

Below is a message sent out by OCAP to its e-mail list serve on January 27th, 2011. What is significant for FMTA watchers is the paragraph in red below, which contains disinformation. The money cut from Tenant Defense Fund/ Federation of Metro Tenants Associations is for supposedly running an advice hotline and a fund to help tenants fight "above guideline" rent increases.

FMTA represents no one at the tenants tribunal, where cases go when landlords are trying to evict someone. The tenant duty council, run by Legal Aid Ontario, assists these people. The Landlord and tenant board, or whatever they are calling it now, also runs a telephone advice system. This is staffed by people who know what they are talking about, unlike FMTA's "service".

What is of concern to OCAP watchers is that they are now being used as muscle by the city's most corrupt division; shelter, housing, and support. These are the people who fund FMTA, and who run social housing and emergency shelters which are a health hazard and a waste of money.

OCAP is getting at least part of its funding through FMTA. Many of its key people have found jobs at FMTA. This explains why OCAP is hypocritically demanding the preservation of services they should be demanding be closed.

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Fight the Ford Cuts!

- 1) People's Delegation to the Budget Committee: Feb. 10th
- 2) Mass Call-in to City Councillors: Feb. 14th - 18th
- 3) Commie Pinkos go Viral! Submit a Video/Poster in the contest by Jan. 31st

People's Delegation to the Budget Committee

Thursday, February 10th
10am
Toronto City Hall (Queen and Bay)

Rod Ford's Budget Committee is right now working out the details of the opening round of his attack on poor and working people in this City. Ford campaigned on the basis of stopping the 'gravy train' at City Hall, but his Budget plans show how exactly he defines 'gravy'.

The proposed cuts are real and they are deep- this is the information we have managed to gather so far, but can imagine are only the tip of the iceberg.

With a record 76, 549 people on the affordable housing waiting list in Toronto, Ford intends to slash spending on shelter beds for the homeless. The Budget Committee is looking to CUT 40 000 shelter beds (approximately 100 beds PER night), replacing 6 000 with motel rooms for 'refugee claimants' who according to them 'need less support'. Cutting these beds also means cutting the supports of food and shelter services that people depend upon. 34 000 beds will be completely lost, 6 000 motel spaces will mean total isolation and lack of support. Apparently to Ford, the basics of food and shelter for those on the streets is a part of the infamous 'gravy train'.

The cops however, as we might have expected, qualify for preferential treatment. The Toronto Police share of the City Budget is already approaching a billion dollars and they can expect to be spared any serious measures to reduce this massive drain on resources. This is Rob Ford's Toronto - more cops, tax breaks for the rich, cut services for poor and working people.

Tenants who face eviction in record number are being handed a \$100,000 cut from the fund that assists them in obtaining representation when landlords try to put them on the streets. Now, not only will tenants not have proper support in fighting abusive landlords, but when people do end up on the streets (as will inevitably happen), there are no shelter spaces left for them to turn to. This will escalate the already existing crisis in housing and shelter for poor people in the City of Toronto.

People seeking services at Community Centres, families who use recreational facilities, parents who use after-school programs, will be hit with user fees.

Ford claimed there would be no service cuts - but what we are seeing from shelters, to tenants, to community services, to transit is that this is nothing but a blatant lie.

It is time to challenge this opening round of cuts that Ford plans to impose on us. The needs and demands of our communities are clear - we will accept NO cuts and we intend to fight for what we deserve. We say: cut the cops, fund services!

We are calling on communities to confront Ford and his budget plans at all public consultations this week, and also COME OUT on February 10th for a People's Delegation at the final meeting of the Budget Committee to bring our anger and our demands directly to them.

Get involved!

Contact: Ontario Coalition Against Poverty
vvvvv / 316-925-6939

Mass Call-in to City Councillors
February 14th - 18th

On Wednesday, February 23rd the Toronto City Council will begin debates on the proposed Ford Budget for 2011. Council is meant to vote on the Budget by Monday, February 28th. Every City Councillor has a vote at Council and need to be held accountable for what will come of the 2011 Budget and the proposed cuts by Ford to shelter services, tenant rights resources, and transit - and this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Tell your City Councillor to Vote AGAINST Ford's Budget.
We want real action on poverty, not lip service and sound bites.

Find your local councillor's contact here:
[vvvvvvv](#)

Commie Pinkos Go Viral!!

You-Tube Video and Poster Contest

The Year of our Ford is upon us. And it's not gonna be pretty. Rob Ford swept to power on his populist "working man" appeal, despite the fact that he is a millionaire and is gearing up to slash the very services we depend on most. Less than two weeks in, he's already preparing to blow \$15 million a year on new cops that even the police chief doesn't want and costing us millions and millions of dollars by scrapping Transit City for his asinine subway expansion wet dream... Here's a chance to help inform, inspire, and energize the growing opposition to Ford's agenda.

Stick it to Ford!
Win Fabulous Prizes!

Submit an entry to OCAP's "Commie Pinkos" You-tube video and poster competition!

The themes:

.Cut the cops and fund services
.Ford's no friend of the working class

Points to be awarded for creativity, factual accuracy, and wit and please... spare us the fat jokes!

Deadline for submissions: January 31, 2011

Read on for important contest details:

Video Category: Upload your video to You-Tube and email us the link, at vvvvvv with the subject heading: "video submission".

Your video must be no more than 3 minutes in length.

Poster Category: Email your poster submission to: vvvvvv with the subject heading: "poster submission" as a jpg, tiff, or pdf file at no more than 300 dpi.