

## ANITA PLACE WOMEN'S GROUP



TUESDAY, JULY 3RD @ 4:30 PM  
CEED CENTRE

Join us for our weekly Anita Place Women's Group meeting, where we talk about our experience as women in tent city.

All self-identified women are welcome. Our only rules are that what's said here stays here, leave personal conflicts at the door, and one speaker at a time.

Coffee and snacks will be served. Spread the word!

**Anita's News** is a weekly newsletter published by the Anita Place Tent City & Alliance Against Displacement. We are for and by the low-income communities that call Maple Ridge home. To submit writing, get in touch with Xvlah or Listen. or email us at [anitanlace.news@gmail.com](mailto:anitanlace.news@gmail.com)

## Tent city updates: Surrey, Nanaimo, & Saanich

by listen



## Pigs and bylaw shut down the Surrey Strip

Last Thursday pigs and bylaw officers violently purged homeless people and their possessions from 135a Street, otherwise known as the "Strip". Homeless residents who were present were given some time to pack up their things, but all other tents and their contents were scooped up and thrown into garbage trucks. By 7 pm most of the street was empty.

The purging of the Strip was prompted by the opening of 160 supportive modular housing units. While some Strip residents are happy to take whatever shelter they can get after living in an open air prison for three years, there were more people staying on the Strip than 160 modular units can support, and hundreds more homeless throughout the city of Surrey. Dave Diewert, an Alliance Against Displacement organizer in Surrey, estimates that there are at least 1,200 homeless people living in Surrey. In clearing out the Strip to prepare for the gentrification of downtown Surrey, the RCMP and the City have made clear that they want the other 1,000 homeless people who won't be living in supportive emergency housing to remain invisible. A bylaw officer told Bonnie, a long-term resident of the Strip, that homelessness would be "illegal" after the Strip's purge.

Last year at Alliance Against Displacement's annual general meeting, Surrey Strip residents met Anita Place and Sugar Mountain Tent City residents and brainstormed what it would look like to start a self-organized tent city somewhere in Surrey. Maybe the announcement of a handful of non-profit and social worker controlled housing in Surrey marks a new turn in homeless people's struggle there. Whatever happens, solidarity across different regions is crucial. From Nanaimo to Maple Ridge to Victoria to Surrey, poor, working class, and Indigenous people are fed up with the police and bylaw violence, the government's refusal to build tenant-controlled & welfare-rate social housing, and anti-homeless hatred from their broader communities.

## Discontent City wins their day in court

Last week the City of Nanaimo served Discontent City with an injunction application. Organizers anticipated that after failing to displace the camp with police and bylaw intimidation, that the City would turn to the courts, thereby giving tent city residents a chance to defend themselves before a judge. Similar to the City of Maple Ridge's attack on Anita Place Tent City, the City of Nanaimo is attempting to argue that Discontent City is a nuisance to surrounding businesses, a health hazard, and composed mostly of people who are not from Nanaimo and have only set up the camp to protest, rather than survive.

Some of these claims are false, and all of them are distractions that rely on constructing homeless people as threats to private property who are unworthy of visibility or community - in



Brett at the Saanich Tent City

other words, these claims suggest that homeless people are less human than business and home owners.

With the help of other homeless activists who have experience organizing in Anita Place, Sugar Mountain, and Ten Year Tent Cities, the residents and organizers of Discontent City are fired up and ready for the battle ahead. A day in court is a victory but it can be easy to forget that it's not the law that gives us power, it's standing *together outside of the law*.

## Namegans Tent City takes a stand against colonization

Namegans is B.C.'s newest tent city, located just north of Victoria, in Saanich. While it started off as a pop up protest camp, it has since grown and established itself as a self-organized tent city, with a council and weekly meetings, just like Anita Place. Crissy Brett, the camp's founder, explains, "I was taken in the 60s scoop and I have Anishinaabe, Cree, Mohawk teachings. Do they expect me to go back to those territories to practice my culture? Where do we practice our culture and ceremonies when 50% of Indigenous people live off reserve?"

### All-camp meeting minutes: 7pm Wednesday June 26th

1. Territory acknowledgement
2. Reports from allied struggle
3. Reorganizing tent city: new meeting structure:
  - **All camp meetings once a month** (Tuesdays 7pm before cheque day)
  - **Women's group meetings weekly** (Tuesdays 4:30pm @ CEED Centre)
  - **Political action committee meetings weekly** (Wednesdays 3pm)
  - **Council meetings weekly** (Wednesdays 1pm)
4. Affirming camp rules and registration
  - Reminder: this camp is an illegal act of civil disobedience. The City will shut down this camp as soon as it gets the opportunity, but we can defeat them if we stay organized.
  - The Tent City's original six rules need to be reaffirmed: people will go tent to tent to get residents to sign off on rules & nominate council members
    - Camp must feel safe for women / no violence / no stealing / contribute to camp by volunteering / no using in the open / clean up after yourself & your guests
5. **Camp Council Elections in two weeks: July 10th**

Bathroom staff meeting:  
SUNDAY NIGHT!

