



BALACLAVA!

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

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VANCOUVER.MEDIACOOP.CA • 2010.MEDIACOOP.CA



Media Invited to Stand with Missing and Murdered Women

"I grew up as a little girl not trusting those who were supposed to be looking after me. I was brought up to be ashamed of who I was. It took me years

to feel good in this body, to accept that these brown hands are mine. Finally, I can say I am proud to be an Indigenous woman."



Women's Memorial March organizers hold a press conference at Carnegie Hall.

Carol Martin was one of four Indigenous women "honouring" the media this morning at the Carnegie Theatre on East Hastings Street in Vancouver.

Martin, along with Mona Woodward, Fay Blaney and Dalannah Bowen, invited media to a press conference in lieu of includ-

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PHOTO: MURRAY BUSH

Safe Injection Activists Stop Harper Engagement

Hundreds of people fighting to keep North America's only safe injection site open prevented Prime Minister Stephen Harper from reaching a speaking engagement in downtown Vancouver Wednesday afternoon. Demonstrators took over the street with signs and sirens, and taped the doors of the community center shut. They demanded that the federal government accept a recent BC supreme court ruling sanctioning Insite, a safe injection site for intravenous drug users in Vancouver. Insite opened in 2003 and now receives more than 600 visits daily. Harper has been a target of protests by supporters of Insite every time he visits Vancouver, because of his government's ongoing opposition to this life saving facility.

Watch the video clip! 2010.mediacoop.ca

Quote of the Day: Gord Hill

from "Converging to Resist Vancouver 2010 and its Legacy" by Anthony Fenton

Gord Hill, an activist from the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation in British Columbia, believes that after the Olympics "the real class struggle is going to begin," pointing out how the British Columbia government "bought off a lot of the major unions here" by coercing them to sign "Olympic Labour Peace" contracts that would defer agitation until after the Olympics. Adds Hill, **"the thing about it is we're still going to be here, our resistance movement is still going to be here, we're still going to have our network, and there's not going to be 7,000 pigs running in the streets. So, the government has set themselves up for a great big fall after the Olympics and our movement's going to be a part of it."** read entire article: <http://vancouver.mediacoop.ca/story/2665>

Olympics Cash and Vancouver's Cultural Community

by Dawn Paley

Wednesday morning, as people gathered at the WISE hall for the first Olympics Resistance Summit, I had a conversation about the arts in this city that had me thinking all day. It's not that what was talked about was

new, or particularly revelatory. It was the tangible feeling that lines are being drawn. On one side are cultural groups that took money from the Olympics, and on the other, those that refused it.

Case in point, the Purple Thistle. The February edition of their broadsheet, *The Thistler*, features an editorial about civil disobedience and a "riot 2010" graphic on the front page. Conceived as a sort of free school, the Purple Thistle center has become a space for youth to create art and media, to discuss, and to learn from one another. They are also one of a handful of local artist groups that had access to money from the Cultural Olympiad and made a collective decision to reject that money.

"We just don't want to owe anybody any thing," said Aly de la Cruz, a member of the Purple Thistle Collective.

De la Cruz says she's noticed the effects that Olympics money is having on the local cultural scene. "I've

noticed a real trend of neutrality," she said. "A lot of groups that have been self-professed as being radical, of being progressive, of being aligned with marginalized people are accepting this money, and I've noticed a lot of toning down of their politics."

Nicholas Perrin from VIVO Media Arts says Olympiad funding is bringing the artists into legitimizing the Games, and is part of an effort to brand Vancouver as a "creative" city.

"It's going to switch the creative atmosphere more toward a market based creative atmosphere, versus the sort of artist run community, which has just been gutted," said Perrin. "There's two levels, there's the gutting of the artist run culture and a lack of funding that requires people to kind of use Cultural Olympiad money, but there is also the way in which that ties creative work in the city into a particular political project that most of us ethically kind of stand against."



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO

Members of the Purple Thistle, L to R: Aly de la Cruz, Invisible Balaclava & Carla Bergman

From the 2010 Olympics and Indigenous Resistance Summit...

"BC is using the olympics as a cover for a land grab that is displacing natives from their hunting grounds and impacting their clean water." – Billie Pierre

"Canadian people have to realize that this whole deception that's going on here in terms of Indigenous people's human rights in this country is the same kind of deception that an athlete who takes steroids gets involved in, in terms of winning the Olympic gold."

– Arthur Manuel, Former Neskonalith chief Arthur Manuel is spokesperson for the Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade.

"We are homeless in the very country that gets rich on our land."

– Carol Martin, organizer of the Women's Memorial March

REPORT FROM THE STREETS with 2010.mediacoop.ca

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



When the media is silent, the walls speak!

Downtown Eastside Street Art photos by Insurgent Photo



LEGAL

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

Immigration/border line: 1-877-823-2010 or 604-630-7502

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

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

EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

10 am – Greenwash Press Conference 706 Clark Dr

2:13 pm – Torch passes Trout Lake

3 pm – Olympics Resistance Network (ORN) Press Conference 706 Clark Dr.

5 pm – Torch protest at UBC Student Union Building (Torch passes UBC at 6:14 pm)

All day – Olympics Resistance Summit

RESISTANCE MEDIA LOUNGE

**RHIZOME CAFE
317 EAST BROADWAY
FRIDAY, FEB 12, 8PM
FREE!**

Get the inside track on Olympic resistance from media makers in the heat of the action.



VANCOUVER.MEDIACOOOP.CA
TWITTER.COM/VANMEDIACOOOP

Women's March cont.

ing the press in the February 14 march to honour 3,000 murdered and missing women in Canada.

Journalists are not permitted to attend the ceremony in the Carnegie Theatre at noon on Valentine's Day, and are asked not to film or snap pictures during the march, when friends and families of murdered and missing women will stop to perform healing ceremonies at sites where women have died.

"We want to uphold the memorial part of it, to extend respect to the families," said Blaney. Even the organizers of the march, many of whom are political activists, do not bring their politics to the march.

Owen called on the media to "be part of the change, not perpetuate the problem."

The problem – that the list of murdered and missing women, most of them Indigenous, has reached 3,000 since the 1970s; that the list is growing; and that there has not yet been a public inquiry into any of the cases – is exacerbated, according to Owen, by a media that misrepresents the stories of women beaten, violated, kidnapped and murdered across Canada.

"Media is a powerful vehicle. We challenge you to give this profile its proper due. Stand with us," said Martin.

Owen agreed. "As long as we keep working, the story will be told."

The 19th annual Women's Memorial March will begin at 1pm on February 14 at Carnegie Theatre. March organizers will host a media scrum at 11:15 am on the Carnegie patio, and the march will end at Oppenheimer Park.

Pre-Olympics Vendor Crackdown Continues

"I heard a long time ago, through the grapevine, that the [Vancouver Police Department] was cracking down on vending, which means selling personal or stolen items on the sidewalk," said Chili Bean, herself a vendor and long time resident of the neighbourhood.

"They're giving out tickets and during the Olympics and if you have not paid your ticket, they're going to send a warrant for your arrest and then put you in jail for a lot of time of the Olympics if you can't pay it," she said in an interview with the VMC this morning at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.

Chili Bean explained that a woman who lives in hotel was arrested in mid-January, after failing to pay three outstanding vending tickets worth a total of \$900. She was held in jail for three nights.

"She got thrown in jail; it was a Friday; she didn't come back until Monday," said Chili Bean. "She's never been to jail in her life." Three other vendors were detained that weekend due to unpaid vending tickets.

In the run up to the Games, local cops have pursued ticketing as a "proactive" policing strategy. In their 2009 business plan, released last January, the Vancouver Police Department set a target of a five per cent increase in "the number of charges, warrant arrests, street checks and traffic tickets completed by Patrol officers."

Corporate Spotlight:

2008 profits:
\$3,134,000,000

\$62.5 million sponsorship

One of Canada's largest oil and gas companies, Petro-Canada produces, refines and markets oil and gas products. The firm was acquired by Suncor in 2009. The move makes Suncor the fifth largest oil company in North America and the largest in Canada. Suncor is also the largest tar sands operator. The company extracts the equivalent of 680,000 barrels of oil per day in crude oil and natural gas. Slogan: "Strength to Deliver."

