

OCCUPY TRUTH NANAIMO

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"Balanced & Fair"

Wednesday February 15, 2012

Why Occupy in Canada?

By Anita Burr

Some people understand why people in the US are protesting Wall Street, corporate influence in politics, the policies of the Federal Reserve, the economic crisis that has left many Americans homeless, on food stamps and an ever-growing rate of poverty and inequality. But why Occupy in Canada?

Even without the financial crisis unfolding currently in Europe, Canada is ripe to have our own economic implosion. According to Statistics Canada, Canadians have a personal debt-to-income average of 147% and a personal debt-to-GDP of over 90%. With approximately 65% of the Canadian economy driven by consumer spending, the peak debt that Canadian's have reached is going to cause an economic downturn all on its own. Couple that with the increasing number of unemployed working-age adults, the fact that the new jobs created since 2008 have paid on average \$10,000 less than the jobs that were lost, and we have a growing problem that only promises to get worse under our current systems.

A key reason Canada came through stronger than most countries for the first couple of years after 2008, is that our housing bubble didn't burst. However, Canadian's bailed out the Canadian banks over \$70 billion and the government created a \$200 billion bank slush fund. The bail-out has increased the government's borrowing from \$13.6 billion in 2007-08 to \$89.5 billion in 2008-09. The Canadian banking sector also received \$111 billion from the Federal Reserve.

Continued on page 3...



Above: General Assembly - a truly democratic experience



LOOKING BACK: INDEFINATE OCCUPATION

By Ryan Porteous

Memoir of an Occupier

Friday, December 9 2011

With the capture of Nelson City Hall by the Nelson Fire Department, Nanaimo was the last remaining Occupation in BC. The City of Nanaimo Corporation, however, may have a thing or two to say about that. Despite public support, willingness of Occupy Nanaimo(ON) to negotiate and respectful interactions with city officials, neighboring businesses, and community alike, the City has proceeded with legal action by way of a Supreme Court Injunction. It appears as though 'co-operation' is not in the Mayor's vocabulary.

Pressure built over the past few weeks as adaptive proposals from ON were met with an unwavering position from the city. They demanded we remove all structures, tents and items from Diana Krall Plaza, and in return ON would be provided a one-time "forum to voice their concerns" at the Vancouver Island Conference Center.

Although it would appear the City threw us a bone, their offer undermines, if not ignores, the principle message behind the 'occupation': The time has come for change. The people have shown that. Given that those entrusted to make

Continued on Page 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- 3 Why Consensus Process?
- 4 Working Group Reports - get informed, involved
- 8 Global Updates -Russia-Greece-Egypt-Canada

...and more!

You cannot SILENCE an IDEA whose time has come

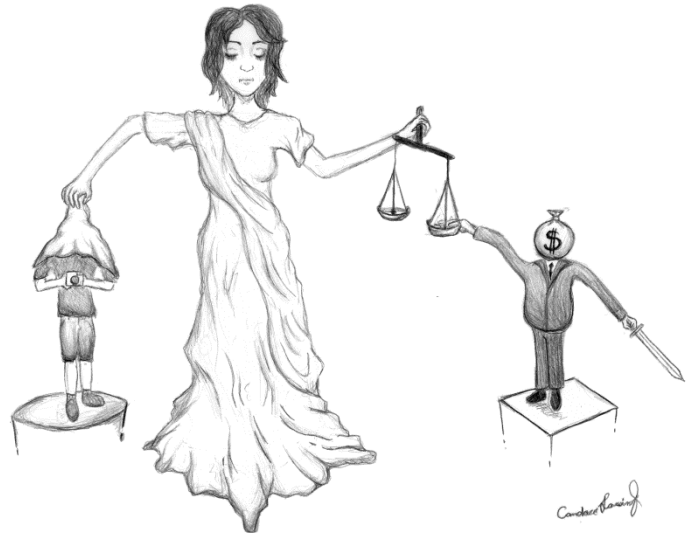
By: Matthew Orrick

Since the beginning of this, the # OccupyMovement, there has been a strong push by the mainstream media to quell the coming storm that followed the original September 17th call-out from Adbusters to the people the New York. In the wake of this, we the people have decided to take back our media. To prevent them: the MSM (Main Stream Media), from again taking our words and twisting them to suit their needs we have created this newspaper, under the title "Truth"

We, of Occupy Nanaimo, have come together to bring you the Truth. This newspaper is made by the people, for the people. This is our way of trying to give something back to the citizens of Nanaimo a place where a clear voice can be heard. The Name "Truth" represents so much more than just truthful reporting. It is a symbol that we are standing against the lies that get thrown at us daily from the MSM. "Truth" is a shield against the tyranny of those that wield the media as a sword, swinging it too and fro with no regard for the people. "Truth" is here to tell the story of the Change that is sweeping across this globe.

For years now we, the citizens of the world, have dealt with the mixed messages and half truths that have been spit at us through our modern media. The word censorship comes to mind often when you think about some of the things that go on here in Canada. The Idea that there is an organization (the CRTC) that has the final say on what we can and cannot watch or listen too should send a wave of distrust through you. Why is it that the choice is being taken away by the people? With bills under consideration that may begin the censorship of the internet should we not begin to question the motives of our leaders? What is going to be the final straw for the citizens of this world, when is enough going to be enough.

Under the Banner of "Truth" we of Occupy Nanaimo make the vow to deliver only the truth. We will stay vigilant in standing against the Tyranny of Corporate oppression and the censorship of the Mainstream Media. This, the first issue of "Truth" Newspaper marks a glorious day for Occupy Nanaimo as we move one step closer to gaining back our media, and winning over this tyrannical system of pseudo-Democracy.



...continued from page 1: NANAIMO IS LAST...

change have not, it is up to those who are willing to take responsibility to make it happen. But it will take time, and all those people and ideas are going to need space. ON has created, a place to rediscover what the word 'community' really means. Such co-operation is scarce in modern society; however, with space, where ideas are encouraged, and people, with a little bit of combined resources and labor, we have yet to unlock our potential.

Therein lies the limit of ON's negotiation flexibility. This movement must continue indefinitely (consequently, as this system cannot), and this movement requires space to take place. "We will leave DKP when we have another place to conduct operations." There are many buildings available: heritage, abandoned, or undesirable locations that are plainly an eye sore and could use some sprucing up. 45 Victoria Ave for example, is a heritage building that has been vacant for years, with structural damage. Occupy Nanaimo has access to trades people of a variety of skills and is willing and capable of revitalizing any space, commercial or rural to use for the benefit of the community.

Unfortunately, with unwavering position from the city, quick legal work and a 5-3 council vote in favor of proceeding with injunctive action, they took our ass to court. Despite a strong defense, a poorly compiled and largely inaccurate

In addition, it is my belief that support for ON is direct support for your fellow (wo)man and local community. One thing is for sure: when the tents come down, Occupy (Nanaimo) will press on. There is much work to be done, and every day, more people are rolling up their sleeves. The physical occupation is but the first phase of a movement that is 'snowballing' across the world. We are here. We are uniting. We really have a chance here.

...continued from page 1: *Why Occupy in Canada?*

The result of Ottawa's loosening of regulations in 2007 in the financial sector, had the effect of increasing the total of CMHC mortgages and loans from \$138 billion in 2007 to \$500 by the end of 2010. These are the riskiest mortgages and when our housing bubble bursts, Canadian's will be effectively bailing out the banks for every CMHC backed mortgage that goes into default. Although the Bank of Canada was nationalized in 1938, various governments have reversed the positive effects of having a nationalized central bank that can issue debt-free currency for the government to spend into the economy.

Currently 95% of our money supply is introduced into our economy by the banks. It is introduced as debt, with interest being charged on that debt. However, the supply of money to repay the interest is never created. Hence, poverty and inequality is built into the system. Combine the effects of interest on a society with fractional-reserve lending and there is a recipe for eventual economic collapse.

Regardless of a person's political stripes, these monetary and economic policies affect all of the 99%. These are just some of the reasons why you'll find people at occupations all across Canada. You'll discover that those involved in the occupy movement have a wide range of concerns that reflect the myriad of serious challenges facing Canada and our Earth.

This cultural story is only serving the 1%. It is time the 99% write our own cultural story and it starts with Occupy. Come down to your local Occupy and join in the new enlightenment of education and exchange of ideas in order to change our world for the better. A movement by the people, taking our public space in order to facilitate our new, collective way forward.



Why Consensus Process?

By Kara Brunt

No one is more qualified than *you* to decide what your life will be

Occupy Wall Street started out using the Consensus Process for decision making in their *huge* General Assemblies. As Occupations popped up in other cities across North America, they too used Consensus - and so did Occupy Nanaimo.

Consensus decision making is based on the idea that people should have full control over their lives and that power should be shared by all rather than concentrated in the hands of a few.

As well as wanting to enjoy as much freedom as possible, most of us wish to live in, and are dependent on, some form of society. This means finding ways to balance the needs and desires of every individual with those of the closer community and the wider world. Consensus decision making aims to provide a way of doing this. It's about helping groups to work together to meet both the individual's and the group's needs. It's about how to work *with* each other rather than *for* or *against* each other. Consensus is looking for 'win-win' solutions that are acceptable to all, with the direct benefit that everyone agrees with the final decision, resulting in a greater commitment to actually turning it into reality.

In consensus every person has the power to make changes in the group they are working in - and to prevent changes they find unacceptable. **The right to block a decision means that minorities cannot just be ignored, but solutions will have to be found to deal with their concerns.** No decision will be made against the will of an individual or a minority, instead the group constantly adapts to all its member's needs.

Consensus is about active participation and sharing power equally. This makes it a powerful tool not only for empowering individuals, but also for bringing people together and building communities.

Vol.1 Iss. 1 *Working Group Updates* Feb. 16, 2012

Communications: commoccupynanaimo@gmail.com

This WG is responsible for:

Compiling and maintain an up to date contact list, making list callouts for events, action, etc, maintaining communications with other occupiers and maintain Google Cal

Next Meeting:

Working Groups (WGs) are the focus groups that take action outside of the General Assembly and make up the core structure of Occupy Nanaimo.

Direct Action: commoccupynanaimo@gmail.com

This WG is responsible for:

Planning and spearheading all rallies, protests, demonstrations and marches, providing adequate time and information and media template to Media WG for advertizing purposes

Next Meeting: Saturday Feb. 25, 1:30PM, Diana Krall Plaza

Legal: legaloccupynanaimo@gmail.com

This WG is responsible for:

Legal research, legal advice and networking legal aid

Media: commoccupynanaimo@gmail.com

This WG is responsible for:

Distribution of Posters, fliers, etc., Press releases, planning of generic occupy and entertainment events and activities, communicating/building a relationship with CHLY 101.7, communicating with the mainstream media, notifying them of our events, protests, etc., developing content for LiveStream

Next Meeting:

Treasury: treasuryoccupynanaimo@gmail.com

This WG is responsible for:

Managing our Coastal Community Credit Union accounts, presentation of financial statements/report, every GA, accepting donations and keeping the Books

Next Meeting: Wednesday Feb 22, 5:00PM location TBD, email (listed above) for details

Co-Op: co-op@shaw.ca

This WG is responsible for:

Co-op related initiatives, co-ops

Next Meeting: Email for details



The Battle of the City of Nanaimo:

On Monday February 13th The City of Nanaimo brought forward the final tally of the cost of Occupy Nanaimo. According to the city the cost of the Occupation of Diana Krall Plaza was just under \$25,000 of taxpayers' money. The majority of this cost, over \$18,000, was solely attributed to the Court Case. Standing our ground brave occupiers Matthew O'Donnell and Jess Anderson Spoke on the defence of Occupy Nanaimo, citing the over 3,000 hot meals that were provided by Occupy Nanaimo, as well as the immediate sheltering of anyone that asked. Occupy Nanaimo held their ground and received praise from City Councillor Jim Kipp for the "priceless" nature of the services Occupy Nanaimo provided during the Occupation. As the night went on the City attempted to answer questions from the Occupiers involving the costs, but over-all the majority of questions went, for the most part, unanswered. To watch the Video for yourself check it out at <http://www.nanaimo.ca/CouncilMeetings/VideoArchive.aspx?clip=C120213V>

Note that the Video gets cut off during Question Period.

Working Group Update Feb. 15, 2012

Fundraising:

This WG is responsible for:
Planning and spearheading fundraising initiatives, accounting for all raised funds, depositing funds into the Treasury WG

Internet: occupynanaimo@gmail.com

This WG is responsible for:
Moderating, posting updates and stimulating discussion on social media and the forum, posting updates on social media, updating occupynanaimo.ca, and operating and moderating the LiveStream



Facilitation:

The facilitators are stewards of the GA. This WG is responsible for:
Booking the venue, facilitating the Consensus Process, ensuring notes are taken, ensuring notes are posted, closing GA, compiling the agenda, and making it available for viewing beforehand, communicating to confirm attendance of facilitators, and deciding on GA roles.

Printing: printingoccupynanaimo@gmail.com

This WG is responsible for:
Printing regular issues of the newspaper, out-sourcing contributors when possible, printing/copying posters/fliers, archiving templates(physical and digital) and networking printers and supplies.
Next meeting: Sunday Feb. 26, 12:00PM, Diana Krall Plaza

Outreach:

This WG is responsible for:
Interacting with the small/local business/co-op community on behalf of ON, Public relations, promoting advertizing space available in this newspaper, interacting with community organizations on behalf of ON, contacting unions, non-profit orgs, and notable people/public figures and forwarding contact information to Comm WG

Get Involved!

Joining a Working Group is a great way to become involved with our community and the growing social change movement! To sign up, send an email to: commoccupynanaimo@gmail.com or visit occupynanaimo.ca/forum and register.

Don't want to commit to a Working Group? Undertake an Objective (a one-time task for a working group), participate in our events and rallies, attend General Assembly, held weekly on Tuesday and Thursday, or simply inform yourself and engage in discussion with friends, family, and the online community.

General information: Please direct all questions non-Working Group related, to occupynanaimo@gmail.com

NANAIMO VOTES! ...well, 27% of Nanaimo

2011 marked another election year for the City of Nanaimo. Lots of election signs and plastic political smiles were seen all over the City in the weeks leading up to the November 19th election. However, the most interesting part of the entire election process appears not to be the results but the turnout.

According to the City of Nanaimo's website the total voter turnout was 17,590. A large number at first glance, but when put in comparison to the 64,057 registered voters in Nanaimo it becomes a bit more dismal. 26.9% of the voters turned out to cast their ballot this year. Now, as 2012 comes into light, the question still hangs in the air. Why such a low turnout?

Some people might say that it is the lack of education that has been and is being provided to our youth. Some people might say that it is the lack of representation.

Whatever the reason, the City needs to recognize that the voices of the Citizens of Nanaimo have not been heard. What of the people that felt misrepresented, or marginalized? What of the people who were unaware, or uneducated in the area of local politics? Are their voices no longer important, or has the voice of the citizen been dwindled down so far as a check mark on a ballot?

The Community Charter, the governing document dictating the responsibilities of a Municipality, is something that most do not hear anything of until much past the legal voting age. Should this community not be advocating for the education of the youth in the area in local politics. Municipalities have more opportunity than other forms of government, having the ability to write in By-laws, to make radical decisions that can make real positive change in a community.

26.9% of the voting population turned out to vote. To look at that as anything other than a problem would be irresponsible of those that "Lead" us. Perhaps next time they should spend their campaign money on educating the population instead of plastic signs and corny ads.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Rally: Opposition to Bill C-10
Thursday February 16
Maffeo Sutton Park @ 4:00pm

Rally: People Against War Crimes
Saturday March 10
Time and location TBD

General Assembly - Tuesday & Thursday @ 6:00
Locations are listed at occupynanaimo.ca

If you have any events you want to see Occupy Nanaimo do or a relevant event that you are planning send an e-mail to the Direct Action Working Group at dawgoccupynanaimo@gmail.com

Looking Back at our Support
Since the beginning of the Occupation of Diana Krall Plaza on October 15th the public support has been incredible. A number of organizations and local businesses that stepped up and showed their support at the beginning of it all including: Danforth's Deli, Gabriel's café, Mon Petite Choux, Pirate Ships, Mambo's Pizza, and the Salvation Army provided hot meals for the Occupiers for the beginning weeks of the Occupy.

As the weeks went on Occupy Nanaimo began to spread out, branching into other parts of the community. After attending a meeting of the Nanaimo Duncan and District Labour Council, Occupy Nanaimo had verbal support of the council and some of its Unions. Members of the Gabriola United Church (See left) also voiced their support as well as providing a sign to show their support.

The list of supporters could go on and on, Demeter's Coffee Vault, for allowing us to conduct our General Assemblies, The Dancing Goat Coffee Kabin, for the same. The Library and the Coastal Community Credit Union for being tolerating and accommodating during the Occupation, these are just naming a few. There is however not enough room to express the amount of thanks that Occupy Nanaimo has for our Supporters.

Perhaps the largest shout out should go to the community at large, the Citizens of Nanaimo. For they provided the pleasant conversations, the voices at our functions and their passions for our cause, You, the citizens are truly the driving force for this Movement.

At the beginning of this, no one really knew what to expect of this movement. No one knew what kind of support it would see. 500 people on day one, and the incredible support afterwards speaks volumes enough for us. Words cannot express our thanks and We look forward to 2012 being a year of real change for Nanaimo, Canada, and this world.

From Nelson to Nanaimo: A Tale of Two Occupies

By Brett Rhyno

Way back in July, I decided to drop my life in Toronto and head West. One of my reasons was to get away from activism and protesting. So it's ironic that after stumbling across the Occupy Nelson camp on its second day, I ended up staying there for six weeks.

The camp at Nelson was strong. We had a hardy team of campers accustomed to living outside in cold temperatures and an amazing support team that was constantly bringing us warm food and clothes. For the first two weeks we were flying: organizing workshops and rallies and generating lots of positive media.

The turning point for us was probably November 11th. Out of respect for the Veterans we moved our camp for Remembrance Day. We came back right away and it looked at first as though we were going to be stronger than ever but it wasn't long before increasing restrictions from the Fire Department put the squeeze on us. First they made us take down our kitchen structure, then they took away our propane, and said we couldn't put tarps on our tents because they were "a fire hazard".

Despite these obstacles we carried on until Thursday Dec 1st when, without any kind of injunction or court order, City Council had us forcibly evicted.

Since then I have had the pleasure of chilling with the amazing people at the Nanaimo camp. I was impressed by the central location of Diana Krall Plaza, right in the downtown. Also have to commend the awesome Info Tent. There were a lot of exciting possibilities being thrown around for next-phase activities and I look forward to checking in once Spring rolls around to see what's up!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a question, concern, comment, query, rant, rave, or just a burning desire to see your opinion published? Get in touch:

occupynanaimo@gmail.com

Spin This.

By C A Nikoliasen

I wonder if the Mayor really understands why he is so unwilling to be honest in his dealings with the Occupy Nanaimo movement, the one that is taking up such a small and unobtrusive space in Diana Krall Plaza. From the very start on Oct. 15 the Movements organizers have been seeking a peaceful way of accommodating the city while maintaining the occupy symbols of the Canadian right to freedom of expression. The movement has every intention of finding a way to move to a more acceptable location. While trying to maintain the spirit of the protest, the movement has worked diligently to be an example of trying to be a credit to Nanaimo and to support local business. The group is working to develop actual action plans of direct and tangible benefits to Nanaimo in general and in the Downtown core specifically. These plans do take time to develop however.

Prior to the election, the Mayor seemed at least willing to negotiate, immediately after the election the kid gloves come off. There will be no negotiation, the city council will ignore all presentations of support, and will ignore all questions seeking clarification on the city councils unwillingness to equally enforce city bylaws upon all.

The seemingly arbitrary actions of the Mayor appear to be aimed at intimidation of the young organizers in the hopes that the problem is only the few tents that are visible and the problem can be frightened away. What the Mayor and perhaps city council fails to consider, is that there is a greater number of people who support the movement than are actually occupying tents in the plaza. The people who are supporting the movement are not just the disgruntled underemployed/ unemployed or youth they have spoken to. I really fail to understand the Mayor's reason for naming the youngest of the Nanaimo Occupy spokespersons as the respondents in the request for an injunction unless he is aiming at intimidation. The youths named in the motion are not the only spokespersons and are in my opinion being targeted because of their youth. The court costs to



answer the challenge are alone enough to prevent them from putting up much of a defense. Is it the intent of the Mayor and city council to impoverish these youths for having the audacity to bring the local and global economic inequality issues to Nanaimo's attention?

In the light of recent Canadian and US "crime bill" etc., enactments I believe now more than ever we as Canadians must stand up for our Constitutional rights. To my mind we are losing it all when we give up freedom for liberty. For my daughters and the grandchild in my near future I want better. I want a world where if there is a reason to protest there is a fund set up immediately to provide a solution. I want a world where there is work available that pays a participatory wage, where there is more than a faint hope that you will ever own a home or pay off the student loan debt you incurred while trying to better your opportunities to have a decent career. I have worked my whole life and am struggling to keep afloat because work that pays a decent wage is non-existent where I live. To tell someone who has spent years seeking work or underpaid and underemployed that they should "get a job after taking a bath" (Newt Gingrich) is only an indication of how seriously out of touch the one demographic of society is from the other.

I do wonder as well at the logic of James Lunney, with his blind refusal to see any but his own narrow point of view or Stephen Harper's attitude that we the Canadian people are as willing to give up our rights and 'sovereignty' as he is. Should we not be seriously questioning how much ole Stevie stands to gain personally from selling Canadian interests out completely?

OCCUPY TOGETHER

OCCUPY BC

Occupy Vancouver: Occupy Vancouver is currently planning actions against the logging on Cortez Island..

Occupy Powell River: BC Ferries actions are under-weigh, which are aimed at addressing BC Ferries' irresponsible and unethical business practices, including, but *not* limited to, "illegally" raising fares

Around BC the Occupy Movement is in perpetual motion. In BC there are 11 confirmed Occupy groups and scattered splinter groups. Occupy Powell River. Occupy in BC is going strong and will continue to as the inter-occupy relations continue to grow.

OCCUPY CANADA

After a Crazy couple of months across Canada we have watched the physical Occupations of parks and plaza. Even though evictions ran across the country through the Occupy's, the movement is still growing, still changing. In the planning from Occupy Canada Are;

- On to Ottawa Trek
- Canada wide General Assemblies
- Inter Occupy Relations
- Provincial Occupy Actions

Occupy Canada will continue to push forward and find ways to enact the change that we wish to see in this world.

OCCUPY WALL ST

In the Cradle of the Occupy Movement things are still going strong. With a "Mic Check" from Occupy Vancouver members (from Occupy a petition has been passed to the members of OWS against the logging on Cortez Island. OWS continues to be a beacon of hope for the Occupy Movement, being ever vigilant against the Tyranny of oppressors such as Michael Bloomberg. They brought in the New Year at Zuccotti Park, stacking the barricades that NYPD had tried to put around them. As the Movement continues to grow, more and more people will be looking to the heart of the Occupy Movement, and as the movement continues to grow, the heart only beats stronger.

OCCUPY EVERYWHERE

Though they may not be flying the Banner of the Occupy movement the world is alive with Civil Disobedience. Recently we have seen the people rise up in Egypt against the military regime, the people of Greece rise up against austerity cuts and the People of Russia rise against the re-election of their leader, Putin. The world is changing, manifesting a new world that the people see fit.

The physical occupations across the globe are coming to an end but the movement continues. All around the world people are still fighting for social equality, economic justice, the preservation of our environment, and the restoration of rights that everyone is entitled too.