



230 FIGHTBACK

May 23rd , 2026.

2nd Annual People's Assembly for Housing Justice REPORT BACK

Over 80 people made their way through the rain to congregate at the Roncesvalles United Church this past Saturday to attend the second annual People's Assembly for Housing Justice, hosted by Parkdale Housing Justice Network. Collaboratively organized this now annual event focused on the issue of Direct Action, with discussions on how to Build, Preserve, Reclaim, Defend, and (re)Imagine our communities.

Attendees were treated to an excellent plenary panel discussion regarding direct action, then given the option of attending two sessions of multiple workshops. The workshop sessions were interrupted by a wonderful Mediterranean dinner by Lebanese Gardan, with enough leftovers to be donated to the Church's weekly Sunday community meal.

More than two dozen community and grassroots organizations and unions were represented, with the organizations: 230 Fightback, PHJN, Encampment Support Network, Toronto Tenant Union, Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, Democratic Socialists of Canada, Lake Promenade Tenants' Associations, Shelter Hotel Advocacy, Moss Park Coalition, The Shift, and Harm Reduction Advocacy Collective, leading discussions and presentations regarding community and direct action.

230 FB member Gaetan Heroux spoke to the main theme of direct action in the opening panel, and then, after dinner, lead an excellent discussion about OCAP's Pope Squat, which took place at 1508 King Street West, during the Pope's visit to Toronto in 2002. Gaetan's session was an important contribution towards collective knowledge and memory of direct action and housing justice.

The evening event ended with a quick session of Organizing Chant Karaoke. This year's People's Assembly was well organized and well attended with attendees and organizations leaving swelled with enthusiasm for future actions, collaborations, solidarity, and next year's People's Assembly for Housing Justice.