



230 FIGHTBACK

## 230 FIGHTBACK'S WORLD CUP GAME

On Saturday, June 13, 230 Fightback, allies and supporters marched to the property at 214-230 Sherbourne that has sat vacant for 18 years. Since its owner, KingSett Capital is allowing this disgraceful situation to drag on year after year, we had demanded that the site be opened up to allow the community to hold an event there that would include the showing of the World Cup game between Qatar and Switzerland.

Rather than respond sensibly to this reasonable proposal, KingSett decided to put up new 'No Trespassing' signs and have private security guards on hand. Police were also there to serve and protect the interests of this greedy developer. After a meal in nearby Allan Gardens, we headed to the site and attempted to gain access to it. With reinforcements rushing in, the police prevented us from doing this. In this way, the community event was rendered impossible but, as far as we are concerned, we achieved something far more important.

Across this city, developers and investors have been allowed to control the supply of housing. This means that luxury condos go up or vacant property is fenced off, while the homeless crisis gets worse and hundreds of thousands of people lack decent homes at rents they can reasonably afford.

Even in the midst of this dire situation, City Hall suddenly decided that it could afford to spend millions on the World Cup, while proclaiming there was no money to ensure that people are housed properly. We challenged that terrible injustice. By making an attempt to use 214-230 Sherbourne in a way that benefited the local community, we sent a very clear message to the local community, the developers and the politicians.

There must be social housing on that site and we won't be shut out or give up our struggle until that goal has been achieved.