the ethno-racial youth community and police. The job is an eight-month contract position and pays \$28,000-\$33,000 pro-rated to 21 hours per week. Deadline is Feb. 24th. For more info call Y-CASP at 652-9772.

## TENANTS' GROUP SEEKS POLICY CO-ORDINATOR

The Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations is looking for a Policy Co-ordinator to co-ordinate strategic planning, liaise with and lobby government, handle media relations, and represent the FMTA on community-based committees. It's a permanent full-time position that pays \$35,000 plus benefits. Deadline for resumes is March 10th, and they should be sent to: FMTA, 344 Bloor St. W, Ste 403, Toronto, Ont, M5S 3A7. Fax: (416) 921-4177.

## CO-OP GROUP SEEK EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) is looking for a Global Education Program Co-ordinator. The job is located in Toronto, pays \$19-\$21 an hour, and is on a half-time renewable contract basis. Deadline for resumes is March 6th. For more info call (416) 923-0938.

## OLD SHOES FOR MARTIN

Traditionally, the Finance Minister gets a new pair of shoes for Budget Day. NAC, the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario and other organizations are urging Canadians to remind Paul Martin that many of us can't afford new shoes. They suggest that you mail him (postage-free) a pair of your old shoes as a reminder. Send them to Finance Minister Paul Martin, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont K1A 0A6.

## PAUL CASINO

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Paul Casino, a former member of the Steering Committee of the MNSJ. Paul died on February 10th in his 37th year. Paul was an active member of People United for Self-Help, and he'll be missed by all who knew him.

### Editor's Notes:

1. If we threatened to cut you off our mailing list recently, it's only because we haven't had time to do it that you've had a brief grace period. You can redeem your organization by affiliating or renewing your affiliation. Individuals receiving the newsletter can continue to do so by making a \$25 contribution to the MNSJ.
2. Included in this mailing are materials promoting various events organized by the MNSJ or our work-groups. We are pleased to list other events in our calendar and to promote participation through newsletter articles. However, due to mailing costs, we can only include material in our mailings from member organizations which can bear the costs. To arrange this, call Bill Howes at 441-3663.





The Vigil continues...

**Metro Network  
watches the  
Federal Budget**

- What:** You are invited to send a representative to join us to watch the federal budget speech as it's broadcast live from the House of Commons.
- When:** at 3:00pm on Federal Budget Day (expected to be Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>)
- Where:** at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Square (behind the Eaton Centre)
- Who:** organizations affiliated to the Metro Network for Social Justice.
- Why:** This gives us a chance to compare notes and reactions to the budget, and to gain a greater understanding of it's impact on ourselves, our constituencies and those of our allies.
- Media:** We will be advising the media in Metro of our Budget Watch, and will invite them to attend to get analytical comment from designated representatives of social justice groups who are present.

Organizations who wish to name a spokesperson for the media should advise Bill Howes by fax (416) 445-8405 giving the name of the organization and the name of the spokesperson who will be attending the Budget Watch. The names will be provided to the media via a press release on Friday, February 24th.

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## METRO COMMUNITY SERVICES BUDGET DEPUTATIONS

### What's On The Chopping Block?

**Monday February 27, 1995**

**9:30 am**

**Metro Hall, Committee Room A  
55 John Street (at King Street West)**

Metro Council is seeking to reduce Metro spending by 5 percent. For the Community Services Department this means a budget reduction of \$11.257 million.

Don Richmond, the Commissioner of Community Services, has warned that this cut may mean the closing of a Home for the Aged or a Hostel, and the severe reduction or elimination of other services.

Over the past four years, more than \$39.03 million has been cut from the Community Services Department. Many services have already been reduced or eliminated. It's time to stop the cutting!

The Metro Network for Social Justice and its supporters are organizing mass deputations for **Monday February 27** so that Metro Councillors get the clear message that enough is enough. We don't want to see the Community Services Department on the chopping block.

This is your opportunity to defend community services, to talk about the impact of past cutbacks on the programs you offer, to indicate the need for a strong network of human services, and to talk about the suffering that has been caused by service reductions.

To register to make your 5-minute deputation, please call Roz Dyers, Clerk to the Human Service Committee, at 392-8018.

For more information and background materials for making deputations, please call Brent Patterson at 598-4945.



## ASK YOUR METRO COUNCILLOR: WHAT'S ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK?

*"Metro's community services department may have to close a home for the aged or a hostel if forced to trim a further 5 percent from its 1995 budget, commissioner Don Richmond says."*

*- Toronto Star, Wednesday February 1, 1995*

### Homes for the Aged

Metro directly operates 10 Homes for the Aged and provides long term care services to 2,635 residents. Metro also offers supportive housing through 405 beds in 1 Metro operated home and 10 privately operated homes. There are over 1,300 seniors currently waiting for accommodation in Metro's Homes for the Aged. **How many seniors will lose their accommodation with a 5 percent cut to the Community Services budget?**

### Hostels

Metro directly operates 4 hostels, which together can accommodate 1,047 individuals. Metro also has funding contracts with 40 non-profit community-based hostels which provide 1,754 beds, including 200 spaces which are only available during the winter months. **How many men, women, and children will lose a place to sleep at night with a 5 percent cut to the Community Services budget? Where will they go?**

### Day Care

Metro provides 18,118 subsidized spaces for the care of children through contracts with commercial and not-for-profit centres and private home day care agencies. Metro directly operates 49 municipal child care centres providing 2,623 spaces for child care and a licensed child care agency which provides an additional 981 spaces. As of September 1994, 18,211 individuals were on the subsidy waiting list. There are 2,175 empty non-subsidized spaces because parents cannot afford the full-fee of \$750. or more per month. **How many parents will not be able to afford child care spaces with a 5 percent cut to the Community Services budget? How many parents will have to quit their jobs to stay at home and take care of their children?**

### Grants to Community Agencies

Metro provides \$8.46 million to 286 community-based agencies to enable them to provide services to seniors, youth, families and children, new immigrants, and people with disabilities. Programs offered range from support services for women escaping domestic violence to vocational and training programs for unemployment adults and youth. **How many agencies will lose their funding through implementation of a 5 percent cutback to the Community Services budget?**

## LOBBY YOUR METRO COUNCILLOR AGAINST THE CUTBACKS!

For more information, please call Brent Patterson at 598-4945.



METRO COUNCILLOR \_\_\_\_\_

Metro Hall  
55 John Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5V 3C6

Fax: 392-4120

February 1995

Dear Councillor:

I am writing to express my support for maintaining and/or increasing funding for the Community Services Department budget in 1995. I do not want to see the Community Services budget cut by 5 percent (\$11.257 million). As a resident and taxpayer in your Ward, I want to see quality services maintained. In difficult economic times, I believe there is an even greater need to preserve and improve community services to support the most vulnerable people in Metropolitan Toronto.

While I understand that Metro is under financial pressure due to the needs of other departments, a decline in Metro's tax assessment base, and property tax appeals, I believe that Community Services are an essential service in Metro. By cutting them, we risk the further breakdown of social harmony, public safety, and quality of life in Metro, and will begin to resemble the hollowed-cores of many American cities.

I would support a small property tax increase to preserve the essential work of Community Services in Metro.

In the coming weeks, I will be following the budget discussions and will be looking for you to be a strong voice supporting the Community Services budget. I trust that you will represent my concerns.

Sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**



Douglas Haldy  
Mayor (City of Etobicoke)  
393-4002



Judy Sjo, Councillor  
(North York Humber)  
393-4006



Maria Angileri, Councillor  
(Steeles Creek)  
393-4021



Howard Mason, Councillor  
(North York Spadina)  
393-4027



Anne Johnson, Councillor  
(North Toronto)  
393-4096



Mel Lussans  
Mayor (City of North York)  
393-4075



Norman Carberry, Councillor  
(North York Centre)  
393-4003



Don Johnson, Councillor  
(North York Centre South)  
393-4014



Joan King, Councillor  
(Steeles Heights)  
393-4038



Scott Landier, Councillor  
(Scarborough Agincourt)  
393-4050



Gordon Cheng, Councillor  
(Don Parkway)  
393-4063



Frank Fickett  
Mayor (City of Scarborough)  
393-4007

Elected for a three-year term, members meet every other Wednesday to make decisions about the community and the services to be provided by the municipality. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings which are held in the Metro Hall Council Chamber beginning at 9:30 a.m.



Lois Griffin, Councillor  
(Rexdale-Thistlethwaite)  
393-4036



Thomas Flynn, Councillor  
(Hwy 7/Humber)  
393-4005



Nick W Brown, Councillor  
(Markham Centennial)  
393-4009



Frances Niswonger  
Mayor (City of York)  
393-4093



Alan Tunks  
Metro Chairman  
(North Humber)  
393-8001



Rick Kinsman, Councillor  
(Lakeland-Queensway)  
393-4044



Candice O'Connell,  
Councillor (York/Eglinton)  
393-4087



David Miller, Councillor  
(High Park)  
393-4078



Dennis Fawcett,  
Councillor (Overport)  
393-4069



Joe Patterson,  
Councillor (Trinity-McCowan)  
393-4011



Barbara Hall  
Mayor (City of Toronto)  
393-4081



Gloria Chew, Councillor  
(Downtown)  
393-4084



Jack Larkin, Councillor  
(Don River)  
393-4060



Jo Simons, Councillor  
(Midtown)  
393-4056



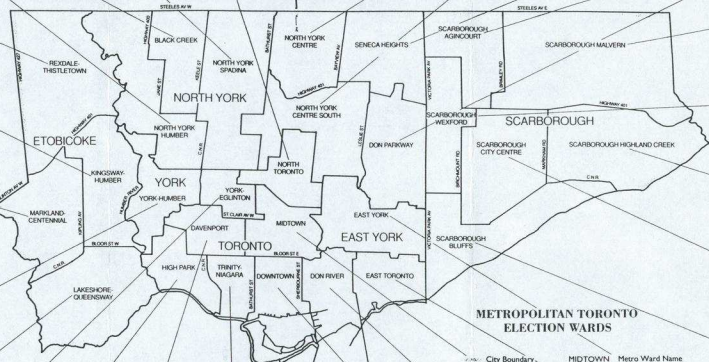
Paul Christie, Councillor  
(East Toronto)  
393-4052



Cass Green, Councillor  
(East York)  
393-4052



Michael Price  
Mayor ( Borough of East York)  
393-4055



Raymond Cole,  
Councillor (Scarborough  
Malvern)  
393-4076



Norman Kelly, Councillor  
(Scarborough  
Westford)  
393-4047



Ken Morris,  
Councillor (Scarborough  
Highland Creek)  
393-4034



Brian Hartman,  
Councillor (Scarborough  
City Centre)  
393-4017



Frank Ashwin,  
Councillor (Scarborough  
Bluffs)  
393-4053