

## **Occupy Vancouver General Assembly Minutes**

**November 04, 2011, 7:00pm**

### **-SUMMARY**

#### **What Is Occupy Vancouver?**

Occupy Vancouver - A Non Violent Movement for Social, Economic and Political Change

#### **Our Statement of Unity:**

We, the Ninety-Nine Percent, come together with our diverse experiences to transform the unequal, unfair, and growing disparity in the distribution of power and wealth in our city and around the globe. We challenge corporate greed, corruption, and the collusion between corporate power and government. We oppose systemic inequality, militarization, environmental destruction, and the erosion of civil liberties and human rights. We seek economic security, genuine equality, and the protection of the environment for all.

We are inspired and in solidarity with global movements including those across the Middle East, Europe, and the Occupy Wall Street / Occupy Together movement in over 1000 cities in North America. Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere.

We humbly acknowledge that Occupy Vancouver is taking place on unceded Coast Salish territories.

We are committed to an inclusive and welcoming space, to addressing issues of oppression and discrimination, and to creating an environment where all the 99% can be heard and can meaningfully participate. We are also committed to safeguarding our collective well-being – including safety from interpersonal violence and any potential police violence.

Lost red and black CDs  
Someone else lost irreplaceable CDs

### **COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Raven with Accessibility Committee: The wheelchair thing broken again the infrastructure committee make rules whoever broke it please don't.

Press Committee renamed to "Info Relay Committee"

Clarify we are not a printing press but, if outside media calls, we will provide GA approved motives or intentions.

Press releases for confirmed programming events

There has recently been a lot of pressure to respond to outside media beyond the scope of the Info Relay Committee. If you/we want to respond to the media, there may be a separate group forming. Come talk to us.

Ben with Peacekeepers: liaison today with Fire Department. Last night an issue requested by the Fire Department to formally approach us earlier today with our requests. We told them we needed officials to come to the GA but the officials refused to come before our GA.

Notice colour tapes on certain places within the camp. Red tape means to raise the tarps a few feet. Yellow tape means canopies too close together. Tents are to be 2 feet apart, canopies 3 feet apart.

Tents can be back to back and side to side but need access to doorways. Tarps connecting tents, red tags raise the tarps a min of ...off the ground. Tape put on by the Fire Department as Peacekeeper felt duty to videotape will be available. We asked the Fire Department if it is okay. The Fire liaison didn't see a problem with it but would have to petition the Fire Chief to do that on personal level. There is no problem with clear sided walls.

Do VPD have power to remove tents?

No.

Does VFD?

Yes, they don't follow same rules.

Clarification: Have you guys talked to legal team or about how we deal with compromise? This worries me greatly.

VFD refused to come to GA.

It is important that people know what the tape means.

Most of meeting was us saying it shouldn't be happening. Not supposed to be discussing things.

Yellow tape means tents are too close together need to be separated 2 - 3 feet.

RE: Tarps on tents are not a problem as long as they can see front door in case of emergency. Each tent must have visible front doors.

Also, issue of pallets: if any spare pallets laying around, not being used, they will take them away from us.

Blue tape is a hazard and means it needs to be picked up or removed as a safety hazard.

They are a part of the 99% and this is a part of their job.

Generalities of it all if you want specifics come to me or Neal.

Miles with Legal Committee - At 1pm, Lawyer Peter Edelman with a "Know Your Rights" workshop in regards to civil disobedience. Information Tent said location to be announced

is it possible for the lawyer to give list of info to post on FB if not able to go can request they do that from BCCLA can download it as well

hearts and mind work group got some more buttons available after GA at info booth  
good news yoga place and the Van convention centre free passes for yoga convention  
not workshops but classes 8pm is first class  
tickets need to photocopy need some change for photocopies

Van today conversation about proposal of rough demands take off website in  
unmoderated open forum  
tomorrow at 5pm at UBC lounge with comfy chairs

intercity committee database posted to website  
Sask did pull down camp yesterday morning thought better to go offsite than battle winter  
Calgary st. Patrick island camp  
plaza camp up in the air  
Victoria was up in the air.

As you probably know we issued a press release this morning, declaring our autonomy.  
We appreciate the demands from the VFD, we will take them into consideration. ..  
working on proposal, tomorrow will bring to GA. We are still trying to maintain friendly  
relations. We are trying to balance fire safety and comfort?

With the medical committee  
.. please feel free to check out the medical committee to see how we can help you. Wash  
your hands

I'd like to let you know about David Johnson and how he was sentenced to 60 days for  
camping in Victoria.

Why?

It is complicated.... He put up a tent in Victoria he camped there for 6 weeks.

You might have noticed.. We did get a lot of solidarity from the ..CUPE Convention. Dropped off sandbags and a bunch of gear.

Number 1. International transfer your bank day. Join us tomorrow here at 10:30.  
..Solidarity with the political prisoners, 3:30 on the main stage  
Conference no mining on native land 3pm

(7:49pm)

Yoga passes are at the Information Tent.

The revolution will not be televised. However, the revolution will be Livestreamed. We are Livestreamed. The revolution will be Facebook'd, Twitter'd, and YouTube'd. That is people power. You are people power. This doesn't exist without all of you. We don't mind being cold here. We'll hold down the fort. You guys at home can't forget about us down here. It's going to get cold. It's going to get hard. But we're going to be brave and strong. We're going to pull through this and we're going to sit down and have a discussion because this is not the world we were told we were going to grow up in. We're going to change that.

## **COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP PROPOSALS:**

### **Proposal:**

Our Indigenous members at Occupy would like to notify the GA, they would like to host a First Nations day at OV. I propose the GA, on Saturday November 19, endorses a First Nations Day to support their heritage and culture.

Have you talked to Programming yet?

This would be a full day, from morning to night in regards to the First Nations communities.

Apparently saved someone's life last night. This is pretty heroic stuff, saving people's lives, but this is somehow being washed away with everything else going on in the Occupation.

### **Proposal:**

As a camp, whoever we see on the grounds, we love them, whether it's a fellow neighbour or policeman.

### **Proposal:**

Medical - We need to resupply medical tent. We are out of the basic supplies needed to provide services. We are asking for \$300 to the Medical Tent. We would like to get this down before the weekend. We seem to get more traffic during the weekend times.

### **Proposal:**

Financing convey and medical supplies. This requires basic every day restocking. Weekly budget of \$150 to the medical tent. This will be to provide for overflow and better equipment.

**Proposal:**

Review existing Rough Draft Demands into an open community so we can flush out the bad press we are getting and finally put this proposal to rest.

[Something about media committee]

Why wasn't this proposal ...

It seems to be that the fact that the List of Demands is already off of the website. It's a pretty significant amendment to this proposal.

Could this committee talk to the media committee before this proposal is voted on, because of the recent situation of it being taken down?

I think I should take this up but I think I still need to propose this.

I was on the Demands Committee and I understand that the Media Committee decided to take it off of the website. I think we should vote now to have this just on the website.

This morning I was reading the news. I saw the List of Demands on the mainstream media news sites.

The Demands Committee will be meeting tomorrow at 5pm tomorrow by the Ice Rink.

**Proposal:**

I propose we have a facilitated sharing circle at 6:30pm before every GA.

**Proposal:**

Respect Committee - For funding our Elders here. We acknowledge we are on unceded Coast Salish territory and appreciate their guidance here. We suggest \$50 for each of the Elders to help with the car troubles recently. The alternative will be to establish a separate donation box to subsidize transportation costs for First Nation Elders which will be run through the Indigenous Outreach Committee. Tomorrow at 5:30pm we will be discussing this at the black tent.

(8:11pm)

We have a proposal about violence within the camp. As we've already agreed, this is a non-violent. We want to GA to officially state support us in stating that physical violence is not tolerated within our community. We feel that this is a great first step and verbal violence will be further discussed.

What if violence occurs?

We use non-violent means to stray away from that.

If there is physical violence, would that include restraint?

We are open to a friendly amendment, if you would like to suggest something.

We have the right, if we see physical violence being done, we have the right to citizen arrest. Thank you.

Does this violence include verbal?

It does not but we do want to bring that to the floor, in the future. It will require a longer discussion.

(8:17pm)

\*Audio indistinguishable\*

I've picked up over 2,000 cigarette butts. This needs to stop, right now! No more littering in our community!

**Proposal:**

No weapons shall be used against anyone within the community of Occupy Vancouver, this does not include the Police.

*[May have missed 1-2 proposals]*

**Proposal:**

OV support that marijuana is not a drug but a medicine.

**Proposal:**

As alcohol and drug use has led to serious security concerns, the GA state that illicit drugs and alcohol be prohibited while on the OV grounds.

**Proposal:**

We stand in solidarity with a hunger strike.

Have they expressed their solidarity with us?

I have not brought this proposal to them.

Did he mention that David Johnson is in prison?

Is there a Facebook group that supports it?

## **URGENT PROPOSALS:**

### **Proposal:**

Medical - \$300 be given to the medical tent to resupply the tent for the weekend.

There was an amendment to the proposal.

An amendment to that amendment: a list of supplies should include a well researched on a sheet of paper for indications and contraindications.

We only have a really expensive supply of holistic medicine. This is already a part of our supplies.

Can we add \_\_\_\_\_ to include a whole list of medicine... ?

No.

BLOCK: I would like to protest this because homeopathic remedies have been proven to not work in official studies.

### **Consensus:**

The proposal has passed to give the Medical Tent \$300 to resupply.

Are there anymore urgent proposals?

No, there are none.

*(Quorum is counted above 50 members)*

(8:34pm)

The CDs that were reported stolen were found.

## **CONSENSUS' ON PREVIOUS PROPOSALS:**

### **Proposal:**

We seem to be running out of dishes at the Food Tent. We can not serve you food in your bare hands. We propose everyone, who wants to eat, bring their own dish(es).

### **Consensus:**

Consensus has passed to have food recipients to bring their own dishes to the Food Tent for meals.

### **Proposal:**

I proposed last night that we use the word "demands" instead of grievances/solutions. Demands change things, grievances don't. Every other movement that has got anything done has had demands. I think it would be a crime to not be using the word "demand/demands." Our list has been taken off the website twice against the will of the GA.

No it hasn't.

Yes, it has. It's not on the website.

Are you talking about the demands you have or in general with the entire movement?

It is about if we're going to have demands or not and if they are going to be called something else.

The demands are what we consented on. We demand of each other and our government.

I'm sure that people in government are going to come up with solutions to our demands so I have no problem with making demands.

In our First Nations community, we did have a list of demands. As an Elder, I advise you that we do need a list of demands. If we have demands, we can make our voices heard to the people that need to listen in government. I believe that this community should make the move and do it or scrap the whole idea. Indigenous people do it and I suggest you do it as well. You are losing sight of the battle by passing it off and passing it off. As your Advisor, you should take my advice and do the right thing.

The proposal is that we create a list...

... we create a list of things and then call them Demands.

I'm not against us that involve doing things that involve solutions. I'm not against also to have grievances. But the reason we are here is for demands.

I respect the Elders' advice, though in regards to proposals, I find it very ... this is a very important decision. As on one hand, a demand in power expects something of power and it gives them the power to manipulate us. On the other hand, these shouldn't even be called demands.

I propose we have demands. "We have demands" - that is my proposal.

**Consensus:**

The proposal does not pass by about 50% against. If you would like to help, the meeting for this is at 5:30pm by the Ice Rink.

GA will run 10-15 minutes later than expected because we started late.

**Proposal:**

Indigenous Rally to oppose big mining and big oil. Endorse the Sunday, November 6th rally called "No Mining on Native Land" starting at 2pm right here at the Art Gallery.

**Consensus:**

The proposal has passed to endorse the Indigenous Rally.

**Proposal:**

Direct Action - Having a "Housing is a Right, not a Commodity" Rally on November 12. Looking for strong points to engage viewers of the rally and want to present these demands in small groups to the media on behalf of the rally, and endorsed by Occupy Vancouver, but not on behalf of Occupy Vancouver. The Housing Rally was endorsed last night, we want these demands to be approved tonight.

What does endorse mean? Does it mean we demand or does it mean we support?

I will say support. We really want these to happen. We want OV to support the Housing Rally.

Would the Housing Rally be asking for houses even if we weren't here?

Yes, but this movement makes it a lot stronger.

You stated that at yesterday's GA we agreed that OV already endorses this?

Yes.

What are we voting on?

We are voting on our list of demands and for OV to support this list.

This is basically transparency happening.

**Consensus:**

The proposal has been passed to support the Housing Rally's demands.

The list will be at the Information Tent in a moment and soon will be online.

**Proposal:**

We propose to oppose cannabis prohibition, release all cannabis criminals, and (?). 1. Prohibit public servants to restrict individuals, unless they are being violent. 2. Remove legislation that takes away their government responsibility for any wrong-doings. 3. Make their jobs transparent. 4. Drug regulations be redone to make sense. This proposal will be voted on tomorrow, first thing.

The General Assembly is closed.

(9:07pm)