



# BALACLAVA!

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

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## This movement is the only real alternative: Art Manuel

### Torch actions in Vancouver exceed expectations

Anti-Olympics demonstrators pushed back hard against the Olympic spectacle today. As I write, hundreds of people are still in the streets. Thousands of people came out with the goal of reclaiming the streets; this afternoon, they succeeded by pulling a massive presence to the Vancouver Art Gallery during the afternoon rally.

This came after two successful torch disruptions this morning, forcing the torch to be rerouted in the Downtown Eastside and on Commercial Drive. Today is the last day of the torch relay, which has been protested dozens of times across Canada.

“Olympics go home,” and “No Olympics on Stolen Native Land,” are among the dozens of chants that echoed throughout today’s marches. Contingencies ranged from an anarchist black bloc to anti-war and student groups, equipped with their own security and medics. The marchers walked behind Indigenous drummers who kicked off the march with songs and drumming.

In an interview this morning after

the torch was stopped in the Downtown Eastside, Art Manuel of the Indigenous Network for Economies and Trade said that many “activist-type Indigenous people” provincially and nationally have been attracted by the Anti-Olympics movements.

“Right now in Canada, a lot of people don’t understand that the government does fund all of our provincial and national tribal organizations, up to the hundreds of millions of dollars, and that basically co-opts them,” he said. But, he says, those organizations are managing over the poverty of Native people just like the government bureaucrats used to do.

“These young people, these activists, they know that these are dead end streets,” he said. “This movement here is providing the only real alternative to eliminate the kind of poverty, to protect the land, and I think that’s what’s going to grow out of this,” he said.

Manuel said that he thinks struggles against mining and extractive industries will intensify in unceded territories throughout British Columbia after the Games.

“The welfare on an Indian Reserve is about \$165 a month, and there’s no way on God’s green earth that you can live off that, and so the hunting and fishing has been basically the food bank for Indian reserve communities, since we don’t have food banks like they do in the city, like Vancouver,” said Manuel.

Manuel explained that mining and extractive industries intensify problems on reserves, because they restrict peoples access to the land, water and animals.

Activists have pushed back against the attempts for Olympic sponsors to “greenwash” themselves, and a campaign directly targeting these corporate sponsors has been mounted. Sponsors of the 2010 Games include Petro Canada/



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO



PHOTO: MURRAY BUSH

The Black Bloc Burlesque is Victoria’s premier radical titillating activist performance group. Here they show how to safely expose a police infiltrator in a protest situation and demonstrate to the audience that Dissent is Sexy! There were at least three police infiltrators identified in yesterday’s mobilization. (see Legal box on next page)



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO

## Massive Convergence Takes Back the City

by Issac Oommen

“Haitians would think that we’re rich snobs,” said Ben Gaird, who was out from Chilliwack to help set up banners for the festival-protest at the Vancouver Art Gallery. “Haiti was devastated by an earthquake. The GDP of Haiti is the same as the Games - \$6 billion. We should be helping people there or here instead of throwing these games.”

Aside from the contingents of members from organizations like No One Is Illegal, Anti-Poverty Committee and the Olympic Resistance Network, the public showed up... By the thousands.

Among anarchists and black bloc, pockets of families and out-of-town activists attended to show their support for the protest against Olympic spending and tactics.

“This is awesome,” said a local, Judd Minter. “It’s going to be great to march to BC Place with them.”

Suncor and the Royal Bank of Canada, which are behind the Alberta tar sands. Mining giant Teck – a supplier to the Olympics – also operates a massive copper mine on unceded Secwepemc lands.

Tomorrow, there is a call-out for a demo billed Corporate Heart Attack. From 8:30am, protestors will move throughout the city, starting from Thornton Park. They’re calling for a disruption of “business as unusual.” It has been rumoured that police will be carrying tear gas at this demo.

On Sunday, convergence attendees will stand in solidarity with the 19th annual women’s memorial march to honour missing and murdered women across the country. Monday brings an anti-war demo in the evening and the launching of a tent village to demand housing.

**Rally for Homes**  
**NO MORE EMPTY TALK**  
**NO MORE EMPTY LOTS**

**Monday, February 15th | NOON**  
**Pigeon Park (Carrall and Hastings)**  
Coast Salish Territories  
Vancouver  
Organized by THE DTES WOMEN CENTRE POWER OF WOMEN GROUP  
with support from over 50 organizations.  
**RALLY FOR ALL DTES RESIDENTS AND SUPPORTERS!**  
Food will be served.

**SUPPORT THE OLYMPIC TENT VILLAGE!**  
Endorsed by STREAMS OF JUSTICE.  
Stay the evening, night, or morning.  
Dinner will be served daily by Food Not Bombs at 9 pm.  
www.olympictentvillage.wordpress.com

## REPORT FROM THE STREETS with 2010.mediacoop.ca

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**INTERNET** Hit up 2010.mediacoop.ca and hit “add report” to update.

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





PHOTO: MURRAY BUSH



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO



PHOTO: MURRAY BUSH

Yesterday morning, protestors successfully blocked the torch in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and on Commercial Drive.

The Olympic torch was forced to reroute on Commercial Drive as hundreds of Protestors placed rope, barbed wire, rocks and themselves in the intersection to stop it from crossing. The torchbearer and her torch (below, middle) were loaded into a police car to avoid protestors.



PHOTO: MURRAY BUSH



PHOTO: MURRAY BUSH



PHOTO: MURRAY BUSH

## LEGAL

**UPDATES:** There were at least three arrests at Friday's march. They were charged with breach (anticipation of a criminal act). No one was detained. At least one person is facing assault charges.

**IMPORTANT** There were many agent provocateurs in the crowd. At least 3 have been identified by multiple sources as undercover. At least one more – who was posing as a

journalist – refused to identify his accreditation and then was taken across police lines in the front. Also according to legal there were at least two visibly armed undercover snatch teams in the crowd.

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](mailto:orn-legal@riseup.net)

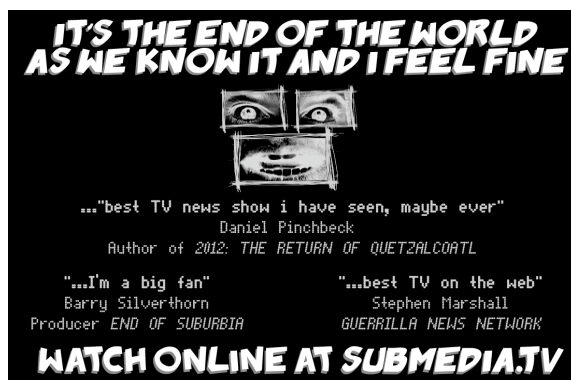
ORN Legal Weblink:  
<http://olympicresistance.net/content/legal-information>



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO



## EVENT

**Sunday, Feb 14 1pm Main and Hastings**, stand in solidarity with the Women's memorial march. This is NOT an Olympics protest – no banners, no placards no leaflets, no photos, please.



PHOTO: INSURGENT PHOTO

## Dear BalACLAVA! Editors,

On Friday, one hundred members of the black bloc marched alongside Indigenous elders during yesterday's march, from the Vancouver art gallery to BC place.

The black bloc contingent was organized, closing ranks and holding police at bay. Members confiscated officers' hats, and

tossed orange pylons their way, simultaneously mocking the display of state force while inspiring, supporting and defending those around them.

Folks on the streets respected the call for an all ages, family friendly demo on Feb. 12., but Saturday is another day. Fists in the air will connect our struggle to the black eyes of the boys in blue.

Wherever you're reading this is an appropriate place for action. Be brilliantly brave and let your dissent be known.

– Walker Riley

## VIVO MEDIA ARTS 2010 SAFE ASSEMBLY

Forming a Counter Public | February 12-28 2010  
1965 Main Street Vancouver BC | By Donation

AFTERNOON SCHOOL | Discussions engaging critical theory and contemporary art. Monday-Friday 15-19 + 22-26, 2pm

EVENING NEWS | Social Forum for residents, media, activists, researchers, and artists to report on and discuss their experiences and observations surrounding the Olympics. Submit your documentation, projects, and stories to VIVO between 4 and 6pm or contact via information below. Feb 13, 17, 21, 23, 25, 7pm

RADIO | 91.5FM and online stream. Ongoing pre-recorded and live programming invited.

+ SAFE FACADE + SOCIAL PROPAGANDA MIXING MACHINE  
+ VANCOUVER (DE)TOUR GUIDE + COVERING UP  
+ NOISE POLLUTION PLAYGROUND + WHITE PILLOWS

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[missingjustice.ca](http://missingjustice.ca)

## Corporate Spotlight:

2008 profits: \$4,555,000,000

\$110 million sponsorship, exclusive financial institution.

Royal Bank of Canada is active in Canadian banking, wealth management, insurance, international banking and capital markets. In the early 20th Century, Royal Bank of Canada president Herbert Holt financed the Western Canada Colonization Campaign, which raised \$1,500,000 (1921 dollars) to attract settlers to 20 million acres in western Canada. More recently, the firm has come under fire because it is the number one financier of the Athabasca tar sands, and is also involved in financing gas and coal in Canada. Slogan: "What do you want to create?"

