

## Are We Worse than Animals?!?

Paul Taylor, Carnegie Newsletter, 2008-02-15

1. Dogs get \$15 million for a whole new pound and processing facility that not a few people are saying isn't necessary for another 10-12 years. But hey! Dogs need housing.
2. Fish and water mammals (whales, dolphins, seals & even penguins get their fins bent or beaks out of joint when lumped in with the reptiles) at the Vancouver Aquarium are getting a complete renovation of their domicile with the landlord paying all the costs for any temporary housing whilst the new paint dries and it's costing \$80 million. But hey! Fish need housing.
3. The New Trade & Convention Centre ('new' to differentiate from the ordinary 'old' one, right next door) has cost \$863 million so far. T &CCs are the fix that cities everywhere are being sold, along with a casino or twelve, to make up the money that State / Provincial and Federal govts have cut or slashed. But hey! One Shriners' or Loyal Moose convention a year makes it necessary and we are competitive!!
4. The Olympics venues and consequent costs for all kinds of loosely related stuff will be a mere \$4.6 billion.

Numbers 1 & 2 are being spent / paid for by the City of Vancouver. The same entity has at least 19 sites within its borders on which social or low-income housing can be built but it doesn't want to, so it doesn't have to. Only class-conscious housing is going in anywhere; with pricey condos and amenities for speculators and designated dark corners for triple the population in 1/6<sup>th</sup> the space (*social* housing **ugh!**).

Number 3 is tax money being spent to help our poor corporations. Gord Campbell and his masters at the Fraser Institute wouldn't dream of paying half that for the 3200 units of social housing promised by their front trick—Van Oly Com—way back when. "It isn't affordable so we don't want to pay for it and you can't make us ... so we don't have to."

Number 4 is the winner tough guy: and Montreal just finished paying off its Olympic-related debt (from **1976**) thru over 30 years of taxes better spent almost anywhere else, last year. It seems futile to embarrass the twerps playing public servant; they really don't care. That's what spin doctors and PR people are for.

The reality behind virtually all Olympic Games is one of promises made, bid won, the elite capitalist vultures move in lock, stock and barrel and increase the ills their mouthpieces promised to alleviate. In China right now the promised improvement in their human rights record is being ridiculed worldwide. Even the promise that foreign journalists could go anywhere & cover anything without prior permission has resulted in an increase in the number of foreign journalists in jail—putting stuff on the internet about demonstrations and attempts to get help fighting the corrupt government officials and systems (over 200 a day throughout the country!) is somehow excluded from "Being nice to everybody!" [China now has, in addition to a one-party communist state, 385,000 (US dollar) millionaires and 108 billionaires. —Ed.]

We can continue to make it as uncomfortable and public an expose as possible and count on alternative media to keep awareness increasing. Vancouver is the home of a revolution in terms of its innovative and brilliant drug programs—in spite of the reality of about 93% of Four Pillars money going to Enforcement and the supervised

injection site still being the only one in North America and NAOMI (prescription heroin trials) ongoing, the attention of more than just the capitalist sharks is on us. Let's use it.