



230 FIGHTBACK

A signature direct-action for KingSett Capital's signature event

On Thursday April 10 a small group of people from 230 Fightback crashed a sold out event being held at the Arcadian Court on Bay Street. Patrons paid \$80 to attend an event promoted as a "Signature Event" and a "KingSett Presentation on the Economic Outlook". One of the key speakers was Aliyah Mohamed, KingSett's Chief Capital Officer. Despite being sold out, not having paid to attend the event, and not being dressed for the occasion we made our way to the Arcadian Court on the 8th floor.

We arrived during the registering and networking session scheduled to take place from 11am to 11:20 am. We were greeted by a hostess who directed us to the registering table. KingSett had provided coat racks in the registering area and although we contemplated making use of the coat rack to make ourselves more comfortable we decided against it and made our way to the registering table where dozens of name tags sat patiently waiting for their owners to claim them. Realizing that there were probably no name tags waiting for us we immediately started to mingle and network with the fifty plus people who were in the registering area.

We began to hand out a leaflet that outlined how Jon Love and KingSett Capital were buying up properties in poor neighbourhoods and displacing low-income people from their communities. We continued to mingle in the registration area and some of us then made our way to the main dining room where dozens of empty tables waited for their paying guests to arrive and take their seats. We began decorating each dining table with lovely color leaflets which called on Bay Street to keep its hands off poor neighbourhoods. We thought about sitting down at a table as lunch would be served soon but we did not want to wear out our welcome.

By now security and organizers of the event had figured out that we were not paying guests. They began to follow us and removing the leaflets from the tables. They pointed out that this was a private event and insisted that we leave. Not ready to leave yet we continued to hand out leaflets to the patrons and drop leaflets on the table. After a few more minutes of mingling with the paying guests we were eventually escorted out. As we were leaving security attempted to take back a leaflet from one of the patrons who was reading it. She refused to give it back stating that "She had a right to read it". We continued to distribute leaflets outside on the sidewalk as other patrons arrived to make way to the 8th floor.

This was the third time in less than two months that 230 Fightback has crashed an event where KingSett representatives had been speaking. We are looking forward to our next Signature Direct-Action and will be inviting others to join us as we continue to call for KingSett to sell 214-230 Sherbourne to the city.



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